

GI SPECIAL 3C13:

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY



An U.S. soldier of the 3rd battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Ft Benning, Georgia guards an Iraqi boy as his father is detained during a raid searching for illegal weapons inside their house in Baghdad August 3, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas



An Iraqi boy cries as he is questioned by U.S. soldiers of the 3rd battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Ft Benning, Georgia during a raid, searching for illegal weapons inside his house, in Baghdad August 3, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas Email Photo Print Photo



August 3, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

**WHO WAS IN COMMAND OF *THIS*?
(PAYBACK IS CERTAIN, AND IT WILL BE
TERRIBLE.)**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“I Don't See What We're Doing There. It Doesn't Make Any Sense” Another KIAs' Relative Rejects The War

Aug. 05, 2005 By Dick Pettys ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Three more soldiers from the Georgia National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team have been killed in Iraq, victims of what a military commander described Thursday as a "vehicle-borne bomb" that was used in an attack against a checkpoint.

Family members identified two of the dead as Sgt. Huey Lewis Ganey, 29, of Folkston, and Staff Sgt. Charles Houghton Warren, 36, of Suwanee.

Warren had moved to the Atlanta area about five years ago and was a hospital nurse, according to his brother, Alex Warren of Alexandria, Va.

The dead soldier and his wife, Carol, have a 1-year-old son and a 1-month-old daughter he had never seen, Alex Warren said.

He said his brother, a combat engineer, was supposed to get out of the guard a year ago but was kept in.

"He was drafted, in my eyes," Warren said. "I don't see what we're doing there. It doesn't make any sense."

Eight of the unit's dead were members of the brigade's Company A, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry from Valdosta. Four died when a bomb exploded under their Humvee on July 24 and four others died in a similar incident six days later.

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)

Marine Injured In Iraq Dies After Feeding Tube Removed



Chad Simon family (channel3000)

August 5, 2005 channel3000, MADISON, Wis.

A Monona Marine injured in Iraq has died.

Staff Sgt. Chad Jerome Simon, 32, died Thursday afternoon. He suffered a brain injury when he was injured by a roadside bomb in Fallujah last November.

He was moved to hospice care in Fitchburg last month, and had his feeding tube removed two weeks ago.

His wife Regina says she was carrying out the wishes of his living will.

In addition to his wife, Simon is survived by a son, Dylan, parents Jerry Simon and Carol (Harbort) Parham and sister Stacy Simon, also grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three times) and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Funeral Services will be held 11 a.m. Monday at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 5101 Schofield Street, Monona. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday (Aug. 7) at Gunderson Funeral Home, 5203 Monona Drive, Monona. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Simon's memory at Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Boulevard, PMB 609, Oceanside, CA, 92057.

Gulfport Marine Wounded: "He Said Something Went Down Almost Every Night They Went Out"

The father said his son told him that for the last several months the 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion has been moving constantly and getting little sleep.

"He said something went down almost every night they went out, you know, IEDs or something," the father said.

Aug. 05, 2005 By MICHAEL NEWSOM, KRT

Wayne Bentz was on the phone with his son, a Gulfport Marine whom he had heard from only twice since he had left for Iraq, but Wayne's cell phone cut out in the middle of a serious conversation.

Staff Sgt. Donald Bentz, 26, of Long Beach was injured last weekend by an improvised explosive device in Iraq and he had called his father to tell him about it while he awaited transport to a hospital in Germany for tests. The conversation lasted only eight minutes.

"I got real sketchy information. The phone went dead. He wasn't injured, like torn .

. . from that blast, but maybe he had a concussion," the father said.

Staff Sgt. Bentz said he might be sent back to Iraq after he was released from the hospital to resume his second tour of duty, his father said. Bentz arrived in Iraq for the second time in March with 80 members of the 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion from Gulfport. His first tour started when the war began in 2003.

The father said his son was probably not inside the vehicle when the bomb exploded. He thinks he might have been standing on the side of the road when it detonated. Bentz told his father he was flown in a Blackhawk helicopter to a base from a location near the Syrian border. He would then be flown to Germany.

While on the phone, the Marine told his father a harrowing story about a firefight he was in the week before. He told his father the Marines, crew members in the Amtrac, were patrolling when they saw silhouettes crouched beside the road.

The insurgents brandished AK-47 assault rifles and began to fire. Bentz and his Amtrac crew returned fire with their M16s, killing two and possibly wounding three more who escaped.

He also talked about an incident in May in which a Marine standing next to him lost his arm in a mortar attack. Bentz told his father he didn't understand how he was not injured in that attack.

The father said his son told him that for the last several months the 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion has been moving constantly and getting little sleep.

"He said something went down almost every night they went out, you know, IEDs or something," the father said.

Elusive Sniper Saps US Morale In Baghdad: "Juba" Notches Up More Kills

August 5, 2005 Rory Carroll in Baghdad, The Guardian (UK)

They have never seen Juba. They hear him, but by then it's too late: a shot rings out and another US soldier slumps dead or wounded.

There is never a follow-up shot, never a chance for US forces to identify the origin, to make the hunter the hunted. He fires once and vanishes.

Juba is the nickname given by American forces to an insurgent sniper operating in southern Baghdad. They do not know his appearance, nationality or real name, but they know and fear his skill.

"He's good," said Specialist Travis Burress, 22, a sniper with the 1-64 battalion based in Camp Rustamiyah. "Every time we dismount I'm sure everyone has got him in the back of their minds. He's a serious threat to us."

Gun attacks occasionally pepper the battalion's foot and mounted patrols, but the single crack of what is thought to be a Tobuk sniper rifle inspires particular dread.

Since February, the killing of at least two members of the battalion and the wounding of six more have been attributed to Juba. Some think it is also he that has picked off up to a dozen other soldiers.

In a war marked by sectarian bombings and civilian casualties, Juba is unusual in targeting only coalition troops, a difficult quarry protected by armoured vehicles, body armour and helmets.

He waits for soldiers to dismount, or stand up in a Humvee turret, and aims for gaps in their body armour, the lower spine, ribs or above the chest. He has killed from 200 metres away.

"It was the perfect shot," the battalion commander, Lt Col Kevin Farrell, said of one incident. "Blew out the spine."

"We have different techniques to try to lure him out, but he is very well trained and very patient. He doesn't fire a second shot."

Some in the battalion want marksmen to occupy rooftops overlooking supply routes, Juba's hunting ground, to try to put him in the cross-hairs.

"It would be a pretty shitty assignment because he's good," said Spc Burress. "I think it's a sniper's job to get a sniper, and it'd probably take all of us to get him."

American snipers operate in teams of at least two people, a shooter and a spotter, the latter requiring more experience since he must use complicated formulae to calculate factors such as wind strength and drag coefficients.

Some worry that Juba is on his way to becoming a resistance hero, acclaimed by those Iraqis who distinguish between "good" insurgents, who target only Americans, and "bad" insurgents who harm civilians.

The insurgent grapevine celebrates an incident last June when a four-strong marine scout sniper team was killed in Ramadi, all with shots to the head.

Unlike their opponents, US snipers in Baghdad seldom get to shoot. Typically they hide on rooftops and use thermal imaging and night vision equipment to monitor areas. If there is suspicious activity, they summon aircraft or ground patrols.

"We are professionals. There is a line between a maniac with a gun and a sniper," said Mike, 31, a corporal with a reconnaissance sniper platoon who did not want to his surname to be used.

He spoke during a 24-hour mission on a roof during which his team ate junk food and urinated into a bottle. During daylight they lay on the ground, immobile, to avoid being seen. "It's not a glamorous life," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

TWO U.S. KILLED WHEN VEHICLE SLIDES INTO RIVER

August 5, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE 05-08-08C

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Two U.S. service members drowned after their High-Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle slid into the Kunar River northeast of Jalalabad on August 4.

Two other service members escaped from the vehicle before it slid into the river. One was treated and released by U.S. military medical personnel at the scene, and the other

was transported to Bagram Airfield for treatment. He is in good condition and is expected to be released soon.

The up-armored Humvee was part of a larger convoy conducting operations against enemy forces. The convoy was traveling along the Kunar River , which is swollen due to melting snow from nearby mountain peaks and rainfall in the area in recent weeks.

GIs' Night In Firefight Hell

8.5.05 New York Daily News, August 5, 2005

Army Staff Sgt. Jesse Landazuri and Pfc. David Joy managed to hold off some 40 al Qaeda fighters for almost an hour before bowing to the odds and abandoning their border outpost in Afghanistan.

The two GIs have little trust for Pakistan's border guards, who fired into the air to warn them from escaping their near-fatal predicament by crossing the border.

Resistance Offensive In Nurestan: Occupation Panics

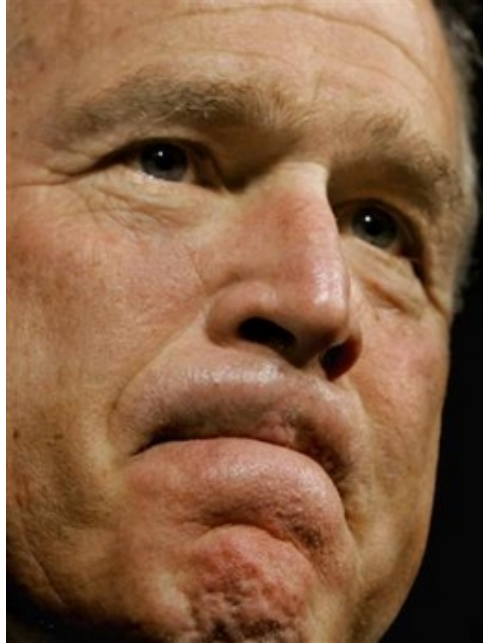
8.4.05 Washington Post

Some 2,000 Afghan security troops rushed to the eastern province of Nurestan after dozens of suspected Taliban rebels wearing army uniforms killed eight police officers and soldiers.

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

TROOP NEWS

**Gold Star Families For Peace
Confront The Asshole-In-Chief Up
Close And Personal Today**



Aug. 3, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

[Thanks to LR and JG who sent this in.]

From: Cindy Sheehan
Sent: August 04, 2005
Subject: GSFP Goes to Crawford to stop the killing

Dear Friends and Supporters,

George Bush said speaking about the dreadful loss of life in Iraq in August: (08/03/05):
"We have to honor the sacrifices of the fallen by completing the mission." "The families of the fallen can be assured that they died for a noble cause."

In reaction to these two asinine and hurtful statements, members of Gold Star Families for Peace (GSFP) are going to George's vacation home in Crawford, Tx this Saturday, August 6th at 11:00 am to confront him on these two statements.

1) We want our loved ones sacrifices to be honored by bringing our nation's sons and daughters home from the travesty that is Iraq IMMEDIATELY, since this war is based on horrendous lies and deceptions.

Just because our children are dead, why would we want any more families to suffer the same pain and devastation that we are.

2) We would like for him to explain this "noble cause" to us and ask him why Jenna and Barbara are not in harm's way, if the cause is so noble.

3) If George is not ready to send the twins, then he should bring our troops home immediately. We will demand a speedy withdrawal.

GSFP will be joined by members of Veteran's for Peace (VFP), Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), Code Pink, and Crawford Peace House.

We GSFP members will not leave until we get answers from George Bush. We deserve and expect him to welcome us with answers to as why our loved ones are dead.

Every worker for peace, every worker for justice, every person who wants our country back are welcomed to join us on Saturday.

Show George Bush that we mean business. Be there to support us family members who have already been through so much. We are fighting for our country, our world, especially the children.

Crawford is about 2 hours from Dallas where the VFP Convention is being held this weekend. There will be car pools from the convention.

HONOR OUR LOVED ONE'S SACRIFICES: BRING OUR TROOPS HOME NOW!!!!

Bring water and hats...we plan on staying until we are arrested or satisfied with the answers. (I am betting on jail).

Please pass this email on to your friends, lists, and media.

For more info: call
Cindy Sheehan
707-365-7750

I will be in Dallas starting tomorrow evening.

MORE:

Skin In The Game

8.3.05 By Cindy Sheehen

August is 3 days old and 22 soldiers and Marines have died in Iraq already.

14 more today. All are still "Pending Notification."

14 more mothers are going to collapse on the ground screaming, or put into shocked silence for the violence done to her and her son. 14 more fathers are going to lose the better part of their hearts. Dozens of spouses, siblings, children and friends are going to be put into a tailspin of grief.

These poor, unfortunate people don't even know yet. They don't know that their lives are going to be altered, devastated, ruined, and emptied...forever. We don't know the names of these children, or their parents, yet. But we know what the parent's names aren't:

George and Laura Bush
Dick and Mrs. Cheney
Don and Mrs. Rumsfeld
Alberto and Mrs Gonzales
Condileeza Rice and un-named partner
Any Senator and his/her partner
Any Congress member and his/her partner
Etc...and on and on.

These people will get a good night's sleep, secure in the fact that one of the 14 killed today and 7 killed yesterday are not any of their children. They don't have any and will never have any "skin in the game."

I can guarantee you that there are thousands of Marine families that are worried sick to the point of being physically ill right now.

It makes me physically ill to know that our young men and women have been sent to Iraq to die for lies and greed.

It makes me physically ill to know that 21 moms don't even know what is going to hit them yet.

It makes me physically ill to remember the day I got the news about Casey and how I screamed until I wished I would die, too.

Tell me, my friends and colleagues, how long are we going to allow this to continue?

How long will we allow families here and in Iraq to be destroyed by the evil cabal of neocons in power in our country?

When will we, the 58 percent of America who want our troops home soon, raise our collective voices and DEMAND that our troops come home now?

Enough is enough.

When are we going to demand the liars and criminals who run our government be removed?

How much killing are we going to continue to sanction by our silence?

Excuse me, I have to go puke now.

May God and the angels take those darling children and all of the Iraqis killed this month into peace and may God forgive us for our apathy.

May we families who already know and the ones who are about to find out find some kind of peace in our lives.

Cindy

**LIAR
TRAITOR
ENEMY DOMESTIC**



Aug. 3, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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 Combat Vets Condemn
Bush And His Imperial War:
“You Subverted Us, You Destroyed
Our Lives, You Owe Us. I Want Your**

Resignation In My Hand In The Next Five Minutes. Get Packin' Georgie."

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. Name of reporter not included.] [Excerpt]

August 05, 2005 From the Veterans For Peace Convention now in session.

Just a two hour drive away in Dallas, at the Veterans for Peace National Convention in Dallas, I'm sitting with a roomful of veterans from the current quagmire.

When asked what he would say to Mr. Bush if he had the chance to speak to him, Abdul Henderson, a corporal in the Marines who served in Iraq from March until May, 2003, took a deep breath and said, "It would be two hits - me hitting him and him hitting the floor.

"I see this guy in the most prestigious office in the world, and this guy says 'bring it on.' A guy who ain't never been shot at, never seen anyone suffering, saying 'bring it on?' He gets to act like a cowboy in a western movie? It's sickening to me."

The other vets with him nod in agreement as he speaks somberly - his anger seething.

One of them, Alex Ryabov, a corporal in an artillery unit which was in Iraq the first three months of the invasion, asked for some time to formulate his response to the same question.

"I don't think Bush will ever realize how many millions of lives he and his lackeys have ruined on their quest for money, greed and power," he says. "To take the patriotism of the American people for granted - the fact that people (his administration) are willing to lie and make excuses for you while you continue to kill and maim the youth of America and ruin countless families and still manage to do so with a smile on your face."

Taking a deep breath to steady himself he continues as if addressing Bush first-hand; "You needs to resign, take the billions of dollars you've made off the blood and sweat of US service members - all the suffering you've caused us, and put those billions of dollars into the VA to take care of the men and women you sent to be slaughtered. Yet all those billions aren't enough to even try to compensate all the people who have been affected by this."

Camilo Mejia, an army staff sergeant who was sentenced to a year in military prison in May, 2004 for refusing to return to Iraq after being home on leave, talks openly about what he did there:

"What it all comes down to is redemption for what was done there. I was turning ambulances away from going to hospitals, I killed civilians, I tortured guys and I'm ashamed of that. Once you are there, it has nothing to do with politics - it has to do with you as an individual being there and killing people for no reason. There is no purpose,

and now I'm sick at myself for doing these things. I kept telling myself I was there for my buddies. It was a weak reasoning - because I still shut my mouth and did my job."

So now it's a way of trying to undo the evil that we did over there. This is why I'm speaking out, and not going back. This is a painful process and we're going through it."

Ryabov then begins to tell of his unit firing the wrong artillery rounds which hit 5-10 km from their intended target. "We have no idea where those rounds fell, or what they hit," he says quietly while two of the men hold their heads in their hands, "Now we've come to these realizations and we're trying to educate people to save them from going through the same thing."

Ryabov adds, "We were put in a foreign country and fire artillery and kill people - and it shouldn't have even happened in the first place. It's hard to put into words the full tragedy of it - the death and suffering on both sides. I feel a grave injustice has been done and I'm trying to correct it. You do all these things and come back and think, 'what have we done?' We just rolled right by an Iraqi man with a gunshot in his thigh and two guys near him waving white flags - he probably bled to death."

"I didn't want to kill another soul for no reason. That's it," adds Henderson, "We were firing into small towns - you see people just running, cars going, guys falling off bikes - it was just sad. You just sit there and look through your binos and see things blowing up, and you think, man they have no water, living in the third world, and we're just bombing them to hell. Blowing up buildings, shrapnel tearing people to shreds."

Tharp jumps in and adds, "Most of what we're talking about is war crimes - war crimes because they are directed by our government for power projection. My easy answer for not going is PTSD - but the deeper moral reason is that I didn't want to be involved in a crime against humanity."

Ryabov then adds, "We were put in a foreign country to fire artillery and kill people - and it shouldn't have even happened in the first place. It's hard to put into words the full tragedy of it-the death and suffering on both sides. I feel a grave injustice has been done and I'm trying to correct it. You do all these things and come back and think, 'what have we done?'"

Michael Hoffman served as a Marine Corps corporal who fought in Tikrit and Baghdad, and has since become a co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

"Nobody wants to kill another person and think it was because of a lie. Nobody wants to think their service was in vain," says Hoffman.

His response to what he would say to Mr. Bush is simple, "I would look him straight in the eye and ask him 'why'? And I would hold him there and make him answer me. He never has to deal with us one on one. I dare him to talk to any of us like that, one on one, and give us an answer."

Hoffman then adds, "What about the 3 year old Iraqi girl who is now an orphan with diseases and nightmares for the rest of her life for what we did? And the people who orchestrated this don't have to pay anything.

“How many times are my children going to have to go through this? Our only choice is to fight this to try to stop it from happening again.”

Charlie Anderson, another Iraq veteran, had strong words for Bush.

While the entire group nods in agreement and two other soldiers stand up to shake his hand, Anderson says firmly, “You subverted us, you destroyed our lives, you owe us. I want your resignation in my hand in the next five minutes. Get packin’ Georgie.”

“We Have The Real News, The Kinds Of Stories This Administration Does Not Want You To Hear”

From: Lietta & Arthur Ruger

To: GI Special

Sent: August 05, 2005

Subject: **Another MFSO family; speech you may use**

Recently (July 05) two of our Washington state MFSO member families were presenters at town hall meeting on Downing Street Minutes with Congressman Jim McDermott.

I received permission from the family to share the speech and anonymity is preferred to avoid retaliatory blowback to the soldier, still deployable for repeat deployment to Iraq.

You may use the speech below as it goes to show just how early the troops were given notification they were going into Iraq; long before the information was presented to Congress and American public. Downing Street Minutes = facts fixed to policy = fiction created to justify to America reason to initiate war in Iraq.

towards the light, in peace,

Lietta Ruger, member family of MFSO (www.mfso.org) chapter Pacific Northwest (www.nwmfso.org) **two Iraq veterans in our family facing second deployments to Iraq under stop loss orders**

Dear Family,

Have had a few requests for this speech so thought I'd send it out to all of you. It's a very simple thing and the important thing is the amazing turn-out across the country and the momentum that's building. Don't ever give up your prayers for peace....

Love to all,
xxxxxx

“Someone Called The Other Day Whose Brother Is Stationed In Iraq”

My name is xxxxxxx and I am honored to co-represent Pacific N. W. MFSO- Military Families Speak Out. Formed in November of 2002, we are an organization of people who are opposed to the war in Iraq, who call out for an exit strategy to bring our troops home, who call for the return of our Natl. Guard. To these ends we will continue to work with our allies, we are relentless in the pursuit of these aims.

We are military families with loved ones who have been, are now, or will be, sometimes for the second or third time, deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and as such, we have a unique role to play in that it is our loved ones who are on the battlefield.

That, and we have the real news, the kinds of stories this administration does not want you to hear.

For example, someone called the other day whose brother is stationed in Iraq.

The Humvee that he was in hit a land mine, rolled over, and part of his injuries involved four broken fingers. The med people patched him up and sent him back out to the field. His trigger finger had not been broken. That's how low on personel they are in his neck of the woods.

Despite the unfathomable amount of money that has been poured into this war, we are also short on essentials such as adequate equipment to keep people safe, medical personel and supplies, and sometimes even food and coffee. Meanwhile we hear about millions of cash dollars that are missing. All this while our elders are making choices between eating and paying exorbitant drug costs, the earth is choking and burning from a depleted ozone, and many of the nation's children have no access to medical care.

There is an ad on television that I can't stand to watch. It makes me sad and it makes me angry. It portrays the image of a young man who is full of conviction and integrity, ready to take a step into "adulthood". He tells his mother that he has made a decision to join the Army, that he wants to be an engineer.

In January of 2001, my son called to tell me that he was joining the Army Ntl. Guard. He told me that it was the only way he would ever be able to get a college degree. I asked him what he'd be doing. "I'll be an engineer", he said. I asked him what that meant and he told me that he would be learning to build bridges for flood control, helping put out forest fires, that he would be helping during times of natural disasters.

But this is what really happened...

When my son returned from boot camp in May of 2001, a little over a year before Tony Blair was briefed via The Downing Street Memo/Minutes, one of the first things he told me was that we were going to go to war with Iraq. I was incredulous, I was completely shocked. "Why would we do that! Why would we make war on Iraq!" I asked. "Just believe me", Mom, "It's going to happen."

He was activated in November of 2002, was in training for approximately five months, shipped to Kuwait in March, 2003. He arrived in Baghdad the beginning of April just as American fighter planes were heavily bombing neighborhoods in an effort to quell the 'insurgents'. We had no communication from him for a period of time as the headlines here at home reported the death and carnage of innocent Iraqi civilians and military personnel.

While my son was on tour, he would e-mail me fairly frequently and once every three months or so, he would call.

One time he called when it had been pouring rain here at home. I jokingly told him that we were about ready to float down the street and could he ask his commander if he could possibly come home and build us a bridge. He laughed and said, "God, I wish", and at that very moment there was an enormous blast in the background. He asked me to hold the line and I heard his voice saying, "That was incoming, wasn't it? Sounded like from the North". Next he told me that he had to go, and not to worry, that he'd be alright. But I thought to myself, "ain't no bridges bein' built here, ain't no fires bein' put out, but a lot of lights are being extinguished".

Before he came home, one of our last e-mail conversations involved a discussion about his perspective regarding low recruitment numbers. Here is what he told me.

"This is not what we signed up for. Of course we all knew when we signed that a war could be a possibility and we were willing to defend our country, but the main mission of the reserve force is to supplement the active component in times of crisis, not wage a protracted war with no definite end in sight. We are also not doing what we were trained to do, we have not been able to apply our skills. This is an Army wide thing that shows you how ill-prepared we were to sustain this type of operation.

"And then there is the length of deployment. Everyone hears about the one year, boots on the ground thing, but this is in addition to the six month training, mobilization and de-mobilization."

When I think about that t.v. ad, I pray that the young woman or man who becomes that soldier in reality, comes home with nothing more blown away than her or his innocence and that the mother will find day when the unexpected knock at the door or something as simple as the ringing of the telephone doesn't make her stomach turn over and run a wave of terror through her body.

Thank You

Let Him Know No Peace! **A Man Yelled: 'Mr. Rumsfeld, Military Families Think You're Lying To Them!'**

04 August 2005 Reuters, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Thursday criticized Syria's leaders for "not behaving in a wise manner" by aiding Iraqi insurgents and warned that such conduct could come back to haunt them.

Though Rumsfeld got a warm reception from the World Affairs Council, some two dozen anti-war protesters gathered outside.

His speech was interrupted at one point by a woman who stood up and shouted: "Rumsfeld, you lied to us!"

Rumsfeld paused during his remarks but made no mention of the incident as the woman was hustled from the room by hotel security.

Several minutes later, as the defense secretary was departing, a man who had been sitting in an area reserved for reporters strode forward and yelled: "Mr. Rumsfeld, military families think you're lying to them!"

Rumsfeld did not acknowledge the man, who was also removed by security guards.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

8.5.05 Reuters & AFP

BAQUBA - A member of Shi'ite militia the Badr Brigade was killed and his son was injured by gunmen while leaving his house in the town of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad.

A police source said Abbas Salman Ahmed was shot while driving his car by a gunman in a passing vehicle.

TIKRIT - One policeman was injured when a roadside bomb struck a police car in the town of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed when their patrol came under attack near Samarra.

One Iraqi army officer was killed when a motorcycle-riding bomber blew himself up near the northern town of Balad.

A Shiite ex-militiaman was killed near Baquba, just north of the capital, police said.

The man, Abbas Mahmoud, was a former member of the Badr Brigade, the Iranian-trained militia for Shiite political group the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

In Mosul, a policeman was killed in a drive-by shooting outside his house, police said.

In Baghdad, another drive-by attack killed two guards escorting a man who told police he was a cousin of Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Chalabi.

The man, Ahmed Qadhim Chalabi, was wounded in the shooting in the smart residential suburb of Jadriya in southern Baghdad. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment, police said.

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



An Iraqi boy cries as a U.S. soldier of the 3rd battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Ft Benning, Georgia walks away with his detained father during a raid searching for illegal weapons inside his house in Baghdad August 3, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas [Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

Pipeline Set On Fire



Firefighters attempt to extinguish flames from a damaged oil pipeline caused by a bomb explosion Aug. 4, 2005, in the northern town of Kirkuk. The pipeline is frequently under attack by insurgents in the surrounding areas. (AP Photo/Yahya Ahmed)

August 5, 2005 (AP)

Saboteurs set fire to an oil pipeline west of the Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Thursday.

The pipeline is located between the Khubaz and Tobzawa areas, around 250 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, and leads to the Baiji refineries.

Police say the pipeline has been regularly attacked. [Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays it's the one that goes to Turkey.]

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."
~ Aesop (~550 BC) [Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace, for the quote.]**



Vietnam Veteran Armed With The Truth

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

Psychological House Arrest

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 05, 2005

George Bush will withdraw American troops from Iraq, when the American people withdraw from the safety of their own homes and march on Washington, D.C., in protest to this immoral war.

Until this is done on a massive scale, Americans will remain under psychological house arrest.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
August 4, 2005

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.

How Many More People Will Be Killed?

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

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: August 04, 2005
Subject: BLAIR BUSH

6000 cops on gaurd for new terror attack

more than 6000 police officers. many of them with guns,

were on duty in london today as the city was, again on high

alert for another terror attack. officers were armed with an arswnal

of weapons. including mp5 sub machine guns and glock 17 pistols.

as they guarded key targets. marksmen had aw50 heavy sniper

rifles. which have a range of a mile. armord response vehicles were

also stationed. ready to respond, to terrorist attacks in a instant.

S,A,S soldiers were also on standby to assist. if any confrontation with terrorists. qaida video was on the tv to day, saying london and america will get more bombing if the troop are not out of iraq,,.

well we can exp more killings , because blair and bush are so thick and are saying iraq, has nuthing to do with the bombing in london,,

how meny more people will be killedied.

rose gentle. m,f,so. GB.

Mission Unaccomplished

From: Phil Gasper
To: GI Special
Sent: August 04, 2005
Subject: Mission unaccomplished

President Bush said Wednesday that he would not set a timetable for U.S. troops to leave Iraq.

He said, "I hear all the time, 'Well, when are bringing the troops home?' And my answer to you: 'As soon as possible but not before the mission is complete.'"

"Mission accomplished" - White House banner behind Bush speaking on the USS Abraham Lincoln, May 1, 2003.

Deadly Fools In Command Of U.S. Armed Forces Again: “The Custer-Westmoreland Syndrome?”

August 4, 2005 Juan Cole, Informed Comment

Military historian Tom Collier writes with regard to the killing of 14 Marines in Anbar province with a huge improvised explosive device:

"There seem to be two developments in Iraq that are "more than eerily Vietnam speak."

The first is the increasing use of bigger and better mines: bundled 155mm artillery shells, 500lb aircraft bombs, shaped charges, and clever booby traps to kill the mine clearers.

All of that is old hat dating back through Vietnam and at least to WWII, but the insurgents seem to be able to plant their mines without either being detected by our surveillance (e.g., drone aircraft) or being reported to the police by the local people.

That is a bad sign, and means we control neither the terrain nor the populace.

They are also very good at command detonation, in addition to the usual pressure detonation. And finally the Iraqi Army ammo dumps that we left unguarded back in 2003 gave them a huge supply of explosives which they have evidently carted away and hidden -- a big job, skillfully done.

The second development reminiscent of Vietnam is the US decision to move away from the population centers and move west to the border in order try to attack "base areas" and interdict routes from Syria (read Cambodia & Laos).

SLA Marshall, whom I do not worship, warned in 1967, "Rattling around the Cambodian border held nothing good for our side....The enemy from out of Cambodian base camps was ever scouting, measuring, and plotting the countryside....We were literally engaging (the enemy) on the maneuver ground where they did their training."

Add to that the general hostility of the Sunnis of Anbar Province and it makes you wonder why Marines and soldiers are repeatedly searching and destroying out in the Wild West -- some kind of cognitive dissonance?

The Custer-Westmoreland Syndrome?

Surely it defies all the lore and knowledge of insurgency/ counterinsurgency."

Tom Collier

DUH!

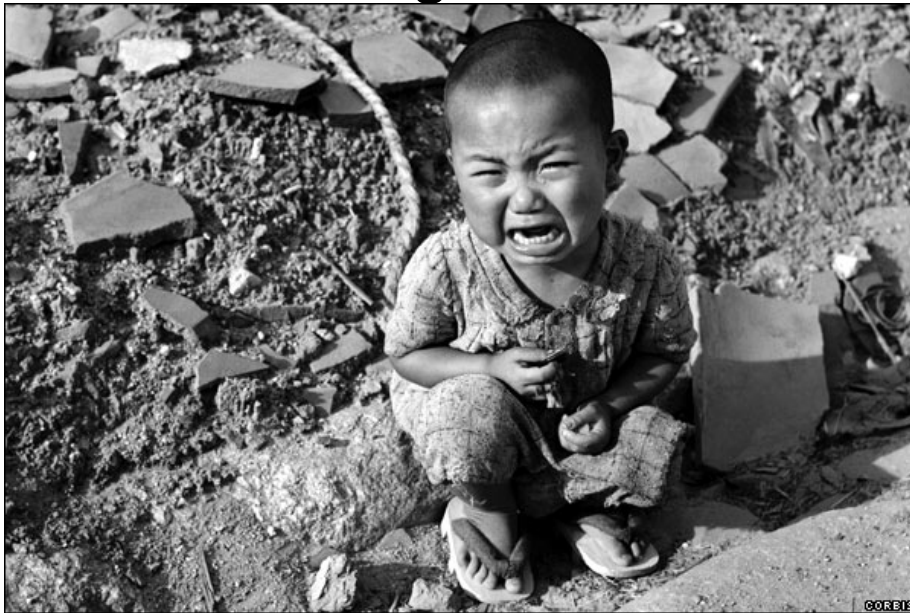
July 31, 2005 by Linda McQuaig, the Star (Toronto)

British Prime Minister Tony Blair went to great lengths last week to suggest that the recent London bombings weren't connected to Britain's role in the occupation of Iraq, but rather to irrational hatred of western culture.

Really?

If you attack your neighbour, kill several of his family members, ransack his house and steal his car, is it logical to conclude that your neighbour is in a rage against you because he doesn't like how you dress and what movies you enjoy watching?

**“The Japanese Were Ready To
Surrender And It Wasn't Necessary To
Hit Them With That Awful Thing.”
General Dwight Eisenhower**



Between 2,000 and 6,500 children are believed to have been orphaned by the atomic bomb, although the exact number may never be known. (BBC News photo)

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: August 04, 2005
Subject: wars cannot be won by destroying women and children
Solidarity,
Z

Norman Cousins, a consultant to General Douglas MacArthur during the American occupation of Japan, writes:

"MacArthur's views about the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were starkly different from what the general public supposed.

When I asked General MacArthur about the decision to drop the bomb, I was surprised to learn he had not even been consulted.

What, I asked, would his advice have been?

He replied that he saw no military justification for the dropping of the bomb. The war might have ended weeks earlier, he said, if the United States had agreed, as it later did anyway, to the retention of the institution of the emperor."

General Dwight Eisenhower also opposed the use of the bomb.

Eisenhower's comment: "The Japanese were ready to surrender and it wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing."

And Admiral William Leahy, Truman's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, writes:

"The lethal possibilities of atomic warfare in the future are frightening. My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children."

[And now, for the usual lying politician:]

"The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians." ' President Harry S. Truman, August 9, 1945

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Poll: Bush's Iraq Rating At Low Point: Opinion Of President's Honesty Also Sinks

[Thanks to PG, who sent this in.]

August 5, 2005 WASHINGTON (AP)

Americans' approval of President Bush's handling of Iraq is at its lowest level yet, according to an AP-Ipsos poll that also suggests fewer than half now think he is honest.

Approval of Bush's handling of Iraq, which had been hovering in the low- to mid-40s most of the year, dipped to 38 percent.

Midwesterners and young women and men with a high school education or less were most likely to disapprove of Bush on his handling of Iraq in the past six months. [Those are the people the Empire wants to recruit go die In Iraq.]

"This country is a monarchy," said Charles Nuutinen, a 62-year-old independent from Greenville, Wisconsin. "He's turning this country into Saudi Arabia. He does what he wants. He doesn't care what the people want." [And we all know the traditional American way of disposing of "monarchs." Think 1776.]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Military Revolt Overthrows Tyrant; People Celebrate As Bush Buddy Get The Boot

03 August 2005 By Ahmed Mohamed, The Associated Press

Nouakchott, Mauritania - A military junta overthrew Mauritania's U.S.-allied president while he was abroad Wednesday, prompting celebrations in this oil-rich Islamic nation that looked increasingly to the West amid alleged threats from al-Qaida linked militants.

President Maaoya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya, who himself seized power in a 1984 coup and dealt ruthlessly with his opponents, was out of the country when presidential guardsmen cut broadcasts from the national radio and television stations at dawn and seized a building housing the army chief of staff headquarters.

"The armed forces have unanimously decided to put an end to the totalitarian practices of the deposed regime under which our people have suffered much over the last several years," the statement said.

Islamic leaders in the impoverished nation of 3 million have led the opposition to Taya, criticizing him for building close ties with Israel. Mauritania opened full diplomatic relations with Israel six years ago.

After the coup was announced, hundreds of people celebrated in the city center, saluting soldiers guarding the presidential palace, clapping and singing slogans in Arabic against Taya.

"It's the end of a long period of oppression and injustice," civil servant Fidi Kane said. "We are very delighted with this change of regime."

This sparsely populated nation on the northwestern edge of the Sahara had been strictly controlled by Taya, who tried to legitimize his rule in the 1990s through elections the opposition says were fraudulent.

Received:

Honoring The Fallen

From: Lietta Ruger
To: GI Special
Sent: August 05, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3C12: "All These Boys Are Dying Needlessly"

My thank you for this collection to honor some of the 21 Marines killed in Iraq this week alone. I used many of the photos and captions to update my blog, Dying to Preserve the Lies.

Thank you for your daily diligence in more realistic portrayal of a ground truth in Iraq acutely overlooked by our own mainstream news reporting.

Lietta Ruger, member family MFSO, military family of 2 Iraq veterans; second deployments

website; Military Families Speak Out, Pacific Northwest
[//coastalrain.tripod.com/wmfso/](http://coastalrain.tripod.com/wmfso/)
blog; Dying to Preserve the Lies <http://dyingwarriors.blogspot.com/>
topic writer; Military Families; Impact with Loved Ones Deployed to Iraq:
[//www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/19520](http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/19520)

[The thanks go to you and all the other military family members determined not to rest till every member of the armed forces in Iraq comes home. T]

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