

GI SPECIAL 3C25:

HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR?



Rifles and helmets honor four US soldiers during a ceremony July 29, 2005, at an undisclosed location in Iraq. (AP Photo/U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks)

Soldiers For Cindy: Ft. Hood Comes To Crawford

Aug 16th, 2005 by CindySheehan [Excerpt]

We are moving to a place that doesn't have much shade and I put out an appeal for tarps and a soldier from Ft. Hood brought some to us. I have had a lot of soldiers from Ft. Hood come out and tell me to keep it up and that I am doing a good thing.

We are doing this to honor Casey and the other fallen heroes in their memories. But we are doing it FOR the people of Iraq and the other soldiers who are in harm's way right now.

Right after we heard about the crosses last night, a Camp Casey volunteer found out that a pen pal she had in Iraq was KIA on August 12th. This has to stop, now. We will stop it.

The right wingers are emailing me and spewing filth about me on the radio and on the television saying that I am dishonoring my son's memory.

This man who ran over the crosses thinks he is a better American than we are. He thinks we are more patriotic than we are. Does he really believe that he is honoring the memories of the fallen and his country by running down 500 crosses and about 60 American flags?

The Iraq Veterans Against the War who were here were also very offended. Those crosses represented their buddies who didn't make it home. And they are so aware of the fact that one of those crosses could have their name on it.

Yesterday, we had a counter protestor who played his guitar across the way from us and sang (very terribly!!!) a song that loosely went like this:

Aiding and abetting the enemy.
How many ghosts did you make today?
Google me this, Google me that,
How many ghosts did you make today?

I find it so ironic that he was singing it to me, and not to George Bush.

We named the song: The Ballad of George Bush.



AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, Hart Vigas (Army veteran, left) and Charlie Anderson (Navy veteran, right) of Iraq Veterans Against The War, explained their opinions regarding why the war should be ended. (Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey)

MORE:

“Seeing Her Is A Losing Proposition. But So Is Not Seeing Her”

August 15, 2005 Immanuel Wallerstein, Fernand Braudel Center, Binghamton University
[Excerpt]

Of course, George W. Bush hasn't had the courage to see her.

He sent out emissaries. She said this wasn't enough, that she wanted to see Bush personally. She has now said that she will maintain a vigil outside Bush's home until either he sees her or she is arrested.

At first, the press ignored her. But now, other mothers of soldiers in Iraq have come to join her. She is getting moral support from more and more people who had previously supported the war.

And the national press now has turned her into a major celebrity, some comparing her to Rosa Parks, the Black lady whose refusal to move to the back of the bus in Atlanta a half-century ago was the spark that transformed the struggle for Black rights into a mainstream cause.

Bush won't see her because he knows there is nothing that he can say to her. Seeing her is a losing proposition. But so is not seeing her. The pressure to withdraw from Iraq is now becoming mainstream.



President of Gold Star Families for Peace, Cindy Sheehan (C) of Vacaville, California, stands with Juan Torres (L) and Bill Mitchell, who also lost their sons in Iraq, during a Sunday service at a camp near the Bush ranch in Crawford, Texas August 14, 2005. Sheehan had lost her son, U.S. Army Specialist Casey Austin Sheehan, to the war in Iraq. Juan Torres, whose son is also named Juan, lost his life serving in Iraq, as did Bill's son, Mike. REUTERS/Jason Reed

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

SOLDIER KILLED IN MOSUL

August 17, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-08-27C

MOSUL, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier was killed by gunfire in central Mosul Aug. 15 while conducting security operations.

Task Force Baghdad Soldier Killed In Bomb Attack

Aug. 17, 2005 MNF Release A050817a

BAGHDAD , Iraq - A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died when his patrol struck an improvised explosive device in southwest Baghdad at 2:35 a.m. Aug. 16.

Kingston Springs Man Dead After Attack

08/17/05 By Gary Burton, Ashland City Times

A local soldier serving with M Co., 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennessee National Guard, was one of three guardsmen killed by hostile fire Sunday in Iraq.

Sgt. Gary L. Reese, 22, of Ashland City, was killed in northern Iraq after the Humvee he was riding in came under attack by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Reese's parents said military officials knocked on their door about 7 a.m. Sunday to deliver the news of their son's death.

"My wife opened the door and screamed my name," said his father, Gary Reese. "I came running to the door and we both knew what had happened."

Guardsmen From Sharon Hill Injured

"I remember what happened in Vietnam and the first thing I thought when the president started talking about Iraq was 'Oh, no, not again.'"

08/17/2005 By TIMOTHY LOGUE, The Daily Times

SHARON HILL -- Hans Schneider said the person on the other end of the line was brief and to the point. "The first call came from the National Guard in King of Prussia. They said my son had been injured; that his wounds were not life threatening, and that four other guys had been killed."

It was the second time this summer that Hans and his wife, Maria, received word their oldest son, Army Spec. Felix Schneider, 21, had been injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

"In June, they hit a road mine and he suffered a concussion, memory loss and bruised ribs," said the elder Schneider, a Vietnam War veteran.

"This time there were actually three explosions. It was a classic ambush. The shells they used would have taken out a tank."

A 2001 graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, Spec. Schneider suffered a knee injury and shrapnel wounds in the Aug. 9 attack that killed four of his fellow National Guardsmen from Philadelphia-based Alpha Company of the First Battalion, 111th Infantry.

"They were all part of a rapid deployment force that was responding to an earlier explosion," Schneider said. "There were 12 men total -- four in each of the three Humvees -- and this happened in a place where no one would have expected it."

The attack, which played out 150 miles north of Baghdad in the city of Bayji, claimed the lives of Spec. John Kulick, of Montgomery County, Nate DeTample of Bucks County, Philadelphia police officer Gennaro Pellegrini, and Francis Straub Jr. of Philadelphia.

"It was a classic ambush -- very well set up," Schneider said. "As soon as the explosions stopped, (insurgents) opened fire right away. The guys were lucky they didn't have (rocket propelled grenades) or they all would have been killed."

Schneider said the force of the blasts caused his son's Humvee to crash and sent a tree toppling down on top of it. Two other men in his vehicle suffered fractures, lacerations and shrapnel wounds.

"He's been at Camp Summerall (in Bayji) since he arrived in Iraq," Schneider said. "It's a sad time right now. He was friends with one of the guys who was killed, DeTample, and he's wondering why it happened to those guys instead of him."

Spec. Schneider will be taking much-needed leave later this month and his tour is scheduled to wrap up in November. "He's coming back on the 29th and I think we're just going to give him some space and let him do what he wants to do," his father said. "There won't be any parties. I don't think that helps when you have to go back."

Now the father of a Purple Heart recipient, Schneider said the war in Iraq is proving to be as difficult as he anticipated. "My friends were telling me we would be in and out of there in six months but I knew we were stepping into a hornet's nest," he said.

"I remember what happened in Vietnam and the first thing I thought when the president started talking about Iraq was 'Oh, no, not again.'"

Before he was called to active duty, Schmeider said his son spent a year at Delaware County Community College studying business administration and computers.

"I just hope he makes it home before we get a third call," Schmeider said. "And I pray that whatever we're doing over there is worth it."

Explosive Blasts Near Vehicle Of Bulgarian Soldiers

17 August 2005 Focus

Ad Diwanayah: An improvised explosive device blasted at 2:35 pm Bulgarian local time on the major road between Tampa and Orlando near a passing armored vehicle, in which Bulgarian and US soldiers traveled. The incident occurred 1 km away from the road fork. The group, which included Bulgarian soldiers and an officer, performed tasks related to civil and military cooperation. No one was injured.

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



U.S. soldiers keep watch following a car bomb in Baghdad August 14, 2005. Witnesses said one U.S. Humvee was damaged by the blast. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

TROOP NEWS

Mobilized Reserves Up 648

August 17, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 850-05

This week, the Army, Air Force and Navy announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Marine Corps and Coast Guard numbers decreased. **The net collective result is 648 more reservists mobilized than last week.**

More Fresh Meat For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse: 700 82nd Airborne Division Troops Ordered Back To Iraq

8/17/2005 Associated Press

Fort Bragg, NC -- Officials say the 82nd Airborne Division will send about 700 soldiers to Iraq over the next two months.

Division officials say paratroopers from the First Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment were alerted last week and have begun preparing.

No return date was announced.

This will be battalion's second deployment to Iraq.

The unit was based outside Fallujah in western Iraq from September 2003 to April 2004.

It also deployed to Afghanistan from July 2002 to January 2003.

She says the soldiers will not get their mission until they arrive. **[That will be a first. So far, nobody there knows what the mission is, except to grab the oil for Bush's corporate buddies.]**

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)

“Lets See Blair Get Out Of This One”



Member of Military Families Against the War, Rose Gentle whose son Gordon was killed in Iraq in 2004 and Reg Keys whose son Thomas was killed in Iraq in 2003, outside the High Court in central London, August 17, 2005.

Relatives of soldiers killed in the Iraq war lodged papers at the High Court on Wednesday seeking a judicial review against the government's refusal to hold an independent inquiry into the legality of the war. Photo: REUTERS/Paul Hackett

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle; see photo above. 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 15, 2005
Subject: court

hi its rose

good news i got the legil aid ,

and will hand the legil papers in to the high court on wed,

lets see blair get out of this one,

i will see him in court,

rose gentle

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Iraqis look at a damaged police car at the scene of a car bombing in Baghdad August 17, 2005. At least 26 people were killed and 35 wounded in a triple car bomb attack on a Baghdad bus station (Atef Hassan/Reuters) “A dozen vehicles, including three police cars, were destroyed in the attacks at the al-Nahda station” 8.17 Aljazeera

Aug 17 AFP & WJLA-TV & AP & Outlook Publishing & Reuters

In northern Iraq, six Iraqi soldiers assigned to protect oil pipelines were killed Wednesday as masked militants ambushed their patrol vehicle near Hawija and opened fire, Kirkuk police said. The killed Iraqis were traveling to a training camp in Kirkuk.

Guerrillas killed a policeman in a bus station in Mosul.

In Samarra, 120 kilometres north of Baghdad, resistance fighters shot dead a police officer, police said.

In other violence, three truck drivers including one Turk, were shot dead in Baiji, 200 kilometres north of the capital, a security source said.

TIKRIT - Five Iraqi police were killed in an ambush between Hawija and al-Shirkat, 175 km north of Baghdad.

TAJI - An engineer and five guards were captured while they were repairing an oil pipeline in Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, oil ministry officials said. Police said the men were kidnapped on Tuesday and relatives had received messages threatening to kill them.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Rebellion In The Ranks: The Soldiers' Revolt In Vietnam

In recounting these acts of revolt, both large and small, Cortright reveals the full impact of tens of thousands of soldiers who questioned the legitimacy and purpose of the war. Cortright estimates that as many as one-quarter of Army enlisted personnel participated in some form of rebellion against military authority during the later years of the Vietnam War.

August 19, 2005 By Martin Smith, Socialist Worker

*DAVID CORTRIGHT'S **Soldiers in Revolt: GI Resistance During the Vietnam War**, a classic 1975 account of the incredible scale of antiwar organizing among active-duty soldiers, has just been republished by Haymarket Books. Cortright was himself a participant in the movement, and his book stands as one of the best chronicles of this hidden chapter in American history.*

As U.S. soldiers in Iraq find themselves confronted by a popular resistance movement employing guerrilla tactics similar to those used by the Vietnamese resistance, the new edition of Cortright's book couldn't be timelier.

Here, MARTIN SMITH, a former Marine sergeant and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, reviews Cortright's re-telling of the GI rebellion that helped to bring the most powerful military superpower in the world to its knees.

THE REBELLION within the U.S. armed forces that contributed to the U.S. defeat in Vietnam has been largely erased from public memory.

It has been replaced with the "spat-on myth"--that the antiwar movement was preoccupied with spitting on returning veterans and denying them the glory of the ticker-tape parades that marked the end of the Second World War. This lie, widely circulated by media pundits and Hollywood films like Rambo, is turned on its head by David

Cortright's *Soldiers In Revolt*, newly republished with a postscript by Cortright and a new introduction by historian Howard Zinn.

Soldiers In Revolt provides ammunition for antiwar activists today by documenting the massive breadth of the Vietnam antiwar movement among active-duty personnel--and the necessary bond that developed between military service members and civilian activists.

Cortright meticulously pieces together the story of what became known as the GI movement--the mass resistance and dissent within the armed forces that engulfed both stateside bases and U.S. military outposts around the world.

THE MOVEMENT involved actions at all levels, from boycotting lettuce on bases in solidarity with the United Farm Workers, to prison riots and sit-down strikes--such as the Presidio Mutiny in the San Francisco stockade, in which 27 Army inmates refused to work after the brutal murder of a fellow prisoner by guards in 1968.

In Vietnam itself, there were 10 large mutinies, hundreds of individual combat refusals, and numerous incidents of the murder or threat assault on gung-ho officers (dubbed "fragging" by the GI movement).

In recounting these acts of revolt, both large and small, Cortright reveals the full impact of tens of thousands of soldiers who questioned the legitimacy and purpose of the war. Cortright estimates that as many as one-quarter of Army enlisted personnel participated in some form of rebellion against military authority during the later years of the Vietnam War.

In an official report, Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of U.S. armed forces during the war, confessed that rebellion within the military during the Vietnam period--including "underground activities, racial antagonism, resistance to authority, drug abuse, absenteeism, desertion, crime and battlefield misconduct"--was a greater threat to order and discipline than the civilian antiwar movement.

Westmoreland's Army was thrown into crisis, and the rebellion by its members belies the myth that opposition to the war was primarily among privileged, white students. In truth, the GI movement was made up of working-class troops. Many of the most ardent fighters were African Americans, inspired by the increasing militancy of the civil rights struggle raging in the U.S.

Blacks were at the center of resistance actions--including prison rebellions at Da Nang and Long Binh, and refusals to take part in riot-control duty against ghetto uprisings at home. The Fort Hood 43, for example, refused orders to patrol Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention--declaring their opposition to racism in the Army and to the use of force against civilians.

Black troops also formed protest organizations such as GIs United Against the War and the Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM).

Described in February 1970 by Marine Commandant Gen. Leonard Chapman as "a serious threat to the defense of this country," MDM united white and Black sailors

and Marines around an explicitly revolutionary program that took inspiration from the Black Panthers.

Often, troops went beyond simply opposing the war and began to draw anti-imperialist conclusions. "Many groups have developed a more thorough, radical opposition to all counterinsurgency operations abroad," writes Cortright.

"Nearly all the overseas GI groups, most Black organizations, the various chapters of MDM, and many other servicemen's groups have called for the end of all foreign intrusion in the affairs of Third World peoples. For many GI radicals, withdrawal from Vietnam is only the first step toward the larger goal of self-determination for all underdeveloped societies and demilitarization in America...Never has such an overtly political movement developed within the ranks."

ALL THIS flies in the face of today's common wisdom that antiwar activists should hide or "dumb down" their political views for fear of scaring people in the military away from the movement.

According to Cortright, there was an important connection between the radical left and the GI movement, which "in some cases...sparked substantial political activity among servicemen." Socialists, for example, helped provide legal defense, organized civilian support and demonstrations for GI rights, and funded and aided the production of underground newspapers.

Cortright gleaned much of his information from the more than 300 underground newspapers circulated by troops, such as Vietnam GI, The Bond, FTA (which stood for "Fuck the Army" rather than the Army's recruiting slogan "Fun, Travel and Adventure") and Bragg Briefs.

"Don't desert," proclaimed one such underground newspaper on the West Coast. "Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer." Civilian activists trying to reach out to the emerging GI movement started many of the papers. Others were printed by troops themselves--some on bases and even on ships.

The antiwar soldiers' newspapers are estimated to have had a readership in the tens of thousands.

Vietnam GI alone had a mailing list of 3,000 troops stationed in Vietnam.

Underground papers were a means to expose the bankruptcy of military policy, provide alternative information from an enlisted person's viewpoint, report on the spreading resistance movement, give practical legal advice regarding GI rights, and--most importantly--to organize.

Cortright also challenges the idea that only angry draftees resisted, showing that much of the rebellion was led by soldiers who had enlisted voluntarily. "Draftees expect shit, get shit, and aren't even disappointed," in the words of one soldier. "Volunteers expect something better, get the same shit, and have at least one more year to get mad about it."

Also, the dissent by soldiers and Marines didn't end with the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from Vietnam in 1973, but rather evolved to include airmen and sailors who moved into the forefront as the air war began to escalate. These service members refused to participate in bombing missions, organized committees opposed to the war, and protested racism in the military.

Their actions gathered steam among the crews of many aircraft carriers, which were rocked by frequent acts of sabotage. The most significant rebellion in the Navy took place in November 1972, when more than 100 sailors aboard the U.S.S. Constellation took part in a defiant dockside strike--the largest mutiny in the U.S. Navy's history.

Cortright also draws an important connection between resistance by troops and counter-recruitment activity during the Vietnam period. His chapter on "The Recruitment Racket" shows that military recruiters have been telling nearly identical lies for the last three decades to get youth to join the military--and preying on socio-economically disadvantaged segments of society, promising job skills and money for school that rarely materialize.

As counter-recruitment activism heats up at schools across the country, *Soldiers In Revolt* will aid activists fighting to turn the military into an "army of none."

Most importantly, Cortright's book drives home the elemental truth that generals and war planners call the shots from air-conditioned buildings and bunkers far from combat, but that wars must be fought on the ground by working-class troops who, when organized, can act on their own political principles rather than on those of their commanding officers.

With this new edition of *Soldiers in Revolt*, a new generation of activists, active-duty personnel and military families can find an inspiring tale of how, in Cortright's words, "people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history."

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.

"GI Resistance Will Stop This War"

At one event I did, two active-duty soldiers came up to me, they had served one tour and were ready to deploy for their second, and they said, "We're so against

this war, and we really appreciate what you said. We hate being in the Army right now."

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

August 19, 2005 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

KELLY DOUGHERTY and CAMILO MEJIA, members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), attended the Veterans for Peace National Convention in Dallas, Texas, in early August. After a screening of Sir, No Sir--a new documentary about the GI resistance during the Vietnam War that will hit U.S. theaters later this year--they spoke with Socialist Worker's ERIC RUDER about GI resistance, then and now.

KELLY DOUGHERTY:

A lot of people on active duty are opposed to the war, and they're opposed to the way they're being treated and being used. But they're not ready to take that step because they're afraid of being openly outspoken in their units, they're afraid of how the people around them are going to treat them, they're afraid of repercussions by their command.

At one event I did, two active-duty soldiers came up to me, they had served one tour and were ready to deploy for their second, and they said, "We're so against this war, and we really appreciate what you said. We hate being in the Army right now."

But that was as far as it went. And I understand where they're coming from--especially for people on active duty. You're told over and over and over that it doesn't matter what your personal feelings are about this--you have to do what we tell you, and that's your only option.

But gradually, that's going to change. It is building more and more to the point where more people on active duty are acting out or voicing opposition or showing opposition in whatever small ways.

We have to continue doing what we're doing--going out and speaking to people, showing antiwar films, sharing our experiences, reaching out to communities, schools and church groups. The more we do that, the better. Things like the September 24 march in Washington are important, but they need to become more frequent, more consistent, more massive, more angry.

CAMILO MEJIA

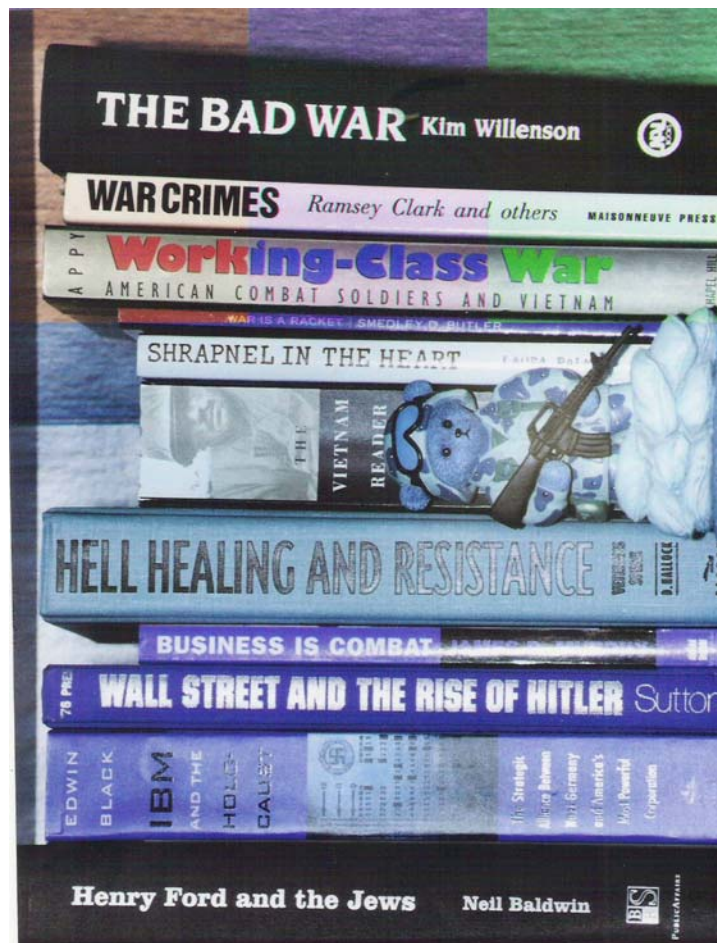
I think we also need to do a lot more infiltration operations. In the Vietnam era, there were coffeehouses outside military bases and underground newspapers and activism within the bases.

Because the military learned from the Vietnam War, they try to keep soldiers today isolated from what's happening outside. You go to any Army base, and all they have is Fox News, 24 hours a day. And we didn't get any newspapers or anything. The

Kellogg, Brown & Root mess halls all had TV sets, but they didn't have the news, at least when I was there.

Today, we need to rebuild the GI coffeehouses and those sorts of things. That takes bucks, and some people are going to get arrested for it, but that's what it's going to take. You can go out and run for office and all that, but as the Bolton recess appointment shows, they can ignore all that.

It's the GI resistance that's actually going to stop the war--people saying, "Fuck the Army, I'm putting my weapon down, I'm not going to kill Iraqis any more, I'm not going to fight this war." The other things will help, but this is crucial.



Guarding the truth with the insanity of fantasy.

Mike Hastie

Vietnam Veteran

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)

“The Most Revolutionary Act Is To Name Reality”

From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special

Sent: August 17, 2005 8:26 PM

Subject: "The most revolutionary act is to name reality" Paulo Freire

The Insurgency in Iraq, were the Viet Cong in Vietnam.

They are the Resistance, who are defending their country from U.S. invasion.

In both cases, the U.S. installed Puppet Governments who were sympathetic to U.S. corporate interests. Which is a nice way of saying, U.S. war profiteering on a mega scale.

Both Puppet Governments gave the illusion of being democratic. Both governments that we put in power were nothing but PIMPS.

The U.S. is in Iraq to "Take," like a thief steals from innocent people. ("What is our oil doing under their sand?")

While the so-called Hippies were dropping drugs in the Sixties, the U.S. government was dropping Napalm on innocent Vietnamese villages. If the pro-war people in America knew about the atrocities their government committed during the Vietnam War, in their name, they would have panic attacks. This is the most guarded American secret of the entire Vietnam War.

Most atrocities were committed by air strikes and artillery, on the ground, and on Navy ships.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. dropped 8 million tons of bombs on Southeast Asia. In all of WWII, the U.S. dropped 2 million tons of bombs. We dropped 400,000 tons of Napalm.

We sprayed 19 million gallons of Agent Orange on Vietnam. ("Remember, only you can prevent forests.")

This weapon is one of the worst WMD's ever used in modern warfare. When I went back to Vietnam in 1994, the effects were still horrendous.

In short, Southeast Asia is the most bombed area in the world, and the United States was responsible for every bomb dropped.

The legacy of the Vietnam War is now happening in Iraq. The entire U.S. occupation in Iraq is an atrocity. The U.S. is in the process of destroying an entire culture, so that it can be rebuilt in the image of the West.

I fear the war in the Middle East will be worse than Vietnam, because it has the potential to cause a world wide reaction. "The Guns Of August," may be closer than people think.

As Carl Jung once wrote, "People can only take so much reality."

Unless the Peace movement mobilizes on a front larger than what happened during the Vietnam War, the elite in America will bury us.

Have a garage sale, so you can afford to come to Washington, D.C. on September 24-26, 2005 to protest the war in Iraq.

Sooner or later, the anti-war movement has got to be a Major Movement, or we will be relegated to the back of the Bush Bus. And from there, it will lead to water hoses and massive arrests.

We have to unite like we have never done before, because it is a matter of life or death.

Freedom From George Bush, Is Not Free!!!!

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71

For Conspiracy Theory Fans: No Oil For Blood?

"We will disrupt, then halt the flow of our stolen oil..." Communiqué Number 6 The media platoon of the Islamic Jihad Army. On the 27th of Shawal 1425h. 10 December 2004

Comment: T

Think about it.

The major American oil companies were seeing their profits decline, as their reserves declined, and what oil was available cost increasing capital to access and produce.

Obviously, they needed a major increase in the market price of oil, which would bail them out of the decline, and increase profits. With oil languishing in the \$35 a barrel range, a +60% increase to \$60 or better a barrel would be worth tens of billions straight to the bottom line.

Threatening even more loss of profits, French and Russian oil companies were signing deals to open up new fields in Iraq, which would greatly increase world oil availability, producing more downward pressure on oil prices, further squeezing the profits of U.S. majors, while simultaneously rendering more of their high-cost fields useless.

So, how to keep Iraqi oil out of the hands of the French and Russians, and keep it off the market, by not only stopping new production from Iraq, but keeping present production crippled?

No problem.

Send an American armed force to invade Iraq, but send a force insufficient in size and strength to put down a resistance movement capable of crippling present oil production by attacks on pipelines, and also capable of forcing postponement of new production by making the future of new investments uncertain and security costs prohibitive.

Oh, by the way, guess what. Their most recent quarterly reports shows huge increases in the profitability of every American oil company, continuing a magnificent profit recovery since the Occupation began. For them, the continuation of the war in Iraq is a gift of gold.

T

Oil Profits A Gusher

August 7, 2005 By Steven Mufson, The Washington Post

There's no question that the drain on the average American's pocketbook has been a gusher for the big oil companies.

Just look at the financial statements issued at the end of July.

Exxon Mobil Corp.'s second quarter earnings climbed 35 percent from the second quarter of 2004 (after excluding special items) to \$7.64 billion. BP PLC, the world's second-largest publicly traded oil company, said its net income increased 29 percent, to \$5.59 billion. At Royal Dutch Shell PLC, second-quarter profits rose 34 percent to \$5.24 billion. ConocoPhillips, the third-largest U.S. oil company, did even better; it reported an eye-popping 51 percent jump in earnings, to \$3.14 billion.

Prices for North Sea Brent crude oil averaged \$51.63 a barrel in the second quarter of this year, 46 percent more than the \$35.32-a-barrel average a year earlier, BP told investors last month.

In the United States, crude oil prices have been running about five times as high as 1998 levels, according to Energy Department statistics.

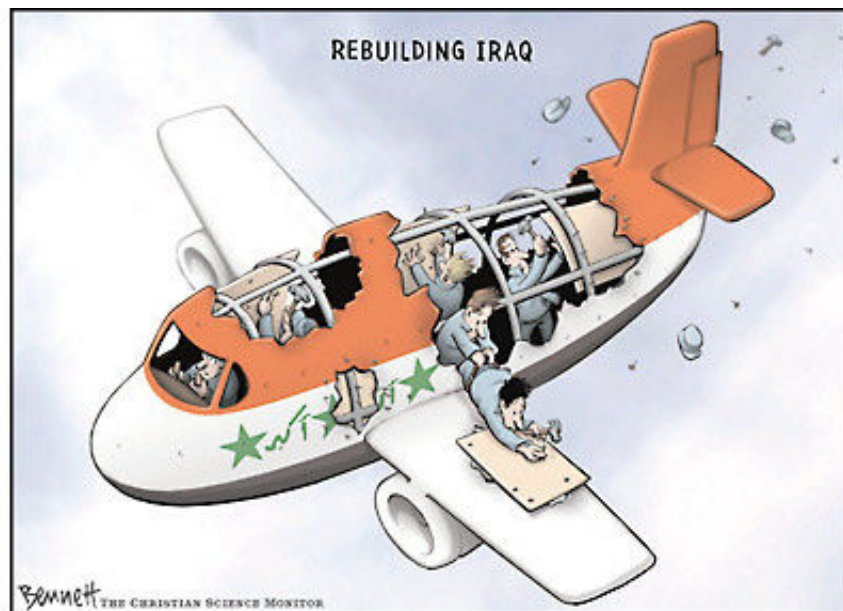
Exxon Mobil Corp.'s second quarter earnings show how these dynamics work. More than half of the company's profit surge came from bigger earnings on the 2.5 million barrels a day of oil and 8.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas that Exxon Mobil produces itself, the so-called "upstream earnings."

More surprising was Exxon Mobil's ability to pass along those increases to consumers. Exxon Mobil (like other oil companies) was actually able to boost margins for what the industry calls "downstream" operations of retailing and refining. Profits in those operations, after excluding a special charge for the settlement of a lawsuit, were \$2.2

billion, up 47 percent from 2004, even though the amount of petroleum products the company sold rose less than 3 percent.

Exxon Mobil's profits for the quarter were about 50 percent more than Citigroup's and 2 ½ times Microsoft's.

OCCUPATION REPORT



The Hidden War; The Dead Who Do Not Exist

August 16, 2006 Robert Fisk, The Independent (UK) [Excerpt]

One of the problems in cataloguing the daily death toll is that the official radio often declines to report explosions.

On Monday, the thump of a bomb in the Karada district was never officially explained. Only yesterday was it discovered that a suicide bomber had walked into a popular café, the Emir, and blown himself up, killing two policemen.

Another explosion, officially said to be caused by a mortar, turned out to be a mine set off beneath a pile of watermelons as a US patrol was passing. A civilian died.

Again, there was no official account of these deaths. They were not recorded by the government nor by the occupying armies nor, of course, by the Western press.

Like the bodies in the Baghdad city mortuary, they did not exist.

USA 1776: Iraq 2005

8.17.05 Christian Science Monitor

Twenty-eight months after U.S. forces helped pull down the statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Firdos Square, the Bush administration is facing a hard reality: its vision for Iraq's immediate future may need to be scaled back.

The bottom line is that it may be at least that long, if not longer, before it is apparent whether there is any historical equivalence between the Philadelphia of 1776 and the Baghdad of 2005. [If you're brain dead that is. If not, the "historical equivalent" is perfect: two peoples fighting to rid their nations of a foreign occupation by an enemy army determined to keep them in chains for the profit of a foreign tyrant and the greedy scum in his government. USA 1776. Iraq 2005.]

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



U.S. Marine Cpl. Franke Rye of Hamilton, Ohio, of the 3rd Battalion 25th Regiment searches a man's cupboard in Barwana, Iraq, Aug. 4, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

There's nothing quite a foreigner invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to paw through their personal belongings. This will 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?

For Glaziers, Panel-Beaters And Bomb Makers, Business Is Booming: "The Price Per Bomb? Around \$25"

"Before the war we used to get a few vehicles damaged by car accidents. Now, with the blessing of bombs, I don't have any space left in my garage," he says, barely able to restrain a smile.

17 August 2005 Reuters

Amid the destruction wrought by car bombs over the past two years in Iraq, there are some merchants who, by dint of their trade, have done well out of the mayhem, and glaziers fit that profit-from-misfortune group.

Clearing up the mess after a car bomb blew up his glass-fronted restaurant, Ahmed Kadhum knew one person he was going to have to call - the glass salesman.

"These days, everybody needs a glass salesman," says Abu Omar, who runs a small but expanding glass repair business in southern Baghdad. "We have become the new celebrities of Iraq."

With demand soaring, Abu Omar is considering opening more shops around the city, where hardly a day goes by without a bomb or a mortar blast causing death, injury or serious damage.

On Wednesday, a car bombs struck a busy bus station in Baghdad, killing more than 40 people and wounding 80.

Earlier, before the violence began, Abu Omar says he only made good money when construction projects were going on, and those were fairly rare. Now, sales have more than tripled, he says.

The impact can also be seen in the price of glass. In Baghdad, a basic shop-front window pane used to cost about 90 US cents per square foot; now it retails for \$1.20 or more.

So good is business that some merchants have taken to driving around town in minivans stocked with glass ready to pitch up 'ad hoc' at the scene of blasts, salesmen say.

Many residents, accustomed to replacing windows regularly, even those strapped with tape to limit damage, have adopted a stoic approach to dealing with glaziers, even as prices soar.

"They are helpful," said Um Mohammed, a Baghdad housewife. "Although they sell glass at high prices that some families cannot afford."

Others are less forgiving.

"I've spent everything I've got on glaziers - I just can't take it anymore," said a resident whose house is on the airport road, *where car bombs can strike several times a day.*

Another group of workers in high demand are panel-beaters.

For every car bomb that goes off around the country, there are at least half a dozen vehicles that get damaged, with not just windows shattered but the body work smashed up.

Ahmed Salih, whose car was hit when a roadside bomb went off a few dozen yards ahead of him, said it cost nearly \$350 - most of his monthly salary - to get it repaired.

Abu Mohammed, 42, who runs a car repair shop in the old part of Baghdad on a street where dozens of people in the same trade are kept busy from dawn until dusk, described his good fortune.

"Before the war we used to get a few vehicles damaged by car accidents. Now, with the blessing of bombs, I don't have any space left in my garage," he says, barely able to restrain a smile.

There are others who quietly benefit from Iraq's hardships - ice and airconditioner salesmen do a roaring trade in summer, and coffin makers have seen a terrible rise in demand.

One other group that goes little reported are bomb-makers. Several months ago, US forces raided a house in Baghdad only to discover a small but complete bomb-making factory.

Rather than being explicitly tied to the violence, the owner apparently operated independently, using his skills to supply a demand in the market, US forces said.

The price per bomb? Around \$25, including some profit for the manufacturer.

Gas: 5 Cents A Gallon

August 17, 2005 By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER, Los Angeles Times

Iraq has long subsidized gas prices, a practice that continued after the U.S.-led invasion. Iraqi gas costs about 5 cents a gallon, while neighboring Kuwait charges 79 cents.

The Finance Ministry puts the total cost of subsidized fuel - a figure that includes direct subsidy costs as well as gas purchased to replace smuggling losses - at \$6.9 billion, a staggering 28 percent of the country's projected GDP in 2005.

Realizing the problem, the Coalition Provisional Authority decided that it needed to remove the subsidies, which were inherited from Iraq's state-controlled economy. Besides fuel, Iraqis receive a subsidized monthly food ration, which takes up another quarter of the government's budget.

But, fearing social unrest, U.S. officials running the coalition left the subsidies in place.

"Only a crazy man would increase the price at this time," said Karim Shamma, an energy consultant and former Oil Ministry official.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Democrat Leaders Promise More Blood & Death

August 14, 2005 By Rick Klein, Globe Staff

WASHINGTON -- After months of internal debate and closed-door discussions, **Democrats have begun to develop a more aggressive foreign policy that focuses heavily on threats they say are being neglected by the Bush administration, while avoiding taking a contentious stance on Iraq.**

Even Democrats who have been associated with liberal positions on international affairs are calling for more troops in uniform, proposing that threats of force be used to stop nuclear weapons programs in Iran and North Korea, and pressing for potential military intervention to ease famine and oppression around the world.

Despite pressure from liberal groups calling for a quick exit from Iraq, several of the party's White House aspirants and congressional leaders are calling for the United States to intensify efforts to bring stability to the nation before troops come home.

Straws In The Wind

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

AUGUST 18, 2005 By David Kirkpatrick and Adam Nagourney The New York Times

"There is just no enthusiasm for this war - nobody is happy about it," said Representative John Duncan Jr., a Tennessee Republican and a critic of the war. "It certainly is not going to help Republican candidates, I can tell you that much."

Representative Wayne Gilchrist, a Maryland Republican, said he has encountered "a lot of Republicans grouching about the situation as a whole, and how they have to respond to a lot of questions back home. I have been to a lot of funerals."

Richard Viguerie, a veteran of conservative direct-mail campaigns, said the Bush White House had "turned the volume up on his megaphone about as high as it could go to try to tie the war in Iraq to the war on terrorism" in the presidential election last year, but that would not work this time.

"I just don't think it washes after all these years."

War Profiteer Gets Top Navy Job

16 August 2005 The Associated Press

Crawford, Texas - President Bush announced Tuesday that he has chosen an executive for a defense contractor to be secretary of the Navy and a Pentagon weapons buyer to be secretary of the Air Force.

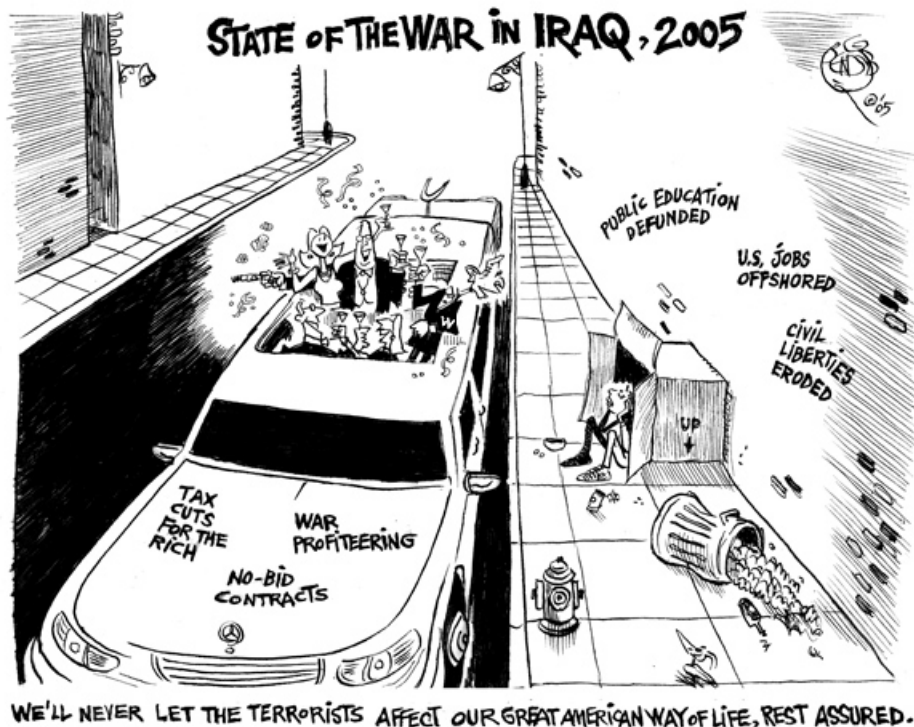
Michael W. Wynne, Bush's pick for Air Force secretary, has been the Defense Department's undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics since 2003. He will replace James Roche, who resigned in January.

Bush has chosen Donald Winter, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman Mission Systems, to become the Navy's top civilian official. The position has been open since May, when Bush placed Gordon England in the No. 2 Pentagon job of acting deputy secretary of defense.

In June, the Pentagon's inspector general said Wynne was one of a half-dozen top Pentagon and Air Force officials responsible for a failed \$23.5 billion deal to lease and buy refueling tankers from The Boeing Co. Lawmakers called the deal the most significant defense contract abuse in decades, although the inspector general did not accuse the officials of illegal activity.

The deal led to the conviction of former Air Force executive Darleen Druyun on charges of conspiring to violate conflict-of-interest rules. She admitted in court that she favored Boeing because the company gave jobs to her daughter and son-in-law.

Before working at the Pentagon, Wynne was an executive at Ixata and Extended Reach Logistics.



Oops

Aug. 10 Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington Post Foreign Service

Jafari's Shiite Muslim-led government, many of whose top figures spent years in exile in Iran while Hussein was in power, also insisted Wednesday that U.S. reports of bombs being smuggled into Iraq from Iran were "exaggerated."

Rumsfeld said Tuesday that weapons were being moved across the border, although he said it was impossible to tell whether they were coming from the Iranian government.

The Premeditated Murder Of Jean Charles De Menezes

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

August 17, 2005 Rosie Cowan, Duncan Campbell and Vikram Dodd, The Guardian & Aljazeera

The young Brazilian shot dead by police on a London tube train in mistake for a suicide bomber had already been overpowered by a surveillance officer before he was killed, according to secret documents revealed last night.

It also emerged in the leaked documents that early allegations that he was running away from police at the time of the shooting were untrue and that he appeared unaware that he was being followed.

Relatives and the dead man's legal team expressed shock and outrage at the revelations. Scotland Yard has continued to justify a shoot-to-kill policy.

Jean Charles de Menezes died after being shot on a tube train at Stockwell station in south London on July 22, the morning after the failed bomb attacks in London.

But the evidence given to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) by police officers and eyewitnesses and leaked to ITV News shows that far from leaping a ticket barrier and fleeing from police, as was initially reported, he was filmed on CCTV calmly entering the station and picking up a free newspaper before boarding the train.

It has now emerged that Mr de Menezes:

- was never properly identified because a police officer was relieving himself at the very moment he was leaving his home;**
- was unaware he was being followed;**
- was not wearing a heavy padded jacket or belt as reports at the time suggested;**
- never ran from the police;**
- and did not jump the ticket barrier.**

But the revelation that will prove most uncomfortable for Scotland Yard was that the 27-year-old electrician had already been restrained by a surveillance officer before being shot seven times in the head and once in the shoulder.

The documents reveal that a member of the surveillance team, who sat nearby, grabbed Mr de Menezes before he was shot: "I heard shouting which included the word 'police' and turned to face the male in the denim jacket.

"He immediately stood up and advanced towards me and the CO19 (firearms squad) officers ... I grabbed the male in the denim jacket by wrapping both my arms around his torso, pinning his arms to his side. I then pushed him back on to the seat where he had been previously sitting ... I then heard a gun shot very close to my left ear and was dragged away on to the floor of the carriage."

Contrary to dramatic witness accounts on the day, de Menezes is seen to board the train through the middle doors before pausing, looking left and right, then sitting down in either the second or third seat facing the platform.

The undercover officer outside, who was supposed to identify anyone exiting the building, admitted he had been away from his post when the Brazilian left.

"I was in the process of relieving myself," he was quoted as saying in documents obtained by ITV News.

Received:

Meanwhile, Cindy At The Ranch

To: GI Special

Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2005 11:11 PM

Subject: Comment: GI Special: 3C22B Meanwhile, Jack At The Ranch, August 12, 2005
Ed Naha, SmirkingChimp.com

This had me laughing and achieved a lot. I actually read through one of Bush's rambling, bull-shitting orations. I usually get to feeling so sick, early in piece, that I give up.

He does look like a chimp. An Australian Muslim sent me some pictures of Bush, next to chimp pictures, and the resemblance was unbelievable. That was soon after he became President for the first time. I don't have a scanner or I'd send a copy.

I admire Cindy Sheehan, who has only had a couple of brief mentions in our media. She's an amazing person. Keep up the good work - both of you.

In solidarity, JM

REPLY: She and the others with her, including the Iraq war vets, and the soldiers visiting her from Ft. Hood, are doing the heavy lifting. GI Special is only reporting what they do. It's those acting who build for the future.

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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