

GI SPECIAL 3C26:

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Army honor guard carries the coffin containing the body of Pvt. Ernesto Rodolfo Guerra, who was assigned to 43rd Brigade Troops Battalion, Third Infantry Division in the town of San Francisco del Rincon, Mexico on Aug. 18, 2005. Pvt. Guerra died a day after he was injured in a July 28 Humvee crash in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Mario Armas)

From First Sgt. To Civilian Shithead

Mr. Northern - I know little about Cindy Sheehan except that she is a grieving mother, a gentle soul, and wants to bring harm to no one.

I know little about you except that you found your way to Crawford on Monday night in August with chains and a pipe attached to your truck for the sole purpose of dishonoring a memorial erected for my friends and lost Soldiers and hundreds of others that served this nation when they were called.

Aug 17, Perry Jefferies, First Sergeant, USA (retired); Operation Truth.com

Mr. Northern:

I am a Veteran of the Iraq war, having served with the 4th Infantry Division on the initial invasion with Force Package One.

While I was in Iraq, a very good friend of mine, Christopher Cutchall, was killed in an unarmored HMMWV outside of Baghdad. He was a cavalry scout serving with the 3d ID. Once he had declined the award of a medal because Soldiers assigned to him did not receive similar awards that he had recommended.

He left two sons and a wonderful wife.

On Monday night, August 16, you ran down the memorial cross erected for him by Arlington West.

One of my Soldiers in Iraq was Roger Turner.

We gave him a hard time because he always wore all of his protective equipment, including three pairs of glasses or goggles. He did this because he wanted to make sure that he returned home to his family. He rode a bicycle to work every day to make sure that he was able to save enough money on his Army salary to send his son to college.

At Camp Anaconda, where the squadron briefly stayed, a rocket landed inside a tent, sending a piece of debris or fragment into him and killed him.

On Monday night, August 16, you ran down the memorial cross erected for him by Arlington West.

One of my Soldiers was Henry Bacon.

He was one of the finest men I ever met. He was in perfect shape for a man over forty, working hard at night. He told me that he did that because he didn't have much money to buy nice things for his wife, who he loved so much, so he had to be in good shape for her.

He was like a father to many young men in his section of maintenance mechanics. They fixed our vehicles with almost no support and fabricated parts and made repairs that kept our squadron rolling on the longest, fastest armor advance ever made under fire.

He was so very proud of his son-in-law that married the beautiful daughter so well raised by Henry. His son-in-law was a helicopter pilot with the 1st Cavalry Division, who died last year. Henry stopped to rescue a vehicle belonging to another unit on what was to be his last day in Iraq. He could have kept rolling - he was headed to Kuwait after a year's tour. But he stopped. He could have sent others to do the work, but he was on the ground, leading by example, when he was killed.

On Monday night, August 16, you took it upon yourself to go out in the country, where a peaceful group was exercising their constitutional rights, and harming no one, and you ran down the memorial cross erected for Henry and for his son-in-law by Arlington West.

Mr. Northern - I know little about Cindy Sheehan except that she is a grieving mother, a gentle soul, and wants to bring harm to no one.

I know little about you except that you found your way to Crawford on Monday night in August with chains and a pipe attached to your truck for the sole purpose of dishonoring a memorial erected for my friends and lost Soldiers and hundreds of others that served this nation when they were called.

I find it disheartening that good men like these have died so that people like you can threaten a mother who lost a child with your actions.

I hope that you are ashamed of yourself.

Perry Jefferies, First Sergeant, USA (retired)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

FOUR TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIERS KILLED BY IED IN SAMARRA

Aug 18, 2005 CBS Worldwide Inc.

TIKRIT, Iraq – Four soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in Samarra at about 11:15 a.m. on Aug. 18.

Samarra is among a series of towns and cities in central and western Iraq that fell into insurgent hands last year after the United States transferred sovereignty to the Iraqis.

U.S. forces regained control last year but the situation there remains uncertain. [The reporter neglects to mention the resistance promptly regained control, and there is nothing uncertain about that. The only ground the Occupation controls is the ground the troops stand on at any given moment. That's what happens when an Imperial government tries to keep a whole nation in chains. Iraqis will keep on fighting until they are free of the Occupation, and there is nothing uncertain about that either.]

MORE:

August 18, 2005 By BOB HERBERT, The New York Times Company

The president has never been clear about why we're in Iraq. There's no plan, no strategy. **In one of the many tragic echoes of Vietnam, U.S. troops have been fighting hellacious battles to seize areas controlled by insurgents, only to retreat and allow the insurgents to return.**

IED Hits U.S. Convoy In Baghdad: Casualties Not Announced

2005-08-18 Middle East Online

Another US military convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Baghdad early Thursday with Iraqi officials reporting some American casualties in the blast although the US military had no immediate comment.

"Our troops have seen American soldiers evacuating some of their wounded colleagues from the humvee after it hit the bomb," an interior ministry official said.

Aurora Soldier One Of 14 Wounded By Car Bomb August 7

8/18/05 By Heather Gillers, Digital Chicago

Ten days of painkillers have not obscured Eric Vargo's memory of Aug. 7.

It was almost dark in Taji, Iraq, when the Auroran's battalion took a break from raiding houses and searching vehicles to eat, he said. As usual, they parked their armored vehicles in a circle, creating a somewhat protected center area where they could gather for dinner.

Suddenly, a blue van crammed with explosives sped through the ring of cars into the crowd of hungry soldiers and exploded, killing 20-year-old Spc. Seferino Reyna of Arizona **and wounding 14 other U.S. soldiers, according to Vargo and Department of Defense records.**

Task Force Baghdad Helicopter Makes “Precautionary Landing”

Aug. 17, 2005 MNF

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A Task Force Baghdad helicopter made a precautionary landing due to mechanical problems around 10 a.m. Aug. 17 in southwest Baghdad.

Initial reports indicate no Coalition forces were injured in the landing.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

TWO KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN IED STRIKE NEAR KANDAHAR

August 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-08-28C & Washington Post

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Two U.S. soldiers were killed and two were wounded when an improvised explosive device struck their armored vehicle as it traveled north of Kandahar today.

The two U.S. soldiers wounded in the attack were evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for treatment where they are both listed in stable condition.

Their vehicle was part of a convoy operating in the area in support of the Tarin Kowt road construction project, a U.S. effort to build a modern major highway and improve local infrastructure.

The two wounded soldiers were evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for medical treatment.

The road project was linking the southern main city of Kandahar with Tirin Kot, a district about 60 miles to the north.

Casualty Not Previously Reported

August 17, 2005 By JEFF REINITZ, Courier Staff Writer

JANESVILLE --- After stints as an airborne soldier in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan, Spc. Derrick Christianson's latest forward operating base is located at his parents' home. His mission: Recover from a bullet wound that shattered his left tibia.

The 20-year-old Janesville High graduate was on patrol with as a member of the 82nd Airborne June 10 when his unit came under fire. His leg was struck by a round from a Kalashnikov assault rifle when he peeked from cover to fire off a grenade.

After about two months at hospitals and a battle with infection, Christianson was granted 30 days convalescence leave and flew to Iowa last week. "I love it," Christianson said, clad in a Converse T-shirt and reclining on a couch in the living room. "The second I flew over cornfields, my heart skipped a beat."

CRAWFORD TEXAS WAR REPORTS



Cindy Sheehan of Vacaville, Calif., joined by Benjamin Hart of Austin, Texas, who served with the Army in Iraq in Crawford, Texas, Aug. 17, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Thousands Across America Attend Vigils To Back Mother's Protest

AUGUST 19, 2005 By Elisabeth Bumiller, The New York Times

Supporters of Cindy Sheehan have held more than 1,500 candlelight vigils across the United States in solidarity with this mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, who has set up a protest encampment down the road from President George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford.

The vigils, coordinated by the advocacy group MoveOn.org, were held on Wednesday night at locations ranging from Lafayette Park near the White House and Rockefeller Center in New York to Clover Park in Santa Monica, California.

Organizers said that tens of thousands of people had attended and that the response showed how Sheehan had become a catalyst for an antiwar movement that had been relatively unfocused since the 2004 presidential campaign.



Athena Nolan joins about 200 demonstrators in support of anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, during a candlelight vigil, on the north side of the White House in Washington, D.C., August 17, 2005. (Chip Somodevilla/Reuters)

Gold Star Mother Says: “This War Is A Lie” “It Must Be Stopped”

August 17 2005 William Hughes, MMN

At last count, at least, 1449 "Vigils" were being planned around the country for tonight.

For example, Melanie House's husband, Petty Officer 3rd Class John House, who was deployed to Iraq as a Navy medical corpsman, was killed on January 26. After learning about Sheehan's gallant stand against the Iraqi war, House signed up to organize a vigil, too, to honor her husband's memory, along with “the sacrifices of all who have died in Iraq.” House, age 26, lives in Simi Valley, CA.

Tia Steele's stepson David, age 21, a US Marine, was recently killed in Iraq.

"I don't want him to have died in vain. I don't want him to be forgotten. This war is a lie. It is a needless war. It must be stopped," she told me.

David was killed in a fire fight in the city of Fallujah. Steele is active with both the Gold Star Families for Peace and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Sheehan Leaves Town; Mother Had A Stroke

Aug 18, 2005 KWTX

Cindy Sheehan suddenly ended her nearly two-week-long vigil Thursday near the President's Central Texas ranch after learning her 74-year-old mother had suffered a stroke.

Sheehan is the Vacaville, Calif. woman who is demanding a meeting with the President about the death of her 24-year-old son Casey, a 1st Cavalry Division soldier who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

She was scheduled to fly out of Waco at about 5 p.m. Thursday.

Meanwhile the protesters who have joined her anti-war vigil packed up their tents Thursday afternoon to move to a private patch of pastureland near the President's ranch.

The move may not be complete until the weekend.

TROOP NEWS

Sent To Die For Bush's Lies



Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade's 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, prepare to board a chartered aircraft for a year-long deployment to Iraq, Aug. 17, 2005, at Fort Richardson, Alaska. **About 3,800 troops are on their way to relieve**

other units in the Middle East. It is the largest deployment of troops from the state since the Vietnam War. (AP Photo/Matt Hage)

“We Intend To Fight This Until We Get The Truth”



Rose Gentle: London, August 17, 2005 REUTERS/Paul Hackett

17 August 2005 Scottish TV

The mother of a Scots soldier killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq has helped launch a legal bid to secure an independent inquiry into the legality of the war.

Rose Gentle, whose son Gordon was just 19 when he died, joined the families of 17 other servicemen at the High Court in London where they are seeking a judicial review of the Government's decision to refuse an inquiry.

Rose Gentle said: "When my son sign up in the army he thought he was going to fight for Queen and country. But Gordon and the rest of the British troops and American troops have been sent to Iraq on a pack of lies and we think it is time the Government explained to us why those boys were sent there and we intend to fight this until we get the truth."

Gordon Gentle died in June last year when a homemade bomb exploded alongside his patrol in Basra.

MORE:

gordon:

it was not the iraq, that killied my boy it was tony blair

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. Her words contain more truth than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: August 17, 2005
Subject: gordon

when my boy sign up the army we thought he was going
to fight for queen and country, but gordon and all the rest
of the british troops have been sent to iraq, on a pack of lies,
we think its tiem, the government explained to us why those boys
were sent there, i intend to fight blair until i get the truth.
to me it was not the iraq, that killied my boy it was tony blair.

gordon was 19 just a kid, bush and blair should be prosecuted for
this crazy crusade, i will fight with all i have, till i get my day
with blair. this man is a coward. when i was at the court to day
i had to do it, and i will go back, but this tiem it will be to
get blair. lets not stop lets get more mad, 2 of them, but 100000
of us, niver say i cant, its we will, blair look out. i can see and
here you, rose

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)

MORE ASSHOLES IN ACTION: **Sailors Wife Denied Funding For Terminating “Doomed” Pregnancy**

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

A Navy wife who sued Tricare to pay for an abortion that terminated her doomed pregnancy has lost the case.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit found that Tricare is barred by law from paying for abortions except when the mother's life is in danger.

In reversing a lower court ruling in the spouse's favor, the judges also found that the government has a legitimate interest in protecting potential human life. **[Now read the next line. There was no “potential human life,” just a hideously deformed fetus and these disgusting judges admit it. But hey, it would cost the Pentagon some money, so they turn the law into a pretzel to make sure it won't]**

The woman's fetus had anencephaly, which even the judges acknowledged “is an ultimately and unequivocally fatal birth defect” for which there is no treatment or cure.

Fetuses with anencephaly develop without a cerebellum or forebrain, and only about one-third who are carried to full term are born alive. Less than 2 percent of those infants survive more than a week.

The Navy wife, now 23, is identified only as Jane Doe to protect her privacy. Her attorney, Lisa Stone, executive director of the Northwest Women's Law Center in Seattle, said they have not decided their next step. Legal options include asking the full appeals court to hear the case or petitioning for Supreme Court review.

Doe had an abortion in 2002 on the advice of doctors who confirmed her fetus had the terminal condition. She sued the government to pay for the procedure, done at University of Washington Medical Center.

The government has not sought to have Doe repay the estimated \$2,000 to \$3,000 cost of the procedure, Stone said.

Three years ago, Doe and her husband were looking forward to becoming parents when doctors diagnosed anencephaly, the attorney said.

Stone said the case “is about somebody whose strong desire to be a parent goes awry and is denied appropriate medical care.”

They have since had another child.

Doe wanted the court to review the law in the context of anencephaly where fetuses that are born alive have no sensation, no thought and no chance of survival.

Stone said the court failed to thoroughly analyze the government’s interest in protecting potential human life in this circumstance.

“Here there is no human life, there is no potential. Therefore it’s irrational to apply the statute,” Stone said.

The court, however, disagreed, saying that “an ‘imperfect fit’ does not render a statute invalid.” **[The “imperfect fit’ here is between the judges’ brains and common decency.]**

“Anencephaly is a horrible defect that leaves families ... devastated, faced with difficult decisions and even more difficult psychological experiences,” the judges wrote. “We depart from our analysis only to observe that while recognizing that the foregoing discussion may seem at times callous and unfeeling, we express our deepest sympathy for the families who must face this difficult ordeal.

“It is the nature of the legal analysis ... and the deference we must afford congressional judgment that require the result we reach here today. **We remain confident, however, that the law commands it.**” **[So what. The original U.S. Constitution denied women the right to vote, and held that slavery was legal. What lame bullshit.]**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Another Attack On Collaborators In Fallujah

CBS Worldwide Inc. Aug 18, 2005

Insurgents threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi patrol in central Fallujah, wounding two troops, police 1st Lt. Jassim Ouwaid said. The attack came one day after a car bombing killed three people in the city that was once an insurgent stronghold before a U.S. offensive retook the city in November of last year.

Assorted Resistance Action

8.18.05 Reuters & (KUNA)

A magistrate at Karkh Appeal Court, Jassim Whyib, was killed by guerrillas in the Doura southern district of Baghdad. A police source said his driver was also killed in the attack.

The judge in the court of appeal in the Karkh area, and his driver were leaving the judge's house.

The gunmen sprayed the car and killed both men immediately.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"A tyrant must put on the appearance of uncommon devotion to religion. Subjects are less apprehensive of illegal treatment from a ruler whom they consider god-fearing and pious. On the other hand, they do less easily move against him, believing that he has the gods on his side." Aristotle

“We Can Dream, Can't We?”

August 15, 2005 by Justin Raimondo, Antiwar.com

If I were president in such a world, I, too, would be nervous about opposition to my crazed war policy emanating from the military. In Bizarro America, after all, anything might happen - including uniformed generals leading the antiwar movement.

Finally taking seriously their sworn duty to defend the Constitution, will they take up their positions next to Cindy Sheehan and march on the president's Crawford compound?

We can dream, can't we?

Who knows, but in Bizarro America, it just might happen, and wouldn't that be a sight to see? The final rout of the chickenhawks, as they meet their Waterloo!

“High Time To Revolte!”

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: August 16, 2005
Subject: twain's advice to troops

From: Mark Twain quotations: War

"If the bubble reputation can be obtained only at the cannon's mouth, I am willing to go there for it, provided the cannon is empty.

"If it is loaded my immortal and inflexible purpose is to get over the fence and go home.

"My invariable practice in war has been to bring out of every fight two-thirds more men than when I went in. This seems to me Napoleonic in its grandeur."

Mark Twain, 1879.

If the old prankster were to give a single word of advice to troops stuck in the present imperial disasters, it might easily be the same one he used to describe his own secession from the Confederate militia: "Skedaddle!"

Just don't forget to take your buddies and gear with you!

Solidarity,
Z

MORE FROM MARK TWAIN:

"I am a revolutionist by birth, reading and principle. I am always on the side of the revolutionists because there never was a revolution unless there were some oppressive and intolerable conditions against which to revolte."

Mark Twain, American writer and vice president of Anti-Imperialist League, 1906.

Can you imagine what old Twain -- the anti-imperialist who said "I am opposed to the eagle putting its talons on any other land" -- would make of the death-dealing buffoons who are currently our national "leaders?"

High time to revolte!

Solidarity,
Z

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic**

Real Old Time Anti-War Hard Asses, Continued

November 1, 1914 By V. Lenin, Sotsial-Demokrat No.33

The war is not an accident, not a "sin," as is the idea of the Christian ministers (who preach patriotism, humanitarianism and peace no less eloquently than the opportunists); it is an inevitable stage of capitalism, it is a form of *capitalist* life as natural as peace.

The war of our days is a people's war. It does not follow from this truth that one must swim with the "popular" current of chauvinism; on the contrary, even in war times, in the war itself the same class antagonisms that rend the peoples will continue to exist and will manifest themselves in a military way.

The idea of refusing to serve in the army, of strikes against the war, etc., is mere foolishness, it is the miserable and cowardly dream of an unarmed struggle against an armed bourgeoisie, it is a weak yearning for the abolition of capitalism without a desperate civil war or a series of wars.

Propaganda of class struggle even in the midst of war is the duty of a Socialist; work directed toward transforming the war of the peoples into a civil war is the only Socialist work in the epoch of an imperialist armed conflict of the bourgeoisie of all nations.

Down with the sentimental and foolish preacher's yearnings for a "peace at any price!"

Let us raise the banner of civil war!

Imperialism has put the fate of European civilisation at stake: this war, if there does not follow a series of successful revolutions, will soon be followed by other wars; the fable of the "last war" is an empty, harmful fable, a philistine "myth"

If not to-day, then certainly to-morrow; if not during the present war, then after it; if not in this war, then in the following one, the proletarian banner of civil war will rally not only hundreds of thousands of enlightened workers, but also millions of semi-proletarians and petty bourgeois who are now being fooled by chauvinism and who, besides being frightened and benumbed by the horrors of the war, will also be enlightened taught, aroused, organised, hardened and prepared for a war against the bourgeoisie both of "their own" and of the "foreign" countries.

MORE:

“Arms May Perhaps Be Turned Against Those Who Are Inciting People Into The War”

[You think Lenin is rough? This next one is by *Swiss Christian politicians* against the First World War.]

September, 1914, *New Ways, Pages for Religious Work*, Zurich, Switzerland

In one night the aspect of the world has changed. . . . Every one puts the blame on his neighbour. every one claims to be on the defensive, to act only in a state of urgent defence.

Every one, don't you see, defends only his most sacred values, the hearth, the fatherland. . . . National vainglory and national aggressiveness triumph . . .

Even the great international working class obeys national orders, workers are killing one another on the battlefields. . . .

Our civilization has proven bankrupt. . . . Writers of European fame are not ashamed to come forth as raging blind chauvinists. . . . We had too much faith in the possibility of checking imperialist madness by fear of economic ruin.

We are going through a naked imperialist struggle for hegemony of the earth.

What will be the end of it all?

Should poverty become too great, should despair take the upper hand, should a brother recognise a brother in the military uniform of an enemy, then perhaps something very unexpected may still come, arms may perhaps be turned against those who are inciting people into the war, peoples who were forcibly made to hate one another may perhaps forget it and suddenly unite.

We do not want to be prophets, but should the European War bring us one step closer to a European Socialist republic, then this war, after all, will not have been as senseless as it seems to be at present.

MORE:

“He Would Have Been Talked Of In The Trenches”

“He Would Have Been A Socialist, Not A Traitor”

[Lenin is not about to be outflanked to the left by the Christian politicians.]

Sotsial-Demokrat, No. 37, February 1, 1915.

What should the Belgian Socialists have done?

Since they could not accomplish a social revolution together with the French, etc., they had to submit to the majority of the nation at the present moment and go to war.

But in submitting to the will of the slave-holding class, they should have put the responsibility on the latter, they should have refrained from voting for appropriations, they should have sent Vandervelde not on ministerial journeys to the exploiters, but to organise (together with the revolutionary Social-Democrats of *all* countries) illegal revolutionary propaganda in favour of a “Socialist revolution” and civil war; **they should have conducted the same work in the army, experience having shown that even in the trenches of the fighting armies “fraternisation” of soldier-workers is possible.**

To prattle about dialectics and Marxism, at the same time being unable to combine the temporary necessity of submission to the majority with revolutionary work under all conditions, means to mock at the workers, to jeer at Socialism.

“Citizens of Belgium! Our country has been visited by a great calamity caused by the bourgeoisie of all the countries including Belgium. Do you not wish to overthrow this bourgeoisie? Do you not believe in an appeal to the Socialists of Germany?”

“We are in the minority; I submit to you and go to war, but even in the war I shall preach; I shall prepare the civil war of the proletariat of all the countries because outside of it there is no salvation for the peasants and workers of Belgium and of other countries!”

For a speech of this kind, a Belgian or French Deputy would have been put in jail, not in a ministerial chair, but he would have been a Socialist, not a traitor; he would have been talked of in the trenches both by the French and German soldier-workers; he would have been recognised as *their own* leader, not as a traitor to the working class.

“As long as fatherlands exist, as long as the life and movement of the proletariat are, as at present, pressed into the framework of the fatherlands, and the proletariat does not feel a different, an international, ground under its feet, the question of patriotism and self-defence will exist for the working class,” says Axelrod.

The bourgeois fatherlands will exist until destroyed by an international revolution of the proletariat.

Signs Of The Times



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

OCCUPATION REPORT

***Great Moments In U.S. Military
History:***
**Iraqi In Wheelchair Executed As
Terrorist;
Mourners At His Funeral Shot
“He Is A Cripple. He Has Been
Handicapped For The Past 25 Years”**

18 Aug 2005 By Michael Georgy, Reuters)

An angry Iraqi crowd carried coffins through a Baghdad district on Thursday and threw rocks at American soldiers, accusing U.S. troops of killing three innocent middle-aged brothers, one of them in a wheelchair.

The U.S. military said they had killed three "terrorists".

"They call everybody terrorists but they just commit terrorist acts whenever they want," said Mohsen Thabit, a friend of the men whom neighbours found shot in the head at home after a raid by U.S. and Iraqi troops in the Amiriya district overnight.

The bodies of Khalil, Khalid and Jamal Hussein, filmed by a neighbour, lay sprawled in their home, that of the crippled Khalil lying in the bathroom next to his wheelchair

Whatever the reasons behind the incident, however, neighbours and relatives were quick to accuse Americans and the new Iraqi forces they are training of carrying out an unprovoked killing, a common complaint in a violent city and one that has fuelled resentment in many quarters towards occupying forces.

The reaction underlines how far U.S. and, now, Iraqi troops are struggling to gain public trust after two years of war.

The dead men's sister-in-law said she saw U.S. and Iraqi troops raid the house and shoot her husband's brothers.

"They shot one of my brothers-in-law in the bathroom and then they shot the other two. I was hit in the arm and foot," Noor Ali Jassim told Reuters from a hospital bed.

Video footage taken by residents showed three bodies on the floor, including Khalil Hussein who lay face down in the bathroom near a wheelchair. Friends said the man had been unable to walk since being wounded in the war with Iran in the 1980s.

Amiriya will not be silent," said neighbour Akram Khalil.

Among accusations of civilians being killed in raids, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations alleged last month that U.S. Marines shot dead his unarmed cousin in cold blood at his home.

In Amiriya, relatives wept as they prepared the brothers for burial. One man lifted blankets, exposing devastating skull wounds; "He is a cripple. He has been handicapped for the past 25 years," he said, standing over Khalil's bloodied corpse.

"They will never be let back into Amiriya," screamed a hysterical man, referring to U.S. forces. Mourners threw stones at U.S. patrol vehicles as they drove past the procession.

MORE:

Winning More Friends, For The Armed Resistance That Is: Throw A Rock? Get Shot!



An Iraqi man bleeding from a head wound is carried through a funeral for three brothers killed during an early morning raid Aug. 18, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq. Witnesses say that US troops fired on rock throwers as the troops passed the funeral procession. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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.

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

**“The New US-Crafted Constitution
Is Imposed By Armed Foreign
Occupation”**



August 17, 2005 Ghali Hassan, www.globalresearch.ca [Excerpt]

The new US-crafted constitution is imposed by armed foreign occupation – 160,000 US troops and foreign mercenaries.

It is designed to keep Iraq a colonial dictatorship ruled by US forces behind an Iraqi façade of quislings.

It will deny all Iraqis not only their democratic and human rights to control their economic future, but also their national independent and sovereignty.

Therefore, Iraqi Resistance to the Occupation “is entirely rational and the only solution is a rapid withdrawal of US troops and Iraq’s return to full sovereignty”, wrote Alain Gresh, editor of Le Monde Diplomatique.

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: More U.S. Troops Sent: To Be Prison Guards

August 18, 2005 BBC World News

The US has announced it is sending 700 paratroops to Iraq to boost security at its prisons there.

An infantry battalion from the 82nd Airborne Division will be deployed over the next two months.

As the insurgency continues, there are now nearly 11,000 prisoners in major US-run detention centres - twice as many as last September.

A Pentagon spokesman, Air Force Lt-Col John Skinner, said detention operations in Iraq were expanding.

PRISON CAPACITY

Abu Ghraib - expanded to house 4,000
Camp Bucca - 6,000, to take an extra 1,400
Camp Cropper - 100, to take 2,000 more
Fort Suse - to take 2,000

About 10,800 prisoners are currently held at the main US-run prisons at Abu Ghraib, Camp Bucca and Camp Cropper. **[That only leaves about 2 million more Iraqis participating in the resistance movement, according to U.S. government estimates. Lots of luck. The Bush regimes effort to keep Iraq for the Empire would be laughable were it not so deadly, for both U.S. troops and Iraqis.]**

A fourth facility at Fort Suse in the Kurdish city of Suleimaniya, 330km (205 miles) north of Baghdad, is expected to be completed next month. The three older prisons are being expanded.

The \$50m construction programme, announced in June, will eventually allow the US to hold 16,000 prisoners.

The US-run camps are for "security detainees" held by coalition forces as suspected insurgents. Iraqi prisoners not connected to the insurgency are held in normal Iraqi jails.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Straws In The Wind: Republican Senator Feels The Heat From Iraq

"I hope he has some sense that something's going on out in the country, that there's a lack of confidence that has developed in our position."

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Aug 18 By Alan Elsner, Reuters

In the solidly Republican state of Nebraska, voters are expressing deep anxiety about rising gasoline prices and the war in Iraq, a possible early warning sign for President George W. Bush in one of his most reliable strongholds.

When Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel traveled around his home state this week, citizens at every stop brought up Iraq policy and the inexorable rise in fuel prices.

An elderly woman asked about Iraq. "Why are we there in the first place?" she asked.

On Tuesday in the central Nebraska town of Lexington, after a meeting with law enforcement officials on drug problems, three sheriffs expressed serious doubts about what the United States was doing in Iraq and whether it could succeed.

Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, acknowledged the U.S. military presence was becoming harder and harder to justify. He believes Iraq faces a serious danger of civil war that would threaten Middle East stability, and said there is little Washington can do to avert this.

"We are seen as occupiers, we are targets. We have got to get out. I don't think we can sustain our current policy, nor do I think we should," he said at one stop.

Hagel said even some who had previously backed Bush strongly on Iraq now felt deep unease.

"The feeling that I get back here, looking in the eyes of real people, where I knew where they were two years ago or a year ago -- they've changed," he said. "These aren't people who ebb and flow on issues. These are rock solid, conservative Republicans who love their country, support the troops and support the president."

Hagel said Bush faced a growing credibility gap. "The expectations that the president and his administration presented to the American people 2 1/2 years ago is not what the reality is today. That's presented the biggest credibility gap problem he's got," he said.

"I hope he has some sense that something's going on out in the country, that there's a lack of confidence that has developed in our position."

“Impeach The Murdering Bastards Who Sent Them To Die For A Pack Of Lies”

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

12 August 2005 Rupert Cornwell, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd.

Feel like getting something off your chest against that iniquitous warmonger in the White House? Well, you can write a letter to your newspaper, tune in to liberal talk radio, or click to a reliably leftie website.

Alternatively, you can take a drive on the highways of the United States.

These are the domain of the freeway bloggers, a breed that have invented a tangible concrete and tarmac version of the internet to make their feelings known about George Bush. The messages, posted from overpasses, bridges and verges, are short, pithy and very, very rude.

Are they breaking the law? Perhaps, though it's hard to argue that anti-Bush ranting is any more distracting to drivers than the raunchy fashion ads, local TV station posters and the other beacons of rampant consumerism that adorn every US highway.

These advertisers have to pay for the privilege of course - but what about that hallowed first amendment of the US Constitution, guaranteeing free speech and free expression?

Nor is the technique illegal. Back in that distant 18-month period of unalloyed patriotism between the 11 September attacks and the first adrenalin-fuelled days of the Iraq war, America's highways blossomed flags, diatribes against Osama bin Laden, and myriad calls to back the troops.

Now the politics has changed, and the messages have a darker ring. Next to an old sign bearing the message "Support our troops", a freeway blogger has added his suggestion as to how this might be best achieved: "Impeach the murdering bastards who sent them to die for a pack of les."

Another notes: "No one died when Clinton lied."

Another cuts to the quick of the CIA leak scandal lapping at the President's top political adviser: "We support Karl Rove," says the message on the banner, signed "Americans 4 Treason.org"

Unarguably however, freeway blogging is a highly efficient means of expression. "A blog takes me about seven minutes to trace and paint, six seconds to hang," says one practitioner. The materials - cardboard or cloth and paint- cost only a few dollars, and affixing them is also pretty simple.

According to one set of instructions posted on the internet, smaller signs should be placed against fencing and strapped in position with strong bungee cords. For larger signs, coat hangers as well as duct tape are recommended. The hangers should be taped to the top of the sign and then twisted around the fencing, before being fastened with the bungee cords.

And don't worry about the fencing obstructing the view. As long as the letters are six inches high, a sign will be perfectly legible. As for location, anywhere (almost) goes. Not just overpasses and verges, but "anything you can see while driving is a place you can put a sign", the instructions advise would-be bloggers.

"The more difficult it is to reach, the longer it'll stay up. Tens, even hundreds of thousands of people can drive by a sign before one of them takes so much as five minutes to take it down. Apart from actual prisoners, you won't find a more captive audience than people in their cars." Some of the signs disappear in minutes. But others stay up for months.

As a general rule, another blog-artist comments on the website www.freewayblogger.com, the larger the sign, the faster it comes down. "The most effective signs I post are small reminders along the peripheries of the freeway such as 'The war is a lie', or 'Osama Bin Forgotten'."

The spoilsports who take them down are, he presumes, "cops, highway workers and Republicans". But who cares, in the easy-come, easy-go world of the freeway blogs. "So long as you can keep putting them up, it really doesn't matter."

In a way, moreover, the medium is even more effective than the internet from which it draws its name. Political cyberspace is divided into ghettos of the left and the right - but as an aficionado puts it, "When you put something on the freeway, you get everybody."

And on the jammed California freeways where the art form was pioneered, everybody means a lot of people - tens, even hundreds of thousands of commuters on an eight-lane highway, all with no choice but to read these roadside political statements.

For Republican drivers, it must be hell. But for the freeway blogger, life doesn't get any better.

“Hey, That’s A Good One, Tell Me Another”



Iraqi collaborator “President” Jalal Talabani cracks up after US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Richard Myers expressed his optimism that the drafting of Iraq's new constitution will be finished by the extended deadline of August 22.
8.17.05 (AP Photo/Wathiq Khuzaie/Pool)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



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

Received:

To: GI Special
Sent: August 18, 2005
Subject: Poetry Card from John Missett

Follow The Guy In The Green Beret

March proud as peacocks in the gym.
That guy wearing the green beret,
carrying the flag follow him.
As you circle round and round to the combined
cheers and clapping of your home-town.
The truck is burning. "Hit the dirt."
Don't listen to those who hurt.
"Burn this village." "Kill those folk."
"This isn't The U.S. Life here is a joke."
You'll never be the same again.
Walking wounded carry their pain back
to your old home town again.
When proud as peacocks in the gym, that guy
in the green beret, carrying the flag,

follow him.
Invent lies about wars glory. No one
will contradict your version of the story.
Tell the kids, we need more and more
In every generation another excuse to enlarge
and extend Our Brother Cains first abuse.

John Missett

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.

Received:

Fuck Bush? How Bout Shoot The Treasonous LTC

From: Chuck Mankin chuckman23@comcast.net
To: GI Special
Sent: August 18, 2005 9:25 PM
Subject: FUCK BUSH? How bout shoot the treasonous LTC!

I hate to tell you this but the military members who are fighting the war don't give a shit about the "War Resistance" at home. These men and women understand what is really at stake here. As far as LTC Fecteau, I think what **she** did is great, now there will be more money for the pensions of those of us who have served with honor! I hope the Air Force kicks her out w/ a bad conduct discharge!

[LTC Fecteau may in fact be a "he," since the news story uses the word "him."]

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://qi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,
www.williambowles.info/qispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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