

GI SPECIAL 3C8:



GI Wife, GI Mom Says: “Please Stop This Insane War NOW”

W. Bush once said that Saddam Hussein had to be removed from power because "he tried to kill my daddy."

Well, W. Bush tried to kill my DAUGHTER!

What do you believe I think about HIM?

From: GI Wife, GI Mom
To: GI Special
Sent: July 28, 2005

An Open Letter to Congress: The Iraq War

The Iraq war has NEVER made sense.

We were already in a major war and another one would have stretched our military resources to the limit (which it did).

Gulf War Syndrome had never been addressed and, as I feared, our soldiers are becoming mysteriously ill AGAIN.

We did not built up the numbers of our military past peacetime strength before engaging in this war, and we had no strategy to keep the peace.

My husband is a member of the Army National Guard and I strongly resent having the threat of deployment hanging over his head for the last three years. Three years of limbo is counter-productive. There are many more like us.

I strongly object to having to give up my daughter to this war, even AFTER two Army doctors had pronounced her medically unfit and "undeployable".

Instead of being medically discharged, she spent a year in Baghdad and my pleas to the White House and virtually everyone else were ignored. A letter from the White House assured me that I would be referred to the Dept. of Defense. That was in December '03 and I'm still waiting.

Medically unfit soldiers are routinely being sent into battle:

<http://www.orgsites.com/ga/save-our-soldiers/>

I started this website to call attention to their plight, but I have found that this is an open secret and not many people care.

Murderers in our prison system do not deserve such cruel and unusual punishment. Why do we force it upon our soldiers??

A pattern has emerged from the letters I've received from families of medically unfit soldiers:

1. The soldier is examined by a military doctor or doctors, and is found to be medically unfit.
2. The soldier is sent into a war zone anyway, most are in severe pain.
3. The soldier is denied medical treatment while in combat, at the risk of becoming permanently disabled.
4. The soldier is given pain killers.
5. The soldier is told to "suck it up".
6. The soldier is denied access to his/her medical records while in combat.

7. The soldier is given duty that is as heavy as anyone else in combat, even at the risk of harming (or even killing) another soldier by mistake.

8. The soldier who returns home is still denied medical treatment in more than half the cases.

W. Bush once said that Saddam Hussein had to be removed from power because "he tried to kill my daddy."

Well, W. Bush tried to kill my DAUGHTER!

What do you believe I think about HIM?

He has created this impossible situation that forces unfit soldiers into combat while denying them medical treatment.

This administration does not care much about our men and women in the Armed forces, and even less about the thousands of innocent Iraqi citizens.

The members of our Armed forces are returning-physically and mentally broken. Many who have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, instead of being treated, are talked back into combat by military counselors to "face their fears".

My daughter won't get help for her own PTSD because she has seen this. The military counselors told her to re-enlist, promising that if she did that she would then get surgery for the condition that rendered her "undeployable".

Some soldiers have lost their means to make a decent living and cannot get help from the government before they lose their houses, their cars, and sometimes their own families. These soldiers are not the responsibility of the non-profit groups, but we love them and we try to help them to the best of our limited means.

Some people are quick to inform us who are the military families, that our loved one signed a contract with the government. In order to have a contract there must be two sides being held to their promises. Keeping that in mind, it's the government that broke the contract. Contracts can't be one-sided.

This war didn't make sense in the beginning; now it makes even less.

Please stop this insane war NOW.

Denise Thomas, GA Military Families Speak Out, Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, People Rights Organization of America

giwifegimom@netscape.net

This does not sound like an administration that cares about our troops:

From: Denise Thomas

Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Bush,

My daughter, Shanell, is deployed to Baghdad.

She was pronounced "undeployable" by two military doctors before she left!

About July of 2002, Shanell was attempting to get a medical discharge from the Army because she has severe scoliosis (curvature of the spine). She was in a back brace for 4 ½ years starting at age eleven, and it seemed to correct the problem to an acceptable level.

In about January of 2002, her back was curving again, and she was having sudden, sharp pains in her spine, accompanied by a very loud popping sound. Because she was preparing for her deployment to Germany, then because of the preparation by the Army for overseas deployments after that, she did not get to a doctor until November or December.

Her doctor stated that she should not be deployed, but she was ordered to go anyway. That means that she is in even more danger than other soldiers, and so is everyone around her because she carries a gun. She has been in at least one extremely tense situation that would have been called a "friendly fire incident", but all I can think of is that someone could have needlessly lost their son if Shanell had suffered a sharp pain at the wrong time.

I had no idea that people would swear at me because I say that I want my daughter home. If people support the troops as they say they do, they would not disrespect a soldier's mother!

Our soldiers are weary, dying, and some are ill, so why are you saying "Bring it on"!? I feel as though people are going mad! I have tried to contact every politician that I thought could help, and I'm being ignored.

Yes, I am a nobody who cares very deeply for her daughter, and I know that the lives of a few troops don't mean much to you, but by contacting you personally I have nothing to lose.

[Wrong Denise. You are most certainly not "a nobody." You, and other people who are fighting back against evil and oppression, are the only "somebodies" around these days. And the hollow suits on top will find they sit on very shaky thrones when enough decent people get fed up and decide to take them down, once and for all. Your courage gives hope and inspiration to others, who can lift up their heads too. You, and not the trash in DC, are a real leader for honorable Americans. T]

I have an increasing feeling of dread, as if I am out of time. I already can't concentrate, I can't work, and I can't think of anything except getting my daughter home. She is not scheduled to come home until March, but even then I fear that her time will be extended yet again.

Shanell has been there since February and she needs to come home. Copies of this letter have been sent to various news agencies.

Denise Thomas

The response:

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 29, 2004**

Dear Ms. Thomas

Thank you for contacting President George W. Bush for assistance with an agency of the Federal Government. I am responding on behalf of the President.

The White House is sending your inquiry to the Department of Defense, which will review your correspondence. This agency has the expertise to address your concerns. They will respond directly to you, as promptly as possible.

The President sends his best wishes.

Sincerely,
Desiree Thompson
Special Assistant to the President
And Director of Presidential Correspondence

PS-- Bush's "best wishes" aren't good enough unless it includes bringing our troops out *NOW*, AND TAKING CARE OF THEM!-- Denise

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four GIs Killed By Baghdad Roadside Bomb

Jul. 31, 2005 Associated Press & CNN

Four Task Force Baghdad soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded in southwestern Baghdad.

The blast also damaged a vehicle when it went off near the international airport Saturday night.

31% Increase In Contractors Wounded And Killed In Last Quarter

Jul 31 (Bloomberg)

Deaths of Iraqis and foreigners working for U.S. companies in Iraq are increasing more rapidly than American contractor deaths as insurgents target reconstruction projects, according to a Pentagon inspector.

Injury and death claims from contractors rose 31 percent from March 30 to June 30, from 2,582 to 3,389, according to Bowen.

Based on death and injury claims filed with the U.S. Labor Department, 217 non-U.S. contractors and 113 U.S. contractors have been killed since the March 2003 invasion, the report from Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, said.

The largest increase occurred in the quarter ended June 30 when 36 mostly Iraqi contractors were killed, as were 18 Americans.

Contractors are required by a 1941 law called the Defense Base Act to carry death and injury insurance for both U.S. citizens and foreign workers operating under government contracts. Claims are filed with private carriers and could eventually be reimbursed by the U.S. government. The Labor Department's Office of Workers Compensation manages the program.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**They Expected An Easy Ride, Then
The Enemy Struck Back:
“It’s The Most Intense Combat I’ve
Ever Seen”**

“We’ve killed a crap load of them,” Sergeant Smith said. “But it’s like a hydra — you cut off one snake’s head and it grows back again.”

July 30, 2005 By Catherine Philp, Times Newspapers Ltd.

Soldiers hardened on the battlefields of Iraq were looking forward to a spot of peacekeeping in Afghanistan. They got much more than they expected.

WHEN the paratroopers of Chosen Company learnt that their battalion was to be sent to the mountains of southern Afghanistan instead of back to the deserts of Iraq, they heaved a collective sigh of relief.

“I thought it’d be pretty relaxed, that I’d be spending a lot of time in the gym,” Sergeant Timothy Smith recalled wryly. “I figured it was more of a peacekeeping mission than anything.”

But less than a month after setting up camp amid the rugged mountains of Zabul province, the heartland of the Taleban, they walked right into the battle of their lives — an intense hand-to-hand fight with what proved to be a surprisingly tenacious and determined enemy.

Dug into bunkers in an orchard in the remote village of Gazek Kula, armed with machineguns and rocketpropelled grenade launchers, dozens of Taleban fighters fought for hours with the Americans, about 50 of them to the death.

Weeks later the Americans were in action again, battling for almost 12 hours to oust at least 200 Taleban from the district headquarters in Miana Shin.

“It’s the most intense combat I’ve ever seen,” Sergeant Smith said. “They fight harder than anyone in Iraq ever did. I really never expected anything like this. We all kind of thought the Taleban were gone.”

They were not the only ones.

After the Taleban failed to mount the promised campaign of disruption during last year’s presidential election, American military commanders and their Afghan counterparts confidently predicted that the rebel movement was finished.

Since the winter snows melted this spring and fighters came out of the mountains, hundreds of Afghans have perished in battles, assassinations and ambushes. Most of the dead have been guerrillas, in fighting that American commanders attribute to a more aggressive search-and-destroy campaign, but many other victims have been government officials and Afghan security forces attacked by the rebels.

Among the dead have been 37 American soldiers, making the past four months the bloodiest period for US forces since they invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 to oust the hardline regime from power.

Commanders who just a few months ago were writing off the rebel force now say that the country should expect a further increase in violence before the parliamentary elections in September.

The soldiers of the 2nd battalion, 503rd infantry, who arrived here four months ago, have been forced to alter their expectations radically.

They are the first to admit that they are astonished by the tenacity of the fighters.

When American forces arrived in Miana Shin district late last month after reports that the Taleban had taken over the town, villagers told them that the guerrillas had warned them to get off the streets and shut up the bazaars because, in the words of one: "We are going to fight the Americans here."

To the soldiers' amazement, the Taleban kept up the battle for 12 hours, despite heavy bombardment from aircraft and helicopter gunships raining down artillery on them.

"They fought for six or seven hours of airstrikes," Sergeant Smith said, recalling how the fighters used AK47s and rocket-propelled grenades to try to shoot down the aircraft, hitting two Chinooks and a Black Hawk. "I've never seen them so aggressive. It was like Braveheart. They really believe they can shoot them down."

That the fight is such an unequal one seems not to bother the fervent young fighters. While their leaders' aim may be to keep trying to chip away at the Americans with a thousand small cuts, the fighters seem happy just to be in the battle.

American forces recovered a diary from a Taleban fighter in his late teens with the entry: "This is the beginning of my jihad," followed by a verse from the Koran praising a holy warrior's effort as more important than its result. The young man was killed after shooting at an entire platoon from the back of a motorbike.

One night last week, Chosen Company set out for a moonlight drive along a rocky riverbed to raid a house where a cell of roadside bomb-makers were believed to be sheltering. As dawn broke they fanned out across the hills to surround the mud walled compound.

But when they got there the Taleban were nowhere to be seen.

Questioned by American troops, the villagers denied having seen the rebels in the past few weeks. This usually meant that the Taleban had just left, Captain Eric Gardner said. "They always say they haven't seen them, but that's understandable. If the Taleban find out they've given us information, they'll punish them."

It was the same story in another village, Jaldak, where soldiers were following a tip-off about a planned ambush. Lieutenant Tate Jarrow told the villagers who stood silently round: "We know the Taleban have been here before. We have come to protect you and your people from the threat."

The villagers nodded noiselessly then watched the soldiers drive away.

“We’ve killed a crap load of them,” Sergeant Smith said. “But it’s like a hydra — you cut off one snake’s head and it grows back again.”

Apache Down



U.S. troops prepare to remove the wreckage of a U.S. Apache helicopter in Bagram north of Kabul, Afghanistan July 30, 2005. A U.S. Apache helicopter crashed, injuring the two crewmen aboard, a military statement said. Photo by Ahmad Masood/Reuters

TROOP NEWS

ITS TIME FOR A SEQUEL: “OVER HERE”

From: Danny Schecher
To: GI Special
Sent: July 31, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3C7: "They've Done Their War"

By Danny Schechter, Mediachannel.org.

News Dissector Danny Schecher is the blogger in chief of Mediachannel.org. His film WMD (Weapons of Mass Deception) tells the story of the media coverage of the Iraq War. It is not airing on F/X. (See www.wmdthefilm.com)

MEMO: TO STEVE BOCHCO FROM: YOUR NEWS DISSECTOR

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE: Congratulations on getting your new series "Over There" on the air over here. As someone who has been railing about the fictional quality of so much news reporting from Iraq, and the 'militainment' that has so distorted understanding of the conflict, its exciting to acknowledge that the war finally has a show of its own.

Ironically, it is one of the war's biggest cheerleaders Mr. Murdoch who is bringing an entertainment series about the war on his F/X Channel into our living rooms. He must think that he and his news channel "own the war" because they did so much to promote it. Cashing in is what that is about.

Your reality series "Over There" like NYPD Blue and Hill Street Blues before it largely improved on and enhanced TV news treatment of urban life and the culture of cops. So why not take on a war since the coverage of it is largely so pathetic?

No wonder that the NY Times, which did so little to challenge the march to war is thrilled with media writer Allesandra Stanley saying "exploitation is not such a bad thing."

"Except perhaps in the cartoon strip "Doonesbury" reminders of war in the American news media is fleeting," she writes. "Live battle scenes and Pentagon briefings flicker across television newscasts as fast as weather bulletins and weight loss features. Fiction has a way of slowing time and putting a frame on a shifting, fragmented reality."

It is true. Drama can flesh out characters and explore moral dilemmas in a way that hard news can't. It can lead audiences to feel the fear and see the issues more intensely than some correspondent can describe them from a hotel roof in the safety of the Green Zone.

So two cheers for boldly taking this on and being willing to show some of the gore and violence that TV has deliberately sanitized. You can be explicit where others are implicit and even take a point of view, even if in this case, it is safe one, as the NY Times reports: "hate war, love the troops."

That fits nicely with one of Pentagon's propaganda themes: focus attention on Americans in harms way. It reinforces the AAU frame of the coverage: its all about us. Iraqis are not humanized in the series anymore than they are in TV News.

In a sense they and their country don't exist. What's happening there is presented as if it is only by, for and about Americans.

Comments David Swanson who runs DowningStreet.org, the website about the secret memo that shows the war conspiracy for what it was, "This show (at least in episode one - and the reviews suggest this doesn't change in the next two episodes) takes exclusively the point of view of the United States. **The Iraqis in this show have no names and for the most part no faces, no stories, no families, no nicknames, no annoying and endearing habits, no motivations or regrets, no insecurities, no NOTHING.**".

In a TV interviews, Bochco was asked about the "enemy."

His response: "We are defining the enemy as those individuals who are trying to kill us, who are shooting at us. And we don't put names on them or labels on them. They are just trying to hurt us, and they are the bad guys."

Hollywood has always been about good guys and bad guys, an insight which President Bush appropriated when he named the enemy an "the axis of evil" and said "you are either with us or the terrorists." The war has been sold with this hyped-up master narrative inspired by Hollywood narrative technique. Storytelling, not sloganizing has defined it.

Bochco is just showing us that he can do it better,

Swanson is right to conclude: "Those inclined to see the horrors of war will see them here. Those inclined to think of foreigners as evil ones, as non-humans, will confirm that world-destroying prejudice. And by design"

But there are also two challenges here yet to be discussed.

First. how do we get the real story of the soldiers out, the horrible job they being forced or paid well to do? Can't we do better to tell the story of men who are trapped in Iraq, prisoners of US power and who are being bribed with promises of citizenship and more money to function as mercenaries.

An internet distributed GI SPECIAL about the troops tells this story every day with stories from the frontlines, the hospitals and the homes of veterans and those that have not returned.

Its latest issue reprints a piece from last week's USA Today on a marine unit that has done three shifts of brutal duty. Never mind that the obvious questions of US war crimes is not raised; the story does show the pain and pathos of men desperate to come home. Listen to one soldier:

"I tell a lot of people: I wouldn't wish this on anyone," says Thurlow, 19. "It's very hard. It really is. You're just looking toward the end. That's all you want, is for it to be over." Many say they are angry to be back, shaken by the loss of more friends and feeling old beyond their years. "

UPI reports that it is not just their morale that is shaken:

"The number of U.S. troops wounded in action from the beginning of hostilities on March 19, 2003 through Wednesday, July 27 was 13,657, an increase of 98 compared with the

previous week. Well over 100 U.S. troops are now being wounded per week, many of them grievously, losing limbs or suffering permanent brain damage. That amounts to well over 5,000 per year."

The ultimate challenge that media makers like Bochco and all of us have is to help the American people understand why this is happening and what a crime it has become. Let's not glorify the war; let's end it.

So Steve, (and the two of us did meet when we both won awards years back from a TV magazine that is no longer with us) how about doing a sequel?

Let's call it "Over Here" and have it dramatize the cabals behind the war.

You know what I am talking about - a dramatic series about the interactions and interests of the war makers in the Bush Administration. Problem is Murdoch won't put it on. He would be fictionalized as a character as he was in that James Bond movie.

We can't do much about what's happening "over there" unless and until we do more about what's happening Over Here.

What say you?

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.

Some Marines To Lose Hundreds In Pay Monday

July 29, 2005 Marine Corps News

[Thanks to Ward Reilly who sent this in. He writes: GI's to lose some pay, while billionaire\$ get tax cut...]

BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. -- Untold numbers of servicemembers residing off base will see their next paycheck shrink by as much as \$250 -- and many of them may not even know the blow is coming.

Disbursing shops at several 1st Marine Division and 1st Force Service Support Group battalions surveyed over the past week said they learned only recently about the elimination of "geographic rate protection" under the Basic Allowance for Housing.

The change, outlined in Marine Administrative Message 315/01 and slated to take effect Monday, shelves a DoD policy enacted nearly five years ago.

The old policy allowed servicemembers to retain higher housing allowances even when they moved to cheaper neighborhoods, said Master Sgt. Ervin Ramos, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the Consolidated Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

“It’s money that you don’t rate,” Ramos said. “Some Marines will have to prepare themselves for the pay cut.”

Ramos is among administrative Marines sounding the alarm. By early last week, he had already sat down with 40 Marines in his battalion affected by the change, he said.

But many others on base may not find out except via the MarAdmin, the grapevine or the sticker shock of a leaner paycheck.

One example of how drastic the slash in income will be: An E-7 with family members currently drawing San Diego BAH will now draw Camp Pendleton BAH — and stands to forfeit \$422 per month.

Staff Sgt. Elliot T. Threat, a substance abuse control officer with Headquarters and Support Battalion, commutes 60 miles one way every day and stands to lose \$600, he said.

He was previously stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and received permanent-change-of station orders to Camp Pendleton — but continues to draw the MCRD rate.

Until Monday.

His current BAH rate matches his mortgage, he said.

“I’m worried because I’m just waiting on a response from headquarters. I’m not prepared,” he said.

Threat, originally from San Jacinto, said he doesn’t know whether he’ll have to sell his home. He’s still mulling his options.

Under the old system, an E-5 transferring to Camp Pendleton could retain his previous rate at Miramar based on proximity.

Ray Solly, a retired master gunnery sergeant who’s now a realtor in Escondido, said no out-of-pocket costs in San Diego for home buyers is a pipe dream.

“I think they’re looking at the national picture. They’re not looking at the situation in San Diego County,” said Solly, adding that he helps at least a dozen servicemembers a year buy homes — though mostly not in San Diego County.

Solly said a master sergeant with a family, and a housing allowance of \$1,696 a month, can’t come close to the \$2,302 he’ll pay monthly for a three-bedroom, two-bath home larger than 1,500 square feet. And that’s a home valued at \$400,000 — even though most homes with those specifications go for \$450,000 or higher, he said.

Even with an interest-only loan, the monthly payment — \$1,875 — requires money out of pocket.

To avoid pocket dipping, servicemembers are moving to southwest Riverside County, and commuting an hour or more each way, for a chance — no guarantees — to make it on BAH alone.

“They’re willing to commute to realize the American dream,” he said.

Individual Rate Protection — which insulates servicemembers against rising housing costs — will remain in effect despite the changes, as long as servicemembers stay within the same geographic area, according to the AFIS article.

If average housing costs go down, people already living in the area will continue to receive the higher amount.

However, servicemembers moving into the area will receive the lower amount, according to the article.

Bush Regime Buying Israeli Bullets To Kill Iraqis; How Do Local Occupation Forces Like That? Being Issued Israeli Bullets?

[Thanks to T Palumbo, who sent this in.]

Jul 27 AFP

The United States cannot keep up with military demand for ammunition which has more than doubled since the war on terrorism and the invasion of Iraq were launched, according to a Congress watchdog report.

Defence Department purchases of ammunition had reduced after the end of the Cold War and a number of government owned production factories were closed, said the report by the Congress watchdog.

The department has spent more than 90 million dollars on improvements at the remaining three main facilities for small and medium calibre bullets in a bid to boost production.

But supplies of small sized ammunition is lagging behind demand and the United States is now relying on foreign producers, including from Israel, to help meet its needs.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Popularity Contest: Five Different Groups Want Credit For Killing British Mercenaries

31 July 2005 By Robert Fox in Amara, southern Iraq, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd

Two British security guards were killed on the outskirts of Basra yesterday when a British consulate convoy was hit by a roadside bomb.

No fewer than five groups claimed responsibility for the ambush, all identified with Moqtada al-Sadr and his nominees of the Imam Hussein List, which controls the Maysan provincial council.

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

Assorted Resistance Action



The wreckage of Iraqi police patrol vehicles covers the highway after being targeted by a car bomb, July 31, 2005, in the Haswa district of Baghdad (AP Photo/Ali Mamouri)

7.31.05 CNN & Reuters & Aljazeera & July 30, 2005 Kyodo News

A bodyguard of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Chalabi was killed Sunday and three others wounded in an attack on their convoy south of Baghdad, a Baghdad emergency police official said.

The official said Chalabi was not in the convoy.

The attack occurred around 5:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. ET) about 35 miles from Baghdad in Latifiya.

A remotely detonated car bomb targeted an Iraqi police patrol, killing five people and wounding 10, including three Iraqi policemen, according to a Hilla police spokesman.

The bomb detonated on a road between the towns of Haswa and Wahawil, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of Baghdad.

An Iraqi soldier in civilian clothes was assassinated Sunday in the western neighborhood of Iskan, police said.

Guerrillas opened fire on a group of cooks leaving a military base in Baquba, killing one and wounding three in the town 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi translator for the U.S. military was shot dead as he was leaving his house in Kirkuk, 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents attacked a minibus transporting Iraqi civilians working at an American base, killing three and critically wounding three others in Baiji, 180 km (112) north of Baghdad, on Saturday night.

Militants opened fire on the convoy of Ibrahim Issawi, senior adviser to the minister of environment, killing one of his security guards and wounding three on Saturday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The attack took place in the southern Shi'ite town of Kufa, about 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

JUST NUMBERS??

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace
To: GI Special

Sent: July 27, 2005
Subject: JUST NUMBERS??

So I'm sitting here listening to the BB King boxed set CD's. I have heard The Blues called 'whiskey drinking music.' I'm not quite that angry or depressed with the current Nazi regime in Washington DC, yet. I'm only sipping on a Shiner Bock.



I'm not a math person. Too abstract and cryptic for my tastes. I like the precision of words.

Numbers are an interesting concept though. Take for example a couple months before the invasion of Iraq when 20,000,000 people around the world all turned out in the streets on the same day to protest the plans for needless war by the greedy nazis in the Whitehouse.

I was living in Austin then. I was proud to be one of what the local press, conservatively in my opinion, estimated to be 8,000 people of all ages and races turning out on the State Capitol grounds to protest the planned war before it started. The mixed crowd defied any spin doctoring attempts to dismiss us as "just a bunch of hippies and college kids."

One of the speakers was pragmatic about the prospects of the mass global protest stopping the war before it started. He announced to the crowd that "if they don't listen to us, on the day of the invasion whenever it may come, we will meet here again at 4:30pm. Invasion day came. I was at the Capitol by 4pm, along with thousands of others already forming up.

Texas State Troopers briefly tried to keep the crowd outside the Capitol grounds on the sidewalks by closing the post 9/11 built gates around the Capitol grounds.

The crowd was having none of that. The closed gates lasted about 10 minutes before common sense prevailed and the crowd was 'allowed' to assemble on the public property of the Capitol. By 4:30pm, even the conservative press estimate of the crowd was 12,000 people. It grew even larger as many folks ended their 9 to 5 work day and joined us. I was never prouder of Austin in the 27 years I lived there.

Two hundred and twelve, that was the number of US KIA in Iraq the first time I wrote a letter to the editor of the papers asking how many more must die, and for what?

I cited some numbers of my own mixed in with my words. ZERO WMD's found. ZERO days of democracy in Iraq. ZERO dictators captured or killed. The only thing that has changed since then is 1,573 more KIA in Iraq and Saddam is in a cell. Clearly Saddam was a bad dude. But was it our government's right to depose him? Not according to international law.

Now the coalition of the coerced has killed far more Iraqi civilians, men, women, AND CHILDREN, than Saddam ever did. At least when Saddam was in power they had electricity and running water too.

One thousand was another number. It was SEP 2004 when the benchmark of 1,000 US KIA in Iraq was reached.

I went that night to an impromptu candle light vigil organized by a lady on the spur of the moment in affluent, conservative Plano of all places. Small children to grandmothers, and all ages in between turned out on the lawn of the public library to protest the continued senseless killing in Iraq.

Even if elections do not provide us with decent candidates, they at least provide us with campaign yard signs that can be collected after the election. Pull the nails out and reverse the placard to the white side on the back and you have ready made protest signs just waiting for you to apply your intellect and some ink.

I collect yard signs by the dozen after the polls close on election day.

My old protest signs from before the war started were getting a bit worn after two years of use. I made some new ones for inauguration day. One side of my new sign had separate pieces fastened with twist ties in the spaces for the four digit number. If this war lasts long enough to need a five digit number, I guess I'll have to make a new sign?

On inauguration day in JAN 05 my sign read 1,369 KIA FOR A LIE.

By the second anniversary of the Iraq invasion the number was 1,521.

I continue to try to make conservative north Texas think. The sign sits in my apartment window facing the parking lot of a commercial center at Teasley Lane and IH-35 East. I check online and update it daily.

Today it reads 1,785 KIA FOR A LIE.

Those are just numbers to the nazis in the Whitehouse. After all, it is not THEIR kids that are dying for nothing more relevant than Haliburton's no bid contract looting of the US Treasury.

Ask Cindy Sheehan if those are JUST NUMBERS?

Ask Rose Gentle if those are JUST NUMBERS?

Ask the friends and families of 1,785 US troops, 93 British troops, 101 "other" coalition of the coerced troops, and over 100,000 Iraqis; are those really JUST NUMBERS?

HOW MANY MORE BEFORE IT ENDS? SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!

David Honish, <http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

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)

SEND A ROCKET TO THE MOON

From: Don Bacon smedleybutlersociety@msn.com

To: GI Special

Sent: July 27, 2005 1:24 PM

Subject: SEND A ROCKET TO THE MOON

[Comments from Don Bacon]

In Surprise Visit to Baghdad, Rumsfeld Prods Iraqi Leaders

By ERIC SCHMITT

Published: July 27, 2005

BAGHDAD, Iraq, July 27 - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld urged Iraqi political leaders today to settle their differences and agree on a new constitution quickly, and to exert more influence with Syria and Iran to force them to end support for the insurgency here. **[DANCE, YOU PUPPETS, DANCE]**

Any delay in the process would be "very harmful to the momentum that's necessary," he said. "We have troops on the ground. People get killed." **[YOU STARTED IT]**

Mr. Rumsfeld renewed his criticism that Syria and Iran are harboring financiers and organizers of the insurgency, or are failing to clamp down on fighters infiltrating into Iraq from their territory. But he also urged Iraqi leaders to be more aggressive to stop what he called "harmful" behavior by Iraq's two neighboring rivals. **[FORGET THE BORDERS -- THEY CAN'T EVEN DRIVE SEVEN MILES TO THE AIRPORT WITHOUT GETTING BLOWN UP]**

"They need to demonstrate that they're a big country, they're a wealthy country, that they'll be around a long time, and they don't really like it," said Mr. Rumsfeld, adding that he would leave specific actions up to the Iraqis. **[WEALTHY? NOT ANY MORE, WE STOLE IT ALL]**

Mr. Rumsfeld also called on the Iraqi government to assume greater responsibility over time for the 15,000 detainees now in American custody in Iraq; to allocate enough money in future Iraqi budgets to field security forces that are capable of replacing many of the 22,000 foreign allied forces that plan to leave Iraq by year's end; and to improve cooperation between the Iraqi defense and interior ministries to enhance the combat readiness of Iraq's 170,000 military and paramilitary police forces. **[AND IN YOUR SPARE TIME SEND A ROCKET TO THE MOON]**

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Occupation Follies Roll On; Thieving, Incompetence, War- Profiteering, Soldiers And Mercenaries Fighting Each Other

Soldiers also continue to mistakenly fire on security contractors, despite recently established procedures. Between January and May, 20 such friendly-fire incidents were reported, though the actual figure is probably higher since some contractors have said they no longer report them, the GAO said.

July 29, 2005 By Renae Merle and Griff Witte, Washington Post Staff Writers

Despite \$5.7 billion committed to restoring electricity service in Iraq, power generation was still at lower levels as of May than it had been before the U.S. invasion in 2003.

In one case, the GAO reported, the United States led an overhaul of an Iraqi power plant but then did not adequately train the Iraqis how to operate it. A widespread power outage resulted.

Crude oil production has also dropped in the past two years, even with more than \$5 billion in U.S. and Iraqi funds available for rebuilding.

Oil export revenue is needed to fund more than 90 percent of the nascent Iraqi government's 2005 budget, the State Department has said.

The use of contractors has led to occasional conflicts with the military.

At one point, an Army unit barred private contractors from its dining facilities after the contractors refused to stop carrying their loaded weapons.

Soldiers also continue to mistakenly fire on security contractors, despite recently established procedures. Between January and May, 20 such friendly-fire incidents were reported, though the actual figure is probably higher since some contractors have said they no longer report them, the GAO said.

In a separate report yesterday, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction reported that more money than necessary may be going into the pockets of government contractors involved in the rebuilding process.

A review by auditors of 18 reconstruction contracts found that the formula used for doling out special monetary awards, which are above and beyond basic fees, tended to skew them too high.

For instance, the inspector general's office found that a contractor that received an evaluation of "average" performance won award fees of \$1.67 million but could have been given just \$309,436 under another widely accepted awards system. In a second case, a contractor won no award fees but ended up being paid \$439,145 after it appealed because it had not received feedback on its work from the government.

Difficulties with contractors also contributed to the challenging reconstruction task in Afghanistan, according to a separate GAO report released yesterday.

In 2004, USAID planned to build 286 schools by the end of the year, but because of contractor and security problems, it had finished only eight by September, the report said.

The agency did not always require contractors to establish clear objectives or hold them accountable for meeting the targets, the report said.

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

“Hey Folks, There’s My Dawg. Come On, Haylool, Bark And I’ll Throw You A Couple Million More. You Look Like You Need To Bulk Up Some And You Can’t Eat The Oil! Haw Haw Haw”



Rumsfeld points at Iraqi Collaborator President Jalal Talabani in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone July 27, 2005. REUTERS/Pool/Hadi Mizban

**Please, Master;
Everything Is Yours;
Your Servants Await You**



Iraqi President Jalal Talabani showing proper deference and subordination to Imperial Envoy Rumsfeld at the Presidential Office, in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, July 27, 2005. REUTERS/Hadi Mizban/Pool

Winning More Friends: For The Resistance That Is



U.S. soldiers of the army infantry from the Stryker brigade search for weapons inside an Iraqis' his house in Mosul, northern Iraq, July 26, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

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

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

Bush Buddies' Greed Goes Out Of Control; Refuse To Help Iraq Wounded

The convoy was attacked and three men were killed and seven injured.

KBR staff were ordered not to provide any assistance to the injured.

"Many people volunteered to help, but were told not to by our management," according to a Halliburton employee.

July 30, 2005 The Age - Liberty Forum

Things are going well in Iraq for the invaders. Well, at least for some people, such as US Vice-President Richard Cheney. He is receiving more than \$US1 million (\$A1.3 million) a year from Halliburton, the company of which he was CEO from 1995 to 2000, in "deferred remuneration" while he is VP. He is worth every penny.

Last week, two Democrat senators and a house member wrote to Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld asking if he knew about Halliburton's latest money-making dodge in Iraq.

The Democrats reckon that Halliburton may have overstepped even its sloppy moral line by making life impossible for another American company that has committed the crime of undercutting the Vice-President's company.

In their letter to Rumsfeld, the Democrats say that US company Lloyd-Owen International is being prevented from delivering fuel to Iraq from Kuwait (Who says the liberation hasn't been a success? What next? Ice to the Inuit?) by forcing LOI trucks to use a civilian crossing where the checks are so slow that the company can't get its 140 trucks a day through.

The speedy, wave-'em-through military crossing is controlled by who? The Iraqi military? The US military? Nope, by the Vice-President's firm, which is also in the fuel delivery business.

The Democrats say that the LOI crime is delivering fuel to Iraq for 18 US cents a gallon while Halliburton provides the same service at \$US1.30 a gallon. The LOI spokesman says he could understand if Halliburton simply doubled the price, to 36 US cents a gallon. But at \$US1.30 a gallon even a Texas carpetbagger should blush.

Halliburton has a \$US2.5 billion contract for managing the fuel distribution system in Iraq. The man from LOI says that "we have not, to date, seen a functioning KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root) piece of equipment to where we deliver". He also says that his chaps have only come across one KBR employee at these sites.

LOI needed Defence Department ID cards to make its deliveries and, in order to get them from - you guessed it - Halliburton, they had to make a delivery for Mr Cheney of construction material to Fallujah last month.

The convoy was attacked and three men were killed and seven injured.

KBR staff were ordered not to provide any assistance to the injured.

"Many people volunteered to help, but were told not to by our management," according to a Halliburton employee. Presumably the convoy crew were a bunch of mercenaries, in Iraq to make a buck.

As George the Smaller told an audience at the West Point and Virginia Military Institute, America is "the single surviving model of human progress".

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Brave Zionist Occupation Army Makes War On Trees 36,000 Set Ablaze by Occupation Forces in Qaffin and Akkaba

StopTheWall.org 7/25/2005

Thousands of dunums of agricultural lands have been scorched in a series of devastating fires ignited by Occupation Forces and their settlers in the most fertile areas of Palestine.

In the villages of Qaffin and Akkaba in Tulkarem District in the northwest region of the West Bank, over 36,000 trees in 4000 dunums have been burnt through five separate attacks since May 2005.

Over the past three days alone, as fires continue to blaze through strong winds, 65% of Qaffin's lands and 80% of Akkaba's have been burnt, destroying collectively 80% of their ancient olive trees, 15% of their almond trees, and 2% of their carob trees.

Villagers and Palestinian firemen have been prevented by Occupation Forces and the Apartheid Wall from putting out the fires, unable to protect areas that remain tenuously unaffected.

On July 7th, agricultural lands in Ain Yaboos, Nablus, were also torched by settlers in this same manner, destroying 130 dunums.

[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.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

When The War Gets Rough, Blair Buys More Makeup

[Thanks to Rose Gentle, Scotland, who sent this in. Her son, Gordon, was killed in Iraq, and she leads a movement to bring all the troops home now.

[She writes: *mr blair if you want a suntan go to iraq, and you might get burnt.* rose gentle]

24 July, 2005 BBC

Prime Minister Tony Blair has spent more than £1,800 of taxpayers' money on cosmetics and make-up artists since coming into office, it has emerged.

The Sunday Times suggested Mr Blair's use of make-up spiralled during stressful periods, such as the Iraq war.

It said his spending on cosmetics peaked between 2003 and 2004, when the prime minister was being asked to justify intelligence reports on weapons of mass destruction.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Dozens Injured As Police, Farmers Clash In China

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

27 Jul 2005 Reuters

More than 2,000 disgruntled farmers have clashed with hundreds of policemen in China's northern region of Inner Mongolia in a land dispute that injured dozens, sources said on Wednesday.

The July 21 clash in Qianjin village, a part of Tongliao city about 725 km (450 miles) northeast of Beijing, was one of a growing number of protests across China, most of which go unreported in the tightly controlled state media.

"Some policemen were armed with guns, but they did not open fire," a farmer who requested anonymity told Reuters. **"The clash lasted about six hours. Police were outnumbered and fled."**

Dozens of villagers were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals, he said. **Farmers seized bulldozers and other construction equipment intended for use in building a highway across the farmers' land, which had been reclaimed by the government,** he said.

Local government officials and police reached by telephone either declined to comment or claimed they had no knowledge of the clashes.

But Han Guowu, chief of the Ke'erqin district in which Qianjin is located, said in a telephone interview that the farmers had refused to turn over their farmland and blocked construction of the highway. **Land disputes, corruption, abuse of power and a widening gap between rich and poor were among the reasons leading to the number of protests shooting up to 74,000 last year from just 10,000 in 1994, a Hong Kong newspaper reported earlier this month.**

The number of protesters involved in those demonstrations jumped to 3.76 million in 2004 from 730,000 a decade earlier, the Beijing-funded Ta Kung Pao newspaper quoted Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang as telling parliament's top advisory body.

Received:

Yes, GI Special Will Be Sent On Request;

From: A
To: GI Special
Sent: July 28, 2005
Subject: GI SPECIALS

Several people have sent me copies of your GI SPECIAL additions, and I have enjoyed them immensely.

I am a member of MFSO and the mother of a young Iraqi Vet. Would you be so kind as to email me, directly, your future issues?

Thanks, in advance, for you help.

In Peace and Humanity,

A

REPLY: It's an honor to be of serviced to members of the armed services, military families, veterans, and activists. Anyone who wishes to receive GI Special can do so by emailing a request.

GI Special is also available in PDF format if preferred.

Received:

Re: Karl Marx Wins Popularity Contest

From: JM
To: GI Special
Sent: July 30, 2005
Subject: Karl Marx wins popularity contest (GI Special 3C5)

This isn't as surprising as it may seem. Firstly, in Britain, Marx will be more widely known than the other named philosophers .

Secondly any great teacher is seen through results - achieved by those who interpret him.

Jesus preached love and peace. Look at the Crusades, the Inquisition and now Iraq. His followers practicing torture, murder and racism could lead future generations to think Christ was evil. In the same way Marx's followers can lead people to say the same of him. Obviously this isn't true in either case.

Third and last - this poll was taken nine days after the London bombing and Londoners were reeling from the shock - very upset, not just by the bombing but, also by the government's response.

In war time London the police weren't armed to the teeth with orders to kill suspects on sight. Unarmed electricians weren't shot in the head on their way to work and suspects weren't forced to strip, to their underpants, before being led away under arrest.

Ordinary British people may be starting to think anti-terrorism is more frightening than terrorism and democracy isn't "all it's cracked up to be."

Maybe, if Marx becomes popular again, he will be interpreted in a much better way. ---

Web Copies:

**For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .
The following that we know of have also posted issues:
<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,
www.williambowles.info/gispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>**

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