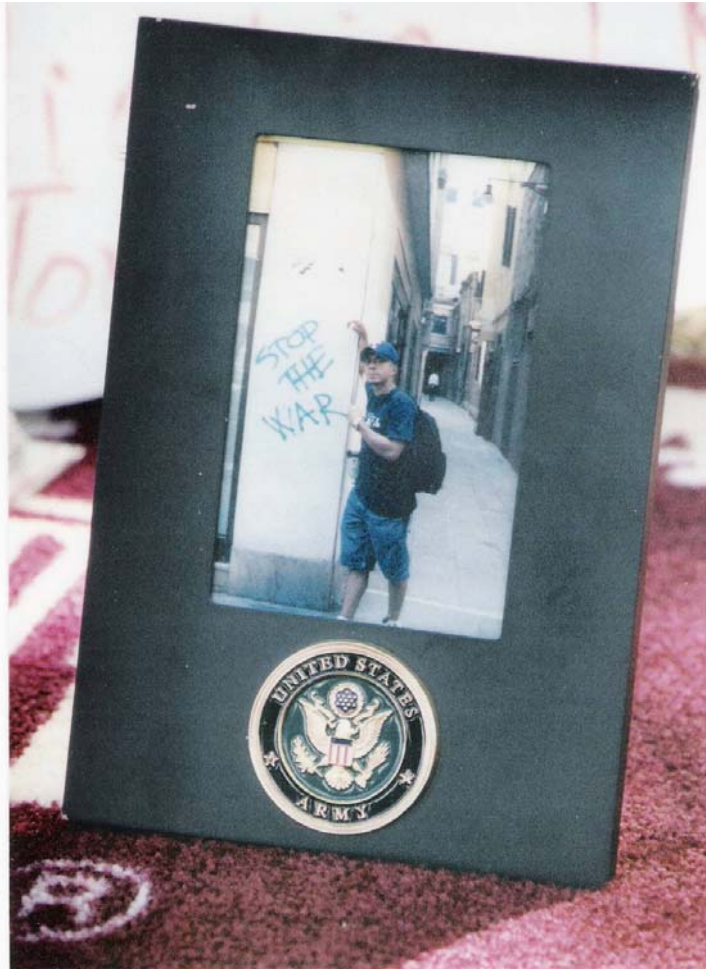


GI SPECIAL 3C98:



Daniel Torres was on leave from Iraq. He poses by anti-war graffiti in Rome, where he was reunited with his pregnant fiancée. When he returned to Iraq, he was killed.

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

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.

“This Job Isn't Done” “It's Our Responsibility, As Soldiers To See It Carried Out Till Every American Knows The Truth Of Why This War Has To Stop”

It was then he turned to me and said, "Those drips of wax are tears of flames that are setting the Middle East deserts, where my guys died, on fire. They aren't just from us (U.S. troops), but from a lot of the Iraqi people who believed in us till we started killing their innocent kids and beating the living shit out of their loved ones."

From: Alycia A. Barr
To: GI Special
Sent: October 29, 2005 7:54 AM
Subject: When respect for our soldiers goes wrong

Today's GI Special was particularly difficult to read.

Spc. Young's story was the 1st gut wrencher. His explanation of his Mom's "whupping" for lying and changing his story was reflective of my own son's behavior as a youngster.

He never got the "whupping", just a grounding with a stern warning not to let it happen again. You see, he too was a "mommy's boy". However, I'm a "son's mom" as well, which has provided us both with an unusual shared strength to endure anything over the years, and made him, in my estimation, a far better husband for his now wife. She agrees.

The article which produced a crying jag was that of Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Bubb. It brought back memories of all the statements my son had made to assure us, while in Iraq at age 19, that he was safe, nothing was going to happen to him, and pushing hard about just how "okay" he was.

Our story's ending was a far better one than the Bubb family's. My son will be here to celebrate his birthdays far beyond his 19th. My heart didn't just break for the Bubbs, it shattered, because there but for the Grace of God, go I.

Last Thursday night, I watched as my son stepped up to the podium, before a crowd of about 100 to 150, to deliver his tribute to the 2,000th fallen comrade in arms, those who went before, and those he knows will surely come after.

After introducing himself, his length of combat service in Iraq, with the precision and confidence he is so well known for, a familiar look came over his face. One I had seen too many times over the last year. Though few there had even a hint his speech was shortened or incomplete, most knew a change had just taken place in this soldier's demeanor, right before their eyes. This young man acknowledged not knowing what came out of his mouth after that point, immediately after sitting down.

As he took his seat, he leaned over and whispered urgently to me, "Mom, get me back up there. I need to say something else." He never got the chance, because in the midst of clearing it, he changed his mind. Now I know why.

What followed was the reading of the 108 Pennsylvania soldiers who lost their lives. It was painful to watch my son flinch everytime a name was spoken he recognized, while the audience placed lit candles in containers of sand at the front of the stage.

No tear fell from his eyes, until some of the candles began to droop and drip over the container's sides, catching the wooden pedestals and their cloths on fire.

It was then he turned to me and said, "Those drips of wax are tears of flames that are setting the Middle East deserts, where my guys died, on fire. They aren't just from us (U.S. troops), but from a lot of the Iraqi people who believed in us till we started killing their innocent kids and beating the living shit out of their loved ones. I wouldn't have had that fiery display in my speech, but because of it happening, what I was gonna say up there has been clearly said in my mind."

Afterwards, several Veterans approached him with reassuring comments about his presentation. One WWII Vet told him he knew lot of brave men that wouldn't have had the courage to continue after "the pictures started flashing", but he had done it with very few any the wiser of it.

The 4 other Vets standing there shook their heads in agreement, each hugged my son, and told him "job well done." To which he replied, "This job isn't done, it's just starting, and it's our responsibility, as soldiers to see it carried out till every American knows the truth of why this war has to stop."

This was a proud "mom moment", even though no one knew he was my son, just a soldier.

Of course, none of this will ever be seen or heard in the media.

But what is worse is, those in attendance will never know they almost missed out on my son's participation that evening, because of it's organizer, Angela Fichtner. This woman, when told it was the soldier's choice, when or if to reveal his name, said that was "too dark" and "would produce controversy" for HER. When she was told this was not about her, she removed the soldier from the program.

Because of well placed phone calls to other established activist in Harrisburg, he was put back into the program.

As some of us are well aware, Ms. Fichtner isn't alone in her self-centered motivations.

What is terribly sad is that, even those claiming to be working for the "good cause" can allow their ignorance and ego to aid this administrations efforts to continue the war. Especially when their actions send a negative, neglectful, or disrespectful message to our soldiers.

Someone needs to explain to me how a U.S. Soldier's tribute to his fallen comrades is either "dark", or would cause "controversy."

This was a memorial service, not a soldier taking an opportunity to protest anything, even though he would have been well within his rights to do that, as well. There was no intention, on this soldier's part, to do that, just to respect and included ALL those who had lost their lives on both sides.

In conclusion, not exactly how one House member always closes his floor speeches, but far more truthful...GOD 'LESS America!

In Peace and Humanity,

Alycia A. Barr

P.S. This incident prompted me to write a short note to Sen. Ted Kennedy as well. It follows.

From: (Alycia A. Barr)
To: action@tedkennedy.com
Subject: Re: White House Weakness
Date: Sat, 29 Oct 2005 08:21:58 +0000

Dear Sen. Kennedy,

We still haven't heard your voice on the floor of the Senate, demanding that our troops be brought home now.

Nor have we heard you, or your fellow Democratic Senators asking, "is now the time for us, Sen. Roberts, to dive into phase II of the investigation to find out just how this white house used the intelligence to take us into this illegal war, that is costing our military families thousands of lives?"

I am the mother of an Iraq Vet, who will most likely be facing a redeployment back to a situation he already survived once as a 19 yr. old.

Why won't you protect him, and others, from becoming a statistic at age 20?

Please, refrain from sending me email about issues, like Ms. Miers, when my son's life is depending on actions only you and your colleagues can take to stop that from occurring.

They pale in comparison to his safety, as I'm sure they would if your children's lives were on the line.

In Peace and Humanity,
Alycia A. Barr
Pine Grove, Pa. 17963

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

TWO TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIERS KILLED

October 29, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-43C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed Oct. 29 when their patrol struck an improvised explosive device in south Baghdad.

Soldier Killed By Bayji Mine; Four Wounded

10/29/05 MNF Release A051029a

TIKRIT, Iraq-- A Task Force Liberty Soldier died as a result of injuries sustained when the vehicle which he was traveling in struck a landmine Oct. 29.

The Soldier's unit was conducting security operations southwest of Bayji early morning Oct. 29.

Four other Soldiers in the vehicle also received injuries. Two were treated and returned to duty.

Indiana Soldiers Dies In Basra Wreck

October 28, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1111-05

Spc. Christopher T. Monroe, 19, of Kendallville, Ind., died on Oct. 25, in Basra, Iraq, when his 5-ton truck was involved in an automobile accident with a civilian vehicle. Monroe was assigned to the Army Reserve's 785th Military Police Battalion, Fraser, Mich.

Two US Soldiers Stationed In Kuwait Dead

Oct 29 AFP News

The US military Saturday announced the death of non-combat related causes of two US soldiers who were stationed in Kuwait as part of the operation in Iraq.

One died at Ali Al-Salem Air Base on October 25, and the second at Camp Victory on October 28, the US military said. The two facilities are located some 70 kilometers (44 miles) northwest of Kuwait City.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Soldiers from the 3rd Armory Cavalry Regiment search for insurgents and weapons in Tal Afar October 5, 2005. REUTERS/US Navy/Petty Officer 1st Class Alan D. Monyelle

Central City Soldier Injured:

“Everybody Back Here Hasn't Forgotten About Him”

October 29, 2005 By MICHELLE GANASSI, Daily American Staff Writer

Spc. Timothy Collins, Central City, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard's 2nd Brigade Combat Team was injured Thursday when an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle Thursday.

Collins mother, Sharon Collins, said her son had a possible fractured hand, minor burns on his arms and debris in his eyes and ringing in his ears. His commander told her the injuries were not significant enough to send him home.

When her son called at 3 a.m., after the accident, she was worried about his injuries' severity.

“The first thing I asked him was, ‘How bad are you hurt?’” she said. “He started to get a little teary, and he said, ‘I’m OK.’”

She said he was injured twice before.

“This is the third time he has been injured,” Collins said. “Each one has been worse according to him.”

Sharon said she did not know he was on the front line until after his commander called about the first accident.

“After the first incident, the cat's out of the bag,” she said.

She said he was friends with Staff Sgt. Daniel R Lightner Jr., 28, Hollidaysburg, a state police trooper, was killed. National Guard Sgt. Bruce Morrow, 37, of Pittsburgh, was injured.

“I’m a little concerned about his mental health,” she added. “He was very close with the one who got killed.”

Timothy was in the Marines for four years.

Sharon said her son has more than a year left in Iraq.

Sharon said a lot of people are pulling for him to return home soon. He is her adoptive son and has eight brothers and sisters.

“He has a lot of brothers and sisters back here that are thinking about him. Everybody back here hasn't forgotten about him.”

Iraq Bomb Claims 2 Contractors

October 29, 2005 Huntsville Times

Two U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employees were killed Thursday in Iraq and a third was injured when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by a roadside bomb, a Corps of Engineers spokeswoman in Huntsville said Friday.

The Huntsville center is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives. The local center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for destroying captured or other munitions posing a danger in Iraq.

“The Iraqi Fighters Are Following The Ancient And Classical Principles Of Insurgency”

October 24, 2005 Ernesto Cienfuegos, La Voz de Aztlan [Excerpt]

(ACN) A primary reason for the defeat of the USA in Vietnam was the determined insurgency by the Vietcong.

The Vietcong, though lacking conventional weaponry and field supplies, defeated the vastly better equipped USA armed forces by utilizing improvised weapons and extremely effective guerilla tactics. These very same tactics by the Iraqi insurgency are today taking a very heavy toll on USA occupation soldiers.

The Iraqi fighters are following the ancient and classical principles of insurgency: when the enemy attacks, retreat; when the enemy digs in, harass; when the enemy is exhausted, attack.

The strategy of the Vietcong was not to kill but to maim the soldiers in order to burden the occupation forces and slow their progress, a tactic being now being utilized by the Iraqi insurgency.

The injured soldier would usually require two others to take care of him. In addition, the dreaded booby traps had immense psychological effects on the grunts and created severe mental fatigue on both the commanders at platoon level and the individual soldiers. The Vietcong tactics caused the USA grunt units to slow down to a snail's pace. Fear of the booby traps forced the grunts to tip-toe through the jungle and not pay attention to Vietcong snipers positioned on top of trees.

In Iraq today, the most effective insurgent weapon is the so-called "Improvised Explosive Device" (IED). The Iraqi insurgents are using readily available artillery and mortar shells to make lethal roadside bombs that have resulted in a large number of GI casualties. These improvised bombs have accounted for more than half of all USA deaths in Iraq and they are getting more sophisticated and powerful. In a ten month period in 2005, 302 U.S. soldiers were killed by such devices.

Facts Are Stubborn Things: Bush Myths Are Lame Bullshit

October 25, 2005 By JEFF DONN, Associated Press Writer

Percent [of U.S. troops] who died in three Iraqi provinces with mostly Sunni Muslims, 53%. [Meaning 47% were killed by resistance fighters in Iraq provinces without mostly Sunni Muslims. Duh.]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. SOLDIER KILLED NEAR LWARA

October 29, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-44C

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – A U.S. Soldier was killed today when an Afghan and U.S. patrol in which he was part of was fired upon by enemy fighters north of Lwara along the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan .

The soldier was initially wounded during the operation and was evacuated to Forward Operating Base Salerno for treatment but was pronounced dead shortly after arriving there.

Senior Police Collaborator Killed

25 October 2005 Aljazeera

Just before dawn on Tuesday, a police vehicle 50km east of Kabul, near a key trade route linking the capital with the eastern Pakistani border, was fired upon, said Ghafor Khan, a police spokesman in the eastern town of Jalalabad.

The attack killed a senior police officer who was a teacher at a police academy and wounded two others, he said.

The vehicle was riddled with bullets and destroyed, he said.

Khan said investigators suspected the victims were targeted because they "are teaching new police recruits."

One British Soldier Killed, Five Wounded In Mazar-i-Sharif



British soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) stand beside their damaged vehicle following an attack in northern Afghanistan. **Resistance soldiers opened fire on British soldiers in Afghanistan's main northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing one and wounding five.** (AFP/Shoib Najafizada)

TROOP NEWS

Bush Losing His Army Double Quick Time

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

[This is more on the poll from North Carolina. The numbers unafraid to oppose the war are stunning. When 41% say get out, and 80% either say the war wasn't worth it, or aren't sure whether it was worth fighting or not, the Imperial government has entered into terminal crisis.]

Oct 28, 2005 By TIM WHITMIRE, Associated Press Writer

More than half of military members - 51 percent - said they did not know if the war was worth fighting, while 19 percent said the war was worth it and 29 percent said it was not

Military members were somewhat more supportive of the United States' presence in Iraq than the general population, with exactly half saying the nation should be there and 41.3 percent saying it should not.

“If We Didn't Throw Teabags Off The Ship, We'd Still Be Under British Rule”



As President Bush spoke on the war on terrorism, a protester interrupted from the balcony of Chrysler Hall in downtown Norfolk, Va., shouting 'War is terrorism! War is terrorism! Step down now, Mr. President. Torture is terrorism,' Oct. 28, 2005. The president continued speaking as the man was forcibly removed. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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

October 29 2005 Tamara Dietrich, Daily Press & By SONJA BARISIC, The Associated Press & Richmond.indymedia.org

The most patriotic element of George Bush's speech in Norfolk on Friday morning wasn't the flags on the big "Strategy for Victory" sign behind the podium.

It wasn't the backdrop bleachers artfully decorated with warm bodies in military uniforms.

It was the moment early on when a man stood up in Chrysler Hall, yanked open his shirt to expose his "Dump Bush" T-shirt in full view of shocked members of Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network seated nearby and cried, "War is terrorism! Torture is terrorism!" before he was hustled out by security people.

"That was me," says Tom Palumbo, anti-war activist and, now, presidential party-crasher. "I think maybe he heard me. I know he looked befuddled."

Local peace activist, Tom Palumbo, was present at the speaking event today at Norfolk's Chrysler Hall when President Bush arrived to a packed house of "dyed in the wool Republicans" eager to hear an outdated "war on terrorism" missive.

As a Veteran for Peace, Tom enthusiastically applauded as Bush spoke about the sacrifices made on behalf of the military. He stated he would have "given a standing ovation had Bush said he was bringing the troops home or funding more education".

Instead, Bush launched into the "war on terrorism" and after the second reference, Tom stood up and stated, "Mr. President, war IS terrorism! Torture IS terrorism! Do the right thing and RESIGN NOW!" as he opened his button-down shirt to reveal a "DUMP BUSH" tee shirt with "FIRE THE LIAR!" on the back.

Later in the evening, a lovely child by the name of Bria, approached Tom and asked him, "Why did they take you out?" to which Tom replied, "because sometimes one person has to decide to speak out when other people can't...sort of like what Rosa Parks did...does that make sense?" Bria's animated response? A light went off---"ohhhhh, YES!"

So ... Bush's cone of silence can be cracked.

An "invitation-only," meticulously scripted, rah-rah presidential appearance can be infiltrated by a lone punman who thinks it's that important for our tone-deaf leader to "hear the other side."

How did a noisy peacenik like Palumbo make it past security? Simple, he says: "I had a ticket."

He got it by calling Rep. Thelma Drake's office, which referred him to the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, which had invited Bush to speak. The chamber gave Palumbo a ticket, no questions asked.

"Why wouldn't they give it to me, let me ask you?" Palumbo says - a fair question in a democracy constitutionally committed to free and vigorous debate at all levels of government.

In a real American democracy, whenever the president speechifies to the public, the doors would be flung open to all citizens.

True, those citizens might be X-rayed and frisked, but they wouldn't be vetted according to their personal or political views first.

But it's not so fair a question in this new age of fear-mongering - an age excruciatingly laid out in Bush's warmed-over speech about how radical Islamism is this generation's Communism, or the Red Scare of the 21st century.

Bush has used this speech several times in the past month, with no sense of irony or appreciation that the Red Scare unbridled also gave us Joe McCarthy, Roy Cohn, the loyalty oath, the blacklist, duck-and-cover, backyard bomb shelters, mass hysteria masquerading as patriotism and civil liberties in a stranglehold.

Certainly terrorism is a threat. So is a pandemic. So is smoking. So is poverty, environmental ravages, federal disaster relief as oxymoron, corporate excesses, indicted White House aides and the public's confidence in its own chief public servant in free fall. These threats, however, got no mention Friday.

Instead, we heard about Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Even about Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot. About "facing a radical ideology with unalterable objectives: to enslave whole nations and intimidate the world."

About "exposed and disrupted 'nuclear' programs" and "cold-blooded contempt for human life." About the "rage of killers" and "evil men who want to use horrendous weapons against us ... working in deadly earnest to gain them."

Boo.

Bush also berated tyrants who "seek to end dissent in every form," which brings us back to Palumbo.

After Palumbo exposed his politics in Chrysler Hall, Secret Service agents grabbed him by the arms and shoulders and escorted him outside. He didn't resist. They didn't force the issue.

They turned him over to local police, who asked who he was, what he said and how he got his ticket. He was fully prepared for arrest, but the police saw no need. Before they let him go, they took his picture. "I smiled," Palumbo says, "and gave them the peace sign."

The man is too savvy to believe Bush's speech would have been anything but what it was. But he insists that if Bush "had said we were bringing the troops home, I wouldn't have said anything. If he'd said, 'We're funding our schools,' I would've stood up and given him a standing O."

Instead, he says, the speech was the same old "fear-based mentality."

"And if we're operating out of fear," Palumbo says, "all we're going to do is shoot into the dark."

Friday was the first time he's breached the white tower. Even if he was thrown out on his activism, he counts it a success.

"Absolutely," Palumbo says. "He's delusional if he believes that the American people support him in this venture. If it takes a citizen like me to stand up ... If we didn't throw teabags off the ship, we'd still be under British rule."

Funny how our George can makes us nostalgic for that George, and wonder if it's too late to get those tea bags back.

About 25 protesters remained across the street from the hall after the speech, a white Norfolk police van parked nearby.

"We wanted to raise awareness about hypocrisy and corruption and cronyism" in the Bush administration, said Jonathan Hammond, 23, of Norfolk.

Some motorists honked horns and waved in support as they drove by. One man, though, rolled down his car window and shouted "Go home!"



Tom Palumbo, was present at the speaking event today at Norfolk's Chrysler Hall when President Bush arrived to a packed house of "dyed in the wool Republicans" eager to hear an outdated "war on terrorism" missive. (richmond.indymedia.org)

Contact Lost With Imprisoned War Resister Sgt. Kevin Benderman

October 27, 2005 By David Lynn, OrbStandard.com. [Excerpt]

Kevin Benderman continues to be targeted by the Army for applying for conscientious objector status and refusing to go to Iraq for a second tour.

While serving a 15 month sentence at the Fort Lewis stockade for "missing movement," he is being denied contact with his lawyers and he and other prisoners are forced to live under deplorable conditions.

In addition, Kevin was recently set-up on a bogus assault charge and was subject to a discipline hearing yesterday. Kevin's wife, Monica, has not heard from Kevin for two days and does not know what happened yesterday. For Monica not to hear from Kevin via the telephone on a daily basis, is highly unusual. She is extremely concerned about his wellbeing.

Another way to remember the 2,000 dead soldiers and the 100,000 dead Iraqi civilians is to take a few minutes and express your support for one soldier who took a stand against the war and as a result is paying dearly. He is in a prison only within a few minutes from where we live, work and go to school. If we do not support him and take action, who will?.

Both Kevin and his wife Monica appreciate your efforts.

[The website for the Benderman defense is www.topia.net/kevinbenderman.html Please go there to learn how to intervene to help Sgt. Benderman. T]

Soldier-Killing Traitor Uncovered In Top Pentagon Leadership

October 25, 2005 Steve Watson, Paul Watson & Alex Jones, prisonplanet.com. [Excerpt]

The General whose career was ruined in Abu Ghraib, Janis Karpinski, appeared on the Alex Jones Show yesterday and made some amazing revelations.

Becoming emotional, the General asserted that the higher uppers have been attempting to run the war "from their lap top computers".

They refused to go out and walk the ground in Baghdad that the soldiers are walking, but they had no trouble sending those under them out there WITHOUT the armored vehicles which were being used to protect their own spokesmen and their own headquarters.

"The person who stopped the orders for additional armored equipment and armored vehicles is today a FOUR STAR GENERAL, and is in the Pentagon, and is serving as the acting chief of staff of the army." Karpinski angrily commented.

The Second Most Horrible Sight An Imperial Politician Can See: British Soldier In An Anti-War March



October 24, 2005 Les Skeates

[The most horrible sight: thousands of armed anti-war soldiers marching on the Imperial government.]



Big Surprise: Marine Corps Becoming A Corporation

10.26.05 San Diego Union-Tribune

The Marine Corps is transforming itself to operate more like a multibillion-dollar corporation and less as the Marine Corps.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

28 & 29 Oct 2005 Reuters & Aljazeera

FALLUJA - An Iraqi soldier was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in central Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad. Police officer Shamil Ali said a woman and a child were killed in subsequent gunfire.

KIRKUK - Two policemen were killed and three wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said.

BAQUBA - Seven Iraqi soldiers were wounded when armed fighters attacked a checkpoint 30 km (19 miles) south of Baquba, police said.

NO NEWS



Oil pipeline burning in Safra. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

Bush Mission Accomplished! 3 Sunni Parties Enter Politics!!

Their Platform:

**“Set A Timetable For Withdrawal Or The
Resistance Will Keep Slaughtering Your
Soldiers Until Judgment Day”**

10/27/05 By Juan Cole, Information Clearing House

Three small Sunni parties formed a coalition list on Wednesday. The Iraqi Islamic Party, the National Dialogue Council and the People's Gathering will join forces to contest the December 15 elections.

Before anyone gets too excited about this development, it should be noted that Reuters goes on to report,

"Our political program will focus more on getting the Americans out of Iraq," Hussein al-Falluji, a prominent Sunni who took part in talks on the constitution, told Reuters.

"Our message to the American administration is clear: get out of Iraq or set a timetable for withdrawal or the resistance will keep slaughtering your soldiers until Judgment Day." '

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

**“Believe Me, Bush Is A
Saddamist!”**

**“The Americans Should At Least Care
About Their Soldiers And Bring Them
Back Home”**

October 26, 2005 By Raed Jarrar; Raedinthemiddle.blogspot.com [Iraq] [Excerpt]

Bush and his administration are giving the corrupt governments around the world great ethical examples too. If some governments used to feel ashamed of torturing their citizens, or putting people in prison for years without any legal

actions, bush and his administration made the worst and most violent dictatorships around the world look humane and nice to their people.

It made all the prisoners in the dirty dark jails under the ground feel like their going on a walk in the park comparing to what the U.S. would do to them.

All of the world's tyrants can smile now and tell their prisoners and citizens: feel happy you're not in Guantanamo or Abu-Ghraib.

Even Saddam Hussein, one of the biggest examples of violent and authoritarian dictators in the world, can feel proud of his history comparing to what the US is doing in Iraq. Bush should consider himself the personal PR manager of Saddam and other dictators worldwide. Believe me, Bush is a Saddamist!

The U.S. administration, and only the U.S. administration, made the image and reputation of the world's war criminals and fundamentalist leaders look good in comparison.

Some days ago, some religious freaks blew up the statue of Abu-Jafar Al-Mansour in the heart of Baghdad. Al Mansour is the father of Baghdad. He's the Caliphate who built Baghdad and named it "The City of Peace".

The same looney-toons who destroyed Al-Mansour are ruling Iraq now, supported by the U.S. administration.

The Sistani(s) in the "New" Iraq are the U.S.-enhanced-version-of-Taliban: they have all the cons of the backwards religious leaders, and they are slaves to the occupiers as well. At least the Afghani Taliban had dignity and national belonging.

I guess the Afghani Taliban should feel grateful to bush too; he made me become a Taliban Supporter!

just kidding, don't Abu-Ghrieb me

The U.S. Empire started and ended in Iraq. It ended some weeks ago, or maybe some months, or maybe a couple of years ago, no one can really tell.

But everyone can tell that the U.S. foreign policy Empire has already collapsed sometime after the fall of Baghdad. We're just waiting for the bubble around it to burst.

I'm sure that everyone remembers all the details of the story about the four mercenaries killed and burned by Fallujans last year, and how the "revenge" of the "biggest Army in the world" burned Falujah. I remember what the U.S. soldiers and Marines used to say at that time, because they were actually capable of attacking back.

But now, things are different.

The U.S. army is not capable of fighting back anymore, and that's why no one heard anything about the 4 contractors who were killed and burned last month in

Ad-Doloia. No one mentioned that despite the fact that such news could have been used to balance the news of the U.S. soldiers burning two dead Taliban bodies.

While US liberals, international human rights groups, and various media editorials agonize over whether US soldiers burned Taliban corpses, bear in mind that (if it happened) at least they waited until the guys were dead. September 20th, a mob killed four American contractors driving north of Baghdad ... burned one of them alive and let their kids join in on the party...

But they can't, because they can't "get revenge" anymore.

Bursting the empire's bubble may take days or months, but when it happens, the administration won't be able to hide.

Nothing can be accomplished through politics in Iraq anymore. The sounds of explosions and car bombs will mute pro-dialogue people.

Nothing can be accomplished through politics in Iraq anymore. But there's a lot of politics that can, and should, be done in the U.S.

The U.S. people should make their government pull out all the troops from Iraq and pay compensation for all the death and destruction caused by little bush's lies.

The Americans should at least care about their soldiers and bring them back home.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

<p>"The enemy is anybody who's going to get you killed, no matter which side he's on." ~ Joseph Heller, Catch 22</p>

Beyond Hopeless

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: October 29, 2005
Subject: beyond hopeless

Back in 1987 got to know Fawaz, a young Iraqi scientist doing graduate work at a Japanese university in Hokkaido. Fawaz was one tough son of a bitch and a military officer with several years of war experience under his belt. Death, he said, held no fear for him. I've lost touch with Fawaz but assume he and his family are back in Mosul, and by now his young children are fully grown.

Thinking of the countless Iraqi people like Fawaz--trained, experienced, armed, and motivated to resist the invasion of their country--makes you realize just how fucking doomed this God-forsaken imperial mission has been ever since it was conceived in the dim minds of President Death and his slimy plutocratic sidekicks.

The troops--royally screwed by Washington from the outset--need to come home immediately, both for their own sake and for the sake of Iraq.

Solidarity,
Z

Force Our Leaders To Bring The Troops Home



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

So the question falls to ordinary Americans: How many more brave men and women are we willing to sacrifice before we force our leaders to bring the troops home? I pray that it does not take another 56,000 like it did in Viet Nam.

28 October 2005 By Mike Hoffman. [Excerpt] **[Mike Hoffman was a lance corporal in a Marine artillery unit during the invasion of Iraq. He is a member of Iraq Veterans Against The War; www.ivaw.net.]**

When I left for the Middle East in February 2003 with a Marine artillery unit, I was told Iraq was in possession of weapons of mass destruction, had been assisting Al Qaeda, was partly responsible for 9/11 and was an imminent threat to the United States and Iraq's neighbors.

We destroyed Iraq's under-equipped and demoralized military – the imminent threat to our nation -- in a little over a month. Since the invasion, no weapons inspection team has found evidence of any weapons of mass destruction and the claims that Saddam Hussein was working with Al Qaeda have been shown to be nonsense.

When I left Iraq for home in May 2003, after President Bush told us “Mission Accomplished,” 139 Americans had died.

After the invasion was over and the occupation began, Iraqis didn't throw flowers and candy at our feet. Instead roadside bombs and ambushes awaited us down every street. The administration said we were about to turn a corner. We were told that once Saddam and his sons were captured or killed the insurgents would give up, demoralized by the loss of their leader; peace would reign.

By the time Saddam was captured in December 2003, 463 Americans had died in Iraq.

The capture of Saddam had no effect, and daily attacks against American forces and Iraqi security forces continued. It was during this time that the bloody Shiite Rebellion occurred. This was some of the fiercest fighting yet in Iraq. Even with this rebellion happening, we were told there was still hope. Sovereignty would soon be handed over to the Iraqis and another corner would be turned. But we needed to stay and provide the Iraqis security until we could "officially" turn the country back over to them.

This would empower the Iraqis and end the Insurgency. By then, June 2004, 958 had come home in boxes.

Most Iraqis didn't seem to care they had sovereignty, since we still occupied their country. They were still without electricity and faced an average unemployment rate of 70%. Every time US soldiers walked outside the wire they were still taking their lives in their hands. Then, we were told, elections would fix this. The Iraqis would have their own government in place and begin drafting a constitution. This would demoralize the terrorists and end the fighting.

On the day of the elections, January 30, 2005, the U.S. death toll was 1,537.

What's wrong with this picture?

The first time we were told the war was over we had lost 139 American; now we have lost 2,000 American lives in Iraq. Time and time again we are told things are getting better, that we have "turned a corner."

In the Viet Nam War we didn't "turn corners;" instead policy makers talked about the "light at the end of the tunnel." We know now that by 1968 President Johnson knew there was no light at the end of the tunnel; he knew his war was lost.

The Pentagon Papers showed this; Robert McNamara admits it today. Over 22,000 American troops died in Viet Nam after 1968 in a war our leaders knew was hopeless and just piling up American and Asian bodies.

Again, there is no light at the end of the tunnel, and we've turned so many corners we're going in circles.

Our leaders know they can't win this war, but, like Johnson and McNamara, they refuse to admit it to the American people.

Meanwhile, our troops remain a huge provocative force in the region and each individual soldier a prized target. Failure to face this reality is exacerbating the current chaos in Iraq and preventing real regional diplomatic solutions.

So the question falls to ordinary Americans: How many more brave men and women are we willing to sacrifice before we force our leaders to bring the troops home? I pray that it does not take another 56,000 like it did in Viet Nam.

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.

The Mantra Question Is Finally Answered



A mother grieves the loss of a son killed in Iraq – again and again, for the rest of her life. Camp Casey, Crawford, Texas 2005.

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 29, 2005
Subject: The Mantra Question Is Finally Answered

**The war in Iraq is a dead horse.
The war in Iraq is a dead soldier.
The war in Iraq is a dead giveaway.
The war in Iraq is a dead man's hand.**

The war in Iraq is a deadly disease of denial.

**The war in Iraq is making corporate America wealthy,
day after day after deadly day.**

2,010 dead American soldiers--no big deal.

**Especially when the wealthy are making business deals
with the U.S. Government--manufacturing everything
from paper clips to bunkerbusters.**

Innocent Iraqi people killed--not on the list.

When it comes to war, business has no conscience.

**When dead American soldiers are put on Medevac helicopters, they
are evidence being removed from the corporate crime scene.
From body bag to aluminum container to Dover to the funeral home
to the grave.**

Heroes.

Neat.

**The folded flag was handed to the designated next of kin,
and the family went home to grieve in silence.**

**Betrayal is never brought up, because the family is
terrified of their anger.**

For now, they are heroes.

Betrayal will be dealt with in ten years.

**Taps are never played at the White House, or the Pentagon,
because they are afraid of a shame leak.**

Everything is a cover-up.

Everything.

**And, many soldiers who survive this war, will continue to
drink away their lives.**

**The war in Iraq is an empty glass upside-down on the bar.
It's called, "A Dead Soldier."**

**Eventually, the Vet leaves before he spills anymore
of his pain.**

"Alcohol gave me wings to fly, and then it took away my sky."

The truth is so toxic.

The mantra question is always the same--Why was I there?

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.

That's the cover-up!!

**The war in Iraq is a dead soldier,
and the same thing happened in Vietnam.**

History reinvents itself with another uniform.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry

4th Infantry Division

Vietnam 1970-71

October 28, 2005



The WHY helicopter in Vietnam: (Poster at Cindy's tent.)

Cindy Sheehan wanted to ask President Bush "why" her son was killed in Iraq. For me, that is simple: Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.

The two photos and captions are from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

OCCUPATION REPORT

Behold, The Miracle Of The Blessed Ballots

October 25, 2005 A Citizen Of Mosul. [Excerpt]

The constitution passed the stage of obstructed labor. The biggest fraud in the history of Iraq.

Don't say the referendum at Saddam time was bigger, NO, although those who vote yes to Saddam were 99.96%, they vote yes because they can vote nothing but yes.

In this referendum we vote "No" but the result appeared "Yes".

It is a miracle !!!.

The preliminary count early after the referendum revealed 80% "No" in Mosul, but the result 10 days later appeared 55% "Yes".

Did you know what that mean, it mean the puppet government won.

Why we don't want this government? Not only because it allied with the occupation. But also because it is a corrupted one.

Behold, The Miracle Of The Transmogrification Of The Voting Results

10/25/2005 By Hamdee Attallah, Al Jazeera & News Reports

Although the U.S. media has attempted to portray Iraqis' views of the draft charter as a sharp dichotomous split between Shiites and Kurds on the one hand and Sunni Arabs on the other, the reality is quite different. In fact, people from nearly all major ethnic and religious groups from throughout Iraq have demonstrated widespread opposition to the U.S.-supported draft charter.

Contrary to U.S. media reports, both Sunni and Shiite Arabs have expressed strong opposition to the draft charter. While Sunni Arab opposition has been near-unanimous, prominent Shiite clerics have also expressed strong opposition to the charter. They include Imam Khalessi in Baghdad (Kadhimiya district), Muqtada Sadr and Ayatollah Yaqoubi in Basra.

These prominent clerics together hold enormous sway over many Shiites in central and southern Iraq. In addition, shortly before the referendum vote, more than 100,000 Iraqi Shiites protested against the draft charter and its provisions for federalism. In contrast, the pro-Iranian group SCIRI, which hijacked the constitutional process along with the United States and Kurdish warlord Masood Barzani, only managed to draw 2,000 Shiites to support the charter during a rally in September.

In addition, election officials initially reported that many (perhaps most) voters in Samawa, the capital of the Shiite-dominated province of al Muthanna, voted NO for the constitution. The overall voter turnout rates for all other Shiite-dominated provinces in the south and for all Kurdish-dominated provinces in the north did not exceed 33-66%, according to Farid Ayar, head of the IECl. This was consistent with media reports (CNN, ABC and others) describing widespread apathy in Shiite- and Kurdish-dominated areas and indicating that overall turnout in these areas was considerably lower than during the January elections.

Shortly before referendum day, Christian Chaldo Assyrians, Turkmen, Shabak and Yezidi minorities all expressed strong opposition to the draft.

In Nineveh province, these minority groups collectively number between 400,000 and 600,000, while Sunni Arabs number about 1.7 million and Kurds number about 200,000.

CNN, other media sources and the IECI reported that voter turnout in Iraq was highest among Sunni Arabs, and long lines of Sunni Arab voters in Mosul and elsewhere were shown on video.

The demographic and political realities of Nineveh province would virtually guarantee that the draft charter would be rejected by at least a 2/3 majority in Nineveh, assuming that no fraud had taken place.

Of note, during the January parliamentary elections in Iraq, the IECI reported that only 17% of registered voters in Nineveh actually voted. Two communities that turned out in force in Nineveh in January – Shiites and Kurds – mustered a combined total of 130,000 votes (or only about 5.9% of the total registered electorate in Nineveh province)!!

Given that the pro-charter vote in Nineveh would be expected to come from Kurds (and perhaps the much smaller Shiite community), the ability to muster a “YES” vote from 1/3 or more of Nineveh voters is unrealistic and completely ignores the demographic reality of Nineveh. Such an outcome could only be achieved through blatant fraud.

Evidence of widespread fraud throughout Iraq already became apparent shortly after the referendum. One day after the vote, the AP reported that voter turnout figures for northern and southern Iraq provinces were revised dramatically upwards from the previous day. The “YES” votes in almost every Iraqi province were said to be a dramatic “90-100%!”

In Basra and Babil provinces, which are known to have sizable Sunni Arab populations, the voter turnouts were reportedly “70% and 100%” respectively, and the “YES” votes were reportedly “almost 100%” for both provinces.

Have Sunni Arabs completely and mysteriously vanished from these provinces, along with Ayatollah Yaqoubi?

In al Tameen province (which includes Kirkuk), a whopping 80% of the electorate reportedly turned out to vote, and 63% cast a “YES” vote.

The demographic reality of al Tameem is such that Arabs, Turkmen and Christians collectively constitute at least 60% of the population, and all 3 communities have been overwhelmingly opposed to the constitution and to Kurdish designs on Kirkuk.

During the January parliamentary vote, 100,000 Kurds were bussed from the northern Kurdish-majority provinces to Kirkuk to vote as “al Tameem” residents.

Interestingly, the number of “YES” votes reported for al Tameem during the referendum vote on October 15 actually exceeds the total number of voters in al Tameem during the January elections! Did the Kurds bus in an additional 100,000 people to al Tameem from elsewhere to vote “YES” on October 15?

Evidence of widespread fraud is also mounting in Nineveh and Diyala provinces. **There are reports of ballot boxes being illegally stuffed with “YES” votes. In Diyala, the vote tallies at various stations exceeded the number of registered voters.**

Spokesman of the Iraqi National Dialogue Council, Salih al-Mutlaq, called for repeating the referendum in some governorates under international and Iraqi judicial supervision. Speaking to Aljazeera on Tuesday, al-Mutlaq said that results of the referendum had been forged in some governorates.

"We believe that the results have been forged in Mosul, Diyala and most southern Iraqi governorates," he said. "We call for repeating the referendum in Diwaniya, Samawa, Mosul and Diyala governorates under UN and Iraqi judicial supervision."

Al-Mutlaq added: **"We will recognise the constitution in this case only; otherwise, this constitution then represents an extreme failure in Iraq and we do not recognise it."**

Welcome To Liberated Iraq

October 26, 2005 The Hill

U.S. military forces are building more than \$500 million worth of new prison facilities.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Belgium Hit By Second Mass Strike

28 October 2005 BBC

Belgian workers have caused widespread disruption with a 24-hour national strike in protest at government plans to up the retirement age from 58 to 60. Few buses and trams were running in most cities, and Charleroi airport, south of Brussels, was shut down.

Trains were not affected as unions wanted them to keep running to carry people to protests in the capital. Tens of thousands of protesters have been marching through Brussels to get the prime minister to reconsider.

Unions are calling for more provision for older workers, saying that employees over 50 are often jettisoned when companies attempt to cut costs.

"If the government does not respond favourably... the atmosphere will become fiercer," Socialist union leader Xavier Verboven told local VRT television. "November is risking to become a very turbulent month... This is a signal to the government."

It is the second major strike in Belgium this month. The strike on 7 October brought much of the country to a virtual standstill, with transport, schools and government services hit by protests.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to NB who sent this in.]

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