

GI SPECIAL 4D29:

**ENOUGH:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



[www.thememoryhole.org/war/coffin_photos/dover/]

**“The Grunts In The Bush
Rebelled”**

**“Fuck The War. Fuck The Army
And Fuck You!”**

**“It Was An Attitude That Was
Spreading In The Ranks”**

**“It Would Become The Crucial
Factor In The American
Withdrawal From Vietnam”**

Having gotten a bellyful of the endless and senseless killing, misery and futility, and sick to death of lies and more lies getting plastered over the truth like a jungle-tattered fatigue jacket laid out over the blown-apart face of a dead hole-mate, the grunts in the bush rebelled.

March 1, 2006 by Bruce Patterson, Anderson Valley Advertiser

I went down to Mill Valley last Wednesday. A friend of mine had gotten me invited to a benefit at the Throckmorton Theater. For a \$100 donation to help fund distribution of David Zeigler's new documentary movie about the Vietnam era's GI anti-war movement, SIR! NO SIR! I'd get to sip wine and nibble on hors d'oeuvres with Mr. Ziegler and our hostess, Jane Fonda.

Lots of other Bay Area celebrities and movement heavies would also be in attendance, as well a number of other two-way vets. Maria Muldaur and Holly Near would belt out some tunes, Cindy Sheehan would get a little pep-talk and, of course, as the main event the movie would be screened.

SIR! NO SIR! deals with the origins and growth of the GI anti-war movement and how it became a crucial aspect of that time that, along with much else, has been totally erased from the popular memory.

In fact, the current slaughter in Iraq was made possible only because the current crop of American voters are so profoundly ignorant of their own recent history. It is a deliberately manufactured ignorance, of course, a house of cards built of established lies, but nevertheless it is the main prop holding up the current, blood-splattered junta and the main engine driving the ongoing insanity.

Two-way vets are those of us who, upon our return from Vietnam and from within the military ranks and in the name of the brothers we'd left behind, began exercising the Constitutional Rights we had taken a blood oath to uphold.

Since the Brass did not wish to tolerate such rank insubordination from us expendables, it was like we had come home to a new war, this one against The Beast.

The Brass, the lifers, Military Intelligence, the Criminal Investigation Department and the MPs all came after us when we were exercising our rights on post. Off base and in town, it was the MPs, the city police, the FBI, the KKK and the county sheriffs that came after us.

It took a tremendous amount of courage to survive in combat. Though it should be pointed out that such courage in such circumstances isn't worth a fraction of what it is cracked up to be. Also, in combat, it's worth remembering that all but the very bravest soldier at least once during his hitch wishes he could curl up into a fetal position, cry like a baby for his mommy and, opening his teary eyes, see her sweet face smiling down upon him.

It took a different kind of courage to fight, not with rifles and machine guns, but with words and ideas, peaceful acts and moral witness. All that protects you is the Bill of

Rights that is a dead sheet of paper to most of your countrymen and to your government; a Bill of Rights that exists only because you make it exist, prove it exists by breathing life into it, exercising it and calling it from the mountain.

Of course both sorts of courage could occasionally come in handy. Once I was leaning on the railing of a troopship cruising off the coast of Cuba. I'd been passing an anti-war petition and I was holding in my hand a clipboard with a large number of signed petitions. I also had been bad-mouthing the war to anybody who would listen and, since my two partners and I were the only soldiers aboard ship sporting Combat Infantryman's Badges — the most revered of all military emblems — I thought I was safe.

So I was on deck admiring the darkening twilight when these four burly cracker lifers cornered me. The biggest of them told me that either my petitions or my ass was getting thrown overboard right there and right now. So I carelessly tossed my clipboard into the ocean, planted my feet and told the big one with my posture that, if I was going overboard, so was he.

It was only after they turned away and left me alone that my knees started knocking. After that, for the rest of the voyage, I kept my mouth shut, only went up on deck with my partners and never again went up top at night.

Whether I was organizing with GIs United Against the War, or the United States Serviceman's Fund, Veterans for Peace, California Veteran's Movement, or Vietnam Veterans Against the War, a huge percentage of my allies had been boys like me: volunteers.

We had volunteered to fight in Vietnam in what we thought was the defense of the American Constitution, and back home we volunteered to fight again to, using different means, accomplish the same thing. We didn't fight for "Flag," "Country" or "God" — much less for Nixon, Kissinger and the chickenhawks. We fought for our Constitutional Rights, strictly constructed and interpreted according to American tradition.

We were patriots, you see. Without a living and breathing Bill of Rights, America sinks into just another cesspool of tyranny, deception and corruption. Without the Bill of Rights, liberty dies and the people are returned to serfdom. That was the gospel of America's revolutionary founders, and that was the gospel to us anti-war GIs and veterans.

In the spring of 1969, when four of us founded the GI anti-war newspaper called Bragg Briefs and began distributing it on post in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, we added our voices to what was becoming a nationwide and worldwide network of such rags. But, unlike our predecessors, our rag wasn't published "underground" (as if M.I. and C.I.D. didn't already have all of us GI malcontents pegged and tailed).

With Bragg Briefs, we published our names right above the masthead. We wrote them like we were prisoners of war acting according to the Geneva Conventions. We gave our names, ranks and serial numbers.

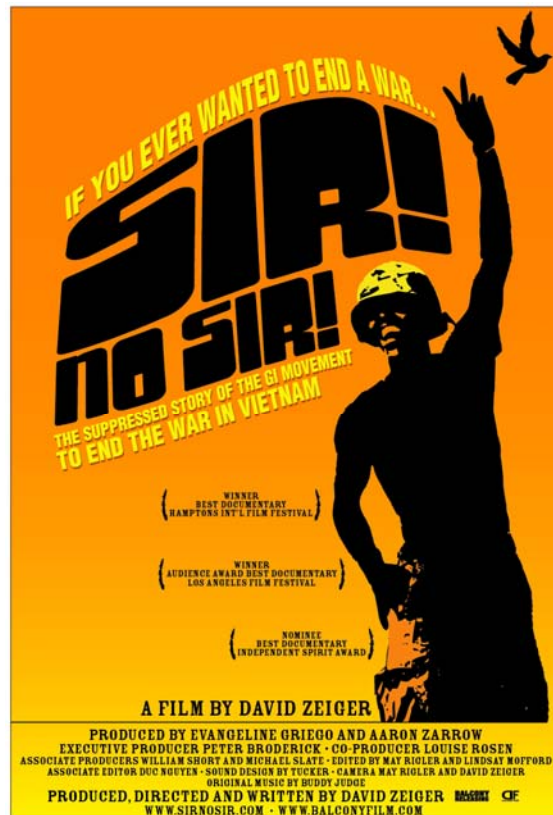
By doing that, forgive me for cussing in print, we announced, "Fuck the war. Fuck the Army and fuck you!"

It was an attitude of rebellion that was spreading in the ranks and, within a couple of years, it would become the crucial factor in the American withdrawal from Vietnam.

Having gotten a bellyful of the endless and senseless killing, misery and futility, and sick to death of lies and more lies getting plastered over the truth like a jungle-tattered fatigue jacket laid out over the blown-apart face of a dead hole-mate, the grunts in the bush rebelled.

If you wish to know what has happened to your history and your heritage and how it is that, right now, a new Vietnam War is destroying America's new Army, a new overseas people and a new generation of American youths, read George Orwell's 1984.

But if you want to get an idea about how and why the Vietnam War ended, and what sort of people ended it and some of the prices they paid, and how this new Vietnam War is going to end (unless the folks back home get patriotic and start supporting the troops), check out SIR! NO SIR! Check it out if you get the chance.



Sir! No Sir!:
Extended Until May 2 At The

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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

IED KILLS U.S. SOLDIER NORTH OF BAGHDAD

4.28.06 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

An American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said Friday. The explosion hit a military vehicle at about 7:15 p.m. Thursday, killing the soldier from Multinational Division-Baghdad.

The bombing raised to at least 2,397 the number of members of the U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Hernando High Grad Dies

April 28, 2006 By JONATHAN ABEL and ASJYLYN LODER, St. Petersburg Times

BROOKSVILLE - Lea R. Mills, a 2002 graduate of Hernando High School, was killed while on patrol in Iraq. His family received the news early Friday morning.

Mills joined the Marines after graduation but had been deployed in Iraq for only six weeks when an improvised explosive device took his life. according to his father, Rob Mills.

"Lea, ever since he was a little boy, always wanted to be in the service," his father said. "He felt he needed to go and he wanted to go, so he volunteered."

He was married to his high school sweetheart, Keesha Mills, and they lived in Oceanside Calif.

Resistance Takes The Offensive In Baqouba

4.28.06 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer & AFP

Iraqi security forces were battling insurgents in and around Baquba despite a curfew after rebels launched massive attacks on checkpoints to seize control of the restive city.

Iraqi police were fighting insurgents in the streets Friday, and witnesses saw at least two wounded police officers being carried to police vehicles for evacuation. Iraqi soldiers also patrolled the city, which was closed to pedestrians and traffic by a curfew.

"Clashes are on in certain parts of Baquba and outside of Baquba," a security source from Baquba said.

Diyala governor Rad Rasheed al-Mulla imposed a curfew across the province Thursday.

"The attackers planned to seize control of south, west and southwest entrances to the city," he said. "But they failed."

The US military said the attacks began in southern Baquba Thursday when the Buhriz police station and five police checkpoints were simultaneously attacked with mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

In the village Deli Abbas, the Iraqi army headquarters was reportedly attacked by more than 100 rebels with mortar rounds, rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire, the military said.

In one of the attacks on Thursday, rebels approached a checkpoint posing as a wedding party in a convoy of vehicles, one of which was decorated with ribbons and flowers.

A group of them later jumped out of the vehicles and sprayed the checkpoint with bullets.

Using mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, the insurgents attacked five police checkpoints, a police station and an Iraqi army headquarters, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

U.S. officials said Friday that eight Iraqi soldiers and two civilians were killed and the wounded included 10 Iraqi soldiers, four policemen and four civilians.

Residents said roads to Baghdad had been sealed off, and those restrictions remained in place on Friday morning.

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. soldier walks by a barricade in Baghdad April 15, 2006. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Spreads And Grows: Occupation “Safe Zones” Shrinking

April 28, 2006 By David Montero, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor
[Excerpts]

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – Nearly five years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan's security situation continues to be dragged down by endemic corruption, roving militias, and a growing nexus between narco-warlords and remnants of the Taliban, officials and analysts say.

The melting snows of spring often bring an uptick in violence, as rebels emerge from their mountain redoubts.

Yet there are indications of a deepening instability beyond the seasonal surge. More than 70 foreign troops, mostly Americans, have been killed this past year, making it the deadliest period since the conflict began. Violence, meanwhile, seems to be spreading beyond the volatile south, encroaching on areas formerly considered outside the zones of conflict.

What these security issues have in common, she and others say, is the poor governance and official corruption among provincial governors, police chiefs, and others tasked with securing the country and bringing development.

"The state we're in now is because of the policy decision to co-opt those people who in the past committed human rights abuses. There's a culture of impunity.

They continue in many cases to abuse the rights of people under them," says Ms. Nathan, adding that this not only causes violent flare-ups, but creates sympathy for the Taliban.

These troubles, she says, are by no means limited to the south. "There are drug problems in the north, tribal problems, sheer criminality."

In the past, violence rarely spilled beyond the south, where NATO troops are slowly replacing US forces. But recent attacks have cropped up in the north and west, too:

Rockets slammed into a nongovernmental organization and a house in the northeastern province of Badakhshan on Tuesday when militants protesting poppy eradication missed a police station. No casualties were reported.

Also on Tuesday, two bomb blasts along the road to Kabul's airport wounded three people. That followed a powerful rocket attack near the US Embassy and the presidential palace on April 19, wounding one Afghan security contractor.

Bomb blasts were reported Saturday outside a politician's home 30 miles west of the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif.

And the prosperous western province of Herat, once considered a model of stability, was rocked by a suicide bombing in early April, killing two Afghans outside a NATO compound.

"We do have a problem in the south, but it is spreading north. The path for these activities in the north has already formed," says Gen. Hilaluddin Hilal, the former deputy minister of the Interior Ministry, and now a member of parliament.

Many governors and chiefs of police, rather than confronting the Taliban and neutralizing drug lords, are increasingly intertwined with them, either for political or monetary gain, some analysts say. Amid the lawlessness, military intelligence has become a political game, a tool for blackmail or settling old scores, analysts allege.

Government officials insist they are cracking down, but Kabul's writ is still weak in many places. Even the more sanguine government officials, when speaking off the record, say that collusion between governors and the Taliban has hampered counterterrorism.

More than breeding resentment, corruption is playing into the hands of the Taliban.

"[P]eople had the expectation that the government would do something for them, that their lives would improve. But it didn't happen," says Mullah Abdul Salam Rocketi, a former Taliban commander who is now a member of Parliament. "When people get disappointed, it benefits the Taliban."

Others agree, saying that such widespread corruption and lawlessness was what brought the Taliban to power in the first place in 1995.

TROOP NEWS

“After Suffering Paralysis, Brain Damage, Lost Limbs And Other Wounds, Nearly 900 Soldiers Have Been Saddled With \$1.2 Million In Government Debt”

[Thanks to JF, who sent this in. He writes: 4D28 was a very good issue. Please keep up the good work.]

[Reply: Thanks for making the work possible by sending in articles like this. T]

April 28, 2006 Associated Press

WASHINGTON: After suffering paralysis, brain damage, lost limbs and other wounds in war, nearly 900 soldiers have been saddled with \$1.2 million in government debt because of the military's "complex, cumbersome" pay system, congressional investigators said Thursday.

The report from the Government Accountability Office said another 400 who died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had \$300,000 in debt but that the Defense Department did not pursue reimbursement from the estates of those who were killed in combat.

"We found that hundreds of separated battle-injured soldiers were pursued for collection of military debts incurred through no fault of their own," said the report.

It said that included seeking reimbursement for errors in pay *or for equipment left on the battlefield.*

"It's unconscionable," Ryan Kelly, 25, a retired staff sergeant who lost a leg to a roadside bomb, told the Washington Post. He said he spent more than a year trying to fend off a debt of \$2,231. "It's sad that we'd let that happen," Kelly said.

Kelly told the Post that in 2004, months after learning to walk on a prosthesis, he opened his mailbox to find a letter saying he was in debt to the government, and in jeopardy of referral to a collection agency.

"It hits you in the gut," he said. "It's like, 'Thanks for your service, and now you owe us.' "

The government then tries to recoup overpayments, docking pay for active-duty troops and sending debt notices to those who have left the military. Eventually, the government sends private agencies to collect debts and notifies credit bureaus.

Grannies Kick Ass: Not Guilty: No Justification For Arresting Them



Members of the "Granny Peace Brigade" outside Manhattan Criminal Court. Dima Gavrysh/Associated Press

April 28, 2006 By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS, The New York Times Company

Eighteen "grannies" who were swept up by the New York City police, handcuffed, loaded into police vans and jailed for four and a half hours were acquitted yesterday of charges that they blocked the entrance to the military recruitment center in Times Square when they tried to enlist.

After six days of a nonjury trial, the grandmothers and dozens of their supporters filled a courtroom in Manhattan Criminal Court to hear whether they would be found guilty of two counts of disorderly conduct for refusing to move, which could have put them in jail for 15 days. The women call their group the Granny Peace Brigade and said they wanted to join the armed forces and thus offer their lives for those of younger soldiers in Iraq.

The women — from 59 to 91, many gray-haired, some carrying canes, one legally blind, one with a walker — listened gravely and in obvious suspense as Judge Neil E. Ross delivered a carefully worded 15-minute speech in which he said his verdict was not a referendum on the Police Department, the defendants' antiwar message or, indeed, their very grandmotherhood.

But, he said, there was credible evidence that the grandmothers had left room for people to enter the recruitment center, and that therefore they had been wrongly arrested.

He then pronounced them not guilty, concluding. "The defendants are all discharged."

The women, sitting in the jury box at the invitation of the judge, to make it easier for them to see and hear, let out a collective "Oh!" and burst into applause, rushing forward, as quickly as women their age could rush, to hug and kiss their lawyers, Norman Siegel, the former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, and Earl Ward.

"Listen to your granny, she knows best," crowed Joan Wile, 74, a retired cabaret singer and jingle writer who was one of the defendants.

Outside the courthouse minutes later, the women burst into their unofficial anthem, "God Help America," composed by Kay Sather, a member of a sister group in Arizona, the Raging Grannies of Tucson, which goes, "God help America, We need you bad, 'cause our leaders are cheaters, and they're making the world really mad."

The trial was extraordinary, if only because it gave 18 impassioned women — some of whom dated their political activism to the execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg — a chance to testify at length about their antiwar sentiments and their commitment to free speech and dissent, in a courtroom that attracted reporters from France and Germany.

Despite the judge's demurrals, the verdict was one in a series of victories for protesters who have been arrested by the New York police since the invasion of Iraq.

While more than 300 people were detained for minor offenses during demonstrations at the 2004 Republican National Convention, few were convicted. Also, earlier this year, a state judge rejected the city's efforts to quash Critical Mass, a monthly bicycle rally in Manhattan.

"I was sure we were sunk," said Lillian Rydell, 86, a defendant who testified during the trial that she went to "the school of hard knocks," instead of college.

"I love everybody," she said. The defendants called themselves "grannies" because they are all old enough to be grandmothers, even if some of them are not, and because in their view, grandmothers are a core American value, as patriotic as mom and apple pie.

Before the verdict yesterday, both sides delivered their closing arguments.

The youthful prosecutor, Artie McConnell, allowed that it would be foolish of him to "cross swords" with a veteran civil liberties lawyer like Mr. Siegel on the First Amendment. "Luckily for me," he said, "I don't have to, because that's not what this case is about."

The case, he continued, was about breaking the law. "These defendants do not get a pass for who they are, no matter how noble their cause may be," he said.

If Mr. McConnell stuck to prose, Mr. Siegel did not hesitate to offer poetry. The defendants, he said in his closing, "tried to alert an apathetic public to the immorality, the illegality, the destructiveness and the wrongness of the war in Iraq."

The grannies could not be punished for failing to obey a police command if that command violated their constitutional right to protest, he said.

When it was over, the grannies seemed ready to do it again. "The decision today says the First Amendment protects you to protest peacefully," Mr. Siegel said, addressing his clients outside the courthouse after the verdict. "So — go do it!"

And the grannies cheered.

The Universal Code Of Military Injustice Strikes Again: Command Sends Soldier To Prison For Doing What's Legal Anyplace Else In America

April 28, 2006 By Kelley Kennedy, Army Times staff writer

FORT BRAGG, NC: *Biting his lower lip and keeping his eyes downcast, Pfc. Richard Ashley, 21, pleaded guilty Thursday to sodomy and wrongfully engaging in sexual acts with another person while being filmed for money.*

[Only the blind, stupid, sadistic freaks in the Pentagon prosecute and jail American citizens for these fake "crimes." In a just world, the scum going to prison would be the officers who decided that what this soldier did merits

punishment. Fact is, who you have sex with, and whether or not you get money for being filmed doing it, has nothing more to do with whether you are an effective soldier than whether you prefer hamburgers with or without mayo. Fact is, everybody who participated in tormenting Ashley should be stripped of their citizenship, loaded on a plane forthwith and shipped off to some country where their kind of savage ignorance and cruelty is the norm. Of course, they wouldn't survive there very long, nor should they. Let them get a taste of irrational, vicious government, but on the receiving end. See how they like it then. T]

"I've embarrassed everyone in my family," Ashley said during his sentencing. "I've embarrassed the entire Army and my unit."

The judge sentenced the 82nd Airborne soldier to three months in confinement, reduction in pay of \$835 for three months, demotion to E-1 and a bad-conduct discharge.

Ashley and two other soldiers, Pfc. Wesley Mitten and Pvt. Kagen Mullen, first made headlines when soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, saw pornographic pictures and videos of soldiers in their company at a gay pornography site that purports to feature troops.

Mitten and Mullen will be court-martialed this month if they don't arrange for plea agreements, as Ashley did.

Four other soldiers received Article 15 non-judicial punishments including a reduction in rank to private, 45 days restriction to the unit area, 45 days of extra duty and forfeiture of one-half month's pay for two months. The four remain at Fort Bragg as they wait to out-process.

Ashley's company commander testified that he did not think Ashley was suited for further military service. Ashley's mother and grandmother tearfully presented a picture of a young man who had finally found his niche in the Army after dropping out of high school, and that when he got into Airborne school, it was "like God had opened a door for him."

"He's scared to death," said his mother, Tamara Chambers. "He's worried about his future. Nobody could punish him more than he's punished himself."

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)

East Timor Government Kills Civilians Supporting Striking Soldiers



Thousands marched in Dili for the third time in a week

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

28 April 2006 Aljazeera Via News Agencies

Two people have been killed and about 30 injured in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, during a protest against the government's sacking of up to 600 soldiers.

Several thousand protesters took to the streets for third time in a week on Friday, in support of the soldiers who were sacked after they left their barracks in a row over working conditions.

Marchers wielding planks and steel pipes smashed windows and set fire to cars before police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Antonio Caleres, the director of the state-run Guido Valadares hospital in Dili, said two male civilians were killed.

"We are also treating at least four people with gunshot wounds," he said.

It was not clear how the civilians died but police confirmed they had fired into a crowd of marchers after coming under attack.

Paulo De Fatima, the police chief, said: "Police made an appeal, but they didn't listen ... they beat the police."

Rogério Lobato, the home affairs minister, criticised both the police and protesters.

"We will arrest all of them and they must be put in jail," he said of the demonstrators.

"As the home affairs minister, I am not too thrilled with the police's action. They should have been able to perform better co-ordination. However the police must use every means necessary to control the situation," he said.

Jose Ramos-Horta, Timor-Leste's foreign affairs minister, said the sacked soldiers themselves were not responsible for the unrest.

Earlier this month, Ramos-Horta said the government was setting up a panel to review the soldiers' complaints.

[Although hard to estimate from a distance based on what “news agencies” report, it may be time for the civilians and the soldiers to join forces. In similar situations in the past, in various countries, when that happens, the police, brave against unarmed demonstrators, tend to run away very very quickly when confronted by members of the armed forces equipped with muskets and a few Saws.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Snipers Ordered To Kill American Officers: [A New Take On “High Value” Targets]

April 24, 2006 By Greg Grant, Special to the Army Times [Excerpt]

Videotaped sniper attacks on American troops in Iraq are the new rage on Jihadi Web sites used by Iraqi insurgents as propaganda and communications tools, sold in Baghdad video stores, or distributed through e-mail lists.

This troubling new aspect of guerrilla fighting in Iraq was confirmed by Army Lt. Col. Shawn Weed, a military intelligence officer, in a December interview in Baghdad. He said small-arms attacks on U.S. troops are increasingly media-staged events, to produce video that can be used as propaganda tools. Footage of Iraqi sniper attacks on Americans is reportedly selling for as much as \$5,000.

Insurgent snipers are instructed to target American officers because, as the insurgent literature explains, they are more costly to train than regular soldiers.

Assorted Resistance Action

4.28.06 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer & The News & Observer & (Reuters)

On Friday, a road side bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol exploded in southwestern Baghdad at 8:20 a.m., killing one policeman and wounding two, said police Capt. Jamil Hussein.

Three policemen were killed when a roadside bomb hit their patrol near a bridge in Falluja.

Friday, two mortars or rockets were fired at downtown Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, where Iraq's government meets and the U.S. Embassy is located. One landed inside the zone but failed to detonate, while the other exploded nearby on the other side of the Tigris River, the U.S. military said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“Would The Americans Accept
Anyone Who Had Served As An
Agent For A Foreign Government To
Lead Their Own”**

Then we look at those who have been installed at the helm in our own country, some of whom are self-confessed agents of the US, British, Iranian and Israeli intelligence services, and see for sure what kind of "national unity" government we will have.

April 23, 2006 Haifa Zangana, Guardian Unlimited [Excerpt]

Employees of the occupation have knowingly become instruments of establishing the occupier's double standards. They deny Iraqi citizens their nationalist, patriotic feelings while defending the occupier's rights in celebrating theirs.

Would the Americans with their draconian Patriot Act accept anyone who had served as an agent for a foreign government to lead their own, or to be a minister, or even to chair a national institution?

How do the British handle the concepts of patriotism, treason, collaboration and espionage while they ask us to accept agents of their security services and CIA agents as leaders, ministers and presidents?

We listen to the patriotic voices of George Bush, Rice, Rumsfeld and Cheney, defending the American way of life on Iraqi soil, see the tears in the eyes of thousands of US soldiers, when their flag is raised and their homeland is named.

Then we look at those who have been installed at the helm in our own country, some of whom are self-confessed agents of the US, British, Iranian and Israeli intelligence services, and see for sure what kind of "national unity" government we will have.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to thomasfbarton@earthlink.net. Name, I.D., address withheld unless publication requested. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



U.S. Marine sits during his patrol, in the kitchen of an Iraqi house, while the Iraqi citizen woman who lives there walks by, in Karmah, Iraq, April 25, 2006. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence and sit around in their living rooms whether they like it or not, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country and treat them like dirt in their own land, invading their homes whenever they please. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?

[You wouldn't mind some Iraqi soldier walking in and taking over your living room while your family was home, whether they like it or not, right?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

"Iraq Has Lost A Third Of Its Production Due To The American Invasion" "Oil Production Was More Successful Under Saddam"

Insurgents have been so deft at shutting down the pipelines from the giant fields around the northern city of Kirkuk that Iraqi authorities tried to move crude by truck to its refineries and crude-burning power plants. But after insurgents attacked the trucks, drivers became difficult to recruit and the oil ministry was forced to cut production, Orwel said.

4.28.06 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer

Iraq, a founding member of OPEC, sits atop the world's third-highest proven reserves. Its estimated 115 billion barrels is more than any other OPEC member except for Saudi Arabia and Iran.

But contrary to optimistic expectations, Iraq's oil production has slipped further and further since the U.S.-led invasion, to an average of 2 million barrels a day. It has never regained even the reduced production levels that prevailed in the 1990s, when Iraq was under tough U.N. sanctions.

Iraq also lacks laws that would protect foreign investment, and its government is still sorting out whether oil will be controlled by the central government or the provinces.

In 2005, Iraq's exports averaged just 1.4 million barrels a day, which earned the country about \$26 billion. This winter proved disastrous, with January exports failing to reach even 1 million barrels a day, said George Orwel, an analyst with Petroleum Intelligence Weekly in New York.

Insurgents have been so deft at shutting down the pipelines from the giant fields around the northern city of Kirkuk that Iraqi authorities tried to move crude by truck to its refineries and crude-burning power plants. But after insurgents attacked the trucks, drivers became difficult to recruit and the oil ministry was forced to cut production, Orwel said.

Iraq's sputtering oil sector has defied optimists led by Vice President Dick Cheney and former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who hoped booming exports from Iraq could pay for its reconstruction and help satisfy world demand.

Instead, repercussions from the U.S.-led invasion are now slowing the global economy, said Saadallah al-Fathi, a former OPEC official who advised Iraq's oil ministry under Saddam Hussein.

"The invasion of Iraq hasn't only been devastating to the Iraqi people, but it has been detrimental to the rest of the world," al-Fathi said from his home in Sharjah, in the UAE. "Iraq has lost a third of its production due to the American invasion."

"Now that Iraq has to import many petroleum products, it's a double whammy," he said.

Oil production was more successful under Saddam, he said.

"There were technical problems. But they were contained. Things were improving slowly. We didn't have sabotage. We had full security in the oil fields."

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

OCCUPATION SOLOMON ISLANDS

Australian Occupation Promotes Child Sex Industry

April 26, 2006 Doug Lorimer, Green Left Weekly

Two days after several thousand rioters looted and burned down shops, hotels and other buildings in the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara on April 18, Australian PM John Howard dispatched 110 troops and 80 police officers to join the 250 police officers and 120 government “advisers” making up the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

“The immediate catalyst for Tuesday’s rioting was the election of former deputy prime minister Snyder Rini, 46, as the country’s new prime minister following a vote of the 50-member parliament earlier in the day”, the April 20 Australian reported. “Rini’s elevation came as a shock to the crowd gathered outside the parliament.”

The April 20 Sydney Morning Herald reported that Sir Peter Kenilorea, the speaker of the Solomons parliament, “blamed Australian Federal Police officers for aggravating civil unrest by firing tear gas at [the] protesters”, who were demanding Rini’s immediate resignation.

Rini is a member of a group of MPs called the Association of Independent Members of Parliament (AIM), whose president is local naturalised Chinese business tycoon Sir Thomas Chan.

The anger at Rini’s appointment stemmed from his close links both with Chan and with outgoing PM Sir Allan Kemakeza, who narrowly retained his parliamentary seat while his People’s Alliance Party lost 11 of its 20 seats at the April 5 general election.

The election campaign had “been fought mainly on economic issues, with poverty, corruption and uneven rural development playing a major role”, the April 20 Australian reported.

Late last year, the country’s auditor-general reported that a fund set up to compensate victims of Melanesian inter-ethnic violence in 1998-99, which Kemakeza controls, was missing A\$5.7 million.

With a per capita GDP of US\$340, the Solomon Islands — made up of some 900 islands inhabited by 552,000 people, 75% of whom are dependent on subsistence farming and fishing — is one of the world’s poorest countries.

The neo-colonial RAMSI intervention, which began in July 2003 with the arrival of 2200 troops and police from Australia, New Zealand and a number of Pacific island states, and several hundred Australian government bureaucrats, has done little to alleviate the widespread poverty and unemployment among the young people who make up most of Honiara’s 50,000 inhabitants.

Writing in the January 18 Solomon Star newspaper, Solomons Anglican Bishop Terry Brown, who had initially supported the RAMSI intervention, observed that “there is a major disparity between RAMSI’s rhetoric of staying for ten to 15 years in the Solomons, bringing peace and prosperity, and the reality of re-emerging violence, increasing poverty and unemployment, high school fees, a downward-spiralling economy, higher inflation and lower incomes, declining medical services, ongoing corruption in government ministries, lack of planning and implementation of how Solomon Islanders will competently run all parts of their own government, crumbling infrastructure, millions and millions of RAMSI funds spent on Australians with the money going back to Australia with minimum cash benefit for Solomon Islanders, continued centralizing of everything in Honiara, etc.”

The March 22 Australian reported that “Soldiers, police and technical advisers sent from countries including Australia to rebuild the war-torn Solomon Islands have fuelled a huge increase in the country’s child sex industry.

“A series of harrowing interviews, documented in an unpublished UN report and revealed in this week’s Time magazine, detail how years of civil conflict and poverty have forced many of Solomon’s children to sell themselves for sex.

“One church group in a remote area of the islands described how a local family had been paid \$US10,000 (A\$13,800) for their adopted daughter” by a foreign contractor working for RAMSI.

“Other Solomon Islanders said the influx of army, police and civilian workers had contributed to an increase in prostitution among girls under 18.”

The April 18 protests against Rini’s election quickly exploded into riots by poor and unemployed Melanesians against shops and other businesses in Honiara’s Chinatown district, which are owned by about 1000 naturalised Chinese.

The April 20 Australian reported that in “the view of many political observers, it is the sway that Chinese business interests had over the former government, headed by Allan Kemakeza, that helped spark Tuesday’s sudden outburst of popular feeling”.

“This is worse than the ethnic crisis last time”, Solomon Islands Labour Party leader and former MP Joses Tuhonuku told the Australian.

He said that “people feel they have lost control of their country” and that “the Solomon Islands is no longer in the hands of Solomon Islanders, it is now in the hands of the Chinese”, who “control the economic life of the country, and now they are working on taking over the political life of the country”.

With RAMSI now providing protection for the highly unpopular Rini, the stage is set for Bishop Brown’s prediction to come true. He warned that the refusal of “RAMSI (Australians in particular) to begin rebuilding relations with ordinary Solomon Islanders” will make it “feel more and more like an occupying army”.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

“Pawn Shops Are Reporting Brisk Business As People Hock Their

Belongings To Raise Money For Gas”

“In 2005 ExxonMobile Reported The Most Profitable Year In US Corporate History, Earning More Than \$36 Billion”

April 27, 2006 Evelyn Pringle, Uruknet.info [Excerpt]

Since Bush took office, gas prices have increased 62.5% from \$1.44 per gallon in January 2001 to \$2.34 in March 2006.

The average household with children will spend about \$3,343 on transportation fuel costs this year, an increase of 75% since 2001, according to the Energy Information Administration, Retail Gasoline Prices, and Household Vehicle Energy Use: Latest Data and Trends, November 2005.

And gas prices are still rising. As of April 24, 2006, the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge report said, nationally, the average price for a gallon of regular gas was \$2.90, or a 15.5% hike over the \$2.51 price per gallon a month ago.

So where is all the money going?

One need not look far.

In 2005, the world's largest oil company, Exxonmobilie, reported the most profitable year in US corporate history, earning more than \$36 billion.

Economists say oil producers and refiners, not gas stations, are making a killing. The five largest refineries, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Shell, Valero, and British Petroleum (BP) have recorded \$228 billion in profits since 2001, according to testimony at a congressional hearing last November.

In 1999, refiners made 23 cents for each gallon processed and in 2004, they made 41 cents a gallon, according to Department of Energy data.

For many low-income families, gas now burns through 10% of household income. In Wisconsin, according to Consumer News, pawn shops are reporting brisk business as people hock their belongings to raise money for gas.

"It's taking food off my table," James of Alexandria, VA told Consumer News. "I am having trouble and I'm late paying my daughter's tuition. No vacation this year. I'm charging gas on my credit card because I don't have \$50 to put 20 gallons of gas in my car," he said.

Local governments, already struggling to pay for essential services due to continuous cuts in Federal funding, are overwhelmed in trying to keep school buses, police cars, fire trucks, and other public vehicles on the road.

Senior citizens are already strapped by the extra costs of trying to keep their homes heated, and now the Meals on Wheels program is having trouble delivering food to their homes due to high gas prices.

Rising fuel costs are forcing city and county officials all across the country to boost budgets, cut back on social programs that rely on transportation and scrutinize vehicle use.

For 2005, the Appleton, Wisconsin city budget estimated fuel costs for gasoline and diesel would be \$595,000. In October 2005, Appleton Mayor, Tim Hanna, projected actual costs to be \$936,000.

In a feeble attempt to appease the public this week, Bush said he will temporarily divert oil used to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve into the market to drive prices down.

Apparently acknowledging the act as a do-nothing remedy, Bush made the comment, "Every little bit counts."

I doubt that many people appreciated a snide remark like this coming from a guy who has never had to balance a checkbook, never had to worry about paying a heating bill or filling up the gas tank, but who now through some perverse twist of fate, maintains a stranglehold on the nation's purse strings.

MORE:

The Traitor Bush Kisses Oil Company Ass, As Usual

28 April 2006 By Terence Hunt, The Associated Press

Washington: President Bush on Friday rejected calls by some lawmakers for a tax on oil company windfall profits, saying the industry should reinvest its recent gains into finding and producing more energy.

With gasoline at over \$3 a gallon in some areas, Bush said there was "no evidence" of price-gouging of consumers.

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.

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