

GI SPECIAL 4G6:

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR DEMAND IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

[July 3, 2006 Washington DC rally and march to the White House]



[Photo via David Swanson & Daily Kos]

“Others Don’t Believe We Should Be Here”

June 25, 2006 By Dennis Taylor, The Sunday Pinnacle [Excerpts]

While Congress spends time debating partisan resolutions on the future of Iraq, and the country sinks further into the worst national divide since Vietnam, Sgt. Lisa Meighan remains focused on her job: Ensuring the three-man armored humvee team she leads

returns safely everyday to its base near Kabul, Afghanistan - an increasingly difficult task.

And while old men debate the merits of war in the secure confines of Washington, D.C., this 37-year-old mother of four from Gilroy, along with her gunner and driver, is part of a unit providing perimeter protection for U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan's capital city.

The politics swirling about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are played out in the war zones much like they are stateside - there are those soldiers who are vehemently opposed and others who see it as necessary.

"A lot of them just want their tour over," Meighan said. "Others don't believe we should be here."



IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Indiana National Guard Soldier Killed In Mosul



Staff Sgt. Paul S. Pabla, 23, died July 3, 2006, in Mosul. He was a member of the Kempton-based 139th Field Artillery but was deployed in Iraq with the 150th Field Artillery from Bloomington. (AP Photo/Indiana Army National Guard)

7/5/2006 INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

The Indiana National Guard says a 23-year-old soldier from Fort Wayne has been killed in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Paul Pabla was 23. He was deployed with a field artillery battalion based in Bloomington.

The Indiana National Guard says he was killed by sniper fire on Monday while on foot patrol in Mosul.

Marine Killed In Anbar

July 4 (Reuters)

A U.S. Marine was killed in combat in western Anbar province on Tuesday, the U.S. military said.

Soldier From City Killed

July 1, 2006, By Chris Yakaitis, Baltimore Sun reporter

A 21-year-old soldier from Southeast Baltimore was killed in combat in Iraq, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Pfc. Michael J. Potocki, who was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, died after his unit came under small-arms fire in Al Asad.

Potocki's family was notified of his death early Tuesday morning. Since then, his extended family has gathered daily on the front porch of the rowhouse of his mother, Debra Potocki, on East Baltimore Street just over the city line in Baltimore County.

"We just never thought it would ever happen to us," said Leo Potocki, one of his uncles.

Potocki graduated from Patterson High School in 2003 and joined the military shortly thereafter. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment in Germany and had just begun sniper school in Iraq. He had also befriended an Iraqi family and would have dinner at their house, his uncle said.

Family members said Potocki's tour was scheduled to end in August and that he looked forward to returning to civilian life. They said he planned to settle in Baltimore, buy a house and join the city Police Department.

In high school, Potocki took automotive classes and especially liked "the old muscle cars," his uncle said. He also worked at several Southeast Baltimore restaurants, including Birches and Cap'n James in Canton and Matthew's Pizza.

Potocki told relatives he was stationed in a safe area of Iraq, but the family learned this week that he "was in the worst possible place you could be in Iraq," Leo Potocki said.

"That's why he never told us where he was," added Mike Potocki, another uncle. "He didn't want nobody worrying about him."

Potocki's family last saw him at Christmas.

"He was just a normal kid, good as gold," Leo Potocki said. "He matured a lot, just the year or two that he was in there. His mother's real proud of him. Real proud."

U.S. Casualties Rising In Iraq: “An Insurgency That Is Not Diminishing In Any Way But That Is Slowly Increasing Its Capability To Inflict Casualties On U.S. Forces”

June 28 By MARTIN SIEFF, UPI Senior News Analyst

The striking lull in U.S. casualties we reported in our previous column did not last. Figures for U.S. troops killed and wounded in Iraq over the past week rose sharply and showed a remarkable statistical consistency with trends prior to the lull.

24 U.S. soldiers were killed during the eight-day period from June 21 through June 28 at an average rate of three per day. This was 77 percent higher than the rate of 1.75 U.S. soldiers killed by in Iraq per day during the seven-day period from June 14 through June 20.

The latest figures, therefore, show a return to the steadily deteriorating trend in increasing U.S. fatalities in Iraq through the month of June. They were also significantly worse than the longer-term trend of the 48-day period from April 13 to May 30, when 107 U.S. troops died in Iraq at an average rate of just over 2.2 per day. And they were almost twice as bad as during the 68-day period from Feb. 4 to April 12, when 112 U.S. troops died in Iraq at an average of 1.65 per day.

The rate at which U.S. soldiers are being injured in Iraq also rose sharply over the past week.

As of June 28, 18,696 U.S. soldiers have been injured in Iraq since the start of hostilities. That was an increase of 124 wounded in eight days at an average rate of 15.5 U.S. soldiers wounded per day. This was more than 25 percent worse than the previous figure of 82 wounded in seven days at an average rate of 11.7 per day.

As of June 28, 8,560 of these U.S. troops were wounded so seriously that they were listed as "WIA Not RTD" in the DOD figures -- in other words, Wounded in Action Not Returned to Duty.

This marked an increase of 52 such casualties in eight days at an average rate of 6.5 per day. This was dramatically worse than during the previous week's lull when U.S. forces suffered only seven such casualties in seven days, or an average of one a day. However, the latest figures, while discouraging, were not half as bad as during the day period from June 5 through June 12 when U.S. forces suffered 115 such casualties in eight days, an average of 14.38 per day.

The current figures appear to reassert the longer term trends we have recorded over the past six months based on the Pentagon's own official figures.

These trends clearly show an insurgency that is not diminishing in any way but that is slowly increasing its capability to inflict casualties on U.S. forces.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UK Soldier Killed In Sangin

5 July 2006 BBC

A British soldier has been killed in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province, the Ministry of Defence says.

The soldier, from the 3 Para Battle Group, was shot while on a patrol near the town of Sangin. He died while he was being given treatment.

A defence statement, referring to the soldier killed on Wednesday, said: "We can confirm that during a patrol in Sangin town, members of 3 Para battle group were attacked by suspected Taleban forces.

Officials believe he died at about 1030 BST (1500 local time).

Resistance Attacks On Army Officers, Cops And Government Staff “Shake” Kabul; Stupid UN Occupation Official Calls Dead Collaborators “Ordinary Citizens”

5 July 2006 BBC & AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

Afghanistan's capital Kabul was hit by blasts for a second day. One person died and at least 40 were wounded in three bombings targeted at buses carrying Afghan army officers and government workers.

Three bombs exploded in Kabul in rush-hour attacks that targeted buses carrying government workers and security forces, police and witnesses said.

The violence has shaken the city, which has seen little of the heavy fighting sparked by resurgent Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan.

Kabul's police chief, Gen. Amanullah Ghuzar, said extra police will be posted at checkpoints around the city. He also said all pushcarts had been ordered removed from city streets. Three of the bombs in the last two days were hidden in pushcarts.

In the first attack around 7 a.m., a remote-controlled bomb blew up near an Afghan National Army bus in downtown Kabul, wounding 39 people aboard, the Defense Ministry said. Police said the bomb had been hidden in a garbage container on the street.

Video from AP Television News showed plumes of black smoke pouring out of the burning bus as ambulance sirens wailed nearby. The blast caused the bus to veer out of control and crash.

Minutes later, a second bomb hidden in a pushcart exploded in northern Kabul as a bus carrying Commerce Ministry employees drove by, killing one bystander and injuring eight others, police and witnesses said.

Five of the wounded were inside the bus, which was carrying 16 ministry workers, said passenger Noor Hak Stanezai.

The inside of the bus was bloodstained and filled with shattered glass. Shrapnel pockmarked one side.

A third explosion in eastern Kabul targeted an Afghan army convoy, but no casualties were reported, said police officer Mohammad Nasim.

"These have served no purpose other than to terrorize the population, and kill or maim ordinary citizens," said Tom Koenigs, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Afghanistan. "I am appalled by these callous and cruel acts." [But asshole Koenigs isn't "appalled" by the occupation bombings that slaughter Afghans from the air. Oh no. No wonder the resistance in Iraq and Afghanistan consider United Nations staff to be legitimate targets of war. They are right to do so.]

Two Afghan security workers were killed Tuesday in western Herat province when their vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, said Ghulam Sarwar Haidari, deputy provincial police chief.

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
HOPELESS WAR:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division listen to a discussion about their mission: a mountaintop helicopter landing at night in Taliban territory, on June 15, 2006. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

TROOP NEWS

**Majority Of American Think Iraq War Not
Worth Fighting**

June 30, 2006 (Angus Reid Global Scan)

Most Americans believe the coalition effort was not worth fighting, according to a poll by Gallup released by USA Today. 55 per cent of respondents think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, up two points in a year.

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 IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Whyte at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y., June 30, 2006. Whyte, 21, of Brooklyn, died June 21 after being hit by sniper fire while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq. (AP Photo/Ed Betz)

US Military Officers Link Rape And Slaughter Of Iraqi Family To Later Beheading Of Soldiers From The Same Platoon (Duh)

05 July 2006 By Julian E. Barnes, The Los Angeles Times

The U.S. military is investigating whether the kidnapping, killing and mutilation of two American soldiers was carried out in retaliation for an *alleged* [oh please, there's been a confession] rape and murder of an Iraqi woman by another member of the same unit three months earlier, a military official said Tuesday.

The incidents occurred in nearby towns and the soldiers involved were in the same unit. The bodies of the two American soldiers and at least one Iraqi were mutilated.

A third U.S. soldier was killed during the *kidnapping* [Hello? It's a war? Get it? War? In war, the term is "captured." Stupid reporter. Let's see, following his idiocy, you would read, "April 6, 1945: American forces kidnapped 15,000 German soldiers today near Munich."] of his comrades.

"Was it a target of opportunity or was it a warning: Don't do this to our women?" said the military official.

"We are trying to find out if this hit on these three soldiers was a retribution for the rape and murder," said the official. "I cannot fathom the audacity it would take to do such a complex attack. What sort of rage exists in the populace? [What kind of dimwit thinks Iraqis can't carry out complex attacks? What kind of numb clod can't get a grip on the rage? Suppose it were the "officials" family this happened to, and Iraqi soldiers had done it in Texas or Connecticut. Does that give a small clue?]

"Are they saying, 'We aren't going to take this from people who do this to our women?'" [Good guess!]

On Monday, Steven D. Green, 21, a former Army private with the 502nd Infantry Regiment, appeared in federal court in Charlotte, N.C., on charges that he raped and murdered an Iraqi woman in the town of Mahmoudiya.

According to accounts provided to investigators by other soldiers, Green dressed in black and took several other soldiers with him to a nearby house with the intent of raping the woman.

According to an affidavit submitted by FBI Special Agent Gregor J. Ahlers in support of the arrest warrant, Green killed the woman's parents and young sister; he and another soldier raped the woman; then he shot her in the head and set her body on fire.

Bankrupt Empire, Bankrupt Army: Falling Value Of The Dollar Eats Up Pentagon Cash:

They Can't Afford Pens At Ft. Bragg

Since launching the war, the Army has been working its equipment hard. Tanks are driving more than 4,000 miles a year, five times more than the 800 miles a year the Army planned for. Helicopters are flying at two or three times more than planned, and trucks are operating about six times more.

June 30, 2006 By Liz Austin, Associated Press & By William Matthews, Defense News

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

While billions of military dollars are being spent on the war in Iraq, some Army posts back home can't afford to pay the electricity bill or cut the grass.

The Army's Installation Management Agency is \$530 million short of what it needs through Oct. 1 to fund the garrisons at the 117 installations it oversees in the United States, Europe and Asia, agency spokesman Stephen Oertwig said.

Fort Knox in Kentucky closed one of its eight dining halls for a month and laid off 133 contract workers.

Fort Bragg in North Carolina can't afford to buy pens, paper or other office supplies until the new fiscal year starts in October.

Col. Wendy Martinson, Fort Sam's garrison commander, still lies awake at night worrying about what services she can afford to lose and what services she can't — but will have to cut anyway.

"Every time something goes away it impacts a person ... a soldier or their family or one of our civilians," said Martinson, whose post has 27,300 military and civilian workers. "I'm charged with taking care of them, not taking things away from them."

Oertwig said the skyrocketing cost of fuel is partly to blame, and that it also costs more to pay civilians in Asia and Europe because the dollar is worth less there.

[What this lame sentence confuses is a simple fact: worldwide, the value of the dollar is falling. It's worth less everywhere, not just "there." That's because the Empire costs more than it brings in, and is being financed with borrowed money, which lenders are beginning to doubt can ever be repaid, so they're dumping dollars for other currencies and gold. The British Empire went bankrupt the same way 60 years ago. Currency death spiral. Thud. Bye bye Empire. T]

The Army often diverts operations money for other programs, in times of war and peace, said Jeremiah Gertler, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The supplemental spending bill usually replenishes those funds.

This year, though, most of the defense money in the \$94.5 billion bill was earmarked for the war, leaving little to pay back operations accounts, Gertler said.

Martinson still doesn't know how much Fort Sam will get, but she expects it will be enough to pay the \$4.6 million electric tab. However, it won't save the jobs of about 100 contract workers she had to let go.

And it won't make it easier for her to scrounge up the dollars to buy chlorine for the pool where soldiers' kids take swimming lessons or feed for the horses that carry soldiers' caskets to their graves at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

The new funds also won't change the orders IMA issued in early June to freeze civilian hiring and fire temporary employees, reduce cell phone, pager and government vehicle use and reduce, cancel or defer contracts.

The Army will fall almost \$5 billion short of the \$13.5 billion it needs this year to repair and replace war-worn equipment, the service's chief told the House Armed Services Committee.

Last winter, the Army said it needed \$13.5 billion in emergency funding to repair Humvees, helicopters, trucks, tanks and other equipment during 2006. But when President George W. Bush sent his request for \$92.2 billion in emergency funding to Congress, it included only \$8.6 billion in "reset" funding for the Army.

Since launching the war, the Army has been working its equipment hard. Tanks are driving more than 4,000 miles a year, five times more than the 800 miles a year the Army planned for. Helicopters are flying at two or three times more than planned, and trucks are operating about six times more.

The hot, gritty environment in Iraq adds to the wear and tear on equipment. So does the extra weight of the armor added for safety in Iraq.

By Oct. 1, the Army expects to have sent 290,000 "major items of equipment" for resetting. That includes items from tracked vehicles to radios to night-vision goggles. They are sent to repair depots in the United States or back to their manufacturers to be restored to combat-ready condition.

Another 280,000 pieces of equipment in Iraq await resetting, Schoomaker said.

[General] Schoomaker said the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be supplied with fully functioning equipment, but U.S. troops elsewhere do not.

Paranoid Pukes In Command Steal Guantanamo Prisoners' Legal Papers; "Huge Breach Of Attorney-Client Privilege"

01 July 2006 AlJazeera

Guantanamo Bay detainees have had their letters and legal papers confiscated by military authorities investigating three apparent suicides at the prison three weeks ago, according to lawyers.

Attorneys for prisoners at the facility said at least one detainee claimed the documents were taken because prison officials suspected the lawyers might have had advance knowledge of suicide attempts, or even encouraged them as a form of protest - an allegation the lawyers deny.

"They think that they are going to find letters from us suggesting suicide. It's ludicrous," said Clive Stafford Smith, legal director for Reprieve, a British human rights group that has filed legal challenges on behalf of about 35 men held at the prison for terrorism suspects.

Bill Goodman, legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has filed challenges on behalf of about 200 detainees, said the group planned to have one of its attorneys look into the seizure and press for the return of papers during a visit to the jail next week.

"This is a huge breach of attorney-client privilege," he said.

Silly Pentagon Ninnies Called Gay Kiss-In "A Credible Threat Of Terrorism"

June 29th, 2006 Democracy Now [Excerpt]

AMY GOODMAN: Dixon Osburne now joins from us Washington, D.C. He is the Executive Director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Can you talk about what you learned about the Pentagon spying on your organization?

DIXON OSBURNE: Well, the Pentagon has not released any documents suggesting that it has spied on Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The documents that they've released have shown that they have spied on student groups, including student groups at U.C. Santa Clara, the state universities in New York, NYU Law School, and what those documents show is that they were investigating these groups for potential terrorist activity.

They even called a gay kiss-in at U.C. Santa Cruz that was trying to protest "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," it was, quote, "a credible threat of terrorism."

[Maybe it's not so silly after all. Why not a \$3 billion contract for Halliburton to test whether soldiers can kiss the enemy to death? 4th generation warfare!]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraq Occupation Focus Meeting:

Special Guest Speaker: Hassan Juma'a, President of the General Union of Oil Employees In Basra

**Thursday 13 July, 7:30pm
Indian YMCA
41 Fitzroy Square
London WC1
(nearest tube Warren St.)**

July 03, 2006 Iraq Occupation Focus www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk

We are very pleased that Hassan Juma'a, President of the oil workers union in Basra, will be the guest speaker at IOF's next monthly meeting.

This is a unique chance to learn directly about the situation facing Iraqis, and in particular trade unionists, under foreign occupation. Hassan was a guest at last year's IOF teach-in and inspired us all with his forthright speech.

This is a very important time for the oil workers union. Its bank account has been frozen and it is subject to repressive laws restricting public sector trade union activity. The union needs our support and we need to be informed about trade union struggles and daily life in Basra.

Please circulate this invitation widely. IOF monthly meetings are open to all those who support our aim of campaign to end the occupation now.

Note: The General Union of Oil Employees (GUOE) organises over 23,000 oil and gas industry workers. The GUOE is independent of any political party or union federation. GUOE executive committee members, including its President, were part of the opposition against Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, and many were imprisoned by the regime.

The GUOE is opposed to the military occupation of Iraq and to the privatisation of the oil and industrial sectors of Iraq.

The GUOE is a successor to the Southern Oil Company Union (SOCU), set up immediately after the fall of the Saddam regime. In October 2003 union activists kicked US company KBR out of oil industry workplaces.

For more information please see www.basraoilunion.org

MORE:

“The GUOE Does Not Take Dues From Its Members As They Are Too Poor To Afford Them”

June 29th 2006 Ewa Jasiewicz, NAFTAANA [Excerpts]

The GUOE was not created through any political party apparatus, unlike other trade unions in Iraq.

It had no international representatives or members in exile. It had no support structure outside of Iraq whatsoever when it was first established.

It is a grassroots trade union and the solidarity and support links - both in the UK and internationally - which have been cultivated so far, have been generated and organised, equally, at a grassroots level without the help of political parties or governmental organisations.

The GUOE does not take dues from its members as they are too poor to afford them.

They have not been able to form an accountancy and payment processing structure due to being unable to open an account in Iraq.

The union receives no funding from any other government or occupation related sources.

It has no sponsoring political party to give it any funding either. The union is in an incredibly vulnerable financial position.

Assorted Resistance Action

July 4 (Reuters) & July 5 (Reuters) & AFP & By KIM GAMEL, yahoo.com

Guerrilla fighters killed a policeman in Mosul.

Mortar rounds landed in a square in western Baghdad where Iraqi security forces are normally stationed, wounding 11 people, including four soldiers and three traffic policemen, police said.

A police officer died from wounds he sustained after being attacked by guerrillas on Tuesday in the city of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad.

In the northern city of Mosul, a car packed with explosives slammed into a building at a busy intersection being used as a police checkpoint, killing a police lieutenant and a civilian, and wounding three civilians and a policeman, while two police vehicles were set on fire.

On the main road 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, a roadside bomb exploded as a car full of Kurdish peshmergas fighters passed, killing one and wounding two. When members of the civil defense showed up at the site, a second bomb detonated wounding three of them.

A roadside bomb struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding three others.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Soldiers In Pill Bottles #3



From: Richard Hastie
To: GI Special

Don't Trust A Vet Who Isn't Angry

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
July 4, 2006

Photo 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)

“The Little-Known Story Of Resistance Within The American Military During The Vietnam War”

“It Could Give Our Guys And Gals Being Shipped To Iraq Some Seditious Ideas”



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

6/14/2006 By: GERALD PEARY, The Phoenix [Excerpts]

David Zeiger's *Sir! No Sir!*, which runs June 16-22 at the Brattle Theatre, is yet another absorbing documentary that George W. won't see, or want you to see, because, as the prez often cautions, "It sends the wrong message to our troops."

Does it ever!

By chronicling the little-known story of resistance within the American military during the Vietnam War, it could give our guys and gals being shipped to Iraq some seditious ideas.

Resist!

Tell the Republican gang in Washington, "We don't want your fucking war!" Just as many Vietnam GIs did.

What will surprise everyone seeing this film, including those with a vivid memory of the 1960s and 1970s US anti-war movement, is how much protest there was by people in uniform.

As early as 1966, when most at-home Americans hadn't thought much about being at war in Southeast Asia, some in the military were already saying "No" to combat. Dr. Howard Levy, a physician serving in Vietnam, was sentenced to three years in prison because, appalled by the murder of civilians, he refused his duties. Already in 1966, the leftist American magazine *Ramparts* had a cover story about a disillusioned Green Beret, Donald Duncan, with the banner headline "I quit!"

Sir! No Sir! uncovers a national chain of GI coffeehouses near military bases where soldiers and marines could read alternative weeklies, listen to protest music, and chat about the lousy war under posters of Che Guevara and Huey Newton.

Soldiers started their own underground papers and distributed them clandestinely on the bases. This documentary makes the startling claim that there were 300 such papers!

And who today remembers the battles within military jails between incarcerated soldiers, who had refused to be shipped to Vietnam, and prison authorities, who viewed these inmates as traitors?

Sir! No Sir! makes it clear that protesting the war from within the military wasn't taken lightly. It could be viewed as mutiny.

Zeiger doesn't hide his film's radical politics. He views America's invasion of Vietnam as horrendous and immoral, a barely concealed genocidal plan to erase the Communist-led North Vietnamese from the earth.

No wonder our unhappy soldiers, sickened to be in Vietnam, resorted to "fragging," offing their own officers with grenades.

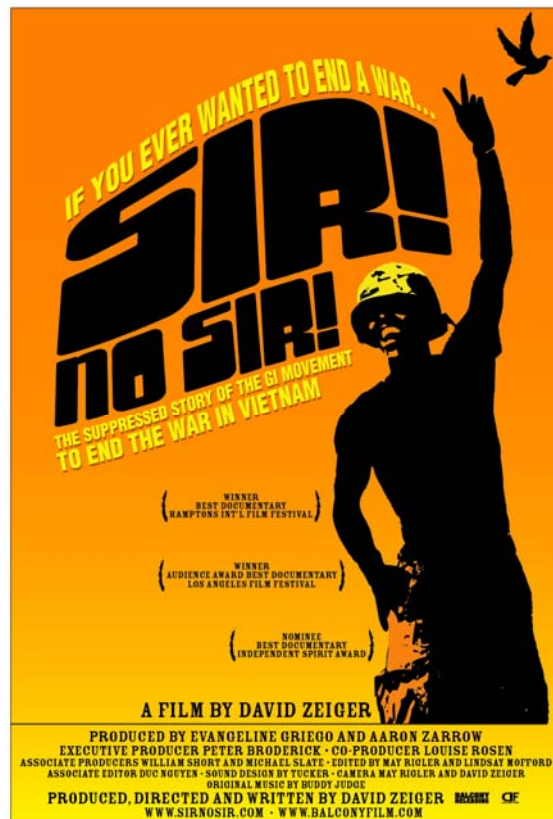
Two dozen or so now middle-aged and paunchy ex-soldiers are interviewed, and they all speak of what turned them against the Vietnam War, and how they protested.

These are ordinary men, courageous men.

The only celebrity on camera is a svelte Jane Fonda, who after apologizing in recent years for her notorious anti-war activities seems to have taken back her "I'm sorry." She tells with relish of how her traveling troupe (Donald Sutherland included) entertained soldiers with their "Fuck the Army" message.

John Kerry? The ninny who during his presidential campaign played down his identity as a gutsy throw-away-my-medals protester is left out of this documentary. Who needs him?

A final contribution of Sir! No Sir!: laying to rest the oft-told pitiful story of decadent anti-war students spitting on valiant returning Vietnam vets. This never happened, no matter what Sylvester Stallone claimed in First Blood.



Sir! No Sir!:
At A Theatre Near You!
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

“U.S. Soldiers Dying In Iraq And Afghanistan Are Not Dying For Their Country”

July 3, 2006 By Howard Zinn, ZNet [Excerpt]

Today, U.S. soldiers dying in Iraq and Afghanistan are not dying for their country, they are dying for their government.

They are dying for Bush and Cheney and Rumsfeld.

And yes, they are dying for the greed of the oil cartels, for the expansion of the American empire, for the political ambitions of the President.

They are dying to cover up the theft of the nation's wealth to pay for the machines of death.

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.

A Curious Silence

From: Kevin T. Gorbett
To: GI Special
Sent: June 27, 2006

Subject: You Traitor!!!

Your coward ranting to pull our soldiers out of Iraq are being posted on a terrorist web site, you moron. War is not easy and people die. Our brave soldiers knew that when they signed up to defend our country. You are a fucking coward traitor!!!!!!!!!!

From: GI Special
To: Kevin T. Gorbett
Sent: June 27, 2006 4:43 PM
Subject: Re: You Traitor!!!

Thanks for sending.

Please send your branch of military service and combat experience for publication with your letter.

Comment: T

As of 7.5.06 no answer. Wonder why, don't you?

Well, so be it. Here's a few thoughts in reply:

1. IF YOU SUPPORT BUSH'S WAR, WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? SHUT UP AND SHIP OUT

2. "All the war-propaganda, all the screaming and lies and hatred, comes invariably from people who are not fighting." George Orwell

3. If you're looking for the worlds' biggest terrorist, this is for you:

**LIAR
TRAITOR
SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign fighter from the U.S. armed forces occupying an Iraqi citizen's home in Ramadi, June 28, 2006. He stands under a portrait of the head of the household. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

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

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

"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."

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

In Basra, “State Of Emergency” Don’t Mean Shit

Jul. 04, 2006 By Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's first major security initiative, a 30-day state of emergency intended to restore peace to Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, appears to have failed, residents there report.

The state of emergency ended Saturday, but residents said that little had changed:

Al-Maliki's Basra initiative had been closely watched as a sign of whether his government would prove more able than its predecessor at reigning in sectarian violence.

In an interview with McClatchy Newspapers, Jawad al-Bolani, Iraq's interior minister, who was named to the post seven days into the Basra plan, acknowledged that the initiative had not worked.

Al-Maliki announced the initiative with great fanfare on May 31, only 11 days after taking office. He traveled to Basra and met with leaders there, telling them bluntly that the violence was unacceptable. He promised an "iron fist," dispatched Iraq's 10th Army to re-establish order, and set up a committee to oversee the program.

Residents complained about the Basra plan almost from its inception. They said it appeared to consist of nothing more than a few checkpoints.

They charged that political leaders were more interested in retaining control of the oil-rich port city than in protecting it from militia and tribal violence.

The oversight committee squabbled over what to do and never took any major action, residents and members of the committee said.

Residents said that whatever additional troops had been on Basra's streets were gone shortly after June 25, two days after a car bomb detonated near a line of people waiting for fuel. At least five people died.

Time To Evacuate;

Collaborators Quit Posts At Prospect Of Occupation Troops Leaving Their Province

05.07.2006 By KIM GAMEL, yahoo.com

Coalition troops plan to hand over security this month to the Iraqis in Muthanna, a generally peaceful southern province dominated by Shiite Muslims. Muthanna will be the first province handed over to Iraqi forces in its entirety.

On Tuesday, however, Gov. Mohammad Ali Hassan resigned his post effective as soon as British and Australian forces transfer responsibility, probably next week. Provincial police chief Col. Mohammed Najim Abu Kihila stepped down effective immediately.

Provincial council member Mohammed al-Zayadi cited "the deteriorating security situation" as the reason for the shake-up.

The moves followed a rowdy council meeting in Samawah during which nearly 300 fired policemen stormed into the local government headquarters to protest the loss of their jobs. One council member complained he was beaten by former policemen, who broke into his house the night before to protest their dismissals, witnesses said.

British and Australian troops also are preparing to leave after al-Maliki said Iraqi forces would be ready to take over security responsibilities in Muthanna.

However, the shake-up raises questions about whether Iraqi security forces in the province are ready for the responsibility.

"We reject the transfer of security from the coalition forces to the Iraqi forces because security will deteriorate more and more," one council member said on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Classic Guerrilla Raid Causes The Zionist Government To "Go Nuts"

<p>In the military confrontation, this time, the infantry guerrillas beat the tank. All tank crews are trained for this situation, as are all infantry soldiers.</p>

So, like with the RPG kids in Lebanon, and in every other situation where the oppressed use surprise and skill and stand and fight – and win – the oppressors go nuts.

June 30, 2006 By Henry N. Lowi, Via John Spritzler, Anti-Allawi Group

From Amos Harel in Haaretz:

The team appointed by Chief of Staff Dan Halutz to investigate the incident at Kerem Shalom began to interview the sector commanders on Wednesday.

The impression gleaned by Halutz and Defense Minister Peretz, both of whom visited Kerem Shalom on Tuesday, was that all the necessary preparations had been made to preempt an attack.

The head of the investigative team, Major General (res.) Giora Eiland, will undoubtedly conduct a wider inquiry, but one of the central questions he will deal with is the behavior of the tank crew itself.

At the order of the platoon commander (who was killed immediately afterward), Lieutenant Hanan Barak, two more soldiers leaped out of the tank after it was hit by an RPG mortar. Barak apparently made this decision because a fire broke out in the tank and the automatic fire extinguishing system sprayed liquids that made it almost impossible to breathe inside.

The soldier who was in the driver's position was wounded and passed out. Barak, Pavel Slutzker and Gilad Shalit jumped out, preparing for more firing from the direction of the Gaza Strip, but the Palestinians surprised them from behind, at short range.

Generally, in such cases, tank crews are instructed to stay inside the tank, which is armed and relatively protected, and if necessary simply to run over the assailant. However, the rocket hit a sensitive place in the tank and started a fire. Just 20 centimeters away, the rocket would have hit a more protected spot and barely scratched the tank. The crew would have remained inside, guarding itself, and the grave crisis with the PA would have been postponed. www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/733069.html

As you see, the Palestinian guerrilla fighters did not just walk into Israel and did not randomly kidnap some random guy in uniform.

This is what happened: The tank crew was in the tank. The commander was in the commander's position, the gunner in the gunner's position, the loader in the loader's position, and the driver in the driver's position.

The Palestinian guerrillas hit the tank with their RPG, and the tank started to burn. Naturally, the crew tried to escape the burning tank. The commander and the loader were then killed by Palestinian small arms fire. The gunner was taken captive. The driver was injured and is now in an Israeli hospital.

Clearly, the guerrillas had prepared their disengagement plan (as all soldiers must plan their return to base after an operation), and the surviving IDF soldiers were too stunned to engage in hot pursuit.

This is a classic guerrilla attack – hit and run – that has been studied in detail since the Chinese revolution, the Cuban revolution, and the Vietnamese revolution.

In the military confrontation, this time, the infantry guerrillas beat the tank. All tank crews are trained for this situation, as are all infantry soldiers.

So, like with the RPG kids in Lebanon, and in every other situation where the oppressed use surprise and skill and stand and fight – and win – the oppressors go nuts.

Don't pay attention to the propaganda. Palestinians need our help, and deserve our help.

“Resisting While Palestinian”

June 28, 2006 Eli Stephens, Left I on the News

According to the Western corporate media, an Israeli soldier was recently "kidnapped" (not "captured"). And what follows? This:

Israeli forces arrested the Palestinian deputy prime minister and dozens of other Hamas officials early Thursday and pressed their incursion into Gaza, responding to the abduction of one of its soldiers.

"Arrested"? On what charge? "Resisting while Palestinian"?

Surely the correct term for this action is "kidnapped." But you won't be seeing that one in the corporate media. Of that I'm certain.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

OCCUPATION EAST TIMOR

The Australian Government Takes Control By Military Force

July 5, 2006 Tim Anderson, Green Left Weekly [Excerpts]

“We did not expect that the elected leader of a party with an overwhelming mandate could be forced to stand down in this way in a democracy.” — Fretilin press release, June 26, 2006.

Backed by a foreign army, and with his country’s own army confined to its barracks, the great resistance leader Xanana Gusmao finally led the charge to topple the leadership of Timor Leste’s first post-independence government.

But the backing of Australia was critical.

If this appears puzzling, we must understand that whatever the configuration of East Timor’s new government, there will be lasting bitterness among the major players over the handling of the recent crisis and intervention, and conflict over how to manage the new relationship with Australia. **[There’s an Australian army there. What “new relationship” exists to “manage,” other than the fact of armed occupation?]**

June’s palace coup has implications not just for the personalities involved, but also for the country’s development strategy. Any new government in East Timor needs to be understood alongside the country’s relationship with Australia and with the World Bank. **[Any new government in Iraq needs to be understood alongside the country’s relationship with George W. Bush and with the World Bank.]**

But the toppling of the leadership of an elected government, supported by both the Australian media and the Australian military intervention, flags a new political reality for East Timorese citizens. **[Right. It’s called armed occupation by an invading Imperial power.]**

The Australian newspaper, leader of the anti-Alkatiri charge, says his removal will be “good news for Australian companies wanting to do business in Dili”.

But Fretilin remains (by a long way) the major party in parliament. Rupert Murdoch’s flagship insists the “continuing crisis” requires a semi-permanent Australian troop presence to block what the paper calls a “Marxist revolutionary” government, and because “there is no other way to keep the country from sliding back into chaos”. [Well, some refreshing directness at last.]

Yet the “chaos” was in large part fostered by Australian passive support for the rebels and hostility to the government; while the “Marxist revolution” was a rather modest economic nationalism, led by Alkatiri. **[Landing your army in somebody else’s country is “passive”?]**

The areas of tension with Australia arising from independent policy in East Timor included the refusal of World Bank loans, differences over agricultural policy, and the acceptance of Cuban health assistance.

Herein lies the problem. An oligarchy of Australian business leaders, who consistently opposed East Timorese independence pre-1999, have openly
--

declared themselves hostile to the Fretilin-led project. The Howard regime gives lip service to East Timorese autonomy, but shares the hostility.

This is a strategic hostility as much as opposition to any particular policy. But the “protectorate” mind-set certainly wants easier access to East Timorese resources, greater privileging of foreign investment, abolition of East Timor’s army and a shift in national language policy from Portuguese-Tetum to English-Tetum.

It seems likely that, even with Alkatiri sidelined, a Fretilin-led government will maintain the strategy spelt out in East Timor’s National Development Plan and sectoral policies, and backed by the constitution.

Alternatively (and if Murdoch’s scribblers have their way), a more “Australian friendly” government might be persuaded to abandon its economic nationalist past, and accept protectorate status.

The Australian role in undermining East Timorese independence is difficult to see now [Difficult for who? The Timorese?] with a barrage of media influencing the desire to see ourselves as the little country’s “saviours”.

The Australian government is nothing of the sort.

Australian friends of East Timor should recognise the shocking prospects of neoliberal protectorate status, and maintain their support for an independent nation. [It would appear the situation has gone considerably beyond “prospects,” doesn’t it?]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

***All Heart:* Bush Wants To Cut Money For Student Loans & Food For Poor To Pay For Vets Credit Monitoring**

June 29, 2006 By KATE ZERNIKE, The New York Times

Two Senate Democrats on Wednesday criticized a White House plan to cut money intended for food stamps, student loans and farmers to pay for credit monitoring for veterans whose personal and financial data was stolen last month.

"The Bush-Cheney administration has no qualms about coming up here and twisting our arms for funding for Iraq, but when it comes to needs here at home for veterans and

other ordinary Americans, it's rob Peter to pay Paul," said Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont.

Senator Patty Murray, Democrat of Washington, said, "It's outrageous to first expose millions of Americans to credit fraud and identity theft, and then try to cut food stamps, student loans and youth programs to pay for it."

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)



© The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Dist. by UFS Inc.

[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

Blair: Muslims Must Confront Militancy

[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: I GOT A BETTER HEADLINE: BRITISH MUST CONFRONT BLAIR BEFORE HIS EXTREMIST, SLAVISH DEVOTION TO AMERICAN IMPERIALISM GETS ANY MORE WORKING-CLASS BRITONS KILLED.]

Jul 4 By BETH GARDINER, Associated Press Writer

Britain cannot defeat terrorism unless moderate Muslims do more to confront militancy in their own communities, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday.

Blair said the vast majority of Muslims abhorred terrorism and wanted to defeat it, but said they had to do more to counter what he described as the extremists' misplaced anger and grievances.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/; <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.