

GI SPECIAL 4K13:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

“There Is A Lot Of Opposition To The US Occupation Of Iraq Among US Soldiers In Iraq”

**“The Movement Within The
Military Is Not Quite Congealed
Yet, But That The Potential Is
There.”**

Lots of people are asking what's the difference between today and Vietnam? Why isn't there a movement today? One possible answer is that the movement within the military is not quite congealed yet, but that the potential is there.

I've talked to a few soldiers back from Iraq, one a Holy Cross College student who graduated in Spring 2002, who was an ROTC cadet who is back from Iraq and has spoken after showings of Sir No Sir! and likewise didn't know about the GI antiwar movement during Vietnam.

She reports that there is a lot of opposition to the US occupation of Iraq among US soldiers in Iraq but it doesn't express itself because there's no organization, no organized communication between people.

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

October 13, 2006 By STEPHEN PHILION, CounterPunch

Jerry Lembcke is the author of [The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory and the Legacy of Vietnam](#). He teaches Sociology at Holy Cross College.

Q: In the recent days the British general responsible for British troops in Iraq has make remarkably strong calls for British troops to be removed from Iraq. So it's pretty timely to have a discussion like this, since I'm finding that there are quite a few students who are opposed to the US occupation of Iraq, but are afraid to "go against" the soldiers, many of whom are friends or relatives. First thing, though, is, for the sake of Counterpunchers who haven't read your book [The Spitting Image](#), maybe you could give a quick intro to the key arguments of the book.

Lembcke: In a nutshell, most people remember there was pretty widespread opposition to the US going into Iraq with huge demos in February and March of 2003. And then there were a good number of 'support the troops' rallies that tapped into the popular sentiment that something bad happened to the troops when they returned from Vietnam.

The very slogan "support the troops" with the yellow ribbons and all that sort of presumes that someone doesn't support the troops and that presumption is based on that sentiment, belief that when people came home from Vietnam they were treated badly and we don't want to do that again this time.

By having these rallies in 2003, the people who supported the war use support the troops as a way to support the war.

A lot of these rallies told stories of Vietnam vets who had been spat on. I got calls from people in Florida, North Carolina, Vermont, news reporters who had been at these rallies and asking me, "What about these stories?".

Sometimes they would even have men who said they were vets or family members who claimed they remembered someone being spat on.

The myth was used to drum up emotional support for the troops, or better said, to dampen down opposition to the war. Again, the same way it worked during the Persian Gulf War, some were afraid of being outspoken against the war lest they be accused of being 'against the troops'.

I teach at Holy Cross College and just the other day in one of my classes, in the context of talking about the context of the Bush administration's strategy of being very accusatory toward critics of the war policy as being 'cut and run' Democrats, 'soft on terrorism,'

With no more context than that, one of my students said she was 'undecided about the war, but as long as the troops were fighting it was really important to 'support the troops and we have to support the mission.' Now is not the time to be critical of the war, it was, in her mind all mixed together.

That's the way it works on people's emotions. It throws them off-target.

The target is the war itself and what we need to be doing is opposing the war itself.

Often emotions get kind of confused with this stuff about 'supporting the troops'. It creates just enough space for the administration to push on ahead.

Q: Yes, it seems to be a good strategy to distract from the main issue, namely the policy of making war itself. I never quite understand why it's so important to focus on the supporting the troops as so central an issue. It doesn't really matter, since the troops in fact have little, in fact no say, in war policies to begin with.

Lembcke: Yes, it confuses the means and ends of war, it becomes a form of demagoguery.

It makes a non-issue an issue, 'support or not supporting the troops'.

At a humanitarian level, none of us wants to put people in harm's way. The people who oppose the wars are most strident in that objective of keeping people out of the war.

That's not an issue, but it keeps us from focusing on the war itself and talking about it.

I got interested in this topic in the runup to the Persian Gulf War in 90-91. There were students who were opposed to the war, but afraid to speak out because of what they had heard about the antiwar movement and veterans during the Vietnam War era. These stories of 'spat upon' vets were beginning to circulate in the news and students on campuses were picking up on these stories. I had never heard these stories before. So I got interested in where they were coming from, how long they had been told, who was telling them and so forth.

One thing led to another and I kept looking back in the historical records, when people were actually coming home from Vietnam and I found out that no, there was no record.

Not only was there no record of people spat on, but none of anyone claiming that they were spat on. So then I got interested in the stories as a form of myth and found out that in other times and other places, especially Germany after WW 1, soldiers came home and told stories of feeling rejected by people and particularly stories of being spat on.

Like with the case of the Vietnam stories many of the 'spitters' were young girls and knowing that these things happened at another time and place supposedly, I found out about a Freudian psychologist who wrote about male fantasies and treated these stories as fantasies, expressions of the subconscious, men who felt they'd lost manhood in the war. When I told a psychologist friend of mine in womens studies, she asked me who the spitters were; she too thought it was likely a myth since the spitters were women, an expression of loss of manhood.

Looking a little further, I found that French soldiers returning from Indochina after defeat at Dien Bien Phu also told stories of being treated badly, rejected by women, attacked by women on the streets, having to take their uniforms off before going in public, being ashamed of their military service.

These were very similar to stories circulating in the 1980's in the US. The time gap between the end of the Vietnam War and when the stories began to be told is also a sign that there is something of an element of myth or legend. That's the key part of the book, not whether or not such things, since it's hard to refute what isn't documented, ever happened, as much as the mythical element.

And of course we see how the rise of the myth had an effect on support for the war in Iraq.

I'm concerned about now is a certain strain of the anti-war movement has gotten caught up in this itself. There's a certain group of antiwar types who focus on what happens to the soldiers, how they're damaged psychologically, physically, I've been to a number of anti-war rallies now where all they talk about is PTSD and what happens to 'our boys' when we send them off to war.

It's sort of a mirroring of the political right's approach.

They make the 'support the troops' ideology the basis for supporting the war, and some strands in the anti-war movement now mimic that we need to oppose the war by 'supporting the troops' and, I've been to some antiwar protests where very very little is said about the war itself!

We hear instead about getting the troops the help they need and heart rendering stories of parents of sons who have committed suicide after they come home, etc. That stuff from the anti-war left is as beclouding as similar rhetoric from the right, in that it takes us away from a political discourse, which we need in order to focus our energies around stopping the war and its causes.

Q: What's your sense in terms of how this myth is replayed now with vets coming home from Iraq and claims of their being 'abused' by the antiwar movement or sentiment?

Lembcke: I've heard a few of these stories. Again, in the spring of '03, stories circulated about soldiers being spat on. In Vermont a story went around that a woman in the National Guard had been pelted with a box of stones by antiwar teenagers. None of these stories have turned out to be supportable by any sort of evidence.

And then, periodically, other stories like one in Seattle of a guy who was back from Iraq marching in a parade, 'spat on', 'booed', 'called baby killer', etc. The same, no serious evidence.

Occasionally then I get reports of these, but I've always suspected if the war goes down as a 'lost war', we'll hear more such stories, but the more important point, I think, is that the image of spat on Vietnam Vets is so engrained and part of the American memory and cultural sub-text, it almost doesn't have to be reaffirmed through stories of Iraq Vets being 'spat on' or 'mistreated'.

It's almost as though the Vietnam Spitting myth is a background that everyone 'knows' about and when the President talks of Democrats not supportive of the war or otherwise baits antiwar people, the background that makes that resonant is the belief that something untoward happened to Vietnam Vets.

So it's not necessarily good news for the anti-war movement if we don't hear stories of Iraq Vets being 'spat on'. My fear is the mythical spat on Vietnam Vet is now so internalized as something that "happened", it doesn't have to be spoken anymore as a contemporary phenomenon.

Q: What's the significance of the documentary "Sir! No Sir," which tells the story of the GI antiwar movement during Vietnam, in terms of what that film can tell students trying to organize antiwar movements on campuses across America today?

Lembcke: Oh, I think it's terribly powerful.

Even though there's no mention of Iraq, Afghanistan, or the War on Terror in the film, it seems that everyone that sees the film can extrapolate from it to the ways it applies to the wars that we're currently involved in.

Probably the greatest impact it has is on young people in the military today. I've done quite a bit of public speaking at showings of the film.

First of all, it reminds even those of us involved in the antiwar movement as vets of stuff that they had forgotten about or informed us about things that were going on at that time that we didn't know about.

They're kind of surprised to find out quite a few things about the GI antiwar movement that they didn't know.

Q: One of the things I was surprised to learn of was the extent of support shown to Jane Fonda by American soldiers stationed in Asia during the war at the "Free The Army" tour that she, other famous actors such as Donald Southerland, and soldiers/vets organized at US bases. Considering all the media discourse about vets' anger at Fonda, I had no

idea that some 60,000 soldiers had attended and enthusiastically received her at those shows, which served as an alternative to Bob Hope's pro-war tours at the time.

Also the extent of African American soldiers in the antiwar movement was something I never fully heard about in histories of the antiwar movement, which the movie makes clear was very deep and militant.

Lembcke: I was in Vietnam in 1969 and got involved in Vietnam Veterans Against the War once I returned and yet there were things in that film that I had not known about at the time.

On the one hand there was a lot in the news in the papers about the vets antiwar movement at the time, which I know now just from researching it. I don't think there was a blackout at all, often it was front page news and people knew about it.

One of the things I found interesting was looking at Stars and Stripes, the civilian published but military supported publication that soldiers got in Vietnam and a lot of anti-war news was reported there.

It reported the story of Billy Dean Smith, the GI accused of fragging an officer, which is featured in Sir! No Sir!. It had stories about soldiers in Vietnam wearing black armbands in support of the 1969 anti-war Moratorium back home. It turns out Stars and Stripes is a pretty good source for information on the vets' and soldiers antiwar sentiment and movement back then!

So people knew of these things then.

The more important story is what's happened to that in people's consciousness and memory.

It certainly is gone now, even from people who were active in the vets antiwar movement then.

Sir! No Sir! has helped to bring it back into the public memory and showing that a vets antiwar movement can happen now is very helpful for people teaching in college and high school.

They can take this knowledge into the classroom and that part of the history can get back into the curriculum. Younger people will now get a different view of what happened then.

I've talked to a few soldiers back from Iraq, one a Holy Cross College student who graduated in Spring 2002, who was an ROTC cadet who is back from Iraq and has spoken after showings of Sir No Sir! and likewise didn't know about the GI antiwar movement during Vietnam.

She reports that there is a lot of opposition to the US occupation of Iraq among US soldiers in Iraq but it doesn't express itself because there's no organization, no organized communication between people.

Maybe the film will play a catalyst role, if people see this film about organized GI opposition to the Vietnam War, it might inspire and even spark their imagination about the kinds of thing that can be done to oppose the war from within the military.

Q: And the significance of that for today?

Lembcke: Well, the GI antiwar movement became a vitally important part of the antiwar movement during Vietnam.

And that is likely to be the case today also.

Lots of people are asking what's the difference between today and Vietnam? Why isn't there a movement today?

One possible answer is that the movement within the military is not quite congealed yet, but that the potential is there.

Hopefully Sir! No Sir! can have an effect on accelerating that development a bit.

Q: One of the things that struck me about the film is that you saw that soldiers were not just protesting the war because of their equipment issues or technical matters about how the war was being conducted, but actually because they were against what was happening to the people of Vietnam because of the war and they were learning, while deployed there, about the actual history of the Vietnamese people's struggles against foreign occupation as opposed to what they were brainwashed to believe in boot camp or high school teachers.

Lembcke: Here's a big difference, namely the nature of the 'enemy' and how it's perceived. In the later years of Vietnam we came back rather sympathetic to the cause of the other side. One of the vets interviewed in the film, David Cline, talks of how he was shot and how he had shot a Viet Cong soldier. He then recalls how he looked at the fellow he had shot dead and realizes that this man was fighting for his country too, for freedom.

That was a real consciousness raising moment for him and he dedicated moments like that to doing something to honor the loss of that man's life, namely to end the war and contributing to the other side's fight for freedom.

I certainly came back in February 1970 with such sentiments, though I'm not sure exactly how it happened. Surely conversations with other GIs and my own reading at the time helped with that.

But today it is harder to portray the 'enemy' in Iraq or Afghanistan in that kind of sympathetic way, there's a political challenge there for the American antiwar movement to understand what the other side represents.

It needs to get some grasp on what is supportable in what the other side is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, like we did in the Vietnam War.

Recall in the early phases of the Vietnam war, Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Cong were called terrorists and their tactics were called tactics of terror. Today we talk about the roadside bomb in Iraq, but during Vietnam there were satchel charges which were one of the main weapons of the Vietnamese War.

Q: For those of us who haven't fought in a war, what is a Satchel Charge?

Lembcke: A briefcase that would be loaded with explosives, dropped off some place and would explode. The point I'm making is that early in the war in Vietnam the Vietnamese and the Vietcong weren't as viewed sympathetically as they were by the early 1970's. What changed was how they were represented in terms of what they were all about. I think we need to go through that rethinking process on Iraq now, though I'm not sure where that goes.

We don't right now have an embraceable 'other' as we did in Vietnam and what the complexity of the other side means, how it's to be sorted out, what's supportable but we need to find if there is something there to be supportable and that can have a big impact on the military elements against the war, namely that there is an honorableness to the 'enemy' on the other side as was the case for GIs against the war in Vietnam.

Q: I always find it interesting to focus on what happens with US when it does negotiate with the armed opposition in Iraq, what the US's key demands are during such negotiations and how the US can't meet the oppositions' demands because of that oppositions' demands, no matter how low the bar is set, because those demands go against the interests of the US, given its actual goals in Iraq.

Lembcke: Most of us understand the war ended when the Vietnamese people won. And when we recognized that the sooner the other side wins, the war is over.

The US is not gonna stop fighting until it stops, when the US is unable or unwilling to win the war.

That conclusion is very sobering if it's applied to the war in Iraq.

That's a pretty sobering thought, is this war going to go on until the US can't do so anymore and at what point is the US antiwar movement going to see that the war won't end until the other side wins and who is the other side? It's very complex, the other side is very divided, not a monolith. So I don't know how that lesson from Vietnam translates into something we can act on to inform our political work today.

Q: There's plenty of writing out there on the liberal left that we can't leave now because of the nature of the opposition.

Lembcke: Yes, there is that, but you know the pro-war elements during Vietnam used that logic too. They often said we can't leave now, we'll have so many losses or the 'bloodbath' that would happen if we left too soon

Q: I find that when I deal with people on the liberal-left who will argue that calling for leaving Iraq immediately is 'isolationism'. But if you argue back that this is not isolationism we are arguing, but that the US should pay massive reparations to the

people of Iraq for the damage the US invasion and occupation has caused the Iraqi people-no reply forthcoming. They have no answer as to why we know that that is not going to happen if the US stays there or if it leaves!

But it opens up the question that people on the liberal-left who support staying there that the pro-war or lukewarm "anti-war" liberal left have no answer for, namely what is the purpose of what the US is doing in Iraq? It's just set in stone for them that if we leave things will be worse, even though the evidence now is so overwhelmingly that the US occupation is the key source of the violence we see in Iraq today. So much so that the argument that once was so common among the liberal left, "well the Iraqis want us to stay" has really collapsed under the weight of Iraqi realities.

Now even the Iraqis polled are saying in big majorities in US State Dept. commissioned polls that they want us to leave now and it's ok to shoot US soldiers.

Lembcke: The NYT kind of buried that story on the inside, but the antiwar movement can use that information. We shouldn't have to make that argument, it should be apparent we're not welcome, but sometimes data helps to persuade.

Q: It also throws the light back on Iraqis, which the 'supports the troops' antiwar movement focus doesn't do. The focus is so often only on Americans as though the only impact is on Americans or it's the only one that matters, except for small periods like Abu Ghraib or Haditha

Lembcke: Yes, the war becomes all about us and erases Iraqis, much like we did during Vietnam erasing the agency of Vietnamese people.

Q: Yes, it's interesting that in the process, ironically, it ignores the agency of the soldiers and their potential role in stopping the war and recognizing the actual roots of war itself.

Lembcke: Yes, you know one of the best new sources of information for the antiwar movement is another film called "Why We Fight".

I saw it with two classes and they haven't stopped talking about it.

If they had heard before about the term 'military industrial complex', now it makes it more real. Now they think about the war beyond the slogans of 'the war is for freedom, democracy' which is all most Americans know.

The oil thing too has also become a kind of cliché they don't think about much.

For my students those bumper stickered explanations are erased and the film puts the war in a much more material and realistic framing.

It's a film that might have as important an impact as Sir! No Sir!

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four British Troops Killed, 3 Badly Wounded In Basra Attack On Patrol Boat

November 12, 2006 Reuters

Four British troops were killed and three seriously injured in an attack on their patrol boat on the Shatt al Arab waterway in the southern city of Basra at around 1300 local time on Sunday 12 November 2006, the Ministry of Defence in London said on Sunday.

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Al Anbar

12 November 2006 MULTINATIONAL FORCE WEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS RELEASE No. 20061112-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: Three Soldiers assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died Nov. 11 from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Soldier From San Gabriel Valley Killed In Iraq

Nov. 11, 2006 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES: A soldier from the San Gabriel Valley has been killed during his third tour of duty in Iraq.

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Rudy Salcido, 31, who was raised in La Puente, died Wednesday while serving in Al Asad, his family said. Circumstances surrounding his death were unknown.

His relatives remembered Salcido as a fun-loving family man who enjoyed making people laugh and was devoted to his 14-year-old daughter.

Married in July, Salcido was sent off to Iraq just three days after the wedding. He was expected home within 18 months.

His stepmother Kathy Salcido said Rudy wanted to be in the Army since he was a boy.

Family members said they didn't try to talk him out of returning to Iraq for the third time.

Salcido, who lived in Ontario, was the second oldest of six brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his father and step.m.other, Peter and Kathy; mother Maybelle Luvano; daughter Gabriella; wife Jennifer; sisters Angelique, Monica and Crysania; and brothers Peter and Erik.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; TIME TO COME HOME, NOW



A U.S. soldier at a checkpoint in Baghdad, October 24, 2006. (IRAQ)

Family Mourns Soldier Killed In Iraq

November 11, 2006 Livingston Daily Press & Argus

An Army soldier with Livingston County ties died Thursday after a roadside bomb went off in Iraq.

Gregory McCoy, who grew up in Webberville and lived in Texas with his wife and two children, was sent over an overpass by a bomb, according to his grandfather, Fowlerville resident George Monroe.

The 25-year-old was in his second stint in Iraq, Monroe added.

The soldier's mother, Carol Johnson, lives in Howell.

Starkville Native Killed In Iraq Thursday

November 11, 2006 Dispatch Staff Report

West Memorial Funeral Home in Starkville is preparing to honor the Golden Triangle's latest fallen soldier in the war in Iraq.

U.S. Army Spc. Courtland Kennard, 22, a Starkville native, was killed in Iraq Thursday, the funeral home announced Friday.

Kennard was stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas before deployment to Iraq.

Funeral services are incomplete at the time, but will be announced soon.

Details surrounding Kennard's death are still emerging.

Kennard is the fifth soldier from the Golden Triangle killed in action in Iraq and the first since Caledonia native Brian Freeman was killed by a roadside bomb in November 2005.

Tennessee Valley Marine Dies in Iraq

11/12/06 by Matt Johnson, WRCBTV

Friends say sniper fire killed Cody Warren late Thursday while he was serving for the Chattanooga based "Mike Battery" Marine Reserve unit.

Cody Warren was about as active as a teen could be. Warren was a standout in music and theater. A 2005 graduate of Gordon-Central High School, Warren led the "Blue-Wave" marching band as drum major.

Those who knew Cody reflected on the hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. Gordon-Central's "Blue Wave" marching band plays with heavy hearts as they remember one of their own.

"We hear the news of the soldiers that are injured and killed and it doesn't really sting until it gets close to home and today was a tough one," said Gordon-Central band director Neal Crawford.

"When I found out this morning it was really shocking, I couldn't believe it, I don't think it's still really hit me yet," said Warren's friend, Elea Faulknor.

Faulknor succeeded Cody as drum major and says his unyielding drive inspired the blue wave band. "No matter how hard we would work, he would always push us to the next level no matter if we thought we were working to our best, he would always push us harder which made the band better," she said.

The "Blue Wave" band dedicated Friday night's performance to the nineteen-year old Marine, musician, and mentor. "Cody's taught all of us a lot and I know he was really enjoying what he was doing in Iraq fighting for our country," said Faulknor.

"The last time I saw him he told me he'd see me when he got back home, I just never thought it would happen to him," she said.

Cody's is the second local member of the military to die last few months. Sergeant David Weir of Cleveland, Tennessee died in Iraq back in September.

As for Cody, his family will hold a memorial service for the fallen Marine Monday at 2:00 outside Gordon-Central High School's memorial fountain in Calhoun, Georgia.

TROOP NEWS

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



General Schoomaker presents the flag that covered the casket of Army Spc. Nicholas Rogers to the family at Deltona Memorial Gardens in Deltona, Fla., Nov. 2, 2006. Rogers, 10th Mountain Division, was killed Oct. 22 in Iraq. (AP Photo/Nigel Cook, Pool)

No Jail For Refusing Afghanistan Combat Duty

11.7.06 Chicago Tribune

A Netherlands military court convicted a soldier for refusing to serve in Afghanistan as a NATO peacekeeper, but declined to punish him, saying he was suffering from post-traumatic stress from another tour of duty.

RESISTANCE WHERE IT COUNTS:

HOW ANTI-WAR SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN IRAQ
ORGANIZED AGAINST THE WAR ON THE FRONT LINES

JEFF ENGLEHART, JOE HATCHER and GARETT REPPENHAGEN
1st Infantry Division, Diyala Province, Iraq, 2004 - 2005



THERE HAS TO BE A POINT
WHEN WE REACH A HIGH
ENOUGH NUMBER OF TROOPS IN
OUR PEACE EFFORT THAT A
UNIFIED BOYCOTT OF ALL
MILITARY ACTION WILL HAVE
A DESIRED EFFECT

- SOLDIER X

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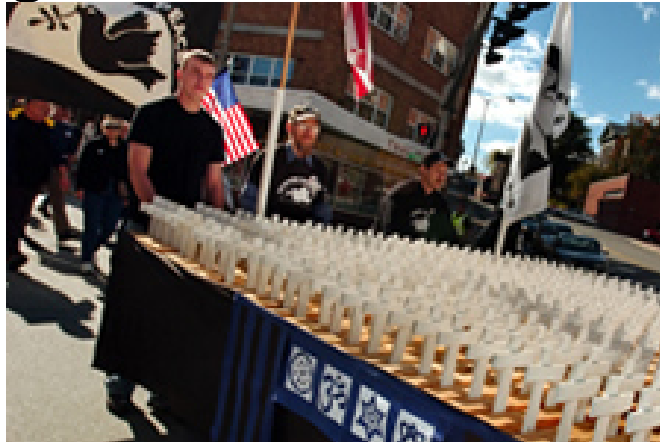
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Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut 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 or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

**“They’re My Brothers”
“I Just Want To See Them Come
Home”
“I Realized We Were Doing More
Damage, More Harm Than Good”**



Brian Clement of Old Town, an Iraq war veteran and a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, accompanies his father, Richard Clement of Pittston as they push a float during a Stop the War march. (Bangor Daily News/ Bridget Brown)

"This was my baby," she said, pointing to a picture of her son, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Robert Horrigan of Belfast, who died in Iraq at age 40 on June 16, 2005. "And these are all my babies," Horrigan said, referring to the poster listing the Maine soldiers who have died in the war.

"This being here gives me a reason to continue living," she said. "I have to do something."

October 2, 2006 Bangor Daily News (Maine)

BANGOR: A father and son walked side by side Saturday among the hundreds of protesters marching and chanting through the streets of downtown Bangor in a peaceful demonstration against the Iraq war.

They both appeared emotional, walking at times with arms over each other's shoulders, other times wiping a tear away as they helped push a trailer bed lined with white crosses to signify the lives lost in the war.

Richard Clement of Pittston is a member of Veterans for Peace. His son Brian Clement is affiliated with Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Brian Clement is in the inactive Reserves and is a student at the University of Maine. He is studying history in hopes of becoming a teacher.

Richard Clement's wife, Rita, marched a few feet behind with Military Families Speak Out, the group to which she belongs.

"This war should have never been started in the first place, and we've got to do everything in our power to stop our politicians," said Rita Clement.

Brian Clement, 24, was stationed in Iraq, just north of Baghdad, from 2004 to 2005 as an Army specialist.

When he signed up for the military, he was confident that he was doing the right thing and would be able to make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people.

"The more I spent time there, I realized we were doing more damage, more harm than good," Brian Clement said.

He joined Iraq Veterans Against the War when he returned home, but said he supports the soldiers still serving and the veterans who have returned.

"I support them wholeheartedly. They're my brothers," he said. "I was over there with a lot of them — and a lot of them are there again. I just want to see them come home."

"He says that he's proud of his mother and I for what we do, and I'm proud of him," Richard Clement said of his son. "He's the man."

The Clements were among an estimated 1,500 people from around the state who attended Saturday's peace rally at the Bangor Waterfront.

The age of those in the crowd ranged from infants in strollers to teenagers, the middle-aged and elderly, including an 82-year-old World War II veteran.

"It's great to have so many young people here today," said Ilze Petersons of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine.

The booming sound of drums echoed through the streets.

Signs urging President Bush to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and stop the war bobbed up and down as the protesters marched, chanting anti-war sentiments such as "Leave Iraq, bring them back" and "This is what support the troops looks like."

It was the largest rally in Maine since 2002, when about 3,000 people traveled to Augusta to protest the upcoming war.

Doug Rawlings, a founder of Veterans for Peace, was Saturday's main speaker. For him, the event was a chance to send a message, but also to reinforce anti-war efforts.

A Vietnam War veteran, Rawlings said he's serving his country in a different way now.

"I think I'm serving my country much more effectively now than I did in Vietnam," he said.

Veterans for Peace led the march from the waterfront to the Margaret Chase Smith Federal Building and back, a total distance of about a mile and a half.

At their side was Mary Horrigan. Hanging around her neck was a poster-size sign.

"This was my baby," she said, pointing to a picture of her son, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Robert Horrigan of Belfast, who died in Iraq at age 40 on June 16, 2005.

"And these are all my babies," Horrigan said, referring to the poster listing the Maine soldiers who have died in the war.

"This being here gives me a reason to continue living," she said. "I have to do something."

She, too, echoed the sentiment that Saturday's event was for everyone to send a message to Bush that the U.S. must bring its troops home.

"We're not a fringe crazy group," she said. "It's everybody."

Iraq Veterans Against The War With Michael Franti And Dave Cline, Veterans For Peace, At NYC Spearhead Show



[Thanks to David Cline, Veterans For Peace]



www.ivaw.net

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Assorted Resistance Action

11 November 2006 By Sameer N. Yacoub, The Associated Press & November 12, 2006
Radio Free Europe & Reuters & (KUNA)

A roadside bomb wounded police colonel Abbas al-Dulaimi, head of the U.S.-Iraqi Joint Coordination Centre in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A sequential blast of two bombs that took place at the Iraqi Interior Ministry's entrance resulted in killing six and injuring ten others, in addition to damaging civilian and police cars around the blast scene.

An hour later, a bomber blew himself up while being among a group of volunteers for the Iraqi National Police force. The blast that took place in al-Nussour court near the police command headquarters resulted in the killing of 35 recruits and the injury of 65. Two bombs rocked the place beforehand, making it one of the most blood-spattered unrests that ever hit Iraq in a long period of time.

The blast occurred in the western neighborhood of Al-Qadissiyah

A Samarra police captain, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared retribution, said the city morgue had received the beheaded bodies five soldiers who were captured last week in the Meshahda area, 20 miles north of the capital.

Guerrillas killed the director of the main electricity power station in Kirkuk, and wounded a traffic police brigadier and his driver in central Baghdad.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

STAY THE COURSE?



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special

Sent: November 10, 2006
Subject: STAY THE COURSE?

STAY THE COURSE?

The U.S. Government can do one of two things in Iraq:

1. We can cut and run with 2,840 dead, and 20,000 wounded.

OR

2. We can cut and run with 10,840 dead, and 60,000 wounded.

The Vietnam War could have ended much sooner, but our government did not want to cut and run.

SO

Vietnam lasted another 5 years, and 20,000 more American soldiers were killed to try and save face.

Final score card was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Wash. D.C.
58,000 dead, average age 19 -- from the senior prom to Vietnam.

Over 300,000 wounded, to include over 50,000 suicides to present.

The U.S. Government can do one of two things in Iraq....

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
November 10, 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)

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

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“EVERY DAY We Waste, American
Kids Are Being Killed, And Are Killing
Iraqi Kids”**

“I Want That Ended Immediately”

November 12, 2006 David McCreynolds [Excerpts]

[I] think sometimes we are really out of touch with what I'd call reality.

Bush is the President (unless impeached). The voters are not the people who write and circulate left wing blogs, (of which I'm one). I don't represent shit.

I get all kinds of crap via the internet, because it is a democratic forum which allows anyone to say anything, which is how the whole 9.11 stuff got started.

You and I don't just want Bush impeached, I want him and Rumsfeld and that whole crew on trial for crimes under the precedent set by Nuremburg.

But my sense is that this isn't what the voters voted for.

They didn't vote for or against Nancy Pelosi, and Bush and Rove were gently crazy to try to make Pelosi the issue. (And no, Pelosi is NOT a flaming radical, she is a solidly pro-Israel liberal).

Most people had never heard of Pelosi, but they had heard of Bush and they were voting against Bush. That was the issue - that and corruption.

They didn't vote for impeachment.

The election was a confused one which brought some conservative Democrats in, saw the gay marriage thing voted down (in Arizona!!) in one state and passed in others, by smaller margins. It gave the Democrats some base in the Midwest and mountain states.

But mainly and most of all it was a vote AGAINST the Iraq War and against Bush personally.

This is a strange country and if I post this to a blind cc list of mine it is to remind us all that the US has seen terrible things but is very resilient.

When I was a kid I thought we would have a nuclear war for sure by 1950. So did a great many well informed intellectuals (and we nearly did, which is another story).

When McCarthy came in I thought, my friends thought, the Communist Party thought, that we were moving toward a police state. Much of the left argued that Eisenhower's election meant a military dictatorship.

Instead, it marked the end of Joe McCarthy and suddenly, as if we had all awakened from a nightmare, the terror (which we had in part inflicted on ourselves - though I do NOT minimize the dozens sent to prison, driven to suicide, fleeing to other countries) ended.

When the Vietnam War raged on and on and on killing tens of thousands of Americans and millions of Vietnamese, I thought all was lost, but first LBJ had to withdraw and then Agnew got caught with his hand in the till, and then Nixon had to flee the White House to avoid getting impeached.

It is a funny country.

At some point radicals, if we are to be meaningful, have to stop scaring ourselves.

This past election the internet was filled with warnings that the election was so rigged there was no reason even to go vote.

The truth was that for the past year the "Establishment" has been gunning for Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld.

(I don't have time to back this up with facts, just let me say it was clear to me that if anyone was going to "fix" the ballots it would be the Democrats - and why the hell did so many on the internet assume that only the Republicans know how to cheat at the ballot box?)

The country - I think - would have been pretty shocked if Pelosi had said, in response to Bush's invitation to lunch, "I don't lunch with killers". They want a new tone in Washington - they were sick of the arrogance of the Bush team.

And while I would love to see Bush impeached, I am more concerned that we focus our ammunition on things that may get overlooked - torture, the restrictions on civil liberties, a serious inquiry into war profiteering (which would, by the way, go down well with an awful lot of Americans).

And most of all I think we need to remind Congress that we don't have to wait for the Baker/Hamilton report: we want the discussion on getting out of Iraq to start NOW, that EVERY DAY we waste until there is a "report" that can provide a safe exit for Bush and for the Democrats, American kids are being killed, and are killing Iraqi kids, and I want that ended immediately.

And I think most people feel that way.

A lot of us would be more politically hip if we stopped for a drink in the corner bar, and just listened.

Our problem is that we email each other, we reinforce each other, and sometimes we panic each other.

The election proved there is some solid good sense left in the "body politic" - time for us to tune in to it.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

The Senate

[Thanks to MW, who sent this in.]

Tacitus says in Annals of Imperial Rome, that Tiberius was wont to say in Greek, after leaving the Senate which his father Caesar Augustus had emasculated, "Such men are worthy to be nothing but slaves."

The obsequiousness and servility of the Senate even disgusted Tiberius.

Favors and corruption ruled the day, and to be a decent person had become dangerous.

All bowed to the Emperor, and then cast about to do themselves "good" in their weakness and greed.

“If One Listened Carefully To The Campaign Statements, The Removal Of U.S. Troops From Iraq Was Not On The Agenda”

November 11, 2006 Malcom Lagauche, Malcomlagauche.com [Excerpts]

There is a God. Camelot is just around the corner. Bush lost the House of Representatives and the Senate. Rumsfeld resigned. The U.S. is pulling its troops out of Iraq. Happy days are here again.

Bullshit! Fairy tales are for kids.

The left press and its supporters have gone berserk.

For months, we have been told that a change in the makeup of the U.S. Congress will turn this country around and we all can look to many different policies. Today, they are in a jubilant mood.

Six months from now, however, they will be just as gloomy as they were during the Bush days; maybe even more so.

Many voters cast their ballots because they were conned into believing that the Democrats would get the U.S. out of Iraq.

If one listened carefully to the campaign statements, the removal of U.S. troops from Iraq was not on the agenda.

Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss.

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Great Iraqi Collaborator Troop Training Fiasco Rolls On: “Shoot Them In The Butt!” “They’re Not Motivated.”

November 12, 2006 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., The New York Times Company
[Excerpt]

During a recent joint American-Iraqi raid in a Shiite neighborhood of Abu Sayda, near Baquba, Iraqi troops stood around when they were supposed to be charging into homes.

American soldiers, frustrated that the mission to apprehend men involved in sectarian violence was lagging, screamed and cursed at the Iraqis.

“Shoot them in the butt! Shoot them in the butt!” one yelled. “They’re not motivated.”

A 22-year-old platoon leader, Second Lt. Andrew Graziano, stepped up, barking orders and showing the Iraqis how to pound on doors.

After the raid some American officers said the Iraqi soldiers did not want to search Shiite homes.

[Gee, how can it be that the resistance troops are plenty motivated? Imagine that. Maybe because they’re fighting to get rid of a foreign army of occupation that grabbed their country for George W. Bush? Do you suppose?]

Americanization Campaign Succeeds! “Iraq Is One Of The Most Corrupt Countries In The World”

November 07, 2006 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer

Iraq is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, according to a new report from a German-based firm.

Transparency International, a Berlin-based group that identifies itself as “the global coalition against corruption,” rated Iraq as the 160th most corrupt country — out of 163 countries it rated.

Only Haiti ranked lower than Iraq in the survey, and Iraq was tied with Guinea and Myanmar for their corruption level.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON

The Zionist Gift To Lebanon That Keeps On Giving

11.7.06 Christian Science Monitor

Cluster bombs have killed at least 22 civilians and injured 133 since the end of the summer's conflict between Israel and Hizbullah guerrillas, during which Israel showered southern Lebanon with the bomblets.

[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.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Happy Iraqi Collaborator President Says Democrat Leaders Promise The War Will Go On And On

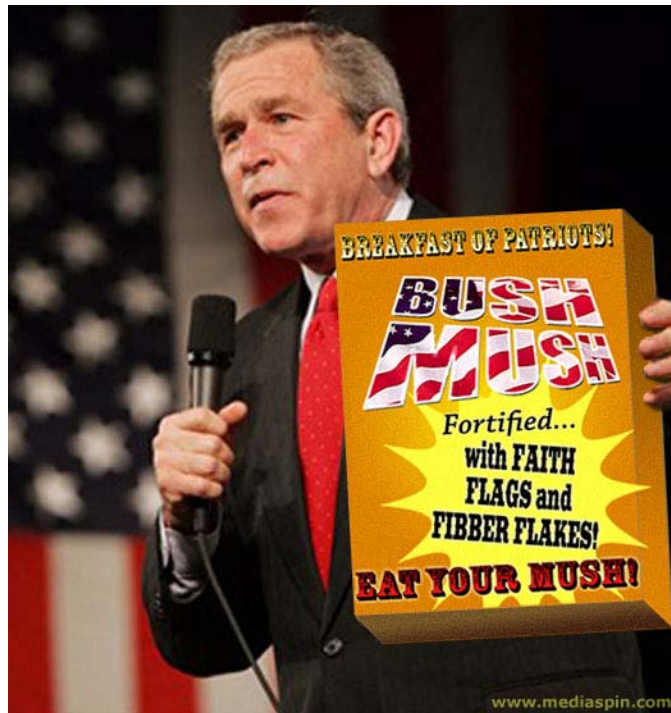
November 9, 2006 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) -- President Jalal Talabani said Thursday that he had been assured by Democrat congressional leaders during a recent visit to Washington that they had no plans for a quick withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Talabani, a Kurd whose post is ceremonial, said Democrats also backed the idea of placing U.S. troops in bases while putting Iraqis in charge of security in and around cities.

"They all told me that they want the success of Iraq's democratically elected government and continued support for the Iraqi people to defeat terrorism," Talabani said about his trip to the United States in late September as many were predicting the Democratic congressional triumph in Tuesday's midterm elections.

"One of them (a Democrat leader) told me that any early withdrawal will be a catastrophe for the United States and the world," Talabani, speaking from his northern hometown of Sulaimaniyah, told the Dubai-based Al-Jazeera satellite broadcaster.



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

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)

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/qispecial/2006/index.html>;

http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/; <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

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

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