

GI SPECIAL 4L1:



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Last Letters Home

“This Is Not Worth Dying For”

A Soldier Killed In Iraq Left A Diary Of Heartbreaking Pleas For Tony Blair To End The Conflict And A Farewell Letter For His Love

[Thanks to NB, who sent this in.]

21st November 2006 Manchester Evening News



Lee's mum and dad

A SOLDIER killed in Iraq left a diary of heartbreaking pleas for Tony Blair to end the conflict.

In one emotional extract, Gunner Lee Thornton, who was shot while patrolling the town of Al Qurna, near Basra, penned: “Dear Tony, stop putting our lives at risk.”

Another reads: “This is not worth dying for.”

His stinging criticism of Mr Blair's handling of the Iraq crisis has been revealed after extracts of Gunner Thornton's war diary were released by his heartbroken parents, Karen and Mick.

Lee, 22, died in a German hospital two days after being shot in September. Many of the comments were written just days before his death.

He had been due to marry fiancée Helen O'Pray, a student from Sandbach, Cheshire, in August 2008.

In the diary, he described a campaign in chaos.

A member of 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, he talks of failing army equipment, mistrust of Iraqi civilians and the sinking morale of peacekeeping troops.

Commenting on facing stonings by villagers and the ever-present threat of sniper or mortar attack from insurgents, he wrote: “I don't trust the Iraqi army, the Iraqi police or the people, this is pointless.”

On a rare day off, August 17, he wrote: “All I have done all day is think of home. I hate this place, I really do. It is just not worth dying for, I wish Tony Blair could see that.”

In another entry he says: “Why can't they stop bombing each other and then we can go home.”

Lee kept the harsh realities of war from his parents in his letters home, but let all his thoughts come out in the diary.

He constantly notes having to wait for help to arrive while out on patrol because their armoured vehicles had broken down.

After a particularly hard day he wrote: “Dear Tony, give the army better equipment and stop putting our lives at risk.”

Equally, he felt frustrated at being unable to help sick and injured civilians.

After finding an emaciated baby in a village, he wrote: “She will probably be dead tomorrow, but I hope not.”

Lee should have returned home this week to a hero's welcome and his 23rd birthday party on Saturday.

Instead his parents, from Marton, Blackpool, are still reeling from their loss, but have decided to allow their son's own thoughts to be heard.

Mick said: “Lee loved the army, it was his life, but he was talking of coming out after everything he had seen in Iraq.

“He couldn't tell anyone about it so he had to write it all down in this diary.”

Karen plans to send some of her son's notes to the Prime Minister.

She said: “The more I read his diary the more angry I get.

“We got a letter of condolence from Tony Blair, but how can he even start to imagine how we feel.

“I have so many questions about why they were there in the first place and why there seemed to be no plan for after the war ended.

“It is disgusting British and American troops have been put in this position, the Iraqis are fighting each other and our lads are in the middle.

“There has been such a waste of young lives, but I still don't see how Tony Blair and George Bush are going to end it.

“We just hope they do before any more names have to be added to war memorials and another family is left with a hole in their lives.”

CONTINUED:

2006:

**“So Whenever You Feel Lonely
Just Close Your Eyes And I'll Be
There Right By Your Side”**



Helen and Lee

Following Gunner Thornton's death, his fiancée Helen revealed he had left a letter he hoped she would never have to open.

It read: "Just because I have passed away does not mean I am not with you.

"I'll always be there looking over you, keeping you safe.

"So whenever you feel lonely just close your eyes and I'll be there right by your side.

The letter continued: "I really did love you with all I had, you were everything to me."

MORE:

2005: "Grieve A Little And Move On"

October 26, 2005 By JAMES DAO, The New York Times. [Excerpts]

Sgt. Anthony G. Jones, fresh off the plane from Iraq and an impish grin on his face, sauntered unannounced into his wife's hospital room in Georgia just hours after she had given birth to their second son.

For two joyous weeks in May, Sergeant Jones cooed over their baby and showered attention on his wife. But he also took care of unfinished business, selling his pickup truck to retire a loan, paying off bills, calling on family and friends.

"I want to live this week like it is my last," he told his wife.

Three weeks later, on June 14, Sergeant Jones was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on his third tour in a war that is not yet three years old. He was 25.

"It was like he knew he wouldn't come back," said his grandmother, Ima Lee Jones, who buried Sergeant Jones beside towering oaks near her home in Sumter, S.C.

Like many other soldiers, Sergeant Jones was fatalistic about his third tour, telling his wife, Kelly, that he had "a bad feeling" about returning to Iraq. While there, he wrote letters and journal entries musing on death.

His wife found one among his belongings after his death.

"Grieve little and move on," he counseled her. "I shall be looking over you. And you will hear me from time to time on the gentle breeze that sounds at night, and in the rustle of leaves."

MORE:

1861: "My Very Dear Sarah"

[Maj. Sullivan Ballou died in battle against the traitor slaveholders shortly after writing this letter.]

**July 14, 1861
Camp Clark, Washington**

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter.

I know how strongly American civilization now leans on the triumph of the government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and sufferings of the revolution. And I am willing - perfectly willing - to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this government, and to pay that debt..

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me unresistably on with all these chains to the battle field.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long.

And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our sons grown up to honorable manhood around us.

I have, I know, but few and small claims upon divine providence, but something whispers to me - perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar, that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed.

If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battle field, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often times been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness...

But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and the unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the gladdest days and in the darkest nights...always, always, and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath, as the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Soldier Killed In Baghdad

30 November 2006 Multi-National Corps Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20061130-01

BAGHDAD: Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in the Iraqi capital at approximately 3:30 p.m. Nov. 29.

Another Soldier Killed In Baghdad

30 November 2006 Multi-National Corps Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20061130-17

BAGHADAD: A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in the Iraqi capital Nov. 30.

Arizona Marine Killed In Anbar

11/8/2006 The Arizona Republic

Marine Staff Sergeant Jason Daniel Whitehouse lost his life on a mission in Iraq on November 2, 2006.

Jason was born on July 25, 1979 in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife Lindsay and their children Aaron and Haylie, seven and four years of age; his mother and step-father Carol Whitehouse Bruno; his father, Richard Roach; his and step-father Carol Whitehouse Bruno and Robert Bruno; his father, Richard Roach; his brother, Joshua Quick and Step-father Daniel Quick; his sister and brother-in-law Rachael and Rob Michael; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Tina and Ron Anthony, and his step-brothers Ed and Preston Bruno.

Jason and Lindsay were married on July 31, 1999.

Jason enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 2000 and reenlisted in 2004.

He was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when he and two other marines were killed on a ground mission in Al Anbar Province near the Syrian border.

Jason was a devoted husband and father who was proud to serve his country. A Memorial Service will be held this week at Scottsdale Bible Church at 7601 E. Shea Blvd. in Scottsdale. Contact the church at (480) 824-7200 for time of service.

Army Soldier From Iowa Killed In Iraq



Sgt. James Musack

November 25, 2006 DES MOINES (AP)

An Army soldier from Iowa was killed in Iraq, the military confirmed Thursday.

Sgt. James Musack, 23, of Riverside, was injured in a non-combat related incident in Samarra, Iraq, on Tuesday, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Defense.

On Wednesday, his brother Reggie Grandstaff said Musack was shot and killed.

“He was just shot and killed and that’s all we actually know,” Grandstaff said.

Grandstaff, 21, said he last saw his brother when he was home on leave in July. He last spoke to him about 1½ weeks ago, he said.

“He was scared,” Grandstaff said.

He said his brother enlisted in the Army Reserves on his 17th birthday, later entering the regular Army. Musack was assigned to the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Musack was a 2002 graduate of Highland High School, where he played football and basketball. He also liked to work on cars and hang out with his friends, his brother said.

Musack was looking forward to getting out of the Army and starting a family, Grandstaff said.

“When he started, he wanted it to be a career, but after about four years he was ready to get out and live a normal life,” he said.

His brother wanted to be a firefighter, Grandstaff said.

“He just liked to help people,” he said.

Grandstaff said his girlfriend is six-months pregnant and that his brother was looking forward to being an uncle.

“He was excited about that, he couldn’t wait,” Grandstaff said.

He said his brother will be remembered as a caring person — and a good big brother.

“He was the best, man,” Grandstaff said, his voice breaking. “My brother was one of the best people I knew. He would give anything for anybody.”

Local Deceased Army Sgt. De Jesus Lucio Remembered By Family

November 21, 2006 KGET-TV

BAKERSFIELD: A Bakersfield family is mourning the loss of their soldier son killed in Iraq.

Sgt. Angel De Jesus Lucio, 22, wanted to be in the Army, his family said, and even though he was not from the U.S. he was proud to serve.

De Jesus Lucio's father said his son will always be an angel for him.

The soldier was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed on Veterans Day when officials said a bomb exploded near his military vehicle.

Lucio's father said growing up, his son always wanted to be in the Army and joined shortly after high school graduation four years ago with his parents' support. Worry set in when Lucio was sent to the Middle East.

I told him to "be careful," said Ignacio Lucio, the soldier's father. "Too many people dying. Be careful. It's too dangerous."

When away from the battlefield, Lucio loved being with family, his parents Ignacio and Marina, and his two brothers and two sisters. The young soldier was recently married to Daniela, whom he met while stationed in Germany.

The last time the family saw their soldier was during Christmas four years ago.

His mother is grateful she spoke with her son on the phone for the last time just two days before he died.

Lucio was going to get his U.S. citizenship when he returned from Iraq in March.

Jefferson Co. Marine Severely Wounded In Iraq



Cpl. Bradley Walker was in Iraq about two months before he was wounded.

November 30, 2006 By TIM MILLER, 6 News Anchor/Reporter

JEFFERSON COUNTY (WATE): A Jefferson County Marine is hospitalized with severe wounds he suffered in the war in Iraq.

Cpl. Bradley Walker, a veteran reserve Marine, was driving a Humvee in Haditha, Iraq Monday when it hit an improvised explosive device. Both of his legs had to be amputated at the knees.

Three other Marines in the Humvee were also injured in the attack.

Cpl. Walker volunteered to go to Iraq. He was there about two months before he was wounded.

He's in Germany Thursday waiting for a flight to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington, D.C. That's where he'll continue to recuperate.

The Marine's father, Charles Walker, says he and his other son, Ivan, are devastated by the incident but thankful Bradley is alive.

Charles described his first phone call to his son after he was wounded. "I talked for just a few minutes and I told him that we loved him and to hang tough and me and Ivan would be there with him to see him and be with him just as soon as we could make arrangements."

Charles and his son expect to be flown to Washington Friday by the military to see Bradley.

He says Bradley is on a ventilator. He had surgery on his pelvis and to remove his spleen.

Loudon County Soldier Wounded In Iraq

11/29/2006 WBIR

Another East Tennessee soldier has been wounded in Iraq.

According to his mother, Staff Sergeant John Bryant of Loudon County was wounded by sniper fire on Monday.

The 23 year-old was shot in the lower jaw. He'll require facial reconstruction surgery and other surgeries, but is lucky to be alive.

Whack-A-Mole Rolls On: Troops Leave Mosul, Go To Baghdad

November 30, 2006 By DAVID E. SANGER and DAVID S. CLOUD, The New York Times Company

Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said two or three battalions of American troops were being sent to Baghdad from elsewhere in Iraq to assist in shoring up security there. Another Pentagon official said the additional troops for Baghdad would be drawn from a brigade in Mosul equipped with fast-moving, armored Stryker vehicles.

American military officials said that the forces in Iraq that were being shifted to Baghdad were to take the place of the 172nd Stryker Brigade, which is returning to its base in Alaska, and that there would be no increase in American forces in the Iraqi capital.

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



172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team soldiers man a checkpoint on the edge of Baghdad's Sadr City, Oct. 26, 2006. (AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

TROOP NEWS

**The Soldiers “Learned How To Write
‘Fuck Bush’ In Arabic, And Began
Writing It On The Tanks To Let Iraqis
Know What Side They Were On”**

December 1, 2006 By Lichi D'Amelio, Socialist Worker

NEW YORK: About 150 antiwar activists, veterans and military family members filled Judson Memorial Church November 17 to hear antiwar Iraq veterans speak out.

The event, titled "Resistance Where it Counts: How Antiwar Soldiers Who Served in Iraq Organized Against the War on the Front Lines," featured Jeff Englehart, Joe Hatcher and Garrett Reppenhagen, three veterans of the First Infantry Division who served in Diyala, Iraq.

They wrote the well-known blog Fight to Survive (ftssoldier.blogspot.com) in order to "keep themselves sane" during their otherwise insane--but life-changing--experience.

"We were just a bunch of punks before we joined the Army," said Englehart. "But, we ended up with an education you can't buy in college," he said, referring to the daily crimes committed by the U.S. military that he witnessed in Iraq. "We didn't know what to do, but we knew we had to do something," said Reppenhagen, explaining how the idea for the blog came about. "We had to be witnesses."

All three soldiers spoke of their desire to educate themselves, reading whatever radical literature they could get a hold of, mostly acquired through [T] Barton, editor of GI Special newsletter.

Reppenhagen told a moving story about approaching a soldier and asking him what he thought about the murder of an Iraqi farmer that his battalion had committed earlier that day. "I told him, 'That guy was just a farmer,' and he said, 'Better him than me,' so I asked him, 'What was it that your father did back home?' He looked at me and said, 'He was a farmer.'"

The soldiers expressed genuine concern for the lives of ordinary Iraqis. "I saw people who are not my enemy and who love life, just like anyone else," Englehart continued.

It was this concern that drove them to reach out to Iraqis themselves.

They learned how to write "Fuck Bush" in Arabic, and began writing it on the tanks to let Iraqis know what side they were on.

This inspiring event underscored the tremendous potential that exists for organized resistance within the armed forces.

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 email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Wonderful News For Iraqis ***Resistance Movement:*** **Defeat In Iraq Guaranteed By** **New U.S. Military Commanders;** **They Plan To Copy Military Tactics** **From End Stage Of Vietnam War**



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

November 24, 2006 By Peter Spiegel, L.A. Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON: New tactics favored by U.S. commanders in Iraq borrow heavily from the end of another war that might seem an unlikely source for a winning strategy: Vietnam.

The tactics, an influx of military advisors and a speeded-up handover to indigenous forces followed by a gradual U.S. withdrawal, resemble those in place as the U.S. effort in Vietnam reached its end.

Stanley Karnow, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who covered the war from the day the first American was killed in 1959 to its end, said Hanoi was nowhere near capitulation by 1973, when the Paris peace accords were signed.

"They're clutching at some sort of way to justify hanging on in Iraq," said Karnow, whose "Vietnam: A History" is considered by many to be the definitive account of the conflict.

The course that senior military commanders now appear to be steering in Iraq closely mirrors the "Vietnamization" program implemented by Nixon and his commander in Vietnam, Army Gen. Creighton Abrams, in the late stages of the war.

Abizaid is known to have studied Abrams' conduct of the war. Late last year, he was seen reading "A Better War," a 1999 book by Vietnam veteran Lewis Sorley that argues Abrams was winning before being let down by politicians in Washington.

Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, an influential former commander in Iraq who now heads the Army's system of war colleges and training centers, also studied Abrams' strategy early in his own rethinking of Iraq strategy.

Among the administration's Iraq war planners, the influence of the late Gen. Abrams has been felt before.

The strategy of "clear, hold and build," in which U.S. forces remain in captured towns to provide security while reconstruction begins, was first articulated by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice more than a year ago and closely echoes Abrams' "clear and hold" strategy implemented shortly after he took over from Westmoreland. Philip Zelikow, a close aide to Rice, has acknowledged reading Sorley's book as well.

More recently, officers steeped in Vietnam's lessons have been brought into the Pentagon by Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as part of his task force rethinking Iraq strategy.

Among them are Army Col. H.R. McMaster, whose doctoral thesis was on the failures of the military leadership during Vietnam, and Army Col. Peter Mansoor, head of the military's new counterinsurgency center, an organization dedicated, in many ways, to reteaching the "hearts and minds" strategies that Abrams emphasized.

Andrew Krepinevich, a military analyst and Vietnam veteran who has spoken with members of Pace's panel, noted that McMaster and Mansoor are Iraq combat veterans who are known for their expertise in irregular warfare.

"It wouldn't be a surprise at all that these people would be drawing on the Vietnam experience," Krepinevich said.

The argument that Abrams was on the right track has gained a strong following among influential military thinkers, including Sepp and Krepinevich, who have the ear of many in the Pentagon.

These same experts acknowledge that, much like 30 years ago, any strategy that relies on U.S. forces serving as the backbone of a nascent indigenous force is fraught with military and political difficulties.

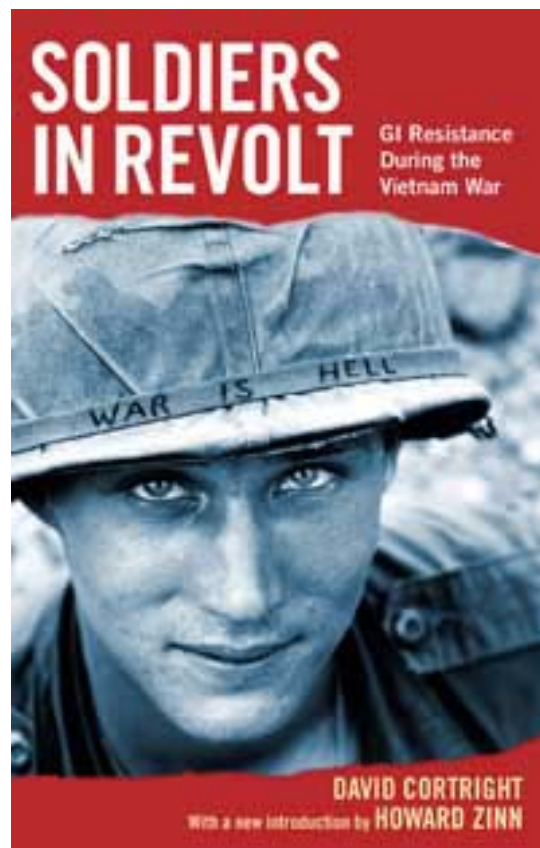
Perhaps most important, much like in Vietnam, the new strategy is being pushed after several years of large-scale combat operations that may have killed thousands of insurgents, but also alienated the local population. [Gee, you think that could be a problem?]

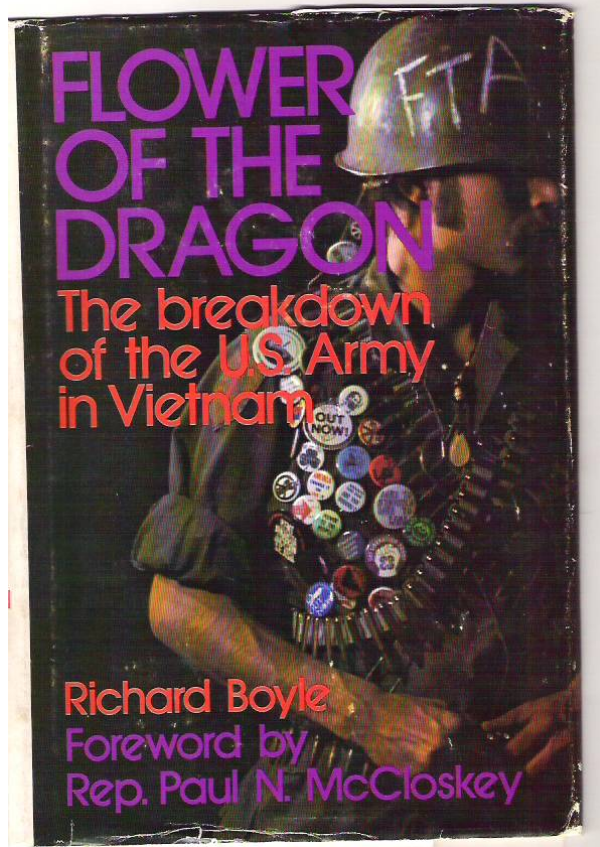
But even among Abrams' advocates, there is a nagging concern that, even with the relearning of Vietnam's lessons, it may still turn out to be too little, too late.

"Having wasted more than three years ... pursuing a flawed strategy, the Pentagon lost the support of the American population and was not given the time to get it right, even when it was clear that Gen. Creighton Abrams' pacification and Vietnamization approach might have worked," Herrington wrote in a recent issue of *Parameters*, the journal of the U.S. Army War College.

"Sound familiar?"

[With all their reading, these brain dead generals forgot the books that foretell their own future. T]





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



The casket of Sgt. 1st Class Schuyler B. Haynes during his wake at the Frank E. Campbell funeral home, Nov. 28, 2006 in New York. Haynes died Nov. 15 in Baquba,

Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

Pro-War Scum Fighting Memorial To Iraq War Dead

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

November 30, 2006 Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, Calif.: The hundreds of white wooden crosses planted on a quiet suburban hillside honor the memory of troops killed in Iraq - or, depending on your leanings, exploit personal grief for politics.

Jeff Heaton, who along with peace group members started putting up the crosses in early November in relatively conservative Lafayette, sees the effort as a simple tribute.

"It seemed like it would be a touching way to make people aware of the true costs of the war," he said.

But others are offended by the display of more than 400 crosses, on property owned by a friend of Heaton's. It sits opposite a commuter train station and is visible from a heavily traveled highway to San Francisco.

"I do not consider this a memorial," Lisa Disbrow, a resident of nearby Moraga who has a son preparing to serve in Iraq, said at a public hearing Monday night. Although many spoke in favor of the exhibit, others called it "painful" and a "travesty." **[What's "painful" and "a travesty" is a mother ready to help kill her son in Bush's evil, stupid, lost Imperial war by lending the war her political support. If she thinks it's such a great idea, she can go to Iraq and do some fighting herself. Why not? The other side has women of all ages fighting the occupation. She doesn't even have to enlist. Just jump a plane and go. Plenty of weapons for sale in Baghdad. Unless she rather see her kid go get chewed up in Bush's Imperial killing machine while she sits safely at home attacking people for expressing their opposition to it.]**

The hearing, which drew a crowd of more than 200, was technically not about the memorial itself, but about an accompanying sign: "In Memory of 2867 U.S. Troops Killed in Iraq."

City law limits signs to 4 square feet, much smaller than the current sign, which Heaton estimated at 80 square feet. The crosses aren't a problem, officials say, because city law exempts memorials and historical markers.

The council is asking city attorneys for advice on whether the sign ordinance conflicts with freedom of expression and may vote in about a month, said Mayor Ivor Samson. Options might include demanding that the sign be downsized or removed.

"Clearly, if this had happened in San Francisco or Berkeley or Oakland this would be a dog-bites-man story," said Samson, a three-term mayor retiring in December. "When it happens in a quiet suburban community that is generally more conservative, then it's more like man bites dog."

Samson said he does not know of any Lafayette residents killed in Iraq, although a number are serving there.

Heaton, 53, a contractor who was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, said the attention and support the memorial has received surprise him.

His first attempt to erect a memorial, in 2003, was vandalized; it was on the same property. The second has proved more successful, although one passing motorist did get out of her car and take down the sign.

Besides crosses, the memorial contains other religious symbols, and organizers plan for it to grow. [Hopefully not for long. Enough. Bring them all home, alive.]

Who Benefits From Iraq War?



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: I saw kbr's banner draped over the stock exchange yesterday and took this pic.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

29 Nov 2006 Reuters & 30 Nov 2006 Reuters & By Mohammed al Awsy, McClatchy Newspapers

A car bomber targeting a police patrol killed a policeman and wounded three policemen, in southwestern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A car bomber exploded near a police patrol, killing a policeman and wounding five civilians in al-Nidhal street in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

Militants killed a police colonel on Wednesday near the national stadium in east-central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed three policemen and wounded three others on Wednesday in the town of Jurf al-Sakhar, about 85 km (53 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

One police officer was injured in a clashes between the police and a group of guerrillas near AL MAFRAQ area western baqouba .

One policeman was killed when unknown fighters targeted him in BALADROS area.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

TO A UNIFORM

11.29.06 By Alan Stolzer, The Military Project

I wish I could have put my arm around a uniform (with a body still in it) that isn't shredded 6 feet below Arlington silence.

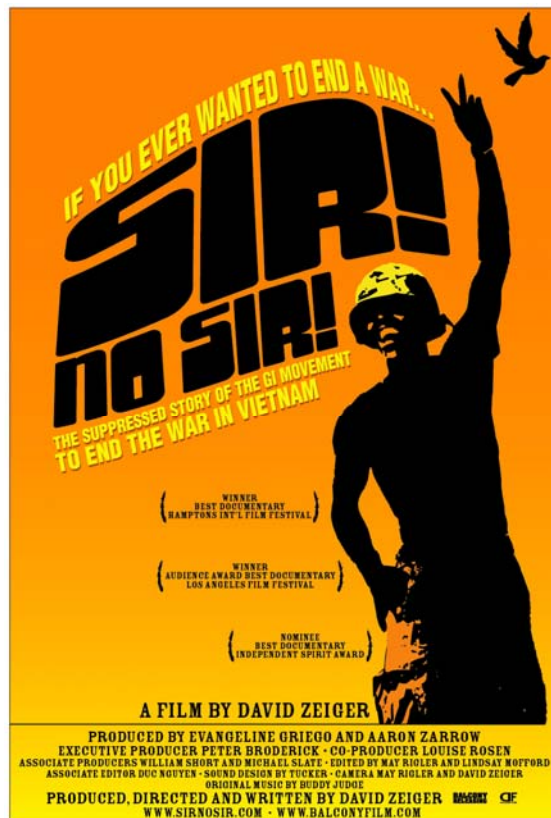
I wish I could have bought that uniform a beer and told it how good it was to see it smart and new, brimming with future deeds of daring do.

I wish I hadn't waved good-bye on its last deployment to the wrong side of hell knowing it would only come back horizontal or beyond recognition.

I wish I could have told it politicians no longer command its life and family since it has the power to change that.

I wish it could tell me instead of the other way around because what it has given gives it the right to do so.

“It Shows Soldiers Ending The War”



Adam Bulger, Hartford Advocate

Many left-leaning documentaries targeting the Bush administration and the Iraq War have been released and forgotten since the 2004 election.

Sir! No Sir! , a documentary about Vietnam soldiers who opposed that war, is spreading in ways that other anti-war documentaries haven't. Though it was released in a small run of theaters from April to July and concerns events from 30 years ago, peace groups nationwide have made the film their own, granting Sir! No Sir! a life beyond its cinematic release.

Sir! No Sir! was shown at Central Connecticut State University in September, and groups like the North East Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Green Party and United for Social Justice plan screenings around the state in the coming months. Prompted by the recent screening, campus group the Progressive Student Alliance is

holding a referendum on whether students want a full withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the sponsors of the recent screening said the referendum illustrates how the movie is an effective tool for the anti-war movement.

"It's one of the few films that shows how it's possible for a mass movement to end the war," Daniel Piper of Youth for Socialist action, who co-sponsored the CCSU screening, said.

Piper said that where other anti-war documentaries are about the mistakes people in positions of power made conducting war, Sir! No Sir! shows how citizens helped end one.

"It shows soldiers ending the war, which is one of two ways we think it's possible to end a war. Either through the soldiers refusing to fight it or through the workers refusing to build or transport the technology necessary to wage the war," Piper said.

The underground distribution system is partially by design, according to the filmmakers. "Part of the idea was that once it was out of theaters, it would continue to be screened, particularly on campuses," Sir! No Sir! director David Zeiger said. "All the group who saw it in the theaters and participated in the theatrical run have been taking the film as their own and showing it."

While left-wing and anti-war groups have embraced Sir! No Sir! , the film has received some negative feedback, but it was from people who they wanted to hate the movie. "We've been attacked by all the right people. The New York Post , for instance," Zeiger said.

The criticism was expected, as the movie explodes a cherished right wing myth: that soldiers were mistreated by anti-war demonstrators when they returned from Vietnam.

Zeiger said false stories about soldiers being spat upon were created and spread during the Reagan/Rambo '80s; when returning soldiers were surveyed in the '70s, they said their homecoming was fine. The belief in mistreated vets, Zeiger said, is persistent and is a hurdle for the modern anti-war movement.

"It's a classic urban myth, and it has a specific and strong political message. And that message is how dare you accuse the U.S. military of committing crimes; you are spitting on the soldiers, just like they did in Vietnam," Zeiger said.

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

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

Preemptive Tumor



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 30, 2006
Subject: Preemptive Tumor

Preemptive Tumor

**The U.S. Government is the cancer in Iraq.
If the patient is to survive, the cancer has to
be removed.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
November 29, 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

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot?

From: David Honish, Veteran
To: GI Special
Sent: November 30, 2006 5:28 PM
Subject: Re: 4K28: Whiskey Tango Foxtrot?

WTF Dude?

They aren't sending medevacs to operational areas in Iraq unless a cold LZ can be guaranteed?

What's next?

Are they going to decline any bleeding passengers that might mess up the floor of the helicopter?

The information on this medevac refusal from GI Special Issue 4K28 needs to go to the Armed Services Committee members in Congress!

I understand that at some point a tactical commander makes decisions to not send aircraft to a hot LZ because of the certainty of that aircraft being shot down and increasing both casualties and chaos at the LZ.

That is not quite the same as refusing to send a medevac because they might take some fire. That is part of the job.

Major Charles L. Kelly is spinning in his grave.

Call sign 'DUSTOFF', Major Kelly was the first medevac pilot KIA in The Republic Of Viet Nam, 1 JUL 64. In his honor, ALL medevacs in RVN were there after referred to as "Dustoffs."

Kelly Field at Fort Sam Houston is a helicopter facility located just north of the current Brooke Army Medical Center on the East side of Ft Sam.

It is named in his honor.

REPLY:

Yes indeed. Hard to believe. But, at the same time, given all the other shit that has gone down, easy to believe. T

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi citizen in his home following a U.S. military raid that wrecked it in Sadr City, Baghdad, Nov. 29, 2006. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country, busting into their houses by force and wrecking them 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?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

***The Iraq Study Group:*
Some Turds In A Punch Bowl Vs. A
Delusional President**

The nation's officialdom, Republicans and Democrats both, continue to indulge in the outer-galactic notion that Iraq is "winnable" or "losable."

Nov 29, 2006 By Michael Hirsh, Newsweek [Excerpts]

The forthcoming report by James Baker's Iraq Study Group has enjoyed the biggest public buildup since the Segway. And it is likely to be just as big of a bust.

Here's why the Baker-Hamilton report is destined to land with a thud, after weeks of messianic hype.

According to sources who have seen the draft report introduced this week, the group will recommend deeper engagement with Iran and Syria in hopes these countries can help us quell the violence in Iraq. But George W. Bush, who remains a true neocon believer—"It's the regime, stupid"—is very unlikely to cut deals with such evil states, except in the most foot-dragging way. In any case, with each passing week Iraq's sectarian fratricide makes these neighboring countries less and less relevant. One doesn't have to be trained by Hizbullah or the Iranian secret service to grab a few Sunnis off the street every night and shoot them in the head.

The James Baker-Lee Hamilton group will also recommend tackling the problem of Israeli-Palestinian peace. But this central issue of Islamist discontent no longer has much to do with the violence in Iraq, just as the violence has less and less to do with Al Qaeda.

The neocon fantasists, in their headiest days, used to say that "the road to Jerusalem goes through Baghdad." This meant that somehow, in ways they could never spell out, the Israeli-Palestinian issue would be resolved after democracy was achieved in Iraq.

Now Baker's thought seems to be that the road to Baghdad goes through Jerusalem.

This is just as silly as the earlier idea.

Take this down: the road to Baghdad goes through Iraq.

Above all, sources indicate the Baker-Hamilton group will fudge the issue of what the size of the U.S. troop presence in Iraq should be, and what a specific timetable for withdrawal should look like.

This means that, almost as soon as the report comes out in early December, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki will be able to ignore it, and he likely will.

What's happening in Washington right now is the worst sort of cover-your-backside politics.

The nation's officialdom, Republicans and Democrats both, continue to indulge in the outer-galactic notion that Iraq is "winnable" or "losable."

President Bush still seems to be deluding himself that "Al Qaeda" is behind the violence in Iraq, as he said in Latvia yesterday

TROOP-KILLING PIECE OF SHIT



October 9, 2006. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

New York City Killer Cops: A Fine Old Tradition

November 30, 2006 By BOB HERBERT, NY Times Op-Ed [Excerpts]

This time it was 50 shots from five officers.

With Amadou Diallo it was 41 shots from four officers.

With Eleanor Bumpurs, an aging, overweight, disoriented grandmother, it was a pair of shotgun blasts from a single officer - inside her apartment!

The decades pass. The stories remain the same.

Nathaniel Gaines Jr., a 25-year-old Navy veteran, was shot to death by a cop on a subway platform in the Bronx on the Fourth of July in 1996. The mayor at the time, Rudolph Giuliani, no softy on crime, said of the shooting: "There does not seem to be any reason for it."

On an April morning in 1973 a veteran cop named Thomas Shea pulled his service revolver and blew away a black kid on a street in Jamaica, Queens. There was no reason on God's glittering earth for that killing.

The kid, Clifford Glover, was 10 years old. The cop shot him in the back.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1976 an officer named Robert Torsney fired a bullet into the head of Randolph Evans, 15, outside a housing project in Brooklyn. No one could explain that killing, either.

Yesterday, under an overcast sky and with a crush of reporters around them, the relatives and fiancée of Sean Bell visited the narrow street in Queens where he was killed in a sudden frantic fusillade of police bullets early last Saturday morning, just a few hours before he was to be married.

Mr. Bell and two friends who had attended his bachelor party at a nearby club were in his car when they were set upon by a group of undercover cops who had been staking out the club. The two friends were seriously wounded in the shooting.

Here is my first quick take on this case: If I was in my car outside a rowdy nightclub in the wee hours of the morning and someone who looked like a club patron came running toward me, screaming and waving a gun, I would immediately slam the gearshift into drive, hit the accelerator and try to get the hell out of there.

This appears to be what happened.

The cops, dressed to blend in with the club crowd, were single-mindedly looking for trouble - evidence of prostitution, underage drinking, illegal guns, and so forth. They were looking so hard for criminal behavior that they seem to have imagined it where none was occurring.

One officer is said to have believed that one of Mr. Bell's companions may have had a gun. No gun was found and there is no evidence that any of the three men were armed at any time.

"It sounds to me like excessive force was used," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who characterized the 50-shot barrage as "unacceptable" and "inexplicable." Referring to Mr. Bell and his two friends, the mayor said, "There is no evidence that they were doing anything wrong."

The thing that is most unacceptable about this case is not the total number of shots fired, but the fact that five New York City cops were so willing to begin firing at all - willing to take the life of another human being, and maybe a number of human beings - without ever establishing that there was a good reason for doing so.

Under Mayor Bloomberg, there is a much better tone in the city with regard to police-community relations, and race relations in general. But when it comes to the Police Department, an improved tone won't count for much if policies and procedures aren't changed to prevent cops from blowing away innocent individuals with impunity.

This has gone on for far too many decades. Yet there is still no sense among public officials that big changes are necessary.

The cops who killed Sean Bell and wounded his two friends haven't even been questioned yet by the police or investigators from the Queens district attorney's office. The D.A., Richard Brown, is preparing a grand jury investigation but he told me it could still be weeks before the cops are questioned.

Meanwhile, the community, which is sick of these killings, is simmering.

Along with the candles and flower arrangements that have been placed at the site of the shooting were bitter signs denouncing "police murder" and, in some instances, calling for violence.

[What is being called for has another name: self-defense. And if the prosperous Mr. Herbert had to live there, instead of in his comfortable neighborhood, that's what he'd call it too. T]

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)

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