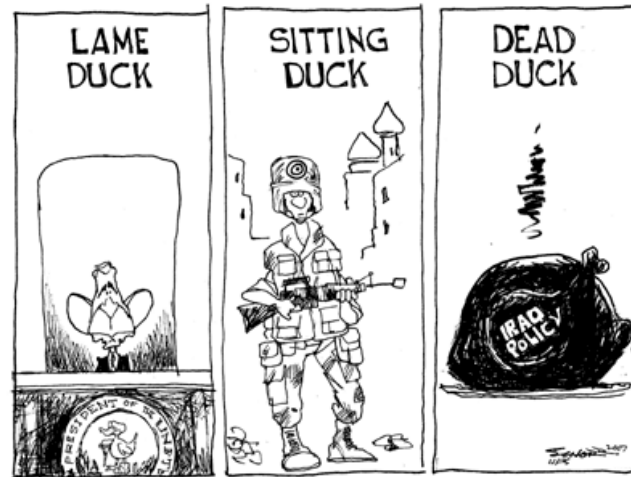


GI SPECIAL 5B20:



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

**“You Can’t Win A Crime,
You Can Only Stop It”**

**“I Never Received Support From
This Government. Never”**

**“We Volunteer To Serve Our
Nation’s Best Interest, Not To
Throw Our Lives Away For A Lie”**

***Vermont House and Senate Say Withdraw
Troops Now***

“I can write a book about the things we didn’t get issued, the things we were forced to pay for, the pointless missions we were told to execute.

“The people fighting us are fighting for their freedom....”

2.16.06: By James Marc Leas, Counterpunch [Excerpts] James Marc Leas is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and helped lead the effort to get a resolution introduced to the Vermont legislature.

The Vermont Senate and House both passed resolutions “urging the President and Congress to commence immediately the orderly withdrawal of American military forces from Iraq.”

The resolutions also both urge Vermont Governor (James) Douglas to enlist the support of other members of the National Governors Association to speak out against the war in Iraq and the announced troop surge and to support a withdrawal from Iraq of American troops.

Vermont is the first state to pass a resolution calling for troops to come home from Iraq.

Representative Mike Fisher, the lead sponsor of the resolution, told Democracy Now, “sometimes states have to step up and lead when Congress is not doing enough. And this was a time when Vermonters were able to speak up and say clearly that it was time to take some real leadership to end this war.”

The Vermont Senate resolution was sponsored by 18 of the 30 members and passed with a vote of 25 to 4 without any amendment. The Vermont House resolution was sponsored by 72 of the 150 members, and as amended, passed with a vote of 95 to 52. The resolutions gained the support of the leadership of both houses.

While both resolutions oppose the escalation of troop levels in Iraq, the Vermont Senate version states that “this legislative body believes that an escalation of American troops in Iraq is exactly the wrong foreign policy direction, and that the presence of American troops in Iraq has not, and will not, contribute to the stability of that nation, the region, or the security of Americans at home or abroad.”

Both resolutions call on “the Administration and Congress to fund fully all veterans benefits to care appropriately for our brave men and women when they return from this war.”

Both resolutions note that “Vermont has had the highest number of soldiers per capita who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in this war.”

The resolutions also point out that “the cost of this war according to the Congressional Research Service is at least \$379 billion, that “Vermont’s share of the cost exceeds \$750 million,” and “these costs will have a significant impact on Vermont households and the Vermont state budget process for years to come.”

The non-binding resolutions adopted by the Vermont House and Senate do not need to be reconciled with each other or go to the governor for signature.

The resolutions were introduced following citizen organizing and passage of antiwar Town Meeting proposals during the past several years. For example, a referendum question on the ballot in the City of Burlington in 2005 that called for "bringing the troops home from Iraq now" passed with a vote of 65.2% of the electorate. Fifty other Vermont towns passed antiwar resolutions at Town Meeting that same year.

This year leaders of the Vermont legislature were persuaded that the time had come for Vermont to speak out. Factors included the decisive election last November that removed Republicans from control of the US Congress, largely over the war issue; a large demonstration at the Vermont State House on January 20; the massive demonstration in Washington, DC on January 27; successful petitioning to put a new antiwar resolution up for a vote in dozens of Vermont towns; the articulate statements by active duty soldiers and returning Vermont Iraq War veterans against the war, including the "Appeal for Redress;" and outrage among Vermonters that President Bush was responding to all this by escalating the war.

Before the debate in the House began, three Vermont Iraq War veterans, former Army Sgt. Drew Cameron, Former Marine Cpl. Matt Howard, and former Army Sgt. Adrienne Kinne, all members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, and two members of the Vermont Military Families Speak Out, Nancy Brown and Nicole Conte, were seated in plush red chairs at the front of the chamber and introduced to the House. They received an extended standing ovation from the representatives.

During the debate in the House, Representative Sue Minter, from Waterbury, stated, "I support this resolution because I support our troops.

"We must not stand by silently while more of Vermont's finest sons and daughters and their families are asked to sacrifice for a war that has no clear end.

"This resolution sends a simple message to Vermonters in uniform: Thank you. You have done enough. It is time to come home to Vermont. And we will take care of you. Our General Assembly has supported our men and women in uniform, and this Resolution is no exception."

Former Marine Cpl. Matthew Howard served two combat tours in Iraq, deploying with the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

He served four years in the United States Marine Corps.

In a statement distributed to House and Senate sponsors of the resolution before the debate he explained his opposition to the war:

Sometimes it's the post traumatic stress B the anxiety, the fear, the isolation. Sometimes it's the false pretenses. Sometimes it's the mass civilian casualties. Sometimes it's the corporate profiteers. Sometimes it's the faulty equipment and faulty planning or the lack of equipment and lack of planning.

The people of Iraq are suffering horrors hard to conceive on a daily basis because we are there.

And yet their only crime is that they were also victims of previous horrors under a different regime.

The people fighting us are fighting for their freedom -- to be free from foreign military occupation. While I despise their violence, unfortunately I can understand it.

Conditions are exponentially worse than when I invaded their country four years ago.

I saw this on my second tour of duty and continue to hear it from my brothers in arms today.

Hospitals are morgues, schools are landfills, streets are sewers.

We have overwhelmingly proven that we are not there to help these people.

Unemployment is hovering at 70% yet we import Pakistanis to run our chow halls. The country is in shambles and KBR gets to no bid contracts with no quantifiable progress.

I swore to uphold and defend the constitution. Instead I disgraced it.

I urge you all to honor the veterans placing themselves in death's cross hairs and support this legislation calling for immediate withdrawal.

Don't be fooled by those saying you must support the troops.

I never received support from this government.

Never.

I can write a book about the things we didn't get issued, the things we were forced to pay for, the pointless missions we were told to execute.

Withdrawal is what we as veterans want, it is what the people of this country want, and it is what the Iraqis want.

You can't win a crime, you can only stop it.

Please join myself and Iraq Veterans Against the War in finding the courage to put a stop to this war now.

Former Army Sgt. Adrienne Kinne served in the Army from 1994 to 2004 as an Arabic linguist in military intelligence, with a total of six years on active duty. She distributed the following statement to her Vermont state representatives and senators: [Excerpts]

During the period leading up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, I was disturbed by the administration's recklessness, its misrepresentation of the facts, and manipulation of the events of 9/11. At the time, I felt powerless to do anything about the wrongs that were being perpetrated by those in charge.

In the years subsequent to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, that feeling of powerlessness followed me.

The only reprieve that I experienced from that feeling came following the election of 2006 when it became clear that the American public had finally spoken. At that time, just a few short months ago, I thought to myself, finally, things are going to change.

Unfortunately, that hopeful feeling was not to last.

When the administration announced that additional troops were going to be sent to Iraq, I not only felt powerless, but angry.

I firmly believe that whatever grip on reality the administration may have once had, it is now all but gone.

I say this to you as a veteran who continues to support her fellow veterans and wishes them all a safe return. I say this to you as the big sister of a Reservist who is afraid that her little brother could be called to Iraq any day. I say this to you as the friend of a fellow woman veteran, who is also a two-time breast cancer survivor and mother of two, and whose husband will be deploying to Iraq in the coming weeks.

I say this to you as someone who has worked with veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom have suffered traumatic brain injuries and/or suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. As someone who has worked in the Veterans Health Administration, I can tell you that the resources are not there to provide our veterans the quality health care and mental health care that they have earned and deserve. On that subject, I urge you all to ensure that Veterans hospitals receive the funding they need to get the job done.

And, finally, I say this to you as a human being who thinks that we are all morally obligated to do whatever is in our power to bring our troops home now and out of harms way.

The following statement from former Marine Sgt. Liam Madden, a veteran of the war in Iraq who finished his Marine service last month was distributed by his representative to members of the Vermont House and Senate:

"I admire and support the Vermont State Legislature for setting a precedent for other legislatures to follow in calling for an end to an illegal and unjust war. Once again Vermonters are proving their independence and commitment to a more just and peaceful world.

“American service members pledged an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States from all enemies foreign and domestic. Your actions make that oath meaningful and give us something to defend.

“We volunteer to serve our nation’s best interest, not to throw our lives away for a lie.

If your call for an immediate withdrawal of American forces from Iraq can save one more mother one more tear then you have done more to support our men and women in the United States military than any other governmental body in the nation.”

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

Feb. 18, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070218-06

BAGHDAD – Insurgent small arms fire targeted a Multi-National Division - Baghdad dismounted patrol north of the Iraqi capital, killing one Soldier Feb 17.

The unit was conducting a combat security patrol on foot when they came under fire, killing the Soldier. There were no other U.S. casualties in this attack.

U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad Grenade Attack

Feb. 18, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070218-05

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier died in a grenade explosion in a northern neighborhood of the Iraqi capital Feb 17.

The unit was conducting a combat patrol when a grenade was thrown at their vehicle by an insurgent, killing the Soldier.

Mississippi Soldier Killed In Iraq

February 18, 2007 The Clarion-Ledger

A Mississippi Army National Guard soldier was killed yesterday in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class William C. Spillers, 39, of Terry died in Baghdad from a non-combat injury, according to a news release from the Mississippi National Guard.

He was assigned to the Jackson-based 230th Finance Detachment, the release said. About 21 members of the unit were mobilized in May and arrived in Iraq in August.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

U.S. Tank Burnt Near Al-Wahda Bridge; Casualties Not Announced

Feb 17 By Nasser Khalil, (VOI)

A U.S. tank was burnt when unknown gunmen attacked on Saturday a U.S. vehicle convoy in Falluja, a police source said.

"Unknown gunmen ambushed today evening a U.S. vehicle convoy near al-Wahda bridge to the west of Falluja," the source, who asked not to be named, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI).

The source added "the gunmen used RPGs in the attack burning a tank." The U.S. forces cordoned off the area, he added

U.S. Hummer Destroyed In Falluja; Casualties No Announced

02/18/07 VOI

Falluja- A U.S. Hummer was destroyed on Sunday when an explosive charge went off at a U.S. vehicle patrol in western Iraqi city of Falluja, a police source said

While The Brigade Commander Fantasizes About What Would Make Everything Just Wonderful, Armed Attacks By Resistance Escalate In Diyala

February 19, 2007 By Bill Murphy Jr., Washington Post Foreign Service

Helicopters hovered over the American military base here Sunday night, and the crackling of automatic gunfire echoed as U.S. forces attacked insurgents they believed were trying to plant an improvised explosive device, or IED, just outside the camp.

Detecting IEDs is a never-ending task for American and Iraqi military forces here, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad in an area that has become one of the most lethal in Iraq for U.S. troops.

U.S. military officials reported Sunday night that in operations in the past 72 hours troops had found 32 IEDs in some of the city's most troubled areas.

"Sometimes, fast is slow and slow is fast. I could reach through this city and clean it out, but I have to do it right," said Col. David W. Sutherland, 45, the brigade commander responsible for all of Diyala, a province the size of Maryland, with 1.6 million residents.

Because of the tribal complexities here -- Diyala is home to 19 tribes and 100 subtribes - - "trying to find one individual leader who will say, 'We will not allow terrorists on our land. We will not allow IEDs to be placed on our land. We will not give support' is difficult, because you can't find just one leader in Diyala," Sutherland said.

"If you're asking what I need, I need the provincial council to come to work and show backbone, and I need local media. . . . I don't need more forces."

Resistance Set Up IEDs To Ambush U.S. Rescue Forces Before Helicopters Shot Down [!]

February 19, 2007 Michael Gordon and David Cloud in Washington, New York Times

DOCUMENTS captured from Iraqi insurgents show that some recent attacks on US helicopters were the result of a carefully planned strategy, US officials say.

The US report said seven helicopters had been downed since January 20 - more than the total number of coalition aircraft shot down in 2006.

After bringing down the helicopters, the insurgents often laid ambushes for US ground forces expected to come to the rescue.

Roadside bombs were sometimes placed in advance. US troops were attacked on five occasions when they arrived at the crash site, military officials said.

They also tried to plan their attacks by studying flight patterns near US bases and along supply routes, the intelligence report said.

NO MISSION; HOPELESS WAR: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A US soldier on overwatch in Baghdad, 8 February. (AFP/File/David Furst)

Counterinsurgency 101; “But Most Dwellings Were Eerily Empty”

February 19, 2007 By BRIAN MURPHY, Associated Press Writer

In Buhriz, a Sunni-dominated town about 35 miles north of Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi soldiers kicked in doors and scoured homes, but most dwellings were eerily empty.

Soldiers confiscated new Iraqi army uniforms in a building not known to house troops, along with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and AK-47 magazines. There has been growing suspicion that militants have posed as Iraqi soldiers in some attacks and ambushes.

In another house, medical supplies were scattered about - saline bottles, IV bags, syringes - in what soldiers believe was a makeshift aid station for insurgents.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. CH-47 Down In Shahjoi: 8 Dead, 14 Injured

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

February 18, 2007 By ALISA TANG, Associated Press Writer & (Reuters) & AFP

A U.S. CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed Sunday in southeastern Afghanistan after reporting engine failure, a coalition statement said.

Eight U.S. military personnel were killed. Another 14 were injured.

"Recent reporting indicated a Taliban build-up for operations against the coalition forces in the region," the statement said.

The helicopter crashed in the Shahjoi district of Zabol province, about 50 yards from the main highway between Kabul and Kandahar, and appeared to be destroyed and scattered in several pieces.

Zabol provincial governor Dilber Jan Arman said the helicopter fell in the Hassan Kariiez area of Shahjoi district.

A Dozen Canadian Troops Injured When Three Armoured Vehicles Collide

February 18, 2007 City News

More than a dozen Canadian troops were injured when three Canadian armoured vehicles collided in the southern region of the country.

The accident happened in Kandahar when a convoy of troops was moving between bases. All of the injuries suffered are said to be minor.

"All of these soldiers are expected to go back to work," Canadian Forces spokesman Maj. Dale MacEachern said.

All of the injured troops were treated at a nearby medical clinic. One was transferred to a NATO hospital at Kandahar airfield for further observation.

Veterans Of The Soviet Invasion Of Afghanistan Predict Failure: “All The Future Holds For American Forces There Are Dead Soldiers, And They Will Die For Nothing” “My Advice Is Simple: Leave. Leave Now”

Today, when Vshivtsev hears President Bush say progress is being made and success is possible, it reminds him of Soviet statements from that time. "The enemy will only get better and better over time, their weapons more and more advanced. By now, the chance for victory - which was never good - has certainly passed."

Feb. 15, 2007 By Matthew Schofield, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

MOSCOW - Eighteen years after the Soviet army pulled out of Afghanistan in a humiliating defeat that hastened the collapse of an empire, many soldiers who fought there believe they're seeing history repeat itself.

For many, the similarities go beyond the symbolic.

Retired Capt. Vladimir Vshivtsev was blinded by an improvised roadside bomb 20 years ago in Afghanistan. He shudders every time he hears about a U.S. soldier killed or wounded by a similar device in Iraq or Afghanistan, he said.

"They're fighting the same war again," he said. "Sure, the political stuff is different, but the military result is going to be the same: failure."

The Soviets also arrived to flowers and smiles, fought with a similar sized force (by the mid-1980s) of about 120,000 men and lost about 1,300 dead each year.

They arrived a superpower, full of hubris, and departed humbled.

Their political leaders never really understood the war.

For the Soviets, Afghanistan was a total disaster. It remained a dirty secret for over a decade and still isn't mentioned in polite conversation. The first Russian feature movie dealing with the experience came out only last year.

For former Soviet soldiers, the U.S. war in Afghanistan evokes memories of the geography and the battles, Konovalov said, but most agree that Iraq is to the United States what Afghanistan was to the Soviet Union.

Retired Gen. Victor Yermakov headed the Soviet 40th army's efforts around Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan in the mid-1980s.

He can't decide whether to shake his head or scream when he hears talk about how to improve the situation in Iraq and how to control Afghanistan, he said.

"All the future holds for American forces there are dead soldiers, and they will die for nothing," he said.

"There is nothing positive to be accomplished in Iraq. My advice is simple: Leave. Leave now."

He cited the U.S. offensives in Tora Bora as an example.

"I was very impressed by the Americans," he said. "Gaining control of Tora Bora is a great accomplishment. I should know. I did it three times."

He shook his head ruefully, then added: "Unfortunately, the second I turned my back on the place, I needed to conquer it again. It is the same now. It will never change."

Still, he said, "every nation believes it is more clever than those who came before."

Alexander Golts, who covered the Soviet-Afghan war as a journalist, said the war was clearly a failure from early on, but Soviet leadership insisted on portraying it first as a minor operation and later as a struggle that ultimately would bring peace and prosperity.

In villages throughout the Soviet Union at the time, "mystery coffins" would arrive, containing soldiers who kept dying in a reportedly peaceful area. Soviet leaders tried to direct attention away from the coffins. Golts said Soviet leadership prohibited reporting on the war.

"A general stopped me one day to say, 'I read that our soldiers are doing nothing here but building schools and planting trees, so please explain, how do my boys keep dying?'" Golts said.

Capt. Vshivtsev recalled a conference he attended in Prague a few years back, where he bumped into a Czech Republic soldier who'd recently returned from Afghanistan where he'd fought as part of the NATO coalition force.

As they swapped war stories, he said he soon forgot they were talking about different wars and different armies. They'd walked the same ground, fought the same enemy, faced the same threats.

Today, when Vshivtsev hears President Bush say progress is being made and success is possible, it reminds him of Soviet statements from that time.

"The longer the conflict goes on, the more established become the methods for recruiting new fighters, the routes for smuggling weapons," Vshivtsev said.

"The enemy will only get better and better over time, their weapons more and more advanced. By now, the chance for victory - which was never good - has certainly passed."

[Having read that, now read this.]

"We have been into more valleys and remote locations in the last year than probably in any area since this began in 2001." U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley.

"One more year's hard work and we could succeed in Afghanistan beyond our wildest dreams." Gen. David Richards, Commander of the occupation forces.

[Quoted by Kevin Dougherty, Stars and Stripes, February 18, 2007]

Troops Invited:

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 email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

Three Times As Many Occupation Soldiers Died In Combat Last Year Than In The Four Previous Years Combined

February 18, 2007 By Kevin Dougherty, Stars and Stripes

NATO, which assumed command of all foreign troops in Afghanistan last fall, suffered 65 combat deaths in 2006, based on a review of data from iCasualties.org, a Web site that tracks war casualties. Another 28 troops from the coalition died in nonhostile incidents, including 17 who were killed in three separate aviation accidents.

Last year's combat losses well exceed the total for 2005, when seven died.

In fact, nearly three times as many NATO soldiers died in combat last year than in the four previous years combined, when 24 died.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket containing 19-year-old Marine Pfc. Tarryl Hill, St. Paul Tabernacle Church in Detroit, Michigan February 16, 2007. Hill was killed in Fallujah. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook (UNITED STATES)

Spc. Mark Wilkerson To Be Sentenced Feb 22 At Ft. Hood For Refusing A Second Tour To Iraq



Courage To Resist

"There comes a time in a person's life when they must do the right moral decision for themselves, doubtless of how popular that decision is in other's eyes, or what others feel about it," stated Army Specialist Mark Wilkerson before the national media in August 2006 at Camp Casey in Crawford, TX.

Wilkerson also announced his intention to turn himself in to military authorities at nearby Ft. Hood after being Absent Without Leave (AWOL) for over a year and a half. (View video of press conference)

Wilkerson was deployed to Iraq in March 2003 with the 720th Military Police Battalion. Upon his return from Iraq in March of 2004 immediately applied for Conscientious Objector or C.O. status and a discharge from the military.

"There were many experiences that I had in Iraq that made me question my mission, and also made me change the way I viewed spirituality, relationships, our government and my life in general. It was a complete life turn-around, which allowed me to come to the conclusion that military service was no longer the correct path for me to take."

Wilkerson told himself that he would never return to Iraq but while the Army reviewed his C.O. application in July 2004 he was ordered to re-deploy to Iraq in January of 2005. Then the Army officially denied his C.O. claim in November 2004. Facing his second deployment, and a crisis of conscience, Wilkerson fled Army in December of 2004. Wilkerson decided to go AWOL only after having been denied Conscientious Objector status by the military.

Wilkerson's Camp Casey announcement continued, "I am not willing to kill, or be killed, or do anything else I consider morally wrong, for reasons I don't believe in, and now today, I am turning myself in to face the consequences of my actions. I am scared, but I go with peace in my heart and hope for the future- not only my future, but the country's

future as well...I'm turning myself in with my head held high knowing what I did was right."

Since surrendering at Ft. Hood in August Spc. Wilkerson has been expecting a possible court martial. Under a pretrial agreement with military prosecution, Wilkerson pled guilty to desertion and missing a troop movement in exchange for a sentence of up to 10 months. He faces sentencing at Ft. Hood, TX on February 22 and looks forward to "getting on with his life"

Courage to Resist would like to express our gratitude to Spc. Mark Wilkerson for his brave and courageous stand in following his conscience and opposing his participation in war.

Check <http://markwilkerson.wordpress.com> and www.CouragetoResist.org for ways to support Mark Wilkerson as he faces sentencing before a military court for following his conscience and standing against an immoral war.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

17 Feb 2007 Reuters & 18 Feb 2007 Reuters & VOI

In the town of Hit after a fierce firefight two policemen were killed and five wounded.

Guerrillas shot dead a policeman as he returned from work in the Jihad district of the Shi'ite city of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

A bomber wounded two policemen when he blew up his vehicle at a checkpoint just north of the holy city of Kerbala, police said.

Colonel Ali Mutashar, police commander in Samawa, escaped unharmed after a roadside bomb attack exploded near his convoy in Samawa, 270 km (170 miles) south of Baghdad, police said. Four of his bodyguards were wounded.

Mosul: A senior Iraqi police officer was wounded on Sunday along with two more policemen in clashes with guerrillas in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a police source

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

A Marriage Made In Hell



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: February 18, 2007
Subject: A Marriage Made In Hell

A Marriage Made In Hell

**The U.S. War Economy,
and its Weapons of Mass Destruction.
A Marriage Made In Hell.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
February 18, 2007**

Each step was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained or, on occasion regretted, that unless one understood what the whole thing was in principle, what all these ' little measures '.....must some day lead to, one no more saw it developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing. Each act is worse than the last, but only a little worse. You wait for the next and the next.

You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others, when such a shock comes, will join you in resisting somehow. You don't want to act, or even talk, alone... you don't want to go out of your way to make trouble. But the one great shocking occasion, when tens or hundreds or thousands will join with you, never comes.

That's the difficulty. The forms are all there, all untouched, all reassuring, the houses, the shops, the jobs, the mealtimes, the visits, the concerts, the cinema, the holidays. But the spirit, which you never noticed because you made the lifelong mistake of identifying it with the form, is changed. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves, when everyone is transformed, no one is transformed.

Milton Mayer
They Thought They Were Free,
The Germans, 1938-45.

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)

**“For Them, It’s 9/11 Every Day”
“That’s Terrorism, And That’s Why
They Hate Us”
“That’s Why I’m Calling For The
Immediate, Unconditional Withdrawal
Of U.S. Troops From Iraq,” She Said.**

02/14/2007 By Stephen Knapp, Evergreen Newspapers, Inc. [Excerpts]

Nobody left Dr. Dahlia Wasfi’s presentation feeling warm and fuzzy, but, then, they weren’t supposed to.

"In some way, you’ll be disturbed by what I show you," Wasfi warned the dozens of area residents who braved Monday night’s dense fog to hear her speak at the United Methodist Church of Evergreen.

"These are the pictures we never see. This is the reality of our occupation of Iraq, and it’s why they hate us."

Many of Wasfi’s pictures were disturbing in the extreme, grisly snapshots of a modern society crumbling under the weight of unending violence and crushing fear.

And today, she told the rapt crowd, the foreign soldiers in Iraq aren’t alleviating the horror — they’re driving it.

"That's why I'm calling for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq," she said.

"The occupation is depersonalizing and humiliating, and the minute we pull out, it will be the end of the rising death toll."

Wasfi, who spoke at the invitation of Evergreen Peace — the local arm of Colorado Peace — is no stranger to the mountain area.

Monday was her third engagement in Evergreen, and her appearance last year at a Clear Creek High School assembly sparked controversy when two student-pacifists dropped out of school under the censure of classmates.

But if her opinions are unpopular in some quarters, she came by them honestly.

Wasfi's father hails from Basra, Iraq, and, though born in New York, she spent the first five years of her life among her paternal relatives there.

Disillusioned by the overt anti-Arab sentiments displayed by her colleagues at Maryland's Georgetown University Hospital following the 9/11 attacks, in 2004 Wasfi gave up medicine and paid a three-month call on her Iraqi kin.

"I cannot convey to you how difficult life is in Iraq," she said. "The shortages; lack of electricity; tanks rolling through the streets night and day; gunfire and explosions. The Iraqi health care system used to be called "The Jewel of the Arab World," and today it's in shambles. At least 200 bodies wind up in the Baghdad morgue every day, and that's just Baghdad.

"For them, it's 9/11 every day.

Since then, Wasfi has toured the country speaking out against the Iraqi occupation for the international human rights organization Global Exchange and, as one of very few Americans with civilian experience in Iraq, has even testified before Congress. Though softened by gentle humor, her presentation is crisp, powerful and informative.

She displays a photograph of white-coated doctors in an Iraqi hospital, their hands bound, some lying face-down on the floor, while heavily armed American soldiers conduct an inspection.

"I understand why the soldiers are doing that — because they're afraid, and I don't blame them," Wasfi said. "But it's against the Geneva Convention to interfere with civilian medicine."

Another picture shows a typical Iraqi living room where a half-dozen women and girls, also bound and clearly terrified, cower before camouflaged soldiers seeking evidence of insurgent activity during a routine night raid of a civilian home.

"That's terrorism, and that's why they hate us."

If the toll on Iraq's civilian population is foremost in her mind, her condemnations really begin with the policies that led to the occupation, not the soldiers charged with carrying out those policies.

"The war on terror is a sham," she said. "This is U.S.-Israeli aggression for control of oil in western Asia. We're trading blood for oil."

While she agrees that the world in general and Iraq in particular is well-served of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime, the American stance toward the former dictator was historically one of friendship and support.

An immediate withdrawal, Wasfi said, would mean an immediate cessation of the aerial bombing of suburban safe houses, the single greatest killer of Iraqi civilians.

It would spell the end for U.S. military prisons containing thousands of citizens who are being held without charges.

It would end the training and arming of paramilitary Iraqi "death squads" that spread death and fear throughout the country. And it would put the more than 100,000 mercenaries on the U.S. payroll out of work.

Though perfectly familiar with the many arguments against rapid troop withdrawal, Wasfi remains unconvinced.

Far from welcoming the protection of foreign armies, she cites a poll taken by the Iraqi Defense Ministry suggesting that 82 percent of the population wants all foreign soldiers out of the country, and perhaps as much as 60 percent believe that attacks on the United States and United Kingdom are warranted to achieve that end.

And while Wasfi admits that civil war is one possible outcome of the withdrawal, she also contends that the "counterinsurgency" and "sectarian violence" taking place throughout Iraq are greatly exaggerated in the Western press.

Indeed, Wasfi believes a strong case can be made that many of the most heinous internal outrages — the bombings of mosques, schools and hospitals, for example — are actually perpetrated by occupying agencies in order to justify a continued coalition presence.

"The problem now isn't so much the chickenhawks that started this war; it's progressives who want to stay and help," she said. "I believe there's a large element of 'white man's burden' here. The fact is, they aren't helping."

Witness the photograph of a young boy, maybe 10 or 12 years old, sitting calmly in the back of a scorched and twisted pickup truck, eyes closed and apparently unhurt except that his hips and legs are no longer joined to his torso and lie just out of reach of his pale right hand.

Or the Iraqi emergency worker lifting the pajama-clad, decapitated body of an 8-month-old infant from the wreckage of his nursery.

Or the middle-aged man, head thrown back in an attitude of agony, his bloody face a mask of both stark terror and infinite grief.

"He survived six years of war with Iran, Desert Storm, Saddam Hussein, Shock and Awe, and he died begging for his life," Wasfi said.

"This is why they hate us. If we don't stop using our tax dollars to ruin the lives and families of Iraqi civilians, we'll reap what we sow."

Attack Austria Now!

February 15, 2007, From: BpVETforPEACE@aol.com [Excerpt]

They have recently discovered that "Insurgents" are using .50 Caliber "Sniper Rifles" made in Austria.

By Dubya's logic, shouldn't we

- 1- Bomb, and Tomahawk missile Austria
 - 2- Incarcerate and waterboard Arnold Schwarzenegger?
-

February 19, 1942: A Day That Will Live In Infamy



Japanese American residents board the bus for Camp Harmony, 1942

Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt 10 weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, ordering all Japanese Americans (Nisei) evacuated from the West Coast of the U.S. and forcing them to live in concentration camps.

The document authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders "to prescribe military areas...from which any or all persons may be excluded."

There was strong support from California Attorney General Earl Warren (later U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice), liberal journalist Walter Lippmann and Time magazine—which referred to California as "Japan's Sudetenland"

112,000 citizens of Japanese ancestry were relocated, losing their businesses, homes, and belongings to whites.

In the entire course of the war, 10 people were convicted of spying for Japan, all of whom were Caucasian.

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)

OCCUPATION REPORT

**15,000 Iraqi Prisoners In U.S.
Occupation Concentration Camps:
Charged With Nothing At All, And
Never Brought To A Court:**

“In Interviews, Former Detainees Seethed With Rage At The United States”



US soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division search an Iraqi man in the Shaab neighborhood in Baghdad Feb. 14, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

February 18, 2007, By MICHAEL MOSS and SOUAD MEKHENNET, New York Times
[Excerpts]

DAMASCUS, Syria — In the early hours of Jan. 6, Laith al-Ani stood in a jail near the Baghdad airport waiting to be released by the American military after two years and three months in captivity.

He struggled to quell his hope. Other prisoners had gotten as far as the gate only to be brought back inside, he said, and he feared that would happen to him as punishment for letting his family discuss his case with a reporter.

But as the morning light grew, the American guards moved Mr. Ani, a 31-year-old father of two young children, methodically toward freedom. They swapped his yellow prison suit for street clothes, he said. They snipped off his white plastic identification bracelet. They scanned his irises into their database.

Then, shortly before 9 a.m., Mr. Ani said, he was brought to a table for one last step. He was handed a form and asked to place a check mark next to the sentence that best described how he had been treated:

“I didn’t go through any abuse during detention,” read the first option, in Arabic.

“I have gone through abuse during detention,” read the second.

In the room, he said, stood three American guards carrying the type of electric stun devices that Mr. Ani and other detainees said had been used on them for infractions as minor as speaking out of turn.

“Even the translator told me to sign the first answer,” said Mr. Ani, who gave a copy of his form to The New York Times. “I asked him what happens if I sign the second one, and he raised his hands,” as if to say, Who knows?

“I thought if I don’t sign the first one I am not going to get out of this place.”

Shoving the memories of his detention aside, he checked the first box and minutes later was running through a cold rain to his waiting parents. “My heart was beating so hard,” he said. “You can’t believe how I cried.”

His mother, Intisar al-Ani, raised her arms in the air, palms up, praising God. “It was like my soul going out, from my happiness,” she recalled.

“I hugged him hard, afraid the Americans would take him away again.”

Just three weeks earlier, his last letter home — with its poetic yearnings and a sketch of a caged pink heart — appeared in The Times in one of a series of articles on Iraq’s troubled detention and justice system.

After his release from the American-run jail, Camp Bucca, Mr. Ani and other former detainees described the sprawling complex of barracks in the southern desert near Kuwait as a bleak place where guards casually used their stun guns and exposed prisoners to long periods of extreme heat and cold; where prisoners fought among themselves and extremist elements tried to radicalize others; and where detainees often responded to the harsh conditions with hunger strikes and, at times, violent protests.

Through it all, Mr. Ani was never actually charged with a crime; he said he was questioned only once during his more than two years at the camp.

American detention officials acknowledged that guards used electric devices called Tasers to control detainees, but they said they did so rarely and only when the guards were physically threatened.

Officials declined to give specific details about why they had detained Mr. Ani or why they had freed him.

“He was released because the board that reviewed his case didn’t believe he any longer posed a threat,” said First Lt. Lea Ann Fracasso, a spokeswoman for detention operations, in a written answer to questions.

“He was originally detained as a security threat.

“I don’t have anything more.” [Truth. There never was “anything more.” And that’s the point. There never was anything more. Two years, 3 months, in a prison camp and there never was anything more. That’s the freedom and democracy the traitor Bush brought to Iraq. That’s one of many reasons polls show the majority of Iraqis are in favor of killing U.S. occupation troops.]

The American detention camps in Iraq now hold 15,500 prisoners, more than at any time since the war began.

The camps are filled with people like Mr. Ani who are being held without charge and without access to tribunals where their cases are reviewed, the Times examination published last December found.

Mr. Ani, a women's clothing merchant, said he was detained in 2004 after American soldiers who were searching for weapons in his six-family apartment building found an Iraqi military uniform in the basement.

Mr. Ani's ordeal began on Oct. 14, 2004, when soldiers brought him in for what he described as desultory questioning.

"Are you married? How many children? Sunni or Shiite? Which mosque do you pray in?" Mr. Ani said he was asked. "I said I didn't pray, and they said, 'Are you not Muslim,' and I said, 'Yes, but I'm not praying and going to mosques.'"

"They never asked me about terrorism," he said. "I'm a normal person, just a usual man, and don't have anything to do with anyone who was fighting against the Americans."

Mr. Ani spent a total of 44 days at two other American facilities before being sent to Camp Bucca. In all, he said, he was questioned just once at each site.

Mr. Ani said the electric prods were first used on him on the way to Camp Bucca. "I was talking to someone next to me and they used it," he said, describing the device as black plastic with a yellow tip and two iron prongs. He said the prods were commonly used on him and other detainees as punishment.

"The whole body starts to shake and hurt," he said. "And you lose consciousness for a couple of seconds. One time they used it on my tongue. One guard held me from the left and another on my back and another used it against my tongue and for four or five days I couldn't eat."

In a separate interview, the insurgent from Samarra said such a device had been used on him for speaking out of turn. Ahmed Majid al-Ghanem, 50, a former Baath Party official who was also freed from Camp Bucca and is now living in Syria, said in a separate interview that he witnessed the electric prods being used as punishment on other detainees.

Lt. Col. Keir-Kevin Curry, a detention system spokesman, said: "Every use of less than lethal force, to include use of Tasers, is formally reported by facility leadership, ensuring soldiers are in accordance with proper use. Touching a Taser to someone's tongue is not one of the approved uses." **[Another Lt. Col. They must have a factory in the Pentagon basement where they turn them out, using a highly secret stupid-meter in the production process to insure that only brain-dead brass-kissers are allowed to emerge.]**

Mr. Ani said guards treated him kindly when he arrived at the jail on Nov. 20, 2004. He recalls being given soap, and, when his hands cracked from the cold, a soldier bringing him lotion and socks.

But soon new guards came “who had had special thoughts,” he said. “They were not allowing us to talk. They cut off the salt, gave us food that was not fit for dogs. One guard named David sometimes brought us outside to stay in the sun, or when it was cold. He also didn’t respect our faith, telling us not to pray here, and when we moved not to pray there.”

The detainees also began fighting among themselves. Those who spoke to the American guards were ostracized. Long toilet lines further raised tensions.

One day the guards searched a makeshift prayer area, Mr. Ani said, “and they started to step on the Korans, which fell down.”

“A fight started,” he continued. “There was a huge demonstration. The prisoners started to throw their shoes at the guards, and we started to beat them with empty plastic bottles. The guards shot at us with rubber bullets, but then prisoners were killed and others were injured.”

A Pentagon statement at the time described such an incident in January 2005, saying that four detainees were killed when guards were compelled to use deadly force to quell the riot and that it was set off by a search for contraband.

Colonel Curry said an investigation concluded that a detainee leader had fabricated the Koran allegations to instigate violence. **[Right. Of course. Anything goes bad, the prisoners must be lying. Anybody who’s been in the U.S. prison system can give you the script Col. Curry is using.]**

Mr. Ani and other former detainees said there were frequent demonstrations to protest various grievances. Mr. Ghanem said he was released in late 2003 after hunger strikes forced camp officials to review his case and those of others.

Detention officials said they were also fighting radicalization at the camps and were trying to identify and isolate extremists.

At Camp Bucca, they said, hundreds of men formed a group called the Brothers. Members shaved their beards and otherwise masked their ideology so they would be placed with other detainees.

Mr. Ani generally slept in a wooden barrackslike structure, with a mattress on the ground and a nail on the wall for hanging clothes.

Once, when the guards found an improvised needle that he said was used to repair clothes, he was taken to an isolated cell, where he was kept for 24 days.

“You cannot see the difference between day and night,” he said. “There was no opening, not even in the door.”

Colonel Curry said it was standard to discipline detainees when they did not follow procedure. **[And there are only two kinds of people in the world: those who, after that, wish they could be Colonel Currey, and stick people in some hole for 24 days for having a needle to fix their clothes, and those who would like to see Colonel Currey in a hole for infinitely longer than 24 days, maybe 24 days for every prisoner this rat has fucked over. There is payback, and it will come. Let's all remember that name: Lt. Col. Keir-Kevin Curry, sadist, grand master of prisoner torture, and a disgrace to the uniform.]**

Mr. Ani despaired of ever being released. His letter that was printed in The Times ended with, "I hope I can be dust in the storms of Bucca so that I can reach you."

"I didn't see any kind of solution for me," Mr. Ani said after his release. "The only solution was to die," he said, his eyes welling with tears. "I was hoping to die."

When his uncle put on Al Zawra, the satellite television station, Mr. Ani turned to look at the scenes of Sunni children who had been killed and the attacks on American soldiers.

"I am an Iraqi," he said. "I love my country. Of course, everyone who is an Iraqi at the moment, we are thinking how can we support our country."

"The United States through its actions made people hate the Americans much more than before."

In interviews, former detainees seethed with rage at the United States.

One, a 43-year-old man from Samarra, Iraq, said he was released last year despite having fought American troops.

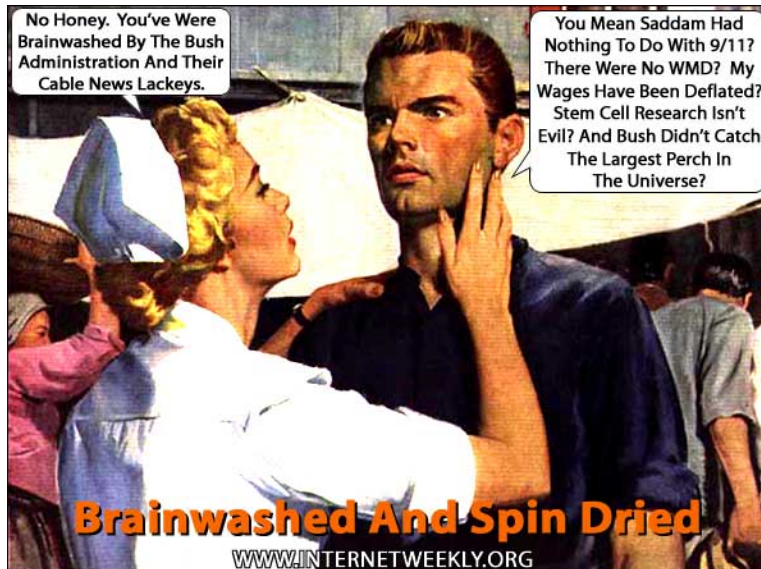
"I wish to go back to Iraq and fight against the Americans, God willing," vowed the man, who spoke on the condition that he be identified only by his nom de guerre, Abu Abdulla, for fear of reprisal.

Mr. Ani has other priorities, still exhausted from his detention and preoccupied with finding a permanent home.

But he regularly turns his television to a new station called Al Zawra, transfixed by its running montage of videotaped attacks on American troops.

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

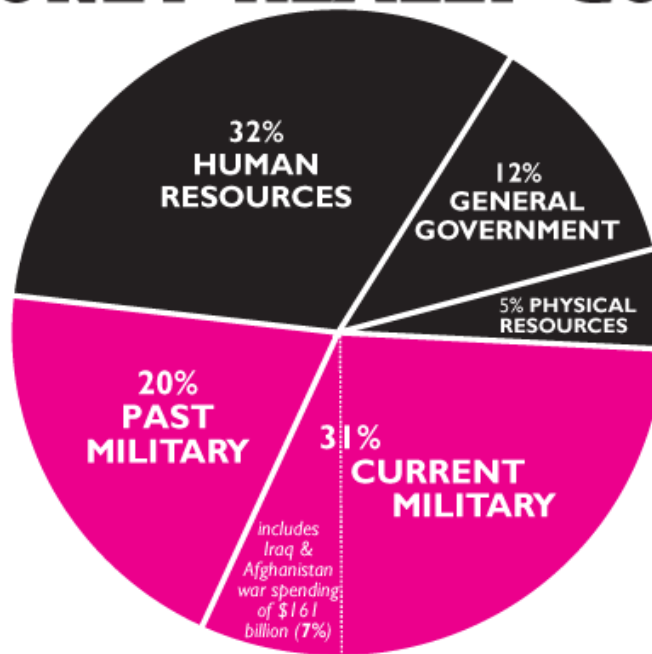
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

WHERE YOUR **INCOME TAX** MONEY REALLY GOES

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2008 FISCAL YEAR



Total Outlays (Federal Funds): \$2,387 billion
MILITARY: 51% and \$1,228 billion
NON-MILITARY: 49% and \$1,159 billion
[War Resisters League]

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