

GI SPECIAL 5D11:

**“A CALL FOR LIBERATION”
“DOWN WITH BUSH, DOWN WITH
AMERICA”**



Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis march in Najaf during a rally against the US occupation. The White House on Monday downplayed anti-occupation rallies in Iraq and said such demonstrations were a hopeful sign of freedom. (AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

“Yes, Yes To Freedom!”

“Down With Bush”

“Occupiers Should Leave Iraq”

**“Leave, Leave Occupier!”
“Iraqi Soldiers In Uniform Joined
The Crowd, Some Sunni Religious
Groups Also Joined The Rally”
“We Demand The Exit Of The Occupier
And Withdrawal Of The Last American
Soldier”**

‘In four years of occupation, our sons have been killed and women made widows,’ cried Ahmed Al Mayahie, 39, a Shia from the southern city of Basra.

‘The occupier raised slogans saying Iraq is free, Iraq is liberated. What freedom? What liberation? There is nothing but destruction. We do not want their liberation and their presence. We tell them to get out of our land.’

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, Katherine GY, Al Jaccoma, The Military Project & D & Phil G & JM, & Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

April 9, 2007 AFP & By EDWARD WONG, NY Times & AP & By Khaled Farhan, (Reuters) & The Guardian & April 10, 2007 By Sam Dagher, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Hundreds of thousands Iraqis took to the streets of two Shia holy cities in Iraq today and protested against “US occupiers”.

“No, No America. Death to America,” read some of the banners.

“Yes to Moqtada, yes to Iraq, yes to liberation,” chanted demonstrators as they poured into the revered Shiite cities of Kufa and Najaf Monday calling for US troops to leave Iraq.

They gathered in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf for an anti-American rally called by firebrand nationalist cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who commands an enormous following among Iraq’s majority Shiites, on the fourth anniversary of the fall of Saddam Hussein.

His ability to muster such a large gathering was a signal to the Iraqi government and Washington that, despite his absence from public view, he is still a force to be reckoned with.

“It proves that he’s the only man capable of amassing such a huge demonstration and shows the weakness of the government and its allies,” says Wamidh Nadhmi, a political science professor at the University of Baghdad.

“He’s also trying to prove to all that he’s the moving spirit among Shiites and that he has not changed his mind about the presence of US forces.”

Iraqi soldiers in uniform joined the crowd, which was led by at least a dozen turbaned clerics including Sunni.

In addition to the Iraqi police and soldiers, dozens of armed members of Sadr’s movement fanned out among the crowds.

Some Sunni religious groups also joined the rally.

Monday’s marchers included some Kurds in traditional dress as well as Sunni clerics, many of whom were bused by Sadr’s movement from the city of Basra in the south. “Let’s put out the fire of discord and chop off the snake’s head,” chanted some in reference to Iraq’s ongoing sectarian strife.

‘This demonstration is a friendly message to unite Iraqis on one common issue and that is end of occupation,’ said Abdul Qadir Al Daim of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a powerful Sunni bloc.

Hundreds of banners saying “Down with Bush, Down with America” could be seen in the crowd.

Marchers choked the 7 km long road between Najaf and neighboring Kufa and clogged streets leading to Sadrayn Square, the main rallying point. Many had come from Baghdad and Shi’ite towns and cities in the south.

Large crowds of men, women and children holding Iraqi flags and anti-US banners massed in the Shia holy city of Najaf shouting ‘No, No to America! Yes, Yes to Freedom!’

‘In four years of occupation, our sons have been killed and women made widows,’ cried Ahmed Al Mayahie, 39, a Shia from the southern city of Basra.

‘The occupier raised slogans saying Iraq is free, Iraq is liberated. What freedom? What liberation? There is nothing but destruction. We do not want their liberation and their presence. We tell them to get out of our land.’

Many in the crowds were seen burning US flags and some were trampling on and striking US and Israeli flags painted on the ground with their shoes, an act considered one of the worst insults in Arab culture.

Leaflets fluttered through the breeze reading: “Yes, Yes to Iraq” and “Yes, Yes to Moktada. Occupiers should leave Iraq.”

Rally organisers also distributed leaflets urging Americans and Europeans to pressure their governments to end the bloodshed.

“I want the occupation to leave right away. Now, no timetable. We want to be ruled by Iraqis only,” said Farhan Turki, one of the protestors.

“The enemy that is occupying our country is now targeting the dignity of the Iraqi people,” said lawmaker Nassar al-Rubaie, head of Mr. Sadr’s bloc in parliament, as he marched, according to the A.P.

“After four years of occupation, we have hundreds of thousands of people dead and wounded.”

Speaking against the backdrop of an Iraqi flag, a senior Sadrist, cleric Abdelhadi al-Mohammadawi, called on U.S. forces to leave.

His speech was interrupted by periodic chants of “Leave, leave occupier!” and “No, no, to the occupation.”

“We demand the exit of the occupier and withdrawal of the last American soldier and we also reject the existence of any kind of military bases,” he said.

“This protest is our demand for sovereignty because we will not stay quiet on the issue.

“There is no need for the occupiers to remain and continue killing innocents,” said Mohammed Hamza from Baghdad.

Many Baghdadis, especially in Shiite strongholds, put Iraqi flags on their roof-tops or outside their shops. “We respect Sadr’s call. Some of his supporters are more active. They will fight and go down to Najaf. Our support is more passive,” said Ali Shaker, a pastry shop owner.

Iraqi flags fluttered from many of the capital’s hospitals and government buildings.

Policemen, who are renowned for their support for Sadr, draped flags on the hoods of their vehicles.

On Sunday, Mr. Sadr reiterated his call to unite against the Americans and end fighting between his militiamen and security forces in the central city of Diwaniyah.

He issued a statement ordering his militiamen to redouble their battle to oust American forces and argued that “You, the Iraqi army and police forces, don’t walk alongside the occupiers, because they are your archenemy.”

Calling for unity against US troops, Sadr urged local forces: “To the Iraqi Army and police: do not follow the orders of the occupier because he is your enemy.”

“Iraq has had enough bloodshed. The occupation forces led by the biggest evil, America, is working to sow dissent either directly or through its agents.”

“He appeals to the Iraqi army and the Mahdi militia not to fall into America’s trap by fighting in Diwaniyah,” said a statement stamped and issued by the cleric’s Najaf office on his behalf.

A senior official in al-Sadr’s organization in Najaf, Salah al-Obaydi, called the rally a “call for liberation.”

US and Iraqi soldiers have been clashing with his militiamen in Diwaniyah since Friday.

Mr. Sadr’s statement did not explicitly call for armed struggle against the Americans, but it still represented his most forceful condemnation of the American-led occupation since he went underground after the start of an intensified Baghdad security crackdown nearly two months ago.

“The strife that is taking place in Diwaniya was planned by the occupier to drag down the brothers and make them quarrel, fight and even kill each other,” Mr. Sadr said in a written statement. “Oh my brothers in the Mahdi Army and my brothers in the security forces, stop fighting and killing because that is what our enemy and your enemy and even God’s enemy hope for.”

Mr. Sadr added: “God ordered you to be patient and to unite your efforts against the enemy and not against the sons of Iraq. They want to drag you into a war that ends Shiitism and Islam, but they cannot.”

On Sunday, thousands of residents in Baghdad’s largest slum, Sadr City, boarded buses and minivans bound for Najaf.

On arrival, people slept in parks, on sidewalks, and even inside Najaf’s famed Valley of Peace cemetery, which was the scene of vicious fighting between Sadr’s partisans and US forces in 2004. Huge vats were wheeled out into the streets to cook for the crowds.

Iraqi flags flew from most houses and shops in Sadr City. Drivers and motorcyclists affixed them to their vehicles.

Police escorted convoys of pickup trucks overflowing with young boys waving Iraqi flags, en route to Najaf.

The Mahdi Army has generally been lying low during the Baghdad security plan, but intense fighting broke out in Diwaniya on Friday between militiamen and American-led forces.

The battles erupted when American and Iraqi soldiers isolated neighborhoods in Diwaniya to search for militiamen.

The battles in Diwaniya have been the most violent in months between the Mahdi Army and the Americans, and could portend violence in other strongholds of the Sadr militia.

Jubilant Baghdadis who welcomed the invading US troops on April 9, 2003, now blame the rampant bloodshed and chaos on what even some of the country’s most senior leaders brand an unwanted US-led “occupation.”

State-owned television carried segments of the demonstration live but characterized it as a celebration of the fourth anniversary of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Still, the government's response to Monday's demonstration was confused. Initially, it put out a statement on Sunday saying Monday was a regular business day. But that was followed by another statement imposing a ban on vehicles traveling in Baghdad.

MORE:

Sunni And Shia Shake Hands On It: Bush, Get The Fuck Out Of Our Country



A Shi'ite cleric (L) shakes hands with a Sunni cleric during a mass rally in Najaf, April 9, 2007, demanding all U.S. troops leave Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of people, responding to a call by powerful anti-Occupation nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr, waved Iraqi flags and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz (IRAQ)

MORE:

GET THE MESSAGE?



Demonstrators burn a U.S. flag in Najaf April 9, 2007 during an anti-Occupation protest. Hundreds of thousands of people, responding to a call by powerful anti-Occupation nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr, waved Iraqi flags and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT THE FIRST TIME:



Demonstrators step on the U.S. flag in Najaf April 9, 2007. Hundreds of thousands of people, responding to a call by powerful anti-Occupation nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr, waved Iraqi flags and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

MORE:

OK, HERE IT IS IN PLAIN ENGLISH:



April 9, 2007. Hundreds of thousands, responding to a call by powerful anti-Occupation nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr, waved Iraqi flags and demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces. REUTERS/Coerwan Aziz (IRAQ)



4/9/07 THE PARADESIA JOURNAL. IMPERIAL PRESS SYDNEY

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

New Mexico Soldier Killed In Karmah



Fort Richardson, Alaska soldier Spc. Clifford A. Spohn died April 9, 2007, when his unit was hit with indirect fire while working at an Iraqi police station in Karmah, Iraq. The 21-year-old infantryman was from Albuquerque, N.M. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Disgusting Shit-Eating Army PR Rats Try To Bury The Fact That 16 U.S. Troops Were Wounded Today In One Attack By The Resistance [And They Call It An “Incident”!]

[Check out this stupid piece of propaganda. By the way, don't miss the last sentence. Where the news is.

[Whoever wrote this would have had a brilliant career with the German Army at Stalingrad. Or the French Army at Dien Bien Phu. T]

April 10, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070410-07

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad helicopter engaged insurgents with machine gun fire after positively identifying them during a small arms attack on MND-B troops and aircraft in the Rusafa security district in central Baghdad April 10.

At approximately 7 a.m., Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division teamed up with their 9th Iraqi Army counterparts to conduct a routine cordon and search operation in Rusafa when they quickly came under small arms fire in the al-Fadhil area in central Baghdad.

Aviation assets quickly responded to units in contact. Attack helicopters targeted by small arms fire suffered minor damage, returned to base and then continued with their missions.

Combined forces on the ground continued to work with attack aviation assets throughout the day to locate, identify, and engage and kill three insurgents targeting coalition and Iraqi security forces in the area.

As a result of this small arms fire incident, one local nation child was injured, four Iraqi Army soldiers killed and two wounded. Sixteen MND-B Soldiers were also wounded in the attack.

Massachusetts Sgt. Killed Near Diwaniyah



U.S. Army Sgt. Adam Kennedy of Norfolk, Mass., was killed April 8, 2007, when his unit was hit with indirect fire near Diwaniyah, Iraq. The 25-year-old was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division. (AP Photo/Norwich University)

Three U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Baghdad Double IED Attack

April 10, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070410-04

Three MND-B Soldiers died and another was wounded when an improvised explosive device and secondary explosion detonated near their patrol in a southeastern section of the Iraqi capital April 9.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Anbar

April 10, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070410-05

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Multi-National Force-West died Monday while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

Midland Soldier Killed

04/09/2007 Midland Daily News

Pfc. Levi K. Hoover, 23, of Midland, was killed in Iraq on Saturday while serving with the United States Army 82nd Airborne. Hoover was a 2002 graduate of H.H. Dow High School.

“He was just a wonderful young man,” said Principal Jan Goodall, adding Hoover was involved in several school activities.

Eagan Marine Killed In Iraq: Daniel Olsen, 20, Began His First Tour Just Two Months Ago

4/6/07 by Erin Johnson, Thisweek Newspapers

An Eagan Marine who began his first tour of duty in Iraq just two months ago was killed on Sunday, April 1 after being shot in the back with small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Daniel R. Olsen, 20, was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Fox Company, in an area around Fallujah. He was wearing heavy armor at the time.

Olsen, the son of Wayne and Gwen Olsen, was a 2005 graduate of Eagan High School. He enlisted with the U.S. Marines immediately after graduation.

His family describes Olsen as a very private person who loved to play video games and eschewed the spotlight. His desire to blend in likely made the military attractive, Wayne said.

“He wanted to not be the center of attention,” he said. “In the military, you don’t stand out, so that worked for him.”

Olsen had been thinking about joining the military during his last couple of years in high school, Wayne said.

There is a history of military service in Olsen’s family: Wayne and both of Olsen’s grandfathers served in the Navy. “There’s military threads running through the family, but nobody made a career of it,” Wayne said.

Olsen was proud to be a Marine, he said, and he found brotherhood among his fellow Marines.

“I always got the impression that he was very confident in the people with him,” he said. “The Marines were just wonderful from his perspective. It’s a great group to be with. He really bonded with them.”

Olsen wasn’t yet sure what he wanted to do for a career, said his sisters, Shelcy, 22, and Shaina, 18. But he was taking classes through the military in math and finance, they said.

“He was a very private person. He didn’t really share his feelings,” Shelcy said. “But he played jokes on us all the time.”

Olsen had a natural knack with children, and one of his passions was teaching Sunday school at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie.

“I would consider him a pretty hypersensitive, gentle person,” Wayne said. “Whenever he came back, he would always reconnect with the kids at Wooddale. He was working with 5-year-olds, and they would just hang on him. They loved him.”

Wayne said that no one was surprised when Olsen was sent to Iraq. He was deployed on Jan. 29.

“That’s just part of the program,” Wayne said.

Olsen had access to phones and the Internet, and he would communicate with his family through e-mail on a regular basis.

“He was tired, but other than that I think he was OK with what they were doing,” Shelcy said. “He was in pretty good spirits.”

Wayne said he and Olsen had been e-mailing back and forth almost daily the week before he died. That week also brought their last phone call from Olsen.

They learned of his death on Monday, April 2. "We're a Christian family, and we think that Daniel is in a much better place," Wayne said.

Even after his death, Olsen is still having an impact, he said.

"He will be greatly missed by lots of folks. His story touched many people," he said. "He's getting more attention now than he probably would have ever wanted."

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO. He writes: Pics showing what happens when US bases get mortared/rocketed. Obviously taken by a GI. I found them online, and don't know who took them.

Heavy Fighting In Baghdad: Two U.S. Helicopters Hit

Apr 10, 2007 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

U.S. and Iraqi forces backed by attack helicopters fought insurgents in Baghdad on Tuesday, witnesses said, in what appeared to be the heaviest battle in the capital since a security crackdown was launched in February.

Two witnesses in Baghdad said they saw U.S. helicopters fire on buildings where guerrillas had holed up in Fadhil. Police and witnesses said there had been casualties.

The U.S. military said two helicopters were hit by small arms fire but returned to base safely.

Abu Omar, a local journalist and resident in Fadhil, said the operation by U.S. and Iraqi troops started before dawn. He said he saw helicopters rocket several buildings while gunmen armed with belt-fed machine guns roamed the streets.

Another resident also said he saw U.S. helicopters firing at buildings. One flew off trailing smoke, he said.

Both said fighting now appeared to have shifted out of Fadhil into neighboring Sheikh Omar, an industrial area, and Bab al-Muadham district. Many shops in the area had closed.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Feared Never Seeing Daughter Again

April 4, 2007 Bangor Daily News

BANGOR, Maine --A soldier who left behind a young daughter in Maine said his greatest fear was "not coming home to his little girl."

Army Spc. Christopher Wilson, 24, made the remark on the social networking Web site MySpace.com before being killed last week by a rocket-propelled grenade while deployed with the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan.

On the Web, Wilson expressed his love for his 4-year-old daughter, Boston sports teams and his "buddies back home." He said his goal for 2007 was to "stay alive."

Army records identified Wilson as being from Bangor, but most of his family ties are in Chicopee, Mass. His daughter, Jayden, is believed to be his only family member living in Maine, said Maj. Michael Backus, director of public affairs of the Maine National Guard.

While it appears Wilson spent most of his youth in Massachusetts, he identified Bangor as his hometown at the time of his Army enlistment in September 2002.

He completed the preliminary Army requirements at the military entrance processing station in Portland, said Ben Abel, media relations officer at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Funeral services were undetermined Wednesday.

Assorted Resistance Action

April 10 (KUNA)

Two Afghan soldiers were killed when they came under attack from Taliban in Zabul province.

A senior military commander, Rahmatullah Raufi, said the military convoy was traveling on the main Kabul-Kandahar highway when it was ambushed by the militants.

Raufi said their two men were killed and four more wounded. He said some Taliban had also been killed in retaliatory fire from the soldiers, but would not tell the exact number.

TROOP NEWS

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



The horse-drawn carriage carrying the casket of U.S. Army Private First Class John Landry Jr. into the cemetery in Wilmington, Massachusetts, March 27, 2007. Landry Jr. was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on March 17. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

13,000 National Guard Troops Ordered To Get Ready For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

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

Apr 9 By PAULINE JELINEK, Associated Press Writer & New York Times, April 10, 2007

On Monday, officials said some 13,000 National Guard troops are receiving notice to prepare for possible deployment to Iraq, which would be the second tour for several thousand of them.

The orders had been anticipated, but the specific units were not announced until Monday. They are the Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Little Rock, Ark.; 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma City; the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indianapolis, and the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Columbus, Ohio.

One unit would deploy in December and the others in 2008, the Army said.

Most of these soldiers have already been deployed in the past few years, and several thousand have served at least one tour in Iraq.

Alleged Reporter Says Alleged Commanders Of Alleged Marine Unit That Butchered Afghan Civilians Removed From Command

Apr 10, 2007 By Trista Talton – [Alleged] Army Times Staff writer [Alleged excerpts]

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. — The commander and senior enlisted Marine of the Corps' first special operations company have been relieved of duty, according to officials with Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

The firings occurred April 3, one month after members of the company **allegedly killed** eight civilians after a Marine convoy was ambushed by a car bomb in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province. A senior U.S. commander pulled the company out of Afghanistan days after **the alleged incident**, pending an investigation.

Afghan witnesses and **alleged gunshot victims** told freelancers with The Associated Press that U.S. forces fired on civilians in cars and on foot along a road in Nangarhar

province following a suicide attack against a Marine convoy on March 4. Eight Afghans died and 34 were wounded. One Marine was injured.

Following the allegations, Army Maj. Gen. Frank Kearney, head of U.S. Special Operations Command-Central Command, pulled all 120 members of the company out of Afghanistan. SOCCent also launched an investigation into the incident.

That investigation is complete, Turner said, **but the results have not been made public.**

Nominee For Silliest General Of 2007, So Far: **Top Marine Says Anbar Has ‘Turned The Corner’**

April 10, 2007 Baltimore Sun,

The long U.S. effort to stabilize western Iraq, a hotbed of the Sunni Arab insurgency, has reached a turning point with new prospects for success, the top Marine general said.

“I think, in that area, we have turned the corner,” Marine Commandant Gen. James T. Conway said in an interview as he flew back to Washington after four days in Iraq.

Traitors In Command At Ft. Lewis: Deliberately, Knowingly Poisoning Troops, Spouses And Kids

4.10.07 Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Plumes of contaminated underground water could be releasing dangerous vapors into family homes at Fort Lewis, Wash.

But despite years of urging from the Environmental Protection Agency, the military has not tested the housing for toxic gas, nor has it warned the hundreds of soldiers, spouses and children who have occupied the dwellings that they could be at risk.

For at least five years, military officials have known of the possible seepage of trichloroethylene vapors from groundwater near and under the homes in the post’s Madigan Army Medical Center housing area, according to interviews and government documents.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

2003: “Good, Good, Bush”
2007: “Down with Bush”



Demonstrators chant slogans during a peaceful rally marking the fourth anniversary of the fall of Baghdad to invading American troops, in Najaf, April 9, 2007. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

04-09-2007 BAGHDAD (AFP)

On April 9, 2003, US tanks rolled into Baghdad's central Firdos Square and Marines pulled down a towering bronze statue of Saddam Hussein by a rope around the neck, in a premonition of Saddam's hanging in December.

Jubilant Baghdadis who welcomed US tanks on that fateful day now blame the dire situation on what even some of the country's most senior leaders brand an unwanted US-led "occupation."

Gone are the euphoric April 9 cheers of "Good, Good, Bush" praising US President George W. Bush for ousting the regime. Angry chants of "Down with Bush" are a frequent background.

A cleric speaking on behalf of nationalist leader Moqtada al-Sadr, whose Mahdi Army is what the Pentagon calls the biggest danger to Iraq, has urged mass anti-American protests on Monday's anniversary.

"It will be an Iraqi demonstration in the name of all Iraqis. We will raise the Iraqi flag and also banners demanding that the occupation leave," a Sadr representative in his Najaf office told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Assorted Resistance Action

10 April 2007 BBC & By Dean Yates (Reuters) & AP

A bomber reported to be a woman has attacked a police recruiting centre in Iraq, killed 17 recruits outside a police station in the town of Muqdadiya, police officials said.

Police said 33 people were wounded in the attack, including three civilians. The bomber walked into a crowd of 200 police recruits at a centre 90 km (50 miles) from Baghdad. It was the first major attack on volunteers for local security forces this year.

"I was heading to work when I saw this ball of flame between a crowd of people. I saw many people on the ground. Many had lost their limbs," said one witness who declined to be named.

The figure dressed in the traditional black abaya detonated a bomb within a crowd of people who were seeking recruitment forms to join the police force, local officials said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**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 is 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."



THE BALIBO 5: “DEAD MEN CAN STILL BITE!” “Two Hundred Thousand East Timorese. Murdered, By The Indonesian Army, With The Not So Silent Assent Of The Australian, The US, The British Governments”

In the Southern Texas US Federal Court Oceanic Oil is suing Conoco-Phillips for US \$ 50 Billions. Oceanic claims Phillips instigated, financed, the Indonesian invasion of East Timor (incidentally killing not just 6 journalists, but 200,000 Timorese).

Others cite the close connections between Mr. Kissinger and Phillips Oil. Kissinger and Ford's visit, in early December 1975, to Jakarta, Suharto. The

protocol admits: “invade East Timor, but please wait till we have left.” Kissinger and Ford left on December 6, the full-scale invasion began the next day.

From: Max Watts
To: GI Special
Sent: March 07, 2007
Subject: BALIBO 5: DEAD MEN CAN STILL BITE

By Max Watts, Sydney, Australia

“Dead Men can still bite !” said Shirley Shackleton, thirty-one years after her husband, Greg Shackleton, died in Balibo, a village on the frontier between East and West Timor.

Shackleton, Brian Peters, Malcolm Rennie, Gary Cunningham, and Tony Stewart, TV journalists working for Channels 7 and 9, the “Balibo 5” - disappeared on 16 October, 1975.

Killed, as soon in Dili a sixth Australian journalist, Roger East.

And - in the next 24 years perhaps two hundred thousand East Timorese. Murdered, by the Indonesian army, with the not so silent assent of the Australian, the US, the British governments.

For 31 years these deaths, that of the six Journalists, that of the 200,000 Timorese, have been covered up.

Officially lied into the “sad, but forget” file.

But now a little Deputy Sydney Coroner, Dorelle Pinch, has pried open at least a part of the ... graves. Exposed some of the worst lies.

Allowed, as Shirley Shackleton says, the dead to bite, bite some very senior, still living, bums.

And Pinch hopes to continue in May...

Let's hope !

Break For Some History

“The Timorese are used to being killed”, one told me.

In 1941-43 they supported the Australian “Independent Companies” fighting a guerrilla campaign against the Japanese there. The Australians left, the Timorese stayed, the Japanese were not amused and killed perhaps 40,000, ten percent of the then population. The Australian government told the survivors: “We will never forget you!”

Never was a short-term word.

In 1945, after the Japanese surrender, East Timor was returned to the Portuguese "Empire". The Salazar dictatorship. In April 1974 Portuguese Captains, soon actively backed by their rank and file soldiers, overthrew that fascist dictatorship.

The anti-fascists in the army ended Portugal's decade-long colonial wars in Africa, dissolved the centuries-old "Lusitanian" empire. East Timor, too, no longer a distant, almost forgotten, colony, was freed. In 1975 "Fretilin", a left-wing party, many of whose leaders had been Portuguese soldiers, came to power in Dili.

The Australian Whitlam Labor Government, the Americans smarting from their defeats in Vietnam, worried. Neither wanted a "Second Cuba in the Pacific". And both realised that the "Timor Gap" between Timor and Australia contained still untapped but perhaps enormous Oil and Gas deposits.

Indonesia, for centuries an exploited Dutch colony, had fought for and won its independence in 1945-1950. But its left, an important element in and after that anti-imperialist struggle, was eliminated in 1965-66 by a right-wing military coup, supported and steered by the CIA. Half, or a whole, million "Communists" were killed. Order and Business now reigned in Jakarta.

Phillips, a major American Oil Company, could and did, do business there. A million dead "Communists" were no problem, but the Fretilin in East Timor could well be. Or become one. For Phillips.

Particularly as the permits for the Timor Gap had been allocated, in previous years, to "Petrotimor" and its American partner, Oceanic Oil. No one in the establishments wanted a "left" Fretilin government in very poor East Timor to keep such a treasure.

Fortunately a well-known American, one Henry Kissinger, had (still has?) very good connections with the Phillips Company and the Indonesian government.

And at the crucial time, late 1975, this Kissinger was "Secretary of State", i.e. Foreign Minister, of the American government, leading the short-term (almost temporary) President Gerald Ford. By the nose ? Well... anyway, to Indonesia, to visit communist-killing Dictator Suharto.

Suharto, the Indonesian generals, also worried. An independent, leftist, Fretilin, government in East Timor could become an "infection", give too many ideas to the now "calmed" (i.e. killed) Indonesian left.

Americans, Australians, Indonesians – and Phillips Petroleum had one common idea. Get rid of Fretilin!

And if the great majority of the East Timorese wanted Fretilin?

Tough!

"Democracy" would just have to take a back-seat. Suharto had shown, in Indonesia, that he could "take care" of (i.e. kill) the left.

As we have seen recently in Palestine, democracy is useless if the wrong, anti-American, anti-imperialists, use it to govern.

TWO PLANS FOR OVERTHROWING FRETILIN

A first scenario, to get rid of Fretilin by starting a civil war inside East Timor, using the right and right-center APODETI and UDT parties to attack the government, with (covert) Indonesian support, failed bloodily in August 1975. Fretilin emerged stronger than ever, the remnants of the UDT, APODETI, fled to Indonesia.

A second plan, invading East Timor with the Indonesian army, was problematic. It could look really bad. The Australian (Labor!) government, even the Americans, certainly the United Nations and the Portuguese (who still had some warships there) might object.

(Later on, 1990-91 Saddam Hussein tried this in Kuwait. Invaded a small country to get at its oil. We know where he eventually ended up, hung on the gallows).

So, with the silent approval of Australia's Whitlam, America's Kissinger, the British Ambassador, these two plans were merged: Indonesia would invade, but pretend it wasn't there.

It should look like being only, or still, a civil war between Timorese. The Indonesian Army moved in, using as cover some auxiliaries - UDT/APODATI Timorese. Unfortunately these had no warships or helicopters. Warships were needed to occupy the coastal border town of Batugade. Headquarters for the invasion force.

The Balibo 5: Flies in the Ointment

At this point the two Australian TV crews in Balibo, on the East Timorese frontier, became – did they realise this ? – a “real problem”. For the Australian, American, Indonesian governments.

From the East Timorese mountain village of Balibo they filmed the Indonesian warships. And, on 16 October 1975, the Indonesian attack on Balibo. Had these films “got out”, been screened, any pretense of civil war, Indonesian absence, would have become ridiculous.

The Whitlam Australians, the Kissinger/Ford Americans, had explained this to Suharto: “Go ahead, invade, but don't let anybody know”.

Much of the Australian public still remembered what the East Timorese had once done for Australia. The Americans, few of whom knew where Timor was, had been traumatised by Vietnam. There they had been told they landed there to defend Vietnam from the Communists. Who turned out to be the Vietnamese.

Many Americans might feel bad, so soon supporting another invasion, again “to stop communism”. Particularly if that invasion was “for the oil.” Look at what happened when Saddam did that to Kuwait!

So, no publicity, please !

Some of the Indonesian attackers, led by one Captain Yunus Yosfiah (who went on to greater things – became a general, a minister, now he's alive, well, retired in Jakarta) worried. "There are Australian journalists in Balibo... Filming." He was told: "Never mind. We'll have 'strong medicine' for them."

And so that invasion went ahead.

Fretilin forces, outnumbered, fearing encirclement, fled. Resistance ceased. The Indonesians, Yunus Yosfiah, entered Balibo.

The 5 journalists, yelling: "Australians, Journalists", came to meet them. Yosfiah shot them, had the fleeing survivor stabbed to death.

Three bodies were first dressed in Portuguese army uniforms, filmed behind damaged machine guns, "Communist Fretilin allies". As this version was seen as too plump, unrealistic, the dead 5 were carried into their house, and – for three days – repeatedly doused with kerosene, burned. So were their films, their equipment.

All was reported repeatedly by the Indonesian officers to their superiors. By radio. The Australian Intelligence services (and certainly the Americans, who have a huge CIA base in Pine Gap, Australia) listened in. Translated, reported.

What happened to these reports has long been controversial. In fact the very existence of these radio intercepts, these reports, has been systematically denied for thirty-one years, particularly by once Oz Prime Minister Whitlam.

For 31 years the "official versions" remained: "We don't know what happened. To these journalists. They were just unlucky, hit, killed, by crossfire. Between different East Timorese groups. Not the Indonesian army.."

Seven separate, but "closed", investigations failed to shake these official versions.

UNTIL..

The families of the Balibo 5 did not give up. Maureen Tolfree, the sister of Brian Peters, a "simple" Bristol woman, insisted.

And a small opening opened up, grew, grows. Cameraman Brian Peters, although a British citizen, was a Sydney resident. A New South Wales Coroner, Deputy Coroner Dorelle Pinch, find she thus has "jurisdiction". An official Inquest into Brian Peters' death opened in early February. 2007.

Thirty-one years after the disappearance, death, of Peters, the other four. The Balibo Five.

Coroner Pinch promised an open, complete, inquiry. On opening day pickets outside the courtroom stood with "The Truth, This Time !" signs.

The inquest ran three weeks in February and has already revealed much. Two weeks open sessions, Timorese witnesses of the 16 October 1975 events.

Murders. Multiple witnesses confirmed: "Yosfiah, the Indonesian soldiers, shot, stabbed, the Journalists. There was no crossfire, the fighting had ceased well before."

Then, at the end of the second week, things became more complicated: Retired Australian "Intelligence" servicepersons insisted they had seen, at the time and soon thereafter, radio intercepts destined to the highest instances, Prime Minister Geough Whitlam, his inner cabinet. These intercepts have never been revealed, admitted, in previous inquiries. The tension rose.

The Australian government sent "heavies", asking for closed, secret, sessions. "These discussions risk the National Interest". Outrage of the families, their lawyers. The Media, public. "We were promised an open inquiry. Will this be another white-wash? Who is being protected by 'the national interest' cover ?"

Australian Politicians ? Americans ?? Henry Kissinger ???

In the Southern Texas US Federal Court Oceanic Oil is suing Conoco-Phillips for US \$ 50 Billions. Oceanic claims Phillips instigated, financed, the Indonesian invasion of East Timor (incidentally killing not just 6 journalists, but 200,000 Timorese).

200,006 deaths - to boot out Oceanic and Petrotimor from their most valuable permits in the Timor Gap. In its initial statement Oceanic specifically notes the Indonesian occupation in early October 1975 of the coastal town of Batugabe, soon headquarters for the attack on Balibo.

Others cite the close connections between Mr. Kissinger and Phillips Oil. Kissinger and Ford's visit, in early December 1975, to Jakarta, Suharto. The protocol admits: "invade East Timor, but please wait till we have left." Kissinger and Ford left on December 6, the full-scale invasion began the next day.

Kissinger and his aides, secretly, did all they could to facilitate, arm, that invasion. They had certainly been informed of the October events in Balibo by the American listening devices in Pine Gap, on satellites.

Will the coroner's inquest go that far Seances have been suspended till 1 May (2007). New witnesses are being sought. Senior – retired – Australian politicians, including Whitlam, may yet be heard.

Coroner Pinch has issued an arrest warrant against once-Captain Yunus Yosfiah, who has refused to appear. He, in Indonesia, laughs: "Me? Sure, I was there, but I didn't do anything". For the Indonesian government, the "case is closed".

How strong will the Dead Men bite? Will the Deputy Coroner continue stirring ?
Question "Americans"?

Ford is no longer with us, but what about Noble Prize winner Kissinger? What did he know ? And suggest? When?

Did the Balibo 5,200,000 Timorese, have to die - for Phillips, for the oil/gas of the Timor Gap?

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to 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

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Baker Company 2-12 Infantry Battalion confronts an Iraqi citizen during a foot patrol through the streets of the al-Dora neighborhood of southern Baghdad, 18 March 2007. (AFP/File/David Furst)

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

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

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

“DAMN STRAIGHT”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: DAMN STRAIGHT.]

Apr 1 By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press Writer [Excerpt]

Sami Kareem, a 26-year-old clerk from Basra, says he is fed up.

“When the regime was toppled and our Shiite people came to power, we expected things to be much better,” he said. “But nothing happened. Every one is fighting for power and money.”

Another Shiite, Baghdad security guard Ali Hussein, said Shiite empowerment has done little to improve his life, and those of his wife and two children.

“We Shiites now want a government that realizes our dreams even if it's not Shiite. People are so frustrated that some are even saying that Shiites cannot rule,” he said.

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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

GEORGE BUSH: POLITICAL GENIUS The Commander-in-Chief Speaks

“Make no mistake about it, I understand how tough it is. I talk to families who die.” Bush, 12-7-06

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.org/)

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