

GI SPECIAL 5D13:

Betrayed Again



A U.S. Army soldier with Charlie Company, 2-3 Infantry just after learning his unit's tour of Iraq is being extended by at least 90 days, at Taji Air Base north of Baghdad April 12, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

The Traitor Bush Defies America: Orders All Troops To Stay 15 Months In Iraq; Surge Will Be Extended Until “At Least” December: “I Cannot Fathom What Bush Is Thinking. I Am So Sick And Tired Of This ... I Have Had It”

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Phil G, who sent this in.]

William L. Nash, a retired Army major general now at the Council on Foreign Relations, said ... that a soldier on his third tour who spent 18 months in Iraq would have spent more time in a combat zone than many did during World War II.

April 11, 2007 By JONATHAN KARL, ABC News & April 12, 2007 By DAVID S. CLOUD, The New York Times & By MIKE BARBER, Seattle Post-Intelligencer [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON:

Stretched thin by four years of war, the Army is adding the three months to the standard yearlong tour in an extraordinary step aimed at maintaining the troop buildup in Baghdad.

The military announced Wednesday that most active duty Army units now in Iraq and Afghanistan and those sent in the future would serve 15-month tours, three months longer than the standard one-year tour.

Senior officials tell ABC News there is now consensus at the Pentagon and the White House that the surge needs to be extended, until at least the end of the year.

The change is the latest blow to an all-volunteer Army that has been given ever-shorter periods of rest and retraining at home between overseas deployments.

"I don't want him to miss more of DD's (darling daughter's) first year of life," wrote one military wife.

"Guess my wedding won't be happening when planned," wrote a soldier's fiancée.

"I was a supporter of the war when it first started and wavered slightly but was still supportive of our administration and now I cannot fathom what Bush is thinking. I am so sick and tired of this ... I have had it," wrote another spouse.

The extended tours are a price the Army is paying to sustain the troop buildup that President Bush ordered in January as part of an attempt to stabilize Baghdad.

Troop levels are being boosted from 15 brigades to 20 brigades, and in order to keep that up beyond summer the Army faced harsh choices: Send units to Iraq with less than 12 months at home, or extend tours.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, who announced the change at a news conference at the Pentagon, said that the only other way to maintain force levels would have been to allow many soldiers less than a year at home between combat tours.

Mr. Gates said the problem was evident even before President Bush ordered an increase in troops for Iraq this year.

Officials said the change became inevitable as the numbers of extra troops that were needed — and, most likely, the time the extra forces would have to stay — increased.

Tens of thousands of soldiers are facing their third tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and casualties have continued to mount inexorably.

Mr. Gates said no decision had been made about how long beyond August to extend reinforcements in Iraq.

The total force is around 145,000 and is building toward around 160,000 by early summer. Active-duty Army troops currently total around 79,000 in Iraq and around 18,000 in Afghanistan, along with an additional 7,000 soldiers in Kuwait, who would also be covered by the new policy.

Word of the extensions reached the American military command post in Juwayba, Iraq, in a rural area east of Ramadi, overnight when a sergeant spotted it while surfing the Internet.

It was greeted with a mixture of anger and resignation among the few soldiers who were still awake.

"We're just laughing," said Capt. Brice Cooper, 26, the executive officer of Company B, First Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment of the First Infantry Division. He was chuckling nervously, his frustration palpable.

"It's so unbelievable, it's humorous."

The soldiers crowded around the outpost's few computers, sending e-mail messages to their families and parsing Mr. Gates's words in the hope of finding possible loopholes that would exclude them from the extension.

The unit was scheduled to return to its base in Germany in June. The extension meant it would probably have to stay here until September.

"I'm fixing to lose my girlfriend," one soldier grumbled.

William L. Nash, a retired Army major general now at the Council on Foreign Relations, said ... that a soldier on his third tour who spent 18 months in Iraq would have spent more time in a combat zone than many did during World War II.

UNFIT FOR COMMAND UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE



REUTERS/Jim Bourg

**THIS IS THE DOMESTIC ENEMY;
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed North Of Baghdad

April 13, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070412-02

BAGHDAD — An MND-B Soldier died when a patrol was attacked with small arms fire north of the Iraqi capital. The unit was conducting a security patrol when the attack occurred.

Arizona Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Pfc. Damian Lopez Rodriguez, 19, of Tucson, Ariz. was killed along with two other soldiers April 6, 2007 in Baghdad when the Humvee he was riding in hit an improvised explosive device. Rodriguez was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany. (AP Photo/Rodriguez family)

Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier, Two Wounded

Apr 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070411-07

BAGHDAD — An MND-B Soldier died and two others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their patrol in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital April 11.

One U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Baghdad

Apr 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070411-11

BAGHDAD – One MND-B Soldier died and another was wounded after their unit came under attack in the southern portion of the Iraqi capital April 10.

Kentucky Petty Officer Killed



Chief Petty Officer Gregory J. Billiter, 36, of Villa Hills, Ky., was killed while on duty in Iraq. (AP Photo/NAS Whidbey Island via The Seattle Times)

Georgia Petty Officer Killed



Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph A. McSween, 26, of Valdosta, Ga. was killed while on duty in Iraq. (AP Photo/NAS Whidbey Island via The Seattle Times)

MND-B Loses Soldier To Non-Battle Death

April 13, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070413-01

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died April 12 due to a non-battle related cause. The deceased Soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin and release by the Department of Defense.

The incident is under investigation.

LOCAL SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ



SERVING HIS COUNTRY - Staff Sgt. Bradley King was serving with the National Guard in Al Amiriyah when he was killed by a roadside bomb Monday. King is a native of LaFontaine. Photo provided by Kay Martin

April 4, 2007 BY TERESA AUCH, Chronicle

Staff Sgt. Bradley King, as his cousin tells it, was never prone to selfishness.

Always willing to help others, King felt the need to serve his country, even if it required giving his life.

"I would say he was more than willing to die for his country," Brent Miller said. "... He cared more about everyone else than he did himself."

In the end, King made that sacrifice.

The Indiana National Guard announced Tuesday that King, 28, LaFontaine, was killed Monday by an improvised explosive device while he was riding in a Humvee during combat operations in Al Amiriyah, Iraq.

King, who graduated from Mississinewa High School in 1998, had been serving in Iraq since September with Company A, Second Battalion, 152nd Infantry, Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson said.

He has been with the 152nd Infantry since he enlisted in September 1997, Thombleson said. He was originally stationed in Marion before being transferred to Indianapolis.

No one else was killed in the explosion, she said.

King is the fourth man with local ties to have been killed while serving overseas in the past few years.

More than 3,000 U.S. troops have died during the conflict, 74 of them from Indiana.

King leaves behind his wife, Adrian, and 15-month-old son, Daethan. He had just called his family over the weekend to let them know he would be home in a few weeks on leave, his grandmother Elizabeth Goble said.

He is also survived by parents, Wayne and Paula King, and siblings Phillip King, Joe King, Kenney King, Rex King and Mary Anne Meyers.

Other family members, however, said King talked about how proud he was to serve with the National Guard. "He'd come down and tell stories about what he was accomplishing," his uncle John Miller said.

Goble said she tried talking him out of joining the National Guard, but he insisted it was his duty. "He said he had a calling to go and do it for his country," she said.

His sense of service extended beyond the National Guard, though. Goble said her grandson would often mentor young children.

His aunt Kay Martin remembers King helping a new church member mow the lawn. The person didn't know anyone, and King stepped up to help.

"Even if you were a stranger, he'd be willing to help you out," Martin said.

Another aunt, Pam Nash, remembered her nephew's dedication to family and country.

"When I got married, he was the first to come up and ask me if he could give me away," she said. "He walked me down the aisle, and I'm very proud of him for that. The day we had a good-bye party for him, he hugged me and said 'I'm doing this for my family and for everyone here, because we need to fight them over there and not here.' He said he loved me very much, and I think everyone should know how much Brad thought of everyone here in the United States."

King played football during his time at Mississinewa High School, Athletic Director Bryan Elliot said, and was considered an exceptional auto mechanic student at Tucker Career and Technology Center.

He used his love of cars as a mechanic working for the armory in Marion, Brent Miller said.

Other loves included riding his motorcycle, camping and spending time with his family, Goble said.

But she also remembers him as a young child, riding in a semi with his grandfather.

"He was just one great big loveable boy," she said.

San Luis Soldier Dies In Third Tour Of Iraq



ARMY SGT. ISMAEL SOLORIO

April 10, 2007 BY JAMES GILBERT, SUN STAFF WRITER

A 21-year-old San Luis, Ariz., soldier, who won two Purple Hearts for wounds he received in two previous tours of duty in Iraq, was killed during his third tour, a family member said Tuesday.

Jesus Solorio said his family was informed of the death of his brother, Army Sgt. Ismael Solorio, around 7 p.m. Monday by military officials who came to their south county home.

"I was shocked," said Jesus Solorio, an English tutor at Arizona Western College in San Luis. "My sister told me later that night when I got home from my class at AWC."

Ismael Solorio, who had been serving in Baghdad, was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, Colo.

A newlywed, he leaves behind a wife and a young child.

"He came back home on leave for a week in January to see his daughter and get married," Jesus Solorio said of his older brother's most recent visit.

He is the son of Ismael and Amelia Solorio of San Luis, Ariz. He also leaves behind two brothers and two sisters.

Jesus Solorio said he does not know how or when his brother died because he didn't ask for any details when his family informed him that Ismael had been killed.

"I didn't want to know. My family knows more than I do."

The son of migrant farm workers, Ismael Solorio turned down several college scholarships to join the Army in 2003 after graduating from Kofa High School, according to his brother.

"He made us so proud," Jesus Solorio said. "I remember he was only 17 then so he needed our parents' signature to enlist."

Jesus Solorio described his older brother, who would have turned 22 on May 16, as your typical fun-loving Kofa High School honor student.

"His decision to join the Army came out of nowhere," Jesus said. "He was an outstanding soldier."

According to his brother, Ismael Solorio was wounded twice in Iraq during his previous two deployments, having been shot once in the head by a sniper and another time when shrapnel from a roadside bomb struck his hand.

"The first time we were told to expect the worst because he was gravely injured," Jesus said. "He got shot through the cheek and shattered his jaw. He didn't have any teeth."

Ismael Solorio was awarded a Purple Heart for each of the injuries, according to his brother.

Arnold Trujillo, AWC coordinator of student services, who knows both Jesus and Ismael, said he went to give his condolences to the Solorios on Tuesday after learning of the family's loss.

"The family is extremely heartbroken," Trujillo said.

On Monday afternoon, the U.S. Department of Defense confirmed two other soldiers with Arizona ties were killed.

Four U.S. Apache Helicopters Hit By Ground Fire; Pilot Wounded

Apr 11, 2007 (Reuters)

In a fierce day-long battle between U.S. and Iraqi troops and guerrillas in central Baghdad on Tuesday four U.S. Apache helicopters were hit by ground fire and had to return to base. Those wounded in the fighting included an Apache pilot.

IED Gets U.S. Vehicle In Hurriya; Casualties Not Announced

4.12.07 By Hussein, McClatchy Newspapers

A civilian was injured and a US vehicle was damaged in an IED explosion targeted a US convoy in Hurriya neighborhood west Baghdad at 3,30 pm.

More Than 850 Wounded And Injured Troops Flown Out Of War Zones During March

Apr 10, 2007 By Bruce Rolfsen - Staff writer Army Times [Excerpt]

Air Force planes and medical crews airlifted more than 850 wounded and injured servicemen out of war zones during March, according to the Air Force. In February, the Air Force flew out 767 patients.

The planes delivered 143 critically injured patients and 712 less seriously hurt patients, the report said.

Since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Air Force has flown 40,902 patients from combat zones.

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;**

TIME TO COME HOME, NOW



U.S. soldiers during a patrol in the Zafaraniyah area of Baghdad January 7, 2007. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki/Handout/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IEDs Kill Two Occupation Soldiers, One Wounded: Nationality Not Announced

Apr 12 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

Roadside bombs struck two NATO convoys in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday and killed two soldiers.

The NATO convoys were patrolling five miles apart when they were hit by roadside bombs within 30 minutes of each other, the statement said. In addition to the two dead, one NATO soldier was wounded.

NATO did not identify the killed and injured soldiers but most alliance soldiers in the east are American.

IEDs Kill 2 Canadian Soldiers Near Sangisar; Three More Wounded “Canadian Military Officials Have Claimed Victory In That Area Over The Taliban”

Apr. 11 2007 CTV.ca News Staff

The Canadian military confirms that roadside bombings have taken the lives of two Canadians soldiers and injured three more in two separate incidents in Afghanistan.

"Two Canadian soldiers were killed and two others were injured, one seriously, when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Afghanistan," Col. Mike Cessford, deputy commander of Task Force Afghanistan, told reporters in Kandahar early Thursday.

"This incident occurred shortly before 8 p.m. Kandahar time approximately 38 kilometres west of Kandahar City. A third soldier received injuries earlier in an unrelated IED strike."

The military has released the names of the dead:
Master Cpl. Allan Stewart, 30
Trooper Patrick James Pentland, 23

Both were with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, based at CFB Petawawa in Ontario. Both are originally from New Brunswick, CTV's Lisa LaFlamme reported from Kandahar.

They were travelling in a Coyote, which is a light armoured vehicle used for reconnaissance.

One of the injured soldiers will be airlifted to a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. The other two suffered minor injuries.

Jim Pentland, 45, Patrick's father and himself a former soldier, told The Canadian Press that his son was born on the Canadian military base at Lahr, Germany, and grew up in Oromocto, near CFB Gagetown, N.B.

"He was just a quiet, fit soldier who died doing what he wanted to do," Pentland said.

Patrick had spent some of his leave time with his mother, Gabriele, in Germany just a few weeks ago. The single young man called her on Tuesday, after a deadly Sunday explosion that killed six Canadian soldiers, to tell her he was well, Jim said.

The two incidents occurred in the same general area, about 800 metres to one kilometre apart, Cessford said. The first incident injured one soldier. The second incident, two hours, later left two soldiers dead and two injured.

"These soldiers had been assisting another vehicle that had been struck by a roadside bomb earlier in the day," said a Dept. of National Defence news release. While explosives crews were dispatched to search for more possible bombs, it isn't known yet clear how large an area they managed to clear.

"There was a significant separation between the two incidents," Cessford said. "These were two separate vehicles from two separate areas that were in roughly the same area."

There is a cluster of villages about 38 kilometres west of Kandahar called Sangisar.

Canadian military officials have claimed victory in that area over the Taliban.

Earlier Wednesday, a bombing attack on a Canadian convoy west of Kandahar City injured 10 Afghan civilians but no Canadian soldiers. There was minor damage to a Canadian Forces tanker truck in that incident.

That made three attacks on Canadian troops in one day.

"Everybody had been saying when the summer began in Afghanistan that it would be another bloody summer like it was last year," Robert Fife, CTV's Ottawa bureau chief, told Newsnet.

TROOP NEWS

As University Scum Try To Punish Anti-War Activists, Students & Faculty Rally And Force Cancellation Of Disciplinary Hearing

April 13, 2007 By Rachel Cohen, Socialist Worker

CHICAGO--The corridors of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) rang with chants of "No justice, no peace!" and "Whose school? Our school!" on April 9 as the administration's latest attempt to punish two antiwar activists for recently confronting CIA recruiters backfired.

Activists Ken Barrios and Matt Larson recently received certified letters announcing that, in addition to signing onto completely erroneous criminal charges pending against them for attempting to demonstrate at a campus CIA recruitment forum on February 28, NEIU was also pursuing internal disciplinary action against the two, potentially resulting in expulsion or suspension.

When supporters of Barrios and Larson heard the details of the undemocratic judicial committee hearing, they sprang into action, organizing a rally and press conference to take place immediately before the university hearing was to take place on April 9.

A spirited crowd of as many as 100 assembled prior to the hearing to share the many reasons the CIA should be put on trial--and not the activists willing to stand up to them.

Professor Brett Stockdill of the Sociology and Latino/Latin American Studies departments, spoke movingly about the experience of Salvadoran refugees--including one young woman who was subjected to torture by CIA-trained death squads. Dozens of others joined in denouncing the CIA's record of assassinations and torture.

Speakers demanded an end to the NEIU administration's complicity in promoting the CIA as a respectable career option for students, while persecuting those who protest against injustice.

When Barrios and Larson later went to their hearing, they were told it had been postponed, with no proposed follow-up date.

Protesters then went on the offensive, marching to the president's office, armed with hundreds of petition signatures demanding an end to phony charges and calling for disciplinary action against the university employees who filed them.

As the lobby filled with chanting, the president was forced to face the protesters--but declined to comment on questions students raised, such as why she refused to defend free speech rights on campus.

The outcome of the trial pending against Ken and Matt remains uncertain, but they have met with a determined show of support from students, faculty and activists.

**Going To Australia For Talisman
Sword?
Beware The Terror In The Aussie
Bush!
[You Have Been Warned]**

From: Max Watts

To: GI Special
Sent: April 11, 2007
Subject: (GreenLeft: discussion) Re: Terror in the Aussie bush!

NB FOR TALISMAN SWORD

February 05, 2007 (GreenLeft: discussion)

glparramatta wrote:

"People don't realise a koala will give you a nasty bite or carve you up with its claws,

I've heard that members of the Australian army have been known to attempt to convince US military personnel to pick up and cuddle wild koalas.

Key word: wild.

As in "wild animal".

The idea that "Americans are stupid" seems to date back to WWII in the Australian military. Sometimes it gets quite nasty.

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



Army Sgt. Michael Peek, who was killed in Iraq on March 3, 2007, is buried during a service at Arlington National Cemetery March 20, 2007. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Bombs Collaborator Parliament And Blows Up Key Baghdad Bridge;

**“The Explosion Means That
Instability And Lack Of Security
Has Reached The Green Zone”**

**“We Know That There Is A Security
Problem In Baghdad,” Said Secretary Of
State Condoleezza Rice**



People leaving the scene of a bomb blast in the Iraqi parliament in Baghdad, April 12, 2007. (Reuters TV/Reuters)

Khalaf al-Ilyan, who is in Jordan recovering from knee surgery, said the blast also "underlines the failure of the government's security plan."

"The plan is 100 percent a failure. It's a complete flop. The explosion means that instability and lack of security has reached the Green Zone, which the government boasts is heavily fortified," he said.

Apr. 12 2007 CTV.ca + BBC & Reuters & QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer & VOI

At least three lawmakers are dead after a bomb exploded within the confines of Baghdad's heavily fortified, U.S. protected Green Zone Thursday.

At least eight people were killed and dozens were wounded in a stunning assault inside the Iraqi parliament's cafeteria.

"We know that there is a security problem in Baghdad," added Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking at the State Department. [**"We know there is a security problem in Saigon," added President Richard M. Nixon, speaking at the White House.**"]

The cafe, in Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone, is for MPs and their staff, some of whom were having lunch there.

The bomb went off 10 minutes after the parliament had adjourned for lunch. It exploded in the cafeteria on the first floor where the deputies, their staff and parliamentary officials were taking their break.

Windows were blown out in the attack and there was chaos and confusion. "We heard a huge explosion inside the restaurant," a parliamentary official at the scene told Reuters news agency.

"We went to see what was going on. We saw lots of smoke coming from the hall, with people lying on the ground and pools of blood."

Abu Bakr and other lawmakers said they saw the suspected bomber's body amid the ghastly scene.

"I saw two legs in the middle of the cafeteria and none of those killed or wounded lost their legs - which means they must be the legs of the suicide attacker," he said.

Video on Alhurra showed what appeared to be the moments just after the attack: A smoky hallway, with people screaming for help. One man was slumped over, covered in dust, motionless.

TV cameras and videotapes belonging to a crew sending footage to Western networks were confiscated and apparently handed over to U.S. authorities.

After the blast, security guards sealed the building and no one - including lawmakers - was allowed to enter or leave.

This is the first time a bomb has gone off inside the building although it has been shaken by several mortar attacks in the past.

The convention centre where parliament meets is one of the most heavily guarded buildings in the country.

The blast in the parliament building reportedly killed Mohammed Awad, a member of the Sunni National Dialogue Front, said the party's leader Saleh al-Mutlaq.

A security official told The Associated Press that a Shiite lawmaker was also killed in the blast. However, Mukhlis al-Zamili of the Shiite Fadhila party told AP that the second dead lawmaker was a Kurd.

He also said that six of the wounded were members of the Muqtada al-Sadr's bloc.

Earlier in the day, security officials used dogs to check people entering the building in a rare precaution - apparently concerned that an attack might take place.

A security scanner for pedestrians at the entrance to the Green Zone near the parliament building was not working Thursday, Abu Bakr said. People were searched only by hand and had to pass through metal detectors, he said.

The breach is a major blow to a security crackdown by U.S. and Iraqi soldiers -- now in its ninth week.

The bombing was the clearest evidence yet that militants can penetrate even the most secure locations.

Khalaf al-Ilyan, who is in Jordan recovering from knee surgery, said the blast also "underlines the failure of the government's security plan."

"The plan is 100 percent a failure. It's a complete flop. The explosion means that instability and lack of security has reached the Green Zone, which the government boasts is heavily fortified," he said.

Hadi al-Amiri, head of the parliament's security and defense committee, said the blast shook the building just after legislators ended their main meeting, and broke into smaller committees.

Al-Amiri said Iraqi forces are in charge of security in the building, and that explosives could have been smuggled in amid restaurant supplies.

The Green Zone is home to the U.S. Embassy and offices of the Iraqi government.

The incident occurred just hours after a truck bomb blew up a major bridge in Baghdad -- plummeting cars into the Tigris River.

The bombing of the Sarafiya bridge has destroyed one of the main arterial bridges in Baghdad that links the two halves of the capital across the Tigris River. The bridge was partially demolished by the bomb.



The destroyed Sarafiya bridge is seen after a bomb attack in Baghdad April 12, 2007.
REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen

At least 10 people were killed in that incident destroying most of the steel structure and sending cars plunging into the river below, police said. Two main sections of Sarafiya bridge had collapsed. One army officer said explosive charges might have also been used.

The attack on the bridge had been condemned by the speaker of parliament a short time before the explosion in his own building.

Waves lapped against twisted girders as patrol boats searched for survivors and U.S. helicopters flew overhead. Scuba divers donned flippers and waded in from the riverbanks.

Farhan al-Sudani, a 34-year-old Shiite businessman who lives near the bridge, said the blast woke him at dawn.

"A huge explosion shook our house and I thought it would demolish our house. Me and my wife jumped immediately from our bed, grabbed our three kids and took them outside," he said.

The al-Sarafiya bridge connected two northern Baghdad neighborhoods – Waziriyah and Utafiyah.

The al-Sarafiya bridge is believed to be at least 75 years old, built by the British in the early part of the 20th century.

"It is one of Baghdad's monuments. This is really damaging for Iraq. We are losing a lot of our history every day," said Ahmed Abdul-Karim, who lives nearby.

The destroyed span "is linked to Baghdad's modern history - it is one of our famous monuments," said Haider Ghazala, a 52-year-old Iraqi architect.

"Attacking this bridge affects the morale of Iraqis and especially Baghdad residents who feel proud of this bridge," he said.

[BUT WAIT; THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR BUSH TOO:]

Also Thursday, the U.S. military said its troops killed two suspected insurgents and captured 17 in raids across the country.

Quoting foreign mass media, the semi-official newspaper Al-Sabah featured a news item in which it discussed the details of a new security plan, drawn up by David Petraeus, the commander of the Multi-National Forces in Iraq, which aims to strengthen the enforcement of the rule of law in Baghdad

Assorted Resistance Action

April 11 (KUNA) & Reuters & 4.12 Reuters & By Hussein, McClatchy Newspapers

Unknown militant fighters assassinated Wednesday the Electricity Ministry's Director General for Projects Hashem Abdulrahman in central Baghdad, Iraqi police said.

An Iraqi police source told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) unidentified fighters ambushed the senior official's vehicle in the Baghdad's Sulaikh area.

The official and his bodyguard, the source added, were shot dead. The masked guerrillas escaped.

Guerrillas killed two policemen outside their homes in two separate incidents in Kut, 170 km (100 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a policeman and wounded three others in Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a policeman guarding civil servants on a bus in the northern city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Around mid-day of Thursday, Baquba hospital received four dead bodies for policemen who were killed and two others were injured while a roadside bomb hit their patrol car near the former reform institution.

Wednesday night, four guerrillas killed an Iraqi soldier near his house in Salman village of Hawija (west of Kirkuk).

Guerrillas killed one of the former justice minister's bodyguards and wounded the other bodyguard in a drive-by shooting in central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting the convoy of Yadgar Shukur, the head of the Joint Iraqi-U.S. Coordination Centre of Kirkuk, wounded two of his guards, police said. Shukur was not in the convoy.

Insurgents killed a policeman guarding civil servants on a bus in the northern city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

“Demonstrations Against The Occupation By Hundreds Of Thousands Of Angry Shias Apr. 9 Mark A Sharp Break From A Policy Of Cooperation”

“U.S. And Iraqi Authorities Kept Us Busy Fighting Each Other While They Were Setting The Plan Of Stealing Our Oil And Tearing Our Country Apart”



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. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Apr 11 Ali al-Fadhily (IPS) [Excerpts]

The eruption of demonstrations in the south of Iraq this week could rob the occupation forces of what was considered a critical bastion of support.

The southern areas of Iraq have long been said to be secure, and people there peaceful towards the occupation forces. Iraqis living in the south were also believed to be cooperative with the occupation to the extent that they supported administrative steps taken by successive Iraqi governments.

The majority of the population of the south are Shia Muslims, and Iraq has had Shia-dominated governments under the occupation.

But demonstrations against the occupation and the United States by hundreds of thousands of angry Shias in Najaf, Kut and other cities across the south Apr. 9 mark a sharp break from a policy of cooperation.

Protesters demanded an end to the U.S.-led occupation, burnt U.S. flags and chanted "Death to America!"

"We have been patient and we have sacrificed a lot thinking the situation would be better one day soon," Hussein Ali, a teacher from Diwaniyah told IPS.

"The result we see now is that we were dragged into a swamp of hatred between brothers, and that all the bloodshed was for the sake of war leaders to get more power and fortune."

"Four years of patience and what do we get?" Ali Hashim, a merchant from the southern city Basra told IPS.

"We got nothing but the loss of our country to those who spoke a lot but did nothing. The United States failed us and sold us cheap to those who would have no mercy on us."

"We were late to realise that we were wrong about U.S. intentions," Salman Yassen of the Basra city municipality council told IPS.

"We waited four years while U.S. and Iraqi authorities kept us busy fighting each other while they were setting the plan of stealing our oil and tearing our country apart so that their allies would feel safe."

"The delay in moving politically has cost Iraq, the U.S. and many other countries a great deal," former Iraqi police colonel Ahmed Jabbar told IPS in Baghdad.

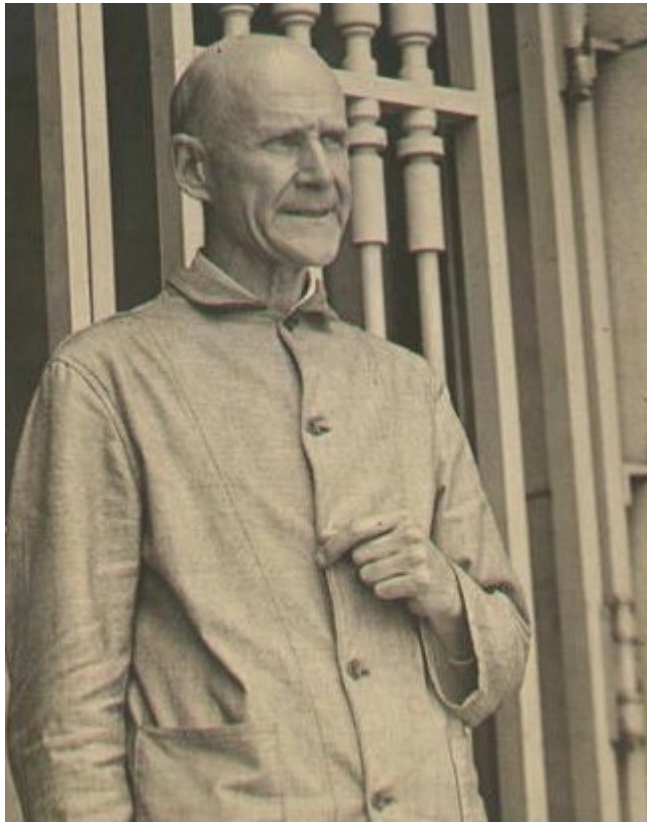
"The least to be said is that the world would have been better off without this occupation and the catastrophic security disturbance it has caused."

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

April 13, 1919:
Honorable Anniversary:
Sent To Prison In 1919 For Opposing
Imperial War, Socialist Eugene Debs
Gets 1 Million Votes For President In
1920



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>

“The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles.

“The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose—especially their lives.”

Carl Bunin Peace History April 9-15

Socialist, pacifist, and labor leader Eugene Debs was imprisoned for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

For the fifth and last time, while a prisoner at Atlanta, he was nominated to run for president on the Socialist party ticket. Conducting his campaign from inside the prison, he was given nearly a million votes but was defeated by the Republican, Warren G. Harding.

Debs' anti-war views may have been rooted in his Humanistic ideals of justice and fraternity, but perhaps more so in his strong class consciousness.

At base, Debs felt all war is class war.

It is armed conflict which arms the working class of both sides to go out and kill in the interest of the property of the ownership class.

When war fever swept American society during World War I, Debs expressed his anti-war commitments in such statements as the following:

“Years ago I declared that there was only one war in which I would enlist and that was the war of the workers of the world against the exploiters of the world.

“I declared moreover that the working class had no interest in the wars declared and waged by the ruling classes of the various countries upon one another for conquest and spoils.”

It was at a Socialist Party rally in Canton, Ohio's Mimsilla Park, on June 16, 1918, that Debs repeated his oft expressed anti-war views, this time before an estimated audience of 1200, including agents from J. Edgar Hoover's Protective Service there to take notes on Debs' remarks.

Debs had more to criticize than War. He indicted American Institutions in general for a pro-business orientation, including the Supreme Court for its recent 5 to 4 vote declaring unconstitutional the new child labor law. "...so we may continue to grind the flesh and blood and bones of puny little children into profits for the junkers of Wall Street." About war Debs said:

“The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles.

“The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose—especially their lives.”

Debs was convicted under the Espionage Act and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

By the time he was sentenced the war had ended and Debs was an old man age 64. He was sent first to Moundsville, PA, then to Atlanta Federal Prison. Debs was pardoned by President Harding and released Christmas Day, 1921.

“Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again. I would have you make up your minds there is nothing that you cannot do for yourselves.” Debs, From an address at Grand Central Palace. New York City, Dec. 18,1905.



Troops Invited:

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



After forcing an Iraqi citizen to submit to a search of his home, a foreign occupation soldier from the 3-2 Stryker Brigade makes him submit to a retina scan after his house was searched in Baghdad's Mansour district April 3, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

[Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.]

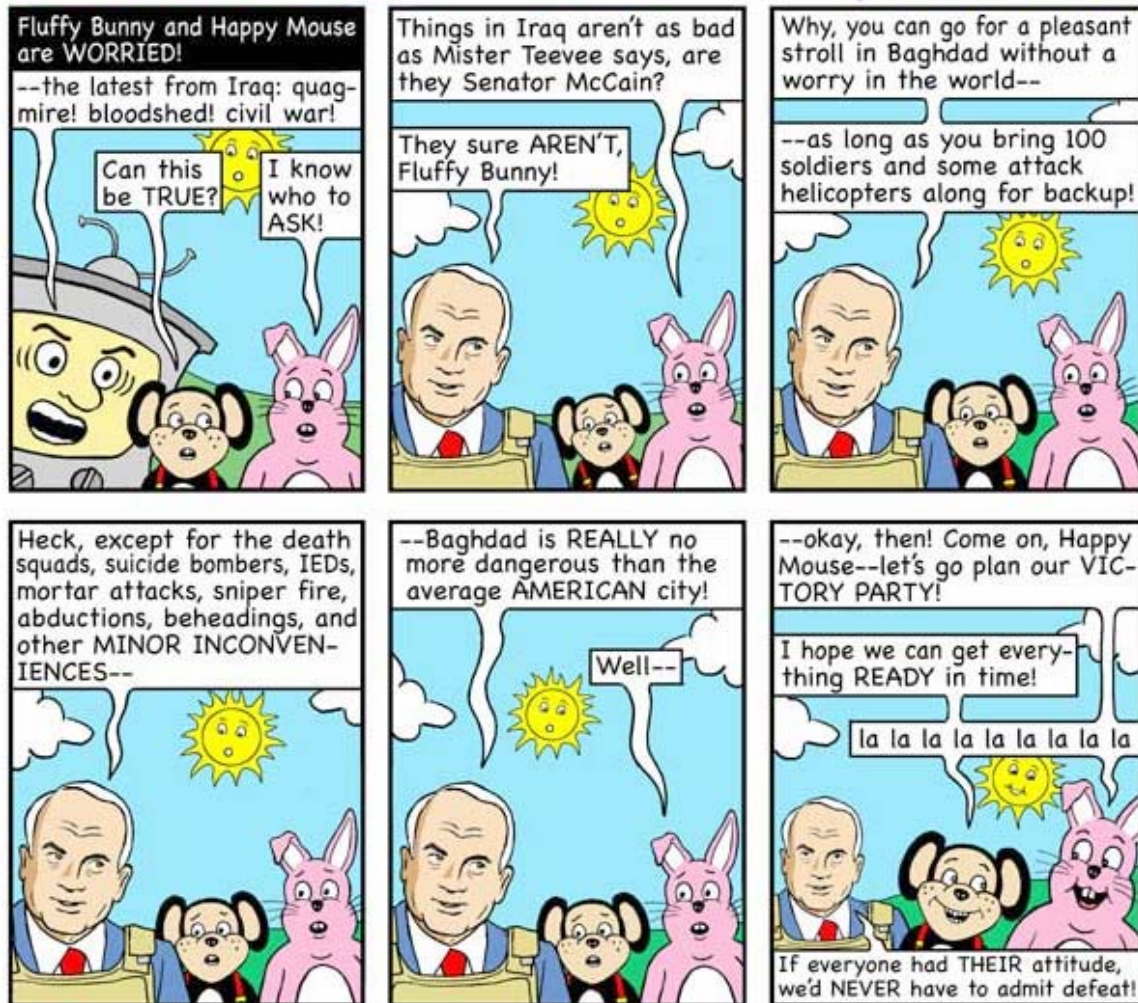
[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. After seeing this, it would take a drooling idiot not to understand why. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist. T]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

Received:

OK, Now Get The Pentagon To Agree!

From: Mark Shapiro
To: GI Special
Sent: April 12, 2007

Subject: Re: GI Special 5D11

Reckon if when a GI is issued his/her first set of dog tags they all received a subscription to 'GI Special' there wouldn't be a war in Iraq because there wouldn't be anyone left to fight -

FTA! - and keep up the excellent work.

REPLY: The truly excellent work is done by the increasing number of men and women in the armed services not only turning against Bush's evil Imperial wars, but organizing to stop them.

GI Special and The Military Project exist to be of service to them, in whatever way they see fit. T

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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

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

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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

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