

GI SPECIAL 5D20:

**ENOUGH:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A wounded soldier from Iraq arrives at the entrance to the emergency room at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre near Kaiserslautern, April 19, 2007. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach

**To The Soldiers:
“I’m On My Second Tour In
Iraq”
“I Have Never Agreed With Our
Act Of Aggression Against Iraq”
“If You Need To Blame Someone For The
Trash, Sewage And Horrible Condition In
Iraq, Look At The Flag On Your Right
Shoulder”**

Don't lie to yourselves. Don't tell yourself that they're "fucked up" and "dirty" in order to feel better about yourself and what you have to do. That will only cost you in the end. If you need to blame someone for the trash, sewage and horrible condition in Iraq, look at the flag on your right shoulder.

From: Justin Thompson
To: GI Special
Sent: April 20, 2007
Subject: To the soldiers

Dear American soldier,

I'm Justin C. Thompson. I am an infantry sergeant in the Army.

I'm on my second tour in Iraq.

I have never agreed with our act of aggression against Iraq. I was supposed to get out of the Army on June 27th, 2006. Thanks to stop-loss I deployed on June 27th for what will now be a 15 month tour.

I am deeply concerned with American attitudes regarding the Iraqi people. During this tour and my last, I have heard countless friends and coworkers describe the Iraqis as, "dumb," "backwards," "dirty," so on and so forth.

I hear people berate the Iraqis because sewage flows in the streets and garbage collects in between houses. One of my coworkers recently said to a soldier from another unit, "Have you been outside the wire? It's disgusting!! There are piles of trash everywhere. These people are too lazy to do anything about it!"

This seems to sum up the American perception of the third world. I think that most Americans are quick to place blame on less fortunate people without considering why they're in that position.

Americans are in dire need of a history lesson.

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was made monarch of Iran by the Allied and Soviet powers in 1941 because they felt that he would be more open to the pro-Allied west than the current Shah. In 1951 the Iranian Parliament voted unanimously to nationalize Iranian oil and shut out the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. This was spearheaded by Mohammad Mossadegh, the Prime Minister of Iran.

This cut off the west from the valuable Iranian oil; which was a pillar of Britain's economic profit.

In 1953 the CIA led a coup, directed by Kermit Roosevelt, Jr., which would take Mossadegh out of the picture and give the Shah more say so in Iran's economic policies (which happened to coincide with those of the West). This also allowed the Shah to take more control away from the Parliament.

In 1963 the Shah announced the “White Revolution,” which was to reform land, enfranchise women, and most importantly, sell state-owned enterprises to private interests.

Ayatollah Khomeini was very outspoken about the Shah’s plans. He denounced the Shah as a puppet of the West. In 1964 Khomeini was arrested and exiled from Iran. He spent 14 years in the Shia holy city of Najaf until he was forced by Saddam Hussein to leave in 1978.

Khomeini returned to Iran in 1979 after the Shah left and used religion to power his movement.

He declared jihad on soldiers who did not take his side.

After his revolt spread and the government collapsed, a 98% vote favored an Islamic Republic over a monarchy.

After assuming power, Khomeini called for Islamic revolutions throughout the Muslim world, even in Iraq. Saddam Hussein decided to take advantage of--what he believed to be--military weakness in a time of revolutionary chaos and go to war with Iran. After all, Khomeini was Shia and a majority of his people were too. He couldn’t let the seeds of revolution get into the minds of the majority in his country.

The United States backed Iraq as well. The White House didn’t like the idea of a radical taking over who wanted to put an end to our economic ties with the middle east.

We all remember that infamous photo of Rumsfeld shaking hands with Hussein in 1983. Reagan and his aides were “desperate that Iraq did not loose,” so Washington funneled \$5 billion to Iraq from 1985 to 1989.

The list of weapons and chemicals shipped to Iraq goes on and on.

The war lasted for eight years and crippled Iraq. The country was \$75 billion in debt and Saddam was desperate to make ends meet.

The border between Kuwait and Iraq had been disputed for years. Many Arabs in the area felt that Kuwait was an integral part of Iraq and that the boarder was improperly imposed by British imperialists of the 20’s.

Hussein felt that Kuwait was responsible for the debt Iraq had incurred during the war since Iran was a threat to many Persian Gulf States. There had been many disputes about Kuwaiti slant drilling operations, which allegedly stole oil from Iraq. Postwar debt led Saddam to invade Kuwait in 1990.

The West worried that this would have negative affects on the global economy. Great Britain profited from Kuwaiti oil.

During the Gulf War the United States bombed Iraq’s critical infrastructure mercilessly. The bombing campaign destroyed electricity production facilities, telecommunications equipment, port facilities, oil refineries, railroads, bridges, major dams, most pumping

stations and sewage treatment plants. At the end of the war, electricity production was four percent of its pre-war levels.

After the Gulf War was over, the United States urged the UN to impose sanctions on Iraq in order to remove Saddam from power. The New York Times reported, "By making life uncomfortable for the Iraqi people, (sanctions) would eventually encourage them to remove President Saddam Hussein from power."

There was only one problem: the sanctions regime was so brutal that the Iraqi people ended up relying on Saddam for survival.

UNICEF has concluded that 500,000 Iraqi children died because of the sanctions due to lack of medical supplies, malnutrition and disease from the lack of clean water. In 1997 the Oil-for-Food Programme began which allowed Iraq to export \$5.2 billion in oil over 6 months in order to purchase vital items for the civilian population.

In 1999 UNICEF released a report stating that the "under-5 [year old] mortality rate doubled from 56 deaths per 1000 live births (1984-1989) to 131 deaths per 1000 live births (1994-1999). Likewise infant mortality -- defined as death of children in their first year -- increased from 47 per 1000 live births to 108 per 1000 live births in the same time frame."

Some people may say that Saddam was corrupt and squandered much of the money Iraq received anyway. Indeed he did!! He was, after all, an evil dictator. The United States and the rest of the world were well aware that Saddam was being unfair to the majority of the Iraqis. The idea that a people would be able to rise up against someone who holds their very lives in his hands is distraught.

While the sanctions may have prevented Iraq from military action, they also have prevented Iraq from moving ahead as a nation and have killed innocent people in the process.

Imagine for a moment that you were born in Iraq. Imagine that your government had run your country in debt during an 8-year-long war.

Imagine that another country came and bombed out your dams, electricity production and sewage treatment facilities. Then that country leads a regime of sanctions which made it impossible for you to get medical treatment and clean water.

Imagine that your country was so poor that it couldn't afford to clean up the streets or have a sewer system. Imagine that one country came back. It promised to liberate you but in the process killed anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000 people doing so.

The death rate of your people increases every day. You only earn about \$242 dollars a month. Two out of three of your people are unemployed.

When you're worried about getting your next meal, you don't think too much about the trash on the street corner. When your country can't afford medical supplies, you're not

too concerned about fixing the sewage treatment facility. When you might get shot or blown up or bombed at the market, you're not too concerned with anything else.

Iraq has been on the receiving end of bad deals since the British decided to join the Ottoman vilayets of Mosel, Baghdad and Basra together and call it Iraq.

American ignorance never ceases to amaze me. It is so typical for small-minded people from a super-wealthy nation to cast judgment on less fortunate people. It's easier in the mind of a soldier to dehumanize the people they're forced to fight. It's easy to say, "Oh they're fucked up. Look at how primitive they are and how fucked up their country is," because that justifies killing them.

Americans have dehumanized everyone from the American Indian, to the Vietnamese, to the Iraqi people. It's a coping mechanism.

When one is asked to fight--asked to murder someone--it creates cognitive dissonance. In order to hold on to one's sanity, a soldier has to separate her or himself from the lives they have to take. It's easier to look at the Iraqis as "dirty," and "fucked up," instead of looking at the true cause of their plight.

I had to do it last time I was here in order to make it through.

When I came back from my first tour in 2004, the unwanted effects of this coping mechanism hit me hard.

It took over a year to undo the damage Iraq had done to my mind and come to grips with the monster I became when I left the wire.

During this tour I have not let myself dehumanize the Iraqi people.

It has been very hard on me emotionally. Seeing these people and their struggle has weighed so heavily on my conscience.

It would be easy to let myself forget what they've been subjected to and blame them for their condition. By paying the emotional price of authenticity, I have bought my humanity.

So, to the soldiers, I ask that you do the same.

Don't lie to yourselves.

Don't forget what these people have gone through.

Don't tell yourself that they're "fucked up" and "dirty" in order to feel better about yourself and what you have to do.

That will only cost you in the end.

If you need to blame someone for the trash, sewage and horrible condition in Iraq, look at the flag on your right shoulder.

Justin C. Thompson

You have my permission to print my name and other information about me as many times as you'd like. In fact, I'd appreciate it if you'd use my name as much as possible. Thanks!

"Never do anything against conscience even if the state demands it."
-Albert Einstein

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Polish Soldier Killed In Iraq, 4 Wounded

April 21, 2007 AP

WARSAW, Poland - A Polish soldier was killed and four others were wounded when their convoy hit a roadside bomb in Iraq, the Defense Ministry said Saturday.

The soldier, 25-year-old Tomasz Jura, was killed in the central city of Diwaniyah when the convoy hit an improvised explosive device Friday night, the ministry said in a statement.

Four others suffered minor injuries, and their lives were not in danger.

Georgia Sailor Killed In Iraq

April 10, 2007 The Associated Press

VALDOSTA, Ga. -- A Georgia sailor was one of three members of a U.S. military explosive disposal unit killed in combat in Iraq, officials said Monday.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph A. McSween, 26, of Valdosta, died Friday near Kirkuk in northern Iraq, the Pentagon said.

He graduated from York College in York, Neb., in 2003.

McSween was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 11, based at Whidbey Island, Wash. Also killed were Chief Petty Officer Gregory J. Billiter, 36, of Villa Hills, Ky., and Petty Officer 2nd Class Curtis R. Hall, 24, of Burley, Idaho, the Defense Department said.

Details of how the three were killed were not disclosed. They were specialists in identifying explosive materials and disarming them.

John Klimko, McSween' youth pastor at Central Avenue Church of Christ, described him as someone who loved to help others and who got along with everyone.

"He studied and was really interested in the ministry," the pastor told The Valdosta Daily Times. "He conducted services for the shut-in and did yard work for the elderly." "His faith was always important to him," Klimko said.

McSween attended Valdosta High School and graduated from Georgia Christian. He attended York College in Nebraska on a track scholarship.

He is survived by his wife, Erin, who also graduated from York College in 2003, and daughters Lily, 5, and Gwyneth, 2, of Oak Harbor, Wash.

The son of Bob and Florence McSween, he had two brothers, Robert and Kyle, and a sister, Angela.

McSween "was just a very likable guy," said Steddon Sikes from York College public relations. "His big smile, mixed with his southern charm, made it easy to be around him."

Jared Stark, now assistant dean of students at York College, met McSween during a leadership camp.

"He always talked about going into the military," Stark said. "He was very driven to join, and he went to a lot of training sessions."

York College president Wayner Baker said he spoke to McSween's wife and was told he will be buried in York, where they met.

"This was where they met, fell in love and this is the place she said they call home," Baker said.

Soldier From A.V. Is Killed In Iraq

04/10/2007 BY KAREN MAESHIRO, Staff Writer, Daily News

LANCASTER - A 20-year-old soldier from Lancaster was killed last week in Iraq, the second Antelope Valley resident to die in combat within the past month, officials said Tuesday.

Pfc. Walter Freeman Jr., who graduated in 2004 from Antelope Valley High School where he was a member of the band, was killed in Baghdad on April 4, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

“He was a really cool kid. He was kind of quiet, very polite, very well-spoken. Just a really great kid,” said Carol Selmsler, a neighbor whose children grew up with Freeman.

Selmsler, who plays the piano for the Antelope Valley High choir, said she used to see Freeman walking to school and would give him a ride.

“He was amazing. I am devastated,” she said.

Antelope Valley High band director Joseph Pincetich said Freeman played the drums in the band for four years.

“He was a really great person. He was happy and lively. He always had a smile on his face and laughed a lot. If anything ever got him down, he didn’t let it keep him down for long,” Pincetich recalled. “The fact that he stepped up to defend his country is more admirable than I can possibly express. He should have a special place in our hearts.”

Another soldier, Pfc. Derek Gibson, 20, of Eustis, Fla., was killed along with Freeman, the Pentagon said.

Both men were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Freeman, a fire support specialist, was deployed to Iraq last October in his first tour of duty. He had enlisted in October 2005, Army officials said.

Freeman’s military decorations and awards include a National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Global War on Terror Service Medal.

Freeman was the sixth serviceman who grew up in the Antelope Valley to die in Iraq.

On March 17, Army Sgt. John E. Allen, 25, and three other soldiers were killed in Baghdad when a roadside bomb detonated near their vehicle.

A 1999 Palmdale High graduate, Allen was survived by his wife, Aspen.

Army Cpl. Ryan J. Clark, 19, a 2004 Antelope Valley High School graduate, died in July 2006 in an Army hospital in Texas of wounds he suffered from an explosion while fighting in Iraq.

Clark, 19, had been injured June 17 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Ramadi, an insurgent hot spot in the “Sunni Triangle” west of Baghdad.

Marine Cpl. Christopher Leon, 20, a 2004 Lancaster High School graduate, died June 20, 2006 of wounds suffered during combat in Iraq’s western al-Anbar province.

Two local Marines died in Iraq in 2004. Staff Sgt. Allan Walker, a 28-year-old Highland High School alumnus, died leading an infantry unit in Ramadi in April 2004.

Walker was one of a dozen Marines killed in combat in the area that day. Walker had been with a unit sent in to aid other Marines who had been ambushed.

Cpl. Ian Stewart, a 2001 Quartz Hill High School graduate whose father is executive director of a Christian camp and conference center in Lake Hughes, died in a December 2004 gunbattle.

IED Wounds Two U.S. Troops At Baladiat

4.21.07 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb attack on a U.S. military patrol wounded two soldiers at Baladiat, east of Baghdad, Iraqi police said.

Injured Marine To Recover In Time

Apr. 21, 2007 By Rob Joesbury, News Sentinel

A 19-year-old Marine from Fort Wayne seriously injured in Iraq is expected to make a full recovery, his mother said Friday night.

"The doctors said it will be a slow recovery, though," Cheryl Huber said.

Lance Cpl. Gary Huber, a 2006 Homestead High School graduate, remains hospitalized in Germany after the Humvee he and four other Marines were riding in ran into an Improvised Explosive Device in the Fallujah/Baghdad area Monday.

Cheryl Huber said her son had two broken legs, shattered vertebrae, a broken ankle and second-degree burns on his arms.

Two other Marines in the Humvee were killed in the explosion, she said. Three survived.

"We feel bad for all the people involved in the accident," Huber said.

Her son, who is named for his father, became interested in the Marines and military after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, said his 22-year-old sister, Kelly. A government class at Homestead further stoked his interest.

"That's when he decided it was for him," she said. He graduated from Homestead in January 2006, forgoing a graduation ceremony in order to enlist.

Cheryl Huber said her son was injured about 8 a.m. Monday. By 9:15 a.m., she was on the phone with him. Since then, the family has had contact with him daily.

“He’s thankful to be alive,” she said. She indicated he wished to return to duty. They expect him to be able to board a flight to the United States on Sunday.

After that, his mother expected him to undergo surgeries on his legs.

Kelly Huber said before her brother joined the Marines, he was an avid hunter and liked to fish. “He got a brand-new blue truck about a year before he left,” she said. “He loved it to death. He really liked going dirt-bike riding, too.”

Ron Brown, a friend of Gary’s and a fellow 2006 Homestead graduate, just arrived in Iraq, she said, and was hoping to contact him.

Monday’s accident wasn’t the first time her brother had been injured in Iraq, she said. On Feb. 16, exactly two months before, he suffered a minor concussion from a car bomb.

U.S. Troops Make Sure An Air Conditioner Is Not A Disguised Terrorist



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Alpha Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division threaten an Iraqi citizen in his own home, forcing him at gunpoint to show them the contents of his air conditioner during a search of his home in Al Majahreen 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Baghdad April 21, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Big Surprise: Stupid Liars In Command Caught Another Stupid Lie

April 21, 2007 AP

The U.S. military said American soldiers called for support and cordoned off the area after they were attacked by small-arms fire from the Ali al-Baiyaa mosque in a religiously mixed neighborhood in western Baghdad at about 9:45 a.m.

The military first denied reports by witnesses and Iraqi state TV that helicopters opened fire during the clash near the blue-domed mosque, but it issued a second statement hours later saying it had determined that the aircraft fired about 100 rounds of 30 mm ammunition.

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



A US soldier patrols Baghdad's al-Kadhimiyah district. (AFP/Ali Yussef)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Medic Lived To Help Others, Died On
Duty**



Pfc. Conor G. Masterson, 21, died Saturday in eastern Afghanistan after an improvised explosive device blew up near his vehicle.

04/09/2007 BY TAD VEZNER, Pioneer Press

Sandra Masterson's son called Friday from Afghanistan to say how satisfying it was to perform yet another new procedure as an Army medic: removing shrapnel from a fellow soldier's leg.

Conor G. Masterson, 21, of Woodbury, was fresh: He had been on combat duty for just a few months. "He said life was really hard there," Sandra Masterson said. "But he knew he was helping people. He knew he was making a difference. And that's what mattered the most to him."

Over the weekend in eastern Afghanistan, the Army specialist was the one injured, gravely: He died after an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle, the Pentagon said Monday.

"He was one of the medics that went out in support - and sadly, he was the one who was killed," said Sandra Masterson, who was told by military officials that one other soldier was killed by the bomb.

Family members said Masterson's death occurred at 7 a.m. Sunday, Afghanistan time.

Masterson's unit was charged with patrolling the restive region, his family members said.

It was his first combat tour: When Masterson left his Woodbury home for an Army base in Germany after Christmas leave, he felt nervous but hopeful of what lay ahead, his mother said.

"He was a little apprehensive, but he was ready. Prepared," said Sandra Masterson.

"He said it was easier leaving that time, because he felt he was going to be safe, and it was the last time he was going to have to say goodbye to his wife."

The week of leave was spent with his wife, Lorena, 20, also of Woodbury, whom he had married in June during a lavish ceremony in his family's back yard.

He had high hopes of being deployed back to the United States in September, and he planned to join his wife until his enlistment ended in two years.

But in January, the month after returning to his base in Hohenfels, Germany, his unit - the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment - was sent to Afghanistan.

A third-generation Army soldier, Masterson was born at Germany's Hahn Air Base, where Sandra Masterson and her former husband, Mark, were stationed, monitoring foreign voice transmissions together.

From Germany, the family moved to Vadnais Heights before relocating to Oakdale when Masterson was 7. They finally settled in Woodbury when he was 10. Masterson attended Lake Junior High School, graduated from Woodbury High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army the following year.

After completing basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., Masterson went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to train as a medic, completing all his exams on his first attempt. He was then stationed at Hohenfels.

The chance to return to the country of his birth had great appeal to him, Sandy Masterson said.

"In high school, he always had a passion for other cultures," said his mother, noting that Masterson seemed to gravitate toward students who were of Russian, Hmong or Hispanic origin.

Masterson also had a passion for music, hunting down hundreds, perhaps thousands of obscure songs, recording them on his iPod and occasionally giving music CDs as gifts to friends and family.

Woodbury High School Principal Linda Plante described Masterson as "a really nice young man, very fun-loving," while Assistant Principal Joseph Gall - reportedly close to Masterson - said he was too devastated to talk about the soldier.

Gall works with the school's ROTC program, in which Masterson's brother, Evan, 17, is active.

After spending a semester at Inver Hills Community College and living in an apartment in Inver Grove Heights, Masterson decided to wait on college.

"He wanted to explore life," his mother said. "He also wanted to do something to help people. So the opportunity to be a medic, that seemed to fit really well with him."

With two years of active duty left, Masterson "was really starting to look ahead, to pursue a career in the health care field," his mother added.

Masterson's paternal grandfather also served in the Army, retiring as a colonel, family members said.

Conor Masterson is the third Army soldier from Minnesota to die in Afghanistan following the U.S. invasion of late 2001.

“Local Leaders Have Been Taking Guns And Flak Vests From The Police To Keep For Themselves Or To Sell”

April 21, 2007 Jonathan Fowle, CanWest News Service [Excerpts]

Taking a break from packing Canadian sand bags onto the roof of his bullet-ridden police checkpoint on Friday, 38-year-old Gul Mohammad stretched his weather beaten lips into a beaming smile.

Mohammad, who said he is constantly concerned about putting his life on the line as a member of the Afghan National Police, was happy to see giant protective barriers growing around the sparse checkpoint he regularly mans with the other officers on the developing force.

Before long, however, Mohammad's smile gave way to a furrowed brow. It was clear he knew the walls and sandbags alone would not be enough to keep him safe while trying to fight the Taliban.

“The important thing is we need ammunition,” he said, while explaining he and the other officers on the Maywand force simply do not have enough equipment or supplies.

Not only that, but Mohammad and several other officers claimed they have not seen a paycheque in about a year.

What's more, a commanding officer with the ANP said Friday that local leaders have been withholding paycheques sent from the federal government in Kabul, and that they have been taking vital equipment - such as guns and flak vests - from the police to keep for themselves or to sell.

Niaz Mohammad also acknowledged other problems within his force, explaining members of the local ANP had just been arrested and were being sent for punishment.

When asked about reports that ANP officers have been stealing from people at vehicle checkpoints, he said that amounted to propaganda being spread by the Taliban and drug smugglers who want to discredit the police.

TROOP NEWS

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



The burial service for Army Sgt. Michael Peek, who was killed in Iraq, at Arlington National Cemetery, March 20, 2007. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Official Report Finds Marine Commanding Officers Responsible For Mass Murder Of Iraqi Civilians; Their Deaths “Are Just The Cost Of Doing Business”

April 21, 2007 (UPI)

A U.S. Army official's probe into the 2005 killings of two dozen civilians in Haditha, Iraq, found that Marine commanders ignored signs of misconduct.

The 104-page report, authored by Maj. Gen. Eldon Bargewell, sharply criticizes the actions of Marines including the enlisted men involved in the Nov. 19, 2005, shootings and the two-star general who was commander of the 2nd Marine Division at the time of the incident, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

“All levels of command tended to view civilian casualties, even in significant numbers, as routine and as the natural and intended result of insurgent tactics,” Bargewell wrote.

“Statements made by the chain of command during interviews for this investigation, taken as a whole, suggest that Iraqi civilian lives are not as important as U.S. lives, their deaths are just the cost of doing business, and that the Marines need to get ‘the job done’ no matter what it takes.”

The report, which also said Marine commanders discounted “obvious” signs of “serious misconduct” after the incident, was authored in June 2006, but only recently declassified due to the ongoing criminal cases against three of the Marines accused in the shootings.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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On Monday May 7th 2007...there will be an
historic night of GI resistance on national
television as the Sundance Channel presents the U.S.
broadcast premiere of both
Sir! No Sir! and *The Ground Truth*:

Sir! No Sir!

Monday, May 7
The Sundance Channel
9 pm Eastern
8 pm Central
7 pm Mountain
6 pm Pacific

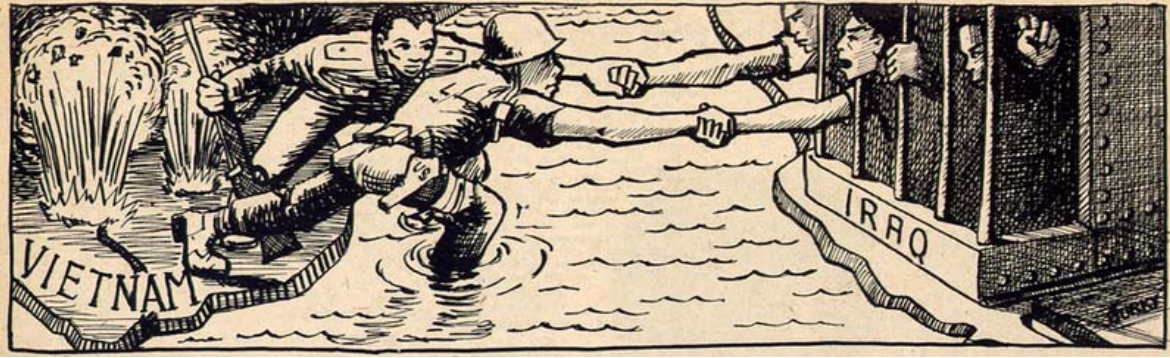
The Ground Truth

Monday, May 7
The Sundance Channel
10:30 pm Eastern
9:30 pm Central
8:30 pm Mountain
7:30 pm Pacific

**This is a wonderful chance for millions of people to see these
films that, together, link the tremendous movement of
American soldiers against the Vietnam war with the growing
opposition
among soldiers to the Iraq war today.**

**MAKE MAY 7TH A DAY THAT SPARKS A SURGE IN
OPPOSITION AMONG SOLDIERS AND THEIR
SUPPORTERS TO THIS HIDEOUS WAR.**

After all, one good surge deserves another



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1. Not Everyone has the Sundance Channel...
2. So if you do, PLEASE organize a house party to watch the films and spread their influence among soldiers and civilians alike.
3. If you don't, find someone who does and offer to bring the chips.

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The Director's Edition DVD of the film and 1 1/2 hours of additional stories will be on SALE through May 15th
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10 for \$80
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20 for \$120

(All plus shipping and handling)

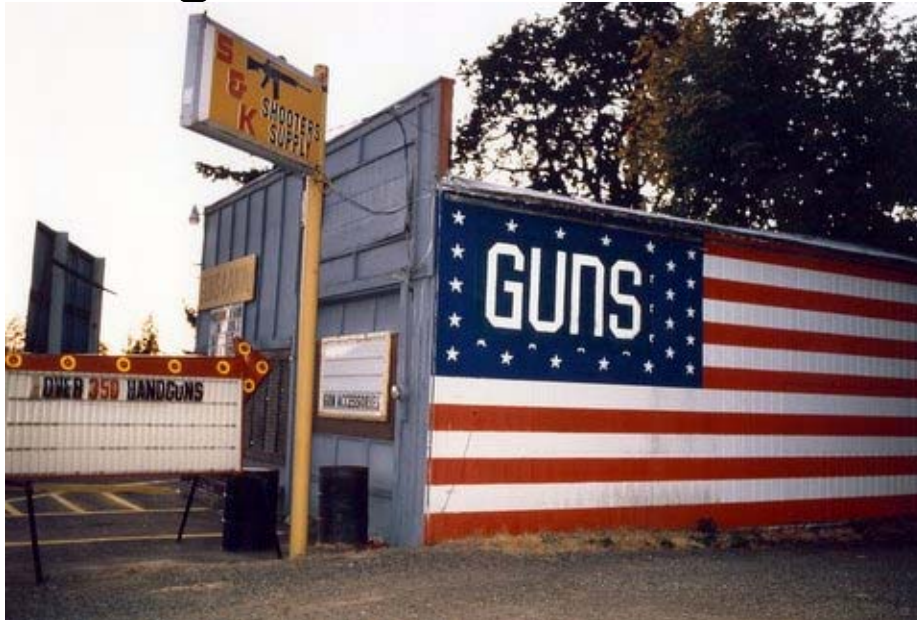
The Ground Truth is also available in bulk at
<http://groundtruthstore.seenon.com/>

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Virginia Tech Massacre



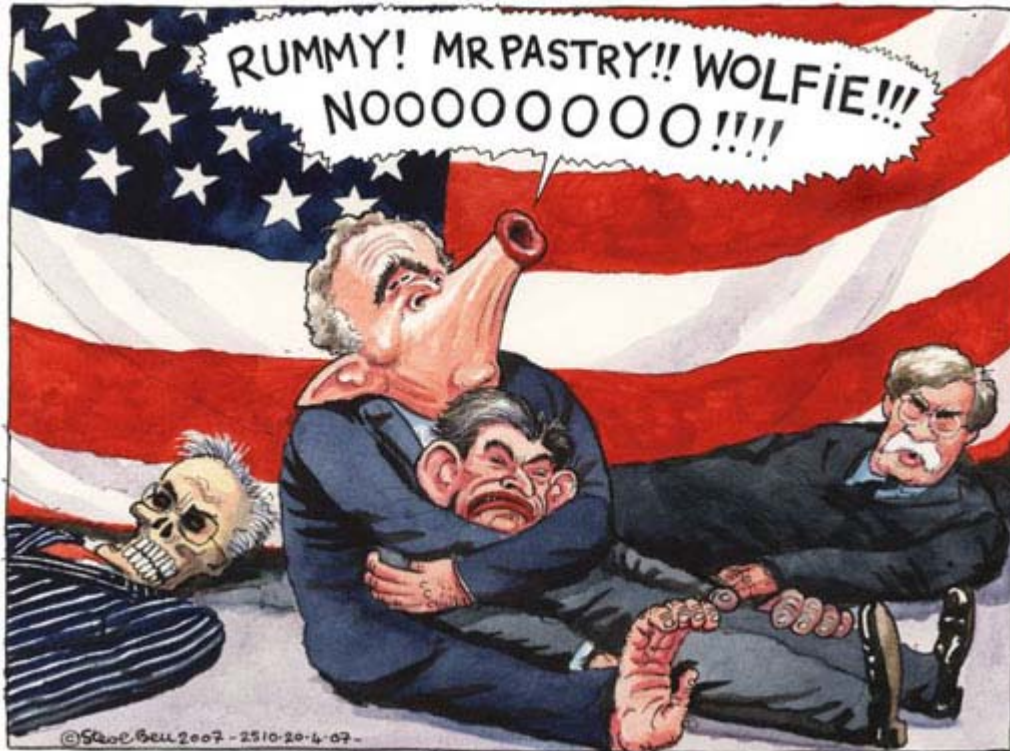
From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: April 20, 2007
Subject: Virginia Tech Massacre

Virginia Tech Massacre

Terrorism begins at home.

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
April 20, 2007**

Photo and caption 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)



[Thanks to NB, who sent this in. He writes: Here's Steve Bell's comment on what happened - very appropriate!]

What To Stop A War?
Get Off Your Knees And Quit
Begging The Imperial Politicians
IN DC:
“Stop Pestering Our Hapless
Congresspeople And Senators And,
Like Those German Sailors A Century

Ago, Take Social Affairs Into Our Own Hands”

It’s hard to imagine anything more pathetic than this appeal. Not only were almost no members of Congress willing to refuse to fund the war, they wouldn’t even include an amendment ruling out an attack on Iran.

April 2007 by Paul Mattick, The Brooklyn Rail [Excerpts]

How did World War I come to an end?

Nobody I ask knows the answer to this question. This isn’t surprising—people aren’t taught much history, and anyway it happened long ago.

Still, it’s an interesting story, and it happens to be in my mind at the moment because I have just read a great novel, Theodor Plivier’s *The Kaiser Departs, the Generals Remain* (1933), written by a participant in the events.

Basically, what happened was that the German fleet was ordered to attack the English navy in October 1918, when it was clear the war was already lost; ship by ship the sailors mutinied, arrested their officers, and went ashore to stir up the townspeople, who responded so enthusiastically that within weeks the country was in the hands of Workers’ and Soldiers’ Councils formed on the spot, all political prisoners (most in jail for opposing the war) had been released, the Emperor was forced to abdicate, and the war was over.

Alas, the populace believed that the Social Democratic Party, which had supported the war for four years but now maneuvered to set itself at the head of the social movement, would represent its interests as the new government.

I write this a few weeks after having joined 35,000 good-hearted people in demonstrating in the streets of New York against the now four-year-old war in Iraq. The march was great—I loved the enthusiasm, intelligence, and anger of my fellow marchers. But as one young fellow’s homemade placard read, “I can’t believe I’m still fucking protesting this war!”

A few days later, an email from United for Peace and Justice, the march organizers, urged me to write my congressperson to ask him or her to vote against the bill appropriating another \$100 billion or so for the war.

It’s hard to imagine anything more pathetic than this appeal.

Not only were almost no members of Congress willing to refuse to fund the war, they wouldn’t even include an amendment ruling out an attack on Iran.

In this, indeed, they stood shoulder to shoulder with the leading contenders for the Democratic nomination for president: Clinton, Edwards, and Obama have all used Vice President Cheney’s own words to assert that the “military option” cannot be “taken off

the table” in dealing with Iran. All eagerly assure Israel that its interests are paramount in the Middle East, whatever this requires in the way of military intervention in Lebanon, Syria, or Iran.

In fact, no politician of any meaningful standing is for peace.

No one objects to the gradually escalating war in Afghanistan.

The emerging liberal consensus seems indeed to be that Bush has slighted the war that needs to be fought—the war on terror—for the “unnecessary” war on Iraq.

No one has questioned the American intervention in Somalia, a country whose relative calm under Islamist rule was broken by the U.S.-sponsored Ethiopian invasion and Special Forces attacks, and which has now returned to its earlier state of chaotic civil conflict. The U.S.-financed carnage in Colombia goes unmentioned.

The “war on terror,” of course, cannot be won and will never end. There will be no solution either to the economic misery of the world’s Muslim—or other—masses or to the discontents of the frustrated intelligentsia and professional classes who wish to rule over them.

The U.S. will struggle to the last moment to support the dictators and ruling families of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf emirates, while the need for Israel’s existence as a military partner rules out any resolution of the “Palestinian problem.”

The state of the economy, like the endemic warfare that is one of its manifestations, is another thing that politicians can do little about. Most Americans can probably expect continued degradation of their living and working conditions, while dodging the efforts of enterprising jihadists and exploring the accelerating consequences of global warming.

How long will people put up with it all?

In any case, as with the first universal conflict, the permanent war of today will end only when we stop pestering our hapless congresspeople and senators and, like those German sailors a century ago, take social affairs into our own hands.

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.

The Country Appears To Be Moving Toward A “Full-Blown Crisis Of Public Confidence Over Foreign Policy”

“It’s Almost As If The Public Is Shaping Its Own Foreign Policy In Opposition To Official Foreign Policy”

“A Spectacular Decline In Confidence In The Utility Of Military Force To Solve Foreign Policy Challenges”

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

Apr 4 Jim Lobe, IPS [Excerpts]

Increasingly anxious about the course of U.S. foreign policy under President George W. Bush, particularly in Iraq, the country appears to be moving toward a “full-blown crisis of public confidence,” according to the latest “Confidence in U.S. Foreign Policy” survey designed by veteran pollster Daniel Yankelovich released here Tuesday.

Among other findings, the survey, the fourth in a semi-annual series by the New York-based Public Agenda and the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), found that nearly six in 10 respondents doubt the government is being honest with them about foreign policy -- a 10-point increase from just six months ago.

It also found a sharp rise -- from 58 percent to 67 percent of respondents -- in the belief that U.S. foreign policy is “on the wrong track” and a similar increase in the percentage who “worry a lot” that the war in Iraq is leading to too many casualties.

The survey, conducted in late February and early March, also found a spectacular decline in confidence in the utility of military force to solve foreign policy challenges, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or terrorism.

A 43-percent plurality of respondents, for example, said that attacking countries that develop WMD would enhance national security “not at all” -- a 14-point jump

in six months -- while those who said it would enhance security “a great deal” dropped from 36 percent to 17 percent over the same period.

In dealing with Iran, in particular, 44 percent of respondents said they preferred diplomacy to establish better relations, while 28 percent opted for using economic sanctions.

A mere 13 percent said Washington should either threaten (eight percent) or actually take (five percent) military actions against Tehran, while 11 percent said they thought there was no need to do anything.

“Military options are off the table,” said ret. Adm. Bobby Inman, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who serves on Public Agenda’s board of directors.

“It’s pretty striking (and) probably a reflection of overall dissatisfaction that the military option was the prime option in Iraq.”

The Index features what it calls a “Foreign Policy Anxiety Indicator” based on respondents’ answers to five key questions, including whether the world is becoming more or less dangerous to the U.S. and how the rest of the world sees the U.S.

On a scale of 0 to 200, where 0 connotes complete confidence and 200 panic, the findings six months ago fixed the indicator at 130.

“The Anxiety Indicator is moving closer to the 150 mark, the ‘red zone’ that to me would signal a full-blown crisis of public confidence,” Yankelovich said Tuesday, adding that the growing public anxiety over foreign policy is by no means confined to Iraq.

Yankelovich, who chairs Public Agenda, said unhappiness with current foreign policy is so pervasive on so many different issues that “it’s almost as if the public is shaping its own foreign policy in opposition to official foreign policy.”

Seven main elements of such an alternative foreign policy could be extracted from the survey’s findings, he added.

First, the public, he said, clearly wants to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq short of achieving “victory” there.

A total of 70 percent of respondents wanted to see the U.S. withdraw within the next 12 months, while only 27 percent favoured remaining there as long as it takes to stabilise the situation, according to the survey.

Second, two-thirds of the public believe the U.S. should put greater emphasis on diplomatic and economic efforts over military efforts in pursuing its interests, particular in fighting terrorism, than it has in the past, according to the survey. Seven in 10 respondents said that the criticism that Washington has been too quick to resort to military force is at least “partly justified”, while 84 percent said “initiating military force only when we have the support of our allies” was either “important” or “very important to our foreign policy.

Third, the public believes that the U.S. must do more to restore “its reputation and credibility with the rest of the world”, Yankelovich said, adding that 91 percent of respondents said the image of the U.S. is critical to its national security.

Fourth, the public has become very sceptical of Washington’s efforts to impose democracy on other nations.

Three out of four respondents said it was something that other countries can only do on their own -- a 20-point increase since the CFPI first asked the question in mid-2005. Only 23 percent said they believed the U.S. “can help other countries become democracies” -- down from 38 percent in mid-2005.

Fifth, the U.S. should give top priority to stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Three out of four respondents said they considered that objective to be “very important” - the highest in a list of a dozen policy initiatives.

But the survey also found nearly as intense and pervasive popular support (72 percent said “very important”) for “cooperating with other countries on problems like the environment or control of diseases.”

Remarkably, 41 percent of respondents said they worry “a lot” about global warming, up from 33 percent six months ago, and 65 percent said that international cooperation in this area could be effective.

Finally, the public favours strong efforts to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources as one of the most effective ways to enhance U.S. security. Although the Bush administration has claimed to break new ground in this direction, a 49-percent plurality of respondents gave it failing grades.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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

[Taken Prisoner For Having A “Suspicious” Car]



A foreign occupation soldier of the U.S. Delta company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment takes an Iraqi citizen prisoner in Baghdad's northwest neighborhood of Ghazaliya March 28, 2007. **U.S. soldiers detained two Iraqi citizens because their car was on a list of suspicious cars.**

Photo: REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

[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!**

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

“Suspicious” Boat Killed Near Mahmudiaya



U.S. army soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division shoot a boat they suspected was being used to move weapons near Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad April 21, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong (IRAQ)

***Welcome To Liberated Iraq:* “My Two Sons Have Disappeared And I Can’t Get Any Information. I Don’t Even Know If They’re Dead, Tina Said”**

“My last attempt was in the US-run prisons, but it was even harder to get to speak with someone there because of the huge number of people with the same problem as me,” she added.

18 April 2007 (IRIN)

When 53-year-old Tina Abdallah celebrated the fall of deceased former President Saddam Hussein in March 2003, she had no idea that her suffering had just begun.

Four years on, the mother of two is desperate for news about her sons who have disappeared in separate incidents following the US-led invasion of 2003.

“During Saddam’s time, people were being arrested and sometimes families couldn’t get any information about their loved ones. But the proposed democracy hasn’t changed this reality.

“My two sons have disappeared and I can’t get any information. I don’t even know if they’re dead,” Tina said.

“I have gone to NGOs, the Ministry of Human Rights and police departments looking for them but no one could help me.

“My last attempt was in the US-run prisons, but it was even harder to get to speak with someone there because of the huge number of people with the same problem as me,” she added.

But families claim that they have been ignored by the government, and are left on their own to search for their missing relatives, hoping they are being held prisoners somewhere.

“I don’t want to think my son is dead,” said Abu Khalid, 58, whose 35-year-old son has been missing for the past two years.

“I prefer imagining that he is being held in a prison somewhere, as was common during Saddam’s time. But if he’s not in a prison, I need to find his body at least and stop suffering and dreaming that one day he might come back. I should be able to tell his sons that their father is dead.”

Received:

Re Corrupt Iraqi Politicians.

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: GI Special
Sent: April 20, 2007 6:42 AM

Re corrupt Iraqi politicians.

Many of them still have their US, UK or Iranian passports (their life insurance when it all blows up in their corrupt faces - and it will) their homes in the US and UK or Iran (these countries especially) and some have changed their names to Iraqi names, when they are in fact Iranians.

Ironically, under Saddam, corruption was virtually nil (in a region where it can be pretty rampant) and ruthlessly punished, if discovered. As the embargo bit terribly deep, it crept in a bit, bit only largely in a pleading look for which 500 dinars (a few cents) was gratefully received.

Warmest,

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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