

GI SPECIAL 5D26:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

When Tours Turn Into Lifetimes

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: April 25, 2007
Subject: When Tours Turn Into Lifetimes

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

When Tours Turn Into Lifetimes

**Death waits for everybody
if you are 80 or 20
every tour is a heart attack
it's tough for a few Soldiers
to fight millions who hate them.
At the end of the third tour,
put the pads on his chest,
bring a zombie back to life.
Electric lightning in the sky
a dark night in Nebraska or Georgia,
they are weary of war too
California Michigan Texas
all the names that spell home
Virginia Minnesota New York
so the brass send them home tired,
beat, sent to relax, have fun,
but in the middle of home.
He receives orders to go back to Iraq
for another tour and with another
Fuck The Army USA,
another target in a uniform.
This is why they all look the same,
it's easy to kill uniforms,
they are not humans
they have no mothers or fathers
no wives or children or brothers or sister,
they have no faces
just straw stuffed into their pants
jack boots at the bottom,
helmets on top with dark glasses
with more straw in jackets,
to a child they look like a scarecrow
to others they are like robots
that sometimes bleed or fry black
on the road, but it is OK,
they are Americans and all the news
cheerleads for Bush and just say
there were Soldiers killed today,
numbers as pennies in a jar.
For others bullets missing, IED's not blowing
up, with a name for someone else,
how did I get here, why am I here
I forgot, why am I being abused ?**

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Soldier From Georgia Among Paratroopers Killed

04/26/07 AP

CARNESVILLE, Ga. A 19-year-old soldier from northeast Georgia was among nine members of the 82nd Airborne Division to die when suicide bombers attacked an outpost in Iraq.

Private First Class Ryen King was the second member of the 2005 class of Franklin County High School to be killed in Iraq in six months.

King was a two-sport athlete and member of the school's Young Democrats.

King's father, Jerry King of Bowersville, said his son told him he felt a "need to serve."

Two suicide bombers struck the building in Diyala province on Monday, causing it to collapse. Twenty others were wounded in the attack.

King had been in Iraq since August. He had five sisters, ages 2 to 20.

In November, 20-year-old Private First Class Daniel Allman the Second of Canon died when his Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Soldier, 26, Killed In Iraq, Survived By Wife, Young Son

April 19, 2007 Steve Rubenstein, Chronicle Staff Writer

Mario De Leon loved the old "Star Wars" movies, fast cars, hip-hop music, shooting pool and hanging out with his pals in Rohnert Park.

He loved his wife, Erika, and his 2-year-old son, Keoni.

And, in February, he told them he'd be home soon from his Army tour of duty in Iraq.

"He kept saying, 'Nothing's going to happen to me, nothing's going to happen to me,' " Erika De Leon said Wednesday. "He was fearless. In his mind, he was so strong and so brave. He was so sure of himself. He said he was coming back, and so we all knew he was coming back. That's how he was."

On Sunday, the Army said, the 26-year-old De Leon was killed in Baghdad by enemy small-arms fire.

De Leon, known to family and friends by his middle name of Kawika, was a sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

He was a native of San Francisco, the son of an Air Force officer and a longtime resident of Petaluma, where he graduated from Casa Grande High School. He met his future wife when the two were students at Santa Rosa Junior College.

A tall, large man with what one friend described as a "goofy grin," De Leon enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school and served for four years, including a tour in Afghanistan. After attending college for a while, he served two years in the Air Force Reserve before rejoining the Army last year. He was sent to Iraq over the winter, and spent most of his time on patrol in Baghdad.

When his Army service was over in 2010, his wife said, he wanted to become a Sonoma County firefighter.

"He loved making everyone laugh," his wife said. "Nobody could make people laugh like Kawika. He lighted up everyone's day."

He drove a 15-year-old Nissan and he was pretty good at the motor sport technique known as "drifting," or driving sideways in a controlled slide. He and his friends enjoyed watching drifting competitions, reading car magazines, and talking about the best pro drivers and the latest tricks.

He wanted to get another car, something fancier, someday.

"He'd always go and test drive cars," Erika De Leon said. "He never bought one, but he test drove them."

In the evenings, the De Leons would hunker down on the sofa and watch a "Star Wars" movie -- he had the complete set -- or episodes of the old "ThunderCats" cartoon show, in which giant human cats battled the Mutants to save the innocents on a planet called Third Earth. In his 20s, De Leon still enjoyed the animated shows and "X-Men" comic books he treasured as a kid.

"At first I didn't like watching those shows," his wife said. "But he was so passionate about it. He'd say, 'But Babe, everyone has to watch it.' So I did. And now I'm wearing the 'ThunderCats' sweater. "

His best friend, 26-year-old Ryan Miller of Petaluma, said De Leon was “always full of energy, always happy, always with a smile on his face.”

Miller, who met De Leon in seventh grade, said he chatted with him on the phone last week, not long after his friend was promoted to sergeant two weeks ago.

“He had just come in from patrol, and he said he wished he could have a beer,” Miller said. “We joked around about that. He said he was going to try to get some rest. He said he would call me back later. I never talked to him again.”

Miller said De Leon didn’t fret about what might await him on his next patrol.

“He wasn’t worried,” Miller said. “But if he was worried, he was the kind of guy who wouldn’t let on to it. He wouldn’t want anyone else worrying.”

Above all, Erika De Leon said, her husband was a gentleman.

“Sweet, polite, kind. I never met anyone like him. I wanted his son to grow up like him. Now all he has is pictures.”

He is survived by his wife and son, by his mother, Barbara, and by his brothers, Gabe and Bruce. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Fallen Soldier Remembered

4.22.07 By VICKY TAYLOR Staff writer, Public Opinion

A 22-year-old fallen Chambersburg soldier killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq Monday is remembered by those who knew him as a smart, talented young man who loved his mother and his country.

“He was a very nice kid,” said McConnellsburg High School basketball coach Danny Pollock, who coached Aaron Michael Genevie when the future soldier played on his high school junior varsity basketball team.

He said Genevie moved to McConnellsburg his junior year from West Forest High School in Tionesta, and was on the junior varsity team simply because he was new to the school, not because he lacked talent.

“He would have played varsity easily his senior year, but he got a job instead,” Pollock said.

He said he counseled Genevie to do what he felt was necessary for himself and his family and then supported his choice to work instead of devoting the time to practices and ball games.

Genevie was well-accepted by his team members and fellow students, Pollock said. He was also active in sports and other school activities, according to the high school yearbook.

“The guys on the team really took to Aaron when he moved here,” Pollock said. “Everybody liked him and enjoyed having him around.”

Pollock described Genevie as a good student who made good grades.

“He was very intelligent,” he said, echoing the words of a friend from Fort Riley, Kansas, where Genevie was stationed.

“He was a very smart guy who loved being a soldier,” Aurora Selbe, wife of Staff Sgt. Ron Selbe, said.

The Selbes would sometimes have Genevie and other single soldiers over for dinner at their home and before the soldiers were deployed in February, they talked about getting together after they returned from Iraq for a “huge” barbecue, she said.

Both Pollock and Aurora Selbe were impressed with Genevie’s manners and the respect he showed others.

“He was one of those guys who always called me coach, not by my first name,” Pollock said.

Aurora Selbe said the young soldier always called her Mrs. Selbe, not by her first name, even though she had assured him it was okay to use her first name.

Genevie, who enlisted in the Army in 2005 and had been stationed at Fort Riley with the 1st Infantry Division, is a 2003 graduate of McConnellsburg High School.

In the school’s 2003 yearbook, he lists his sense of humor as his best feature and his mother, Patricia, as his inspiration.

In an Internet posting earlier this year, he called her his hero and “the most loving person in the world.”

“No one in the world could ever take her place,” he said.

His motto in high school was to “always be true to yourself,” and he listed entering the Air Force as his goal after graduation.

It was the Army he finally chose, however, when he did enlist, and Aurora Selbe said he was happy with his choice.

At some time after Genevie’s graduation from high school, he moved to Chambersburg, which the Army lists as his home town.

In addition to his mother, Patricia Genevie, he is survived by his father, Girard Genevie.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:

BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A military post at a building in Ramadi April 1, 2007. (AP Photo/Todd Pitman)

Claiming Success For Surge, Bush's Liars Don't Count Casualties From Bombings!

"They Are Redefining Success In A Way That Suits Them"

Apr 26, 2007 Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

Car bombs and other explosive devices have killed thousands of Iraqis in the past three years, but the administration doesn't include them in the casualty counts it has been citing as evidence that the surge of additional U.S. forces is beginning to defuse tensions.

President Bush explained why in a television interview Tuesday. "If the standard of success is no car bombings or suicide bombings, we have just handed those who commit suicide bombings a huge victory," he told TV interviewer Charlie Rose.

Others, however, say that not counting bombing victims skews the evidence of how well the Baghdad security plan is protecting the civilian population -- one of the surge's main goals.

“Since the administration keeps saying that failure is not an option, they are redefining success in a way that suits them,” said James Denselow, an Iraq specialist at London-based Chatham House, a foreign policy think tank.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Bush Collaborator In Somalia Claims “Mission Accomplished” “Diplomats Said They Were Skeptical”

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: The continuing world evil that one man has ignited.]

April 26, 2007 By SALAD DUHUL, MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

Somalia’s government claimed victory over an Islamic insurgency Thursday just hours after a surge in violence killed 58 people in the capital, but diplomats said they were skeptical the worst fighting in more than 15 years had ended.

Machine gun and artillery fire could still be heard in the south of Mogadishu, a wrecked coastal city of 2 million people.

“We have won the fighting against the insurgents,” Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi told The Associated Press, saying small, mopping-up operations were still under way and that more than 100 insurgents had surrendered to the government.

“The worst of the fighting in the city is now over,” he said.

However, Western diplomats said that though the insurgents had suffered large numbers of casualties and were running low on ammunition, they were not yet defeated. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of damaging relations with Somalia’s government.

Bodyguards linked to a top Islamic extremist [translation: nationalist], Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys, arrived in Mogadishu on Wednesday, sparking rumors that Aweys and leaders of the extremist [translation: nationalist] Shabab movement were leading the fighting against the Somali and Ethiopian troops.

Most of the leadership of the Council of Islamic Courts has either fled the country, or been in hiding [translation: leading the armed resistance to the occupation] since Ethiopia intervened [translation: invaded] in December to prop up the government [at the request of the Bush regime].

The Shabab, which the United States accuses of having ties to al-Qaida [proof that Shabab have no ties at all the al-Qaida], have taken credit for a string of bombings against Ethiopian troops.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Pfc. James J. Coon is brought to Civic Park during a funeral service in Walnut Creek, Calif., April 14, 2007. Coon, 22, of Walnut Creek died April 4, in Balad, Iraq, when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle, according to the Department of Defense. (AP Photo/Susan Tripp Pollard, Pool)

**“Solid Majority” Of Americans
Don’t Support The War:
56% For Deadlines For Getting The
Fuck Out Of Iraq:
55 % Believe Victory In Iraq Isn’t
Possible**

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

April 26, 2007 By Mark Murray, Deputy Political Director, NBC News

WASHINGTON - As the Democrat-controlled Congress and the White House clash over an Iraq spending bill, with President Bush vowing to veto it because it contains withdrawal deadlines, the latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll finds that a solid majority of Americans side with the Democrats.

In addition, a nearly equal number believe that victory in Iraq isn't possible, and about only one in eight think the war has improved in the three months since Bush called for a troop increase there.

56 percent say they agree more with the Democrats in Congress who want to set a deadline for troop withdrawal, versus the 37 percent who say they agree with Bush that there shouldn't be a deadline.

What's more, 55 percent believe that victory in Iraq isn't possible.

And 49 percent say the situation in Iraq has gotten worse in the last three months since Bush announced his so-called troop surge.

Thirty-seven percent say the situation has stayed about the same, and just 12 percent think it has improved.

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

Disgusting Rat General Of The Year

**Michael Moseley:
He Whines About Airmen Being
Sent To Iraq**

Because It's Costing The Airforce Too Much Money He Whines About Airmen Being Prison Guards But Says It's OK If They Risk Death By IED Guarding Convoys!

04.25.07 By TOM RAUM, AP

The Air Force's top general expressed frustration on Tuesday with the reassignment of troops under his command to ground jobs for which they were not trained, ranging from guarding prisoners to driving trucks and typing.

Gen. Michael Moseley, the Air Force chief of staff, said that over 20,000 airmen have been assigned worldwide into roles outside their specialties.

"Somebody's going to have to pay us back," Moseley said. "I don't want to have concerns about getting that money back."

He said people were being assigned to jobs they weren't trained for. He cited Air Force airmen being used to guard prisoners and to serve as drivers and cited one instance in which an Air Force surgeon was assigned typing chores after three days at her new post.

"We got her back," Moseley said.

Others are being assigned to help the Army provide security in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Moseley said he didn't mind the use of airmen as drivers as much as some of the other new duties usually performed by the Army, such as guarding prisoners.

"Not only do we not have a prison, but very rarely do we have anybody in prison," he joked.

As part of Bush's troop buildup in order to try to secure Baghdad and nearby hot spots, there are currently about 146,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

Of these, about 9,500 are Air Force. An additional 1,100 airmen are in Afghanistan, according to the Air Force.

***The Army's New Land Warrior
System:
15 Years Of Work And \$500 Million;
"A Bunch Of Stuff We Don't Use"
"It Makes You A Slower, Heavier
Target"
"In An Iraq-Style Firefight It Could Be
Lethal"***

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

May 2007 By Noah Shachtman, Popular Mechanics [Excerpts]

There's a half-billion dollars invested in the gear hanging off the heads, chests and backs of the soldiers of Alpha company.

Digital maps displayed on helmet-mounted eyepieces show the position of all the men in the unit as they surround a block of concrete buildings and launch their attacks. Instead of relying on the hand signals and shouted orders that most infantrymen use, Alpha company communicates via advanced, encrypted radio transmissions with a range of up to a kilometer. It's more information than any soldiers have ever had about their comrades and their surroundings.

But as Alpha kicks in doors, rounds up terror suspects and peels off automatic fire in deafening six-shot bursts, not one of the soldiers bothers to check his radio or look into the eyepiece to find his buddies on the electronic maps.

"It's just a bunch of stuff we don't use, taking the place of useful stuff like guns," says Sgt. James Young, who leads a team of four M-240 machine-gunners perched on a balcony during this training exercise at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"It makes you a slower, heavier target."

Today, a big chunk of the combat vehicles and command posts have been wired up. But most soldiers on the ground still don't even have a radio.

Alpha's electronics package, known as the Land Warrior System, is designed to finally plug the infantryman into the battlefield network. These exercises in the shadow of Mount Rainier are the Army's most comprehensive test of the system yet — a dry run before Alpha company and the rest of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment take Land Warrior to Iraq.

But on the eve of what should be the program's biggest success, support for Land Warrior is crumbling. In the halls of the Pentagon there's a pitched battle being waged over Land Warrior's long-term budget and its long-term future. Army program managers are questioning Land Warrior's most basic premise: Does every soldier need to be wired?

If the program is going to survive, it will need rave reviews from the field.

But, at least on this crisp, sunny afternoon, Alpha doesn't seem all that happy with the gear. "I'm not a big fan, personally," says Pvt. Donald Starks, who's dripping with sweat after a morning of rehearsing house-to-house fighting in his Land Warrior rig.

But despite 15 years of work and nearly \$500 million, the system still has bugs.

And some of the gear seems outdated, even before it goes off to war. The 400-MHz processor running the system would have been bleeding-edge — in 1999.

In a parking lot adjacent to Alpha's faux-urban training grounds, Starks helps me into a Land Warrior ensemble, making sure I don't get my weapon entangled in the suit's wires. I point the M-4 across the lot at a row of rental cars. I wait — and wait — for the enhanced gunsight to focus. It responds more like a cheap digital camera than an advanced piece of military gear.

At this speed, the sight would be nearly useless in fast-moving urban combat.

The map showing soldiers' locations isn't exactly quick, either. I walk around the lot. My position on the map lags about a minute behind where I am in real time. That kind of delay wouldn't be too important in a long-range duel of sharpshooters.

But in an Iraq-style firefight it could be lethal.

And with a soldier's basic load of body armor, ammo and other equipment now approaching 80 pounds, even the slimmed-down Land Warrior System might be too much of a burden for an infantryman.

So far, no dice.

"Oh yeah, I can't wait!" an Alpha company soldier writes sarcastically in an e-mail months after I visit Fort Lewis and just before he's due for deployment to Iraq. "We still aren't fans."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

<p>At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of</p>

biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

Letter And Reply

#1: The Letter: For The War

[From: GI Special 5D22:]

From: Rob Brixey
To: GI Special
Sent: April 18, 2007
Subject: Bringing the troops home

I agree that it would be great to bring the troops home.

I am a US Navy veteran. My personal experience was in the Persian Gulf in 1979-80.

It is sad commentary that you must use images of men who made great commitments and sacrifices to prop up your traitorous opinion. These men, if the truth were known, would not agree to this usage.

History tells us that there were pacifists and promoters of appeasement in past conflicts. A quick reflection of subsequent events also demonstrates that their judgment was in error. History indicates that fortune favors boldness, and that wars are best fought "over there" as opposed to "over here".

I take great pride in the job our troops are doing.

Sadly, the world is not now, and never has been – quite as safe a place as you evidently assume.

The military has, for generations, stood guard for people like you. They have made your life secure and free, perhaps to the point that you no longer recognize the hazards of the real world.

The Muslim recognition of your right to Free Speech, which you no doubt cherish, was symbolized by decapitating Daniel Pearl. Muslim extremists have destroyed the World Trade Center, and have committed a litany of attacks against Americans since (at least as far as I can remember) 1972.

Perhaps it will only be worth it once you have lost a family member to a terrorist attack. I hope it never comes to that.

Rob Brixey
Sanford, NC

#2: The Reply: “They Are Publishing In Support Of People Who Have Been Betrayed By The Most Venal Government The Country Has Ever Had”

From: Doug Anderson
To: GI Special
Sent: April 23, 2007
Subject: Re: GI Special 5D22: GIs “Exhausted And We’re Angry”

In response to Robert Brixby’s letter:

Dear Robert Brixby. You will note that G.I. Special has printed your letter. This is something that I daresay you would not do for G.I. Special, had you the power over their 1st Amendment rights.

There is nothing “traitorous” about what this website, and its contributors, are doing.

It is simply giving voice to people who might otherwise be drowned out by the Bush/Rove propaganda machine.

They are publishing in support of people who have been betrayed by the most venal government the country has ever had.

How would you like to have had your tour extended 2 or 3 times, long after it was discovered that Bush lied about the pretext of the war?

You simply don’t know the facts. You have, in fact, been brain washed.

Unexamined patriotism is just another form of stupidity. You must be an easy target for used car salesmen.

By the way, how did you do your tour in the Persian Gulf?

On a ship?

Chipping paint?

If you’re wondering about my credentials, I am a former combat corpsman who did his time in Vietnam and received a purple heart.

Let me suggest that you go somewhere and get real.

PS this is my own opinion, and not necessarily that of G.I. Special.

Doug Anderson
Connecticut

A War Against Children (Theirs And Ours)

The US deaths in this illegal war, mostly, ironically, are announced from Camp Victory. Perhaps the Pentagon should change this increasingly delusional name to Camp Mea Culpa, or more realistically, Camp Defeat and Time to Go.

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: GI Special
Sent: April 26, 2007
Subject: A War Against Children (theirs and ours)

A War Against Children.

Looking at the ever mounting death toll of US troops in Iraq on GI Special, it struck me that this is a war against children, 'theirs' and 'ours'.

The average death of US troops seems to be between 18 and 23.

Life's golden years when the world is ahead of you, to be your oyster.

In Iraq, nearly half the population is under sixteen.

The US deaths in this illegal war, mostly, ironically, are announced from Camp Victory.

Perhaps the Pentagon should change this increasingly delusional name to Camp Mea Culpa, or more realistically, Camp Defeat and Time to Go.

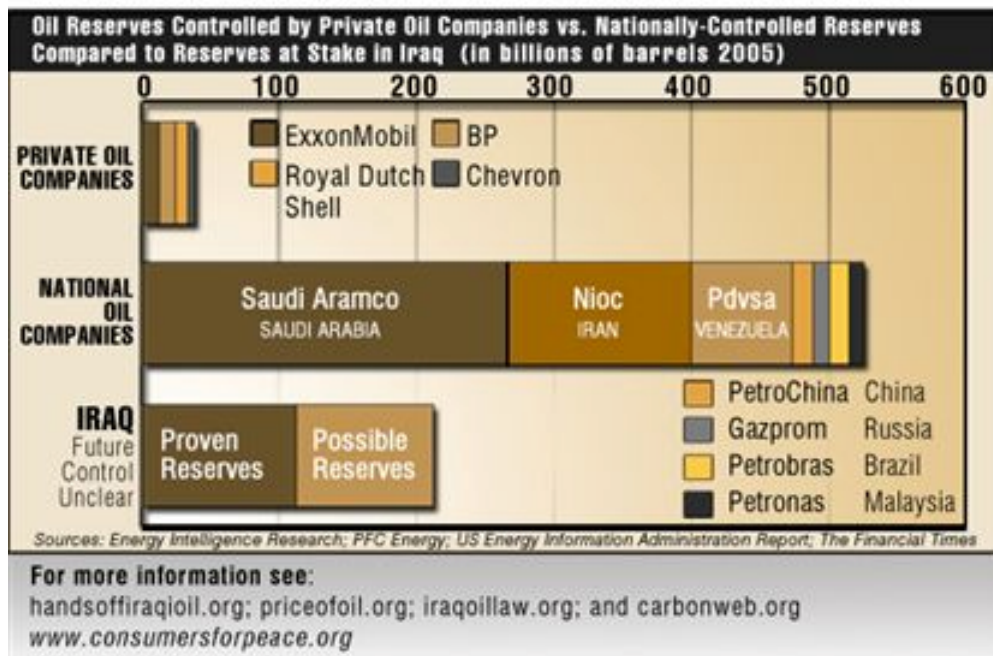
**Best,
Felicity A**

It's All About Helping Iraq, Right? Isn't It?

THE SIZE OF THE PRIZE

Oil reserves, usually measured in billions of barrels, are basically pools of oil, controlled by either private firms or national oil companies. The larger the overall pool of oil you control, the better your future. Countries nationalize oil in an attempt to gain maximum benefit from their natural resources. This oil reserve graph shows that national oil companies are coming to dominate the world oil business.

The United States is pushing the Iraqi Parliament to pass a new oil law that will open Iraq's reserves to private oil companies such as ExxonMobil, Shell, BP and Chevron under contracts that will be extremely profitable to the private firms and leave Iraq oil nationalized in name only. This is being opposed by many Iraqis, including Iraqi oil workers. The graph below dramatically illustrates how much Iraq's oil could mean to major oil companies if the United States is successful in forcing through the oil law, which is based on work done in the U.S. State Department before the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq.



[Thanks to Nick Mottern, who sent this in.]

“There Is No Light At The End Of The Iraq Tunnel”

April 26, 2007 Editorial, Star Tribune [Excerpts]

The young men and women in the ranks are wonderfully brave and dedicated, but they are being used and abused in an effort every bit as wrongheaded as Vietnam, and with the same inevitable result.

David Halberstam would have understood the real significance that attaches to the testimony given Tuesday before a House committee on the death of Army Cpl. Pat Tillman in Afghanistan.

Halberstam, 73, who died Monday in a California traffic accident, made his name as a journalist reporting truth from Vietnam, truth that exposed the lies and deceits -- large and small -- that American military leaders were peddling about that losing war effort. The lies and deceits surrounding Tillman's death by friendly fire expose a stark similarity between the U.S. military Halberstam wrote about then and the U.S. military today.

This is a military that Halberstam certainly would recognize: broken, corrupt and deceitful.

The young men and women in the ranks are wonderfully brave and dedicated, but they are being used and abused in an effort every bit as wrongheaded as Vietnam, and with the same inevitable result.

There is no light at the end of the Iraq tunnel.

“Everybody With A Mother, Take Two Steps Forward”

April 24, 2007 From Joe Balshone, Firebase-Humor

The Captain called the Sergeant in. “Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private Jones’ mother died yesterday. Better go tell him and send him in to see me.”

So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation and lines up all the troops. “Listen up, men,” says the Sergeant. “Johnson, report to the mess hall for KP. Smith, report to Personnel to sign some papers.

“The rest of you men report to the Motor Pool for maintenance. Oh by the way, Jones, your mother died, report to the commander.”

Later that day the Captain called the Sergeant into his office. “Hey, Sarge, that was a pretty cold way to inform Jones his mother died. Couldn’t you be a bit more tactful, next time?”

“Yes, sir,” answered the Sarge.

A few months later, the Captain called the Sergeant in again with, “Sarge, I just got a telegram. Private McGrath’s mother died. You’d better go tell him and send him in to see me. This time be more tactful.”

So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation.

“Ok, men, fall in and listen up. Everybody with a mother, take two steps forward -- NOT SO FAST, McGRATH.”

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



4.23.07: Foreign occupation soldiers from US of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment force a group of Iraqi mechanics to lie face down in the dirt at gunpoint before interrogating them in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

[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?]

Danger: Liberation At Work



Baghdad, Iraq: An Iraqi girl inspects the destruction at her house in an area that was bombed overnight by US military, according to residents at Baghdad's Adhamiyah district. Photograph: Wisam Sami/AFP/Getty Images [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

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

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

The Ever Growing Trust Between The Happy Iraqi Police, And U.S. Soldiers: A Monument To The Wisdom Of Dear Leader George W. Bush, He Whose Wisdom Outshines The Sun



U.S. army soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division search an Iraqi police vehicle near a U.S. military post in Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad April 25, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

The Great Wall Of Segregation... “The Wall Is The Latest Effort To Further Break Iraqi Society Apart”

April 26, 2007 By Riverbend, Baghdad Burning [Excerpt]

Promoting and supporting civil war isn't enough, apparently- Iraqis have generally proven to be more tenacious and tolerant than their mullahs, ayatollahs, and Vichy leaders. It's time for America to physically divide and conquer- like Berlin before the wall came down or Palestine today.

Which is the wall the current Iraqi government is building (with the support and guidance of the Americans).

It's a wall that is intended to separate and isolate what is now considered the largest 'Sunni' area in Baghdad- let no one say the Americans are not building anything. According to plans the Iraqi puppets and Americans cooked up, it will 'protect' A'adhamiya, a residential/mercantile area that the current Iraqi government and their death squads couldn't empty of Sunnis.

The wall, of course, will protect no one.

I sometimes wonder if this is how the concentration camps began in Europe.

The Nazi government probably said, "Oh look- we're just going to protect the Jews with this little wall here- it will be difficult for people to get into their special area to hurt them!" And yet, it will also be difficult to get out.

The Wall is the latest effort to further break Iraqi society apart.

Promoting and supporting civil war isn't enough, apparently- Iraqis have generally proven to be more tenacious and tolerant than their mullahs, ayatollahs, and Vichy leaders.

It's time for America to physically divide and conquer- like Berlin before the wall came down or Palestine today. This way, they can continue chasing Sunnis out of "Shia areas" and Shia out of "Sunni areas".

I always hear the Iraqi pro-war crowd interviewed on television from foreign capitals (they can only appear on television from the safety of foreign capitals because I defy anyone to be publicly pro-war in Iraq).

They refuse to believe that their religiously inclined, sectarian political parties fueled this whole Sunni/Shia conflict.

They refuse to acknowledge that this situation is a direct result of the war and occupation.

They go on and on about Iraq's history and how Sunnis and Shia were always in conflict and I hate that.

I hate that a handful of expats who haven't been to the country in decades pretend to know more about it than people actually living there.

I remember Baghdad before the war- one could live anywhere.

We didn't know what our neighbors were- we didn't care.

No one asked about religion or sect.

No one bothered with what was considered a trivial topic: are you Sunni or Shia? You only asked something like that if you were uncouth and backward.

Our lives revolve around it now.

Our existence depends on hiding it or highlighting it- depending on the group of masked men who stop you or raid your home in the middle of the night.

How Can You Tell When An Iraqi Is A Terrorist Enemy Of Freedom? Easy! The Iraqi Is Dead [All Iraqis Butchered By The Occupation Are Insurgent Terrorists, Right?]

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

While the Americans insist those killed were insurgents who had previously fired “small arms” with “hostile intent” on a US combat outpost (COP), neighbors see it differently.

Witnesses say the men weren’t firing on Americans, but reacting to what they thought was a Sunni insurgent attack.

04/23/07 By Sam Dagher, The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD: A massive funeral tent stood on the street in Baghdad’s Al Amel neighborhood. Taped verses from the Koran echoed from loudspeakers. Black-clad women wailed and slapped their faces in sorrow.

On the surface, the scene last week was nothing unusual for Baghdad.

But instead of mourning those killed by insurgents or militiamen, this time residents grieved for a mother and two of her adult sons killed in a US helicopter strike earlier this month.

While the Americans insist those killed were insurgents who had previously fired “small arms” with “hostile intent” on a US combat outpost (COP), neighbors see it differently.

Witnesses say the men weren’t firing on Americans, but reacting to what they thought was a Sunni insurgent attack.

It proved to be a deadly mistake in the ever more dense fog of war in Iraq.

Infantrymen, trained mainly to engage and kill the enemy and protect themselves from attacks, are being asked to tackle a sectarian war in which the battlefields are neighborhoods and the enemy is becoming harder to spot.

“The problem with the Army is that they are here to fight and it’s all about combat power when it’s no longer that kind of a war,” says a US military officer stationed in Iraq and who is critical of many aspects of the Baghdad security plan.

[W]hen Iraqis do get caught in American crossfire for whatever reason, those deaths, and the often confusing aftermath of investigations and the paperwork for compensation, only serve to fuel the anger and animosity of Iraqis toward US troops.

Four years into the war, human rights groups complain there is a lack of transparency and adequate compensation by the US military to the families of victims in incidents such as the one in Amel.

“The data is so tightly held (by the US military) that we have a hard time wrapping our heads around the extent of the problem,” says Marc Garlasco, senior military analyst at New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Earlier this month, US government documents released by court order to the American Civil Liberties Union showed that only one-third of the families of 479 Iraqi civilians killed by US soldiers between 2003 and 2006 received compensation after filing for claims, while very few incidents were forwarded for further investigation.

The incident in Amel may be a case study in the confusion that rules throughout Baghdad.

Khalid Abdel-Jawad, a civil engineer who is a fluent-English speaker, says he’s still finding it hard to understand why the US military killed two of his best friends and their mother and continues to hold his wounded teenage brother.

It all started sometime before midnight on Sunday, April 15, when many residents of Amel’s 803 block were roused from bed by the sound of gunfire and explosions.

That night, a spokesman for the US military said that soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment stationed on the Sunni side of the neighborhood came under attack at the same time indicated by Abdel-Jawad.

After hearing the gunshots and explosions, Abdel-Jawad said that his brother Ahmed, 17, grabbed his AK-47 and rushed out of the house. Many of the neighborhood’s male residents had done that in the past when they thought they were being attacked by Sunni militants.

“In a situation like this we must be alert and ready to defend ourselves. It’s difficult to rely on the Americans and the Iraqi Army to protect us,” Abdel-Jawad said.

Young Ahmed was joined by his neighbor and a friend, Abbas Abdel-Khodr, according to witnesses. Moments later Mr. Abdel-Khodr’s mother, Souad, and her other son, Ali, tried to persuade them to come back in, according to Abdel-Jawad.

Meanwhile, US soldiers at the outpost called for helicopters into the area to confront the source of gunfire.

Ahmed and Abdel-Khodr went to the top of an alleyway and fired shots in the air, apparently thinking they might scare away the perceived Sunni attackers.

“Four anticoalition forces were positively identified by attack aviation,” said Maj. Kirk Luedeke, spokesman for the 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to which the 1-28 is attached. “The helicopters returned fire at the individuals engaging our troops, killing them after clearly establishing hostile intent.”

When the sound of explosions and gunfire quieted, Abdel-Jawad ran out of his home to look for his brother and friends. “It was like huge firecrackers. The earth shook.

“I went out and saw Ali’s body and just the remains of his mother. I was sick. I could not take it. I went back home.”

Later, Abdel-Jawad and other residents of Amel said US and Iraqi forces came into the area and picked up the three bodies and Ahmed, who was badly wounded.

The next morning, Abdel-Jawad went to an Iraqi Army outpost in the area manned by a Kurdish unit to inquire about the fate of his brother. “The first thing they asked me was whether I was Sunni or Shiite. I was shocked,” said Abdel-Jawad.

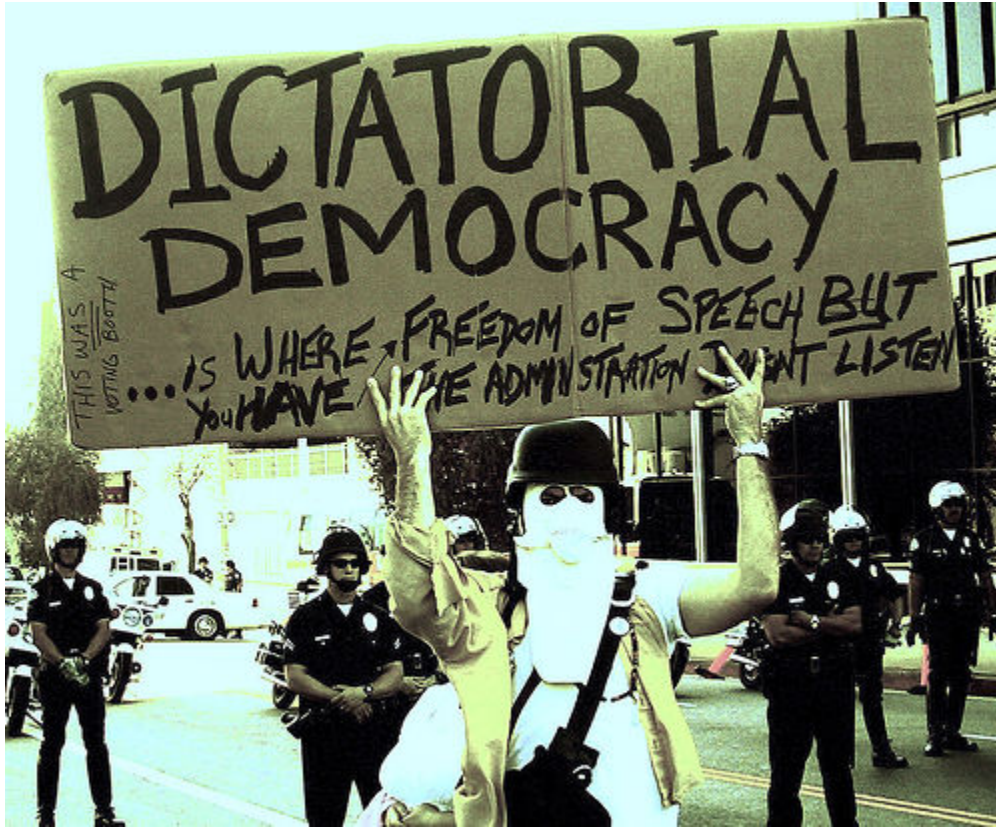
“When I told them Shiite, they said ‘check with the Americans.’ When I kept insisting, they said ‘Leave or we will arrest you.’ “

Abdel-Jawad and his family were only able to find out one week later from the US military that Ahmed was still alive and that he was being held now at a maximum-security detention facility in Baghdad.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

“The Only Difference Between American Dictatorship And Other Dictatorships Is That, For Now, Americans Are Permitted To

Remove Their Dictator After His Term Is Served”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

04/24/07 By Paul Craig Roberts, Information Clearing House [Excerpts]

The war persists despite the opposition of a majority of Americans and Iraqis.

The war persists despite its total failure.

The war persists despite the known fact that it was based on Bush administration lies and deception.

President Bush's latest delusion--the surge--has not increased security.

The surge has been accompanied by new records of daily Iraqi civilian casualties, such as the 312 Iraqis killed and 305 wounded on April 18.

Recently, US commanding general David Petraeus said that Iraqis would just have to learn to live with daily bombing attacks. Petraeus promises Iraqis decades of violence when he says, "Iraq is going to have to learn--as did Northern Ireland--to live with some degree of sensational attacks."

Polls of Iraqis show that large majorities support attacks on US troops and want US forces withdrawn from their country.

Although the Iraqi government is supposedly a democratically elected majority Shiite government, in reality it is puppet creature of the US occupation without real power and without public support. The "Iraqi government" exists only within the heavily fortified and US guarded "green zone" in Baghdad. Even this protected zone is subject to attacks. Just last week the parliament was bombed.

Bush claims that he invaded Iraq because he so highly values democracy that he desired to establish one in Iraq as an example for other Middle Eastern countries to follow.

However, what Bush has demonstrated to Muslims is that American democracy is unresponsive to citizens and voters. Bush has demonstrated to the world that the US government is controlled by a small oligopoly of vested interests, the public be damned.

Bush is ignoring public opinion and has made it clear that he will continue the practice.

Bush has shown the world that the only difference between American dictatorship and other dictatorships is that, for now, Americans are permitted to remove their dictator after his term is served.



(Jason Reed/Reuters)

**THE TRAITOR BUSH:
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE:**

FIGHT HIM HERE, SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR HIM OVER THERE

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/)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

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