

GI SPECIAL 5E29:

**TRAITOR
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



thewashingtonnote.com

West Point

From: George S. Weber [Vietnam Veteran]
To: GI Special
Sent: May 27, 2007 12:30 AM
Subject: West Point Rally

Thanks for your very eloquent and powerful speech today. It was good to see you.

In Peace,
George

[In response to this email, and to requests from several veterans at the rally against Cheney's appearance at the West Point Graduation ceremony 5.25.07, the speech is reprinted below. T]

[Remarks at Highland Falls, New York, home of the United States Military Academy at West Point, 5.26.07]

[Introduction of the speaker by the rally MC]

“Thomas Barton compiles the GI Special newsletter. He is a hospital worker and member of Local 768, Health Care Workers Union, District Council 37

“During the American war on Vietnam, Barton helped distribute Vietnam GI, a monthly newspaper for troops opposed to that war, edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet.

“Today, Barton is a member of the Military Project, an organization of veterans and civilian antiwar activists who focus on providing aid and comfort to service personnel who question, oppose or resist the U.S. military Occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq.”

[Remarks by T. Barton, GI Special & The Military Project]

First, a few words to today’s West Point graduates.

Then a letter from a soldier in Iraq, and the reply.

To the West Point class of 2007: heartfelt congratulations on your graduation day.

As for what is demanded of you as you enter active duty service:

First, never forget who you are.

You are the lineal descendents of one of the greatest revolutionary armies ever to take the field of battle against an Imperial army of occupation: the soldiers of 1775-1783.

The cause for which they fought, national independence and liberation from foreign Imperial occupation, is no less a universal human right today.

Take care to cherish this sacred cause and resist those who would have you betray it.

Second, never forget who you serve.

You do not serve the President of The United States, although he may be your Commander in Chief, subject to his continuing good behavior. You do not serve the Congress of the United States, or any collection of mere politicians.

You swear an oath to protect the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The Constitution begins “We the people, of the United States....”

And that is who you serve.

Let your conscience and your honor be your guide.

Concerning today's graduation ceremony itself, there are rumors of some dissatisfaction among you about the imposition from on high of today's speaker, Cheney.

This word to the dissatisfied:

You forget one of the basic rules of military science you have learned here:

Know the face of the enemy.

That said, from now on, beginning with the class of 2008, let the West Point graduating class nominate candidates for and hold an election to choose your own commencement speaker.

If they tell you to be prepared to die for democracy, it's only reasonable to demand you get some.

Now for a letter from a soldier in Iraq to GI Special newsletter and the reply:

By way of introduction, for those who may not know of it: GI Special newsletter and the Military Project exist to provide aid and comfort to service personnel turning against the wars of Empire in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Suddenly, in the last month, GI Special has received more favorable emails, articles against the war, and requests for subscriptions from soldiers serving in Iraq than in the past two years.

For example, a Sgt. in Baghdad writes:

"I just wanted to take the time to tell you that the "G.I. Special" is good reading. Let me rephrase that – it's depressing that we have gotten to the point that your publication is good reading."

Whether you agree or disagree, it may be of interest to you to hear some of the GI Special arguments that have brought on this favorable response from our brothers and sisters serving in Iraq.

What is significant is not so much the content of the arguments, but the major shift expressed in the favorable hearing they now receive.

First, a letter from a soldier serving in Iraq to GI Special sent May 11.

Then the comment written in response as it appeared with his letter on the front page of the 5.12.07 GI Special.

Letters from troops in Iraq are run on the front page, with all identifying information removed to protect the writer from unwelcome attention from the Bush Buddies.

Here's the headline:

“Another Extension?”

“There Is Now Word Leaking Out That We Are Scheduled To Be Extended For Three Additional Months This December”

“I Feel That This Should Be Looked Into So That Another Announcement Can Be Compelled”

And here's what the soldier wrote:

From: [Soldier, Iraq]

To: GI Special

Sent: May 11, 2007

Subject: ANOTHER Extension?

Thanks for posting the article about our leaders saying the surge will go into 2008.

What's going on here in Iraq can't be stopped and the best they can hope to do is suppress it, but suppression never ends.

With the 3-month extension now in effect, certain units who were supposed to go home later this year will now redeploy early 2008.

The reason for this email is because there is now word leaking out that we are scheduled to be extended for three ADDITIONAL months THIS December.

This is in keeping with the “long-term surge” and the timing is so that the units getting ready to go home will get the news at the end of their tour, and the arriving units will get the news once they're already in Iraq.

The goal is to get all the surge soldiers in place, then break the news.

I feel that this should be looked into so that another announcement can be compelled.

Keep up the good work, T!

[Soldier, Iraq]

Publishing the letter accomplished his purpose. With a few days, print journalists from major newspapers, some of whom follow and have contacted GI Special from time to time, picked up the story and ran it as “Bush’s Second Surge.”

The problem in answering this soldier’s letter was his closing line: “keep up the good work.”

What to say to that?

He’s in Iraq, writing in his views against the war, and not for the first time. He’s in touch with other soldiers against the war, organizing with them at considerable risk to himself. And he says “keep up the good work” to someone sitting safely at home!

So here’s the reply from that same issue of GI Special, with a few words changed for West Point:

COMMENT IN REPLY: T

The important good work is in the hands of the men and women in the armed services, like the writer, who have had enough of Bush’s Imperial wars. They will do what they have to do when the time is right.

In this fateful moment, they owe it to the Iraqis, to the citizens of the United States, who gain no riches by this war, and to their own honor to raise a loud protest against the U.S. government’s betrayal of their service, perverted by the politicians in Washington DC of both parties into nothing more, nor less, than a war of Imperial conquest.

Our troops must inscribe “the liberation of Iraq” on their banners: not the Imperial government’s lie, but the true liberation of Iraq: the immediate withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces and the restoration thereby of the national independence of all who live there.

Only by liberating Iraq from the military dictatorship imposed by the U.S. government can our troops liberate themselves as well, and by so doing,

liberate us at home from the same domestic enemies who brought on this war.

The alternative, endless war and endless death, is no longer acceptable, either to the members of the armed forces or to the overwhelming majority of working class Americans. And that is where the strongest opposition to this war is found: among working class Americans, not the rich or the intellectual class.

The war would have been over long ago if the United States were a society where the majority ruled.

That is not the case.

We live in a society where government is bought and paid for by those with the riches to command the politicians.

Their form of democracy is simple and crude: money votes and those with wealth control the political parties and the government.

That lesson has just been taught. The last election rejected the war. And the politicians want the war to go on. And the war goes on.

Therefore, it is necessary, in order to secure our liberties and domestic tranquility, to remove from power the domestic enemies who have made it impossible to secure change through their form of democracy: money democracy.

We do not have their wealth to use to save ourselves. But we do have the capability, the human resources, and the common sense to understand that mere self-preservation requires a massive movement from below to bring down these blind, stupid, greedy incompetent domestic enemies.

No one can order that to happen.

Although our movement inside and outside the armed forces deepens and spreads with each passing week, courage and dedication to the cause of our own liberation are not enough.

Communication and tight organization are necessary to put down a firm foundation for successful action.

The time of our own liberation may not be so close as we might wish. That said, it is far closer than those who rule America -- and who have become accustomed to treating us as so many objects, incapable of acting for ourselves -- can possibly imagine.

As usual, the Imperial class that rules America have their eyes on the wrong ball.

They obsess about being deprived of the riches they expected to harvest from the conquest of Iraq.

They do not see that the coming firestorm their reckless incompetence is bringing on bids fair to burn them out of society once and for all.

They believe that the members of the armed forces will always obey and defend their hold on their wealth and political power here in the USA.

When the deal goes down, that's the last card they have to play.

Nothing more.

Let your conscience and your honor be your guide.

T

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

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier, Four Wounded

May 27, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070527-01

BAGHDAD — While conducting a combat security patrol in the western section of the Iraqi capital, one Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed and four others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated May 26. Two Soldiers have been returned to duty.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala; Two More Wounded

May 27, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070527-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed when an explosion occurred near his vehicle while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Saturday.

Two other Soldiers were also wounded in the incident and were taken to a Coalition Forces medical treatment facility.

Family Mourns For Fallen Marine



5/20/2007 Frank Malloy, WMAZ TV

A sad but proud family gathered in Macon Friday to remember a fallen loved one.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Davis Walker died from a sniper's bullet Monday about two months into his second tour of duty in Iraq.

The 21-year-old Marine's father, James Walker, said his son was born in Macon and spent most of his life in the city.

James Walker is a trucker. He was fueling his rig in Hopkinsville, Ky. when his daughter called Monday and asked if he was driving.

Then, Walker said, she told him Jeffrey Walker had been shot.

"I said 'is he OK?' And she didn't say anything, and that's when I knew. I knew he was gone," Walker said.

Jeffrey Walker's great grandmother was concerned about her great grandson returning to Iraq, said her daughter, Anne Walker of Cordele.

"She said she didn't want him to go, and the last time she saw him, she said, 'I wish you wouldn't go,' and when I told her Monday after I'd gotten the phone call, she said, 'I knew it,'" Anne Walker said.

The family gathered Friday at the home of Joanne Whitener, one of the fallen Marine's aunts. Some of the family members got together with Jeffrey Walker at Whitener's home a few weeks before Walker returned to Iraq.

"The last time I saw him was right here," Whitener said. "We just sat around and visited for a while. He had a new car that he was showing off for my sons."

Another aunt, Jennifer Schiller, lives in Washington state. She doesn't get back to Georgia too often. She said her last visit was in December 2005, and she didn't see Jeffrey Walker at the time, because he was on his first deployment to Iraq at the time.

It hit hard when she learned her nephew had been killed.

"I actually called my husband, and he told me my mama was trying to get hold of me and that there was some bad news, that my nephew had been shot," Schiller said. "So I called my mama right away, and my brother told me."

Before Jeffrey went to Iraq the first time, his father asked him if he planned to be a career Marine. He didn't get an answer.

"After that first tour, he came back and I asked him again," James Walker said. "He said, 'No, I think I'm going to get out. I need to go home, and I need to support my child.'"

Jeffrey Walker's son, Conner, is five months old. If his grandfather has anything to do with, James Walker said Conner will get all the support he needs.

Officials say Lance Cpl. Jeffrey D. Walker died Monday in Anbar province.

His father, David Walker of Griffin, said that he was told that his son was killed by a sniper. "I know he died for a good cause, he fought for our freedom, and that's what his duty was, and that's what he chose to do."

David Walker said his son Jeffrey was born in Macon and lived most of his life in the city. He had also lived in Fort Valley and graduated from Pike County High School, his father said.

Richard Ulsh, a public affairs officer at Camp Lejeune, N.C., said Walker joined the Marines in September 2004, joined his current unit in April 2005 and had been in Iraq since earlier this year.

He said Walker was trained as a logistics vehicle systems operator.

According to Ullsh, Walker had been awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Sea Service Ribbon.

Funeral services for Lance Cpl. Jeffrey D. Walker will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. at Griffin First Assembly of God, 2000 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin. Reverend Riley Fenley will officiate. Interment will follow in the Veteran's Section of the Oak Hill Cemetery with full military honors.

Soldier From Yardley Killed In Iraq

May 17, 2007 WPVI-TV

YARDLEY, Pa.

25-year-old Army Sgt. Allen J. Dunckley of Yardley has been killed in Iraq.

Dunckley was killed by small arms fire on Monday, the military said. Jennifer Dunckley said her husband was the perfect mix between soft and hard.

A sniper in the U.S. army who loved martial arts, he was also a doting father to his two children. "He did everything for everybody else and put himself last," said Jennifer.

She says she is still numb. For Dunckley's parents, the pain is almost physical.

"It's like a piece of your heart is torn out," said his mother, Mae. "At the same time the Lord has given us such a peace knowing that he is with the Lord and we will see him again some day."

"We have our moments. It comes over us like waves and we are very sorrowful, but because of our faith we believe he is in a better place right now," said his father, Allen Dunckley Sr.

Sgt. Dunckley loved being a soldier. First he was a Marine, then he enlisted in the Army. He wanted to make Special Forces.

His mother read from his self-penned biography, "Most people view love as a word or an emotion. I view love as an act or commitment. My act of love is my service in the military protecting and preserving all the things that I believe in most."

While Sgt. Dunckley loved his country, he also loved his faith. His father is a pastor. It's that faith that is getting the family through these dark days.

"The reason why I can do this interview. The reason why I can walk proudly is just knowing that he was a man of God, a man of his country and a man of his family," said his wife.

Spokane Soldier Killed In Iraq; Roadside Bombs Also Wound 5 Others From Area



Kelly Grothe, as pictured on his MySpace.com page.

May 6, 2007 James Hagenruber, Staff writer, Spokesman Review

A soldier from Spokane was killed Thursday in Iraq after his armored vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Ramadi, according to the U.S. Army Reserve.

Cpl. Kelly Grothe, 21, was in a heavily armored vehicle taking part in a route-cleaning mission when the improvised explosive device went off, killing him and another soldier, Staff Sgt. Coby Schwab, of Henderson, Nev.

Five other soldiers from Spokane and North Idaho were wounded in the attack, though officials say their wounds are not serious. The soldiers serve with Company B of the 321st Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve, which is headquartered in Boise.

The injured include: Master Sgt. David Johnson, of Spokane, who suffered an injured back; Spec. Joshua Wheeler, of Anacortes, Wash., who suffered a concussion; Spec. Adam Vindasious, of Coeur d'Alene, who ruptured his eardrums; Spec. Joseph Johnson, of Kalispell, Mont., who suffered a concussion; and Spec. Andrew Eselbauch, of Bonners Ferry, who suffered a concussion.

The men were among 350 from the unit deployed in July to Iraq for a 1 1/2 year mission. Grothe, a 2004 Central Valley High School graduate, was one of six soldiers in the unit from the Spokane Valley-based 659th Engineer Battalion.

The mission of the 321st is to clear roadside bombs and to guard convoys. Since arriving in Iraq, they have defused or destroyed "several hundred" roadside bombs, said

Lt. Wade Winegardner, commander of the company's rear detachment. These IEDs, as they are known, are often detonated by remote control and have become a weapon of choice against American forces in Iraq. Some are also detonated by infrared or magnetic triggers.

The unit was conducting a regular mission Thursday at about 8 p.m. Pacific time when an IED blew up and hit a vehicle, injuring five soldiers inside, Winegardner said. A second armored vehicle stopped to assist the soldiers when another IED went off, killing two soldiers inside the second vehicle.

The soldiers were traveling in vehicles specially equipped to withstand mines and explosives.

"They're very heavily armored vehicles compared to the other ones out there," Winegardner said at a press conference Saturday afternoon at the McCarter Army Reserve Center in Hayden.

The deaths are believed to be the first suffered by the unit's Bravo Company since World War II. In February, three soldiers with the Boise-based Alpha Company of the 321st were killed in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded next to their truck.

The same day Grothe and Schwab were killed, five other soldiers were killed in Iraq, including three from roadside bombs. As of Saturday, at least 3,362 members of the U.S. military have been killed in Iraq, according to an Associated Press count.

As of Saturday, no information was available on Grothe's funeral arrangements.

Tributes to Grothe were already being posted on his MySpace page on the Internet. A soldier from his unit described Grothe as being upbeat and quick to laugh. "Your heart was pure," the posting read. "Everyone wanted you around them because if you were there, it would be a fun time. ... I will never forget you."

On his MySpace page, Grothe discussed his dreams of someday traveling to Germany and of his desire to go to college. The posting also includes answers to such questions as his favorite type of pizza (pineapple), his fears (heights) and the type of shoes he puts on each morning (desert combat boots).

Among the many questions on the form, Grothe also posted an answer to the question of how he would want to die. "Well, I don't really want to," he wrote, "but I guess if I have to, I want to go really, really quick."

“Since March Of 2003 We Have Lost 44 Battalions Worth Of Soldiers And Marines”

27 May 2007 by Larry C Johnson, noquarter.typepad.com

The last 11 months in Iraq are the bloodiest since the United States invaded in March of 2003.

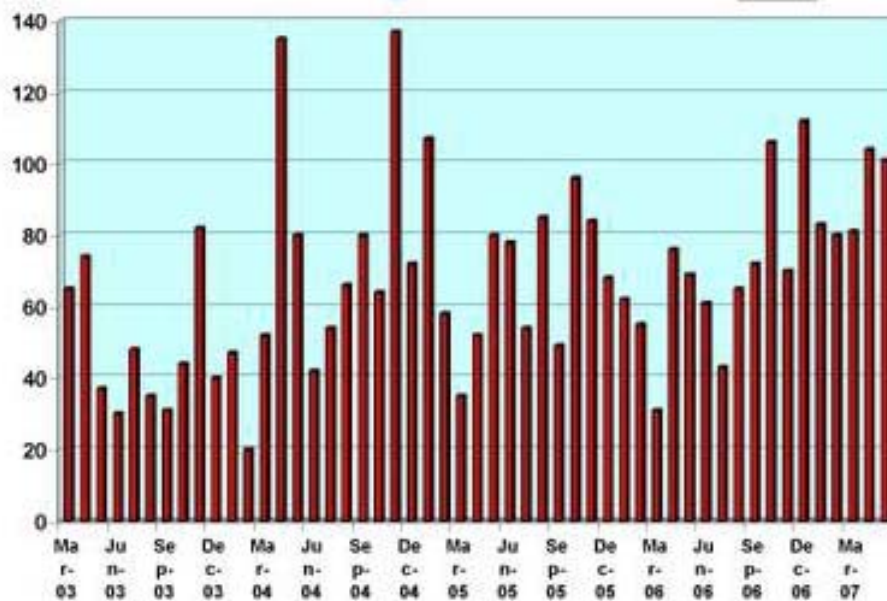
Despite a troop surge the violence is not abating and our troops are not more secure.

Our losses in Iraq are significant.

Since March of 2003 we have lost 44 battalions worth of soldiers and marines (a battalion is a unit of 300 to 1,000 soldiers. Four to six companies make up a battalion. I am using the figure of 650, a combat arms battalion.)

And the trend in Iraq is alarming--we are losing more, not less.

Total losses as of 2pm on 27 May 2007 are 3454 dead and 25242 wounded. Total casualties: 28696. The following chart is drawn from the statistics recorded at icasualties.org:



My military buddies are terrific, patriotic warriors. They do their jobs with great integrity, great personnel sacrifice, and minimal bitching (at least in public).

But they know we are kidding ourselves if we think we can sustain current operations in Iraq without either a draft or significant reinforcements from the so-called "coalition of the willing".

We must do one or the other because our current recruitment and retention policies are not sufficient to sustain the operations tempo for the Army and Marines in Iraq.

[What a silly comment. There will be no draft and there will be no reinforcements from the long dead "coalition of the willing" because none of those governments are stupid enough to send any more of their troops into a lost war where they die in vain. T]

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



An injured US Marine gets help during a patrol in Fallujah 21 May. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier Killed Near Garmsir; Four More Wounded

5.27.07 ASADABAD, Afghanistan (Reuters) & RFE/RL, Inc. & MoD

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Guardsman Daniel Probyn from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in Afghanistan on Saturday 26 May 2007.

The British soldier was killed early on Saturday during a mission on the outskirts of Garmsir in Helmand province.

British officials said the soldier was killed in an explosion that occurred during an operation to clear a Taliban compound May 25 near Garmsir, in Helmand Province.

During this phase of the operation there was an explosion at around midnight, which resulted in five casualties.

Britain has lost its 56th soldier in Afghanistan since November 2001, when the Taliban regime was toppled.

Four other British soldiers were reported injured in the blast.

The casualties were extracted back to a safe location, while under fire from the Taliban, and were met by a medical team who sadly pronounced Guardsman Probyn dead at the scene.

The Immediate Response Team (IRT), which provides specialist medical cover to UK forces, was called for and evacuated Guardsman Probyn and the three seriously injured casualties to the UK field hospital at Camp Bastion by helicopter.

The remaining casualty had received very minor injuries that were treated locally. The patrol has now safely returned to base.

The three remaining casualties are still receiving treatment for their injuries.

IED Blows Up Foreign Occupation Soldiers In Kunar

5.27.07 ASADABAD, Afghanistan (Reuters)

A roadside bomb exploded near a convoy of foreign troops in eastern Kunar province, witnesses and officials said. Witnesses in Kunar province said some soldiers were wounded in the roadside explosion in the Manogai district. A Taliban spokesman said three foreign soldiers died in the blast.

Resistance Opens Offensive Against Occupation All Along The Line: “Operation Kamin” Underway

May 26 AFP News & 5.27 ASADABAD, Afghanistan (Reuters) & May 27, 2007 Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The Taliban has launched a new operation targeting government and foreign forces in Afghanistan, a spokesman said Sunday, as two policemen died in an ambush in the volatile south.

Purported Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the group's leaders announced the beginning of operation "Kamin," or "Ambush."

"In this operation, we will target our enemies and use our tactics - suicide bombs, remote-controlled (roadside bombs) and ambushes - against occupying forces and the government," Ahmadi said by satellite phone from an undisclosed location.

"We start this operation today in all of Afghanistan."

After a winter lull in violence, militant attacks and military operations have surged. NATO and the U.S.-led coalition stepped up operations in the early spring, hoping to pre-empt a spring offensive by militants that threatened the already-shaky grip of President Hamid Karzai's government.

In Kandahar, the Taliban ambushed a police convoy on Saturday, and the ensuing one-hour gun battle killed two policemen and wounded three others, said Shah Wali Kot district chief Obaidullah Khan. He said the Taliban also suffered casualties, but he had no details.

In neighboring Zabul province, a roadside bomb exploded Saturday as an Afghan army vehicle passed, wounding two soldiers, said Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi, the regional army corps commander.

A blast wounded three policeman and a passer-by, officials said. The attacker, who was on foot, struck a Kandahar police patrol on a main road in the city about 50 metres (yards) from the office of provincial governor Assadullah Khalid.

"I saw a man run after the police vehicle and then I saw a blast," 12-year-old Ahmad Sabir told AFP. "I was so scared. I saw two police lying on the road."

Officials in Paktika province said a roadside bomb killed six Afghan police officers in southeastern Afghanistan on Sunday.

TROOP NEWS

"I Don't Think That They Care About The Soldier. They Definitely Don't Care About The Soldier's Family"

**“The V.A. Declared Heun 100% Disabled;
The Army Discharged Him With Only A 20% Disability;
Anything Under 30% Means No Benefits”**

“Heun Gets His Own Medical Care From The VA, Plus \$2,500 A Month To Support His Family Of Five, But No Health Insurance At All For Them”

May 23, 2007 PBS News Hour [Excerpts]

JAVIER LAROSA, Father of Marine: This is our son, and this is his squad.

PAUL SOLMAN, NewsHour Economics Correspondent: A recent Saturday at a Harley dealership in Tennessee, for months, Javier and Marian LaRosa have been raising money to privately buy body armor for their son, and for the other Marines in his squadron, before they deploy to Iraq in June.

JAVIER LAROSA: We feel that, if these guys are going to go and put their lives on the line, the least that we can do to bring them back alive.

PAUL SOLMAN: The LaRosas are a symbol of the roughly one million American families paying for the war in Iraq.

PAUL SOLMAN: But for the one million or so American families who are fighting the war, there's often no sidestepping, like Army Reservist Brad Heun, maimed in Iraq in 2003, vertebrae crushed in a truck accident. Heun has fused discs, a steel bar in his back, and constant, excruciating pain in hip and leg.

FORMER SGT. BRAD HEUN, U.S. Army: Literally, it feels like somebody just took a baseball bat and blindsided you across your back.

PAUL SOLMAN: How bad has it been at its worst?

SGT. BRAD HEUN: At its worst, I have been on an emergency room gurney, curled up, and not even be able to concentrate on simple questions.

PAUL SOLMAN: The Veterans Administration has declared Heun 100 percent disabled.

SGT. BRAD HEUN: Basically, I'm going to get worse. It's a matter of time.

PAUL SOLMAN: You're going to get worse?

SGT. BRAD HEUN: Yes, sir. They told me, if I ain't careful, I might end up in a wheelchair.

PAUL SOLMAN: The Army, however, discharged him with only a 20 percent disability. Anything under 30 percent means no benefits.

Wait a second. You don't have health insurance from the Army?

SGT. BRAD HEUN: No, sir.

PAUL SOLMAN: Now, Heun gets his own medical care from the VA, plus \$2,500 a month to support his family of five, but no health insurance at all for them.

SGT. BRAD HEUN: So I'm trying to pay for a COBRA policy to try to keep my kids with insurance.

PAUL SOLMAN: Well, that must be what, \$800 a month?

SGT. BRAD HEUN: We couldn't afford that, sir. We got -- our policy is \$400 a month, and it's got extremely high deductibles.

BEVERLY HEUN, Wife of Injured Veteran: At \$1,500.

SGT. BRAD HEUN: Per person.

BEVERLY HEUN: Per person.

PAUL SOLMAN: Meanwhile, Beverly Heun has had back surgery of her own, from a car accident. And their 2-year-old daughter needs surgery, but they've had to put it off.

BEVERLY HEUN: We don't want to do it at the expense of her not having a home to live in. I think it's a disgrace to this country for me to even be sitting her trying to tell you this.

PAUL SOLMAN: Heun is appealing, but...

SGT. BRAD HEUN: Well, that's another lawyer's fee. And so that's just -- you know, why is a soldier having to pay for all these lawyers to do these appeals?

PAUL SOLMAN: Do you feel the Army is taking care of you?

SGT. BRAD HEUN: No, sir.

BEVERLY HEUN: I don't think that they care about the soldier. They definitely don't care about the soldier's family.

SGT. BRAD HEUN: I did what I believed is right, and I would do it again. But, you know, are they really taking care of you?

Iraq Veterans Bring The War Home



Garrett Reppenhagen, left, of Washington, holds back protesters acting as Iraqi civilians during a demonstration at Union Square, New York City, May 27, 2007.

Reppenhagen and other members of Iraq Veterans Against the War engaged in a series of street theater actions around New York City.

They also went to Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Ground Zero, where they laid flowers and the Grand Army Plaza for a memorial service. (AP Photo/Shoun A. Hill)

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

Two Britons Who Tried To Sabotage B-52 Bombers Found Not Guilty: Jury Finds They Were Acting To Prevent The U.S. Air Force From Committing War Crimes, And Were Right To Do So

May 26, 2007 Esther Addley and Richard Norton-Taylor, The Guardian

If they were to do it over again, Phil Pritchard says, they would bring less stuff.

He and Toby Olditch were carrying “silly amounts” when they broke into RAF Fairford on the eve of the Iraq war: bolts and screws to be placed inside the B-52s’ engines, pictures of smiling Iraqi children to be stuck on to the payload doors, toothbrushes and stamps to be used in prison, and flashing headbands in the hope that they would look too ridiculous to be shot.

Somewhat inevitably, they were arrested before they got anywhere near one of the bombers.

“At that stage,” says Mr Pritchard, “I think the word that went through our heads was: arse.” Instead of preventing the jets from taking off for Iraq, the two men were charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage, remanded in custody for three months, and told to expect a jail sentence of up to 10 years.

But while their mission may have been, in Mr Olditch’s words, “a bit Keystone Cops”, it was not criminal.

That was the remarkable verdict of a jury at Bristol crown court this week, which unanimously acquitted the two men, having accepted their defence that they were acting to prevent the US air force planes from committing war crimes.

Their action was reasonable, they had argued, because other means of legitimate protest had failed. The result, according to their lawyer, is the closest an English court has come to accepting that war crimes were committed by Britain and America in Iraq.

“I knew our legal argument was good, that we should be acquitted,” said Mr Pritchard, 36, “but I didn’t necessarily expect that to happen.” They had prepared themselves for a five-year sentence. “So, yes, I was surprised, and delighted. And very impressed by the jury.”

“In strict legal terms,” says Mike Schwartz, their solicitor, “(the verdict) is not significant; what is significant is that you had 12 jury members who unanimously found these defendants not guilty, and that really is a clear barometer of the public’s views of the lawfulness of what the government did three or four years back.

In a statement, the MoD insisted it would “continue to deal robustly with any attempt to vandalise military property”, adding that anyone “committing offences” on MoD property could expect to be arrested. However, the ministry’s legal experts were studying the trial “in greater depth”.

They can expect anti-war campaigners to be doing the same.

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



The casket of Army Spc. Kyle A. Little, 20, of West Boylston, Mass. at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in West Boylston May 18, 2007. Little was killed May 8 by a roadside bomb during his second tour in Iraq. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

5.27.07 RFE/RL, Inc & Reuters & AP & By Ned Parker, Times Staff Writer

A pipeline leading to the Baiji refinery was set ablaze in Salahuddin province, police said.

Two senior police officers were killed in the city of Samarra.

Guerrillas killed Lt. Col. Hiyis al-Jubouri, a police commander in the northern Salahuddin province, and a captain in a drive-by shooting on Saturday south of Shirqat, 80 km (50 miles) south of Mosul, police said.

In the west Baghdad neighborhood of Bayaa, the body of a captured traffic police colonel was found.

A car bomb targeting an Iraqi army checkpoint killed two soldiers and wounded three near Jurf al-Sakhar, 85 km (53 miles) south of Baghdad.

GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqi citizens celebrate in front of a burning SUV after a roadside bomb exploded in central Basra, May 25, 2007. The roadside bomb targeted a SUV belong to a foreign security company, injuring 3 mercenaries. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

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

Nationalist Shi'ite Al-Sadr's Bids To Unite Sunnis And Shi'ites On The Basis Of A Common Demand For Withdrawal Of U.S. Occupation Forces:

“The Officer Also Reported That Sunni Tribal Sheiks Have Explicitly Disavowed The Notion That Sadr Is A Pawn Of The Iranians”

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

May 24, 2007 by Gareth Porter, Anti-War.com

Nationalist Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's bid to unite Sunnis and Shi'ites on the basis of a common demand for withdrawal of U.S. occupation forces, reported last weekend by the Washington Post's Sudarsan Raghavan, seems likely to get a positive response from Sunni armed resistance.

An account given Pentagon officials by a military officer recently returned from Iraq suggests that Sunni tribal leaders in Anbar province, who have generally reflected the views of the Sunni armed resistance there, are open to working with Sadr.

Raghavan reports that the cross-sectarian united front strategy was facilitated by the fact that Shaibani had befriended members of Sunni nationalist insurgent groups while he was held in U.S. detention centers from 2004 through 2006. Now Shaibani, who heads a "reconciliation committee" for Sadr, is well positioned to gain the trust of those Sunni organizations.

The massive demonstration against the occupation mounted in Najaf by Sadr's organization on Apr. 9, which Iraqi and foreign observers estimated hundreds of thousands of people, was apparently timed to coincide with his initiative in opening talks with the Sunnis.

The demonstration not only showed that Sadr could mobilize crowds comparable to the largest ever seen in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, but also made clear Sadr's commitment to transcending sectarian interests. The demonstrators carried Iraqi flags instead of pictures of Sadr or other Shi'ite symbols. It also included a small contingent of members of the Sunni-based Islamic Party of Iraq.

Sadr's decision in mid-April to pull his representatives out of the al-Maliki government also appears to have been aimed in part at clearing the way for an agreement with the Sunni insurgents. Leaders of those organizations have said they would not accept the U.S.-sponsored government in any peace negotiations with the United States.

U.S. officials have been quietly trying to counter Sadr's approach to the Sunni insurgents by discrediting him.

Sadr went underground in February, fearing an attempt by U.S. forces to capture or kill him, and the U.S. official line on Sadr since then has been the persistent claim that he has left Iraq to take refuge in Iran. That appears to be an attempt to feed into Sunni suspicions of all Shi'ite leaders as agents of Iran.

Sadr's aides have repeatedly denied that Sadr has left the country. The speed with which Sadr's strategy has unfolded in recent months suggests that he has remained in close contact with his organization. Relying on electronic communication with Sadr outside Iraq would be highly risky, given the well-known capability of U.S. intelligence to intercept any such calls.

U.S. officials have long argued that an early withdrawal of U.S. forces would leave Sunnis vulnerable to the Shi'ite security forces and militias.

Media reporting in recent months has portrayed Sunni leaders as not wanting a U.S. military withdrawal any time soon, because of their fear of Shi'ite repression in the absence of the U.S. troop presence.

But a Navy Seal special operations officer recently returned from eight months in Anbar province, who discussed the situation there with high-ranking Pentagon officials at the end of April, suggests that that the views of Sunni leaders are quite compatible with those of Sadr.

A source familiar with the officer's account said the Sunni Sheiks in Anbar have been telling U.S. commanders that the United States must withdraw its troops, and that the Sunnis know how to handle both al-Qaeda and the Shi'ites.

The officer also reported that Sunni tribal sheiks have explicitly disavowed the notion that Sadr is a pawn of the Iranians, insisting instead that he doesn't like either Iran or the newly-renamed Supreme Islamic Council of Iraq, which was created in Iran and supported by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

The sheiks have warned their U.S. military contacts against aggressive military actions against Sadr's followers in Sadr City during the troop surge, according to the account given by the special ops officer.

They said Sadr hopes such provocative United States actions will ultimately result in a new Shi'ite resistance war against U.S. forces, and they urge swift withdrawal to avoid that outcome.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



5.23.07: Foreign occupation soldiers from the US Marines line up Iraqi citizens at gunpoint and then search their bodies as they were walking home from work in Fallujah. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

[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!**

Twisted Blackwater Kill Freaks Murder Another Iraqi; “A Senior American Civilian Adviser Described The Ministry As ‘A Powder Keg’ After Iraqi Driver Shot, With Anger At Blackwater Spilling Over To Other Americans Working In The Building”

May 27, 2007 By Steve Fainaru and Saad al-Izzi, Washington Post Foreign Service
[Excerpts]

Employees of Blackwater USA, a private security firm under contract to the State Department, opened fire on the streets of Baghdad twice in two days last week, and one of the incidents provoked a standoff between the security contractors and Iraqi forces, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

A Blackwater guard shot and killed an Iraqi driver Thursday near the Interior Ministry, according to three U.S. officials and one Iraqi official who were briefed on the incident but spoke on condition of anonymity because of a pending investigation.

Blackwater confirmed that its employees were involved in two shootings but could neither confirm nor deny that there had been any casualties, according to a company official who declined to be identified because of the firm's policy of not addressing incidents publicly.

Matthew Degn, a senior American civilian adviser to the Interior Ministry's intelligence directorate, described the ministry as “a powder keg” after the Iraqi driver was shot Thursday, with anger at Blackwater spilling over to other Americans working in the building.

Degn said he was concerned the incident “could undermine a lot of the cordial relationships that have been built up over the past four years. There's a lot of angry people up here right now.”

Details about that incident remained sketchy. The Blackwater guards said the victim drove too close to their convoy and drew fire, according to the three American officials.

The Iraqi official said the driver encountered the Blackwater convoy after leaving a gas station just outside the Interior Ministry.

Some witnesses said the shooting was unprovoked, the official said. He said the driver had wounds in his shoulder, chest and head.

The Blackwater employees refused to divulge their names or details of the incident to Iraqi authorities, according to two of the U.S. officials and the Iraqi official.

The officials described a tense standoff that ensued between the Blackwater guards and Interior Ministry forces -- both sides armed with assault rifles -- until a passing U.S. military convoy intervened. **[Next time, hopefully, the Iraqis will simply open fire and wipe them out. It falls under the heading of vermin control. T]**

The Interior Ministry, which regulates security companies for the Iraqi government, has received four previous complaints of shooting incidents involving Blackwater in the past two years, according to Hussein Kamal, undersecretary for intelligence affairs.

But in an interview before last week's shootings, Kamal said Iraqi authorities have been hampered by a Coalition Provisional Authority order granting contractors immunity from the Iraqi legal process.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Terrorists Attack Palestinian Elected Political Leaders Again; "In Most Cases There Haven't Been Any Charges, Let Alone Trials"

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

May 25, 2007 Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem, The Guardian

Israeli soldiers and security forces detained 33 Hamas politicians, including the education minister, in overnight raids across the occupied West Bank and launched several air strikes at Hamas targets in Gaza in a new round of conflict with the Islamist Palestinian group.

Among those held was Nasser al-Shaer, the minister of education, who is regarded as more moderate than others in Hamas. He was taken from his home in Nablus. Several

other Hamas MPs were detained, as well as the mayors of four West Bank towns, including Nablus and Qalqilya.

Late last night an Israeli missile exploded close to the home of the Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Shati refugee camp next to Gaza City, Palestinian security officials said. They said the missile hit a tin shack where Mr Haniyeh's guards sleep, but it was empty and no one was hurt

Michael Williams, a Briton newly appointed as the UN Middle East special envoy, said the arrests "troubled" him. "Of course legislators cannot be immune from the law," he told Reuters. "But what worries me is that in most cases there haven't been any charges, let alone trials."

A year ago, Israeli forces detained more than 40 Hamas politicians, including several ministers and the speaker of the parliament. Nearly all are still in detention.

One Palestinian farmer was reported killed by Israeli gunfire in his field.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

***Cheney Tells West Point Graduates
He And Bush Are Terrorists:
He Promises To "Oppose And Despise
Everything You Know To Be Right," And
"Hate Nothing More Than The Country
You Have Volunteered To Defend"***

[From the speech by the traitor Cheney to the West Point graduating class of 2007, 5.26.07]

"As Army officers on duty in the war on terror, you will now face enemies who oppose and despise everything you know to be right, every notion of upright conduct and character, and every belief you consider worth fighting for and living for."

“Their cruelty is not rebuked by human suffering, only fed by it. The terrorists are defined entirely by their hatreds, and they hate nothing more than the country you have volunteered to defend.

“The terrorists know what they want and they will stop at nothing to get it.

“By force and intimidation, they seek to impose a dictatorship of fear, under which every man, woman, and child lives in total obedience to their ideology.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

37 Million Americans Live In Poverty: “Ordinary Workers Aren’t Sharing In The Profits They Helped Generate. Their Incomes Aren’t Keeping Up With Costs”

May 24, 2007 By Bill Moyers, tompaine.com [Excerpt]

Think it over: In 1960 the gap in wealth between the top 20 percent of our country and the bottom 20 percent was 30 fold. Now it is 75 fold.

Stock prices and productivity are up, and CEO salaries are soaring, but ordinary workers aren’t sharing in the profits they helped generate. Their incomes aren’t keeping up with costs.

More Americans live in poverty - 37 million, including 12 million children. Twelve million children!

Despite extraordinary wealth at the top, America’s last among the highly developed countries in each of seven measures of inequality.

Our GDP outperforms every country in the world except Luxembourg. But among industrialized nations we are at the bottom in functional literacy and dead last in combating poverty.

Meanwhile, regular Americans are working longer and harder than workers in any other industrial nation, but it’s harder and harder for them to figure out how to make ends meet ... how to send the kids to college ... and how to hold on securely in their old age.

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