

GI SPECIAL 5F26:

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



The casket of Army Sgt 1st Class Greg Sutton at Arlington National Cemetery June 20, 2007. Sutton, 38, died on June 6 after his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. REUTERS/Jason Reed

Report From Ft. Hamilton:

**“There Were Soldiers As Well
As Marines”**

**“They Were Truly Disgusted By
What Was Happening In Iraq”**

From: [XXXX, The Military Project]

To: GI Special

Sent: June 18, 2007

Subject: Ft. Hamilton

I had the opportunity to visit Ft. Hamilton on Saturday.

A memorial dinner for Capt. John McKenna, USMC, who was killed last year when he tried to save a fellow marine, who also died, by sniper fire.

Very interesting, big event. Police Commissioner and several congresspeople were there, lots of newspapers.

Well, I can tell you the general conversation at the table was that this government “sucked” and they were abusing and destroying the military.

All of them felt, and there were soldiers as well as marines, that their “backs were being broken” and they were truly disgusted by what was happening in Iraq.

There were girlfriends and moms there that I talked to and once the conversation came up, they were vehemently opposed to the war, and felt all the troops should come home now. These were people who once supported the invasion, but do not support this occupation.

They know it is for the oil, and innocent people are being killed.

They are very upset that their loved ones are in harms way, killing innocent people because they need to stay alive.

They are upset that we were lied to and so were their loved ones.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED, Four Wounded

June 27, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070627-14

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when a roadside bomb detonated near a Coalition vehicle during combat operations in an eastern section of Baghdad June 27. Four other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack.

One U.S. Soldier Killed, 21 Wounded In Attack On Isolated Outpost [No Camp Victory Press Release From U.S. Command About This. Gee, What A Surprise]



Sgt. Trista L. Moretti died June 26, 2007, in Nasir Lafitah, Iraq. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, Fort Richardson)

June 28, 2007 By KATIE PESZNECKER, The Anchorage Daily News

A Fort Richardson paratrooper and intelligence analyst has been killed in Iraq in an attack that also wounded 21 others, the Department of Defense says.

Sgt. Trista L. Moretti, 27, of South Plainfield, N.J., died Monday when her unit was attacked by insurgents using "indirect fire," according to the Army. Injuries suffered by 21 other paratroopers were mostly minor ones, such as smoke inhalation, said Capt. Richard Hyde, spokesman for the Army in Alaska.

Moretti was the 45th member of Fort Richardson's 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division -- and the first female -- to die since the unit deployed last fall.

In all, she is the 92nd person either assigned to a base here or an Alaskan assigned elsewhere to die since the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003.

A blog entry posted by a person who says she's a friend of Moretti reports the sergeant died when the structure she was sleeping in was hit by rocket fire; however, this has not been confirmed by the Army.

Moretti was an intelligence officer from the 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, assigned to intercept enemy communications.

"Trista Moretti will always be remembered as a loving and generous daughter, sister and friend," her immediate family said, in a statement to the Star-Ledger in New Jersey. "She was a brave soldier who courageously served her country, sacrificing her life for the lives of others. She will be honored and cherished by all who knew her.

"We would like to thank our family, friends and community for their ongoing support during this difficult time," her family said. "We would also like to extend our continuous support to all the troops serving overseas."

Fort Richardson's 3,600-member airborne brigade is mostly male, but 150 paratroopers are women, Hyde said.

"They're still prohibited from infantry or the more hard-core combat roles," Hyde said. "But you see a whole lot more females who are on convoys, in quick-reaction forces, or in perimeter operations where they're on the gate ... which is pretty significant."

Hyde said the attack that killed Moretti involved an early afternoon strike of some sort on the Forward Operating Base Kalsu -- a massive fortress surrounded by tall concrete walls, guard towers and an entrance protected by U.S. soldiers. It's home base to the Fort Richardson brigade and is about 35 miles south of Baghdad.

Inside, each building is surrounded by its own 12- to 15-foot concrete wall to protect occupants from mortars or rockets fired into the base, which happens with regularity.

Hyde said he'd heard that Moretti died after being hit by a rocket but couldn't confirm it, nor could he say exactly what "indirect fire" meant in this case.

"Indirect fire can be interpreted any number of ways," he said. "It could be rockets, so that could be very accurate. It could be interpreted as artillery, which is not generally what they see in Iraq ... More often than not it's mortar fire. I have heard that it could be a rocket and ... I don't think it's improbable that it could be a rocket."

A person who keeps a blog called "Tales of a lonely Army wife" posted a eulogy to Moretti, describing her as "an amazing person," someone "hilarious and beautiful and had this great Jersey accent," who "had an impact on so many lives in so many places."

The friend noted that Moretti worked in military intelligence: "Those people are supposed to be far from harm, but no one is safe anymore. I hate this war and don't agree with it, but I don't think she died in vain. She died for everyone else out there. They fight for each other, not a cause, not their government."

Moretti is the first female paratrooper with the 4th Brigade to die in the war and the second with Alaska ties. Next of kin of all the soldiers injured in Monday's attack at Kalsu have been notified, the Army said.

Illinois Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Cpl. Karen N. Clifton, 22, a native of Mount Zion, Ill. was killed June 21, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq. She was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany. Funeral services will be held June 30 in Long Creek, Ill. (AP Photo/Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn's office)

Texas SGT Killed In Baghdad



Sgt. Jimmy Malone of Wills Point, Texas, 23, died June 23, 2007, in Taji, Iraq, of wounds from an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Connecticut Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Pfc. Andre Craig Jr., 24, of New Haven, Conn., died June 25, 2007, of wounds sustained from the explosion of a roadside bomb in Baghdad. He was an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Virginia SSG Killed In Baghdad



Army Staff Sgt. Michael D. Moody Jr., of Richmond, Va., was killed in Iraq on June 23, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Three British Soldiers Killed In Basra, Another Wounded

6.27.07 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, MSNBC & 6.28 Reuters &

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the deaths of two soldiers from The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and one soldier from 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh (The Royal Regiment of Wales).

Another soldier was seriously wounded in the blast and remains in stable condition at a military hospital, it said.

The device detonated at approximately 0100 hrs local time against the soldiers, who were dismounted from a Warrior patrol in the Al Amtahiya district in the south east of Basra City.

The British soldiers were part of a routine convoy heading out of Basra.

Foreign soldiers in Iraq increasingly get out in areas known to be mined with roadside bombs to reduce the risk of more casualties should a big blast hit a single vehicle carrying a number of troops. [Well, so much for that bright idea.]

MORE:

British Troop Dying In Vain; Sacrificed To Hold A Basra Palace For The Prestige Of British Politicians

<p>Whitehall has fashioned a smaller forces footprint in Basra so that Mr Brown does not face the political humiliation of a forced withdrawal.</p>
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28/06/2007 By Damien McElroy, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Telegraph Media Group Limited

It was not meant to be like this. British troops have spent months pulling back from exposed bases in Basra to the comparative stronghold of the airport.

The nature of military operations was changed too: no more routine patrols but one-off missions in support of Iraqi troops.

That was to be British Forces posture in Iraq in the early months of Gordon Brown's premiership.

Yet on his first full day in No 10, Mr Brown received the dreadful news that three more British casualties would bring the death toll in Iraq to 154.

The set-up in Basra made today's deaths sadly inevitable. As long as British forces are based in two different sections of the city, there must be movement - including routine resupply convoys - between the two posts.

Exposed but symbolic, Basra Palace stands in the heart of the city and must be supplied from the airport. Mostly this means by road convoys, which are vulnerable to kerb-side bombs and ambushes.

The threat to air traffic is even greater. A flight between the two bases, a 10 minute point-to-point journey over the city, can take up to 40-minutes because of detours.

As Tony Blair admitted in his last House of Commons Question Time on Wednesday, the overwhelming majority of attacks in Basra are against British forces.

They attack us because we are there.

The Foreign Office has already withdrawn from Basra Palace, viewing a diplomatic presence there as futile, given the level of danger.

The Ministry of Defence maintains troops are still needed at Saddam Hussein's Basra bastion to ensure the city isn't over-run.

In truth, there is a measure of power politics in this position.

British commanders don't want to hand over the palace until there is an agreement it won't just be seized by the regional governor as a trophy of office.

There is only a handful of routes to alternate on the journey. The cover of darkness is crucial but not all enveloping.

The large housing projects known as the "Shia Flats" at the gateway to the city are to this generation serving in Iraq what Belfast Divis flats were to earlier squaddies.

Basra's insurgents know Warrior armoured vehicles offer the least protection of any coalition troop carrier operating in Iraq.

The Explosively Formed Projectile bombs the insurgents plant easily penetrate the Warriors, shredding any troops in the interior to pieces.

The Hobbesian compromise commanders have struck is to have platoons walk key sections where intelligence indicates an elevated threat.

As the events of this morning prove there is only limited value in this tactical arrangement. The insurgents view each British death in Basra as a valuable act of destabilisation.

Whitehall has fashioned a smaller forces footprint in Basra so that Mr Brown does not face the political humiliation of a forced withdrawal.

Hamilton Soldier Killed In Iraq

June 20, 2007 Eric L. Snell, The Times of Trenton

HAMILTON -- Eric L. Snell, who excelled as a center fielder during his days playing baseball in Hamilton from Little League through his four years at Hamilton High School West and beyond, died Monday in Iraq from wounds he sustained when his Army unit was attacked.

Snell, a sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division stationed out of Fort Carson, Colo., was 35.

Friends remembered Snell not only as a talented athlete, but also as a conscientious, respectful man with a solid work ethic who loved his family and his country.

"This is just a tragedy. No question about it -- this hits home," said Martin Flynn, athletic director for the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District who in the late 1980s, as head of Hamilton High West's baseball team, coached Snell for four years.

"Eric was a very good baseball player. He had obvious athletic ability. But the real thing about him was Eric was just a great kid," Flynn said. "He was well-liked throughout the area, by opposing coaches, by people in the school, by the teaching staff. He really was one of the outstanding kids in the school at the time."

Snell has two sons, one who lives with Snell's mother in Hamilton and another who lives elsewhere in North Jersey, according to the older son's mother.

Snell's mother, Mittie White, and the older son, Shameer Horton, 17, were not at their home on Berg Avenue last night. But Horton's mother, Lucretia H. Bellamy of Hamilton, stopped by and briefly spoke with reporters gathered outside the home.

She said Snell joined the Army about two years ago. "He enlisted for his (two) sons. He wanted to make the best for his sons," Bellamy said.

"Me and Eric dated years ago," she said, noting that Snell was not married. "He was a great guy. I thank him for our son. We all found out yesterday. I was devastated when I got the phone call."

A second soldier with New Jersey ties, Farid Elazzouzi of Paterson, also was killed, the Defense Department said. Elazzouzi died from wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated June 14 near his vehicle in Kirkuk, officials said.

Together, Snell and Elazzouzi brought to at least 76 the number of service members with Jersey ties to die in Iraq.

North Carolina Soldier Killed In Iraq

Jun. 21, 2007 HANNAH MITCHELL, The Charlotte Observer

Ward Linder was all-American. As his father puts it, "he loved God, country and family."

The happy, tall young man who loved the outdoors, was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Tuesday.

Linder, 24, an Army specialist from Hickory, left for a one-year tour in Iraq in January and expected to come home for a two-week leave July 13, his father said.

Darryl Linder last talked to his son, his only child, on Father's Day.

"He said he loved me and he was looking forward to coming home," he said. "I encouraged him to mail me some pictures and he said, 'I'll be home in a few weeks, Dad.'"

Tuesday about 8 p.m., an Army chaplain and an officer came to the Linders' home. "That's a sight I never wanted to see," Darryl Linder said.

They told Linder's parents the few facts they said they knew, that a roadside bomb killed their son, and that was about it. On Wednesday, officers from Fort Bragg returned for a follow-up visit, to check in on the Linders and to do some paperwork, but they had no additional information to give.

A news release from the Army said Ward Linder died in Baqubah, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas.

Linder normally drove a tank, his father said, but he didn't know whether Linder was driving one at the time.

The simple fact that Linder believed in what he and the other service members are doing in Iraq is helping his parents cope with his death, said Darryl Linder.

Ward Linder signed up with the Marine Corps while still in school at Fred T. Foard High and left for boot camp at Parris Island a month after graduation. He served four years, including a tour in Afghanistan, then worked for his father for a year and signed up with the Army, serving in the infantry, as he had in the Marines.

"I encouraged him get a different (specialty), but he liked the infantry, and he did believe in what we were doing," Darryl Linder said. "He was there by choice. I would've hated to have lost him if he had disagreed with it. I mean, it doesn't make it any easier."

Ward Linder, who was 6 feet 4 inches tall, attracted people with his happy outlook and friendliness, said Darryl and Linder's grandfather, Wardlaw, for whom he was named. He adored baseball, hunting and fishing.

From Iraq, Ward Linder told his parents that the country was “extremely hot,” Darryl Linder said. “His comment to me was, ‘I don't believe I'm going to be digging footings for a house here.’ “

In addition to his parents and grandparents, Ward Linder also is survived by a 3-year-old son, his father said.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Massacre Of The Al-Khalis Village Guards

26 June 2007 Jim Muir, BBC

A group of villagers in Iraq is bitterly disputing the US account of a deadly air attack on 22 June, in the latest example of the confusion surrounding the reporting of combat incidents there. The BBC's Jim Muir investigates:

On 22 June the US military announced that its attack helicopters, armed with missiles, engaged and killed 17 al-Qaeda gunmen who had been trying to infiltrate the village of al-Khalis, north of Baquba, where operation “Arrowhead Ripper” had been under way for the previous three days. The item was duly carried by international news agencies and received widespread coverage, including on the BBC News website.

But villagers in largely-Shia al-Khalis say that those who died had nothing to do with al-Qaeda.

They say they were local village guards trying to protect the township from exactly the kind of attack by insurgents the US military says it foiled.

They say that of 16 guards, 11 were killed and five others injured - two of them seriously - when US helicopters fired rockets at them and then strafed them with heavy machinegun fire.

Minutes before the attack, they had been co-operating with an Iraqi police unit raiding a suspected insurgent hideout, the villagers said.

They added that the guards, lightly armed with the AK47 assault rifles that are a feature of practically every home in Iraq, were essentially a local neighbourhood watch paid by the village to monitor the dangerous insurgent-ridden area to the immediate south-west at Arab Shawkeh and Hibhib, where the al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed a year ago.

U.S. Troops Dying In Vain:
“American Military Commanders Now Seriously Doubt That Iraqi Security Forces Will Be Able To Hold The Ground That U.S. Troops Are Fighting To Clear”
“Large Portions Of His Area ‘Where There Are No Iraqi Security Forces At All’ And So ‘The Enemy Fills The Void’”

June 26, 2007 AP

BAGHDAD - American military commanders now seriously doubt that Iraqi security forces will be able to hold the ground that U.S. troops are fighting to clear — gloomy predictions that strike at the heart of Washington's key strategy to turn the tide in Iraq.

Several senior American officers have warned in recent days that Iraqi soldiers and police are still incapable of maintaining security on their own in the most crucial areas, including Baghdad and the recently reclaimed districts around Baqouba to the north.

Iraqi units are supposed to be moving into position to take the baton from the Pentagon. This was the backbone of the plan President Bush announced in January when he ordered five more U.S. brigades, or about 30,000 soldiers, to Iraq.

“The challenge now is: How do you hold onto the terrain you've cleared?” said Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek, the operations chief of the current offensive in Baqouba, where Sunni insurgents have taken root in recent months. He said this week that U.S. forces have control of much of Baqouba.

“You have to do that shoulder-to-shoulder with Iraqi security forces. And they're not quite up to the job yet,” Bednarek said.

To the south, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch says he's mapped out plans to stem the flow of roadside bombs into Baghdad from the outskirts of the capital.

But the key, again, is whether Iraqis can do their part.

“The issue is we can't stay here forever and there's got to be a persistent presence and that's got to be Iraqi security forces,” Lynch said. “And that's always our biggest concern.”

Lynch said there were large portions of his area “where there are no Iraqi security forces at all” and so “the enemy fills the void.”

All that sounds quite different from the assurances Bush gave in January — that Iraqi forces would succeed this time — when he announced the U.S. buildup.

“In earlier operations, Iraqi and American forces cleared many neighborhoods of terrorists and insurgents, but when our forces moved on to other targets, the killers returned,” Bush said.

“This time, we'll have the force levels we need to hold the areas that have been cleared.”

Although some Iraqi units appear competent, U.S. officials privately complain that many others still lack ammunition, weapons and an adequate supply network to operate on their own.

Leadership in many units is weak, and the force has yet to develop the professional spirit to cope with adversity.

Some residents of a contested area south of Baghdad say Iraqi police and soldiers turn a blind eye to insurgents as long as they don't attack their checkpoints.

**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier during a patrol in Baquba June 25, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Mercenaries Killed In Kabul

June 28 By Sayed Salahudin

KABUL (Reuters) - Two Western security guards were killed when their convoy was attacked by a suicide car bomber in the Afghan capital on Thursday, police officials and witnesses said.

The Taliban, who are fighting foreign troops and the Afghan government, claimed responsibility for the attack on a road leading east out of the city.

The interior ministry said two people were killed and eight wounded in the attack but did not identify the victims. Police officials and witnesses, however, said the dead were two Western security workers.

Their armoured vehicle was destroyed and another disabled in the attack.

Foreign Occupation Convoy Hit By “Huge Blast” In Urgan; Casualties Not Announced

Jun 28, 2007 KABUL (Reuters)

An Afghan car bomber attacked a convoy of foreign troops near the Pakistan border on Thursday, witnesses said, but details of any casualties were not immediately available.

Witnesses said foreign troops quickly sealed off the area after the huge blast in Urgan district, Paktika province.

In a satellite telephone call, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast.

While U.S. Commander Busy Stuffing His Head Up His Ass, Resistance Takes Ground 19 Miles From The Capital

June 28 (Reuters)

The Taliban has infiltrated an area of Afghanistan once seen by the United States and NATO as secure, boosting ranks and giving fighters strategic access to Kabul, a U.S. commander said on Thursday.

U.S. Army Col. Jonathan Ives, responsible for operations in five provinces in northeastern Afghanistan, said the Taliban had boosted recruiting in part of Kapisa, about 30 km (19 miles) north of the capital city.

“What we’ve seen is an escalation of force in there from about 50 to 200 -- about fourfold -- this year,” Ives told reporters by videolink from Bagram Air Base near Kabul.

He said the area had been “somewhat ignored” by coalition and Afghan security forces. [Ignored by “forces”? Blame the troops? Right. Everybody knows they command themselves to go wherever they please and do whatever they want, while Col. Ives stands around watching in amazement.

“We thought that it was safe and secure in this province and so we considered it to be a non-threat area and so we didn’t apply or maintain a security force,” Ives said. “(The Taliban) did fill that vacuum in this case.”

Incredibly Stupid Liars In Command

June 28 (Reuters)

Senior U.S. defense and military officials have downplayed Taliban activities this spring, saying the expected offensive after winter snows melted had not materialized.

But U.S. and NATO officials have refused to release data on the number of Taliban attacks this year.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

TROOP NEWS

The British Government Is Not Afraid To Show Their KIA Arrive Back Home



The repatriation ceremony for Major Paul Harding 4th Battalion The Rifles killed in Iraq at RAF Lyneham, England, June 25 2007. (AP Photo/WO2 Shane Wilkinson/ho)

“What Bothers Us Is When Pundits Use Us Troops As A Trump Card To Insult Fellow Americans As Unpatriotic”
“That’s The True Slap In Our Face”

Jun. 21, 2007 By BRAD HAMLETT, The State [South Carolina]. He is deployed in Iraqi.

The partisans can only imagine how we soldiers must feel over here because few have ever been to any combat zone.

A political line they love to use to quash opponents’ views always says something about “slapping the troops in the face.”

We heard it months ago, when the resolution disapproving the surge was passed.

When Nancy Pelosi visited Syria and Harry Reid said Iraq was lost, we heard similar whining about facial slapping and disloyalty to country.

For the record, we soldiers don't care. Let me clarify: Frankly, my dear, we don't give a damn.

We soldiers are not the ignorant, simple lot of lore.

We stuff iPods in our rucksacks and watch DVDs in our sleep tents between missions. Soldiers study for college classes between missions and receive Army-mandated training on ethics and values.

Most of us have studied history, political science and social studies in high school and often college.

We understand the diversity of opinion. After all, we have a democratic form of government, not an autocracy.

Even in the Army, we have regulations that protect free expression of political views, including views opposing this war.

We understand our history, our government and the political process that makes our great American experiment strong.

We see all the "negative" press, we hear all the "insulting" comments, and we don't care.

We volunteer from the American population at large, so we mirror it.

We are Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, pro-life, pro-choice, single, married, gay, straight, black, white, Hispanic.

Some hold strong political opinions and argue vehemently with one another, and some are apathetic towards all things political. We are the melting pot that is America.

Only politicians who have been to war know what it's like to go outside the wire.

The last thing we care about on a mission is what Harry Reid said, or who disapproved of the surge, or what group of Republicans traveled to Syria to hold a conference with whom.

When politicians claim that opponents' opinions slap us in the face, they're telling us troops that we're too ignorant to understand the disagreement inherent in democracy, that we're too stupid to be able to separate political views from our jobs and that we're too fragile and sensitive to hear all sides.

They're slapping us in the face with ignorance.

Lively debate over the issues, heated disagreements and strong voter participation are bedrocks of our democracy.

We don't care when people with opinions different from ours run their mouths on Fox or CNN, regardless of whether those opinions are for this war or against it.

What bothers us is when pundits use us troops as a trump card to insult fellow Americans as unpatriotic.

That's the true slap in our face.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

June 26, 2007 Aljazeera & June 27, 2007 Xinhua & AP & By Mike Drummond, McClatchy Newspapers & KUNA

Police said two policemen were killed and 22 others wounded when dozens of militants attacked the Al-Asad Iraqi National Police base in the town of Madain, 25kms south of Baghdad.

"Militants attacked the base on Tuesday from several sides using rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons," a police official said.

"Several mortar rounds landed on the Green Zone, which houses the Iraqi government offices, U.S. and British embassies," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear whether there is any casualty, he added.

A roadside bomb killed five Iraqi police commandoes on Wednesday north of Baghdad. After the bombing in Samarra, 95 kilometres north of Baghdad, police opened fire randomly on the area, killing one civilian and wounding two others, a hospital official said.

Sheik Hamid Abdul Farhan al Shujairi was shot in Baghdad, police said. He reportedly had attended a conference several weeks ago supporting the government and fighting insurgents.

In Samarra, north of Baghdad, a policeman was killed and three others wounded when a roadside bomb ripped through their patrol on the main street running through the southern part of the town.

At least five were killed when militiamen ambushed an Iraqi an Iraqi army patrol in the central city of Diwaniyah on Tuesday, officials said.

The fighting began when guerrillas opened fire on the patrol in the northern part of the city, setting a Humvee alight. Explosions and gunfire spread across neighbouring areas.

“Two police cars have been burned and ambulances cannot reach the area,” a police official said shortly after the fighting began. He later added that five houses and 15 civilian vehicles had been destroyed.

Four members of the Iraqi police were killed and another wounded Wednesday due to an armed attack against their patrol south of Kirkuk.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

***Same Old Same Old:*
“U.S. Troops Typically Described
Their Military Allies As
Untrustworthy Cowards Who Did
Everything Possible To Avoid
Combat”**

**“American GIs Fought For Each
Other, But They Surely Did Not Feel
They Were Fighting For The South
Vietnamese”**

Sociologist Charles Moskos conducted field research on army enlisted men in Vietnam, first in 1965 and again in 1967. He found the men skeptical of every justification of the war but especially unconvinced that America was fighting on behalf of South Vietnam.

“They dismiss patriotic slogans' or exhortations to defend democracy with 'What a crock,' 'Be serious, man,' or 'Who's kidding who?'

From: WORKING CLASS WAR, by Christian G. Appy, U. Of North Carolina Press, 1984

Far from seeing themselves as liberators, many soldiers found that their search-and-destroy missions did more to promote anti-Americanism than anticommunism.

Describing a unit notorious for brutalizing civilians and burning villages, a character in *Fields of Fire* comments, "I figure (they) done made a lot more VC than they ever end up killing."

However much policymakers referred to the Vietnamese as our friends and allies, the central thrust of American policy was to consider all Vietnamese potential enemies to be watched, suspected, interrogated, and if caught "where they weren't supposed to be" or among "VC sympathizers," fired upon and killed.

In his memoir, Gen. William Westmoreland describes the Vietnamese as hosts and assures the reader that every effort was made by him to instill respect for the South Vietnamese.

He had cards printed and distributed to soldiers with rules of conduct admonishing the men to consider themselves guests of the Vietnamese.

"I directed that every American soldier carry at all times a small card listing nine rules of conduct, such as avoiding loud and rude behavior and display of wealth and privilege, treating women with politeness and respect, giving the Vietnamese the right of way, making friends among the people, trying to learn some of the language, and in general behaving as guests in the land."

The soldiers could only look upon such rules as the highest form of hypocrisy.

Westmoreland may have been treated as a guest in his Saigon villa, but elsewhere in the land, soldiers were deployed to root out enemies among a population far from welcoming.

Even in rear areas mutual hostility was pervasive.

Rear-echelon soldiers typically encountered Vietnamese civilians in the cities, refugee camps, or makeshift shantytowns that sprang up on the outskirts of almost every American base. In these settings, most of the Vietnamese became utterly dependent on the American military presence.

Many worked on large American bases as laborers or maids. Others became peddlers or hustlers, selling the GIs soft drinks, beer, trinkets, drugs, shoeshines, haircuts, and sex.

As potential customers Americans were often greeted enthusiastically, but most of these relationships were strictly business. Most rear-echelon soldiers concluded that the Vietnamese looked to them not as protectors or guarantors of freedom but simply as potential customers or as marks for begging and thieving

Sociologist Charles Moskos conducted field research on army enlisted men in Vietnam, first in 1965 and again in 1967.

He found the men skeptical of every justification of the war but especially unconvinced that America was fighting on behalf of South Vietnam.

“They dismiss patriotic slogans' or exhortations to defend democracy with 'What a crock,' 'Be serious, man,' or 'Who's kidding who?'

“In particular, they have little belief that they are protecting an outpost of democracy in South Vietnam. . . . The soldier definitely does not see himself fighting for South Vietnam. Quite the contrary, he thinks South Vietnam a worthless country.”

There was good reason for skepticism.

One of the most clear-cut revelations of the Pentagon Papers was the fact that American policymakers had little, if any, concern about the fate of South Vietnam and its people in their own right.

Rather, they regarded South Vietnam merely as the geographic focus of a global power struggle.

American soldiers did not believe the Vietnamese were eager to fight communism.

They were virtually unanimous in their criticisms of the capability and determination of South Vietnamese forces.

While it is easy to find examples of praise for the skill and determination of the Revolutionary Forces, it is almost impossible to find American soldiers who were impressed by the ARVN or the local militias.

U.S. troops typically described their military allies as untrustworthy cowards who did everything possible to avoid combat.

Some soldiers began to believe the only way to survive in Vietnam was simply to 'treat all Vietnamese as outright enemies and make no pretense of favoring some over others.

Michael Herr captures this attitude most strikingly by recounting a piece of black humor that circulated among American soldiers in Vietnam: “The joke went, 'What you do is, you load all the Friendlies (all the South Vietnamese on whose behalf America claimed to be fighting) onto ships and take them out to the South China Sea. Then you bomb the country flat. Then you sink the ships.'”

“A lot of people knew that the country could never be won, only destroyed, and they locked into that with breathtaking concentration.”

American GIs fought for each other, but they surely did not feel they were fighting for the South Vietnamese. Indeed, many soldiers felt the more they worried about the welfare of civilians, the harder it was to do their job.

**“Oh Fuck, I’m taking a little nap in
Quang Tri back in ’69, and I wake up
here?”**



US soldiers patrol in Baquba, 20 June 2007. (AFP/US Army/File/Sgt Armando Monorig)

From World War I:
**“On The Defeat Of One’s Own
Government In The Imperialist War”**
**“A Revolutionary Class In A Reactionary
War Cannot But Wish For The Defeat Of
Its Government”**

July 26, 1915: On The Defeat of One’s Own Government in the Imperialist War, By
Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov: Sotsial-Demokrat No. 43 [Excerpts]

A revolutionary class in a reactionary war cannot but “wish for the defeat of its
government.”

This is an axiom. It is disputed only by the conscious partisans or the helpless satellites
of the social-chauvinists.

[T]o the latter belong Trotsky and Bukvoyed; in Germany, Kautsky. To wish Russia's defeat, Trotsky says, is "an uncalled-for and unjustifiable political concession to the methodology of social-patriotism which substitutes for the revolutionary struggle against the war and the conditions that cause war, an orientation along the lines of the lesser evil, an orientation which, under given conditions, is perfectly arbitrary" (Nashe Slovo, No. 105.) This is an example of the inflated phraseology with which Trotsky always justifies opportunism.

"A revolutionary struggle against the war" is an empty and meaningless exclamation, the like of which the heroes of the Second International are past masters in making, unless it means revolutionary actions against one's own government in times of war.

A little reasoning suffices to make this clear.

When we say revolutionary actions in war time against one's own government, we indisputably mean not only the wish for its defeat, but practical actions leading towards such defeat.

In using phrases to avoid the issue, Trotsky has lost his way amidst very simple surroundings. It seems to him that to wish Russia's defeat means to wish Germany's victory. (Bukvoyed and Semkovsky express more directly this "thought," or rather, thoughtlessness, which they have in common with Trotsky.) In this Trotsky also repeats the "methodology of social-patriotism"!

To help people that do not know how to think, the Berne resolution (Sotsial-Demokrat, No. 40) made it clear that in all imperialist countries the proletariat must now wish the defeat of its government.

Revolution in war time is civil war.

Transformation of war between governments into civil war is, on the one hand, facilitated by military reverses ("defeats") of the governments; on the other hand, it is impossible to strive in practice towards such a transformation without at the same time working towards military defeat.

The "slogan" of defeat is so vehemently repudiated by the chauvinists for the very reason that this slogan alone means a consistent appeal to revolutionary action against one's own government in war time.

Without such action, millions of the most revolutionary phrases concerning "war against war and conditions, etc." are not worth a penny.

The tsarist government was perfectly right when it asserted that the propaganda of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Fraction was the only example in the International of not only parliamentary opposition but of real revolutionary propaganda in the masses against their government, that this propaganda weakened the military power of Russia and aided its defeat.

This is a fact. It is not clever to hide from it.

The opponents of the defeat slogan are simply afraid of themselves when they do not wish to realize the most obvious fact of the inseparable connection between revolutionary propaganda against the government and actions leading to its defeat.

An understanding concerning revolutionary actions within even one single country, not to speak of a number of countries, can be realized only by the force of the example of earnest revolutionary actions, by their being launched, by their development.

It is impossible, however, to launch them without wishing the government defeat, and without contributing to such a defeat.

The change from imperialist war to civil war cannot be “made,” as it is impossible to “make” a revolution - it grows out of the multiplicity of diverse phenomena, phases, traits, characteristics, consequences of the imperialist war.

Such growth is impossible without a series of military reverses and defeats of those governments which receive blows from their own oppressed classes.

The only policy of a real, not verbal, breaking of “civil peace,” of accepting the class struggle, is for the proletariat to take advantage of the difficulties of the government and its bourgeoisie with the aim of overthrowing them.

This, however, cannot be achieved, it cannot be striven at, without wishing the defeat of one's own government, without contributing to such a defeat.

When, before the war, the Italian Social-Democrats raised the question of a mass strike, the bourgeoisie replied, undoubtedly correctly from its standpoint, that this would be high treason, and that they would be dealt with as traitors.

This is true, and it is also true that fraternization in the trenches is high treason.

A proletarian cannot help deal his government a class blow; he cannot reach out (in practice) a hand to his brother, the proletarian of the “foreign” country which is at war with us, without committing “high treason,” without contributing to the defeat, the dismemberment of “his” imperialist “great” power.

Let us look at the question from one more angle.

The war cannot but call forth among the masses the most stormy feelings which destroy the usual sluggishness of mass psychology. Without adjustment to these new stormy feelings, revolutionary tactics are impossible.

What are the main currents of these stormy feelings?

(1) Horror and despair. Hence the growth of religious feelings. Once more the churches are full, the reactionaries rejoice. “Wherever there are sufferings, there is religion,” says the arch-reactionary, Barres.

He is right, too.

(2) Hatred for the “enemy,” a feeling carefully fanned by the bourgeoisie (more than by the priests) and of economic and political value only to the bourgeoisie.

(3) Hatred for one's own government and one's bourgeoisie - a feeling of all class-conscious workers who understand, on the one hand, that war is “a continuation of politics” on the part of imperialism, which they meet by “continuing” their hatred for their class enemy; on the other hand, that “war against war” is a silly phrase if it does not mean revolution against their own government.

It is impossible to arouse hatred against one's own government and one's bourgeoisie without wishing their defeat, and it is impossible to be non-hypocritical opponent of “civil” (class) “peace” without arousing hatred towards one's own government and bourgeoisie!!!

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Alpha Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division as they prepare a search in the village of Al Majahreen, 25 miles east of Baghdad, April 22, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Petraeus Says Bush "Diabolical"

"This is the most diabolical enemy out there. I've never seen anything like it," the top U.S. commander here, Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, said in an interview.
June 28, 2007 By Julian Barnes, L.A. Times Staff Writer

SATAN



(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**“The marines that I have had wounded over the past five months have been attacked by a faceless enemy. But the enemy has got a face. He's called Satan.”
US Marine Colonel Gareth Brandl**

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS:

Bank Of International Settlements, “The Ultimate Bank Of Central Bankers,” Warns That Global Economy Could Be On The Brink Of A Major Depression

June 25, 2007 NewsMax Media Inc.

The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) is warning that the global economy could be on the brink of a major depression similar to the one that passed in the 1930s.

The BIS said that years of loose monetary policy have fueled a dangerous credit bubble leaving the global economy more vulnerable to an economic catastrophe than is generally understood.

In its 77th Annual Report for the financial year April 1, 2006-March 31, 2007 that was submitted to the BIS' annual general meeting held in Basel on June 24, the BIS - which one source described as “the ultimate bank of central bankers” - noted that the Great Depression that began in 1929 caught many off guard and unprepared.

“Virtually nobody foresaw the Great Depression of the 1930s, or the crises which affected Japan and southeast Asia in the early and late 1990s. In fact, each downturn was preceded by a period of non-inflationary growth exuberant enough to lead many commentators to suggest that a 'new era' had arrived”, said the bank.

Several worrying signs, including mass issuance of new types of credit instruments, soaring levels of household debt, extreme appetite for risk shown by investors and entrenched imbalances in the world currency system, have all made the Bank wary the global economy is at serious risk.

The BIS pointed to China as a possible spark that could cause a sudden global downturn. The BIS said “China may have repeated the disastrous errors made by Japan in the 1980s when Tokyo let rip with excess liquidity.” “The Chinese economy seems to be demonstrating very similar, disquieting symptoms,” the BIS claimed, noting China's credit and asset boom.

The Bank described China's booming economy as “unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable” — a comment apparently made by Chinese premier Wen Jiabao.

The BIS also took a swipe at the U.S. Federal Reserve, noting that the central bank was rethinking the easy credit policies of former Fed chief Alan Greenspan.

The BIS was not sanguine about the dollar, citing America's huge trade and deficit imbalances with US external liabilities growing to over \$4 trillion from 2001 to 2005.

“The dollar clearly remains vulnerable to a sudden loss of private sector confidence,” the BIS report stated.

Worrisome too is the bubble created by private equity deals and hedge fund activity.

“Sooner or later the credit cycle will turn and default rates will begin to rise,” the BIS said.

“The levels of leverage employed in private equity transactions have raised questions about their longer-term sustainability. The strategy depends on the availability of cheap funding,”

The BIS' report cited several worrying signs, including mass issuance of new types of credit instruments, soaring levels of household debt, extreme appetite for risk shown by investors and entrenched imbalances in the world currency system.

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.

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