

## GI SPECIAL 5H8:



# IED Attacks On U.S. Troops Reach All-Time High Last Month

August 10, 2007 New Zealand Limited

Roadside bomb attacks on American troops in Iraq reached an all-time high last month, accounting for more than one third of all combat deaths.

The increase in the number of casualties caused by the sophisticated explosive devices comes at the height of the "surge" of United States forces which, the Pentagon claims, is broadly a success.

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# IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## **Marine Killed In Anbar**

August 9, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070809-04

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died Aug. 7 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

### **MORE:**

**[Unlike the dishonorable wretches who write the meaningless bullshit you just read to cover up news of U.S. KIA, the British Government is not too cowardly to respect and honor their KIA in their battle reports.**

**[Here are two examples. T]**

### **MORE:**

## **#1:**

## **Leading Aircraftman Martin Beard Royal Air Force Regiment Killed In Iraq**

9 Aug 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep sorrow that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Leading Aircraftman Martin Beard of No 1 Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment, in Basra, southern Iraq on Tuesday 7 August 2007.

Leading Aircraftman Beard, aged 20, was taking part in a routine foot patrol in the Al Waki district north of the British Base at Basra Air Station. The aim of the patrol was to deter indirect fire attacks on the base and reassure the local population.

Leading Aircraftman Beard sustained a gunshot wound when the patrol came under attack as it moved through Al Waki Market. He was evacuated by helicopter to the field hospital but sadly did not survive.

### **MORE:**

## **#2:**

## **Two British Soldiers Killed In Iraq On Thursday 9 August 2007**

9 Aug 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the deaths of two British soldiers from 1st Battalion The Irish Guards in Basra, southern Iraq in the early hours of this morning, Thursday 9 August 2007.

The soldiers were killed, and another two seriously injured, when an Improvised Explosive Device detonated next to their patrol just after midnight local time. The soldiers were travelling in a convoy to the north of the Rumaylah oilfields, which is to the west of Basra City.

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## Soldier Killed In Iraq Remembered



Army Spec. Camy Florexil

Aug. 03, 2007 By Dwight Ott, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Army Spec. Camy Florexil - who yesterday was being praised on the Internet as a "true American hero" - was a man who went to war but wasn't a fighter, his family said.

"He was quiet, and a good student," said his aunt Marie Gerda-Pierre. "He was so soft. . . He was an artist who was interested in sketching and computers.

"He spent hours in front of the computer."

The 20-year-old infantryman, who surprised family members when he enlisted nearly two years ago, died July 24, a day after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad. He had been in Iraq five months.

Gerda-Pierre learned of her nephew's death on Tuesday and had the task of informing his mother, Carol Florexil, who lives in her native Haiti.

"I told his mother she should be proud anyway. He didn't die by doing bad stuff. He wasn't hanging on the corner doing illegal stuff," Gerda-Pierre said. "He was fighting for the freedom of those people."

Although he was a native-born American, Florexil spent the first few years of his life in Haiti because his mother had been forced to return.

After a few years in Port-au-Prince, his mother - who was unable to come back to the United States - made the gut-wrenching decision to part with Camy and his older sister, Emanuela. She sent them to stay with Gerda-Pierre in Northeast Philadelphia.

"Their mother wanted the best for them," Gerda-Pierre said.

Florexil lived with his aunt from the fifth grade at Thomas Finletter Elementary School to the 11th grade at Swenson Arts and Technology High School, at which point he moved in with his sister.

He joined the Army in September 2005 and was assigned to the First Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, Fourth Infantry Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kan.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete yesterday. Gerda-Pierre said Florexil would be buried in the United States after his mother came to make the arrangements

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier stands guard near a burnt bus after a bomb attack in Baghdad, July 30, 2007. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

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# **U.S. Helicopter Down In Yusifiyah: Two Injured**

10 August 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070810-03

BAGHDAD – BAGHDAD - During an early morning raid Aug. 10, a U.S. helicopter executed a forced landing in Yusifiyah, ten miles south of Baghdad, while supporting a planned mission.

Two U.S. Soldiers sustained non-life threatening injuries when the aircraft landed. Initial reports from ground forces do not clearly identify the cause of the mishap while in transit to the proposed target.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Davis Left Strong Impression On Fellow Soldiers**

July 31, 2007 By Cass Friedman, Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS - Say what you want about whether the U.S. and its allies are winning Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Army Pfc. Adam Davis was winning the respect of fellow soldiers and moving up through the ranks of the military on July 23, the day he died. A roadside bomb killed him and three other U.S. soldiers riding an armored Humvee in Afghanistan.

Since his death, when the Army awarded him the Purple Heart, the Army raised Davis' rank to specialist.

His wit raised eyebrows, his work ethic inspired other soldiers, his passion for video games and his jokes brought levity to a grim situation.

The Army sent the 22-year-old combat patrol driver, who also manned an M2 .50-caliber machine gun, from Italy to Afghanistan in May with D Company 1-503.

The blast caught Davis' Humvee traveling from base to a patrol area.

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**UK Officer Calls For U.S.  
Special Forces To Get The Fuck  
Out Of His Area:  
Unbelievably Stupid U.S.  
Command Caught Lying About His  
Request;  
Bloodthirsty Idiots Recruit A Whole  
Village To Fight For The Resistance;  
“We Have Understood That The  
Americans Are A Curse On Us, And  
They Are Here Just To Destroy  
Afghanistan”**

He said that he opposed the Taliban, but that after the bombing raid the villagers were so angered that most of the men who survived went off to join the insurgents.

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, and JM, who sent this in.]

August 9, 2007 By CARLOTTA GALL, The New York Times [Excerpts] & August 10, 2007 Declan Walsh in Islamabad and Richard Norton-Taylor, The Guardian

**Tension between British and American commanders in southern Afghanistan erupted into the open yesterday as a senior UK military officer said he had asked the US to withdraw its special forces from a volatile area that was crucial in the battle against the Taliban.**

**A senior British commander in southern Afghanistan said in recent weeks that he had asked that American Special Forces leave his area of operations because the high level of civilian casualties they had caused was making it difficult to win over local people.**

**An American military spokesman denied that the request for American forces to leave was ever made, either formally or otherwise, or that they had caused most of the casualties.**

Other British officers here in Helmand Province, speaking on condition of anonymity, criticized American Special Forces for causing most of the civilian deaths and injuries in their area.

They also expressed concerns that the Americans' extensive use of air power was turning the people against the foreign presence as British forces were trying to solidify recent gains against the Taliban.

**A precise tally of civilian deaths is difficult to pin down, but one reliable count puts the number killed in Helmand this year at close to 300 civilians, the vast majority of them caused by foreign and Afghan forces, rather than the Taliban.**

American Special Forces have been active in Helmand since United States forces first entered Afghanistan in late 2001, and for several years they maintained a small base outside the town of Gereshk. But the foreign troop presence was never more than a few hundred men.

British forces arrived in the spring of 2006 and now have command of the province with some 6,000 troops deployed, with small units of Estonians and Danish troops. American Special Forces have continued to assist in fighting insurgents, operating as advisers to Afghan national security forces.

It is these American teams that are coming under criticism.

Such Special Forces teams have often called in airstrikes in Helmand and other places where civilians have subsequently been found to have suffered casualties.

On a rare visit to Helmand in mid-July, a journalist encountered children who were still suffering wounds sustained in that bombing raid or another around that time.

Their father, Mohammadullah, brought them to the gate of the British Army base seeking help. His son, Bashir Ahmed, 2, listless and stick thin, seemed close to death. The boy and his sister Muzlifa, 7, bore terrible shrapnel scars. NATO doctors had removed shrapnel from the boy's abdomen at the time of the raid and had warned his father that he might not survive, but two months later he was still hanging on.

The father said the bombing raid killed six members of the family and wounded five. His wife lost an arm, and the children's grandmother was killed, he said.

Altogether, he said, 20 people were killed in the airstrikes after Taliban fighters came through the village. He figured that the planes had bombed them mistakenly, because the Taliban were fighting United States forces well below the village at the time.

**He said that he opposed the Taliban, but that after the bombing raid the villagers were so angered that most of the men who survived went off to join the insurgents.**

It is in fact the possibility of the population turning against them, or the unpopularity of the campaign back home, that most concerns the military, one NATO military official

said. "We know we can beat the Taliban on the ground," the official said. "The issue is the population."

A civilian NATO from Kabul added, "The problem is Afghans are waking up and thinking: 'Why are they doing this?'"

**"The Americans are killing and destroying a village just in pursuit of one person," said Mahmaddullah, 24, referring to Osama bin Laden.**

**"So now we have understood that the Americans are a curse on us, and they are here just to destroy Afghanistan. They can tell the difference between men and women, children and animals, but they are just killing everyone."**

A trained mullah from the village of Kutaizi, half an hour from Sangin, Mahmaddullah reacted with sarcasm to the idea that reconstruction and assistance could change the minds of the people.

**"First they kill me, and then they rebuild my house?" he said. "What is the point when I am dead and my son is dead? This is not of any worth to us."**

British officers say US special forces are cavalier in their approach to the civilian population.

The tensions were illustrated by an incident the Guardian witnessed in Sangin earlier this summer.

A British patrol was abandoned by its American special forces escort in the town for several hours. Stranded in central Sangin, British officers tried to establish radio contact with the Americans, who had disappeared without warning, and swore impatiently when they could not.

**The British criticisms intensified after the Americans led them to their proposed site for a new Afghan patrol base in the town - beside a graveyard and a religious shrine. "Sensitivity is not their strong suit," said one British officer.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

***How Stupid, Incompetent General  
Betrayus Armed The Resistance  
To Kill U.S. Troops:***



# **Report Holds Him Responsible For Missing Arms In Iraq: “Some Of The Weapons Probably Are Being Used Against U.S. Forces”**

**Petraeus's figures were compared with classified data and other records to ensure that they were accurate enough to compare against the property books. In all cases, the gaps between the two records were enormous.**

August 6, 2007 By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States has spent \$19.2 billion trying to develop Iraqi security forces since 2003, the GAO said, including at least \$2.8 billion to buy and deliver equipment.

**But the GAO said weapons distribution was haphazard and rushed and failed to follow established procedures, particularly from 2004 to 2005, when security training was led by Gen. David H. Petraeus, who now commands all U.S. forces in Iraq.**

They really have no idea where they are," said Rachel Stohl, a senior analyst at the Center for Defense Information who has studied small-arms trade and received Pentagon briefings on the issue.

"It likely means that the United States is unintentionally providing weapons to bad actors.

**One senior Pentagon official acknowledged that some of the weapons probably are being used against U.S. forces.**

The GAO found that the military was consistently unable to collect supporting documents to "confirm when the equipment was received, the quantities of equipment delivered, and the Iraqi units receiving the equipment." The agency also said there were "numerous mistakes due to incorrect manual entries" in the records that were maintained.

The GAO reached the estimate of 190,000 missing arms -- 110,000 AK-47s and 80,000 pistols -- by comparing the property records of the Multi-National Security Transition Command for Iraq against records Petraeus maintained of the arms and equipment he had ordered.

**Petraeus's figures were compared with classified data and other records to ensure that they were accurate enough to compare against the property books.**

**In all cases, the gaps between the two records were enormous.**

Petraeus reported that about 185,000 AK-47 rifles, 170,000 pistols, 215,000 pieces of body armor and 140,000 helmets were issued to Iraqi security forces from June 2004 through September 2005.

But the property books contained records for 75,000 AK-47 rifles, 90,000 pistols, 80,000 pieces of body armor and 25,000 helmets.

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



Lydia Suliveras, right, grieves with her son as they watch an honor guard carry the remains of her husband, US Army Staff Sgt. Wilberto Suliveras, after its arrival at Muniz Airbase, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 6, 2007. Staff Sgt. Suliveras was killed a week earlier by small arms fire in Hor Al Bash, Iraq. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

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***“Always Unfaithful”***  
**Marines In Iraq, Afghanistan Not Getting  
Badly Needed Equipment;**

# Marine Corps BrassRats Refused To Hear Troops Complaints

August 3, 2007 By: RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- The system for ensuring Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan receive badly needed war-fighting equipment has "not been perfect" and is being improved, says the top Marine Corps general.

Gen. James Conway sought to blunt congressional criticism over the slow delivery of mine-resistant vehicles, laser warning devices, and aerial surveillance systems in a letter to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It was obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

**Complaints have come from within the Corps as well.**

**Marines returning from Iraq several months ago estimated that of more than 100 "urgent" requests for equipment from units between February 2006 and February 2007, less than 10 percent were fulfilled.**

**Conway made no mention of the internal Marine Corps dissatisfaction in his letter to [Senator Joseph] Biden.**

While acknowledging shortcomings, he also defended decisions the Marines have made in pursuing certain equipment despite requests for alternative gear from deployed forces.

**The AP reported in May that a document from Marines just returning from Iraq -- laying out a case for quicker action to get better equipment -- was to be presented in March to senior officials in the Pentagon's defense research and engineering office.**

**But the session was canceled by Marine Corps leaders because its contents were deemed too contentious.**

In his letter to Biden -- a similar letter was sent to Bond -- Conway didn't specify how the Marines' acquisition process is being adjusted to make it more responsive.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852**

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

## **The Ditch At My Lai**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 07, 2007  
Subject: The Ditch At My Lai

### **The Ditch At My Lai**

**Of the 504 Vietnamese civilians who were murdered at My Lai in 1968 by the U.S. Government, 175 were shot at point-blank range in this ditch. Iraq has become another ditch in America's Empire. Bush and Cheney and Congress will stop at nothing.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran**

**"I believe that God wants me to be president."  
George W. Bush**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

**Complaint:  
Article Complained Of:  
Replies:  
Complaint:**

From: James M Leas  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 09, 2007  
Subject: Re: GI Special 5H7: Oh Please

I strongly disagree with your message counterposing reaching out to soldiers to demonstrations. The large rallies demonstrate widespread opposition to the war to the soldiers. Soldier and veteran participation in the marches and rallies helps build civilian opposition to the war. We can and should do both demonstrations and reach out. Counterposing one to the other defeats both.

Stop complaining about those who are organizing action against the war.

If you think more reach out to soldiers is needed why not initiate or propose a reach out to soldiers event?

**MORE:**

**Here Is The Article Complained Of:  
[Thanks For A Chance To Run It Again]  
[GI Special 5H7: Oh Please]**

**Oh Please,**

# Not Another Useless Pilgrimage To DC



Father Georgi Apollonievich Gapon [wikimedia.org]

Bloody Sunday (Russian: Кровавое воскресенье) was an incident on 22 January 1905 in St. Petersburg, Russia, where unarmed, peaceful demonstrators marching to present a petition to Tsar Nicholas II were gunned down. The event was organized by Father Gapon, who told the Russian working class that the Czar and his government would be moved by their march, their opposition to the Imperial war against Japan, and their requests for reforms. The Tsar's dictatorship ended in 1917, when the Russian working class and soldiers in the Russian army rose in revolution. After the revolution the Czar, whose entry into World War I killed 2 million Russian citizens, was executed.

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**Well, the usual crew are out there planning a whole assortment of trips to DC to beg the politicians to stop the war.**

**Repeatedly.**

**August, September, October; whenever. Talk about a blind obsession, like moths to a flame.**

**What a fascination with standing around in the presence of power, and feeling important going in some Senator's office, or tromping back and forth on the mall, or both.**

**What a pathetic farce, the merest pretense of action, the faint shadow of action.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Someone said a long time ago, "Law is but the recognition of material reality. It represents a written armistice between class forces and competing interests."

So, if you change material reality, the law, which is all there is in DC, follows along.

The people that tell us to go beg on our knees in DC before the thrones of the powerful – politely called lobbying these days -- have hold of the wrong end of the stick, if they could stop kissing DC political butt long enough to hold a stick that is.

Material reality is the army, turning hard against the war. You may be assured that when they break loose and decide to do some marching on Washington, that will hit like a hammer.

The silly self-appointed movement leaders, instead of spending their time and money reaching out to members of the armed forces turning against the war, think that if they show up in Washington again, and again, and again, they will have a significant effect on those that hold the power and run the Empire.

What pretentious delusions. They have no power at all, except the power to amuse some, and briefly annoy some others.

The soldiers, however, are a different matter.

Someone noted a couple hundred years ago "I expect something good only of that prince whose head is sore from the buffetings of his people and whose palace windows are crashing in under the stones of the revolution."

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**MORE:**

## **Here Are The Replies:**

### **Reply #1: Circles**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 09, 2007  
Subject: CIRCLES- by Dennis

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

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## CIRCLES

Oh, there were buses, lots of busses,  
there were cars and lots of vans.  
There were marchers, lots of marchers  
but nothing changed, nothing changed.  
You can talk, they like talkers,  
you can jump, jump up and down,  
you can have signs, so many signs,  
but nothing changed, nothing changed.  
You can go to DC, if it makes you feel  
good,  
get that anger out in the streets,  
march around in circles,  
around and around,  
but nothing changed, nothing changed.  
You can be on TV, in papers too,  
shout "What do we want ? We want it now."  
The Bosses laugh, they think it's funny  
'cause nothing changed, nothing changed.  
You can be peaceful, they like peaceful,  
you can be legal, they like legal,  
listen to speakers with their same old line,  
but nothing changed, nothing changed.  
You can see the Capitol, see the White  
House,  
see War Memorials that stand  
like tombstones,  
Soldiers died, so many died,  
but nothing changed, nothing changed.  
Something's wrong with choreographed  
Marches,  
Something's wrong with the same old  
slogans,  
Something's wrong when you go home  
and nothing's changed,  
nothing's changed.

MORE:

**Reply #2:  
Help The Troops End The War**



[From: GI Special 5H6]

We Say:

# You Can Help The Troops End The War



**FROM:**

**Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service  
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee  
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War**

**Lt. Fabian Bouthillette, USNR, Iraq Service  
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee  
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War  
U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2003**

Dear Friend of GI Special –

We don't have to tell you how crucial American service members are to the success of the anti-war movement.

**You have seen letters in these pages from troops in Iraq and Afghanistan condemning the unending "war on terrorism" for what it is: an all out betrayal and misuse of the military.**

**These troops are bravely speaking their minds despite the constant risk of harassment (or worse) from their chain of command—and they deserve all the support we can provide.**

**Since 2004, when just four people sat down in a small New York apartment to talk about the possibility of reaching out to GIs, the Military Project has focused completely on this task. The Military Project is a democratic membership organization that is not supported by any grants and does not have non-profit status.**

**To our knowledge, we are the only organization started by civilians that was specifically formed to support anti-war troops. We depend on our membership (which has continued to grow) and allies like you for our everyday expenses, which we work very hard to keep to a minimum.**

**Even so, expenses like printing, meeting costs, travel, Web site maintenance and postage add up. For a small under-resourced group like ours, they can become a barrier to expanding our outreach work.**

**If you want to show concrete support to GIs who are coming out against the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, PLEASE support the work of the Military Project! We need your help—both in reaching out to GIs and— URGENTLY—in providing the financial resources that make this work possible.**

**We hope that after reading this letter you will be as generous as your means allow in helping us to reach as many troops as we can. They need to know that their dissent is supported, and they won't and can't know that unless we are out there in person to communicate exactly that message.**

**In collaboration with Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the New York City chapter of Military Families Speak Out, the Military Project regularly conducts outreach to National Guard and Reserve troops attending drill at an uptown Manhattan armory.**

**Since beginning the outreach work in January 2006, we have made major strides at the armory. We have earned the trust of guard members and have had conversations with many who have been deployed to Iraq more than once.**

**We distribute packets of literature to soldiers as they arrive at the armory for drill early in the morning. These packets are constantly updated to address issues relevant to guard members—and they are distributed with homemade cookies—which are received with warm smiles.**

**Soldiers we speak with at the armory almost always respond favorably to material we distribute—much of which comes from GI Special and it's fair to say that many, if not most, of the soldiers at that armory are more than interested in our literature. One soldier saw the words "Fight Back" on the cover of the Iraq**

Veterans Against the War pamphlet and said to me that he was sick of fighting. He kept reading and nodded in approval as he walked toward the armory. Another soldier, an officer, was not willing to speak out as he was in uniform, but he made it clear that he approved of the Military Project's message.

Since beginning outreach work at the Harlem armory, the Military Project has sought to expand its impact by equipping other civilians to engage in this work in places like Groton, CT, home to the Navy submarine base. We have also collaborated with a local group in New Jersey to reach out to a Marine reserve unit.

We are planning to continue to expand and broaden this work to try to reach service members at every military installation where we can connect with fellow civilian supporters and make contacts with military personnel.

We have also created a resource manual for use by folks who want to do this work but who are far away from New York and the east coast.

Please download it and put it to use—and contact us if we can help you get started! [<http://www.militaryproject.org>]

As veterans and members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, we cannot stress enough how important it is to show our troops support in their resistance against the war.

Our first priority should be to end this war immediately.

The sooner this war ends, the fewer veterans there will be that will need help with PTSD, depleted uranium poisoning, and the hundreds of other problems occurring because of this war.

Outreach of the sort conducted by the Military Project is vital to bringing this war to an end NOW. This outreach is simple, effective, and promotes solidarity between troops and civilians who are opposed to this immoral and illegal war.

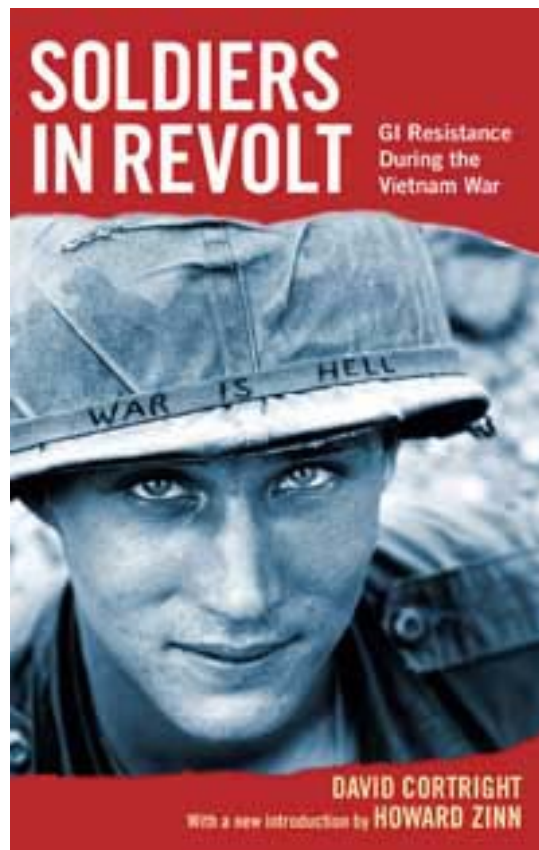
Thank you for your support—and please contact us if you would like to join us in this urgent work.

**Please send checks or money orders (made out the Military Project) to: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.**

Sincerely,

Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service  
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee  
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Lt. Fabian Bouthillette, USNR, Iraq Service  
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee  
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War  
U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2003



**MORE:**

## **Reply #3**

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.**

# **“If The Law Does Not Restrain The Tyrant, It Need Not Restrain The Oppressed”**

Aug 6th, 2007 by Bob Higgins, Boomantribune.com [Excerpt]

The relief of last November is now long forgotten amid in the fear and loathing of July, the wars continue unabated, the so called opposition party has joined in dividing the spoils and trampling the law, the hope is gone and, I believe, it is time for every American who cares for this country, for humankind to face up to the sickening and unavoidable reality of our times.

**The government of the United States is thoroughly and completely corrupt.**

**From top to bottom, from one side of the aisle to the other, at all levels, whether we look at the federal system or in our statehouses, our government, our institutions, our military, our courts and schools and regulatory bodies, each and every one, has fallen under the control of criminals.**

**And they are being aided and abetted by the treacherous and treasonous majorities of both of our so called political parties.**

**We need not travel 12,000 miles and comb the dusty caverns of remote mountain ranges, or the empty blazing deserts of Arabia in a search for terror and evil.**

**All the terror, all the fear, all the evil we could ever desire to discover is centered in the chambers of our government and commerce and the evil hearts and minds of those who control them.**

**The government of the United States now operates under the careful tutelage, direction and control of enormously powerful international corporate interests which have no respect for the people of this or any other nation, not their laws, not their values nor their common histories and least, their humanity, their very lives.**

The only interest of these piratical, plutocratic vermin is to take the labor from our backs, to strip the fruit from our trees and the crops from our fields, to mine the ore and pump the oil from our earth, to discover a way to steal the water from our seas and the very light from our sky and make it their own, to control it all, to control it all in their thirst for profit, in their worship of Mammon, of Moloch.

Look not to the media, the self exalted press, those journalistic guardians of the past, have become the corporate stooges of the present, the once independent protectors of the people no longer exist, they were bought, bought and sold in the same trades as the judges, as the preachers, the pastors, bishops, and the healers, bought as cheaply as the public servants, their souls are owned by the houses of wealth and power.

**All the saviors have sold us out, there is no one to save us but ourselves.**

**I find no further hope in the ballot box, another election of the darlings of the captains of industry, be they the favorite of the energy or drug companies, of the hedge funds or the arms merchants, I see no prospect for change from them and feel no desire to entrust the future to those so beholden to the slave masters of the past and the prison guards of the present.**

**I see no alternative, to wait further is to wait in vain, to continue on the path of non involvement, to ignore the evil that confronts us is to accept the shackles of our slavery willingly.**

**We have only one strength, the strength of numbers and of the rightness of action against tyranny, for it is tyranny that we face.**

**If the law does not restrain the tyrant, it need not restrain the oppressed.**

**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**

## **Against Imperial War: [1915]**

**“Imperialism Is The Progressing  
Oppression Of The Nations Of The  
World By A Handful Of Great  
Powers”**

**“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It  
Already Exists, Exposing Its  
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We  
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

**We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.**

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name "Lenin" to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

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**The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.**

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

**On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self-determination of nations, etc.**

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

**Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.**

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

**The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.**

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

**It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being**

educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

**Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of “freedom of nations,” “right of nations to self-determination,” and “defence of the fatherland” justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world’s nations by the great powers.**

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the “right of nations to self-determination,” which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

**It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.**

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

**The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.**

**This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.**

**We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even**



a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of "justice to Ireland," but for the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a "terrible" thing? Yes. But it is a terribly profitable thing.

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

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

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

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

**OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



Iraqi citizens and their children sit and watch as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 2nd battalion, 32nd Field Artillery brigade invade their home in the middle of the night in Baghdad August 8, 2007. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj



U.S. soldiers order an Iraqi youth to open a door of a room inside his house during a home invasion in Yarmuk neighbourhood in Baghdad July 20, 2007. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

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

**[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 PALESTINE**

# **Overstretched U.S. Cuts Aid To Israel: [So Much For The Omnipotence Of The Israel Lobby]**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, who sent this in. He writes: So much for the omnipotence of the Israel lobby. Proof that the American ruling class puts its imperialism first before Israel's.]

8.9.07 By Damien McElroy and Tim Butcher in Jerusalem, The Telegraph [UK]

**America has been forced to withhold funding from its key ally in the Middle East amid the strain of paying for its expensive military campaign in Iraq.**

**Washington had promised Israel a substantial increase in its financial support to bolster it against Iran.**

**But US officials decided to amend their pledge because of escalating costs, including the need to spend \$750 million to fly thousands of armoured troop carriers to Iraq to protect troops against Iranian-made roadside bombs.**

The Pentagon has come under intense pressure to speed up deployment of the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP), which boasts a V-shaped hull and a

raised chassis and is proven to withstand a range of explosive projectiles common in Iraq.

Officials said extra funds would be used to get 3,400 MRAPs to Iraq by the end of the year.

The diversion of funds has caused a budget shortfall in Israel that forced Ehud Olmert, the prime minister, to convene an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday.

Officials discussed ways of dealing with the £250 million deficit in next year's budget, which Israeli commentators said would result in austerity measures.

**The tension over the delayed American money has tarnished relations between the two countries, which were boosted only last week when Israel confirmed it would enjoy a surge in American defence aid of 25 per cent over the next 10 years.**

[How dare these asshole reporters talk about “tarnishing relations between the two countries”? If they wish to say “tarnishing relations between the two terrorist governments,” fine.]

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



7-19-07 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE.

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# SATAN

"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



(AFP/Karen Bleier)

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## Received:

### “Iraq Wisconsin”

From: Greg & Valerie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 06, 2007  
Subject: Iraq Wisconsin

Iraq is half a world away from us, but it hit pretty close to home recently with the death of a Manawa native by the name of Pat Wade. I feel guilty being alive and knowing that I could not be of more use to my country in realizing someone of Pat's caliber needed to pass in my place to defend the great honor of freedom. The very thought of war sickens me a great deal, but yet I do realize it has been a necessary factor in our freedom since day one of America's face being carved into the face of the world. Thank God for men like Pat who have died for a worthy cause, and I am eternally humbled by the sacrifice he has made on my family's behalf. Thank you so much Pat, and may God help ease the burden of the ones who loved you and held you dear to their hearts.

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