

GI SPECIAL 5111:

**2973 DEAD:
DISHONORED BY GEORGE W. BUSH**



**3762 U.S. DEAD IN IRAQ, A NATION THAT
HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH 9/11**

The Anbar Lies

New Iraq Public Opinion Poll:

**The Surge Is For Shit;
Killing U.S. Troops Is A Good
Thing;**

We Hate Al Qaida Except When They're Killing U.S. Troops Because Killing U.S. Troops Is A Good Thing

[Remember Bush and Betrayus babbling about happy Anbar? How everything is just great in Anbar? How Anbar is a victory? Guess what. T.]

Acceptability of attacks on U.S. forces also varies by locale, *peaking at 100 percent in Anbar*. Every respondent in Baghdad, *and also in Anbar* (where George W. Bush paid a surprise visit to a sprawling U.S. base last week), says the surge has made security worse now than it was six months ago.

In another, as noted, just 24 percent say local security has improved in the last six months, including 16 percent in Baghdad, *and not one respondent in Anbar*.

Fifty-seven percent call violence against U.S. forces acceptable, up six points. And the poll finds almost unanimous opposition to most activities of al Qaeda in Iraq; the sole exception is its attacks on U.S. and other coalition forces.

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

Sept. 10, 2007 ANALYSIS By GARY LANGER, ABC [Excerpts]

Barely a quarter of Iraqis say their security has improved in the past six months, a negative assessment of the surge in U.S. forces that reflects worsening public attitudes across a range of measures, even as authorities report some progress curtailing violence.

Apart from a few scattered gains, a new national survey by ABC News, the BBC and the Japanese broadcaster NHK finds deepening dissatisfaction with conditions in Iraq, lower ratings for the national government and growing rejection of the U.S. role there. More Iraqis say security in their local area has gotten worse in the last six months than say it's gotten better, 31 percent to 24 percent, with the rest reporting no change. Far more, six in 10, say security in the country overall has worsened since the surge began, while just one in 10 sees improvement.

More directly assessing the surge itself -- a measure that necessarily includes views of the United States, which are highly negative -- 65 to 70 percent of Iraqis say it's worsened rather than improved security, political stability and the pace of redevelopment alike.

Six in 10 Iraqis say their own lives are going badly, and even more, 78 percent, say things are going badly for the country overall -- up 13 points from last winter. Expectations have crumbled; just 23 percent see improvement for Iraq in the year ahead, down from 40 percent last winter and 69 percent in November 2005.

More than six in 10 now call the U.S.-led invasion of their country wrong, up from 52 percent last winter.

Fifty-seven percent call violence against U.S. forces acceptable, up six points.

And the poll finds almost unanimous opposition to most activities of al Qaeda in Iraq; the sole exception is its attacks on U.S. and other coalition forces.

With both continued violence and no improvements in living conditions, frustration with Iraq's own government has grown as well. Despite billions spent, only 23 percent of Iraqis report effective reconstruction efforts in their local area. And about two-thirds disapprove of the work of both the current government overall (up by 12 points since winter), and of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki personally.

Overall assessments of security show no improvement since last winter, and direct ratings of the surge are highly negative. In one measure, the number of Iraqis who rate their local security positively (43 percent) is no better than it was in March.

In another, as noted, just 24 percent say local security has improved in the last six months, including 16 percent in Baghdad, and not one respondent in Anbar.

The widespread nature of the violence is part of this. In Baghdad, 52 percent report car bombings or suicide attacks in their local area, the same as in March; but so do 39 percent in the country, up from 26 percent six months ago.

Direct ratings of the surge itself are particularly negative.

At best, only 18 percent of Iraqis say it has improved security in surge areas; at worst, just six percent say it's improved the pace of economic development. Indeed, as noted, the surge broadly is seen to have done more harm than good, with 65 to 70 percent saying it's worsened rather than improved security in surge areas, security in other areas, conditions for political dialogue, the ability of the Iraqi government to do its work, the pace of reconstruction and the pace of economic development.

Every respondent in Baghdad, and also in Anbar (where George W. Bush paid a surprise visit to a sprawling U.S. base last week), says the surge has made security worse now than it was six months ago (anti-U.S. sentiment in these areas is very high, and likely a factor in these direct assessments).

Views in the rest of the country are hardly positive: Outside Baghdad and Anbar, still just 26 percent say the surge has improved security.

A broader question, not specifically linked to the surge, has an equally negative result: Just 18 percent of Iraqis say the presence of U.S. forces is making security better in their country overall, about the same as in March (21 percent).

Instead 72 percent say the U.S. presence is making Iraq's security worse.

Another hopeful sign -- and a remarkable one given its troubles -- is the continued preference for Iraq to remain a single, unified state with a central government in

Baghdad. Sixty-two percent favor that outcome, about the same as in March (albeit down from 79 percent in February 2004).

Other assessments of the United States are overwhelmingly negative.

As noted, nearly two-thirds of Iraqis now say it was wrong for the United States and its allies to have invaded Iraq -- 63 percent, up from 52 percent six months ago and from 39 percent in the first Iraq poll by ABC, the BBC and NHK (and the German broadcaster ARD) in February 2004.

Even among Shiites, empowered by the overthrow of Saddam, 51 percent now say the invasion was wrong, up sharply from 29 percent in March. (Further deterioration may be ahead; among Shiites who still support the invasion, the number who call it "absolutely" right has fallen from 34 percent in March to 14 percent now.)

Seventy-nine percent of Iraqis oppose the presence of coalition forces in the country, essentially unchanged from last winter -- including more than eight in 10 Shiites and nearly all Sunni Arabs. (Seven in 10 Kurds, by contrast, still support the presence of these forces.)

Similarly, 80 percent of Iraqis disapprove of the way U.S. and other coalition forces have performed in Iraq; the only change has been an increase in negative ratings of the U.S. performance among Kurds.

And 86 percent of Iraqis express little or no confidence in U.S. and U.K. forces, similar to last winter and again up among Kurds.

Accusations of mistreatment continue: Forty-one percent of Iraqis in this poll (vs. 44 percent in March) report unnecessary violence against Iraqi citizens by U.S. or coalition forces. That peaks at 63 percent among Sunni Arabs, and 66 percent in Sunni-dominated Anbar.

This disapproval rises to an endorsement of violence: Fifty-seven percent of Iraqis now call attacks on coalition forces "acceptable," up six points from last winter and more than three times its level (17 percent) in February 2004.

Since March, acceptability of such attacks has risen by 15 points among Shiites (from 35 percent to 50 percent), while remaining near-unanimous among Sunnis (93 percent).

Acceptability of attacks on U.S. forces also varies by locale, peaking at 100 percent in Anbar, 69 percent in Kirkuk city and 60 percent in Baghdad, compared with 38 percent in Basra and just three percent in the northern Kurdish provinces.

The forced separation of Iraqis along sectarian lines is reported by 39 percent in Basra city, in the mainly Shiite south; and by 24 percent -- one in four -- across all major metropolitan areas.

In a continued sign of hope, this separation is enormously unpopular: Ninety-eight percent, with agreement across ethnic and sectarian lines, oppose it.

Forty-one percent report unnecessary violence against Iraqi citizens by U.S. or coalition forces (26 percent say this has occurred in the last six months).

MORE:

Happy Anbar: “Police Frequently Torture And Kill Residents”

September 9, 2007 Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

Ramadi, the province’s capital, has been subdivided by towering concrete walls that divide neighborhoods from one another and stop trucks and cars from traveling in most of the capital.

In Fallujah, Anbar’s largest city, only cargo trucks were allowed to drive through the city for three months.

Now police are allowing only 200 civilian vehicles, primarily taxis, to circulate in the city. Fallujah’s 350,000 residents must all carry special government-issued identification cards.

Residents complain that the city has become a police state and that police frequently torture and kill residents with any suspected ties to al Qaida in Iraq. Residents who complain about the police also are abused, they say.

MORE:

Happy Baghdad “We’ve Been Separated From The Rest Of Our City As If We Have The Plague”

September 9, 2007 Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

Falah Amin, 52, a Sunni from Adhamiyah, called her neighborhood in northeast Baghdad a prison. Adhamiyah was among the first neighborhoods to be walled off by the U.S. military to protect it from Sunni car bombs and Shiite militias.

“We’ve been separated from the rest of our city as if we have the plague,” Amin said.

The neighborhood, Amin said, is virtually empty. Those left don’t have the money or connections to leave, she said.

“Is this to keep us safe or to keep all those outside the wall from seeing what is taking place inside the walled area?” she asked.

MORE:

Yes! Iraqi Confirms Progress in Baghdad!!

"Of course, there has been progress," said Ahmad, a taxi driver from Qadissya in west Baghdad. "They (the Americans) are painting murals on the blast walls now." Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, 9.10.07 The Guardian

MORE:

Mosul: The Resistance Parades Through The Streets

September 9, 2007 Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

Three weeks ago, fighters for the Islamic State of Iraq, an al Qaida in Iraq front organization, paraded through the streets of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province, said tribal sheik Fawaz Mohammed al Jarba.

"It's very bad," Jarba said. "There are so many attacks that never make it in the media."

MORE:

Who Would Believe It? Another Stupid Lie From Petraeus

Contradicting Petraeus, a report last week from the Government Accountability Office, the independent auditing arm of Congress, concluded that daily attacks against civilians remained about the same from February through July. By Renee Schoof, September 10, 2007, McClatchy Newspapers

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Seven U.S. Troops Killed, 11 Wounded “In A Vehicle Accident”

September 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070910-19

Seven Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed and 11 others wounded in a vehicle accident in a western portion of the Iraqi capital Sept. 10. Two suspects detained previously and being transported were also killed in the accident. A third detainee was also injured in the incident.

Indiana Soldier Killed In Iraq



U.S. Army Cpl. Ryan A. Woodward, 22, of Fort Wayne, Ind., an 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper, died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire northwest of Baghdad Sept. 8, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Rocket Fire Kills U.S. Soldier In Kirkuk Province, Another Wounded

September 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070910-11

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier died from injuries sustained from rocket fire while on patrol in Kirkuk province, Sunday.

One Soldier was also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Two Injured In Vehicle Wreck Someplace Or Other “East Of” Baghdad

September 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070910-13

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – One Soldier died and two Soldiers were injured this morning east of Baghdad when the vehicle they were traveling in overturned and caught fire.

The wounded Soldiers were transported to a Coalition Force medical facility for further treatment.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ONLY 10 MILLION MORE TO GO: COME ON HOME NOW!



U.S. Army soldier of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division takes a biometric eye scan of Iraqi, Ammar Ans, in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

British Mercenary Killed

September 10, 2007 The Associated Press

A British security worker in Iraq was killed by an improvised explosive device a day after he was honored for his efforts in rescuing U.S. soldiers, his employers said Monday.

Raymond Moore, 40, died from injuries suffered in an explosion near Numaniyah, ArmorGroup said in a statement.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Canadian Soldiers Wounded

September 10, 2007 Andrew Mayeda, CanWest News Service

Two Canadian soldiers were lightly injured when a nearby Leopard C-2 tank rolled over a mine. The soldiers were walking close to the tank and were hurt by the shrapnel and debris from the explosion.

They were evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for treatment, but are expected to be released soon, said Major Eric Laforest, director of operations for Canada's battle group.

A LAV-III armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on Sunday, but none of the soldiers in the vehicle were injured, said Laforest.

Resistance Action; Gereshk Attack Kills 13 Collaborator Cops

Sep 10 Associated Press

A bomber on a motorized rickshaw detonated explosives Monday in a marketplace in southern Afghanistan.

The attacker was apparently targeting a police commander when he detonated his bomb near a taxi stand around 6:30 p.m. in the town of Gereshk in Helmand province, the world's largest poppy-growing region and site of the country's worst violence this year. Gereshk district chief Abdul Manaf Khan said 13 police killed.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said the attacker was driving a motorized rickshaw - a small engine-powered cart commonly used as a taxi in southern Afghanistan.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, the Defense Ministry spokesman, said a local police commander who survived the attack appeared to have been the target.

Militants ambushed and killed four police officers from the northwest province of Faryab who were traveling to neighboring Badghis province to help repel an attack on a government center, said Faryab provincial police chief Gen. Khalil Zayia.

TROOP NEWS

Yes, They Do & Yes, They Do: Shit-Bird Petraeus, This Is For You



9.10.07: Former Marine Sergeant Adam Kokesh, Iraq Veterans Against The War holds up a sign during testimony from Petraeus at a joint hearing of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees on the state of the war on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. (AFP/Tim Sloan)

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service

friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“We Will Not Stop The Resistance Till The Complete Liberation”



Basra: September 10, 2007. Iraqis took to the streets demanding the political bloc led by nationalist politician Moqtada al-Sadr to pull out from the government. The banner reads: "We will not stop the resistance till the complete liberation". REUTERS/Atef Hassan

Resistance Action

10 Sep 2007 Reuters & By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers

A car bomb targeting a police checkpoint killed two policemen, and wounded two policemen on Sunday night in the town of Saqlawiya, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

Thirteen Iraqi soldiers were wounded in a mortar attack on their checkpoint near Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Three policemen were killed in clashes with militants in eastern Mosul, police said.

Around 5 p.m., insurgents killed and then burned the body of the manager supervisor of finance in Basra city (north of the city near Basra gate).

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

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 mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
--Camille Desmoulins

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**September.11,.1973:
Shameful Anniversary**

Soldier Confirms General Killed, Imprisoned, And Tortured Thousands After Plotting To Overthrow Elected Government And Seize Power



Delivery.viewimages.com

BBC News & Wikipedia

A former army officer in Chile has said numerous executions took place in Santiago's national stadium in the aftermath of the 1973 military coup.

Former non-commissioned officer Roberto Saldias said on national television that he saw prisoners taken off for execution at the stadium when he was on guard duty.

"They took the law in their own hands," he said, adding he was prepared to provide the names of the executioners.

Captain General Augusto José Ramón Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody coup in 1973 and ruled for 17 years, was arrested in London in 1998 after a Spanish judge requested his extradition on murder charges.

In his memoirs, Pinochet affirmed that he was the leader of the coup, and used his position as Commander-in-chief of the Army to coordinate a far-reaching scheme with the other two branches of the military and the national police.

On September 11, 1973; a coup d'état deposed Socialist President Salvador Allende and established a military government.

Pinochet implemented a series of military operations in which (according to the Rettig Report) approximately 3,000 people are known to have been executed, 27,000 were incarcerated and in a great many cases tortured.

More than 1,000 are still unaccounted for.

MORE:

Louisiana Politicians Order Troops To Violate Their Oath To Serve: Traitors Order Out National Guard Against 20 Non-Violent, Sit-In Protestors

September 7, 2007 By Alden Eagle and Gimena Gordillo, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THE NATIONAL Guard on the streets of New Orleans. It's an image that recalls the pleas for help from flood victims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina two years ago.

But the Guard was in short supply then--since so many of its members had been deployed to Iraq. When they did arrive, their orders were to police the people battered by Katrina, not help them.

Two years after Katrina, the National Guard was blockading streets in New Orleans--but in response to protesters demanding that needed public housing in New Orleans be reopened.

On August 31, National Guard soldiers and New Orleans police sealed off the streets around the Gentilly offices of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO)--in response to a sit-in of 20 peaceful protesters.

"The police presence was excessive, and it was disproportionate considering the presence of peaceful folks who were in the building," said Rosana Cruz, co-director of the New Orleans group Safe Streets.

"When I arrived, I counted 14 vehicles and Humvees from the New Orleans Police Department and from military police. Then, a SWAT team arrived, and the police presence increased even more."

MORE:

***On Guard:* 1917: Russia:**

How Citizens And Soldiers Defeated A Would-Be Military Dictator: “Soldiers Had Not Been Told Why They Were Being Sent Towards Petrograd, And They Turned On Their Officers” “In One Division, The Troops Raised A Red Flag Inscribed ‘Land And Freedom’ And Arrested Their Officer”

September 7, 2007 By Jen Roesch, Socialist Worker

THE BOLSHEVIKS' popularity grew through late July and August. By its Sixth Congress that began July 26, the party claimed 240,000 members.

This popularity was fed by the growing sentiment that the second coalition government, led by Alexander Kerensky, wasn't prepared to defend the revolution against the right. Kerensky was viewed as too conciliatory to the generals and the capitalists. Many saw the soviets themselves as compromised and weak, as Kerensky took more power into his own hands.

Bolshevik resolutions began to be passed in the soviets. Peasant seizures of land increased.

Soldiers continued to desert in large numbers, and the militancy of Russia's factory workers grew.

These developments deeply worried both the liberals and conservatives among the capitalist class, the officers and the landowners. Many had hoped an alliance of the moderate parties could constrain and channel the revolution into the formation of a stable bourgeois government.

But these forces, too, were becoming impatient, and began to look to a military solution.

Their view was stated simply by Pavel Milyukov, the leader of the Kadets. He told his party's central committee, "We should no longer commit ourselves to the revolution. Quite the opposite: we need to prepare and accumulate the strength to fight it."

Kerensky found himself in a difficult position. He feared that attempts at repression would only draw the masses back into the streets and threaten to bring down the government. At the same time, he couldn't unite his government around a reform program that could blunt the anger of the workers, soldiers and peasants.

So he attempted a difficult balancing act. Kerensky found himself increasingly isolated. On one side stood the Bolsheviks, who increasingly spoke for the mass of workers and soldiers. On the other was the capitalists, officers and landowners, who were rapidly turning their back on his government.

THESE DYNAMICS were revealed with great clarity at the Moscow State Conference, held August 12-14, which Kerensky had called as a consultative body designed to rally support.

The Bolsheviks called for a general strike to protest the conference. Though narrowly opposed by the Moscow soviet, the strike was still enormously successful.

A member of the Bolsheviks' Moscow Committee recorded that "the strike came off magnificently. There were no lights, no tramcars; the factories and shops were closed, and the railroad yards and stations; even the waiters in the restaurants had gone on strike."

Miliukov confirmed: "The delegates coming to the Conference could not ride on the tramways, nor lunch in the restaurants."

As Leon Trotsky described: "In spite of the resolutions of the soviets...the masses followed the Bolsheviks. Four hundred thousand workers went on strike in Moscow and the suburbs upon the summons of a party which for five weeks had been under continual blows, and whose leaders were still in hiding or in prison."

Inside the conference, the forces of the right dominated. Gen. Kornilov emerged as the leading figure around which the right-wing forces were gathering.

Kerensky himself had appointed Kornilov commander of the armed forces in early July.

Kornilov had attracted the attention of the right when he re-imposed the death penalty in the army. He also sought to extend harsh measures away from the front lines, calling for martial law in the factories, railways and the mines.

Kornilov was rightly seen by the masses as the face of counter-revolution.

Kerensky had embraced Kornilov's strict measures within the military, but shied away from a full assault on the soviets, which is what Kornilov's program would have amounted to.

Kerensky departed the conference isolated and dejected. As a result, he moved away from the road of the middle ground. On August 17, he gave the order for Kornilov's demands to be implemented.

This set the stage for a confrontation between the forces of the revolution and those of the counter-revolution.

Kornilov began to station his forces on the road to the capital of Petrograd, with Kerensky's approval.

At the last moment, however, Kerensky belatedly realized that Kornilov's victory would mean not only the defeat of the Bolsheviks, but also of his own government.

On August 27, he issued a proclamation announcing that Kornilov was moving against Petrograd with the aim of establishing a dictatorship. He demanded that Kornilov immediately resign his post.

He then shut himself behind closed doors with advisors and demanded power to form an all-powerful six-man directory.

AMONG THE masses, a different process was unfolding: the practical defense of Petrograd through a popular mobilization.

On August 27, the soviet executive committee met all night. It discussed two questions: what position to take on Kerensky's government given his obvious collusion with Kornilov and the defense of Petrograd.

The executive committee formed a military defense body, the Committee for Struggle against the Counter-Revolution.

Whether or not the Bolsheviks would form an alliance with the parties that had persecuted and jailed them was a decisive question. The Menshevik Sukhanov explained:

"The committee, making defense preparations, had to mobilize the worker-soldier masses.

"But the masses, insofar as they were organized, were organized by the Bolsheviks and followed them. At that time, theirs was the only organization that was large, welded together by an elementary discipline, and linked with the democratic lowest levels of the capital. Without it, the committee was impotent.

"Without the Bolsheviks, it could only have passed the time with appeals and idle speeches by orators who had lost their authority.

"With the Bolsheviks, the committee had at its disposal the full power of the organized workers and soldiers."

In a letter written while in hiding, Lenin advised the Bolsheviks: "We shall fight, we are fighting against Kornilov, just as Kerensky's troops do, but we do not support Kerensky. On the contrary, we expose his weakness. There is the difference...the war against Kornilov must be conducted in a revolutionary way, by drawing the masses in."

However sharp and clear these guidelines, the fact is that they arrived after the crisis had passed. In the intervening days, the Bolsheviks and the working-class of Petrograd had thrown themselves into the struggle.

With the official government paralyzed, the Committee for Struggle became the command center for the defense of Petrograd.

To this was joined an extraordinary mobilization of the masses from below. Ad-hoc revolutionary committees sprang up everywhere. Between August 27 and 30, more than 240 were created across Russia. Local organizations led the fight in every arena.

The Bolsheviks demanded the arming of the workers and formed workers' militias. Lines of workers signed up to become "Red Guards," and the Bolshevik Military Organization took the lead in their training and deployment. Unarmed workers dug trenches, erected barbed wire fencing around the approaches to the city and built barricades.

At the Putilov works, workers labored through the night to finish construction of weapons that were then sent to the field without testing. Metal workers accompanied the weapons to the field and adjusted them on the spot.

The railway and telegraph workers played a particularly decisive role. Trotsky writes:

"The railroad workers in those days did their duty. In a mysterious way, echelons would find themselves moving on the wrong roads. Regiments would arrive in the wrong division, artillery would be sent up a blind alley, staffs would get out of communication with their units... The telegraphers also held up the orders of Kornilov. Information unfavorable to the Kornilovists was immediately multiplied, distributed, pasted up, passed from mouth to mouth."

As Trotsky commented, "The generals had been accustomed during the years of war to think of transport and communications as technical questions. They found out now that these were political questions."

Teams of agitators were sent out to argue with Kornilov's troops. Many of the soldiers had not been told why they were being sent towards Petrograd, and they turned on their officers.

In one division, the troops raised a red flag inscribed "Land and Freedom" and arrested their officer.

WITHIN FOUR days, the Kornilov plot had collapsed.

His forces disintegrated as the workers and soldiers again took the center stage of revolution.

Trotsky explained the astonishing collapse of the coup:

“Their number seemed enormous to judge by telegrams, speeches of greeting, newspaper articles. But strange to say, now when the hour had come to reveal themselves, they had disappeared.

“In many cases, the cause did not lie in personal cowardice. There were plenty of brave men among the Kornilov officers. But their bravery could find no point of application.

“From the moment the masses got into motion, the solitary individual had no access to events. Not only the weighty industrialists, bankers, professors, engineers, but also students and even fighting officers, found themselves pushed away, thrown aside, elbowed out. They watched the events developing before them as though from a balcony.”

The historian Alexander Rabinowitch described the defense of Petrograd against Kornilov as a spontaneous mass upheaval, “It would be difficult to find, in recent history, a more powerful, effective display of largely spontaneous and unified mass political action,” he wrote.

Trotsky, too, describes the moment as one in which the mass, democratic character of the revolution was regenerated:

“The lower soviet organizations in their turn did not await any summons from above. The principal effort was concentrated in the workers’ districts.

“During the hours of greatest vacillation in the government, and of wearisome negotiations between the executive committee and Kerensky, the district soviets were drawing more closely together and passing resolutions: to declare the inter-district conferences continuous; to place their representatives in the staff organized by the executive committee; to form a workers’ militia; to establish the control of the district soviets over the government commissars; to organize flying brigades for the detention of counter-revolutionary agitators.

“In the total, these resolutions meant an appropriation not only of very considerable governmental functions, but also of the functions of the Petrograd soviet. The logic of the situation compelled the soviet institutions to draw in their skirts and make room for the lower ranks. The entrance of the Petrograd districts into the arena of the struggle instantly changed both its scope and its direction.

Again, the inexhaustible vitality of the soviet form of organization was revealed. Although paralyzed above by the leadership of the compromisers, the soviets were reborn again from below at the critical moment, under pressure from the masses.”

But within this “spontaneous” uprising, it was revealed that the Bolshevik organizers were prepared to take the initiative to defend the revolution.

As working-class leaders, they played a key role in uniting workers and soldiers in the defense of the city.

Trotsky records that “everywhere, committees for revolutionary defense were organized, into which the Bolsheviks entered only as a minority. This did not

hinder the Bolsheviks from assuming the leading role... They smashed down the barriers blocking them from the Menshevik workers and especially from the Socialist Revolutionary soldiers, and carried them along in their wake."

When a group of sailors visited Trotsky and other imprisoned revolutionaries, they asked if it was not time to arrest Kerensky. "No, not yet," was the answer. "Use Kerensky as a gun-rest to shoot Kornilov. Afterward, we will settle with Kerensky."

With the defeat of Kornilov, a radicalized and mobilized working class confronted the question of the direction and aims of the revolution. Throughout the crisis, the Bolsheviks had never stopped pointing out that it was Kerensky who had paved the way for Kornilov.

Many workers and soldiers saw with their own eyes that it was the Bolsheviks who had most resolutely and energetically defended the city.

On September 1, the day when Kornilov was arrested, the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies adopted a resolution calling for a transfer of power to the revolutionary proletariat and peasants, and the proclamation of a democratic republic.

The stage was set for the next and final stage of the revolution.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

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



An Iraqi child kneels down before foreign occupation soldiers from the US as they search his home during a night operation at Zafraniya neighborhood in Baghdad September 8, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

Iraqi citizens are routinely forced at gunpoint to kneel down before foreign occupation troops during middle of the night armed home invasions

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

“Nearly A Year After They Won Control Of Congress The Democrats Not Only Haven’t Stopped The War In Iraq--They Haven’t Done A Single Thing To Stop Bush From Escalating It”

September 7, 2007 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

GEORGE BUSH'S free-falling popularity rating plummeted past the 30 percent mark this summer. The U.S. war on Iraq--the central political issue of the Bush years--is opposed by 75 percent of the population. Only one in five people think the U.S. is headed "in the right direction."

Nearly a year after they won control of Congress from Republicans in the November elections, the Democrats not only haven't stopped the war in Iraq--they haven't done a single thing to stop Bush from escalating it.

The administration is so confident that it arranged for Bush to make a photo-op visit to Anbar province in Iraq in advance of Gen. David Petraeus' report to Congress on the "success" of the troop surge.

Meanwhile, leading Democrats kept up the bickering among themselves--while simultaneously calling for "withdrawal"--about how they would continue Bush's occupation under a different guise.

But you'd be hard-pressed to learn anything about the grim reality in Iraq from the Democratic "opposition"--and that's a source of immense frustration for large numbers of people.

The same polls that show public disgust with the administration indicate that Congress' approval rating has fallen even faster than Bush's, to the lowest point since figures were available, in the last Gallup poll.

AT THE same time, the national antiwar movement has failed to build on the momentum from last November's election and mobilizations earlier this year.

Either the antiwar movement holds the politicians who claim to stand for its interests accountable--or it is tailoring its politics and actions to *their* needs, not to the goal of ending the war.

Clearly, the 2008 election--and the hope that "regime change" in Washington is finally coming into view--has started exerting an influence on liberals in general and on the activist opposition to the Bush administration.

But it's a long time until January 20, 2009.

One thing that the Democrats' record on Iraq has proven is that there's no shortcut to ending the war, by hoping that mainstream politicians will take action.

We have to organize the kind of pressure at the grassroots--inside the military, in the streets, on campuses and communities--that leaves the politicians of either party no choice.

"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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

"An Economic Expansion That Looks Good If Not Great By The Usual

Measures, But Which Has Passed Most Americans By”

September 10, 2007 By PAUL KRUGMAN, NY Times [Excerpts]

Corporate profits rose 72 percent from the second quarter of 2003 to the second quarter of 2007.

The real income of the richest 0.1 percent of Americans surged by 51 percent between 2003 and 2005, and although we don't yet have the data for 2006, everything we know suggests that the income of the rich took another upward leap.

The absence of any gains for workers in the years since the 2003 tax cut is a pretty convincing refutation of trickle-down theory.

As far as I can tell, America has never before experienced a disconnect between overall economic performance and the fortunes of workers as complete as that of the last four years.

What we've had since 2003, however, is an economic expansion that looks good if not great by the usual measures, but which has passed most Americans by.

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

resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

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

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