

## GI SPECIAL 516:



[Thanks to Z and NB, who sent this in. NB writes: Oh la la! Bush parle francais!]

**“You Don’t Exactly Feel  
Like You’re Liberating  
Anyone”**

**“When You Kick Open An Iraqi’s  
Door In The Middle Of The Night  
“The Last Word That Goes  
Through Your Head Is Hero”**

# “Hero Isn’t As Accurate As State-Sponsored Terrorist”

August 29, 2007 By Sarah Olson, In These Times [Excerpts]

Justin Thompson, 23, proposed to Erin underneath the Eiffel Tower last February. The photos of the two on her MySpace page have the hallmarks of a young couple in love. Thompson can’t wait to get back to Lacey, Wash., to get married, and go to college.

There’s one problem: Thompson is in Baghdad, serving his second deployment as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, and he is losing hope that he’ll ever be allowed to leave.

Sgt. Thompson, assigned to the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the Second Infantry Division, was first deployed to Iraq in November 2003. When his unit returned to the United States one year later, he immediately started hearing rumors of redeployment and stop-loss--the military’s age-old policy that compels soldiers to continue serving during wartime, even after their contract expires.

Four months later, the rumors were confirmed and Thompson was stop-lossed. Despite exhibiting signs of combat-related depression--uncontrolled anger and heavy drinking, for which he was repeatedly disciplined--Thompson redeployed to Iraq on June 28, 2006, exactly one day after his contract with the Army expired.

This April, while stationed in Baghdad, Thompson received another surprise. This second, involuntary tour would be extended by three months, as part of the Pentagon’s new policy that the Army’s standard tour of duty would be extended from 12 to 15 months.

The news was devastating.

**“I felt that I’d given everything I had to give,” Thompson says. “I felt that I’d pushed myself to the brink of insanity and back and that still wasn’t enough. I fought in a war I didn’t agree with, but I’d taken an oath saying that I would serve, so I did. I felt used up.”**

As an infantryman, Thompson says he’s deeply troubled by what he’s seen during his tours of duty in Iraq.

Consequently, he has become outspoken in his opposition to the Iraq War, despite still being on active duty.

**“When you kick open an Iraqi’s door in the middle of the night, wake up a family, watch the children cry and listen to the women scream, the last word that goes through your head is hero,” he says.**

**“When you arrest the family’s father because he’s a suspected IED maker, who you know is most likely innocent, and hand him to the Iraqi Army who will beat a confession out of him, hero isn’t as accurate as state-sponsored terrorist.**

**“When the streets are flooded as far as you can see with protesters demanding that the United States end its operations in Iraq, you don’t exactly feel like you’re liberating anyone.”**

Thompson says he understands what has allowed him to survive in combat. “I recognized that in order to cope with what I had to do--in order to cope with killing--I had to make my heart cold. I had to dehumanize Iraqis in order to justify killing them. Even though I’d become aware of this behavior, I couldn’t let go of it. I had to become something I wasn’t in order to save my sanity.”

As for Thompson, he’s still in Baghdad, trying to make sense of what he’s been asked to do.

He doesn’t see the U.S. military presence achieving its goals, especially when it comes to the business of “winning hearts and minds” that the Pentagon’s always talking about. For that, you need cultural exchange and interaction--something a military occupation makes impossible.

“So much is lost when you hold a gun,” Thompson says. “You can’t just go to the bakery downtown and get some flat bread. You go to the bakery in a flak vest and helmet, with your M4 accompanied by vehicles and aerial support.”

**Thompson says everyone he’s talked to feels the painful impact of the extensions.**

**“Imagine having every facet of your life dictated to you--when to wake up, what to wear, where you’re going. It’s never something you liked, but you do it because you made a commitment.**

**Then you find out you have to stick around for another year. Soon, that year becomes 15 months.**

**“And even when the media does talk about ‘the troops,’ no one ever discusses what soldiers live with every day. We are in a country where our friends are going to die, and we may or may not make it back to get married and go to college.”**

**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 WAR REPORTS**

## Kentucky Staff Sgt. Killed In Baghdad



Kentucky Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Delmar White, a resident of Lexington, Ky, was killed on Sept. 2, 2007, by an improvised explosive device while on a convoy escort mission in Baghdad, Iraq. White, 37, was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, based in Carlisle, Ky. (AP Photo/Kentucky Army National Guard)

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## U.S. Soldier Killed During Combat Logistics Patrol Near Baghdad, Three Wounded

September 3, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070903-05

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier was killed and three others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their combat logistics patrol yesterday morning near Baghdad.

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

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## Slain Soldier Loved Service, Mom Says

08/28/07 By BEN SMITH, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Before a homemade bomb claimed the life of Pfc. Edgar Cardenas in Iraq last week, the Lilburn man had been trying to clear the way for his Mexican wife and their son to emigrate to the United States.

Now his widow, Elsa, is taking his body to her hometown of Linares, where the two met and married 10 years ago, Cardenas' mother said.

"I'm soon to retire. I may be going home too," said his mother, Guadalupe Garcia, who lives in Lilburn.

His grandparents were born in Linares, a town in northern Mexico.

Cardenas died Wednesday "of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device," according to a statement released by the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas.

Garcia said her son had been scheduled to end his Iraq tour in October, but it was extended to February.

"I am very proud of him," said Garcia, who last saw her son in June. "At least I had the pleasure of seeing him one more time."

Garcia said her son was "very intelligent," and was passionate about martial arts and soccer, which he played in high school in his native Chicago. She said he loved to be serving his country in Iraq.

"I don't know why he was happy over there. But he was happy," Garcia said.

Garcia said she wasn't always happy with her son's decision to enlist. "At first I was very upset," said Garcia. "But his mind was already made up. 'I have to serve the United States,' he said."

From 1999 to 2005, Cardenas worked in the circulation department of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Cardenas began his military career in June 2005 as a Cavalry Scout.

In November that year, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

While stationed there, Garcia said, Cardenas traveled "almost every week" to visit his wife and 7-year-old son, Bryan.

Bryan Cardenas, Garcia said, was born on Sept. 11, 1999, exactly two years before the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

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## **Welcome To The Amel Alamo; Have A Nice Day**

Sept. 10, 2007 By Babak Dehghanpisheh and Larry Kaplow, Newsweek [Excerpts]

The Americans increased their presence in the [Amel] neighborhood in March, when they set up Combat Outpost Attack in a large local sports club.

COP Attack is surrounded by rings of blast barriers.

Troops are shot at regularly when they leave, so there are no frivolous supply runs or token patrols to show the flag — only targeted daily missions like raids to detain suspects or meetings with informants.

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## **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME**



U.S. soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry regiment, 3d Brigade combat team of 82nd Airborne Division rest at their combat outpost near the city of Baqouba, 60 kilometers northeast of Baghdad on Aug. 27, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

2 September 2007 AfghanNews.net & Sept 3 (KUNA) & Sep 4, 2007 By ASSOCIATED PRESS & (Reuters)

Seven Afghan soldiers have been killed and five more wounded when a landmine ripped through their vehicle in eastern Afghanistan late on Sunday.

Officials said the soldiers were part of a force comprising locals and assisting the US-led coalition troops in the remote province of Kunar. Kunar Governor Didar Shalizai told KUNA the soldiers were on a routine patrol when the landmine exploded in Mar Wara district of the province.

The injured were rushed to hospital out of which three were in critical condition, said a senior security official on condition anonymity.

A bombing killed three Afghan army soldiers on Saturday in Kandahar province, a hotbed of Taliban activity over the past two years, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The soldiers were on patrol in the Zhari district when they were killed, it said. Two other soldiers were injured.

Monday, a joint US-led coalition patrol came under suspected Taliban attack in southern Kandahar province.

Officers in Kunduz had been trailing a suspicious vehicle before they challenged the driver as he neared the town's bus station, deputy police chief Mohammed Omar Khail said. As they opened the doors, he detonated his explosives, killing two officers and wounding five others, he said.

The target of one bomber was a provincial official traveling in a vehicle in the southeastern province of Paktika, a bastion of Taliban guerrillas near the border with Pakistan. The official survived, but one of his police bodyguards was killed and two were wounded, a provincial official said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**General Betrayus Gets His Lies  
Ready, Again:  
“Six Weeks Before The 2004  
Presidential Election, Petraeus  
Claimed - Wrongly, Of Course - That  
There Had Been ‘Tangible Progress’  
In Iraq”**

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

September 3, 2007 By PAUL KRUGMAN, New York Times [Excerpts]

Until recently I assumed that the failure to find W.M.D., followed by years of false claims of progress in Iraq, would make a repeat of the snow job that sold the war impossible. But I was wrong.

The administration, this time relying on Gen. David Petraeus to play the Colin Powell role, has had remarkable success creating the perception that the “surge” is succeeding, even though there’s not a shred of verifiable evidence to suggest that it is.

Thus Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution - the author of “The Threatening Storm: The Case for Invading Iraq” - and his colleague Michael O’Hanlon, another longtime war booster, returned from a Pentagon-guided tour of Iraq and declared that the surge was working.

They received enormous media coverage; most of that coverage accepted their ludicrous self-description as critics of the war who have been convinced by new evidence.

A third participant in the same tour, Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, reported that unlike his traveling companions, he saw little change in the Iraq situation and “did not see success for the strategy that President Bush announced in January.”

But neither his dissent nor a courageous rebuttal of Mr. O’Hanlon and Mr. Pollack by seven soldiers actually serving in Iraq, published in The New York Times, received much media attention.

**Meanwhile, many news organizations have come out with misleading reports suggesting a sharp drop in U.S. casualties.**

**The reality is that this year, as in previous years, there have been month-to-month fluctuations that tell us little: for example, July 2006 was a low-casualty month, with only 43 U.S. military fatalities, but it was also a month in which the Iraqi situation continued to deteriorate.**

**And so far, every month of 2007 has seen more U.S. military fatalities than the same month in 2006.**

**What about civilian casualties? The Pentagon says they’re down, but it has neither released its numbers nor explained how they’re calculated.**

**Above all, we should remember that the whole point of the surge was to create space for political progress in Iraq. And neither that leaked G.A.O. report nor the recent National Intelligence Estimate found any political progress worth mentioning.**

[T]he Iraqi government, according to yet another leaked U.S. government report, is completely riddled with corruption.



But, say the usual suspects, General Petraeus is a fine, upstanding officer who wouldn't participate in a campaign of deception - apparently forgetting that they said the same thing about Mr. Powell.

First of all, General Petraeus is now identified with the surge; if it fails, he fails.

He has every incentive to find a way to keep it going, in the hope that somehow he can pull off something he can call success.

**And General Petraeus's history also suggests that he is much more of a political, and indeed partisan, animal than his press would have you believe.**

**In particular, six weeks before the 2004 presidential election, General Petraeus published an op-ed article in The Washington Post in which he claimed - wrongly, of course - that there had been "tangible progress" in Iraq, and that "momentum has gathered in recent months."**

Is it normal for serving military officers to publish articles just before an election that clearly help an incumbent's campaign? I don't think so.

So here we go again. It appears that many influential people in this country have learned nothing from the last five years. And those who cannot learn from history are, indeed, doomed to repeat it.

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Princess Samuels during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery Aug. 31, 2007. Samuels, 22, of Mitchellville, Md. was killed earlier this month in Taji, Iraq from indirect enemy fire. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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## **NOT ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A ceremony at Sheridan Gym, Ft. Lewis, Wash., Sept. 4, 2007. The soldiers are the first of 3,800 soldiers in the Three-Two Stryker brigade (3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division) who are returning this month. They have been deployed in Baghdad and Mosul, in northern Iraq. (AP Photo/The News Tribune/Dean J. Koepfler)

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## ***Traitors 'R Us:* Bush And Pentagon Join Hands To Fight More R&R And Home Dwell Time For Exhausted Combat Troops**

August 29, 2007 By Sarah Olson, In These Times [Excerpts]

In July, Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) introduced legislation specifying that active-duty soldiers receive at least the same length of time at home as their deployment in combat.

Although this modest measure received 56 votes, that was still four shy of overcoming a Republican filibuster.

On August 2, the House passed a similar measure, which included a provision allowing the president to disregard the new required rest time if deployment is necessary “to meet a threat to the national security interests of the United States.”

**President Bush has threatened to veto the bill, and the House’s 229 to 194 vote margin lacks the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto.**

Upon passage of the August 2 measure, the White House issued a statement saying the bill would “impose inappropriate, operationally unsound and arbitrary constraints on how the Department of Defense should prepare units to deploy.”

**But the failure to redress troops’ mental health concerns hasn’t been solely the fault of politicians.**

**After finding that only 5 percent of soldiers in Iraq take any rest and relaxation, the Army’s May MHAT study recommended that troops in high intensity combat receive one month of in-theater R&R for every three months of combat.**

The report says it has “long been recognized that mental health breakdowns occur after prolonged combat exposure,” and that the conditions under which today’s soldiers are fighting constitute an undue burden. “A considerable number of soldiers and Marines are conducting combat operations every day of the week, 10-12 hours per day, for months on end.”

**Shortly after the MHAT study’s release, however, Pentagon officials quickly rejected its recommendations as unworkable.**

## **THIS IS THE ENEMY; BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

03 Sep 2007 Reuters & (Xinhua) & 09/04/07 Reuters

Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed an Iraqi army major and four of his soldiers in Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Three policemen were wounded on Monday when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Kirkuk, police said.

A car bomb attacked an Iraqi security checkpoint before midday on highway in the al-Jazira near the city of Ramadi in the western province of Anbar on Monday, killing two security members and wounding six others, a provincial police source said.

A joint security force from Iraqi police and tribesmen were manning the checkpoint, the source said.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas killed two Iraqi soldiers and wounded eight on Sunday when they attacked their checkpoint in the town of Taji, 20 km (9 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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### **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**On Guard:  
Blackwater, Police Repression And  
Fascism**

**This government wants us to spin out as many scary fantasies as possible, because it serves the dual purpose of either portraying opponents of the military as “conspiracy nuts” or promoting precisely the myth of spooky invincibility that keeps us in line. STAN GOFF, CounterPunch, August 9, 2007**

**Comment: T**

Recently an article was circulating about Blackwater buying aircraft to use in mercenary operations.

The article reported “Our friends at Blackwater Security are creating their own air force. The company which provides “security solutions” by contract to the United States in Iraq (and is building bases in every coastal state in the US), already has a fleet of armed helicopters which it uses in Iraq. The first of the planes that Blackwater is buying, the Embraer Super Tucano light combat prop jets, will be shipped to the US so that Blackwater may begin training pilots shortly.”

The article circulated with comment by some that this proved the U.S. was either about to be or is now ruled by a “fascist” government.

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**Concerning Blackwater And Other Mercenary Corporations**

The tension between a tendency to enhance the role of the state, in which the state bureaucracy, including the military, has a profound interest, and the tendency of some theorists of private capital to diminish the role of the state, is neither new nor decisive.

The government contracts awarded Blackwater and similar corporations are part of the material expression of the theory of privatization of military action.

The present political leadership has pushed privatization to an extreme and shown its bankruptcy by doing so. The disaster in Iraq has discredited them.

The more intelligent representatives of large capital understand that perfectly well.

That’s why they have shifted to the Democratic Party, putting their money with that party for now.

The fake left, playing their accustomed role as apologists for the Empire, will once again support the Imperial Democrats in the next election. As they have done in every election for the past twenty years, many will argue that it is necessary to elect Democrats to stop “Fascism,” which they attribute only to the Republican Party.

We may expect an increasingly tendency towards Democratic Party operatives pushing this line over the next year. They would prefer we forget that some of the most brutal, violent repression of organized opposition to Imperial wars has been implemented by the Democratic Party when in power.

How odd that nobody yells “fascist” at Clinton, Obama, or the rest of the Democratic Party scum who refuse to end the war in Iraq, who have no objection to the repressive legislation and administrative orders of the Bush administration, and who do not object to the mercenary business, but instead call for it to be more honest and responsible.

If that is doubted, kindly provide a list of serious contenders for the Democratic Party presidential nomination who demand the removal of all government contracts given to the various mercenary providers like Blackwater at home and in Iraq.

And there’s nothing new about such corporations operating in the USA. The Pinkerton’s, who furnished thousands of armed men on call to break strikes and kill strikers in their day, make Backwater’s U.S. operations today look like the Red Cross.

*“7-30-1996, WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Clinton urged Congress Tuesday to act swiftly in developing anti-terrorism legislation before its August recess.*

*“We need to keep this country together right now. We need to focus on this terrorism issue,” Clinton said during a White House news conference.”*

When his legislation passed, it added countless acts to the list of those for which the punishment was death by government execution.

He was very angry that Congress did not give him all the power he asked for to institute surveillance of citizen’s communications, cell phones in particular.

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### **Fascism Vs. Customary Bloody Repression**

Bloody police repression is a common feature of every capitalist society in crisis, always has been, and has nothing whatever to do with whether that society is ruled by a fascist government or not.

Were some U.S. general like Odierno to seize power in a coup and attempt to slaughter 10,000 Americans in the name of maintaining “our way of life,” the general would not therefore be a “fascist’.” He would be a representative of the American ruling class doing his job when that class perceives social unrest they believe threatens their power.

Many people have illusions about the most important purpose the state and its police apparatus serve in capitalist society: repression of the overwhelming working class majority on behalf of the minute minority who control and exercise power in order to preserve their wealth.

Therefore, people who have the illusion that this is a “democratic” society think that harsh, bloody police repression means a society has a fascist government in place.

Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, and Salazar presided over fascist governments.

Woodrow Wilson, Lyndon B. Johnson, & Richard Nixon, all of whom engaged in massive, sometimes murderous police repression of anti-war activists, and radical organizations, did not preside over fascist governments.

Fascist governments abolish all unions, all political parties except one, all organizations critical of the government, all publications critical of the government, outlaw all meetings critical of the government, and before coming to power build fascist mass movements that practice violence in the streets as part of their drive to achieve power.

When in power, they build up the state apparatus, and place it in control of private industry.

If a fascist government were in power now, government agents would command and control all U.S. major businesses; government officials would sit in all the major banks dictating financial policy, etc. etc.

If a fascist government were in power now, those writing articles about how “fascists” rule in DC would be dead in a ditch with a bullet in the head, or in prison.

Fake left organizations, the U.S. Communist Party for instance, howl about how fascists are just about to take power in order to justify their despicable support, election after election, for the Imperial Democrats because, you see, it is necessary to “stop fascism” by voting for Democrats.

Fascism is ascribed to the Republican Party, but never, ever to the Democratic Party. Oh no, not those good Democrats. They may be neck deep in blood, but they’re not fascists!

That is true enough.

The Democratic Party is not a fascist party. And neither is the Republican Party, although there are plenty of Democratic Party activists who hope you’ll buy that bullshit.

There are indeed fascist organizational groups in the USA today, including on the internet.

Sampling the various views presented is instructive.

Those who send in material hate the Bush regime, which they accuse of plotting to implement world government and abolish the border with Mexico to flood the USA with sub-human Mexicans as part of their devious plot; condemn economic crisis as originating on Wall St. (Jews); and constantly lament the oppression of the working class in America, which will be helped, they say, by the immediate forced deportation of all illegal immigrants.

Many bitterly condemn the war in Iraq as part of the secret world government plot.

Most also bitterly attack the government for violating the Bill of Rights. They condemn spying, the Department Of Homeland Security, and the police and intelligence agencies of the government because, of course, these are used against them, the fascists.

They know that those who now control the government regard them with suspicion as low-grade possible potential competitors for power, and do indeed spy on them.

Whatever fantasies others may have, they also know very well they are not in power.

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### **The Myth Of The Stupid Germans**

Some of the comments circulating on various internet web sites about how fascism has come to America reference the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, accusing the Germans of being “asleep” and/or too blind and stupid to notice, or care, as fascism crept up on them.

As for the Germans, tens of millions opposed the Nazi Party, and did so long before it took power. Nothing snuck up on them. They were not stupid or asleep. Many courageously fought and died fighting Hitler’s rise to power. Honor and respect to their memory. With tens of thousands of violent Nazi Party thugs marching in the streets, people knew perfectly well what was going on.

The problem was that the German political leaders opposed to fascism insisted on electoral politics and making demands on politicians as the way to stop Hitler’s movement. [If those German politicians of the 1920’s and ‘30s were with us today, they would have us peacefully marching around the Mall in DC, lobbying Congress, and voting for Democrats.]

While those German politicians were disgusting millions of unemployed, desperate Germans with their stupid, useless ineffective bullshit, the Nazi party boldly proclaimed that the electoral system and the politicians served the rich and powerful, and called for the overthrow of the existing government as the only possible way out of the economic and social crises wracking Germany.

That’s why fascism, to the extent it gains significant support in time of economic crisis, is so dangerous.

Precisely because it is appears radical, not conservative, neo or otherwise.

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### **Police Repression Of Opponents Of Imperial War**

Police repression of opponents of Imperial war is worse today than at any time in the past 100 years, except for the police repression during the following predatory Imperial wars:

The Vietnam War  
The Korean War  
World War II  
World War I

Examination of why repression has become ever weaker and less effective over time may be useful, and encouraging. Never before has an Imperial U.S. regime at war been weaker and less effective than the Bush regime is now. Duh.



Instead of wildly exaggerating the power of the enemy, a fatal mistake of cowardly leadership in warfare, understanding why the enemy is weak at a given point in time is useful for planning strategy and tactics.

Propaganda exaggerating the strength of the enemy gives aid and comfort to the enemy by demoralizing those fighting back.

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### **The Boy Who Cried Wolf**

By Aesop, 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC

There once was a shepherd boy who sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. Late at night he saw movement in the shadows, became terrified, and he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy became frightened again and cried out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" He watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said, "Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!"

The boy watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

Later, he saw a real pack of wolves coming towards him. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"

But the villagers thought he was crying "Wolf" again when the wolves were not attacking, and so they didn't come.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found a few scraps of his body.

[The point is that raving about "fascism" where none exists merely disorients people, and should the real thing come along.....]

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### **On Guard: Bridging The Gap**

Is there a possibility that at some point the politicians and generals may move to establish a military dictatorship in the USA?

Yes.

That possibility is always present in any society owned and operated by a tiny wealthy and powerful minority.

They permit limited democratic rights as long as they control the electoral and other governmental systems and do not believe their class position threatened.

When they feel threatened by growing mass movements from below, they are capable of anything, including attempts to extinguish all democratic rights and engaging in mass murder.

The most effective defense against possible dictatorship is put in place by bridging the gap between civilians and members of the armed forces who perceive the threat, and organize together to insure that if this or that general orders the armed forces to act against American citizens, the troops will turn their weapons on the commanding officers issuing such orders and take them down hard.

It is necessary to be organized and on guard.

Now, not when it is too late.

**MORE:**

## ***September 5, 1917:*** ***The Palmer Raids Begin*** **16,000 ARRESTED IN CAMPAIGN** **AGAINST RADICALS AND LEFT-** **WING ORGANIZATIONS**



Arrested for "obstructing World War I: "Big Bill" Haywood

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

**In 48 coordinated raids across the country, later known as the Palmer Raids, federal agents seized records, destroyed equipment and books, and arrested hundreds of activists involved with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known fondly as the Wobblies.**

**Among the arrested was William D. “Big Bill” Haywood, a leader of the IWW, for the “crimes of labor” and “obstructing World War I.”**

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Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

In 1919 Woodrow Wilson appointed A. Mitchell Palmer as his attorney general.

Worried by the revolution that had taken place in Russia, Palmer became convinced that Communist agents were planning to overthrow the American government. His view was reinforced by the discovery of thirty-eight bombs sent to leading politicians and the Italian anarchist who blew himself up outside Palmer’s Washington home.

**Palmer recruited John Edgar Hoover as his special assistant and together they used the Espionage Act (1917) and the Sedition Act (1918) to launch a campaign against radicals and left-wing organizations.**

A. Mitchell Palmer claimed that Communist agents from Russia were planning to overthrow the American government.

**On 7th November, 1919, the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested.**

**Palmer and Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects were held without trial for a long time.**

The vast majority were eventually released but Emma Goldman and 247 other people, were deported to Russia.

**On 2nd January, 1920, another 6,000 were arrested and held without trial.**

These raids took place in several cities and became known as the Palmer Raids.

**A. Mitchell Palmer and John Edgar Hoover found no evidence of a proposed revolution but large number of these suspects, many of them members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), continued to be held without trial.**

When Palmer announced that the communist revolution was likely to take place on 1st May, mass panic took place. In New York, five elected Socialists were expelled from the legislature.

When the May revolution failed to materialize, attitudes towards Palmer began to change and he was criticised for disregarding people's basic civil liberties.

Some of his opponents claimed that Palmer had devised this Red Scare to help him become the Democratic presidential candidate in 1920.

**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.**

**Vietnam Combat Photographer:  
“Wars Are Always Fought By The Young  
With No Power On Behalf Of The Old  
Who Have Something They Want To  
Keep Or Get Something They Don't  
Have”**



By Joseph Carey, The Daily Gullet. Joseph Carey, aka ChefCarey, is the author of Creole Nouvelle: Contemporary Creole Cookery and Chef on Fire: The Five Techniques for Using Heat Like a Pro. He cooks, teaches and writes in Memphis, Tennessee.

**[He also served on the Editorial Board of Vietnam GI. For obvious reasons, he wasn't credited publicly for the photos he sent in. One of them follows this article. T]**

Though my presence in Vietnam was apparently essential to the military, they weren't quite sure why. There was no job for me.

Finally -- I had witnessed hundreds of soldiers passing through on the way to a job somewhere -- I received orders to report to the post exchange (the PX), where they gave me a job ordering stuff: just about everything you'd see in a supermarket or drugstore.

**I hated the place, and my sergeant, a real starched-brain dickhead, hated me.**

One day I came in to find my Vietnamese assistant crying. She had serious scarring on her face from napalm; I think she must have been given the job as a token reparation.

She said her brother, an ARVN, had been wounded and was in hospital on the base. I said "Let's go!" My sergeant wasn't there, so I told the folks in the office I was taking her to the hospital. We hopped in a Jeep and were off.

My sergeant was all over my ass when I got back. I'd taken a vehicle without authorization. I'd gone AWOL. I was in big trouble. He was going to court martial me, blah, blah, and blah -- not exactly a love fest.

That was it for me.

**In case you haven't figured it out -- I had -- sergeants run the army.**

**In the end, it doesn't matter what any officer decrees, the sergeants make it work. They'll nod and say "Yes, Sir" and then go do whatever the hell they think should be done to obtain the desired result.**

**If it works out, the officer gets the credit and a promotion. If not, the NCO's ass is in a sling. Usually, of course, it works.**

I marched myself over to the division information office -- just about the only thing I had to do in the transient company had been to read the division newspaper, The Tropic Lightning News -- and found the sergeant in charge, a kind of managing editor. I told him that my talents were wasted at the PX and that I wanted to be an Information Specialist.

They had a job opening, and he asked me about my educational history. He liked what he heard, but warned me that I would have to take photos as well as write. Did I have any experience in that arena? "Sure," I lied.

He gave me a Nikon and told me to take a couple of days to take photographs around the base camp, then bring the film back to be developed. So I did. He must have liked what he saw, because a couple of days later, I received orders for reassignment to the 25th Infantry Division Administration Company. Report to the Information Office. Whew.

One of the guys took me over to the hooch that would be my home for the next nine months or so. While he showed me my cot, I noticed that my corner of the building -- actually, it was a screened-in tent with a wooden frame and a plywood floor -- was newer than the rest of the hooch.

I asked about it as I was unpacking my gear. It seems that a mortar round had hit that corner and there had been "casualties."

So that's why there were job openings.

I got into the job, and actually enjoyed most of it, becoming fairly proficient with the cameras. I wrote a few stories; learned my way around. Once I got my boots wet and got my war legs, I was fairly autonomous. I would tell them where I was headed -- I could always flash my press card and get transportation, usually by helicopter -- and be off.

As long as I returned with photos and stories, they left me alone.

In typical subtle military soft-sell jargon, there is just one thing missing from the Army's official, peacefully-written job description of my position, "Information Specialist": the getting shot at part. They carefully avoided mentioning the related civilian occupations "War Correspondent" or "Combat Photographer."

From my first foray out in the field with the grunts, I decided that's where I belonged. Not because I was brave.

It was the same infernal impulse that has propelled my life: I had to know what the fuck was really going on. I wasn't going to be at the war and not be at the war. I did the same thing at one time or another with just about every drug known to man. If you're curious, I can help you out here. None of them contains "The Answer."

I saw my first combat with the Wolfhounds, in an area known as "The Pineapple Patch," an overgrown pineapple plantation.

I was just walking along with the infantry rifle team when all hell broke loose. Two men dropped in their tracks. Then a third was hit. We slid down into one of the water-filled irrigation ditches that ran between the weedy plant rows.

Eventually, some soldiers threw a few grenades into the hidden bunker the automatic weapons fire had come from; a couple of Viet Cong, still alive, were extracted from it.

I became pretty good at my job. From June of 1967 through April of 1968, I spent much more time in the field than in the base camp, and most of the time, I was dirty.

I was often out for a week or two, since there was a lot of actual war going on out there.

**You all may not be aware that it takes nine support people -- soldiers who never do any fighting -- to support one soldier in the field.**

I wanted to be with the 10%, in the action whenever possible. I was seeing it for myself -- up close and real personal. I spent much of my time with the 1/27 and the 2/27 -- the First and Second Battalions of the 27th Infantry, called "The Wolfhounds." These guys

were hardcore, always looking for a fight; this, of course, was their job. Their daily gastronomic regimen included, for the most part, C-Rations.

Officially:

*The Meal, Combat, Individual, is designed for issue as the tactical situation dictates, either in individual units as a meal or in multiples of three as a complete ration. Its characteristics emphasize utility, flexibility of use, and more variety of food components than were included in the Ration, Combat, Individual (C Ration) which it replaces. Twelve different menus are included in the specification.*

Unofficially: awful stuff, though I must say they were often better than some of the food available to the rear echelon troops in the base camps. (Of course, it was entirely possible for a base camp troop to go through its entire tour without coming into contact with C-Rations. This was strictly field-troop cuisine.)

And there was some really bad stuff in those cans.

C-Rations came in a case of 12 meals. Everything was in olive drab containers with the contents printed on them. There were three groups: B1, B2, and B3. B1 had a couple of premium items — peanut butter and fruit cocktail. B2 contained one ostensible “meat” main course that couldn’t be given away: the universally despised Ham & Lima Beans.

Each group contained an “Accessory Pack,” which may well have been the most important item in the case.

Officially, again:

Accessory Pack:

Spoon, Plastic

Salt

Pepper

Coffee, Instant

Sugar

Creamer, Non-dairy

Gum, 2 Chiclets

Cigarettes, 4 smokes/pack

Winston

Marlboro

Salem

Pall Mall

Camel

Chesterfield

Kent

Lucky Strike

Kool

(Interrupting here: not all the above cigarettes were in every case: brands were serendipitous)

Matches, Moisture Resistant

## Toilet Paper

Not mentioned is the most important item in the case — the P-38. This was a small, flip-out can opener with a small hole in it; we wore them around our necks on our dog-tag chains. The C-Rations were inaccessible without this essential tool. (I wear mine on my keychain to this day).

There was a final olive-drab-wrapped item: a block, about a foot long, of C-4 plastic explosive.

This was how we heated the C-Rations: Break off a small chunk and set it on a rock. Open a bread can (wider than it was tall — and dry inside) with the P-38 and dump the bread. Perforate the unopened end of the can with a church key.

Light the C-4 with a Zippo and set the bread can on top. Cook.

The old hands found it endlessly amusing to watch the look on the FNG's (Fucking New Guy's) face as they explained they were lighting C-4 on fire.

Unless he was a combat engineer, the FNG didn't have a clue how C-4 was detonated. In usual circumstances, you needed det (detonation) cord, but pressure could also detonate C-4. It wasn't a good idea to stomp on the fire to put it out.

The best meal I ever had in the field I cooked myself.

We'd marched all day without drawing any fire. When I went out with an infantry unit, we'd usually make a series of eagle flights, and if we didn't stumble into some action, Hueys would swoop down and spirit us off to another location. Not this time.

As we went through the village, I bought a chicken, a duck and some rice from a farmer, and carried the two birds — still alive — on my belt for a few kilometers. I'd bought a couple of pounds of peanuts --they were for sale everywhere.

I made a fire that evening and cooked the birds with the rice and the peanuts in my steel pot (helmet to you rookies), seasoning the stew with salt, pepper and Tabasco from the C-Rations. We had a couple of watermelons we'd bought from the same farmer.

Beer was the beverage of choice. Cold beer was best, but any beer would do. (Ice was like gold. We traded for it.)

We knew it was sterile and had some carbs. It also helped one swallow the chloroquine-primaquine tablets with which we were dosed.

I don't know if it was these pills or constant exposure to shigellosis, salmonella, etc., that caused the constant diarrhea, but I got to the point where I seriously mused about having a spigot grafted onto my asshole.

**When I'd been assigned to the PX, I ordered pallet upon pallet of beer. Dozens of pallets were stacked in the yard at the PX, under tarps, baking in the sun and rusting. Yes, rusting, in steel cans: nothing but the very best for our troops.**



**(Another example of that would be C-Rations; they were often dated in the 50's. We got leftovers from The Korean War.)**

The shantytowns that sprang up by every base camp in Vietnam were rife with thin-skinned hovels whose walls were sheets of steel stamped with brand names of American beers.

In Cu Chi my favorite watering hole/whorehouse was emblazoned "Girls Beer Bazaar Car Wash": Warholian walls with thousands of flat Budweisers everywhere one looked.

Interestingly enough, these places usually didn't serve American beer. Biere Larue was the most common beverage offered.

Not all libations were potable.

Nowadays, whenever I find myself drinking some Rumpolian plonk, I hearken back to the day we'd been lost for most of the day on an S&D and had run out of water.

Not good. Hyperthermia is not a pretty thing.

Some guys were vomiting and most were cramping.

We hadn't seen the sky for hours, and the Hueys above couldn't find us to drop us water, despite the several smoke grenades we'd set off. Then, there it was — eau de vie. We stumbled out of the jungle into a rice paddy.

Like everyone else, I plunged face-first into the sludge and drank deep.

These paddies were fertilized with just about every kind of mammalian excrement: Chateaufeuf du Poop. Parasite Paradise. It didn't matter in the least. There are priorities. Let's just say that today I'm tolerant of corked bottles of wine.

I also went on what were called "Civic Action" missions. They comprised a combination of medical, military and PR purposes.

While the villagers were being fed and examined by medics, soldiers would be looking for arms caches or signs of the enemy.

I don't believe the chow served on these missions had a healthy effect on the "hearts and minds" of the locals. Hell, they didn't like our rice. Invariably, the stuff found in the infamous rice caches was American rice.

They considered this stuff starvation rations: in case of emergency A. Break Glass B. Eat American Rice.

We often ate with the village chieftain on these excursions.

I learned not to be in the least picky. These people were, after all, sharing their food with us: most often, some small amount of grilled or fried meat (learned not to ask what) or poultry, with a plate piled high with greens, some dipping sauces, like nuoc mam, and a pile of softened bahn tran (rice paper rounds).

You wrapped everything up in the rice paper like a tortilla and dipped. Bahn tran: I didn't know what the hell these were when I first got to Vietnam. They were everywhere! Bamboo racks were covered with these round white things. Sometimes we had bowls of noodles, too. I became fond of Vietnamese food.

I took a shine to ethnic Hawaiian food. Typical of my luck, when there wasn't a skirmish going on somewhere on the planet involving the American military, the 25th Infantry Division was stationed in Hawaii.

In Vietnam we had the good fortune to be planted firmly atop the largest complex of hand-dug, inhabited tunnels the world has ever known.

Ethnic Hawaiian food is not the stuff that is fed to tourists. The one food probably consumed by more Hawaiians than any other single foodstuff is Spam.

I'm not talking about the stuff you find your inbox crammed with every morning. I'm talking Hormel lunch meat, used in every conceivable culinary concoction -- that three-dimensional rounded rectangle of minced chicken and pork with ascorbic acid. It prevented the Russians from starving during WWII.

When we had a barbecue in Vietnam the center of the plate item was usually Spam. At the PX, I'd ordered literally tons of Spam. I grilled a lot of Spam. (I found out that Hawaiians did eat other stuff when I spent my R&R in Hawaii with Suzan.)

Our cookers were 55-gallon drums, cut in half longitudinally. These drums were ever-present in Vietnam, and I still see them for sale today.

(It would have been a good idea to avoid those with an orange stripe around them -- they had contained Agent Orange. I don't remember using one myself, but I'm sure many did.)

They were used to cook the food -- and served as the final receptacle for the remainders.

When cut in half latitudinally, drums were slipped under the holes cut in the boards that made up the latrines: screened-in hooches featuring one step up to a long board with maybe a dozen ass-size holes cut in it. Nothing like communal dumping. Kinda intimate.

Every morning great plumes of black smoke rose from all over the base camp; contributing, I'm sure, to the pollution that made the early evening sky so many pastel shades of beautiful.

Ode on an American commode -- in shit, beauty.

**These were the shit burners at work. They poured gasoline on the excrement, tossed in a match and stood back.**

**When their day job was done they went home, put on their black pajamas, headed out to the jungle and lobbed mortar rounds into the base camp.**

**You can see which career path offered the most opportunity.**

I hope this serves as a segue — getting me from Indiana to California. I can't see how, though. It is just what it was and where I was and what I did for a year of my life.

Maybe it explains some part of my brain I'm not able to elucidate in another manner.

Much has already been written about Vietnam, and much of that by those who were there.

None of my scribblings will add significantly to that oeuvre, because war can't be described with words to those who have not been privy to the experience.

**Folly, waste, carnage and idiocy do not do it justice.**

**Wars are always fought by the young with no power on behalf of the old who have something they want to keep or get something they don't have.**

**All other reasons are mere lamination.**



Photo By Joseph Carey

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Army Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division interrogate an Iraqi citizen after an armed home invasion of her home in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 1, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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

***What The Fuck?***

# **“I Got Handed 20000 In Fifty Dollar Bills And Had 15 Days To Spend It In The Local Economy”**

Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veteran, who sent this in.

He writes: What is interesting is the part where the officer says; “One of my favorite jobs is being the Field Ordering Officer.

“I got handed 20000 in fifty dollar bills and had 15 days to spend it in the local economy. That was a lot of money to spend in such short notice. I get handed 10000 a month in cash to spend on my unit. its awesome.”

**What the fuck, over?**

**Is “buying local friends” a new Army MOS?**

**And this guy is just the XO for one fucking company?**

**Is this everywhere?**

**Have you ever heard of anything like this?**

**Giving officers cash to spend on his men, and on top of that, stipulating that it be spent locally and quickly?**

**What The Fuck, over?**

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From: [Officer X]@us.army.mil  
To: [XXXXXXXXXX]  
Subject: Hello from Iraq  
Sent: September 3, 2007

Hello All!

I’m doing quite well and i’m living at LSA [XXXXXXXX] in Northern Iraq. It’s a pretty nice base and its huge. There’s a lot to do but i work all the time and i can’t take advantage of it.

I’m doing very well, i had my own trailer but I had to move a few days ago but i fortunately moved in my with my friend [XXXXXXXX] he’s from [XXXXXXXX]. We get along extremely well. So its all worked out and now i don’t have to walk a mile to go to work that was getting annoying.

The weather is starting to not be as brutal you can definitely tell when you wake up in the mornings sometimes its only 75 or 80 degrees which sure beats 125 everyday. The days are still extremely hot though.

I'm still working as the company executive officer i've been in this position for about [X] months now. Its a very busy job even though i feel like an over paid secretary. I don't get to travel much since most of my operations consist with in the company and i do not do a lot on the tactical side especially since my unit is a brigade head quarters company.

My mom is happy about that but i do wish i was leaving the wire and leading soldiers. I but i'll count my blessings since it is very dangerous in some of the areas around us.

My days consist of waking up at 0550 i go running and then shower eat breakfast and go to work around 0800 i work until about 8 at night but that includes eating and other stuff. I go to the gym at night and read before bed i goto sleep around 1100. I try to have a consistent routine to make the time go by faster.

it has helped having a routine and its not as boring as it was initially. I'm very lucky i have my own office where i have two computers (one is unclassified and the other is a secret laptop) and a DSN phone (which i used mainely to call [XXXX]).

I do a lot of company level operations running ranges, keeping vehicles fixed, going to a lot of meetings, ordering ammo for our combat security team, making sure people are going to their medical appointments, doing USR, ordering supplies.

**One of my favorite jobs is being the Field Ordering Officer i got handed 20000 in fifty dollar bills and had 15 days to spend it in the local economy. That was a lot of money to spend in such short notice.**

**I get handed 10000 a month in cash to spend on my unit. its awesome.**

i appreciate all the mail and care packages i've received. you have no idea how exciting is to receive mail.

thanks for your support!

[XXXXXXXX]  
XO

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