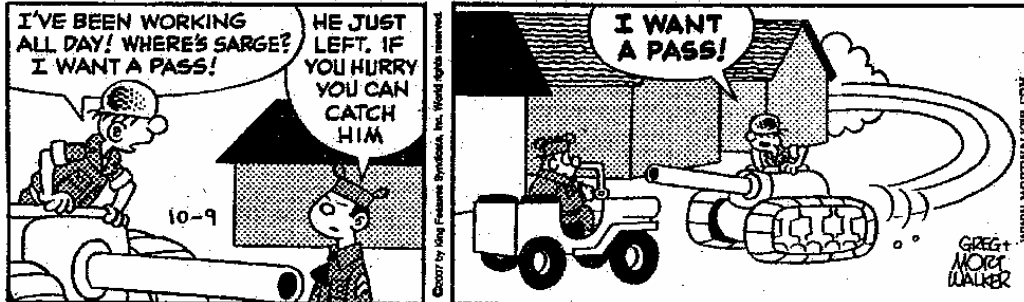


GI SPECIAL 5J6:



“Fight Against Congress? Why Not?”

“What Can Such An Entity That Would So Suppress Our Rights Be Considered Other Than An Outright Enemy Of Democracy?”



While our constitution surely includes a provision for government, it certainly has no mandate for this specific government, and, as it stands, this collective of elites

that presumes to rule this society have formally declared their opposition to its very foundation.

10/01/2007 by Daniel Joseph Black [Iraq Veterans Against The War] [ivaw.org/]

Daniel Joseph Black:

Branch of service: United States Marine Corps (USMC)

Home: South Orange, New Jersey

Served in: Camp Fox, Kuwait; KNB, Kuwait; Fallujah, Iraq; TQ, Iraq

Dan joined the Marines straight out of high school in the summer of 2000, a time when few armed conflicts were underway that would necessitate a serviceman leaving the states. Before being discharged 5 years later, though, he deployed to Kuwait for 8 months in 2003 and to Iraq for 7 months in 2004. Dan currently attends Marist College in upstate New York where he studies Psychology/Special Education.

Recently, the Congress saw fit to formally denounce an expression of free speech, MoveOn.org's full page ad in the New York Times popularly known as the "General Betray Us" ad, with overwhelming majorities in both houses.

Regardless of your personal reaction to MoveOn's ad, whether you liked or disliked it, became excited, angered, amused, disgusted, or whatever, the subsequent activities of our federal legislature ought to alarm everyone on the ideological spectrum, equally and universally.

The people behind the ad have a right; the nature of free speech means that people are going to say things you don't like/disagree with. Opposing viewpoints will surely surface, and this is not altogether a bad thing.

Why shouldn't we have a broad range of beliefs and opinions to give our national community variance and vibrancy?

The feelings of congress, it would appear, is that this robust spectrum of beliefs and opinions is tolerable only to the extent that it keeps within reasonable bounds, specifically that it stops short of challenging norms set down by state power.

It is this precedent set forth by congress, not by MoveOn, that is especially instructive of what's gone wrong with America and where we should focus our efforts of reform.

What can such an entity that would so suppress our rights be considered other than an outright enemy of democracy?

Their "resolution" is a direct, open assault on the American way of life, plain and simple.

Consider the implications of their aggression, what it warrants of the common people.

We have just sustained fire, and the justification for responding forcefully against the aggressor is real and clear.

Fight against congress?

Why not?

While our constitution surely includes a provision for government, it certainly has no mandate for this specific government, and, as it stands, this collective of elites that presumes to rule this society have formally declared their opposition to its very foundation.

More than suppressed our freedoms, they have attacked them (the word "terrorism" comes to mind).

Recalling our commitment to our homeland's defense, we ought not allow unprovoked aggression against our way of life stand.

Again, these principles are not specific to any individual political or ideological camp; an assault on anyone's freedom of speech is an assault on everyone's freedom of speech.

The precedent that such congressional action sets is not something to be taken lightly.

Beyond the precedent of the resolution's causes and justification, I feel it is important to consider, critically, the implications of the resolution itself.

I am personally very skeptical of what shifts in the political sphere might accompany the passage of such a resolution that calls on members of congress "to reaffirm its support for all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces...", and "to strongly condemn any effort to attack the honor and integrity..." (the resolution's own language).

So, just for purposes of reality-checking, we are all, as American citizens, still subject equitably and universally to the law of the land, right? There aren't any classes or factions of the citizenry that are in any way exempt from scrutiny, correct?

I ask because I'd like to believe that nobody, least of all the swaths of blissfully obedient and docile gun-toting warriors of the imperial army, has acquired the sense, real or perceived, of general impunity or infallibility.

We scrutinize one another's actions in hope of establishing a standard of justice, and I will say, while appreciating fully the risk of being tarred and feathered for not "supporting our troops", that if you operate outside the law, act in moral and ethical repugnance, or otherwise dishonor yourself and humankind, you are deserving of the scrutiny of your fellow man -whether you wear the uniform or not.

Shame on the congress for betraying their own country, and shame on any of our people who fail to call them to account.

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

Polish Base In Diwaniya Hit By 12 Rockets: Casualties Not Announced

Oct 7 (KUNA)

Militants Sunday fired rockets at Camp Echo in Diwaniya in southern Iraq, base to Polish forces, a police source said. He said 12 rockets were fired at Camp Echo western Diwaniya. No damages were yet known, added the source in a statement.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ONLY 15 MILLION MORE TO GO: COME ON HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers arrest a suspected insurgent during a night patrol at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Murder In Afghanistan: Assigned To Finance Unit, Spc. Durkin Uncovered Information Just Before She Was Killed; Told Relatives “If Something Happens To Me In Afghanistan, Don’t Let It Go Without An Investigation” “I Discovered Some Things I Don’t Like And I Made Some Enemies Because Of It”



Massachusetts Army National Guard Specialist Ciara Durkin, 29, of Quincy, Mass., died Sept. 27, 2008, in Afghanistan. (Family photo via The Boston Globe/AP Photo)

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Military Project & Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in. Binh writes: PAT TILLMAN PT. II?]

Oct. 4, 2007 ABC NEWS & October 03, 2007 By DIANA SCHOBURG and SUE SCHEIBLE, The Patriot Ledger

QUINCY - Ciara Durkin was home on leave last month and expressed a concern to her family in Quincy: If something happens to me in Afghanistan, don't let it go without an investigation.

Durkin, 30, a specialist with a Massachusetts National Guard finance battalion, was found dead last week near a church inside the tightly secured Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. She had been shot once in the head, the Army says.

Fiona Canavan, Durkin's older sister, said today that when her sister was home three weeks ago, she told family members that she had come across some things that concerned her and had raised objections to others at the base.

"She was in the finance unit and she said, 'I discovered some things I don't like and I made some enemies because of it.'

"Then she said, in her light-hearted way, 'If anything happens to me, you guys make sure it gets investigated,'" Canavan said. "But at the time we thought it was said more as a joke."

The family did not know what she was referring to, said Canavan, who lives in Quincy.

Canavan vehemently denied a published report attributing to her a statement that the family was concerned that Durkin's lesbianism was the reason for her death. Canavan said that her sister was openly gay, but that the family had no specific reasons to think that had anything to do with her death.

"She was gay, but because she really wanted to go into the Army, she had to make a choice and she chose to put that part of her lifestyle behind her," Canavan said.

The family is determined to have the military investigate "every aspect" of her sister's life at the base and determine the truth of what happened, Canavan said. "If she was killed because she was a smoker or had red hair - not to be flip, but we want nothing held back."

When her sister told the family three weeks ago about her concerns over her safety at the base, due to whatever information she had found out, Canavan said, "we reported it to the Army."

Canavan said that the offices of Sen. John Kerry and Edward Kennedy have been tremendously supportive in the ongoing investigation. U.S. Rep. William Delahunt has also been pressing the Pentagon for answers.

Other family members are coming in for Durkin's funeral on Saturday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Quincy, she said.

Kerry sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates on Tuesday. It contained a list of questions he said were raised by Durkin's family:

—Why had the family not gotten a response to its request for an independent autopsy?

—Why did the family not receive the results of the Army’s autopsy when it was told it would?

—Why had the Army not made Durkin’s will and other paperwork available to the family so they could plan her funeral?

“There have been some unfortunate situations, as we’ve seen historically in the past few years, of false information being given, of people not sufficiently having their questions answered.”

Her family was initially told that Durkin was killed in action on Friday.

But on Monday, the family learned that she died about 6:30 p.m. of a single gunshot wound to the head in a non-combat situation.

Durkin had been assigned to a finance unit at the base since February. Her tour of duty had been scheduled to end in February.

Her younger brother, Pierce Durkin, said that because of the nature of the wound and the fact that the shooting happened under “curious” circumstances, the family decided to contact legislators.

The family was going through old photos of Ciara on Tuesday in preparation for the wake and funeral.

“She’s undoubtedly smiling in every one,” he said. “It’s making it all so much more difficult.”

Durkin was born in Ireland and moved to the United States when she was 9 years old. The family lived first in Dorchester and later in Quincy.

She joined the Army National Guard in October 2005.

Notes From A Lost War:

“The Taliban Are Winning Strategically, Even If We Defeat Them In Every Tactical Engagement”

“Wide Areas Of The South — In Helmand, Kandahar And Uruzgan Provinces — Are Controlled By The

Taliban And The Fighting Is Migrating North”

10/07/2007 By Jason Straziuso, Associated Press [Excerpts]

Barnett R. Rubin, an expert on Afghanistan at New York University, said U.S. leaders in Washington “utterly failed” to understand what was needed to consolidate that original Taliban rout, which started with airstrikes on Oct. 7, 2001, less than a month after the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington and New York.

“The Bush administration did not see Afghanistan as a long-term commitment, and its leaders deceived themselves into thinking they had won an irreversible victory. They did not consider Afghanistan important and always intended to focus on Iraq,” he said.

“Now the U.S. and international community have fallen way behind, and the Taliban are winning strategically, even if we defeat them in every tactical engagement,” he added.

Some 87 U.S. troops have also died so far this year, also a record pace.

Wide areas of the south — in Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces — are controlled by the Taliban, and the fighting is migrating north, into Ghazni province — where 23 South Koreans were kidnapped in July — and Wardak, right next door to Kabul, the capital.

Rubin said Washington ignored how difficult the fight would be and wanted to prevent U.S. forces from being tied down in nation-building exercises as in the Balkans.

“Since 2005, U.S. generals have told me (former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld) was drumming his fingers on the table trying to find out when he could take the troops out,” Rubin said.

“Now the administration has completely reversed itself, but of course without ever admitting it was wrong and still without a strategy that has a serious chance of success.”

TROOP NEWS

“Only About 25 Percent Of Americans Support The Administration’s \$190 Billion War Funding Request”

[Thanks to Katherine G, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Oct 2, 2007 (Reuters)

Most Americans oppose fully funding President George W. Bush's \$190 billion request to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while a majority supports expanding a children's health care program he has threatened to veto, a Washington Post-ABC News poll shows.

Only about 25 percent of Americans support the administration's \$190 billion war funding request; 70 percent want the proposed allocation reduced, the Post said.

According to the poll, more than seven in 10 support the planned \$35 billion increase included in legislation that would renew the children's health care program administered by the states. Twenty-five percent oppose the increased spending, the Post said.

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



The casket of Army Spc. Ari D. Brown-Weeks at Arlington National Cemetery Oct. 3, 2007. Brown-Weeks, 23, Abingdon, Md., died Sept. 10, 2007 in Baghdad in a vehicle rollover. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson) (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

Mom Says “The Army’s Lack Of Care And Lack Of Medical Treatment Killed My Son” National Guard Iraq War Veteran “Could Have Been Dead 15 Hours Before He Was Discovered” “He May Have Been Unconscious As Long As Two Days”

His wife had not had a phone call from him for three days when she called Fort Knox on Sept. 21 and pleaded with the Army to check on his condition, McCullen said.

Oct 6, 2007 The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The family of a soldier who died in a medical transition program is raising questions about the care he received after he was wounded in Iraq.

“I think the Army’s lack of care and lack of medical treatment killed my son,” Kay McMullen of Carmel, mother of 32-year-old Sgt. Gerald J. Cassidy, said Friday.

Cassidy was found in his room at Fort Knox in Kentucky and pronounced dead about 6:50 p.m. Sept. 21, the military said. At the time of his death, Cassidy was in the Warrior Transition Program, an outpatient program that helps injured soldiers prepare to return to duty or be evaluated for disability. He was buried this week.

McCullen said the transition unit is not equipped to handle all the wounded soldiers it receives.

“They have more patients and more wounded soldiers than they have the facilities and the doctors to take care of them,” she said.

McCullen said she had been trying to get her son transferred to an Indianapolis hospital where he could receive care she believed would be more adequate.

Cassidy’s family said he had suffered migraine headaches and other symptoms after suffering a severe head injury from a roadside bomb in June 2006.

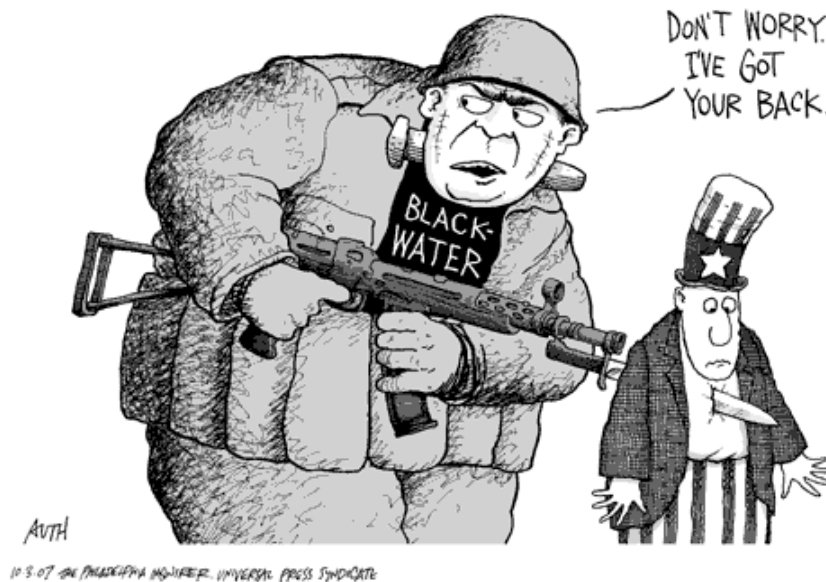
An independent autopsy found Cassidy could have been dead 15 hours before he was discovered, the family said, and they believe he may have been unconscious as long as two days.

His wife had not had a phone call from him for three days when she called Fort Knox on Sept. 21 and pleaded with the Army to check on his condition, McCullen said.

“She started calling the Fort early Friday morning begging for help. She said please, please find my husband,” said McMullen.

Cassidy, of Westfield, was a member of the Lebanon-based Battery C of the 2-150th Field Artillery Battalion.

He was deployed to Iraq with a brigade combat team from the Minnesota National Guard.



The Apotheosis Of Ancient And Modern Perfidy: National Guard Unit Deployed Longer Than Any Other Ground

Combat Unit Cheated Out Of Their Benefits By Pentagon Traitors: 1st Lt. Says “I Think It Was A Scheme To Save Money”

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Alberto Jaccoma, Military Project & Phil G & Will Hassell [Australia], who sent this in.]

Here’s what happened: Anderson’s orders, and the orders of 1,161 other Minnesota guard members, were written for 729 days. Had they been written for 730 days -- one day more -- the soldiers would receive those benefits to pay for school.

10/3/2007 By Scott Goldberg, KARE 11 News [Excerpts]

When they came home from Iraq, 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard had been deployed longer than any other ground combat unit.

The tour lasted 22 months and had been extended as part of President Bush’s surge.

And 1st Lt. Jon Anderson says he never expected to come home to this: A government refusing to pay education benefits he says he should have earned under the GI bill.

“It’s pretty much a slap in the face,” Anderson said. “I think it was a scheme to save money, personally. I think it was a leadership failure by the senior Washington leadership, once again failing the soldiers.”

Here’s what happened: Anderson’s orders, and the orders of 1,161 other Minnesota guard members, were written for 729 days.

Had they been written for 730 days -- one day more -- the soldiers would receive those benefits to pay for school.

“Which would be allowing the soldiers an extra \$500 to \$800 a month,” Anderson said.

That money would help him pay for his master’s degree in public administration.

Both [John] Hobot and Anderson believe the Pentagon deliberately wrote orders for 729 days instead of 730.

Now six of Minnesota’s members of the House of Representatives have asked the Secretary of the Army to look into it. So have Senators Amy Klobuchar (D) and Norm Coleman (R).

Klobuchar said the GI money “shouldn’t be tied up in red tape,” and Coleman said it’s “simply irresponsible to deny education benefits to those soldiers who just completed the longest tour of duty of any unit in Iraq.”

Anderson said the soldiers he oversaw in his platoon expected that money to be here when they come home.

“I had 23 guys under my command,” Anderson said. “I promised to take care of them. And I’m not going to end taking care of them when this deployment is over, and it’s not over until this is solved.”

Minnesota National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Kevin Olson said the soldiers are “victims of a significant injustice.”

“IVAW Now Has A Cleveland Chapter (Chapter 25) And We Are Ready To Work!”



From: Yvette Coil

Sent: October 05, 2007 9:48 PM

Subject: Excited to announce the Cleveland Chapter of IVAW! [Excerpts]

On Sept 3, 2007, Leonard Shelton and I met. Since then we have been working very hard to get a Cleveland Chapter of IVAW together and functioning.

Leonard, who was the coordinator and is now also the President, Jonathan Medina who is the Secretary and James Lange who is the Treasurer, are the chapter officers. Me, I’m the organizer (intern) not a vet (but a wife of one) or member myself but I help as much as I can.

We’re all very happy, and proud to announce that our hard work has paid off. IVAW now has a Cleveland chapter (chapter 25) and we are ready to work!

So if you're looking for speakers, we're waiting to hear from you.

If you know of an organization that wants to do a fundraiser with us, we are waiting to hear from you.

If you are a person interested in helping us get the word out that not all veterans (and in some cases active duty soldiers) are for this war, then we are waiting to hear from you.

And if you know a soldier/veteran who served in the US military after 9/11/01, one that wants immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq, reparations for the destruction and corporate pillaging of Iraq so that Iraqi people can control their own lives and future, and full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women, then we are looking for you.

Peace!

E-mail Cleveland@ivaw.org or ivawclevelandohio@gmail.com

U.S. Army War Resister Set Free On Bond In Canada: “I Was Asked By The Army To Participate In An Illegal War Of Aggression In Iraq And I Thought That Wasn't The Right Thing To Do”

October 4, 2007 Canadian Press & ROD MICKLEBURGH, Globe & Mail

VANCOUVER -- Robin Long, a pony-tailed, dreadlocks guy, was sitting in a park with some friends this week in beautiful downtown Nelson when the local constabulary came calling.

In short order, Mr. Long found himself arrested and bundled onto a flight to Vancouver in handcuffs, perilously close to becoming the first of the growing number of deserters from the U.S. army seeking refuge in Canada to be deported back to the United States.

“I thought it was going to be very quick, that by Friday I would be back there to face criminal charges for desertion,” a relieved Mr. Long said yesterday, moments after a local supporter agreed to put up a \$5,000 bond to secure his temporary release.

As it is, he is still furthest along of any deserter in Canada to being returned to the U.S., having lost all his court challenges to date, and with Canadian immigration officials preparing a pre-removal risk assessment of what awaits him south of the border.

"I'm the first to have that done," said the 24-year-old Mr. Long, who sought refuge here in 2005 rather than go to Iraq. He now has a young child with his Canadian partner.

His detention on Monday follows the bizarre apprehension earlier this year of Kyle Snyder, another war resister staying in Nelson, who was taken off to jail in the middle of a winter's night, wearing just a toque, a robe and his boxers.

Nelson police have refused to say on whose request they detained Mr. Snyder, or why they knocked on his door at 4 a.m. They released him three hours later, after learning that he was legally in Canada as a visitor.

Although more than a hundred U.S. army deserters are believed to be in Canada, only two have been arrested, both, coincidentally, in Nelson.

CNN reporter Anderson Cooper recently labelled the idyllic, small Interior city "Resisterville" because of its reputation as a haven for those fleeing military duty with U.S. forces in Iraq.

Nelson police chief Dan Maluta, who has agreed to an outside investigation of why the boxer-clad Mr. Snyder was arrested, denied that police were singling out war resisters, as the deserters call themselves.

He said a police officer approached Mr. Long and his friends on suspicion that they were smoking marijuana. A check disclosed that Mr. Long was wanted on an outstanding immigration warrant, and he was taken into custody.

"This wasn't specific targeting. This was old-fashioned police work," Chief Maluta told reporters.

B.C. Southern Interior MP Alex Atamanenko of the NDP happened to be on the same flight to Vancouver as the handcuffed deserter. He did not like what he saw.

"I think it's a tragic situation," Mr. Atamanenko said. "Here's a young kid who doesn't want to go to Iraq to fight in that war, and we're in the process of deporting him. I don't think that's right."

He said Canada should provide a refuge for those "who don't want to fight in an illegal war," as the country did for deserters during the war in Vietnam.

Mr. Long said he signed up with the army because his "lower-class family" had no money to pay for his college education, nor could they afford medical benefits. He added that he was also caught up in the rush of patriotism that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I always thought I'd be in the army growing up," he said. "I was raised on GI Joes."

"I was asked by the army to participate in an illegal war of aggression in Iraq and I thought that wasn't the right thing to do," said Long, who has a child with a Canadian girlfriend.

Mr. Long had spent about two years in the military before he decided to head to Canada. "It seemed like a safe refuge. I didn't want to have to hide out in fear in the United States."

The \$5,000 bond that got him released for the time being was put up by Bob Ages, chairman of the Vancouver chapter of the War Resisters Support Campaign.

"We don't want these war resisters, who are individuals of conscience, coming to Canada and sitting in jail," Mr. Ages said.

"The government should allow these people to apply for permanent resident status, as they did for refugees from Czechoslovakia and Vietnam, instead of forcing them to go through the refugee process."

No deserters have succeeded with a refugee claim so far, although the issue has now gone to the Supreme Court of Canada for a final ruling.

[His lawyer, Warren] Puddicombe said Long was arrested on Monday because he hadn't responded to a letter the Immigration Department had sent him, asking that he appear for a notice of the pre-removal risk assessment.

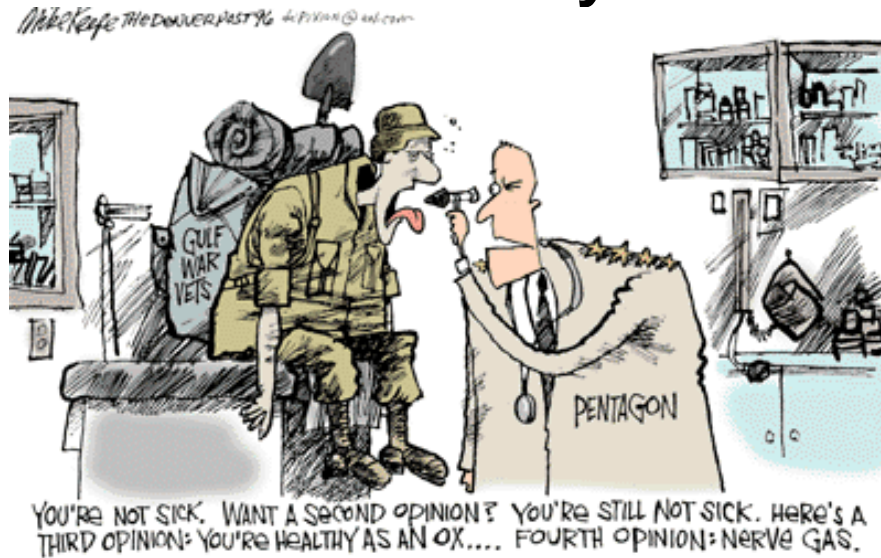
That's because the letter was sent to Long's former address in Ontario and not forwarded to him in Nelson, B.C., where he had gone to work in fruit orchards, Puddicombe said.

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.

***War Veterans Betrayed By DoD,
As Usual:
The Defense Department "Has A
Large And Shameful History
Regarding Gulf War Syndrome"***

“Given That History, It’s Understandable People Don’t Trust The Military”



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

October 08, 2007 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

Witnesses at a Senate hearing about Gulf War syndrome said they have come to the same conclusion: It exists, it is not psychological, and better research must be done to find treatments.

The Defense Department “has a large and shameful history regarding Gulf War syndrome,” said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., at a Senate Veterans’ Affairs hearing Sept. 25. “Given that history, it’s understandable people don’t trust the military.”

Murray said about 200,000 troops who served in the 1991 Persian Gulf War suffer “chronic multisymptom illness,” such as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and multiple chemical sensitivity.

Senators grilled scientists, doctors and representatives from the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs about why so much research has concentrated on showing Gulf War syndrome is psychosomatic — or all in the veterans’ heads — when previous studies presenting the same question had been inconclusive.

“The government has concentrated on research that finds nothing, and then does another study on the same issue,” said Meryl Nass, pulmonary rehabilitation director at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Maine.

Witnesses also wanted to know why little has been done to look for links between exposure to depleted uranium, oil fires, vaccines, insecticides and sarin gas, and the symptoms veterans have exhibited.

“We need to make sure money is targeted to scientists who understand there is a problem,” said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., rather than to “a bureaucracy that keeps telling us the same thing over and over.”

Lea Steele, scientific director for the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses and an epidemiologist and associate professor at Kansas State University, said Gulf War veterans have twice the rate of Lou Gehrig’s disease as other veterans, according to a VA study.

They also have higher rates of brain cancer.

She recommended more studies be dedicated to multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and cancer in those veterans, noting that research has shown the chemicals Gulf War vets were exposed to can have “toxic effects on the brain.”

Julie Mock presented a picture of what living with Gulf War syndrome looks like. While still in theater, her unit’s chemical alarms went off, and they lived under a cloud of oil-fire smoke that was so thick in some areas that soldiers couldn’t see the sun.

She said she soon developed rashes, headaches and breathing problems. Worse, both her sons were born with various ailments including sleep apnea, learning disabilities, bipolar disorder and Tourette’s syndrome.

Mock herself eventually was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and has hives, fevers, tremors, joint and muscle pain, hair loss, fatigue and memory loss.

Other veterans suffer varying degrees of some or all of the same symptoms.

Mock has had MS symptoms since 1994, but wasn’t diagnosed until 2003.

But to receive benefits from VA, she has to prove she had the disease within seven years of leaving the service.

“Three people within 100 yards of me (in Desert Storm) have been diagnosed with MS,” she said, but the symptoms often start out mild, making it difficult to prove the disease showed up within that seven-year window.

Murray said she is seeking legislation to lift that time limit.

Roberta White, chair of the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health, talked about her recent studies that showed Gulf War veterans exposed to sarin and cyclosarin gas after U.S. forces destroyed a chemical munitions dump showed a decrease in white matter in the brain. She said the veterans had the fine motor skills of people decades older.

VA dismissed the white-matter report as “too small,” and said the exposure model for sarin was incorrect, White said.

“Imaging studies tend to be small,” she said. “Twenty-six subjects is actually on the large side. The exposure model we used was from DoD.”

If anything, she said, the exposure model underestimated the numbers of veterans exposed and the grade of the exposure.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said doctors should be aware that soldiers are sick, and should not slough off their conditions as simply psychosomatic.

“I think we have consensus ... that this is real,” Burr said.

Steele said VA has a couple of new studies looking at issues of Gulf War veterans, but “they’re not focusing on the problems we’re talking about.”

One is aimed at showing the usefulness of psychological therapy over the phone — which Steele noted comes after a study that concluded even face-to-face therapy had “negligible benefit.”

“I certainly don’t think psychiatric issues explain” Gulf War illness, White said. “Many patients don’t have psychiatric symptoms.”

Researchers needed to look for specific, biological mechanisms that underlie the problems, as well as treatment for those problems, witnesses at the hearing said. Treatments already exist for fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome, as well as for chemical sensitivity, Steele said.

White said people have been suffering from similar diseases for generations, and treatments are already available if veterans have the financial resources and proper diagnosis to get help.

“There are things already on the shelf,” White said. “Let’s take them off the shelf and see what’s helpful to Gulf War veterans.”

Mock vowed Gulf War veterans would continue to force the issue.

“We won’t let you forget,” she told lawmakers and government officials. “We won’t let you leave us behind.”

Fiendish Terrorist Underwear Plot Uncovered At Guantanamo

10.8.07 Army Times

Human-rights lawyers representing detainees at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are battling with the Navy about unexplained underwear.

According to the London-based newspaper The Independent, the Navy has accused two lawyers of smuggling in unauthorized undergarments for their clients. Both detainees were found wearing Under Armour briefs, and one also was sporting a Speedo bathing

suit.

The newspaper quotes one of the lawyers as saying he has no idea how the swimsuit made its way onto his client's body.

"I cannot imagine who would want to give my client Speedos, or why," the attorney said. He "is hardly in a position to go swimming, since the only available water is the toilet in his cell."

Criminal charges are possible if military officials can find out how the undergarments got into the prison. U.S. officials say the underwear is not the point; rather, it is the fact that someone smuggled in unauthorized items, raising concerns about other, more dangerous items possibly making their way into detainees' hands.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“Paramedic Sattar Taha Killed By American Bombing Aug. 8, 2007” [GET THE MESSAGE?]



Iraqi medical workers hold a banner, front, which reads 'Paramedic Sattar Taha killed by American bombing Aug. 8, 2007' during a protest in Baghdad's Sadr City, Iraq, on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007 denouncing killings of medical staff members by U.S. soldiers. (AP Photo/Adil al-Khazali)

“No, No To The Wall. No, No To America”

**“No To The Occupiers”
[GET THE MESSAGE?]**



Demonstrators hold a huge Iraqi flag during a protest in Baghdad October 6, 2007. More than a thousand Iraqis marched through Baghdad on Saturday in a rare public demonstration to protest against a wall they say the U.S. military is planning to erect around a western neighbourhood. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud

Oct 6, 2007 By Haider Salahuddin (Reuters)

More than a thousand Iraqis marched in west Baghdad on Saturday in a rare public demonstration to protest against a wall they say the U.S. military is planning to erect around their neighbourhood.

Carrying an Iraqi national flag and banners condemning the wall the marchers in the predominantly Shi'ite district of al-Washash chanted “No, no to the wall. No, no to America.”

“Today we are saying no to the occupiers, no to the wall and no to all these disgraceful actions,” said Abu Jalal al-Saraji, one of the local tribal leaders in al-Washash in Baghdad’s predominantly Sunni Arab west Baghdad.

In al-Washash, some small concrete blocks have been placed across a road and the protesters say the U.S. is planning to replace them with a high wall next week.

“The occupiers are planning to build a wall around our area but we see that as them putting the area under siege,” said another tribal leader who did not give his name. “This is a secure area and this is a peaceful demonstration to condemn it.”

While the march passed peacefully, police said two civilians were wounded in clashes with the Iraqi army afterwards.

U.S. air strikes on the neighbourhood in September killed at least 14 people including one woman and destroyed 11 houses, Iraqi police and residents said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Truth

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: October 07, 2007 10:06 AM
Subject: The Truth

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

The Truth

**Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers and Veterans,
keep writing your Poems of Sanity.
War is Insane and if you Hate it
then you are Sane.
Soldiers who Love the Insanity
of war are Insane Too.
Sane Soldiers, please write More Poems
for us and for you
and for Humanity.
Only you know the Truth.**

D.C. Protests Shrink While Antiwar Sentiment Grows; “Organizers Feud, Participants Question The Effectiveness”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

Oct 7, 2007 (Reuters) [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, Oct 3 (Reuters) - Crowds at antiwar rallies in Washington have dwindled even as U.S. opinion has turned against the war in Iraq, as organizers feud and participants question the effectiveness of the street protests.

Rival antiwar groups, which in years past jointly sponsored massive rallies on the National Mall, have promoted separate protests recently or decided to steer clear of the capital altogether.

Antiwar rallies drew hundreds of thousands of people at the war's start in 2003, although only 23 percent of Americans then said the invasion was a mistake, according to a USA Today/Gallup Poll. That figure is now 58 percent.

Frustration about the war has driven down President George W. Bush's approval ratings and helped Democrats win control of Congress last year.

But since 2005, antiwar groups have opted to promote separate events rather than work together.

Saturday's protest, sponsored by the Troops Out Now Coalition, came two weeks after an antiwar event sponsored by the ANSWER Coalition, which drew roughly 10,000 people. ANSWER also sponsored a rally in March.

Both groups' leaders were associated with the Workers World Party But a 2004 dispute prompted some members to form the splinter Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Members of the splinter group stayed active in the ANSWER Coalition, and the remaining members of the Workers World Party formed the Troops Out Now Coalition, Troops Out Now spokesman Dustin Langley said.

Another antiwar group, United for Peace and Justice, has refused to work with ANSWER since a joint rally in 2005. The event drew well over 100,000 people, media reports said, but the two groups clashed over speaking time and other issues.

United for Peace and Justice, which has tried to focus on ending the Iraq war, drew 100,000 people to a January protest. The group plans 11 regional demonstrations later this month, but none in Washington.

“The base that we work with was saying to us, ‘We’ve been to Washington a lot in the last four years, we don’t want to go to Washington again,’” national coordinator Leslie Kagan said.

ANSWER has called for antiwar groups to join forces for a large rally in the spring, but Kagan and Langley said their groups have not decided whether to participate.

MORE:

Duh!

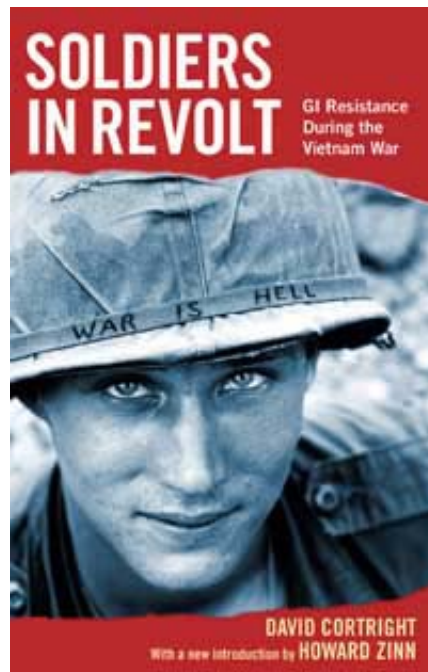
[From GI SPECIAL 5J4, 10.6.07]

“During the American war on Vietnam, at exactly the time the movement against the war was spreading and gathering force inside the armed forces - the movement that stopped the war when it became predominant - civilian marches and rallies against the war were bringing out fewer and fewer people.

“It didn’t help that various fools from opposing political groups organizing the DC bullshit made sure to have rallies that competed with each other for public support, instead of all showing up on the same day.

“By the early 1970’s, everybody knew that the majority of Americans opposed the war, and saw that marching around in DC appealing to the Imperial politicians wasn’t stopping it. Duh.

“Those in the movement who were reaching out to anti-war troops, and helping them organize the resistance inside the armed forces that stopped the war, got it right. T”



MORE: [JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT THE FIRST TIME]

GI SPECIAL 5H7: 8.7.07

Oh Please, Not Another Useless Pilgrimage To DC



Father Georgi Apollonievich Gapon [wikimedia.org]

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

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

Repeatedly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The soldiers, however, are a different matter.

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

T

"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

"The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney." David McReynolds 9.29.07

“How Many ‘Explosive Caches’ Do The U.S. And U.K. Have In Their Squatted Bases?” “Fair Is Fair”

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: GI Special
Sent: October 07, 2007
Subject: Universal rights?

Re GI Special 5J4:

“For example, General Petraeus noted that this year his troops had already found and cleared more than 4,400 weapons and explosive caches, 1,700 more than in all of 2006.”

Iraq is a country of twenty five million people. My math is bad, but the above seizure must run amongst absolutely pathetic.

It also raises the questions, that having made Iraq the most dangerous country on earth, by invading a ‘far away place of which we know nothing’, why Iraqis cannot own a weapon to protect themselves and their families, when Americans call that an absolute right.

And by the way, how many ‘explosive caches’ do the US and UK have in their squatted bases?

Fair is fair.

The resistance is fighting for their country with improvised desperation. They are being decimated, families, kids, schools, by the most sophisticated, radiological (depleted uranium, napalm and stuff we don’t even now about in detail yet) on earth.

“Kick’m In The Ass”

[Huey Long, later Governor of Louisiana, after the great Louisiana flood of 1927:]

“Listen up!

“They’re lying!

“The President’s lying! The rich fat jackals that are drowning you will do it again and again and again.

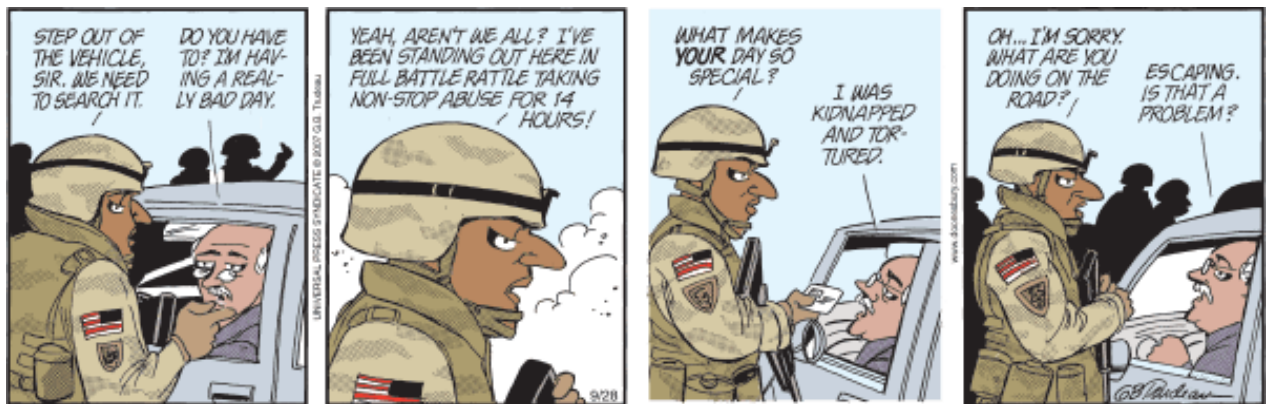
“They lead you into imperialist wars for profit, they take away your schools and your hope, and when you complain, they blame Blacks and Jews and immigrants.

“Then they drown your kids.

“I say, Kick’m in the ass and take your share of the wealth you created.”

[Excerpt from The Armed Madhouse; Greg Palast; Dutton; New York City 2006.]

OCCUPATION REPORT



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**George W. Bush Got It Absolutely,
Totally, 100% Right!**

“Do not fight for a dying regime. It is not worth your life.” [March 19, 2003, ABC News]

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



(AFP/Jim Watson)



October 6, 2007 Columnist Bob Herbert, New York Times [Excerpt]

“From the Republicans, we get the message that the most important thing to hold on to is fear itself. The terrorists are out to get us.

“From the Democrats, heavily armed with thermometers, barometers and windmills, comes the usual timidity. They behave as if their hearts would stop if they actually took a tough stand.”

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