

GI SPECIAL 5K13:

**HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WARS?
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Photo by Nahrawan [Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO, who sent this in.]

The Numbers Game:
**“Petraeus And All His Analysts
Are Brainless Morons”**
**“You’d Have To Be To Delude
Yourself Into Ignoring These
Numbers”**



Branch of service: United States Army (USA)

Unit: 1-4th Infantry

Rank: Cog

Home: Bellingham, Washington

Served in: Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Ft. Huachuca, Arizona; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Irwin, California; Udairi, Kuwait; Taji, Iraq

This is no joke. The Pentagon spends billions of dollars playing numbers games.

Ever sit in on the G-1 B.U.B.?

Well, I did; and I remember the battle captains- officers sacrificed to the God of Powerpoint- fretting over the abstract numbers. Numbers of dead. Missing. You know. Mundane.

Well it is time for the Army to come clean.

Here are some numbers that the Pentagon refuses to recognize, for whatever reason:

1) About 60,000 soldiers are stop-lossed or involuntarily extended.

According to Army G-1 PAO, only 8,000 are currently stop-lossed, and this does not count involuntary extension, which the Pentagon does not keep track of.

Oh, and the date of their last information? April 2007.

Just try calling any unit headed to OIF 07-09 and ask how many are stop-lossed. The answer is almost 50%.

2) 13,000 soldiers are AWOL. 600 officers are also missing.

The number has almost doubled in the last month.

Again, G-1 refuses to release any information newer than April. And all the information they do release is doctored by their small army of number-crunching battle-captains working round-the-clock.

3) 5,000 soldiers have gone AWOL in the last 2 weeks.

4) The number of suicides, released in July, was for FY05, last time of information TWO AND A HALF YEARS OLD.

But this was the highest number of suicides in 26 years. Imagine what it looks like this year, after things have gotten worse, and all sorts of 'surge' related extensions.

5) 370,000 Iraqis were forced out of their homes in September of this year alone.

This is a greater than 1000% increase in displacement.

And yet, Maliki and Petraeus want you to believe that violence is dropping.

No.

It doesn't take four stars to figure out that it is only a shift in insurgent targeting and not some massive victory that we have won by arming everybody equally.

Petraeus and all his analysts are brainless morons.

You'd have to be to delude yourself into ignoring these numbers.

Despite the continued increase in desertions, however, an Associated Press examination of Pentagon figures earlier this year showed that the military does little to find those who bolt, and rarely prosecutes the ones they get. Some are allowed to simply return to their units, while most are given less-than-honorable discharges. Nov 16, 2007 Associated Press



www.ivaw.org

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

Two More U.S. Troops KIA In Iraq

11.16.07 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

The US Department of Defence announced Friday that two US soldiers were killed as a result of two separate attacks in Iraq.

A 22-year-old soldier died of wounds sustained in an attack by militants in Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, while a 24-year-old soldier died in the US on Tuesday of injuries following a bomb attack in Baghdad on October 25.

West Seneca Soldier Was Determined to Serve



11/7/2007 Josh Boose, Reporter & Addie Bradshaw, News Reporter; WGRZ-TV

Sgt. Daniel Shaw is the second western New York soldier to die this week. 2 On Your Side sat down with Sgt. Shaw's family to learn more about the 23-year-old.

"He just wanted the world to be a nice place," said Ronald Shaw, Sgt. Shaw's father.

Ronald Shaw never thought he would be burying his 23-year-old son. Army Sgt. Daniel Shaw was killed in Iraq after an explosion on Monday. It was his second tour of duty.

"His second tour was supposed to be completed by September, but the president called for it to be lengthen, so he was going to be back, five more weeks he was going to be back to the states," Ronald Shaw said of his son.

The piles of shoes near the front door of his parent's house showed how much Sgt. Shaw meant to his family and friends. The house was packed with loved ones comforting each other and sharing memories. A collage of photos, class projects, even

recent newspaper clippings were laid out. Sgt. Shaw's kindergarten graduation diploma stood proudly on display.

"He loved children," said Ronald Shaw. "Especially his niece and his nephew, he was always doing things with them."

Sgt. Shaw's ten-year-old niece wanted to share some memories of her favorite uncle. She told us, he was a jokester.

"Sometimes we would play hide and seek and he would count and we would hide and he would never come looking for us," said Katelynn Hinterberger.

But more than anything, little Katelynn wishes she could do something to change what happened.

"I want to make a time machine because I want to go back in time now that I know he died," Katelynn said. "I want to tell him not to go into the Army so he doesn't die." One thing is certain, that brave 23-year-old died doing something he believed in.

"He wanted to be a soldier," said Ronald Shaw. "He thought what he was doing was right. So I gave him all my support because he was my son. You always got to support your children in all they do and whatever decisions they make."

Even before walking into South Buffalo's Education Center, the magnitude of loss is felt. Lessons continued Wednesday but there were also reminders of much larger ones nearby.

Laying between several students were pictures of Sgt. Shaw.

"To learn that we've lost such a wonderful young man is really devastating," said Stacey Watson, Executive Director of the South Buffalo Education Center.

The Seneca Street school had been around for just a few months when Watson first met Shaw. He came to her for free GED training, then returned in 2004 for help with his Army entrance exam, which he had twice-failed.

"He was determined to serve his country and determined to pass that test and not just pass it barely. He was determined to pass it," she recalled.

Shaw did just that on his third attempt. He joined the Army and went on to serve two tours in Iraq.

During his first, Shaw was awarded the Purple Heart after taking shrapnel in the head.

Now, Watson and her students are remembering their time with Dan.

"Although his life has obviously ended way too early, I'm happy we got to play a part in seeing him realize his dreams," she said.

The military is investigating exactly how Sgt. Shaw was killed. Ronald Shaw says his son's body will be brought back to the United States within the next few days for burial. Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalized.

A) As Resistance Tries “All Morning” To Kill His Troops, Head-Case Colonel Grigsby Says “We Always Know We’re In The Right Place When This Happens”

B) And Now, For A Taste Of Reality About How It’s Going In Iraq



A U.S. tank (covered with smoke and dust) fires towards insurgents to give cover to a U.S. helicopter flying out of Combat Outpost Cahill, November 6, 2007. (Erik de Castro/Reuters)

Nov 16, 2007 By Andrew Marshall, (Reuters)

COMBAT OUTPOST CAHILL, Iraq

“I think that was pretty close, there,” said Major-General Rick Lynch, as another bone-rattling explosion shook Combat Outpost Cahill.

The small U.S. base southeast of Baghdad had been under sporadic attack all morning from insurgents firing mortar bombs from hideouts in the palm groves and ruined buildings nearby.

As Lynch arrived with Reuters journalists in two Black Hawk helicopters, another wave of attacks began.

Insurgents with AK47s opened fire on the Black Hawks, and as they landed in a swirl of sand, more mortar blasts rent the air. Lynch -- and the Reuters team -- hastened towards safe cover.

“We always know we’re in the right place when this happens,” said Colonel Wayne Grigsby, who leads the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, part of Lynch’s 3rd Infantry Division, which is responsible for security in the provinces south of Baghdad. [The increasingly sun-damaged Grigsby needs a long, long, long rest.]

It’s a typical confrontation in the Iraq war -- insurgents with low-tech weaponry emerging from hiding to launch pinpoint attacks, and then trying to slip back into the shadows before the U.S. military can hit back with vastly superior firepower.

MORE:

And Now, For Another Taste Of Reality About How It’s Going In Iraq: “In All, The Battalion Is Hit By Three Roadside Bombs And Takes Small-Arms Fire. No Weapons Are Found”

November 16, 2007 by Eric Westervelt, NPR [Excerpts]

While insurgent violence is down in Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi forces continue to face a tough fight in Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq. The surge of American forces into Baghdad pushed some insurgents northward into the Mosul area.

One U.S. Army battalion, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based in Fort Bliss, Texas, is in charge of this ethnically diverse city of nearly 3 million. Nearly every time soldiers with 2-7 Cav leave Forward Operating Base Marez, they face contact with insurgents.

First Sgt. Chris Prosser is in a lead Humvee of a raid by the entire battalion — including tanks and helicopters — into a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the southwest corner of Mosul.

As the convoy pushes forward, bustling streets are quickly emptied as shopkeepers anxiously shutter their metal gates. Soon word comes of a roadside bomb attack on a lead tank and of a possible trigger man in a yellow shirt fleeing southward toward Prosser’s unit. Soldiers see two young male Iraqis running and give chase.

The two fleeing Iraqis scramble over a brick wall into someone's muddy backyard.

Prosser orders the Humvee to smash down the home's locked, front metal gate.

The driver revs the engine and speeds toward the door.

The front gate is destroyed, and so is the Humvee's axle, which lies broken in the sand. Soldiers bail out to give chase while the gunner and driver argue over the immobilized Humvee.

In the back of the house, soldiers have corralled the suspected insurgents. The two 20-something Iraqi men crouch on their knees near a couple of sheep and the owner of the house who's gate was just smashed in. He's an elderly man wearing a black robe and a scornful look on his face.

Iraqi soldiers begin to question the Iraqis as Army Capt. Sean Richardson snaps pictures of their faces when, just up the road, another roadside bomb explodes.

No one is seriously injured. But the nearby explosion makes the Iraqi soldiers seem more convinced than ever that the two suspects they've helped round up are involved in the roadside attacks.

"Innocent people don't take off running like that," says Saud Halaf is with the 2nd Battalion of the Second Iraqi Division. "If he did nothing wrong, why did he run?"

One of the suspects gives his name as Ahmed Abdullah. He was wearing multiple layers of clothing on a hot day, suggesting he planned to shed clothes to change appearance while fleeing. He cowers in the dirt and insists he did nothing.

"I ran because of the bullets," Abdullah says. "I felt scared one of them would hit me and kill me."

[Army Capt. Sean] Richardson apologizes to the family for smashing down their front gate and moves out.

"Sorry for the inconvenience and appreciate you staying calm while we're here," he says through a translator. "Stay safe and God bless." [**"Hey, no fucking problem. We just love it when foreigners invade and occupy our country and smash up our shit. Y'all come back and see us again real soon. We'll be waitin'."**]

Cooperation from local Sunnis this day is negligible. Most people stay indoors, frightened. **[Wow! Imagine that!]**

In all, the battalion is hit by three roadside bombs and takes small-arms fire. No weapons are found.

Prosser is asked if he thinks aggressively moving into Sunni areas with an entire battalion of U.S. soldiers and bashing down doors might end up fueling the insurgency they're trying to counter.

“I understand that it’s not going to be perfect, even with the Iraqi army,” Prosser says.

“Try to put it in perspective of what if someone was in America doing the same thing, how would I feel? It might create a sense of distrust or whatever amongst them.”

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
MOUNT UP
COME HOME**

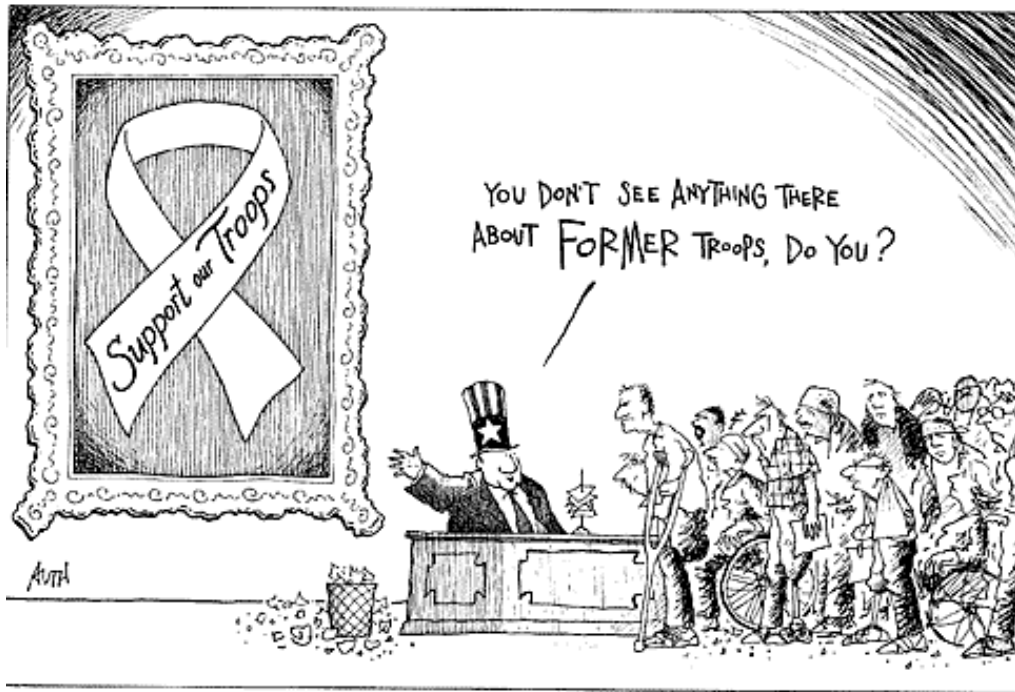


U.S. military convoy west of Mosul Aug. 19, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

TROOP NEWS

**Wounded Combat Vets Fucked
Over, As Usual:
“I Guess You Think There Is Going To Be
A Support System For You When You**

Get Back. But There Really Isn't. You Have To Do It All For Yourself"



[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,515th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

Murray also remembers being tested for TBI and told that his memory loss and the trembling nerves in his hands could be traced to the day he fell out of a tree as a child. "The doctor who did that test had the credibility of Dr. Seuss," he said.

Fogerty tracked the lost paperwork back to a civilian-contracted physician who had been brought in to help an overwhelmed medical staff at Brooke. The folder lay on the doctor's desk for months before disappearing altogether.

November 11, 2007 By Charles M. Sennott, Boston Globe Staff [Excerpts]

The First Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment - the reserve infantry unit based in Central Massachusetts and known as "New England's Own" - has a proud history in modern America's many wars, including a record of exceptional valor, and devastating casualties, on Iwo Jima.

When they returned home from Iraq last fall to Veterans Day speeches, parades, and accolades, there was more distinguished service to celebrate.

And more devastation.

The 878 men who came home have struggled to come to terms with the fact that 11 did not; that 68 others, like [Corporal Patrick] Murray, suffered combat wounds; and that many more were hit with injuries less visible but with long-term effects, like bomb-blast concussions.

It is as if they all shared in those losses, and, in a real sense, most did. A Globe survey of more than 130 members of the battalion found that nearly 60 percent report one or more symptoms of war trauma - anger, depression, nightmares, hypervigilance - even if they have not been diagnosed with the disorder.

Many hasten to add that they are doing just fine, picking up life right where they left off. It is, in the main, a proud, resilient group, not much given to complaint. Service, most say, changed them irrevocably, and for the better.

But fully half say the transition back to civilian life has been hard. Money, for some, is tight, relationships with loved ones bruised, frustration with the government veterans bureaucracy real and growing.

Reserve units like theirs have, in particular, reported problems with medical screenings for brain injuries.

More than a few of the Marines have doubts about this war, too. But their focus is on their duty - and on getting well, or helping others to do so.

In that, members of the battalion report some ringing successes but also some shameful failures as the nation delivers, unevenly, on its pledge to care for those wounded in service.

The power was off, the air conditioning down, and the hallways dimly lit by emergency lights. The elevators were out as well, so Patrick Murray walked down three flights of stairs on his one good leg to sign in a visitor.

After a whirlwind of treatment and surgeries in Iraq, Germany, and Texas, Murray was in Malogne House, a dreary residential facility attached to Walter Reed military hospital in Washington. It is a holding tank for veterans, like Murray, who are transitioning back home.

"It's not that bad," said Murray, not one to complain.

He'd been the beneficiary of military trauma care, the best in the world by some accounts. But now he felt the victim of the frayed system of ongoing care for the wounded veterans.

A Veterans Affairs Administration official came by to brief Murray on his benefits and the paperwork required at a time when he was in great pain and heavily sedated. In graphic terms, Murray told him off. The counselor never returned.

Murray also remembers being tested for TBI and told that his memory loss and the trembling nerves in his hands could be traced to the day he fell out of a tree as a child.

“The doctor who did that test had the credibility of Dr. Seuss,” he said.

Captain Fogerty, 32, of North Kingstown, R.I., is slow to anger, but now he was irate.

He had been making a round of visits to Murray, Burke, Hill, and other Marines from his company who suffered wounds, and what he'd found didn't sit well at all.

A particular concern was the treatment of Cody Hill, who suffered burns over 60 percent of his body as the sole survivor of the IED attack on the morning of Sept. 4. Hill and Burke, who had lost his leg on Sept. 4, were both sent to the Brooke Army Medical Center, in Texas, reputedly one of the best in the armed forces.

Treatment records show that the young corporal saw a burn surgeon on Oct. 5, 2006, and that no one had prescribed a long-term rehabilitation plan for him until May 4, a delay that jeopardized his recovery.

Fogerty began to ask tough questions and says he and the Hill family were told by a nurse in the East Burn Ward that Cody “seemed to have slipped through the cracks.”

The nurse's words infuriated Fogerty, and, in May, he banged out a memo outlining his findings. He addressed it up his chain of command, ultimately to a congressional committee investigating problems with the care of veterans.

He wrote of Hill's falling “through the cracks,” of paperwork routinely lost, of military families unaware of what benefits they are entitled to, and of the maddening inability of the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs Administration to work smoothly together.

Cody Hill's father, Carlyle, had quit his job on an Oklahoma ranch to help his son heal. He dressed his son's burns and slept by his bedside. He never thought about it, he just did it.

The family was struggling financially, but no one showed them they were entitled to benefits - \$29,000 in compensation and \$100,000 in insurance. Paperwork went missing and the claim was delayed for months.

Fogerty tracked the lost paperwork back to a civilian-contracted physician who had been brought in to help an overwhelmed medical staff at Brooke.

The folder lay on the doctor's desk for months before disappearing altogether. Burke, who lost his leg, has suffered similar bureaucratic delays at Brooke, which have left him lingering in “medical hold.”

Sitting in his office one recent day, Fogerty said, "Not that much gets me steamed. But to tell you the truth, this is outrageous. . . . If I ran Weapons company to the standard that this bureaucracy is doing, I'd be fired, and deservedly so."

It was Sept. 30, 2006, just five days before the battalion was to depart Iraq, and Sergeant Terry Rathbun was out on patrol. It was a tense time, but he was starting to feel pretty confident he'd get home to Norwich, Conn., in one piece.

Then a shot rang out. Captain Harry Thompson, his platoon commander, was hit and struggling to stand up. Rathbun lunged forward to keep him down and, at that instant, the sniper shot that might have killed Thompson struck Rathbun in the face.

On a hot, dusty day at Fort Devens this August, Rathbun, 36, received the Bronze Star for his heroism.

Rathbun had nothing but praise for the care he says he received at Bethesda Naval Hospital. But once he was released into the custody of the VA, he said, it was "one nightmare after another."

His records never followed him from Bethesda. He wasn't checked for TBI for nearly seven months. And when the tests confirmed he did have TBI, he was told the local VA did not have a rehabilitation program. Finally, after months of delays - delays that can do long-term harm to TBI patients - he was placed with a private therapy center in Groton, Conn.

Adding insult to injury, Rathbun kept getting medical bills and collection notices from the VA, even though all of his care was supposed to be fully covered.

After six months of haggling, the situation was corrected, but not before Rathbun suffered a drop in his credit rating.

"You don't want to complain about it because you figure, hey, there are a lot of guys who didn't make it back at all," says Rathbun, who suffers from dizziness, confusion, and depression. He has been unable to find work, and his marriage has broken up since he returned from war.

"I have to figure out how I am going to put my whole life back together," he said.

"I guess you think there is going to be a support system for you when you get back. But there really isn't. You have to do it all for yourself."

120 U.S. War Veteran Suicides A Week

[Thanks to WH, who sent this in. He writes: G'day T. This item is from the Melbourne (Australia) Herald-Sun. The Herald-Sun is a Murdoch tabloid rag, so I can't vouch for the accuracy, but if even close to being true, it's a terribly sad story, and yet a further indictment of the powers that be. Best regards, WH, Hopetoun Victoria, Australia.]

From correspondents in New York, November 15, 2007 09:47am

THE US military is experiencing a "suicide epidemic" with veterans killing themselves at the rate of 120 a week, according to an investigation by US television network CBS.

At least 6256 US veterans committed suicide in 2005 - an average of 17 a day - the network reported, with veterans overall more than twice as likely to take their own lives as the rest of the general population.

While the suicide rate among the general population was 8.9 per 100,000, the level among veterans was between 18.7 and 20.8 per 100,000.

That figure rose to 22.9 to 31.9 suicides per 100,000 among veterans aged 20 to 24 - almost four times the non-veteran average for the age group.

"Those numbers clearly show an epidemic of mental health problems," CBS quoted veterans' rights advocate Paul Sullivan as saying.

CBS quoted the father of a 23-year-old soldier who shot himself in 2005 as saying the military did not want the true scale of the problem to be known.

"Nobody wants to tally it up in the form of a government total," Mike Bowman said.

"They don't want the true numbers of casualties to really be known."

There are 25 million veterans in the United States, 1.6 million of whom served in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to CBS.

The network said it was the first time that a nationwide count of veteran suicides had been conducted.

The tally was reached by collating suicide data from individual states for both veterans and the general population from 1995.

**Win One For Our Side:
Students Kicked Out Of School For
Anti-War Action Readmitted:**

“Expulsions Off The Table”

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace.]

11/13/07 By rsand, Chicago.indymedia.org

In an abrupt turn-around, District 201 Superintendent Nowakowski takes expulsions off the table and sends most student protestors back to school tomorrow.

Less than 2 hours after stating he would release a comment on the looming student expulsions in a day or two, Dr. Ben Nowakowski, Superintendent of the J.S. Morton schools in suburban Berwyn issued a statement dropping all threat of expulsions and sending most students back to school on Wednesday.

More than two dozen students, were facing expulsion after an anti-war sit-in at the school on November first.

Since the protest, the numbers of students suspended has slowly decreased from a high of over 37 to a count of 18 cited today by the superintendent. In the statement posted on the District 201 website, Nowakowski says that “14 of the 18 students will be cleared to return to class on Wednesday, November 14; the remaining 4 students who bore more culpability for the disruption that occurred in the opinion of this administration will be cleared to return to class on Friday, November 16.”

This is good news for parents whose children were still facing expulsion after several suspension appeals meetings with school officials.

Since the press conference held by the parents a week ago, school officials and the Board of Education have been barraged by the press, members of peace, social justice and civil rights groups and have felt the pressure of scrutiny by political figures including the Reverend Jesse Jackson and State Representative LaShawn Ford.

Dr. Charles Flowers, the regional superintendent, also said he was inquiring into the harsh punishment of the students.

Although relieved by the reprieve, parent, Pam Winstead said the next step is to make sure that the students' records are expunged of any reference to expulsion.

Winstead said a group of the suspended students have been meeting to makes plans on how to continue their protest and desire to educate the student body about the war through a school-approved manner.

Some of the students are expected to speak at the Iraq Moratorium rally in Federal Plaza at 4:30pm on Friday, November 16th and are performing in a concert dedicated to them at Elmhurst College on Saturday the 17th.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

11.16.07 AFP & Nov 17 (KUNA) & (Xinhua)

A roadside bomb blast targeting a police vehicle on Friday morning killed four policemen in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, a local official said.

The remote-controlled bomb exploded near a police vehicle at about 08:00 a.m. local time (0330 GMT) in Jalai district of Kandahar province, and as a result the vehicle was destroyed and four policemen were killed, Niaz Mohammad Zahadi, district chief of Jalai, told Xinhua.

A Shahrak police chief and eight of his men were killed and five wounded in a separate attack in the central province of Ghor when they were ambushed while driving, Shahrak district governor Haji Mohammad Haroon said. He said 19 other policemen were captured.

Meanwhile, the bodies of 20 Taliban were found on the battlefield following a clash Thursday in the south-central province of Uruzgan, police said.

Two policemen were killed in the fighting, which also involved international troops with the US-led coalition, provincial police chief Juma Gul Himat said.

Driver and conductor of an oil tanker, targeted by armed militants in central Afghanistan on Friday, have gone missing and are believed to be killed in the attack. Militants loyal to Hezbi Islami Party of former premier Gulduddin Hekmatyar claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on the fuel tanker.

A militant commander Fazal Hadi said the vehicle, supplying fuel to foreign troops, was targeted in Kapisa province on Friday.

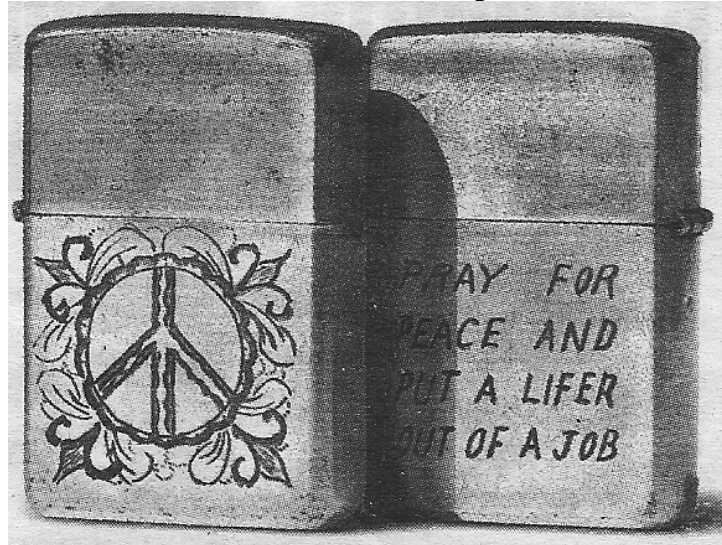
**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

Vietnam Days 1



"Three years into the war many GIs inscribed their Zippos with peace and love signs, the very symbols of the anti-war movement in the United States." -- Army Times
11.19.07

Vietnam Days 2: "War on the VA"

From: Jim
To: Vietnam Veterans Against The War [VVAW]
Sent: November 15, 2007
Subject: War on the VA

Who on the list remembers the War on the VA we waged back in the early 1970's?

CNN is running some kind of special this next? weekend they call the war on the VA.

I can see it now.... "The war on the VA is brought to you by....." add your favorite drug company, or defense contractor.

Down in Miami, VVAW members did our little bit.

For months we posted ourselves outside the Miami VA, with a card table, and a "VA Shit List", which was a big roll of copy machine paper. Vets would come up

to us and add their complaints to the shit list and sign their name most of the time.

When it was all filled out - it was 50 - 60ft long - we tried to give it to the VA honcho but he refused to meet with us.

That made our next decision easy.

Seven of us chained and handcuffed ourselves to the locked door that closed off the area of the VA director's office.

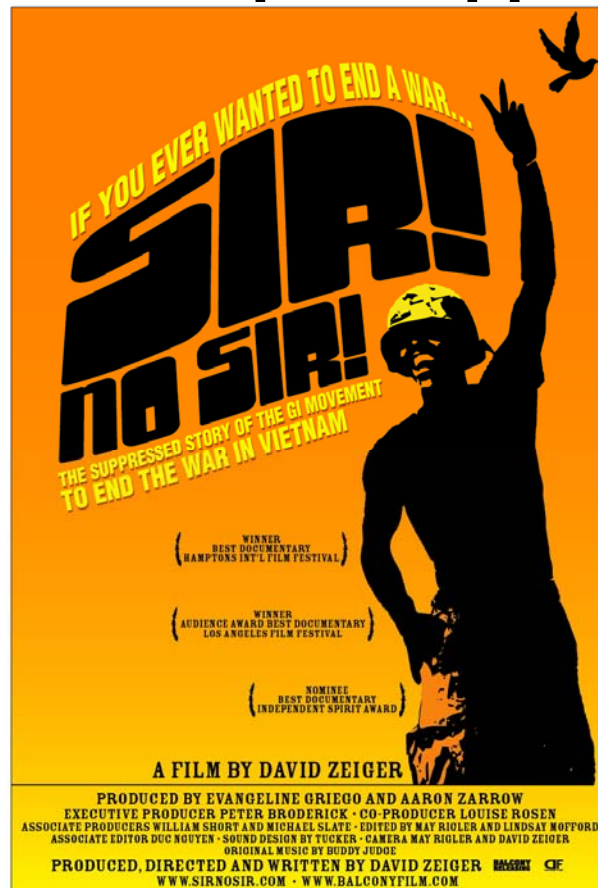
The VA bulls showed up, and called the Miami metro cops, who cut us away from the locked door, and we were arrested.

When the case went to trial the judge threw out the charges saying veterans cant be arrested inside the VA for trespassing.

The summer of 1973 and 1974 saw allot of action like this.

I'd sure like to hear more war on the VA stories from those days.

When The Troops Stopped A War:



Sir! No Sir!:
At A Theatre Near You!
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.

Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY
SOLDIERS NOW**

**HELP GET SIR! NO SIR!
INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST**

Since Sir! No Sir! opened in theaters last April, many activists and friends of the film have argued that it should be made available to everyone for free. I couldn't agree more. In the world I want to live in, films like Sir! No Sir! and, in fact, all art would be free to everyone.

But in that world, films would not cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to make. In that world, artists could survive and continue making the films people need.

That's not the world we live in. In this world, we need your direct support.

The best way to both support and spread Sir! No Sir! is to buy and help distribute the DVD, especially the new "Director's Edition" that includes 1 1/2 hours of incredible new stories from the GI Movement both then and now.

This DVD is available at www.sirnosir.com and in stores and websites everywhere. If you've already bought one, buy another for a friend.

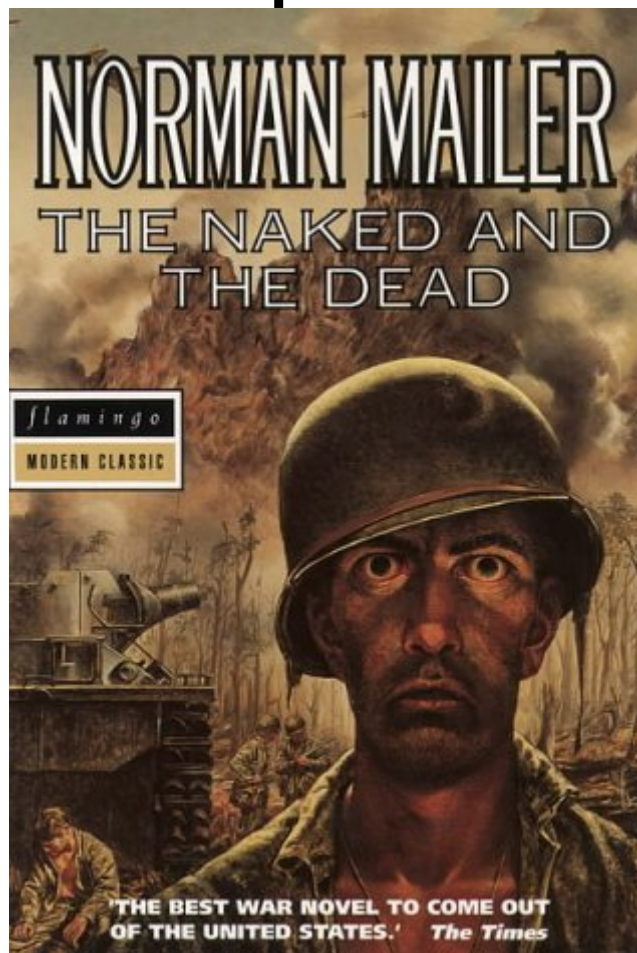
Or buy several to hand out--and play an important role in getting this long-suppressed story into everyone's hands.

David Zeiger and Jade Fox
Displaced Films
jadefox@sirnosir.com

The “Good War”

**“Of Course, They Died In Vain, Any
GI Knew The Score”**

**“They Slept With Mud And Insects And
Worms, While The Officers Bitched
Because There Were No Paper
Napkins”**



[images-eu.amazon.com]

Red expresses the feeling that many of the soldiers have come to hold about the war: “What have I got against the goddamn Japs? You think I care if they keep this fuggin’ jungle? What’s it to me if Cummings gets another star?”

November 16, 2007 By Martin Smith, Socialist Worker

Iraq Veterans Against the War member MARTIN SMITH pays tribute to the great antiwar novel *The Naked and the Dead*, by Norman Mailer, who died last weekend at age 84.

THE MEDIA memorialized Norman Mailer after his death last week with accolades about his stature as a literary giant, two Pulitzer Prizes, larger-than-life celebrity persona and reputation as an egotistical curmudgeon. But the substance of his ideas and his life beyond the image and the awards got little attention.

Mailer grew up in a working-class family in Brooklyn. His life was shaped by his service in the Army in the Philippines and during the Second World War, and the disaffection he felt. He identified with the 1950s beat counterculture and 1960s antiwar movement, both in his writing and as a participant in social protests.

Mailer's political engagement came through in non-fiction books like *Why Are We in Vietnam?* *Armies of the Night* and *Miami* and the *Siege of Chicago*, which combined journalism with his own highly personal reflections as a participant-observer in the tumultuous protests of the antiwar movement.

Also missing from many mainstream tributes to Mailer was any acknowledgement of his disturbing streak of sexism. Mailer cultivated a "macho" image and declared himself an enemy of the women's liberation movement. In his rants against feminism, he attempted to justify opposition to birth control, and he blamed the struggle for equality for destroying the "mystery" of sex.

EACH OBITUARY did at least mention *The Naked and the Dead*, Mailer's first and most important novel.

It is one of the great antiwar classics in literature and a book that speaks to all activists committed to ending the brutality of wars for empire.

Yet *The Naked and the Dead* is barely known today outside of academic circles--because it challenges the standard assumptions about the Second World War as "the good war," and unmask the hidden motives of U.S. involvement.

The Naked and the Dead is the story of a suicide mission by a reconnaissance patrol that is ordered to assess a Japanese rear position on the island of Anopopei. If the soldiers survive and return, General Cummings plans to send out a company for a surprise attack, a daring tactical move that would likely lead to his promotion.

However, from the beginning, the mission is fraught with problems. Lt. Hearn, the newly assigned platoon commander, has no field experience; Wilson, married with a daughter, has contracted a painful case of gonorrhea and can barely function; and anti-Semitism directed at Roth and Goldstein divides the platoon.

Other obstacles develop as tensions mount between Lt. Hearn and Staff Sgt. Croft over leadership of the platoon. Fatalities, a near mutiny, exhaustion and finally a furious hornets' attack cause the mission to be aborted.

Nakedness is a theme throughout the work. Mailer, in his distinctive realist style, undresses the characters and reveals the material conditions behind their motivations and fears.

Mailer shows how the grunts in Staff Sgt. Croft's platoon elected to join the Army not out of a patriotic fervor to fight fascism, but because of dire circumstances and the lack of opportunities at home. As Gallagher, an Irish Catholic from South Boston, bragged to one woman, "I'm tired of my job, I'm getting' a better one...Something big...I'm on my way, I'm going places."

Others have joined the military to escape. Red, for example, grew up in a company-run mining town in Montana and lost his father in a mining accident. He decides while working at a flophouse to join up rather than get married.

Similarly, Martinez, a Mexican American from San Antonio, gets Rosalita pregnant and enlists. He ultimately finds himself reliving the racism he experiences in the civilian world, as he weeds the officers' yards and serves as a houseboy at their parties.

After spending time on Anopopei and in the Pacific theater, many of the soldiers begin to question the true motive behind capturing a desolate island from the Japanese. As Red ponders, "Of course, they died in vain, any GI knew the score. The war's just t.s. (tough shit) to them who had to fight it."

In a dramatic scene, one member of the platoon, Wilson, dies from a stomach wound. Symbolic of the deeper feelings of loss and despair among many, another platoon member, Ridges, weeps "from exhaustion and failure and the shattering naked conviction that nothing mattered."

Red expresses the feeling that many of the soldiers have come to hold about the war: "What have I got against the goddamn Japs? You think I care if they keep this fuggin' jungle? What's it to me if Cummings gets another star?"

MAILER POINTS out the stark differences between the working-class troops and their officers.

As in all wars, "workers in uniform" must labor for generals who are out for promotion and popularity, rather than protecting the welfare of their men.

"They slept with mud and insects and worms," Mailer writes, "while the officers bitched because there were no paper napkins, and the chow could stand improvement."

In particular, the character of General Cummings, with his silk monogrammed handkerchiefs, represents the emerging military-industrial complex.

At one point, Cummings divides the meat rations to the unit so that half go to the 180 enlisted men--and the other half to the 38 officers.

Cummings explains his grander purpose: “Break them down. Every time an enlisted man sees an officer get an extra privilege, it breaks him down a little more...they also fear us more...Every time there’s what you call an Army injustice, the enlisted man involved is confirmed a little more in the idea of his own inferiority.”

Thus, Mailer lays bare the class realities that separate the officers and the enlisted men and challenges the idea that all Americans were united for a common cause.

In a series of dialogues between General Cummings and Lt. Hearn, Mailer reveals the twisted ideology of the ruling class.

“There’s one thing about power,” Cummings explains. “It can flow only from the top down. When there are little surges of resistance at the middle levels, it merely calls for more power to be directed downward, to burn it out.”

This attitude, still prevalent among the generals and war planners to this day, explains the mindset behind the atrocities committed by the U.S. and other Allied powers during the war--such as the terror bombing of the German city of Dresden, which killed more than 100,000 people, mostly civilians, and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed more than 210,000 people instantly, with another 130,000 dead from radiation and illness over the next five years.

The terror unleashed by the U.S. during the war is accepted today as a necessary evil, committed in the goal of fighting fascism.

Yet the U.S. had deeper war aims. As General Cummings explains to Lt. Hearn about “the good war”:

“For the past century, the entire historical process has been working toward greater and greater consolidation of power...Your men of power in America...are becoming conscious of their real aims for the first time in our history. Watch. After the war, our foreign policy is going to be far more naked, far less hypocritical than it has ever been. We’re no longer going to cover our eyes with our left hand while our right is extending an imperialist paw.”

The General and policymakers like him are the product of a system that has always created--and will continue to create--atrocities and war crimes.

If you’re looking for a brilliant novel that debunks the mythology of “the good war,” read Norman Mailer’s *The Naked and the Dead*. You’ll discover a book that the Bushes, the Clintons and the Obamas, with their talk of potential nuclear threats from Iran and Pakistan and an endless “war on terror,” would prefer to bury.

Troops Invited:

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi citizen cries after she and her son are forced out of their house at gunpoint during a home invasion by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA while their personal belongings are searched in a rural town of Narwan, southeast of Baghdad, November 8, 2007. REUTERS/Erik de Castro

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

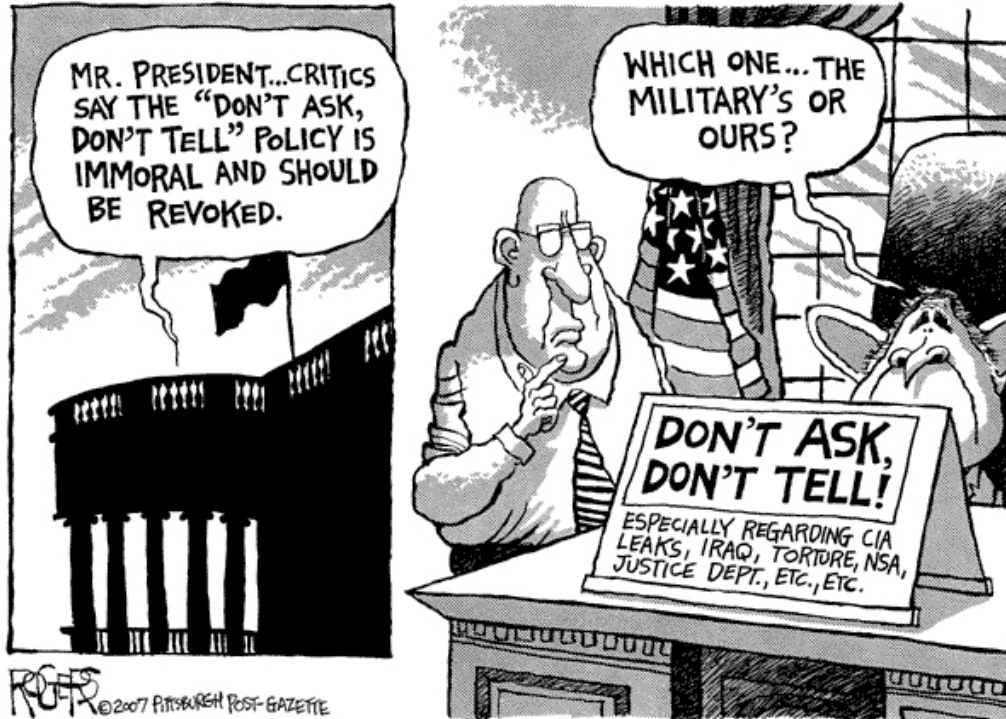
[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

“Barry Lamar Bonds Faces Thirty Years In Prison Because The Department Of Justice Is A Corroded Husk Of Political Decay”

“Bonds Is Under Attack From A Collection Of Torture-Loving, Habeas Corpus Shredding, Illegal Wire Tapping, Political Operatives”

11.15.07 By Dave Zirin, Edge Of Sports

Barry Lamar Bonds faces thirty years in prison because the Department of Justice is a corroded husk of political decay.

The baseball Home Run King has now been officially indicted on perjury and obstruction of justice charges and it only took three years and millions of tax dollars to make it happen.

The DOJ’s entire case hinges on the ridiculous question of whether Bonds “knowingly” was on the juice, or lied on the witness stand when he said he took such substances “unknowingly.”

The actual indictment parses in language that would shame a Clinton.

It reads, “During the criminal investigation, evidence was obtained including positive tests for the presence of anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances for Bonds and other athletes.”

This is idiocy raised to the level of law.

It makes me wonder what they’re teaching at Jesus-land Legal Academy these days.

Did Bonds actually test positive for steroids or were pharmaceuticals only found in these mysterious un-indicted “other athletes”?

And what is a “performance enhancer”?

That’s not even a legal or medical term; it’s sports radio shorthand. The cortisone shot into Curt Schilling ankle in the 2005 playoffs was a performance enhancer. The Viagra coursing through Bob Dole’s veins is a performance enhancer.

Whatever keeps that smile glued to Laura Bush’s face is a performance enhancer.

It's a colloquial phrase tells us nothing. It only raises the question whether the indictment was written by Mike or the Mad Dog.

Most of the media has focused on the prison release of Bonds' trainer and childhood friend Greg Anderson. Anderson has spent the last four months in jail for refusing to testify against his friend. The press is atwitter with speculation that Anderson may have finally turned. But his attorney Mark Geragos says that this is absolutely and unequivocally not the case.

It's far more likely that Anderson was released because now that the indictment has been served there is no legal basis for holding him.

The media, however, has their eye on the wrong ball. The timing that's important here is not Greg Anderson's release but the ascension your brand spanking new Attorney General, Mike Mukasey, and his desire for a cheap hit.

Mukasey believes that the pillars of these United States are Mom, apple pie, and protracted torture.

As the New York Times wrote on November 1st, "Mukasey, a well-respected trial judge in New York...has stunned us during the confirmation process by saying he believes the president has the power to negate laws and by not committing himself to enforcing Congressional subpoenas. He also has suggested that he will not uphold standards of decency during wartime recognized by the civilized world for generations."

The fact is that Bonds is under attack from a collection of torture-loving, Habeas Corpus shredding, illegal wire tapping, political operatives.

The idea that a Barry Bonds indictment becomes the first act of Mike Mukasey's Justice Department only exposes Sens. Diane Feinstein and Chuck Schumer, and the other Democratic pols who backed his confirmation.

They called him "a man of character" as well as "a strong leader, committed to depoliticizing the agency's operations." There is no evidence of character and leadership in this indictment; only the tawdry political desire for headlines.

Mukasey and friends may have worked themselves into a lather over the thought of their "Capone" behind bars. But they shouldn't be picking out his orange jumpsuit just yet.

The indictment comes on the heels of the resignation of San Francisco US Attorney Kevin Ryan. Ryan was by all counts a Bush loyalist but he had earned the ire of the DOJ for, among other things, not indicting Bonds. He apparently didn't relish the thought of prosecuting the local hero in a San Francisco courtroom. Prosecutors will have that same hurdle of convicting Bonds on his home turf with apparently no fresh evidence.

Because it appears that the DOJ has nothing new to say, the plan will be to scorch the jury pool by raising the temperature on the story.

Already in the wake of the indictment, the White House felt the need to weigh in saying, among other insipid platitudes, "clearly this is a sad day for baseball."

You would never know that there are wars and occupations going on that might require some attention. This is like FDR delivering a fireside chat on the death of Fatty Arbuckle. It's also yet another sign that the justice system has more holes than the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Tomorrow (Friday) I will be demonstrating in front of Mukasey's Department of Justice along with thousands of my closest friends. We will march because they refuse to indict people for hanging nooses, or see the rape and torture of Megan Williams as a hate crime, or do anything to change the perception that justice means "just-us."

But my vocal chords might be a little more raw than usual at days end. The idea that they have no time for Megan Williams, but invest years in the prosecution of Barry Bonds should make any good person of conscience utterly enraged.

Think about it: Barry Bonds joining Marion Jones in prison. Feel any safer yet?

CLASS WAR REPORTS



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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