

GI SPECIAL 5K17:

Recruiting



**“They See It As
Pointless Going Back
Risking Their Lives To A
War That’s Not Going To
Make Any Effect On
Them”**

***Fucking Idiots Out Of Control:
Soldier Hospitalized By V.A. For
PTSD Arrested “In The Middle Of
The Night” As AWOL:
“It’s Made Me Lose Respect For The
Military”
“I Am Being Punished For Getting Help”***



This undated but recent picture from the Lexington-Fayette County jail shows Justin Faulkner. (AP Photo/Lexington-Fayette County jail)

11.20.07 By JEFFREY McMURRAY, LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)

A soldier facing his second tour of duty in Iraq said in a jailhouse interview he was at a hospital seeking mental help when he was arrested in the middle of the night for allegedly being absent without leave.

Spc. Justin Faulkner insists his superior officers at Fort Campbell knew about his mental problems but refused to provide adequate treatment.

On Thursday, Faulkner checked into a Lexington VA hospital, where doctors told him they wanted to keep him until Monday for observation. Police showed up at the hospital shortly after 2 a.m. Saturday to take him to jail.

“It’s humiliating, degrading,” Faulkner, 22, of Stanton, said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press minutes before his release from the Fayette County Detention Center.

“It’s made me lose respect for the military. To come and arrest me at the VA, it wasn’t like I was trying to hide, trying to run. I was getting help. I am being punished for getting help.”

Faulkner, who concluded a one-year tour of duty in Iraq in February 2006, was due to head back there Monday to join the rest of his unit. He was released from jail on the condition he report back to Fort Campbell on Tuesday.

Faulkner said he would but insisted the Army would be “foolish” to send him to Iraq. He said he has been experiencing post-traumatic symptoms since realizing a few weeks ago that a return trip to Iraq was likely.

“I kept getting these flashbacks, these recurring scenes from when I was over there the first time,” Faulkner said. “I get these anxiety attacks at night, and sometimes during the day, I daze off. I can’t get it out of my head. It wasn’t until I was told I had to go back to Iraq, something just clicked in my head — it was like reliving your worst nightmare.”

Fort Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling said she couldn’t comment on specifics because of privacy issues but said “there are systems in place on the installation and through the chain of command to ensure soldiers receive the treatment they require.”

Faulkner said those systems didn’t work for him.

Faulkner said he went to a psychiatrist at Fort Campbell for several weeks, most recently last Tuesday, but the drugs he was being prescribed didn’t help. That’s when he checked into the VA hospital.

Faulkner was in the National Guard during his first tour of duty but voluntarily signed up for active duty, even though he says he had questions about the lingering role of American forces in Iraq.

He said civilian life — including work as a prison guard — wasn’t working for him, and the Army offered him a \$20,000 bonus to re-enlist. Not until his redeployment date got near did the symptoms become unbearable, he said.

As for the war itself, Faulkner says he supports the soldiers but believes it’s time for the troops to come home.

“To me, we’re fighting Bush’s war that his dad couldn’t finish,” he said.

The arrest comes days after the Army announced soldiers are deserting their posts at the highest rate since 1980.

About nine in every 1,000 soldiers deserted in fiscal year 2007, which ended Sept. 30, compared with seven in every 1,000 the previous year. Overall, 4,698 soldiers deserted this year, compared with 3,301 last year.

Faulkner said he isn’t surprised.

“When you’re over there, you’re keeping peace between two religious communities,” he said.

“They see it as pointless going back risking their lives to a war that’s not going to make any effect on them.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Copter Down Near Salman Pak; 2 Dead, 12 Injured

Nov. 20, 2007 (CBS/AP)

A U.S. military helicopter crashed Tuesday southeast of Baghdad, killing two soldiers and injuring 12, the U.S. military said.

The statement also did not specify the type of helicopter or the nationalities of the victims.

The crash occurred near Salman Pak on the outskirts of the capital, a military statement said.

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A U.S. Army soldier from Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division searches a tanker truck in Mosul, Nov. 6, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Soldier Killed In Iraq Had Local Ties

November 15, 2007 Wendy Johnson, Pine Journal

Local residents Chad and Holly Vermeersch will take the longest trip of their lives at the end of this week.

At that time, they will travel to Fairbanks, Alaska, where they will represent their family at the funeral of Holly's cousin, Army Sergeant Derek Stenroos, who was killed serving his country in Iraq on Nov. 5.

"One of the first things Terry (Stenroos' father) commented on when he called with the news was how much Derek had wanted to be a soldier his whole life," recalled Vermeersch.

Sgt. Stenroos, 24, of North Pole, Alaska, had roots that ran deep in the Esko area. His father Terry was an Esko High School graduate before moving to Alaska many years ago, and among survivors still living in the local area are his grandmother, Patricia Stenroos; his cousin, Tim Stenroos; and the Vermeersch family. His grandfather, the late Marvin Stenroos, was also a local resident up until he recently passed away.

"I can remember Derek mostly from our childhood," mused Holly. "He and his family used to come here to visit for two weeks at a time. One of the things he always loved the most was hockey, and he played every chance he could get."

Stenroos was a goaltender for the North Pole High School, and following graduation he also played in the Fairbanks Amateur Hockey League and coached many children in the sport.

Sgt. Stenroos was among four soldiers killed as the result of wounds they suffered from an improvised explosive device in northern Iraq, according to the United States Department of Defense, after an explosion occurred near their Humvee during combat operations in Tal Al-Dahab. All four of the fallen soldiers were stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., as mountain soldiers assigned to the First Brigade Combat Team. The unit deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in September to provide security in the area.

Vermeersch said Stenroos' unit had previously been deployed to Baghdad from June 2005 until June 2006, so this was his second tour of duty in the Middle East. "He very much wanted to go back," stated Vermeersch.

During his time in the service, Stenroos earned the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge.

Vermeersch said a funeral with full military honors was planned for the Friday service in Fairbanks, and she indicated the service would be videotaped for family members who were unable to attend.

“I’m sure it’s going to a very moving – and very difficult – event for all of us to get through,” she concluded.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

***Mercenaries Rule Kabul;* “Their Attitude Is: If You Are An Afghan We Decide For You” “Afghans Are Very Much Second-Class Citizens In Their Own Capital City, Considered A Potential Threat Unless Proven Otherwise”**

Nov 21, 2007 By Aunohita Mojumdar, Asia Times

KABUL - The Afghan government and its international partners are struggling to bolster the country’s security forces, fighting the twin problems of boosting the numbers of the national army and trying to disband illegal armed groups.

Yet, an unmonitored, unregulated and unauthorized force is on the streets, not just under the noses of authorities but also hired and legitimized by those working on building the security sector.

As many as 28,000 armed personnel are hired by private security companies (PSCs), which have been operating as a lucrative business in Afghanistan since the US-led invasion to oust the Taliban in 2001, providing protection to foreigners and elite Afghans, guarding institutions, homes and individuals.

As he travels to work every day, Ahmed sees dozens of armed men. They hurry him on as he passes high walls of reinforced cement bags, stop him for questioning and block his entry not just into offices and houses but also roads where they have set up barricades - usually with a mixture of arrogance and rude behavior.

Ahmed’s fault is that he is an ordinary Afghan, without arms, money or a large motorcar, (usually a sports utility vehicle), the three ingredients that constitute the password separating those who are protected from those who constitute the “threat”.

Six years into nation-building, Afghans are very much second-class citizens in their own capital city, considered a potential threat unless proven otherwise, as

the international community keeps its safe distance from the citizens of the country it is rebuilding.

Naeem, a resident of Kabul who works with an international non-governmental agency, sees little difference between the armed personnel of security companies he encounters every day and the fighters of earlier years.

“They are the people who fought for money earlier,” he said. “Now with their guns they enrolled in private companies to make money. They still think they rule. They cannot show their power towards foreigners so they show it towards Afghans.

“Their attitude is: if you are an Afghan we decide for you.”

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army 2nd Lt. Christopher E. Loudon, of Brockport, Pa., during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 16, 2007. Loudon died Oct. 17 when a bomb exploded near his Humvee while he was on patrol in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

“Kokesh Highlighted The Times The United States Used Racism In Usual Policy And In War”

“He Said, The Same Methods Used Against Other Groups Such As African-Americans And Japanese, Are Being Used Against Arabs And Muslims”



Adam Kokesh is a graduate student and a veteran of the Iraq war. Media Credit: Alex Florescu/Hatchet photographer

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

10/29/07 by Hadas Gold, Senior Staff Writer; Hatchet Publications, Inc.

Veteran of the Iraq War and graduate student Adam Kokesh spoke about racism plaguing the war and the American military at a speech at Marvin Center Friday.

Kokesh was one of the students who claimed responsibility three weeks ago for hanging posters designed to mock Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week, a conservative event. The posters, which many students initially interpreted as anti-Muslim, were intended to be satirical.

In the past year, Kokesh has made headlines nationwide for his adamant opposition to the war in Iraq.

About 30 people, mostly community members and some students, listened to Kokesh speak about Iraq, the military and the inherent racism in both.

“There really is some shame associated with having been a part of (racism in the military),” said Kokesh, who served in the Marines.

Kokesh spoke of how the military dehumanizes Iraqis by using racial slurs and other names, such as “hajji,” to make the killings easier on the mind. The word “hajj” refers to the pilgrimage to Mecca.

“You cannot love what you do not understand,” Kokesh said. “We would be naive to think America has been an exception to this historic trend.”

Kokesh said everyone has the capacity for racism and that it is too often recognized as acceptable in our culture.

“The cognitive process that leads to racism is present in all of us. It is a seed of developing self-image that leads to arrogance, that is fed by ignorance, that is nurtured by hate, that sprouts anger. And that process, when anger turns to violence, is too often accepted as justified,” Kokesh said.

During Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week, Kokesh participated and helped organize opposing events. In his speech, Kokesh related Islamo-Facism Awareness Week to McCarthyism in the 1950s.

“In (today’s) case the rhetoric and innuendo is the same as was used for ... McCarthyism. It is the period of our history that most of us look back at with shame, and hopefully as a society we’ll soon come to the same understanding of the current version of Islamophobia,” Kokesh said.

Kokesh recounted the history of racism in the United States. Using statistics and direct quotes, Kokesh highlighted the times the United States used racism in usual policy and in war. Today, he said, the same methods used against other groups such as African-Americans and Japanese, are being used against Arabs and Muslims.

“It is up to us to seek a greater truth and understanding of those who are different than us,” Kokesh said.

Tina Richards, a woman whose son served in Iraq twice and who has created the project Operation First Causality, introduced Kokesh and called him an amazing man willing to risk so much for what is right.



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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

“I’d Rather Do My Time In Jail Than Be A Party To The Racism I Saw In Iraq”

“Watson, 29, Said He Refused To Be ‘An Armed Guard For Oil’”

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

November 16, 2007 Suzanne Fournier, The Vancouver Province

Rodney Watson went to Iraq with the U.S. army to serve his country, but instead was horrified by the “violence and racism a lot of American soldiers showed toward the Iraqi people we were supposed to be helping out.”

Watson, 29, said he refused to be “an armed guard for oil.” So, after his first 12-month tour of duty, he deserted the army and fled from his home and family in Kansas City, Mo., to play a waiting game in north Burnaby.

“I realized the war had nothing to do with 9/11 or helping Iraqis or stopping terrorists,” said Watson, who has been living in Canada for a year and applied for refugee status six months ago. “It’s all about guarding oil for the U.S.”

Watson has been waiting to learn whether Canada will let him stay as a refugee. His chances do not look good, and yesterday they appeared to get even worse when the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear appeals from two U.S. Iraq war resisters who are seeking refuge in Eastern Canada.

Watson knows that, if returned to the U.S., he would go to jail, but said: “I’d rather do my time in jail than be a party to the racism I saw in Iraq.

“As an African-American, I grew up with racism. But in Iraq, I saw the same kind of abuse and mistreatment, only this was U.S. enlisted soldiers and American contractors, like security forces, abusing Iraqis.”

Kellogg, Brown & Root Used Trucks Contaminated By Rotting Human Bodies To Haul Ice To U.S.

Troops In Iraq:

“There Were Body Parts On The Floor: Eyes, Fingers. The Goo Started Seeping Toward Us”

“You Could Still See A Little Bit Of Matter From The Bodies, Stuff That Looked Kind Of Pearly, And Blood From The Stomachs. It Hadn't Even Been Hosed Down”



Former KBR driver Bud Conyers's photo of a truck carrying beverage ice less than a month after it hauled rotting corpses. (Photo: vanityfair.com)

But both civilian and U.S.-military regulations state that once a trailer has been used to store corpses it can never again be loaded with food or drink intended for human consumption.

By David Rose, November 2007 Vanity Fair [Excerpts]

On first meeting him, one might not suspect Alan Grayson of being a crusader against government-contractor fraud. Six feet four in his socks, he likes to dress flamboyantly, on the theory that items such as pink cowboy boots help retain a jury's attention. He and his Filipino wife, Lolita, chose their palm-fringed mansion in Orlando, Florida, partly because the climate alleviates his chronic asthma, and partly because they wanted their five children to have unlimited access to the area's many theme parks.

He can be forgiven a little frivolity. In his functional home-office in Orlando, and at the Beltway headquarters of his law firm, Grayson & Kubli, Grayson spends most of his days and many of his evenings on a lonely legal campaign to redress colossal frauds against American taxpayers by private contractors operating in Iraq.

He calls it "the crime of the century."

His obvious adversaries are the contracting corporations themselves-especially Halliburton, the giant oil-services conglomerate where Vice President Dick Cheney spent the latter half of the 1990s as C.E.O., and its former subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root, now known simply as KBR.

But he says his efforts to take on those organizations have earned him another enemy: the United States Department of Justice.

Over the past 16 years, Grayson has litigated dozens of cases of contractor fraud. In many of these, he has found the Justice Department to be an ally in exposing wrongdoing.

But in cases that involve the Iraq war, the D.O.J. has taken extraordinary steps to stand in his way. Behind its machinations, he believes, is a scandal of epic proportions-one that may come to haunt the legacy of the Bush administration long after it is gone.

Consider the case of Grayson's client Bud Conyers, a big, bearded 43-year-old who lives with his ex-wife and her nine children, four of them his, in Enid, Oklahoma. Conyers worked in Iraq as a driver for Kellogg, Brown & Root.

Spun off by Halliburton as an independent concern in April, KBR is the world's fifth-largest construction company. Before the war started, the Pentagon awarded it two huge contracts: one, now terminated, to restore the Iraqi oil industry, and another, still in effect, to provide a wide array of logistical-support services to the U.S. military.

In the midday heat of June 16, 2003, Conyers was summoned to fix a broken refrigerated truck-a "reefer," in contractor parlance-at Log Base Seitz, on the edge of Baghdad's airport.

He and his colleagues had barely begun to inspect the sealed trailer when they found themselves reeling from a nauseating stench. The freezer was powered by the engine, and only after they got it running again, several hours later, did they dare open the doors.

The trailer, unit number R-89, had been lying idle for two weeks, Conyers says, in temperatures that daily reached 120 degrees.

“Inside, there were 15 human bodies,” he recalls.

“A lot of liquid stuff had just seeped out. There were body parts on the floor: eyes, fingers. The goo started seeping toward us. Boom! We shut the doors again.”

The corpses were Iraqis, who had been placed in the truck by a U.S. Army mortuary unit that was operating in the area.

That evening, Conyers’s colleague Wallace R. Wynia filed an official report: “On account of the heat the bodies were decomposing rapidly.... The inside of the trailer was awful.”

It is not unheard of for trucks in a war zone to perform hearse duty.

But both civilian and U.S.-military regulations state that once a trailer has been used to store corpses it can never again be loaded with food or drink intended for human consumption.

According to the U.S. Army’s Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, “Contact with whole or part human remains carries potential risks associated with pathogenic microbiological organisms that may be present in human blood and tissue.” The diseases that may be communicated include aids, hepatitis, tuberculosis, septicemia, meningitis, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human variant of mad cow.

But when Bud Conyers next caught sight of trailer R-89, about a month later, it was packed not with human casualties but with bags of ice-ice that was going into drinks served to American troops.

He took photographs, showing the ice bags, the trailer number, and the wooden decking, which appeared to be stained red.

Another former KBR employee, James Logsdon, who now works as a police officer near Enid, says he first saw R-89 about a week after Conyers’s grisly discovery.

“You could still see a little bit of matter from the bodies, stuff that looked kind of pearly, and blood from the stomachs. It hadn’t even been hosed down.

“Afterwards, I saw that truck in the P.W.C.-the public warehouse center-several times. There’s nothing there except food and ice. It was backed up to a dock, being loaded.”

As late as August 31, 11 weeks after trailer R-89 was emptied of the putrefying bodies, a KBR convoy commander named Jeff Allen filed a mission log stating that it had carried 5,000 pounds of ice that day.

This ice, Allen wrote, was “bio-contaminated.”

But to his horror, on that day alone, “approx 1,800 pounds used.”

Conyers and Logsdon say that R-89 was not the only truck that was loaded with ice after being used as a mortuary.

They attribute this state of affairs to a chronic shortage of trucks brought about by systemic failures in KBR's operation.

The firm had purchased some 200 reefers in Iraq, but only a quarter of them worked.

"We had crap-assed trucks they'd bought from local dealers," Logsdon says. "Often you'd be driving one they'd pieced together from several just to get it on the road."

He and other former KBR workers say that even new vehicles, some of which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, often broke down because of an absence of affordable spare parts. Instead of paying to repair them, the company often burned disabled trucks in pits or by the side of the road.

Conyers tried repeatedly to draw his superiors' attention to these and other alleged abuses, but to no avail.

Like many of KBR's employees, Conyers was risking his life on the job, which paid about \$7,000 a month. He had already lost half a leg in an accident-coincidentally, while working for Halliburton-in 1990. Twice, in August and October 2003, his convoy was hit by roadside bombs, and although he was not seriously injured, his prosthetic leg was damaged. A third attack caused swelling and infection, making it impossible to wear the prosthesis.

Then, three days after Christmas of 2003, about three months after he'd reported the contaminated ice, he was fired.

His superiors accused him of refusing to work, an allegation he denies.

Conyers says he had already been warned by KBR management that he was "not a team player," and he believes that the real reason for his dismissal was his refusal to keep quiet.

Along with his job went his health insurance. Now confined to a wheelchair, he is still unable to work.

Others in the world of Iraq contracting have fared much better.

Halliburton's stock price rose fourfold between the time of the invasion and early 2006, from \$10 to \$40. And in 2006 alone, according to Forbes, Halliburton C.E.O. David Lesar collected nearly \$30 million in compensation.

In 2006, Grayson filed the most recent version of a suit on behalf of four former KBR employees: Julie McBride, Linda Warren, Denis Mayer, and Frank Cassaday. Their formal complaint, which was sealed for more than a year, focuses on the fall of 2004, when Marines in Fallujah were daily risking their lives in grim street combat.

Meanwhile, KBR managers back at their base outside the city were allegedly telling their staff to record grossly exaggerated numbers of soldiers using the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (M.W.R.) facility, a two-building complex with a gym, a cinema, a game room, and an Internet café.

“Everyone who came through the doors had to sign in,” Warren says, “and that was recorded as a user visit. But if they went from one room to another—say, from the gym to the Internet area—that was supposedly another visit; the same if someone put his backpack down in the movie theater, whether he watched the film or not.

“If someone wanted a bottle of water, or a towel, the same person who’d already been counted would be counted again. Then there were the hourly counts: everyone using the facility was counted once more as if they’d just arrived. You could easily be counted 12 times in two hours.”

According to the complaint, the practice of reporting inflated figures “increases the M.W.R. budget in Iraq, allowing for more KBR facilities, administrators, staff and equipment, and boosting KBR’s fee.”

The practice, the suit alleges, was not confined to Fallujah—which might help explain a September 2006 press statement in which KBR boasted of having served “more than 73.5 million patrons in MWR facilities.”

As the complaint notes, “the number of patrons that KBR says it has hosted at MWR facilities is three times the population of Iraq.”

Given that Iraqis weren’t allowed to use the facilities, it’s worth noting that the figure is roughly 565 times the total number of U.S. troops deployed in the country.

Linda Warren, a former Marine who brought up five children as a single mother in Abilene, Texas, says she “flatly refused” to fill in the bogus head counts.

She had gone to Iraq for patriotic reasons, and recoiled at being asked to compile inflated records. Once, she says, “I did the head counts accurately. Next day when I got to work I could see that the sheet had been replaced.”

She and her colleague Julie McBride, a former attorney from California, both protested to their KBR bosses.

Having filed a formal grievance, Warren was accused of “not getting along with employees” and was fired in January 2005.

“They made it clear there was no place for me any longer,” she says. “There was no appeal, no accountability.”

Two months later, the complaint states, McBride was summoned to the office of Kevin Clarke, KBR’s top official at Camp Fallujah.

Having repeated her concerns about the M.W.R. head count, she was told she was being fired for “insubordination.”

Among her offenses: occasionally using a pencil instead of a pen to fill in her time sheets.

Shipped by helicopter to Camp Victory South, near Baghdad, she was told by Ted Kowalski, KBR’s human-resources supervisor in Iraq, that she was under “house arrest.”

“KBR guards surrounded McBride,” says the complaint. “They made her ride with them in a sports utility vehicle. They did not tell McBride where they were taking her. She feared for her safety.... They required her to stay in an isolated trailer, with no amenities. They stood guard outside the trailer throughout the night.”

Eventually she was escorted to the Baghdad airport and flown back to America.

Warren and Cassaday both say that neither federal agents nor D.O.J. lawyers have ever made any attempt to ask them about the claims in their suit.

Mayer wasn’t interviewed, either, according to Grayson.

“The investigation consisted of asking KBR for an explanation,” he says.

“Then, without checking into its validity, they declined to prosecute.

Having spoken to the firm, the government said, ‘Okey-dokey, then we decline the case.’“

The suit makes three further allegations, involving overpayments that run into the millions, but the D.O.J. didn’t investigate them at all.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

19 Nov 2007 Reuters & 20 Nov 2007 Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & (CBS/AP)

In an attack in Tikrit, Ansar al-Sunnah said it had used a “unique and unparalleled” technique when it bombed a police station Sunday by using a roadside bomb buried in a fake device. It gave no further details, but police in the city said a policeman was killed and two others, including a lieutenant colonel, when they tried to defuse a roadside bomb they took inside the city’s police forensic laboratory after retrieving it from the street outside.

Two rockets or mortars were fired at the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, where the U.S. embassy and Iraqi government headquarters are located, police said.

One policeman was killed and two wounded in a drive-by shooting at a police checkpoint in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas attacked a police station, killing three policemen in a village north of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The body of police major Saad Jumaa was found near Samarra after he was captured on Monday, the Joint Iraqi-U.S. Coordination Centre said.

Monday night, a roadside bomb targeted an Iraqi army patrol at Sifra village on the Kirkuk – Biji route (west Kirkuk) killing one soldier and injuring three others.

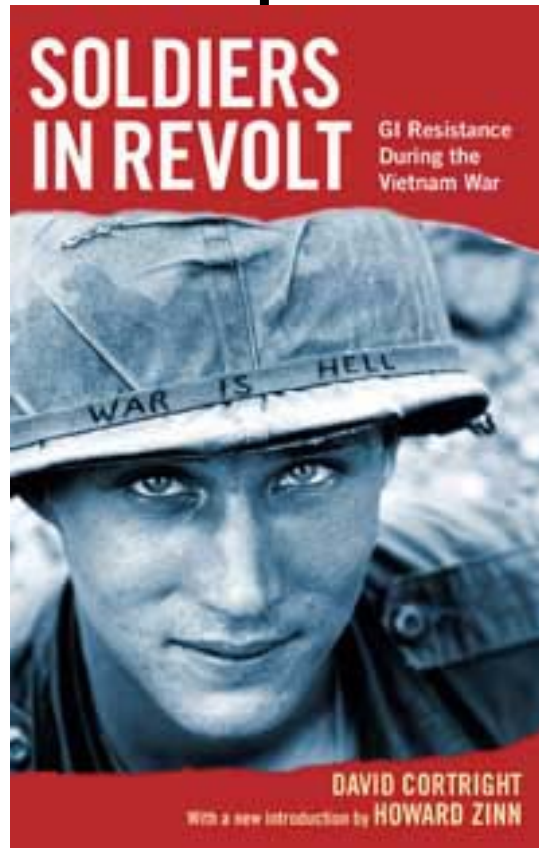
The bodies of four Iraqi soldiers who had been shot in the head were received by a hospital in the city of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, on Monday, the Joint Iraqi-U.S. Coordination Centre said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

**“With The Growth Of Civilian Support
And A Consequent Greater Degree Of
Unity And Self-Awareness Among
Base Projects, The GI Movement
Displayed Increasing Strength And
Political Sophistication”**



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

Most major organizations experienced an occasional lull because of cadre turnover, repression, etc., but in nearly every instance new activists rose to sustain the struggle -- as I found in my own experience at Fort Bliss.

When I arrived in Texas, in July 1970, GIs for Peace was in a state of disarray, with the chairman and most of the active members discharged and no activities scheduled. Meetings soon began, however, and within a few months a GI coffeehouse had been set up in downtown El Paso, Gigline was again circulating, and the core membership had increased to twenty-five soldiers.

On October 31, a major peace rally was held at the local University of Texas campus, with over four hundred GIs joining several hundred civilians to hear featured speaker Rennie Davis.

Several months later, on March 21, 1971; GIs for Peace engaged in another successful action, this time countering a pro-war "Honor POW Day" held in El Paso. The POW Day sponsors (among them several officers at Fort Bliss) had expected a crowd of fifteen thousand people to kick off a massive "tell it to Hanoi" campaign.

Because of the vigorous publicity and educational drive mounted by local peace forces, however, only a few hundred people actually showed -- including approximately one hundred GIs for Peace members who had come to distribute anti-war literature.

An increasingly important element in sustaining, political activity at Fort Lewis, Fort Bliss, and elsewhere was, the growth of civilian support.

One result of this support was an increase in the number of civilians working directly with soldiers at the local level.

Recently discharged GIs, and in some cases outside civilian radicals, formed collectives and, often with the aid of USSF [United States Servicemen's Fund], provided legal counseling and other services to active-duty organizers.

A number of observers, most notably Fred Gardner, have been highly critical of such arrangements, claiming that civilians often exploit GIs for sectarian political purposes and stifle spontaneous dissent.

To a certain degree the criticism is valid, but it is also true that civilian workers impart needed stability and legal expertise to GI projects.

Indeed, in some cases their presence sparked substantial political activity among servicemen.

At Fort Ord, for example, a civilian collective in March 1971 started a new base paper, P.O.W.; within a few months, a new GI group emerged, the "United Soldiers Union."

Similarly; civilians helped establish an important new organizing center and coffeehouse near Fort Campbell, in Clarksville, Tennessee. The center, known as the "People's House," was immediately successful, attracting over two hundred soldiers in its first six weeks and publishing the newspaper People's Press.

The group's first major action occurred on April 10, when approximately three hundred people, many of them active-duty, demonstrated at the Clarksville federal building against the jailing of Lieutenant William Calley. The protesters demanded that the leaders responsible for the war, not low-ranking servicemen, be tried as war criminals.

With the growth of civilian support and a consequent greater degree of unity and self-awareness among base projects, the GI movement displayed increasing strength and political sophistication.

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.

November 20, 1816: Anniversary Of A Marvelous Creation



Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

November 20, 1816: The term “scab” was first used in print by the Albany (N.Y.) Typographical Society. A scab is someone who crosses a union’s picket line and takes the job of a striking worker.

“A Scab Is A Traitor To His God, His Country, His Family And His Class”

by Jack London, (1876-1916) [Dawn.thot.net]

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab.

A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue.

Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out.

No man (or woman) has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with.

Judas was a gentleman compared with a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

Judas sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver.

Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British army.

The scab sells his birthright, country, his wife, his children and his fellowmen for an unfulfilled promise from his employer.

Esau was a traitor to himself; Judas was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

A scab is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi family ordered to stay out of the way as foreign occupation troops from the US 101st Airborne Division, 3BCT, search through their personal belongings during a home invasion in the village of al-Awsat, south of Baghdad, 16 November 2007.

(AFP/File/Patrick Baz)

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?]

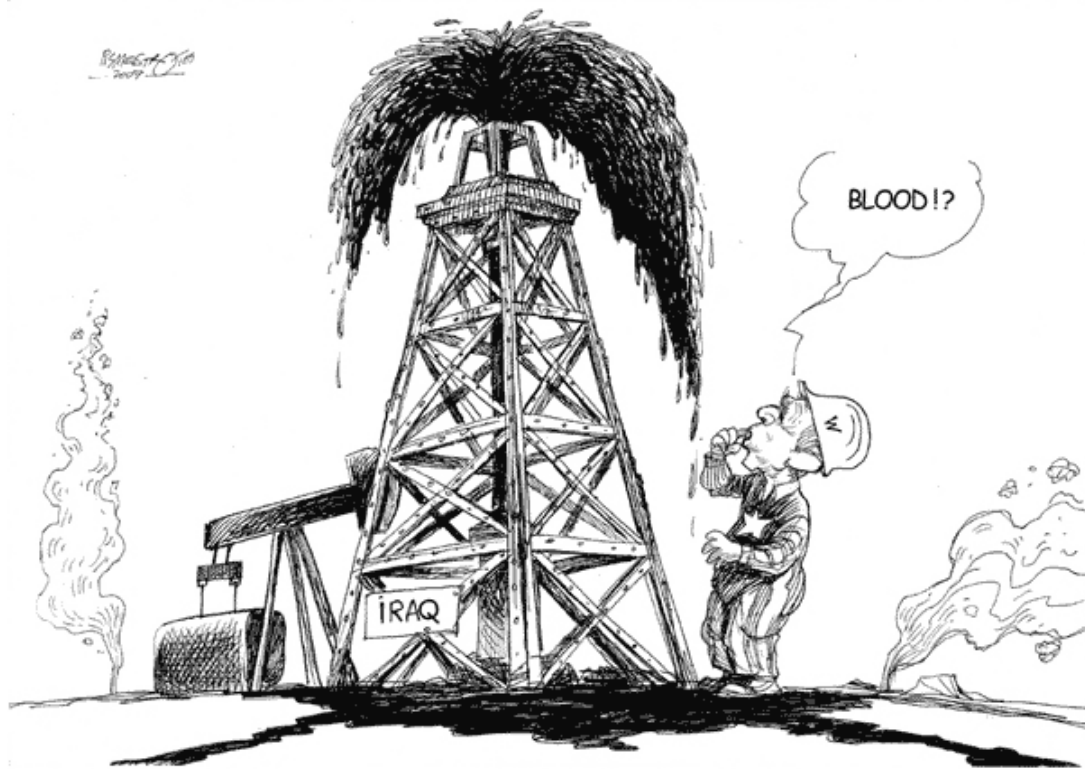
The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence. The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds. YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

"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.]

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

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



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