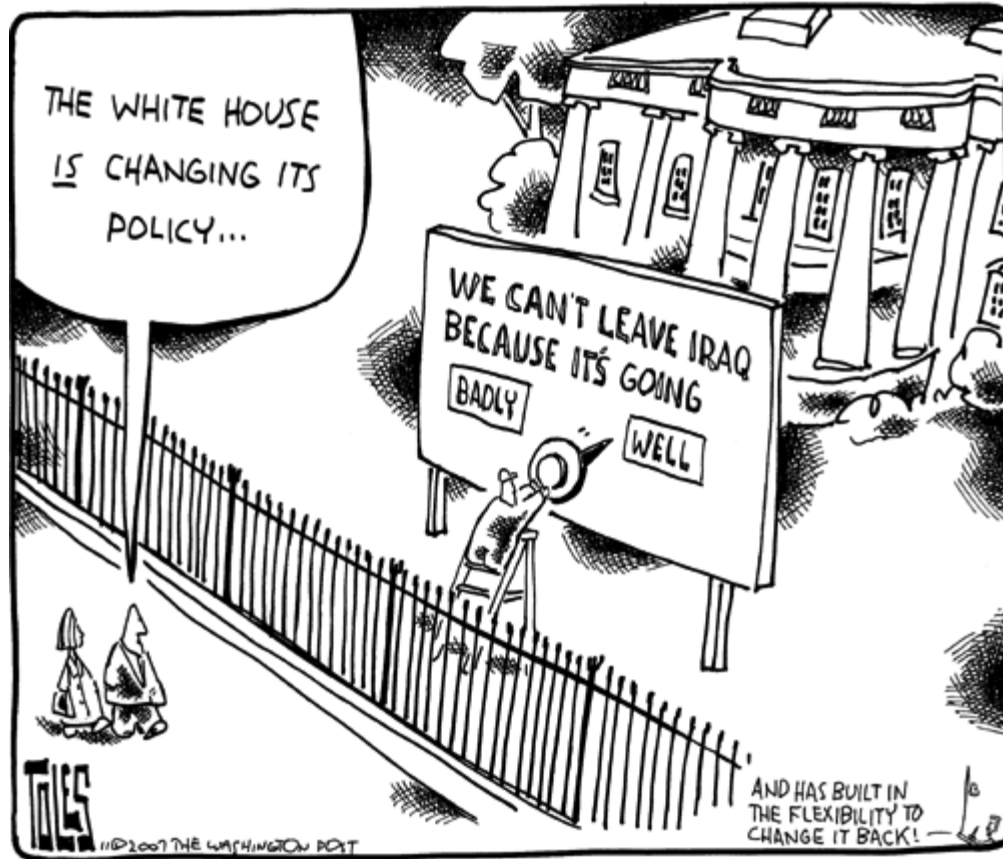


GI SPECIAL 5L2:



**“I, Personally, Dont
Believe In Fighting For
The Profit Of A Handful
Of People”**

“I Also Dont Believe In Fighting For A Government That Is Willing, If Not Eager, To Fuck Its Own People Over”

From: [XXXX, Soldier Iraq]

To: GI Special

Sent: November 27, 2007

Subject: thank you

My name is [XXXXXX], Im a [XXXXXX] with [XXXXXX] , [XXXXXX] Division, currently deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq.

I just wanted to thank you for putting out GI Special.

Its nice to know that a lot of other people who are deployed, or have previously deployed think being in Iraq is completely counter-productive.

I, personally, dont believe in fighting for the profit of a handful of people.

I also dont believe in fighting for a government that is willing, if not eager, to fuck its own people over.

KBR is a perfect example. KBR handles just about everything on our FOB. I was talking to a KBR maintenance guy named [xxxxxx] about what exactly KBR did. He told me about how he had been in Iraq for the past 4 years working, and how sheisty KBR is.

They had a lot of civilian Americans working for them, and from what ive been told by a few of them, they got paid pretty well considering the shithole conditions they have to work in.

But now whats happening is, KBR is actively seeking reasons to fire these people, and starting to hire people from other countries, who do the same job, for a fraction of the money. Putting people like [xxxxxx] out of a job for even the slightest fuckup. At the time i just thought, “hey thats not right “.

But then i was reading through Traveling Soldier and I noticed that KBR was one of Halliburtons entities, and that Cheney has some major say in whats going on with that company. Maybe this information isnt fully correct, but thats just what i got out of it all. The shit is really piling up on this administration.

I fully support all the men and women deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan but, Im already at the “fuck the army” point, Ive never been a supporter of this war, and i thank you for doing what you do.

Keep it up.

REPLY:

Pham Binh, member of the Traveling Soldier editorial board, has provided additional background on the Cheney – KKR-Halliburton ties, which is printed below this reply.

It's standard GI Special & Traveling Soldier policy to remove all identifying information from letters from troops, and that includes the name of any second parties mentioned, to avoid unwelcome attention from Bush Buddies.

There is nothing more important than what members of the armed forces have to say about the situation. Nothing. That's worth 300 pages of third hand news reports.

And the way to let people serving know they can speak their minds freely with minimal concern about getting hassled is to offer blanket confidentiality.

Please feel free to come back with any news and/or expressions of belief and/or opinion. This work exists only to be of service to members of the armed forces.

On behalf of everybody working to make GI Special & Traveling Soldier happen, it's good to know the work is useful.

Come home safe,

T

MORE:

Information From Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier:

Dear Soldier,

First of all, I want to thank you for reading GI Special and Traveling Soldier and writing us.

On KBR, Halliburton, and Cheney: KBR is a subsidiary of Halliburton. Cheney was Halliburton's CEO for five years, and stepped down in August of 2000. Since leaving, he has received \$250,000-\$300,000 every year in deferred compensation and his stock options are worth an estimated \$8 million.

(See http://rawstory.com/news/2005/Cheney's_stock_options_rose_3281_last_1011.html for the story.)

The scandal is that KBR got no-bid contracts worth billions to "rebuild" in Iraq.

No-bid means there was no competitive bidding, the Pentagon simply handed them the contract and wrote them the checks. This is in addition to the logistical support they provide at the many permanent military installations that are being built in Iraq which you know of first hand. KBR also got no-bid contracts to rebuild in New Orleans after Katrina.

Did KBR get these lucrative deals because Cheney is the #2 man in the White House? The answer is obvious.

When Senator Pat Leahy of Vermont confronted Cheney about this issue on the floor of the Senate, Cheney told him to “go fuck yourself.”

If that’s how Cheney thinks about his colleagues in the Senate who dare to raise the issue, I can only imagine what he thinks of rank-and-file anti-war soldiers reading *Traveling Soldier* and *GI Special*!

Hope that clarifies things.

An increasing number of people working in the anti-war movement, including organizations like IVAW are behind you 100%, doing our best to bring you and all your friends home safe and sound.

Keep writing, stay safe.

Solidarity,
Pham Binh
Traveling Soldier Editorial Board

The New Issue Of *Traveling Soldier* Is Out!

This issue features:

1. “After four and a half years ... Iraq is still just keeping your fingers crossed and praying that you don’t die or end up permanently disabled from an IED” says a soldier stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.ivaw.php>

2. “We risked our lives so the Army ... could throw a rose colored lens onto a news camera” says recent Iraq vet Alex Horton:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.horton.php>

3. “The Army is worn out” says an army public affairs officer in Baghdad:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.worn.php>

4. National Guardsmen Like Impeach Bush/Cheney T-Shirts!

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/9.06.choice.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at a nearby base:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS15.pdf>

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

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. army soldier with Bravo Company 1st battalion 64th Armor Regiment during a patrol in the neighborhood of Jamia in Baghdad November 6, 2007. (Stefano Rellandini/Reuters)

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier, Three Wounded

December 1, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071201-09

BAGHDAD – An improvised explosive device detonated near a combat patrol in eastern Baghdad, killing one Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier and wounding three others Dec. 1.

Tango Mike Recipient Dies In Combat

11/19/2007 By Elizabeth Wilson--Record-Bee staff

LAKE COUNTY -- On November 13 family and community members lost a hero.

SPC. Peter W. Schmidt, 30, of Eureka, California was serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was killed in action in Mikhisa, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated during dismounted combat operations. SPC Schmidt was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington and had been deployed since April.

Schmidt was a graduate of Arcata High School and is being remembered as a creative, athletic and kind man. He signed up for the military during wartime because he wanted to make a difference. Schmidt wrote frequent and informative letters home, describing daily life, rewards and disappointments in a war zone. He marveled at the Iraqis' determination and often shared candy and other prized items with Iraqi children.

Schmidt enlisted in 2004, knowing the likelihood of being deployed to Iraq. The prospect did not deter him. In fact, Schmidt wanted to go to Iraq to contribute and make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. Another example of Schmidt's giving nature was his internet page. He shared photos, giving folks a glimpse of everyday life in a war zone. He expressed his frustrations, but continued giving of himself.

Not only did he post pictures of military equipment, but he shared photographs of himself interacting with Iraqis. He was indeed making a difference, say family members and his many friends.

Schmidt is survived by his parents, Mike and Marianne Schmidt of San Jose, and his siblings, Andrew, Amy and Daniel. He is also survived by his grandfather, Bill Schmidt and Aunt Diane Sigola, both of Cloverdale, as well as his cousin, Valerie Donelson of Kelseyville.

Schmidt had been the recipient of care packages from Operation Tango Mike, a Lake County volunteer-run organization that sends packages to troops. "His death has been taken hard by the Operation Tango Mike volunteer family, who are also grieving, as they have lost one of their own," said Tango Mike founder Ginny Craven. "We know it is the reality of the risks taken by those who answer the call to duty. God bless them for their commitment and dedication."

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



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

**“Marines Have Been Kicked Out Of
The Service With Loss Of Benefits”
“Why Tend To People Who We Want To,
And Are Going To, Throw Out?”**

Nov. 30, 2007 By DAVID SCHNEIDER and MANSI MEHAN, ABC News [Excerpt]

U.S. Marines caught using illegal drugs often face harsh punishment from the military, according to counselors, veterans' advocates and military defense attorneys.

Marines have been kicked out of the service with loss of benefits, or even thrown in jail despite their claim that they turned to drugs to cope with their battlefield experiences in Iraq.

While the Marine Corps does provide substance abuse and counseling, experts say rehabilitation often loses out to punishment and discipline.

"Use drugs? You're gone. There is not any great interest in rehabilitating; there's not any great interest in tending to these people," said attorney David Brahms, a former Marine general who has many Marines clients.

"It is a waste of resources; it is a waste of energy. Why tend to people who we want to, and are going to, throw out?"

More Rats At Work:
**“His Commander Tried To Force Him
Out With A Dishonorable Discharge
With No Medical Review Board”**
**“Yesterday Morning He Was Given A
Packet Signed By His Battallion
Commander Giving Him TEN DAYS To
Clear Out Of Housing”**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,516th 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]

Via James Starowicz, VFP Chapter 150
Sent: November 29, 2007
Subject: [VetPax] Iraq Vet Needs Help FAST

By Carissa Picard, President; Military Spouses for Change

Sgt. Chavarria is an E5 with a stellar record. He has served in Kosovo and two tours in Iraq. During his second tour, he came home on leave and had a bit of a breakdown. He threatened to commit suicide and was hospitalized for three days. He sought mental health care afterwards.

The Army gave him group therapy and TWO TWENTY-MINUTE visits with a military therapist.

Based on those two visits, she diagnosed this 30 year old adult male with a personality disorder and his commander tried to force him out with a dishonorable discharge with no medical review board (this was in June).

Sgt. Chavarria demanded a medical review board which recommended he have an opportunity to show evidence of PTSD and they said it was unlikely he had a personality disorder.

He was told he should have a year to do this.

Yesterday morning he was given a packet signed by his battallion commander giving him TEN DAYS to clear out of housing and out of the military with a Chapter 5-13, dishonorable discharge, without orders, based upon a finding of a personality disorder, contrary to the recommendations of his medical review board.

He has four children and a wife relying upon him. Christmas is a few weeks away.

He has six business days to try to salvage his career.

He went to the Inspector General and they said that all he can do is appeal to the Colonel that signed this order and that colonel has not yet agreed to speak with him.

We have been helping him contact his Senators and District Representative as well as prepare his appeal based upon the chain of command's failure to follow recommended procedures.

Mel and Joe Tryon have talked with Jose and think this is a classic case of retaliation.

We have contacted some local media as well as a reporter with 60 minutes.

IS there anything you all can do or would suggest or advise? Can any of you talk to Jose or Nancy or anyone in the media to help them?

MORE:

Raising Hell Works:

“We Have Rattled Enough Cages To Get His Discharge Pulled” “The Abuse That Is Occurring Under The Personality Disorder Diagnosis Has Got To Stop”

From: James Starowicz
To: jmstaro@hotmail.com
Sent: November 30, 2007 7:50 PM

By Carissa Picard, President, Military Spouses for Change [Excerpts]

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thankfully we have rattled enough cages to get his discharge pulled.

A fellow Military Spouse for Change member, Annette McCleod, was able to reach a Congressional staff member who was able to reach one general and I was able to connect with Marcie Roth of the Spinal Cord Injury Association who knew another three-star general who was very upset to have learned this was happening.

Sgt. Chavarria was informed he is being transferred to the Warrior Transition Unit but that he is not a “very popular person” right now.

We want to thank everyone for everything they have done, from passing on information to making calls to giving advice.

It is shocking that a service member can serve two combat tours and ten years in the Army and be given TEN DAYS to get out (over the Christmas holidays no less).

I shudder to think who else this is happening to right now who doesn't know someone, who can't reach one of us, who doesn't know how to challenge this system.

The abuse that is occurring under the personality disorder diagnosis has got to stop.

There has to be some sort of oversight and accountability, some recourse for these soldiers and their families.

We have to work on getting Congress to stop this, whether it is through S1817 or some other mechanism.

The Chavarrias are going to be decompressing over the weekend, but then we are going to brainstorm about what we should be doing next to help prevent this from happening to other military families.

**Public Forum On Mental Health Care
At Ft Drum:
Open Mike For Ft Drum Soldiers And
Their Family Members:
Different Drummer Internet Café
Watertown, New York
Thursday, December 6, 2007, 6:30 PM
1 Public Square, 12 Paddock Arcade**

From: Citizen Soldier
Sent: November 29, 2007
Subject: Town Forum on PTSD at Different Drummer

Join Us for a Public Speak Out! Hear these speakers!

Dean Anthony, MSW and Trauma Therapist

Joe Gregory, Mexico, N Y, father of an Iraq combat vet who was killed after returning home because the VA failed to treat his PTSD.

Marty Webster, VVAW Natl. Coordinator, and a Vietnam vet who still suffers from PTSD.

Tod Ensign, attorney for Sgt Brad Gaskins, arrested by Ft Drum police as he sought to return to Ft Drum for mental health care. A two tour Iraq combat vet, Gaskins went AWOL when he was refused treatment for his PTSD.

The VA's Vet Center at Ft Drum has been invited to send a speaker

The VA disclosed in October that mental illness has now become the second largest health problem for veterans in its hospitals and clinics. Currently, 100,000 Iraq and Afghan are receiving VA treatment and/or disability for mental illness with 50,000 of these vets having been diagnosed with PTSD.

After a detailed analysis of death records from 45 states, CBS TV News concluded in November that at least 120 veterans commit suicide each week in this country.

Amazing Omission:

“Americas’ Deadliest Jobs” They “Forgot” The Following Job Categories: Soldiers, Marines, National Guardsmen, Reservists...

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

September 18, 2007 By David R. Butcher, Thomas Publishing Company [Excerpts]

Overall, workplace fatalities edged down last year to 5,703 from 5,734 in 2005, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For many of us, the most dangerous part of the workday is the commute, but for many others, each workday is risky business.

Based on the latest BLS data, and primary professional dangers noted by the BLS and Forbes, the following jobs have the highest fatality rates in the U.S.

- 1) Fishers and Fishing Workers: Deaths per 100,000 workers: 142. Total Deaths: 51
- 2) Pilots and Flight Engineers: Deaths per 100,000 workers: 88. Total Deaths: 101
- 3) Loggers: Deaths per 100,000 workers: 82. Total Deaths: 64

“This Is How We Treat Our Soldiers”

**“The Men Who Have Volunteered To
Serve Our Country, Who Are Being Paid
Poverty Wages, Who Are Literally Days
Away From Being Sent To War, Couldn’t
Get A Decent Meal On Thanksgiving
Day”**

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

Nov 29, 2007 The News & Observer Publishing Company

Letter To The Editor:

There is a brigade of soldiers stationed in Fort Polk, La., scheduled to deploy to Iraq in less than a week.

On Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the decision was handed down that the soldiers would be given Thanksgiving off; they would not have to work on Thursday or Friday.

Sounds like a real blessing, doesn't it?

But wait, there's more.

They weren't allowed to leave the area, which might be reasonable, considering how close they were to departure.

But wait, there's more.

The decision was made to close all the chow halls and the PX on base. And, of course, on this truly American holiday, few restaurants were open.

So the men who have volunteered to serve our country, who are being paid poverty wages, who are literally days away from being sent to war, couldn't get a decent meal on Thanksgiving Day.

When my Army son called, he was riding around with a buddy just hoping they could find a gas station that was open so they could find a vending machine sandwich.

This is how we treat our soldiers.

Denise McDonald
Raleigh

Combat Veteran Staff Sgt. Refuses To Agree He Is Dead; V.A. Demanded His Wife Return Benefits Money

11/26/2007 Ken Amaro, Consumer Reporter, First Coast News

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Bruce Lane Mizell is a combat veteran, but this is one fight he never thought he'd be in.

“At first I thought it was a scam,” he said.

Mizell is also a loving husband. He’s married to Marianna. “I thought it was a joke,” she laughed.

But these days Mizell has to pinch himself now and again to see if he’s alive.

A few days ago he received a letter declaring he is dead.

“That’s what they told me,” says Mizell.

Death is something we all will have to face eventually.

But for Mizell it came August 15. That’s when Uncle Sam declared Mizell dead, much to his surprise. Mizell discovered his status in life when he received a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“I’m glad I was home and now on the road I would hate for my wife to have receive this letter telling her that I am dead,” said Mizell.

The former Army Paratrooper was receiving disability benefits until the VA declared his death. The VA letter reads:

“We’re sorry to learn of the death of Bruce Mizell and wish to express our sympathy.”

But a few lines later, the tone of the letter changes from condolence to collection.

It reads: “Any checks received after his death should be returned... our records show the deceased was not entitled to benefits in the amount \$7,830.”

Mizell refused to let the report of his death take the fun out of life.

But before going on vacation he called the VA and discovered it happens quite often.

“It occurs quite often,” said Mizell. “The VA mentioned to me directly that Florida and New York are the two most common states that this occurs in.”

In life there’s a time to weep and a time to laugh.

Mizell is laughing but the former Staff Sergeant wants the VA to resolve reports of his death.

“I’m not too comfortable. Someone tells you, you are dead. It is very uncomfortable,” said Mizell.

How did this happen? How often does it happen?

The Department of Veterans Affairs responded in a "White Paper." The VA said, "the notice of his death was erroneously processed."

As to how often it happens. The VA said: "Erroneous termination due to report of death are not common, but do occur periodically..."

Mizell's benefits have been restored. He will receive a check on December second.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Only A Stronger Anti-War Movement That Includes Large Numbers Of Rank-And-File Soldiers Refusing To Fight Collectively Can Do That”

November 29, 2007 By Pham Binh [Military Project]; Prisonerofstarvation.blogspot.com

Bush's description of the nations willing to occupy Iraq as the "Coalition of the Willing" was always a joke.

Did anyone think a "Coalition of the Unwilling" would or should participate in the quagmire besides the Democrats who complained that the war wasn't backed by the U.N., France, or Germany?

Most of the countries who contributed sent between 100 and 1,000 soldiers, and many received free-trade deals or millions of dollars in aid in exchange.

The joke has become even funnier as country after country cut and ran from Iraq.

In 2004, Iceland, Tonga, New Zealand, Hungary, Thailand, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Spain, and Nicaragua got out. In 2005, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Ukraine joined the club.

In 2006, Singapore, Norway, Japan, and Italy pulled out. In 2007, Lithuania exited. In 2008, it looks like Poland and Australia are getting out after voters voted pro-war pro-Bush parties out of power in favor of reformists who promised to end their involvement in Iraq.

The British have almost totally withdrawn from Basra and southern Iraq, leaving the anti-occupation militia of Moqtada Al-Sadr and the pro-Iranian militia of the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC) in charge of almost half the country's oil.

Then there's the 80 percent increase in desertions in the U.S. Army since 2003.

Both the U.S. and British militaries are losing officers at an alarming rate - a third of the graduating class of 2000 from West Point failed to re-enlist and left the military at the first opportunity.

This is highly unusual. People who go to West Point see themselves as career officers, but even they see the writing on the wall and don't want to get killed or severely wounded on a second, third, or fourth 15-month tour in a war that even the happy-talking semi-delusional General Petraeus says can't be won militarily.

However, these numbers are not enough to make the occupation militarily untenable.

Only a stronger anti-war movement that includes large numbers of rank-and-file soldiers refusing to fight collectively can do that.

WHY Helicopter Vietnam 1970--- Now Iraq



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 30, 2007

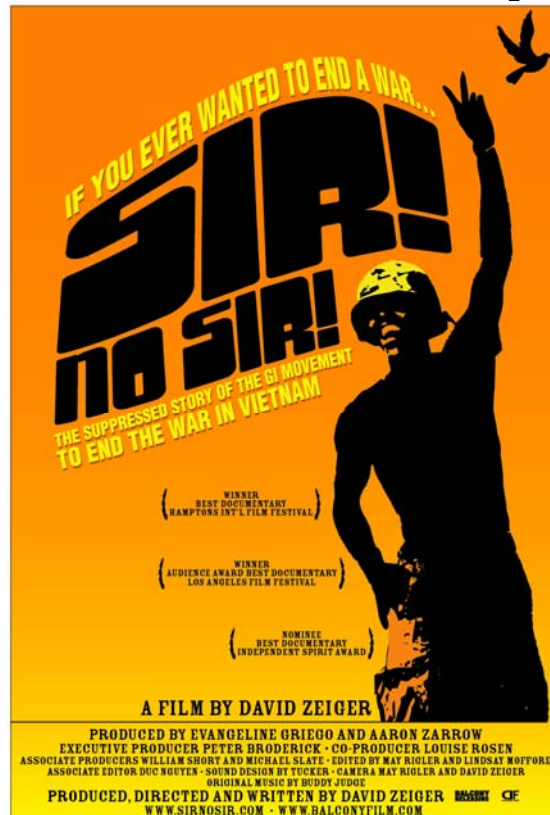
WHY Helicopter Vietnam 1970---now Iraq

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71

“The Only Thing Worse Than Death Is Betrayal.”

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

“I Had My Own Screening Here In Ramadi Iraq”



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

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

Dear Sir! No Sir! supporters,

As George Bush escalates the war on Iraq and resistance in the military grows, I am writing to ask you to help us continue getting Sir! No Sir! into the hands of active duty soldiers.

For one year now, Displaced Films, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and a growing number of organizations have been working to distribute free DVDs to soldiers.

Hundreds have been distributed and we want to see that number grow into the thousands.

The response has been tremendous.

Here are just two examples:

To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to say thank you for this film, for raising my awareness, I never even knew some of these things happened.

I think this probably is one of the most important documentaries made about war resistance.

The movie was such an important driving force for me I had my own screening here in Ramadi Iraq and got at least 10 service members to sign the Appeal for Redress (a petition to congress, signed by over 1,200 soldiers, demanding an end to war-DZ) with me...

My whole work this deployment (my second) has been awareness and I thank you for giving me yet another tool to spread that awareness.

**Thank you again,
SGT Spencer Batchelder**

During the two years that I was exile in Canada, I thought about the war crimes I had seen in Baghdad in 2004. I came to believe that speaking out about what I witnessed would help open the door to other resisters.

After seeing Sir! No Sir!, I realized that I had to do more than voice my truth. I had to stand in ranks and face the beast.

Sir! No Sir! gave me the courage to do that and in turn, my courage empowered other resisters, such as Ivan Brobeck, Kyle Snyder, and Christen Kajare, to do the same.

**Peace and much love,
Darrell Anderson
www.couragetoresist.com**

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

**THE FACT IS, WE ARE CURRENTLY FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO
CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM.**

KEEPING IT GOING LIES IN YOUR HANDS!

Yes...we are asking for contributions.

<p>Your funding will go towards the continued delivery of this film to soldiers by simply clicking on the “BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR GIs NOW” button on the HOMEPAGE at www.sirnosir.com.</p>

+Please forward this EMAIL on to your contacts+

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.

To purchase 10 or more DVDs, contact us directly at jadefox@sirnosir.com to arrange for a discount.

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

“Soldiers, As We Often Say, Do Revolt: Were It Not So, Several Things Which Are Transient In This World Might Be Perennial”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project]

“To the soldier himself, revolt is frightful, and oftenest perhaps pitiable; and yet so dangerous, it can only be hated, cannot be pitied.

“An anomalous class of mortals these poor hired killers! With a frankness, which to the moralist in these times seems surprising, they have sworn to become machines; and nevertheless they are still partly men.

“Let no prudent person in authority remind them of this latter fact; but always let force, let injustice above all, stop short clearly on THIS side of the rebounding-point!

“Soldiers, as we often say, do revolt: were it not so, several things which are transient in this world might be perennial.

Thomas Carlyle, History of the French Revolution, 1837, Volume I, pgs. 322-323

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.

“Australia’s New??? Foreign Policy”

Australian Bush Loyalist John Howard Loses Rather Decisively



From: JM [Australia]
To: GI Special
Sent: December 01, 2007
Subject: Australia's new??? foreign policy

It probably isn't obvious but I love this country of Australia.

I just dislike the way it's run and I think the Liberal and Labor parties are too much alike. The situation is the same as you have in America with the Republicans and Democrats.

The Australian people wanted Howard out as can be seen in the fact he was defeated in his own electorate. I celebrate his departure.

Rudd won the election because he promised to withdraw our troops from Iraq, abolish a new type work agreement and sign the Kyoto agreement on climate change.

You probably already know he's started the process of troop withdrawal by the middle of next year but it will only be combat troops coming home and only with the agreement of Bush.

I'm sending an article on the proposed new foreign policy by Tom Hyland international editor of the Melbourne Age. You may find it interesting. -- J.

December 2, 2007 Tom Hyland, The Age Company Ltd. [Excerpts]

IF YOU voted for Kevin Rudd hoping for dramatic changes in foreign policy, prepare to be disappointed.

Expect changes in tone, shifts in emphasis, some potentially tricky rebalancing of relationships. But above all, expect strong strands of continuity from the John Howard era to Rudd's new order.

Foreign policy barely rated in the election and the major point of difference — Iraq — was over-stated. If you believe Rudd is about to withdraw our troops, you haven't been paying attention.

There was just one sentence on the war in Rudd's campaign speech, when he said it was time "to implement an exit strategy" for soldiers who are "needed much closer to home".

This exit won't be rushed, despite the troops supposedly being needed for unexplained contingencies nearby.

The soldiers who will come home, eventually, are 500 troops in southern Iraq. Early next year Rudd will in fact replace the 500 there now with a fresh rotation, who will stay until the middle of 2008 but won't be replaced when their rotation ends.

Army training teams will stay, as will navy and air force units in the region, and troops guarding diplomats in Baghdad.

The withdrawal is unlikely to cause friction with the US. Rudd stresses it will be done in close consultation with our ally and by this time next year George Bush will no longer occupy the White House.

If differences over Iraq are more apparent than real, Afghanistan looms as a nasty challenge.

Labor is "favourably disposed" to any request to send more troops to Afghanistan.

Who would have to make the request is unstated.

December 2, 1914:

Courage In The Face Of The Enemy; One Member Of The German Parliament Votes Against Imperial War



Karl Liebknecht

Carl Bunin Peace History Dec 26 - Dec 3

Karl Liebknecht was the only member of German Parliament to vote against war with France and Britain.

He was arrested shortly thereafter and conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebknecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead.

From: Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk:

Karl Liebknecht, the son of Wilhelm Liebknecht, was born in Leipzig on 13th August, 1871. His father was one of Germany's leading socialists who helped form the Social Democratic Party in 1891.

Liebknecht studied law and political economy at Leipzig and Berlin where he was converted to the ideas of Karl Marx.

After serving with the Imperial Pioneer Guards in Potsdam (1893-94), Liebknecht worked as a lawyer in Westphalia before moving to Berlin in 1898.

Liebkecht became involved in smuggling socialist propaganda into Russia. He also defended others in court who had been arrested and tried for this offence.

Liebkecht also wrote extensively against militarism and this resulted in him being imprisoned for eighteen months in Glatz, Silesia.

In 1912 Liebkecht was elected to the Reichstag. On the left-wing of the Social Democratic Party, Liebkecht was one of the main opponents of the party's conservative leadership.

Liebkecht was opposed to Germany's participation in the First World War and at the end of 1914 joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches, Paul Levi, Ernest Meyer, Franz Mehring and Clara Zetkin to establish an underground political organization called Spartakusbund (Spartacus League). The Spartacus League publicized its views in its illegal newspaper, Spartacus Letters.

In January, 1915, Liebkecht, like the Bolsheviks in Russia, began arguing that socialists should turn this nationalist conflict into a revolutionary war.

He was arrested and then conscripted into the German Army. Refusing to fight, Liebkecht served on the Eastern Front burying the dead. His health deteriorated and in October, 1915, he was allowed to return to Germany.

On 1st May, 1916, the Spartacus League decided to come out into the open and organized a demonstration against the First World War in Berlin. Several of its leaders, including Liebkecht were arrested and imprisoned.

They were not released until October, 1918, when Max von Baden granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.

In January, 1919, Liebkecht joined with Rosa Luxemburg, Leo Jogiches and Clara Zetkin in the Spartakist Rising that took place in Berlin. Friedrich Ebert, the leader of the Social Democrat Party and Germany's new chancellor, called in the German Army and the Freikorps to bring an end to the rebellion. By 13th January the rebellion had been crushed and most of its leaders, including Liebkecht were arrested.

Karl Liebkecht was executed without trial on 15th January, 1919

**“‘Winning Over The Population’
Continues To Be The Illusion Of
Every Occupier”**

“Granted Mobility, Security...Time And Doctrine...Victory Will Rest With The Insurgents”

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

November 27, 2007 By Conn Hallinan, Foreign Policy In Focus [Excerpts]

In 1805, the French army out maneuvered, outsmarted, and outfought the combined armies of Russia and Austria at Austerlitz. Three years later it would flounder against a rag-tag collection of Spanish guerrillas.

In 1967, it took six days for the Israeli army to smash Egypt, Jordan, and Syria and seize the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. In 2006, a Shiite militia fought the mightiest army in the Middle East to a bloody standstill in Lebanon.

In 1991, it took four days of ground combat for the United States to crush Saddam Hussein’s army in the Gulf War. U.S. losses were 148 dead and 647 wounded.

After more than five years of war in Iraq, U.S. losses are approaching 4,000, with over 50,000 wounded; 2007 is already the deadliest year of the war for the United States.

In each case, a great army won a decisive victory only to see that victory canceled out by what T. E. Lawrence once called the “algebra of occupation.”

Writing about the British occupation of Iraq following the Ottoman Empire’s collapse in World War I, Lawrence put his finger on the formula that has doomed virtually every military force that has tried to quell a restive population.

Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk has cited Lawrence to this effect: “Rebellion must have an unassailable base...it must have a sophisticated alien enemy, in the form a disciplined army of occupation too small to dominate the whole area effectively from fortified posts.

“It must have a friendly population, not actively friendly, but sympathetic to the point of not betraying rebel movements to the enemy.

Rebellions can be made by 2 percent active in a striking force, and 98 percent passive sympathy.

“Granted mobility, security...time and doctrine...victory will rest with the insurgents, for the algebraical factors are in the end decisive.”

There is an inexorable trajectory to this process.

An army vanquishes another army, only to find that wars don’t always end when generals surrender and capitals fall.

When a few locals take up arms because they object to being occupied by “aliens,” the occupiers act like armies, which are designed to kill people, not to win their hearts and minds.

So the occupiers break down doors and search for weapons, terrorizing and humiliating people in the process.

They call in air strikes, which kill innocent bystanders. They choke off commerce and impose curfews to teach the locals a lesson, lessons that are never learned.

For over 800 years the English beat, imprisoned, transported, shot, and hung hundreds of thousands of Irish, and it made the natives not the slightest bit quieter or more respectful. Indeed it made them quite the opposite.

In this process of trying to get the occupied to accept defeat, a certain corruption of spirit begins to seep into the soul of an army, transforming it from a war-fighting machine into a kind of monster.

An occupation is not a war against an army, it is a war against all.

There are no front lines and no distinguishing uniforms, only an ambush or a roadside bomb that strikes without warning.

Occupation is only possible if the occupied are reduced to a category that places them outside the boundaries of a shared humanity. So the Iraqis becomes “Hajji,” just as two generations ago the Vietnamese became “Slopes.” The Israeli right routinely refers to the Palestinians as “cockroaches.”

Soon, everyone becomes an enemy.

But “winning over the population,” continues to be the illusion of every occupier.

Testifying before Congress, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, “Army soldiers can expect to be tasked with reviving public services, rebuilding infrastructure, and promoting good government.”

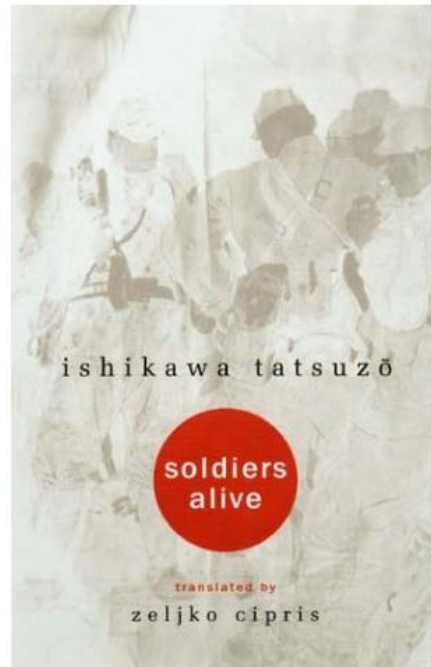
And then there is the real world.

A survey conducted by the Office of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army Medical Command found that only 38% of Marines and 47% of Army soldiers thought civilians should be treated with dignity. Some 45% Army soldiers and 60% said they would report the killing of innocent civilians.

A recent ABC/BBC poll found that 78% of Iraqis say things are going badly for the country as a whole, 47% support immediate U.S. troop withdrawal while 79% oppose the presence of coalition forces, and 57% support violence against coalition forces.

Those are the “algebraical factors” of occupation, and as Lawrence concludes, “against them perfections of means and spirit struggle quite in vain.”

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



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

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

GI Special www.militaryproject.org
*This is how Bush brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. soldiers search Iraqi citizens' personal belongings during an armed home invasion in the 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.

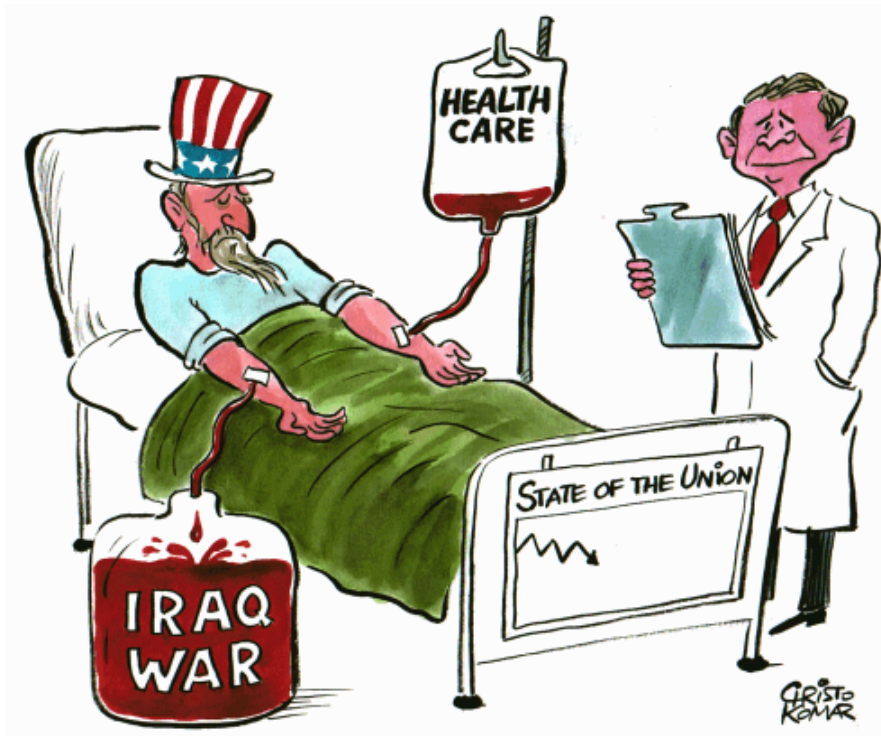
[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

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

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."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.