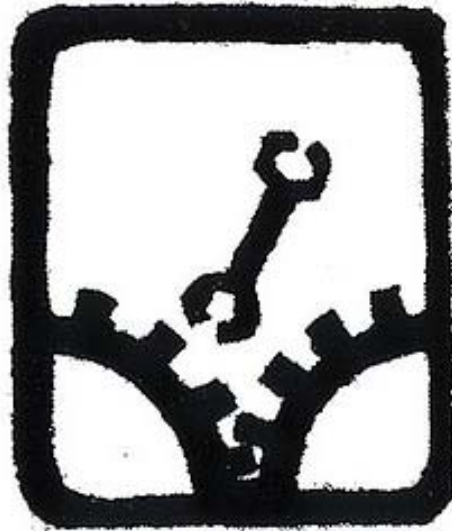


**GI SPECIAL 5L23:**

# **SUPPORT G.I. RESISTANCE**

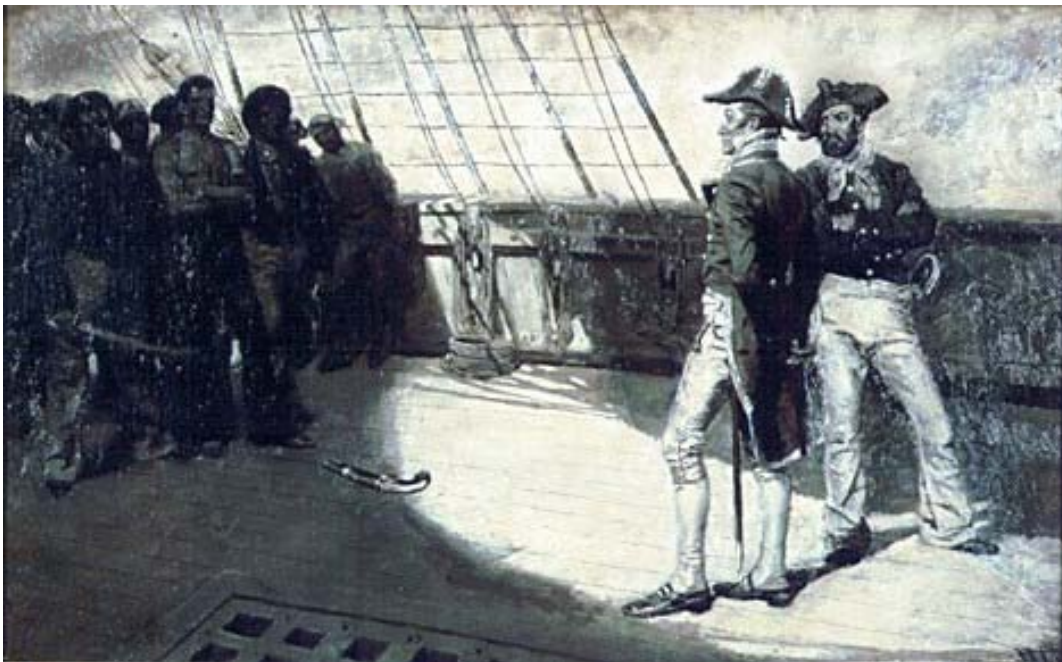


**“No One But The Soldiers Have  
The Power To End The War  
Now”**

**“As Activists Committed To  
Ending This War, We Need To  
Reach Out To The Troops Who Are  
Fighting It And Show Them That  
We Support GI Resistance”**

**“Our Sole Function Should Be Reaching Out To Them, Helping Them To Resist, Helping Them To Come Home”**

**“Soldiers In Iraq And Afghanistan Need To Know That At Home In The United States There Is A Dedicated Activist Community That Will Support Them In Resisting This Illegal War At Any Cost”**



The Mutiny

**Iraq Veterans Against the War is proving every day that we are the vanguard organization in the movement to ending the war. But we must remember that our credibility does not derive from media appearances, placements in protest rallies, or the medals on our uniforms. No, it comes from the fact that we are still soldiers, and we never leave another soldier behind.**

From: J.D. Englehart  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 26, 2007

Subject: SUPPORT G.I. RESISTANCE

**Article & Graphics By Jeff Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against the War, [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)**

***"The morale, discipline and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are...lower and worse than at any time in this century and possibly in the history of the United States...our army...is in a state of approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous." - Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr.; The Collapse of the Armed Forces, Armed Forces Journal, June 7, 1971***

***"Mutiny is the Conscience of War." —Common Graffiti written by Soldiers in the trenches of World War I***

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Much noise is being made today as to what true GI Resistance actually means.

In a confusing, often obfuscating and divisive hodgepodge of arguments, a variety of voices try to pinpoint and isolate a singularly accepted standard of GI Resistance.

Sometimes in stark arrogance, members of the antiwar community bicker back and forth as to what supporting resistance entails, without actually considering the point of view of the soldier fighting the war.

For instance, words like cowardice, loyalty, and even duty are used by some to attack, condescend, and humiliate war resisters, soldier dissenters, AWOL's, and deserters.

These arguments are seriously flawed, yet each stance tries to establish itself as the only acceptable means of supporting GI Resistance.

There are countless ways to crack an egg, and in a generalized effort to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, a plethora of tactics will be needed.

Most of us know that by now.

**But what we fail to realize is that sometimes the means to immediately end a war start with the boots on the ground.**

So who then are we, as activists, veterans, and concerned citizens, to place moral standards on any soldier who would detriment the war effort in any way she or he sees fit?

**The question is not what GI Resistance is, but rather how can we support it any way shape or form?**

One only needs to open a U.S. history book to find examples of GI resistance throughout our years of war and conquest. As far back as the American Revolution, instances of GI rebellion were common, as underpaid, underfed, and ill-equipped regulars staged mutinies and revolts against what they saw as forced conscription, colonial elitism, and

rampant war profiteering. In barbarous wars such our Civil War, soldiers plagued by the torment of battle and butchery deserted in massive numbers.

AWOL's were common throughout World War I, and studies on World War II now show that soldiers from both sides had tendencies to deliberately aim astray when firing projectiles at enemy combatants.

**But it wasn't until the Vietnam War that the true power of an organized underclass of soldiers showed is amazing potential to end military adventurism.**

Through amazing instances of organizing, communicating, and solidarity, American service members utilized a whole array of tactics to make their stance against a war they saw as immoral and wrong.

**From civil disobedience to direct action--from outspoken "Rap Sessions", antiwar coffee houses, underground newspapers, "search and evades" missions, and mass desertions, to more extreme measures as combat refusals, equipment sabotage and assassinations of commanding officers in the field -- soldiers challenged the power structure of the military from within, and sent shock waves through the establishment that were felt all the way to the architects of war in Washington, D.C.**

Of course, many people within the movement used a variety of tactics to spread distrust of the political system essential in ending the war.

**However, it wasn't until the very moment when the soldiers refused to fight that the powers-to-be had absolutely no other option than to pull the plug on their military aggression in Southeast Asia.**

**The GI Revolt from that time is an amazing display of people-power, and what can be achieved through a well-organized, dedicated effort to tear down systems of oppressive power from within.**

**Their greatest strength came from a decentralized ability to operate sporadically and pop up, much like a fungus refusing to die, uncontrollably in all corners of the American empire.**

**The fertile conditions that nurtured their resistance came from a strong antiwar movement back home, and a tightly-held veteran-soldier solidarity to keep the resistance intact.**

**Soldier solidarity is where we are failing today.**

**As activists committed to ending this war, we need to reach out to the troops who are fighting it and show them that we support GI Resistance.**

**Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan need to know that at home in the United States there is a dedicated activist community that will support them in resisting this illegal war at any cost.**

We need to realize amongst ourselves that GI resistance is resistance by definition. Therefore, any resistance acted out by soldiers must be supported.

**There can be no ultimatums to supporting resistance. Whether that resistance is in the form of organizing amongst peers, starting underground 'zines or websites, combat refusals or even acts of sabotage, we as activists must do our part to help aide and assist them, even if our assistance can only be in spirit and emotion.**

We must understand that any form of resistance, even cases of AWOL and desertion, play a huge part in undermining the war effort from within. Never are we allowed to judge or discriminate against soldiers who choose to leave the military for whatever reason the soldier deems necessary. If more of the public accepted and supported AWOL and/or desertion as a justified alternative to participating in an illegal war, then perhaps we could expect more and more soldiers to quit their jobs.

Ideally, one could picture the perfect scenario in which, on any given morning, the whole army fails to "show up to formation."

**At any rate, accusations of cowardice or treason are completely unacceptable.**

**Furthermore, any soldier or veteran (especially one inclined towards an antiwar persuasion) that resorts to such patronizing derision should be reminded that such chest-beating machismo and arrogant self-righteousness is absolutely detrimental to our ultimate goal of ending the war.**

**The whole idea is to win the soldiers trust and include them, not insult and exclude them.**

**Iraq Veterans Against the War is proving every day that we are the vanguard organization in the movement to ending the war.**

**But we must remember that our credibility does not derive from media appearances, placements in protest rallies, or the medals on our uniforms.**

**No, it comes from the fact that we are still soldiers, and we never leave another soldier behind.**

**Our credibility lies with the soldiers that are still tied to this war, not with the public who overwhelmingly supports an immediate withdrawal, and not with the politicians promising peace with empty rhetoric.**

**No one but the soldiers have the power to end the war now.**

**And as an organization inherently dedicated to the soldier, our sole function should be reaching out to them, helping them to resist, helping them to come home.**

**That is the true essence of solidarity, the true meaning of "Support GI Resistance," and when it finally comes together, that's when we'll really see the beginning of the end.**

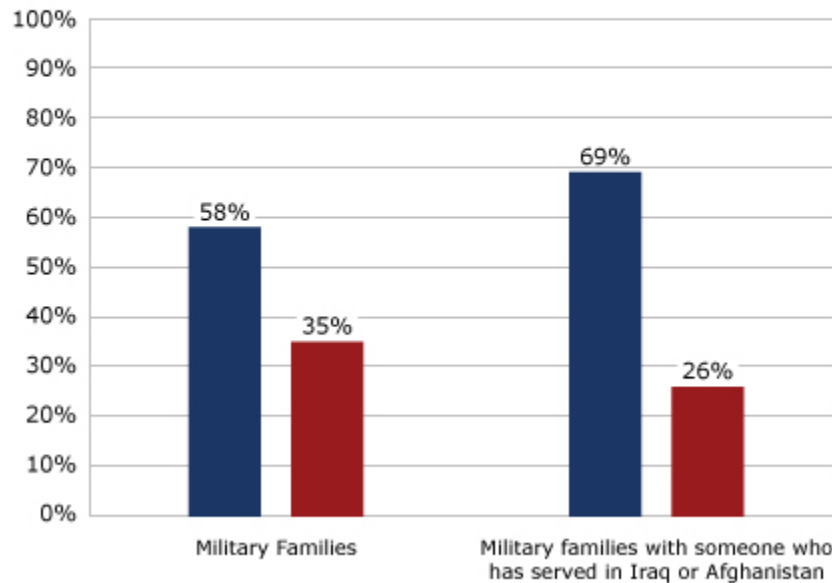


[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)



**In your opinion, should the U.S. withdraw troops from Iraq right away, or should the U.S. begin bringing troops home within the next year, or should troops stay in Iraq for as long as it takes to win the war?**

- Withdraw troops from Iraq
- As long as it takes



Source: December 2007 *Los Angeles Times* poll.

**MORE:**

# The Chicken Factory

[This is from March-April, 2005 - Issue 10 Traveling Soldier]

Once upon a time there was a chicken factory, where, let us suppose, 1000 men and women work.

Live chickens come in one end of the factory complex, and cut up chicken parts and whole chickens come out the other end.

The people who cut up the chickens make about \$3 an hour, work in cold, wet rooms, get sick a lot, and frequently lose body parts during the chicken cutting process. The managers are cold assholes interested in profits, and don't give a shit how dangerous the equipment is. The supervisors are petty tyrants and frequently sexual predators.

If you get too sick or hurt to work, too fucking bad, you get put out the door.

This is not a desirable state of affairs.

You think maybe there should be some kind of organization of the work force to resist this shit. Maybe you can get more money, or insist that you have decent protection from being maimed or killed.

At that point you are alone, and powerless. So you have to very carefully find somebody else that agrees, and then somebody else, and all unnoticed by the assholes in command of the chicken factory, you slowly but surely build an organization.

You need meetings to talk over plans. Off company territory. You need security. You need some kind of way of communicating, maybe a newsletter, but you're careful about that too.

You can take it from there.

**But it is obvious that you do not want anybody to stand up in the middle of the third shift and loudly tell management, "I refuse to participate any further in your immoral enterprise and will defy all your orders."**

**He or she is immediately gotten rid of, and is lost to organizing inside your chicken factory because he or she is gone. And the management is delighted, because they've just IDd and fired somebody who could give them trouble in the future.**

So, if you're alone, organize. People who act together can have an effect.

**And if somebody snaps and does an individual refusal, and gets arrested, in trouble, or whatever, your organization does not leave them behind; they've been hurt, and let no one judge them, because anybody can snap, anytime.**

**A soldier from the 1st ID summed up his job situation like this:**

**“Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited.**

**“We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.**

**“There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”**

Use Traveling Soldier to serve your organizing purposes and say what you have to say. You say how. That's what it's for.



## **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**

### **Maine Soldier Killed In Iraq Was Proud Of Military Service**

December 17, 2007 By Megan Woolhouse. Boston Globe Staff

Residents of a town in rural Maine near the Canadian border grieved the death of a native son this weekend with the news that Army Sergeant First Class Jonathan A. Lowery died in a gunfire attack in Mosul, Iraq.



Lowery, 38, a former drill sergeant and father of two, was killed Friday when his unit came under small arms fire, Army officials said. The sergeant's brother, Lawrence, said he had no additional details about the circumstances surrounding the death, which he said remains under investigation.

He said it was his brother's second tour in Iraq. "He was very well versed in combat . . . and he was a commanding presence," Lawrence Lowery said in a phone interview yesterday. "He was very proud of what he did in the military."

Born and raised in Houlton, a town of 6,500, Lowery grew up the second youngest of six children. He was fond of hunting and fishing in the remote town, home to a Smith & Wesson plant and pudding manufacturer Tate and Lyle.

After graduating from high school, Lowery took some college courses and served in the National Guard before enlisting in the Army. Lawrence Lowery said his brother's decision to join the military was influenced by an older brother who had joined the Air Force.

Lowery stayed in the military for the next 19 years, stationed at points across the United States and abroad.

He fought in Kosovo, and most recently, the soldier, who was divorced, worked as a senior drill sergeant at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, not far from where his two sons, ages 8 and 11 live. At the time of his death, he was assigned to the Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, III Corps in Fort Hood, Texas.

Lawrence Lowery said Jonathan had been promoted to sergeant first class earlier this year.

Army officials said flags will be flown at half-staff on the day of Lowery's funeral. A date and time has not been set. His remains have not yet been returned to Houlton, where his father and other family members live.

Paul Cleary, chairman of the Houlton Town Council, said the news has deeply affected many in the town. Lowery was remembered at church services yesterday.

Cleary said he would offer a request for a resolution honoring Lowery and recognizing his years of service at the next Council meeting.

"We all joke about how small Houlton is, and how we all know each other," he said. "At a time like this, it's a good thing. We work to help each other through."

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



A U.S. soldier of Bravo company, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, during a night patrol at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

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## TROOP NEWS

### "Never Going Home"



Some of the troops from the 101st division are on their third tour of Iraq. Previous tours have lasted more than a year and this one will be more than 15 months. The words "Never Going Home" have been etched onto the ceiling of this vehicle. [Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace]

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## **“Wounded And Forgotten” Back From Combat, They Couldn't Get Adequate Help And As A Result, Were Kicked Out Of The Military Without Disability Payments**



**Matt McLauchlen, shown here holding a certificate for his Purple Heart, spent months in military hospitals after a rocket explosion in Iraq almost severed his spinal cord and caused permanent disabilities. When he told a colonel he was so depressed that he had smoked marijuana, commanders at Camp Pendleton sent**

him to court martial — and discharged him with only partial benefits. Daniel Zwerdling, NPR

**[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,518th 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]**

December 20, 2007 by Daniel Zwerdling, All Things Considered [Excerpts]

"Our military families deserve better," President Bush declared in October as he sent a proposed bill to Congress. The legislation, he said, would make it easier for our troops to receive care for PTSD, "and it will help affected service members to move forward with their lives."

**But veterans advocates say that even if the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs became models for helping troops with mental health problems, it wouldn't help a large category of vets who are already wounded and forgotten.**

**These soldiers and Marines came back from combat, couldn't get adequate help, "flipped out" and misbehaved in some way — and as a result, were kicked out of the military without all the financial and medical benefits that veterans usually receive.**

"I think it's an outrage that we have not taken proper care of them," said Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO), one of the most influential voices on veterans' affairs. "Too many of these people have been kicked out because of the results of the stress they've been under."

Until he got PTSD, Patrick Uloth was a poster boy for the Marines in Iraq. He enlisted right out of high school, fought two tours and quickly was promoted to lance corporal. His commander hailed him as "head and shoulders above his peers." He received an award for valor, for helping save his unit one night near Fallujah.

But, like just about every Marine and soldier who has fought in Iraq, Uloth saw violence and death in ways that most people can barely imagine. During one patrol, for instance, a suicide bomber's vehicle exploded in front of Uloth's convoy.

Uloth said that the explosion left one of his Marine buddies decapitated. He remembers that he and two other Marines "scooped the Marine into bags, because he was in pieces." When Uloth rushed to another victim, he realized it was one of his best friends. "There was a large hole in the back of his head," Uloth says.

It has been three years since his brothers, as he calls them, were killed that night near Fallujah, but Uloth still struggles not to cry when he talks about the incident.

When Uloth came back to the U.S. in late 2004, his family said he was a different person. They, along with Uloth's medical records, document the changes: He would go days without sleeping. He avoided friends and started doing drugs.

He also shoved his wife against the wall; she later told officers that Uloth used to be gentle and loving until he came home from Iraq.

Uloth started having seizures. Doctors diagnosed the seizures as "conversion disorder" — a physical manifestation of serious mental health problems. According to Uloth, he'd lie in bed shaking uncontrollably, and he'd see visions of his friends getting blown up in Iraq.

**Uloth says that when he went to the mental health center at Camp Pendleton's hospital to ask for help, they were so overwhelmed by returning troops with mental health problems that he couldn't book a therapy appointment for months. The staff eventually gave him sporadic counseling, and prescribed a cocktail of powerful medications, but Uloth complained that the drugs made him feel worse.**

**So, he took off from Camp Pendleton without permission: Uloth went AWOL, as it's commonly called. (The Marines call it UA for "unauthorized absence.")**

**But he didn't disappear.**

**Instead, Uloth checked himself into a psychiatric center he had heard about at an Air Force base in Mississippi. He started getting intensive therapy, which he couldn't get at his own base.**

**When Uloth's commanders learned where he was, they sent two guards to arrest and restrain him with handcuffs and metal shackles.**

**They locked him in a jail cell at Camp Pendleton for almost two months, even though a military medical staff member concluded that he was "unfit for confinement."**

**And then, commanders at Camp Pendleton gave Uloth a "less than honorable" discharge.**

**That means the federal government won't give him disability payments, even though the military's medical staff diagnosed him with "uncontrollable trembling," "memory loss" and "chronic PTSD."**

**The government won't pay Uloth's way through college under the GI Bill.**

**And Uloth's less than honorable discharge likely means that he can't get medical treatment at the VA.**

According to federal rules, officials at local VA centers have discretion to help vets with that discharge if officials consider the vets to be "meritorious," or turn them away.

Uloth says that if he had benefits, he'd check himself into a psychiatric hospital because, although he can seem charming and cheerful on the surface, he says he is in deep emotional trouble. His friends have rushed him to the emergency room several times in the past year because of his flashbacks and seizures.

During one episode, Uloth thought he was still in combat, says Scott Joseph Abney, his housemate and childhood friend. "He'd ball up in a corner and then he'd get kind of violent, trying to defend himself," Abney says. "He broke cell phones. He broke computers. He threw stereo equipment. He was in a rage."

Abney says it took at least half an hour to talk Uloth out of his trance and convince him to go to a medical center.

"He was back in Iraq," Abney says.

**Marine Corps have not responded to repeated requests to talk about Uloth's case.**

**NPR tracked down dozens of vets like Uloth, including Marcus Johnson in Oregon; Nicholas Jackson in Georgia; Matt McLauchlen in California; and Jason Harvey in Florida. Their stories are variations on the same script: They fought in Iraq, got PTSD, couldn't get much help, got in trouble — and got kicked out without all their benefits.**

NPR asked Pentagon officials to disclose how many vets with mental health problems have been discharged without all their benefits since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan and Iraq.

Pentagon spokesmen told NPR they don't know.

The Army said that since the U.S. went to war in Iraq, the Army alone has discharged about 28,000 soldiers for bad behavior, from taking drugs to going AWOL to assault.

An Army spokesman said they can't tell how many of those soldiers were diagnosed with mental health problems, but medical specialists say troops who have PTSD or traumatic brain injury commonly misbehave in exactly those kinds of ways.

So advocates like Gary Myers, a former Army lawyer now in private practice, call on the nation's leaders to declare an amnesty. They say lawmakers should restore full benefits to all troops who were discharged for misconduct or other behavior after they returned from combat if they were also diagnosed with mental health problems such as PTSD.

"We need to take care of the soldiers and Marines who have been kicked out without benefits," Bond told NPR, "and may have done so because of undiagnosed, unrecognized mental health problems they may have. It's simple justice."

Officials at the Pentagon did not respond to NPR's repeated requests for comment.

### **Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576**

Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## **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

"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

"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

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

## **Re: Bhutto**

On 12.27.07 BBC TV News reported that Bhutto had publicly announced that if elected, she would invite U.S. combat troops to pursue Afghan resistance forces across the border from Afghanistan into Pakistan at will, without asking permission.

Chickens coming home to roost?

Amidst all the hang-wringing about the killing by critics of the U.S. Empire, that fact has been thrown down the memory-hole.

Another inconvenient truth?

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***To The Irish Americans Who  
Fought The Vietnam War:  
“I Saw All Of That Happen And  
Lived With The Stench Of My  
Country’s Betrayal That Put Me In  
Such A Place”***

**“These Brave Young Men And  
Women Now In Harm’s Way Deserve  
More Than To Be The Pawns Our  
Government Has Made Them”**

**“In Light Of My Heritage, As Hard As It  
Was To Face It, I Had To Admit I Was  
Fighting On The Wrong Side”**

By Dave Connolly, October 2007, Veterans For Peace Newsletter

**In the moans of the dying Viet Cong, from  
my GranDa’s tales, the Bahn Sidhe.**

**In the calmness of prisoners who were  
shot for spite, the brave James Connolly.**

**In the hit and run of those we fought, the  
“Flying Columns” of the IRA.**

**In Tet, so unmistakably, that fateful**



## **Easter day.**

**In the leaflets we found in farmer's huts,  
the Proclamation of Pearse.**

**In all the senseless acts of racist hate, I  
felt the growing fears.**

**In the murder of unarmed peasants, with  
our modern technology,**

**we became the hated Black and Tans, and  
we shamed our ancestry.**

*Note: The Buhn Sidhe, Banshee in modern Irish, are the fairy people believed to inhabit the ancient burial mounds of Ireland; they are the spirit of death whom you will hear wail at the moment of your own death.*

**How many Irish-Americans understand this poem that I wrote long ago?**

**And how many could relate it to the events in Iraq today?**

**It's a fine thing to gather on the 17th of March, hoist a pint or two, sing old rebel songs and celebrate our heritage, but do you know our heritage?**

**This Saint Patrick's Day, in the midst of another failed war, should be a time for reflection, a time to examine what this generation of our people are going through again as soldiers occupying and trying to tame another nation of people who do not want us there.**

When I was a boy, I would often sit with my Grand Da, Coley Connolly, and listen to his stories of Ireland, especially his stories of "The Rising" and of "The Troubles" which followed it. After his death, I kept up the conversation with my Nana, gleaning information about our heritage which they were both so proud of.

Coley would tell me of the boys of the Irish Volunteers, those who became the Irish Republican Army, how they strained under the boot of the Crown until they could take it no more and rebelled.

He told me of how he and his comrades had to leave their homes and go "on the run" to join up with one of the "Flying Columns" to escape capture and imprisonment, or worse, death, for the dastardly crime of being Irish and wanting freedom.

Coley told me of James Connolly, Padraic Pearse, Tom Clarke and the rest, their valiant, hopeless stand of Easter Week; how, with only small arms, 1500 Irish men, women, and children faced nearly 40,000 British troops, with their Maxim guns, tanks and gunboats; how the leaders were heartlessly murdered by the Crown after their surrender.

He spoke of the guerrilla war that followed, the Black and Tan War as he called it, of how savage it became, how ruthless the British irregulars, "the Black and Tans" were, as

these mercenaries were called, these released convicts and “cashiered” British soldiers, when they were set loose on the Irish towns and countryside.

My Nana also told her stories.

**She spoke of how the “Tans” would come through the villages and towns, always at night, and “tumble out houses.”**

**Sometimes they’d molest the women, regardless of their age, terrorize the children whom they called “nits who would someday be lice,” arrest, beat, and carry away fathers and sons on trumped up warrants, or with no warrants, bayonet ceilings, walls, beds and hayricks looking for the young volunteers of the IRA on the run, men like my Grand Da.**

My grandparents shared one story that came to haunt me as a young man and which I carry still.

It was about the Black and Tans, not the Tommies, the regular soldiers of the “British F\*%#ing Army” as Coley always referred to them.

**My grandparents great hatred was reserved for the Tans. They told of how the Tans would surround a village or a city block, move in, searching each house for arms, ammution or foodstuffs that looked out of proportion for the number of those living there.**

**If they found any of those things, the males of the house were arrested (read here that they were carried off, tortured and maybe murdered) and the house was burned to the ground.**

If this was so in a number of houses, there might ensue a wanton burning of houses; whole towns like Skibbereen, Tuam, Trim, Balbriggan, Thurles, Templemore and many others were burned, and blocks and blocks of cities, like Cork were also burned, at whim, for revenge, because the Black and Tans felt they had the right, and knew they had the might, to do so.

In the service of my country, in the footsteps of Coley and my own Da, I also went to war.

**As a nineteen year old infantryman in Vietnam, it was my job to participate in “search and cordon, search and destroy missions”, where we would surround a village, move in and search hootch to hootch for arms, ammution or foodstuffs out of proportion for the number of people living there.**

**Sound familiar?**

**If we found any of those things, the adults from that house were handed over to the ARVNs (the soldiers of the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam) who were assigned to us. These people were put on our Huey helicopters under arrest (again, read here that they were carried off, tortured, sometimes raped if they were female, and maybe murdered).**

**The villages we terrorized, and sometimes “zipped” if we found contraband, were filled with women, old men and children, for their menfolk were “on the run” like Coley was back so long ago, fighting against the foreign invaders of their hamlet or village.**

**Again, sound familiar?**

I was only nineteen and a dumb Grunt, but the truth of what I was doing hit me harder than the rocket-propelled grenade shrapnel that tore into me months later.

**In light of my heritage, as hard as it was to face it, I had to admit I was fighting on the wrong side.**

I was the grandson of a proud revolutionary who had freed most of his country from the Crown, and the son of a man who lost the use of his arm helping to free the world of Hitler and Tojo, yet my loyalty and love of this country made me a Black and Tan in Vietnam.

The killings of civilians perpetrated by the Tans long ago in Belfast and Derry and those of Bloody Sunday at Croke Park where civilians at a football match were machine-gunned as revenge for an IRA ambush elsewhere, were a presage of the slaughter at My Lai, where lack of leadership and our military might, gave young men the feeling they had the “right” to kill women, children, and old men.

And, believe me, My Lai was not the only My Lai.

**Despite what I felt or did in my war, despite the fact that I never shot at anyone who was not under arms, never tortured a prisoner, never raped, I saw all of that happen and lived with the stench of my country’s betrayal that put me in such a place.**

**You might think or say that I don’t “support the troops” speaking like this. On the contrary, I was one of the troops not “supported” in Vietnam, fighting in the middle of another civil war, and our government then had no plan for an end to hostilities except to kill more “Gooks” as the Vietnamese were called then.**

To the Tans. the Irish were “Bloody Fenians.”

Now those in the crosshairs are “Hadjis.”

If you fight just to kill, I ask you, can you be right?

No number of yellow ribbons can take the place of an exit strategy, a true search for a diplomatic end to this horror our nation is experiencing, the body bags full of lives cut short for nothing gained.

To “support the troops” we must stop the misuse of the troops.

These brave young men and women now in harm’s way deserve more than to be the pawns our government has made them.

Please think about what I have said. Please raise your voice for an end to this wanton waste of the best of our country. And may God Bless America.

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***Great Moments In U.S. Military  
History: December 29, 1890:  
Massacre At Wounded Knee;  
“Many Women And Children Standing By  
Their Tipis Under A White Flag Of Truce  
Were Cut Down By Deadly Shrapnel  
From The Hotchkiss Guns”***



**A mounted soldier rides among the dead Indians at Wounded Knee**

[Via Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin]

English.uiuc.edu

From Momaday, "The American West and the Burden of Belief" in Geoffrey C. Ward, *The West: An Illustrated History*. Copyright © 1996 by The West Book Project, Inc. (Little Brown, 1996).

On December 15, 1890, the great Hunkpapa leader Sitting Bull, who had opposed Custer at the Little Bighorn and who had toured for a time with Buffalo Bill and the Wild

West show, was killed on the Standing Rock reservation. In a dream he had foreseen his death at the hands of his own people.

Just two weeks later, on the morning of December 29, 1890, on Wounded Knee Creek near the Pine Ridge agency, the Seventh Cavalry of the U.S. Army opened fire on an encampment of Big Foot's band of Miniconjou Sioux.

When the shooting ended, Big Foot and most of his people were dead or dying.

It has been estimated that nearly 300 of the original 350 men, women, and children in the camp were slain. Twenty-five soldiers were killed and thirty-nine wounded,

Sitting Bull is reported to have said, "I am the last Indian."

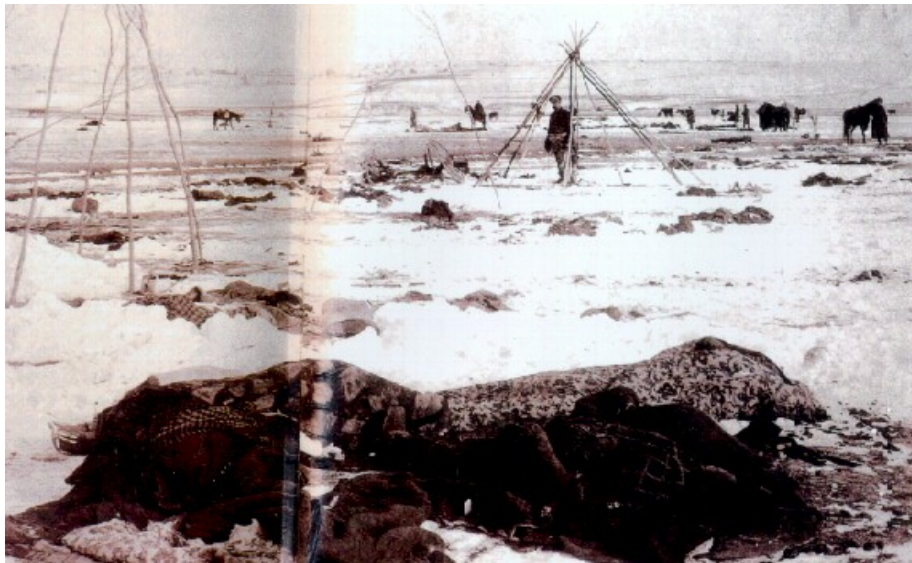
In some sense he was right. During his lifetime the world of the Plains Indians had changed forever. The old roving life of the buffalo hunters was over. A terrible disintegration and demoralization had set in. If the death of Sitting Bull marked the end of an age, Wounded Knee marked the end of a culture.

**"I did not know then how much was ended.**

**"When I look back now from the high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young.**

**"And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there. It was a beautiful dream...." -Black Elk-**

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**Indian Bodies on the ground at Wounded Knee**

Paula M. Robertson: From Encyclopedia of North American Indians. Frederick E. Hoxie, Ed. Copyright © 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

**Many women and children standing by their tipis under a white flag of truce were cut down by deadly shrapnel from the Hotchkiss guns.**

**The rest fled under withering fire from all sides.**

**Pursuing soldiers shot most of them down in flight, some with babes on their backs.**

One survivor recalled that she was wounded but was so scared she did not feel it. She lost her husband, her little girl, and a baby boy. One shot passed through the baby's body before it broke her elbow, causing her to drop his body. Two more shots ripped through the muscles of her back before she fell.

The warrior Iron Hail, shot four times himself but still able to move, saw the soldiers shooting women and children.

One young woman, crying out for her mother, had been wounded close to her throat, and the bullet had taken some of her braid into the wound.

A gaping hole six inches across opened the belly of a man near him, shot through by an unexploded shell from the guns.

**Others told of women, heavy with child, shot down by the soldiers. Bodies of women and children were found scattered for three miles from the camp.**

On New Year's Day, a pit was dug on the hill that the Hotchkiss guns had been on, and the frozen bodies of 146 men, women, and children were thrown into the pit like cordwood until it was full.

The whites stripped many of the bodies, keeping as souvenirs the Ghost Shirts and other clothing and equipment the people had owned in life, or selling them later in the thriving trade over Ghost Dance relics that ensued.

One member of the burial party remarked that it was "a thing to melt the heart of a man, if it was of stone, to see those little children, with their bodies shot to pieces, thrown naked into the pit."

Besides the 146 buried that day, others who had been wounded died soon afterward, and relatives removed many of the bodies before the government burial party arrived.

Estimates of the number of Lakotas slain vary, but many authorities believe that the figure is around three hundred men, women, and children.

Not many escaped.



The mass grave at Wounded Knee

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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

## **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



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

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