

GI SPECIAL 6A16:

**ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army soldier from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment bundles up against the bitter cold south of Baghdad, Jan. 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Some Truth For A Change

**“Residents With Insurgent
Sympathies Taunted The Chief
And Pelted Him With Rocks
Moments Before He Was Killed”**

“A Drawn-Out Fight Could Serve To Rally Insurgents And Expose Potential Security Weaknesses Where U.S. Troops Are Thin And Iraqi Forces Must Take A Front-Line Role” Occupation Commanders “Did Not Trust The Iraqi Army Enough To Tell Them Ahead Of Time About The Operation”

1/23/08 Associated Press & 24 January 2008 By VOA News & Reuters & & (CBS/AP) & By STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi prime minister announced Friday that the government was preparing to strike back against insurgents in the northern city of Mosul after two days of deadly bombings killed nearly 40 people. He promised the fight “will be decisive.”

A bomber killed a Nineveh province police director Brigadier-General Salih Mohammed Hasan Atiya al-Jubouri and two other officers Thursday as they toured the devastation from the previous day.

Residents with insurgent sympathies taunted the chief and pelted him with rocks moments before he was killed.

The bomber struck the officials fleeing an ambush. The ambush came first, as attackers opened fire on the police chief at about 9:30 a.m., as he walked through the wreckage with his entourage.

Officials say the attacker in a police uniform walked up to the police chief Brig. Gen. Falih Mohammed Hassan and then detonated his explosives vest.

Hassan was wounded and taken to an Iraqi army hospital, where he was pronounced dead, al-Jubouri said. At least two policemen were killed.

An Iraqi police spokesman said Hassan was attacked after insurgents ambushed the blast site, sparking clashes that lasted for about 15 minutes. The bomber moved toward Hassan’s car as it was preparing to flee the area, said Brig. Gen. Saeed al-Jubouri, a police spokesman.

Insurgents and supporters would find themselves without a major base of operations if ousted from Mosul, which occupies transport crossroads between Baghdad, Syria and other points.

But a drawn-out fight could serve to rally insurgents and expose potential security weaknesses where U.S. troops are thin and Iraqi forces must take a front-line role.

Mosul is Iraq's second-largest city, with a population estimated at 1.7 million. About a third of the city lies on the east bank of the Tigris River, and most of its minority Kurd population has moved there during the war. Nearly all of those living on the west bank are Arabs, Iraqi officials say.

Eighteen U.S. battalions - 15,000-18,000 troops - and tens of thousands of Iraqi army soldiers, police officers and local militia are attacking insurgents in the offensive, which began Jan. 8.

But defense analyst Lawrence Korb of the Center for American Progress in Washington said relying on Iraqi forces to hold areas taken by the operation would not work.

"They did not trust the (Iraqi) army enough to tell them ahead of time about the operation," he said, and "the police are still not in good shape."

The blast in Mosul was the latest in a series of bombings across Iraq, including in some areas that have seen a relative calm recently with the security gains from U.S operations.

"We have asked the prime minister to send us fresh units because we cannot defeat the terrorists with the weak units we have now in the city," Maj. Gen. Riyadh Jalal, a senior Iraqi officer in the Mosul area.

"We need new equipment and stronger weapons because most of our security members have only rifles."

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf told The Associated Press that 3,000 police were being sent to the Mosul region to augment the understaffed force.

Ninevah province, whose capital is Mosul, has about 18,000 policemen. But only about 3,000 of those operate in the city of nearly 2 million, according to police spokesman Saeed al-Jubouri.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

First US Soldier In Iraq Killed By IED In New IED-Resistant Vehicle

[Thanks to William Bowles. Check out his work at www.williambowles.info]

22 January 2008 By VOA News

US military officials say a roadside bomb attack in Iraq on Saturday killed an American soldier - the first fatality in new armored vehicles designed to protect against such bombs.

Officials said Tuesday, the soldier was killed and three others were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in the Arab Jabour area south of Baghdad. The soldiers were driving a "Mine Resistant Ambush Protected" vehicle - or MRAP - which has a V-shaped hull intended to deflect roadside bomb blasts.

Roadside bomb attacks are responsible for a large percentage of U.S. casualties in Iraq. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last year that MRAP vehicles are the military's highest acquisition priority.

Marine From Plymouth Killed In Iraq

Jan 22, 2008 WTHR

Plymouth - A Marine from Indiana was killed in a firearms accident in Iraq, his father said Tuesday night.

Military officials said Lance Cpl. Cameron Babcock died Sunday when another Marine's weapon accidentally discharged, his father, Jeff Babcock, told The Associated Press. Babcock said his son's death was under investigation.

The 19-year-old infantry rifleman was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, his father said. He had recently spent three weeks at home after completing his first seven-month tour. He was the son of Jeff and Anne Babcock of Plymouth, 23 miles south of South Bend.

"We're glad that we had time with him to see him," Jeff Babcock said.

"He was proud of what he was doing," he added.

Cameron Babcock was assigned to the 1st Marine Division based at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base in California. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 2006.

Waterville Soldier Dies In Iraq

January 18, 2008 By Douglass Dowty, Staff writer; The Post-Standard

"7Sigsbee" That's the message he delivered to children at a Waterville school when he returned from Iraq in 2006, his arms and legs badly burned after the Humvee he was driving was exploded by a roadside bomb, his family said.

After a year of recovery, Sigsbee had the chance to avoid going back to Iraq by transferring out of his 101st Airborne Division unit, said his aunt, Donna Weeks. But he

remained loyal to his comrades in combat. "He was going back to do what he did best - to help people," Weeks said.

Sigsbee, 21, of Waterville in Oneida County, was killed Wednesday when his patrol came under small-arms fire and grenade attacks in Balad, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, the Department of Defense said Thursday. Two other members of the unit also were killed: Pfc. David H. Sharrett II, 27, of Oakton, Va., and Pfc. Danny L. Kimme, 27, of Fisher, Ill.

He had joined the Army in October 2005 and was based at Fort Campbell, Ky., a member of the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Army officials said.

"He didn't think of himself as a hero," Weeks said. "He knew he was in a bad place. He had been calling all of his friends and family the last few weeks. He knew something bad was going to happen. But he loved what he was doing."

His parents, James and Susan, received a letter from him the day before he died. He had written Weeks a note thanking her for the chocolate cookies she sent and asking for some beef sticks and cheese, while joking that she remember to send crackers, too.

James Van Wormer, superintendent of the Waterville Central School District, said he watched Sigsbee grow from a kindergartner to a teenager who cheered on all the high school sports teams. His friends were making him a care package to send to Iraq when he died.

"He had a mission to do," Van Wormer said. "He was a good friend. That was his mission."

When Sigsbee returned on leave, he wouldn't talk about the war but went to parties with his friends and tackled a project on his brand-new pickup truck, said Frank Savino, commander of the Helmuth-Ingalls American Legion Post in Franklin Springs.

Savino recalled how on his first leave after enlisting, Sigsbee had marched into the American Legion to ask how he could join.

"He was a very quiet, nice guy," Savino said. "He loved the Army."

Since Sigsbee's family was informed by the Army about his death Wednesday, the news has rippled across this community of 1,721, located 16 miles south of Utica in the Mohawk Valley.

"When it hits this close to home, it makes you stop and think again," said Mayor James Younes.

"It's going to affect everybody," Savino said. "He was very well-liked."

Weeks said Sigsbee's body will be flown back to Central New York in the next two weeks. He'll receive a full military funeral, she said.

Sigsbee was awarded a Purple Heart, a National Defense Service Ribbon and an expert weapons qualification, among other honors, the Army said.

In addition to his parents, Sigsbee is survived by two brothers, Jared, 19, and Jason, 24, their aunt said.

Missile Attack Targets Basra British Base

Jan 23 (KUNA)

Insurgents attacked with missiles a main British military base near Basra airport. The British Army spokesman said on Wednesday the base was attacked with missiles late on Tuesday, adding that the attack did not cause any casualties or damage.

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



9.07: US soldiers from 1-501 Para-Infantry Regiment look outside a window from an Iraqi house they occupied to use as a patrol base during Operation Gecko in southern Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

Occupation Command Can't Confirm Effects Of Air Attacks

1/23/08 Associated Press & Reuters

The U.S. military also said Friday that American and Iraqi troops had cleared a roadside bomb-infested route between Baqouba and Khan Bani Saad, a strategic village on the northern outskirts of Baghdad.

Thirty roadside bombs were removed from the road and surrounding areas along with 12 booby-trapped houses, 11 car bombs and six weapons caches, the military said in a statement.

The troops also killed an estimated 41 suspected militants, although the military stressed the exact number could not be confirmed because many were killed in aerial bombardments and their bodies were removed before ground forces arrived.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Nari; Three More Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

January 25, 2008 The Associated Press

U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops clashed with insurgents while searching a compound in Nari district of Kunar province near the Pakistani frontier on Friday, leaving one coalition soldier dead, a statement said.

The nationalities of the dead and three wounded soldiers were not released. Most of the troops in that area are American.

An Afghan soldier and an interpreter working for the coalition were also wounded, the statement said. It did not say how many suspected militants were killed.

Canadian Soldier Killed Near Kandahar Wednesday; Two Wounded

Jan 24, 2008 (Reuters)

A Canadian soldier was killed and two others were injured in Afghanistan on Wednesday when a military convoy struck an improvised mine near the southern city of Kandahar, the Canadian government said.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Thursday, Two More Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

24 January 2008 By VOA News

One NATO soldier was killed and two others wounded when a roadside blast struck their patrol in southern Afghanistan Thursday. NATO did not disclose the nationalities of the soldiers, or the site of the attack.

Seven Canadians Wounded By Panjwaii IEDs

01/24/08 THE CANADIAN PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Seven Canadian soldiers have suffered minor injuries in two separate explosions believed caused by roadside bombs in Afghanistan.

The latest blasts happened in the Panjwaii district west of Kandahar city on Wednesday.

The incidents, which affected two vehicles on the same convoy nearly three hours apart, came a day after a Canadian soldier was killed in a similar blast in Arghandab district.

Trooper Richard Renaud, a 26-year-old with the 12e Regiment blindé du Canada, died when his Coyote reconnaissance vehicle struck an improved explosive device, or IED, while out on an early morning patrol.

The latest explosion brings the number of IED strikes against Canadian troops to five in four days. The other two resulted in only minor injuries and vehicle damage.

U.S. Occupation Troops Help The Resistance;

Kill 9 Collaborator Cops Including A District Police Chief In Ghazni; “Eight People Were Detained By American Soldiers, Mr. Rahman Said, But Two Were From The Provincial Education Department”



Protesters in Ghazni, south of Kabul, chanted anti-American slogans on Thursday after a search for Taliban left nine Afghan policemen and a civilian dead. Shir Ahmad/Reuters

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

January 25, 2008 By CARLOTTA GALL and ABDUL WAHEED Wafa, New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan - At least nine Afghan police officers and a civilian were killed early Thursday in a firefight between American forces and the officers in Ghazni Province, just south of the capital, local officials said.

The American forces were searching houses in a village on the outskirts of Ghazni town and blew open the gates of a house, according to local Afghan officials. District police officers heard the explosion and rushed to the scene, suspecting that the Taliban were in

the area, but were themselves mistaken for Taliban and shot by the American soldiers, the officials said.

Aircraft supporting the operation fired on one of the police cars.

The killings set off protests in the town on Thursday afternoon, and demonstrators blocked the main highway and prevented a government delegation from reaching the town from a nearby airfield, local officials said.

“Another big cruelty was made by American forces this morning,” said Khial Muhammad Hussaini, a member of Parliament from the province who was among the elders and legislators who had traveled to the town to try to calm people and persuade them to reopen the highway.

The Afghan government has repeatedly requested that United States forces coordinate with local authorities and take along Afghan security forces during operations because there have been many instances in which Americans have inadvertently killed civilians or local police officers.

But Mr. Hussaini, the Parliament member, said the American forces involved had not coordinated with any government authority before or during the raid.

Hajji Zaher, an elder in Ghazni town, gave this account: “At 3 a.m., when the Americans were searching the houses and when they blew up the gates, the police rushed to the area thinking that they were Taliban. And at the same time the Americans thought that the police were Taliban and there was a firefight.”

Habib-u Rahman, deputy chief of the Ghazni provincial council, said that nine police officers, including a district police chief, and a civilian had been killed and that four other police officers and a woman had been wounded.

“After the police came under fire, the police officers got out of their vehicle, and their vehicle was shot by a rocket from the plane,” Mr. Rahman said.

Eight people were detained by American soldiers, Mr. Rahman said, but two were from the provincial Education Department.

New Zealand Soldier Injured As Copter Goes Down

25 Jan 2008 Radio New Zealand

The Defence Force has ruled out a rocket attack being the cause of a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in which a New Zealand soldier was injured.

The soldier was on a helicopter carrying four other New Zealand personnel that came down in Bamyan province on 16 January.

He was evacuated to Bagram Air Base for minor surgery and will be sent home to recover.

***Carve This On Their Tombstones:
General Says “He Does Not
Expect Insurgents To Mount A
Spring Offensive”
Another Silly General Says “I Don’t
See The Insurgents As A Resurgent
Force”
Counterterrorism Chief Says Generals
Lack Intelligence***



The idiot US General David Rodriguez, left, pretending to look at map. (AFP/File/Cris Bouroncle)

January 24, 2008 By David Montero, The Christian Science Monitor

The Taliban are unlikely to launch a spring offensive in Afghanistan this year because all their energies will be focused in Pakistan, United States military officials said.

Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez said he does not expect insurgents to mount a spring offensive this year in eastern Afghanistan, once one of the most violent areas of the country.

The Associated Press reports:

“There’s gaps in intelligence,” (Dell Dailey, the State Department’s counterterrorism chief) said during a meeting with reporters. “We don’t have enough information about what’s going on there. Not on al-Qaida. Not on foreign fighters. Not on the Taliban.”

Dailey, a retired Army lieutenant general with extensive background in special operations, said the lack of information makes him “uncomfortable.”

“I don’t see the insurgents as a resurgent force as some people give them credit to be,” said Gen. Dan McNeill from his headquarters in Kabul.

***Welcome To Liberated
Afghanistan:
Where Murderous Fanatics Serve
The U.S. Military Dictatorship:
Journalist Gets Death Penalty For
“Downloading Material From The
Internet Relating To The Role Of
Women In Islamic Societies”
“The Court Also Threatened To Arrest
Any Reporters Who Protested Against
Kambakhsh’s Sentence”***

1.23.08 BBC

An Afghan journalist has been sentenced to death by a provincial court for distributing “blasphemous” material.

Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh, 23, was arrested in 2007 after downloading material from the internet relating to the role of women in Islamic societies.

A primary court in Balkh province said that Kambakhsh had confessed to blasphemy and had to be punished.

The court also threatened to arrest any reporters who protested against Kambakhsh's sentence.

Kambakhsh, a student at Balkh University and a journalist for Jahan-e Naw (New World), was arrested in October 2007 after material he downloaded was deemed to be offensive to Islam.

Shamsur Rahman, the head of the court, told Reuters news agency: "According to... the Islamic law, Sayed Perwiz is sentenced to death at the first court.

"However, he will go through three more courts to declare his last punishment," he said.

Balkh province's deputy attorney general, Hafizullah Khaliqyar, warned other journalists that they would be arrested if they attempted to support Kambakhsh.

But Agence France-Presse reported that journalists were gathering outside the home of the condemned reporter.

The sentence has been welcomed by conservative Islamic clerics in Afghanistan but criticised by international human rights groups.

Global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders said it was "deeply shocked" by the trial and appealed to President Hamid Karzai to intervene "before it is too late".

In a statement, the group said the trial was "carried out in haste and without any concern for the law or for free expression, which is protected by the constitution".

"Kambakhsh did not do anything to justify his being detained or being given this sentence."

Kambakhsh's brother, Sayed Yaqub Ibrahimi, said the verdict was "very unfair" and appealed for help from the international community, reported Reuters.

Whine Whine Whine:
As Imperial Occupation Chiefs
Complain About Lack Of "Trainers"
They Don't Dare Face The Real
Question:
Why Doesn't The Resistance Need
Thousands Of "Trainers"?

January 25, 2008 by Tom Bowman, All Things Considered [Excerpts]

A dispute over the number of Western troops in Afghanistan has provoked sharp exchanges in recent weeks between the Pentagon and its NATO allies.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates backed off criticism of NATO for not sending more troops, saying the two sides needed to work together. But tensions remain.

And NPR has learned the United States itself is falling short on the number of trainers it has pledged for Afghanistan.

The United States calculated that to help build the Afghan Army it would need more than 1,600 American military personnel. So far, it has come up with less than half that number.

For the Afghan police, the United States has sent 860 trainers — or one-third of what it promised to field.

The Pentagon announced last week that it will deploy 1,000 Marine trainers to Afghanistan this spring to help fill that gap. But even with those added Marines, the Afghan training effort will still be hundreds of trainers short.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Twomey oversees the training effort for Afghan soldiers and police. He says the lack of police trainers means a year-long delay.

Now, it won't be until sometime in 2009 before the full 82,000-member Afghan police force is trained.

TROOP NEWS

The Pentagon Betrays Troops As Usual: Despite New Law, DoD “Gave Unscrupulous Lenders A Pass” Allows Sharks To Charge Troops 584% Interest On Loans

December 31, 2007 Editorial, Army Times

The Military Loan Act was supposed to put the clamp on payday lenders, who prey on unsuspecting and naïve service members by offering short-term loans at exorbitant interest rates.

But when it came time to write the regulations for enforcing that law, the Defense Department loosened the vice and gave unscrupulous lenders a pass.

Instead of applying the rules as broadly as the law intended, Pentagon rule makers instead issued a policy so narrow that only payday loans — not revolving lines of credit, installment loans or other types of credit — were covered.

Consumer advocates predicted what would happen, and now they have been proven right: High-interest lenders just turned around, redesigned their loan programs, and went back to work.

Such was the case with Military Financial Inc., until now an advertiser in this newspaper. Military Financial redubbed their loan “a revolving line of credit.” Spokesmen say they don’t charge interest, but rather impose “fees.”

When lumped together and figured as an annualized percentage rate, however, the loan works out to a 584 percent APR.

The worst part: It’s legal.

Congress gave the Defense Department the tools to keep lenders like Military Financial from taking advantage of service members.

But Pentagon officials failed to live up to that responsibility, and lenders are able to run circles around the ineffectively narrow rules. Now it’s time to close the loopholes.

If Pentagon leaders don’t take action on their own, Congress should order them to do so.

There is no excuse for allowing this kind of thing to continue.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

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 to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action



A damaged police vehicle after an attack in Basra, January 22, 2008. Three policemen were wounded when guerrillas attacked a checkpoint. REUTERS/Atef Hassan

23 Jan 2008 Reuters & AP & By Paul Tait and Ahmed Rasheed (Reuters) & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & 24 January 2008 By VOA News & IOL & Reuters & January 25, 2008 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & Reuters & AP

Guerrilla fighters opened fire on an Iraqi army checkpoint in central Baghdad Wednesday, killing eight soldiers and wounding two, police said.

The drive-by shooting occurred about 11 a.m. in the Bab al-Mudham district, a commercial area on the eastern side of the Tigris River in central Baghdad.

Two other soldiers were wounded, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

A roadside bomb wounded Colonel Yadjar Shukur, chief of Kirkuk's police operations room on Tuesday when it hit his convoy in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Three miles south of Baqouba, insurgents broke into a house and killed six men in a family for cooperating with the U.S. military forces, an army official said.

The men had given information on insurgent movements to local U.S.-funded Awakening Council members.

The attack took place in al-Abara village, an insurgent stronghold.

A roadside bomb in Karbala targeted a senior aide of Iraq's Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The aide, Abdul-Mahdi al-Karbalai, escaped with a wound to the arm, but two of his bodyguards were killed and two were wounded, according to local police. Al-Maliki met with the white-turbaned cleric, who wore a bandage on his right forearm.

He leads Friday prayers at the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala. Officials said a roadside bomb hit Karbalai's convoy after he left the shrine on Thursday evening. "It happened at 9.30pm near a checkpoint in the Old City.

It damaged one car, killing two," said a health department official in Karbala, 110km south-west of Baghdad.

Two policemen were killed and three others wounded when a roadside bomb struck a police patrol near central Baghdad's Karrada district, police said.

Guerrillas captured seven oil tanker drivers on Wednesday near Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The drivers were transporting oil from the Baiji oil refinery to western Anbar province.

Tuesday evening, a roadside bomb targeted the head of Kirkuk police operation centre, Colonel Yadgar Shukr Abdu Allah.

Wednesday afternoon, a roadside bomb targeted AlHay neighborhood (downtown Baquba) near one of the quarters of the U.S. funded Sahwa council injuring two members of the Sahwa .

Baghdad: Around 12 p.m., gunmen opened fire on an army check point killing three soldiers and injuring 2 others.

Around 10 a.m., a roadside bomb targeted a police patrol at Al-Mudhafar intersection (east Baghdad) towards Sinaa club injuring a policeman and a civilian .

Guerrillas broke into a house at 4:30 p.m. and killed six men in a single family after cooperating with Iraqi police, offering them tea and food.

The men had given information on insurgent movements to the U.S. funded local Awakening Council members, the official said.

The attack took place in al-Abara village, an insurgent stronghold until Awakening Council members chased out the militants a few months ago.

[Yes, they certainly were chased out, weren't they?]

He Doesn't Looked Very "Chased Out" Either



A member of anti-Occupation insurgent group holds an AK-47 as he guards an area on the southern outskirts of Baghdad. (AFP/Jewel Samad)

**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

"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

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

“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

January 26, 1784: Prophetic Anniversary: Ben Franklin Says The Imperial Eagle Is A Thieving Piece Of Shit



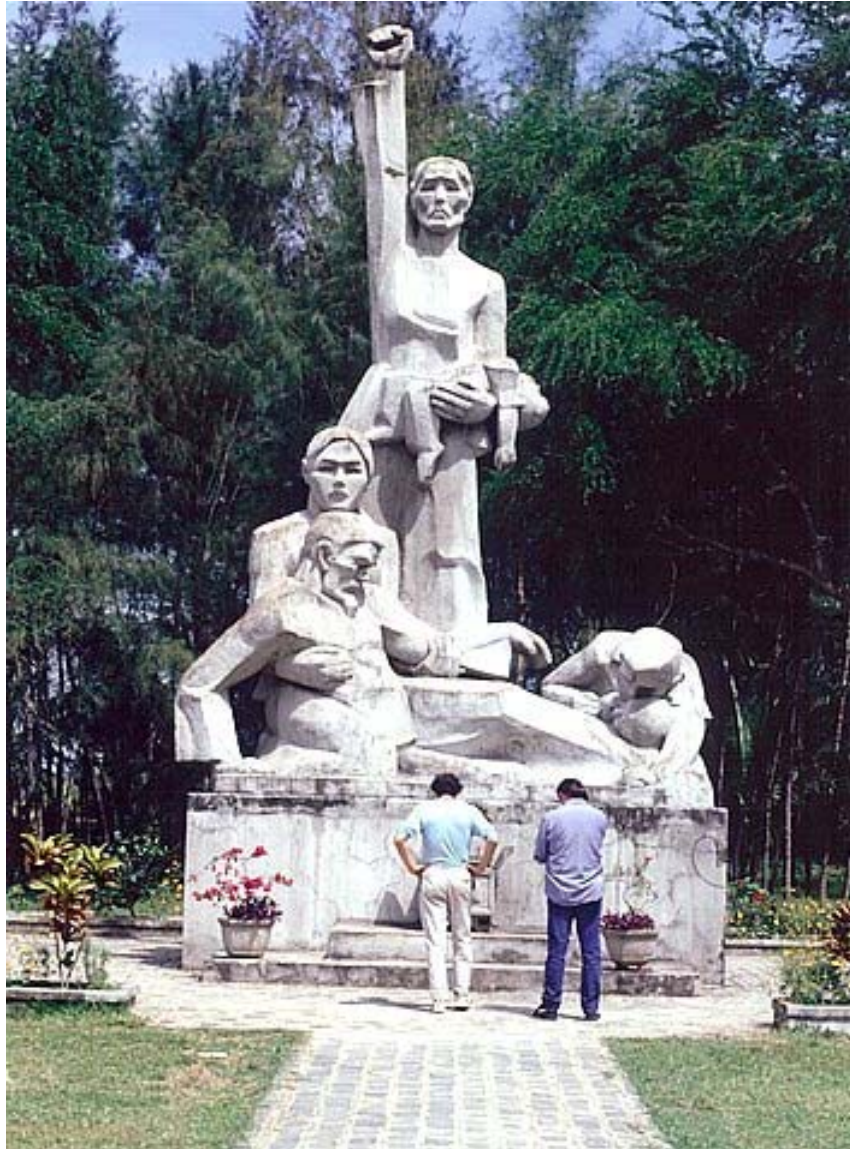
Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Benjamin Franklin, noting the bald eagle was “a bird of bad moral character” who lived “by sharpening and robbing,” expressed regret it had been selected to be the U.S. national symbol.

In fact, Franklin was critical of the bald eagle for its habit of scavenging for food and stealing from other birds.

“You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him,” Franklin said.

Vietnam Veterans At The My Lai Massacre Monument



**The truth was obscure, too profound and
too pure; to live it you have to explode.
Bob Dylan**

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: January 23, 2008
Subject: Vietnam Veterans at the My Lai Massacre Monument

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)

January 27, 1847: Citizens Defeat Slavehunters



SOJOURNER TRUTH.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Since 1832, Michigan had had an active antislavery society.

Quakers in Cass County, Laura Haviland in Adrian and former slave Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek were only a few of the many Michiganders who worked on the Underground Railroad—an informal network that assisted escaping slaves.

Southern concern over the Underground Railroad will lead Congress to pass a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. In 1854 opposition to the extension of slavery prompted Michiganders to meet in nearby Jackson to organize the Republican Party.

Several hundred citizens of Marshall, Michigan, helped former slaves escape to Canada rather than be returned to their “owner” by bounty hunters. Adam Crosswhite and his family, escaped Kentucky slaves, were tracked to the abolitionist town of Marshall by Francis Troutman and others.

Both black and white residents detained the bounty hunters and threatened them with tar and feathers.

While Troutman was being charged with assault and fined \$100, the Crosswhites fled to Canada. Back in Kentucky, the slavemaster stirred up intense excitement about “abolitionist mobs” in Michigan.

January 27, 1969: A Strike For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

In Detroit, African-American auto workers, known as the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement, led a wildcat strike against racism and poor working conditions at Chrysler.

Since the 1967 Detroit riots, African American workers had organized groups in several Detroit auto plants criticizing both the auto companies and the UAW leadership. These groups combined Black-Power nationalism and workplace militancy, and temporarily shut down more than a dozen inner-city plants.

The most well-known of these groups was the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, or DRUM. They criticized both the seniority system and grievance procedures as racist. Veterans of this movement went on to lead many of the same local unions.

Troops Invited:

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Iraqi citizens ordered to sit on the floor as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. search their house during a night armed home invasion in the village of Sinsil on the northern outskirts of Muqdadiyah, Diyala province, Jan. 8, 2008. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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.

“My sons and wife were very terrified,” complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. “Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?” BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007

“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!**

**The U.S. Occupation Built And
Operates A Prison:
It’s Called Fallujah;**

“Residents Must Present U.S.-Issued Identification Cards To Come And Go”

1.23.08 By Charles Levinson, USA TODAY [Ex cerpts]

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Hamed Ahmed, an influential tribal sheik, lives by the flowing waters of the Euphrates River — but when he turns on his faucets, nothing comes out.

“The government in Baghdad always said they couldn’t help because Fallujah was too dangerous and too filled with terrorists,” says Ahmed, 52. “Now Fallujah is more secure than Baghdad — and still there is no help.”

If the lack of services continues, Ahmed’s Abu Alwan tribe and others could reconsider their decision last year to throw their support behind the U.S. military.

The list of problems facing the city is formidable. Fallujah gets four hours of electricity each day, has little running water and no sewage treatment.

Seventy students pack classes built for 30, unemployment is over 70% and fuel is in short supply, Ahmed says. The fuel that does arrive is two and a half times more expensive than the government-subsidized fuel available in Baghdad, he says. As nighttime temperatures in Fallujah drop into the low 20s, those shortages take a toll.

Among the reasons security has improved in Fallujah is the strict cordon ringing the city. Residents must present U.S.-issued identification cards to come and go.

That has kept insurgents, but it has hindered the city’s economic recovery.

Iraq Oil Production Still Way Below Pre-War Level [Reporters Spin Can’t Hide The Fact]

Jan 24 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) -- Iraq’s oil exports rose 9.2 percent last year, the Oil Ministry announced Thursday, largely because improved security allowed pumping to resume through a pipeline from northern oil fields.

The rise in 2007 exports reached nearly 600 million barrels, or an average of 1.6 million barrels per day - still short of the estimated 2.5 million barrels a day before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

U.S. Funded “Awakening Council” In Anbar Tells Baghdad To Take Their New Flag And Shove It: “The New Flag Is Done For A Foreign Agenda And We Won’t Raise It” They Threaten To Quit Fighting Insurgents



January 25, 2008 By Leila Fadel and Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers
[Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Officials in Iraq’s mostly Sunni Muslim Anbar province are refusing to raise Iraq’s new national flag, which the parliament approved earlier this week.

“The new flag is done for a foreign agenda and we won’t raise it,” said Ali Hatem al Suleiman, a leading member of the U.S.-backed Anbar Awakening Council, “If they want to force us to raise it, we will leave the yard for them to fight al Qaida.”

The dispute over the flag is a more accurate symbol of Iraq today than the flag itself is. “On nothing we are completely united,” said Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurdish lawmaker.

Although parliament speaker Mahmoud al Mashhadani said the new flag would be raised immediately across Iraq after the parliament approved it Tuesday, it’s nowhere to be seen.

In fact, when the parliament met Wednesday, the old flag was still behind the speaker and his two deputies.

A slim minority of parliamentarians approved the new flag, which doesn’t have Saddam Hussein’s handwriting or the three stars that represented his Sunni-dominated Baath Party.

It was rushed through parliament before a pan-Arab parliament meeting that’s planned for March in Irbil, in the Kurdish north, because the Kurdish Regional Government

prohibits flying Iraq's Saddam-era flag. The Kurds consider that flag a symbol of Saddam's oppression.

Only 165 of the Iraqi parliament's 275 lawmakers were present Tuesday, and only 110 voted for the new red, white and black flag with "Allahu Akbar" ("God is great") in Kufic script, the ancient calligraphy developed in Mesopotamia.

While the Anbar Awakening Council vowed never to raise the new flag, U.S.-backed Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki praised the council for standing against al Qaida in Iraq.

Suleiman of the Anbar Awakening Council, however, said he was angry that the parliament and government toiled away on a new flag rather than dealing with the country's lack of services.

Many Iraqis, including some lawmakers who rejected the flag, were angered at what they considered a change to the flag in order to please the Kurdish north and its president, Massoud Barzani.

"We don't want to handle the problem of the Kurdistan region by causing problems with other regions that might refuse the new flag," said Nassar al Rubaie, the head of radical Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al Sadr's bloc in parliament, who voted against the new flag.

The Iraqi flag has long been a point of contention. When a flag with light blue stripes and a blue crescent moon in the middle was proposed in 2004, many Iraqis thought that it resembled the Israeli flag and people took to the streets in protest.

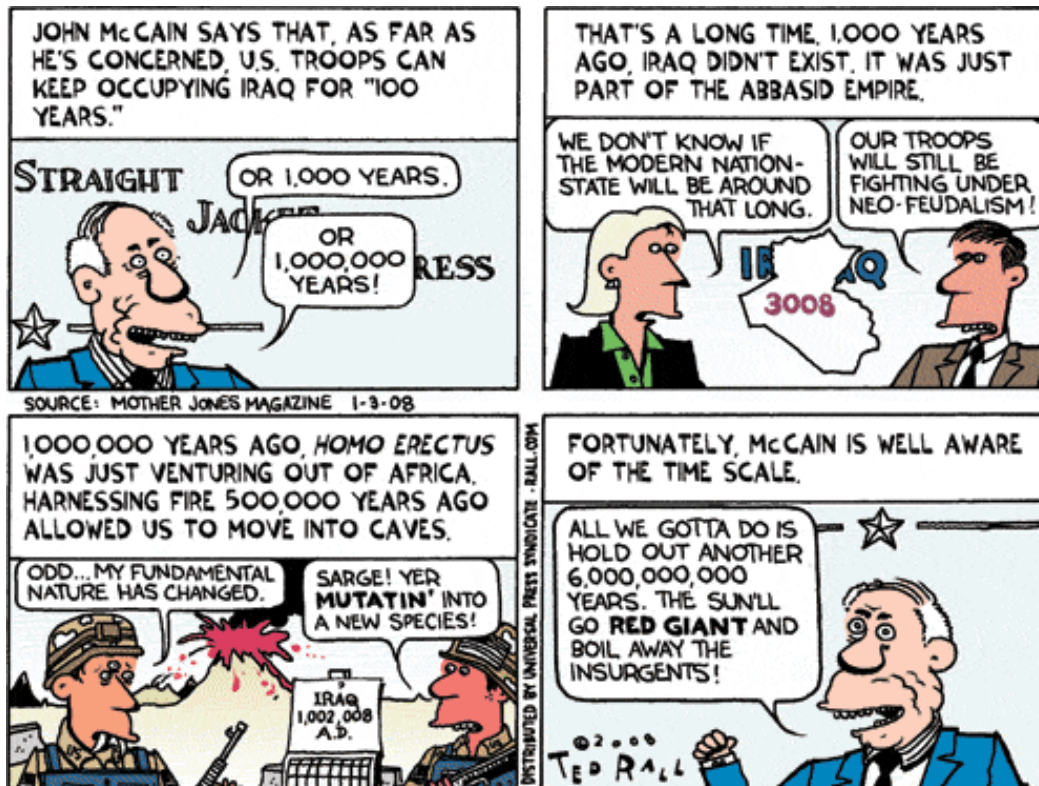


REUTERS/Mohanned Faisal

A policeman places an old Iraqi flag on the rooftop of the headquarters of Falluja's mayor in Falluja, January 26, 2008.

The Iraqi parliament's move to adopt a new, temporary national flag has provoked an outcry, with one major province refusing to fly it and ordinary Iraqis attaching the old flag to their cars in a silent protest.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Stupid Iran Shit

14 January 2008 Johann Hari, The Independent [UK] [Excerpt]

A few US ships were briefly approached by tiny Iranian vessels – but their regional commander, Vice Admiral Kevin Cosgriff, says his men were never perturbed.

The Iranian ships had “neither anti-ship missiles nor torpedoes”, he stated, “and I wouldn't characterise the posture of the US 5th Fleet as afraid of these small boats”.

Nor did the Iranians say “you will explode”.

The US ships were in open seas, and the Navy now admits anybody within a vast radius could have broadcast this message, explaining:

“We cannot make a direct connection to the boats there. It could have come from the shore, from another ship passing by.”

In the recordings, the “threat” isn’t even made with an Iranian accent.

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