

GI SPECIAL 6A21:



The Black House

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 23, 2008
Subject: The Black House by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The Black House

World death king in the black house
needs a black and white grainy
film footage of an exploding swastika

on top as he announces
the president can always call for war
because of security national
or some backward bent logic
like a psycho looking up too long.
The sick vice president hacking burns
the black house wing of Eisenhower's
military complex news industrial
cupcake and adds an oil wing
enlarging corrupt vice powers
with no questions
because of security national
elephants pumping out
dead Soldiers from the same old well.
Packing the supreme court
so they are like black scare crows
in a yellow coward cornfield
just hanging
always saying hanging yes
relenting all their powers
to the ugly black house.
Congress reduced to a black hole too
emptiness in vain attempts
they talk around in circles
like the building they live off.
They send billions and billions
for the war that they hide pork in
to get reelected, the hell with the dead men,
with a jackass tattooed on their foreheads.
The black house spends it
the newspapers put it on the back page,
TV news is under the black umbrella
of the black house with red hands
that runs not an empire, but a dyno-power
to control the world.
Ah the fools, the Hitler fools
you shall explode
like in a grainy old film.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

California Soldier Killed In Mosul



Pfc. Brandon A. Meyer, 20, of Orange, Calif., 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, killed when his convoy hit an improvised bomb Monday in Mosul, Iraq, , Jan. 30, 2008. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Georgia Soldier Killed In Mosul



Spc. Evan A. Marshall, 21, of Athens, Ga., 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, killed when his convoy hit an improvised bomb Monday in Mosul, Iraq, , Jan. 30, 2008. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Oregon Soldier Killed In Mosul



Pvt. Joshua A. R. Young, 21, of Riddle, Ore., 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, killed when his convoy hit an improvised bomb Monday in Mosul, Iraq, , Jan. 30, 2008. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Texas SSgt. Killed In Mosul



SSgt. Gary W. Jeffries, 37, of Roscoe, Texas, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, killed when his convoy hit an improvised bomb Monday in Mosul, Iraq, , Jan. 30, 2008. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

January 31, 2008 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD: A U.S. soldier was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in the capital, the military reported.

The bomb exploded near the soldier's vehicle, the statement said, giving no other details.

This Is What It Take For U.S. Rangers To Kill A Handful Of Resistance Fighters; And There Are Countless Thousands More “It's A Consequence Of Not Having Enough Boots On The Ground”

1.28.08 Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today [Excerpts]

The Rangers involved in the Dec. 25 raid spoke with USA Today by video conference from Mosul and Baghdad. Rules established for special operations units prohibit the use of last names of its elite troops.

A tip prompted the Christmas raid, said Blake, the Rangers' company commander, a 32-year-old major from Manassas, Va.

The witness told U.S. troops where the extremists had gathered.

A few hours later, at 2:04 a.m., Pete, 26, of Marlboro, N.J., and his fellow Rangers, with M-4 rifles and night-vision goggles, arrived at the suspected insurgents' doorstep.

“You don't go into anything thinking the best-case scenario,” Pete said. “Anytime you go through a door, you're expecting someone there with a gun waiting on you. Or someone with a suicide vest, grenade or whatever their weapon of choice is at that particular time. You're always thinking for the worst.”

Six minutes later, he had killed the two gunmen, Pete said, and Rangers had found 10 women and children huddled in the back of the house. The Iraqis' conflicting accounts of how many men remained in the house made the soldiers suspicious.

Lashaun, 27, a sergeant first class from Chester, Va., searched a bathroom and noticed a nylon strap protruding from the bottom of a shower basin.

“That’s when I called in Pete and told him to help hold security on the shower basin as I pulled the strap out of the floor,” Lashaun said. “That’s when the basin came up and revealed a hidden passageway to a hidden bunker.”

When he rolled back a concrete block that was sitting on rails, gunfire erupted. Pete estimated the entrance at 2-by-2 feet, barely large enough for a Ranger with 45 pounds of gear to pass through. Lashaun and Pete fired into the hole and backed out of the room.

Pete tossed in a grenade. After the grenade exploded, the Rangers moved back into the shower room, Lashaun said. Suddenly, he said, grenades started flying back at them.

Lashaun said he saw one grenade bounce, so he and another Ranger dove through a door before it exploded. Pete and the Ranger retreated to a different room.

Blake, the company commander, said the soldiers had split into two groups of nine each. Gunfire from the insurgents poured out of the bathroom, while Lashaun’s Rangers fired back.

Pete figured bullets passed within 1 foot of him. “I was really stuck basically in a crossfire,” he said.

Meanwhile, Lashaun hustled the women and children toward safety over a courtyard wall.

“He’s risking his life, taking enemy fire, while he’s literally extending himself and pushing women and children over the wall,” Blake said.

Lashaun then linked up with two Rangers, re-entered the house and fired into the bathroom. One insurgent came around the corner, Lashaun said, and the Rangers killed him “right there on the spot.”

As the Rangers tried to move into the shower room, “another guy came up out of the hole,” Lashaun said. The Rangers shot him dead.

“After that, we came to the conclusion that we need to get out of the house,” Lashaun said.

Their commander agreed.

Blake ordered the split-up forces to pull back so they could regroup. Residents in neighboring homes were evacuated.

The Rangers then called for an airstrike. An AC-130 gunship swooped above the house. At 3:05 a.m., its crew fired five 105mm rounds from a cannon into the house. Delayed fuses allowed the shells to penetrate the roof and explode near the bunker.

"I called that fire onto the house and watched every single one of those rounds as precision as I've ever seen it," Blake said.

They waited until 9 a.m. before re-entering the house, according to a timeline provided by the military.

The task of re-entering the house fell to J.R., a 26-year-old first lieutenant from Thomaston, Ga. Pete volunteered to join him.

Inside the house, they found two dead insurgents wearing unexploded suicide-bomb belts.

They moved downstairs, where a wall concealed the concrete bunker. J.R. spotted a man there wearing a vest and holding a pin in his hand. He sensed that there might be others. J.R. began shooting and backing out as the man yanked on the pin.

"His vest detonated, clouding the whole area with dust," J.R. said.

They dropped a grenade in the basement.

"No noises or sounds were made after that grenade," J.R. said.

They dropped another grenade inside the bunker.

In the basement, J.R., Pete and another Ranger found two dead insurgents and another crawling away, pulling on a pin. It might have been a suicide vest or another grenade, Pete said.

The Rangers shot him, Pete said. They heard more voices, saw more movement. J.R. ordered the Rangers out of the house and called Blake.

"At this point, we have eight enemy killed in action that we have engaged," Blake said. "Four of those we have confirmed the wear or use of a suicide belt."

There still may have been three more insurgents inside. Blake called in "a little bit more firepower," he recalled.

They cleared the neighborhood before two Air Force F-16 fighters arrived.

At 11:15 a.m., the warplanes dropped two 500-pound satellite-guided bombs on the house, destroying it.

"What we've seen with al-Qaida is the ability to regenerate," Smith said. "It's hard to say specifically whether this particular operation on Christmas Day caused significant degradation to presence in Mosul, but it sure will hurt them in the short term."

Dakota Wood, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, predicts difficult fights will continue in northern Iraq until U.S. commanders commit more troops, or more Iraqi soldiers backing U.S. troops become competent.

"It's a consequence of not having enough boots on the ground," Wood said.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; HOME NOW



11.07: US soldiers from 1-40 Infantry Battalion walk in foot patrol along the Tigris river south of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

Three British Soldiers Wounded On Basra Base

31 Jan 2008 AP

BASRA, Iraq - Rockets slammed into the British base near the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Thursday, slightly wounding three British soldiers, a spokesman said.

Capt. Finn Aldrich, a British military spokesman, said multiple rockets were apparently launched from the city, which is about 12 miles east of the airport, although he said the attack was still being investigated.

Three British soldiers were slightly hurt, but no major damage was reported on the base, Aldrich said.

The British military said it responded with six high-explosive artillery shells — killing at least one person and wounding five. An Iraqi military intelligence officer at the British base said about 10 Iraqi civilians were either killed or wounded, although he could not provide a breakdown. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

Finally, Somebody Who Understands What The Fuck Is Going On [Welcome To The Year Of The Rat]

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

January 31, 2008 By THOMAS A. BASS and MAURICE ISSERMAN [Excerpts]

U.S. military commanders are aware that maintaining, never mind increasing, U.S. forces in Iraq is a logistical impossibility.

And so are the Iraqis. Iraqi forces opposed to the U.S. occupation have not been eliminated, but are merely lying low.

Leaders of the Shiite and Sunni militias know full well that the number of U.S. boots on the ground will be going down later this year, which is when the real battle for control of neighborhoods, cities, regions, and oil will begin in earnest.

On Jan. 5, the U.S. military command in Baghdad revealed that an Iraqi soldier had opened fire on the Americans in his joint patrol, on the day after Christmas, killing two soldiers and wounding three others.

We can expect more incidents like this as American forces begin to dwindle next summer.

In the meantime, the calm prevailing over Tet in Iraq has the same eerie unreality that it had 40 years ago in Vietnam.

Welcome to the Year of the Rat.

TROOP NEWS

Army Suicides Up 20%; “The Number Of Days Troops Are Deployed In Iraq, Afghanistan Or Nearby Countries Contributes To That Stress”

Jan 31 By PAULINE JELINEK, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - As many as 121 Army soldiers committed suicide in 2007, a jump of some 20 percent over the year before, officials said Thursday.

Internal briefing papers prepared by the Army's psychiatry consultant early this month show there were 89 confirmed suicides last year and 32 deaths that are suspected suicides and still under investigation.

More than a quarter of those — about 34 — happened during deployments in Iraq, an increase from 27 in Iraq the previous year, according to the preliminary figures.

The report also shows an increase in the number of attempted suicides and self-injuries — some 2,100 in 2007 compared to less than 1,500 the previous year and less than 500 in 2002.

The total of 121 suicides last year, if all are confirmed, would be more than double the 52 reported in 2001, before the Sept. 11 attacks prompted the Bush administration to launch its counter-terror war. The toll was 87 by 2005 and 102 in 2006.

Officials said the rate of suicides per 100,000 active duty soldiers has not yet been calculated for 2007. But in a half million-person active duty Army, the 2006 toll of 102 translated to a rate of 17.5 per 100,000, the highest since the Army started counting in 1980, officials said. The rate has fluctuated over those years, with the low being 9.1 per 100,000 in 2001.

Officials also have found that the number of days troops are deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan or nearby countries contributes to that stress.

With the Army stretched thin by years of fighting the two wars, the Pentagon last year extended normal tours of duty to 15 months from 12 and has sent some troops back to the wars several times.

Betrayed: Part 1 Scum In Command Send Walking Wounded Back To Iraq: Master Sgt. Nelson Was Sent Back To The U.S. After A Doctor In Kuwait Told Fort Carson Officials He Should Never Have Left;

Half-Wit Maj. Harvinder Singh Caught In Stupid Lie About It



Master Sgt. Denny Nelson sits in his car - which carries a handicapped-parking tag - outside Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. Despite having fractured his leg while on his daughter's trampoline and destroying the tendons that hold the bones in his feet together, Nelson was sent to Kuwait on Dec. 29. (Glenn Asakawa, The Denver Post)

“I got back, and the only reason I got back safe is because I’m an E-8 (master sergeant). If I was a private or a specialist, I guarantee you, I’d be in Iraq,” he said.

“If nothing comes out of this other than those soldiers coming back home before one of them gets killed, then I can sleep at night. But God forbid if something happens, and I didn’t do anything”

01/17/2008 By Erin Emery, The Denver Post [Excerpts]

COLORADO SPRINGS — Fort Carson sent soldiers who were not medically fit to war zones last month to meet “deployable strength” goals, according to e-mails obtained by The Denver Post.

One e-mail, written Jan. 3 by the surgeon for Fort Carson’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team, says: “We have been having issues reaching deployable strength, and thus have been taking along some borderline soldiers who we would otherwise have left behind for continued treatment.”

Capt. Scot Tebo's e-mail was, in part, a reference to Master Sgt. Denny Nelson, a 19-year Army veteran, who was sent overseas last month despite doctors' orders that he not run, jump or carry more than 20 pounds for three months because of a severe foot injury.

Nelson took the medical report to the Soldier Readiness Process, or SRP, site on Fort Carson, where health-care professionals recommended Nelson stay home.

The soldier, who has a Bronze Star and is a member of the Mountain Post's Audie Murphy Chapter, was sent to Kuwait on Dec. 29.

Nelson says he was one of at least 52 soldiers deployed who should not have been, and a veterans group says the military is endangering soldiers to meet its goals.

On Jan. 5, a physician in Kuwait sent a strongly worded e-mail to Tebo urging him to send Nelson back to the U.S.

"This soldier should NOT have even left CONUS (the United States). . . . In his current state, he is not full mission capable and in his current condition is a risk to further injury to himself, others and his unit," said the physician, Maj. Thomas Schymanski.

Nelson, 38, had fractured his leg and destroyed the tendons that hold the bones in his feet together while jumping on his daughter's trampoline.

He arrived back at Fort Carson on Sunday.

"I just want to make sure these soldiers get back safe.

"I got back, and the only reason I got back safe is because I'm an E-8 (master sergeant). If I was a private or a specialist, I guarantee you, I'd be in Iraq," he said.

"If nothing comes out of this other than those soldiers coming back home before one of them gets killed, then I can sleep at night. But God forbid if something happens, and I didn't do anything"

Nelson went through Fort Carson's Soldier Readiness Process, a clearinghouse where legal, medical and financial records are examined, and it was recommended that he stay home.

Fort Carson could not say Wednesday how many soldiers were considered "no-go's" by medical professionals at the SRP site but were ultimately sent overseas.

"The SRP, what they do is they screen soldiers for deployment, . . . and if a soldier is identified as a no-go in the SRP site, then the soldier is seen by a specialist," said Maj. Harvinder Singh, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's rear detachment commander.

Nelson said he was not seen by a specialist or any medical professional after the SRP site identified him as a no-go.

Nelson was to serve as a liaison officer and assist soldiers in transitioning from Kuwait to Iraq.

Col. James Terrio, deputy commander for clinical services at Evans Army Community Hospital, said, "The issue with who you take, it is the commander's decision."

Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, said: "The military must follow existing law and examine our soldiers before they deploy to the Iraq and Afghanistan war zones. And the military must stop sending soldiers with physical or psychological conditions that require medical treatment into the war zones because this endangers the soldier, the unit and the mission."

Nelson said units are being deployed so rapidly, with 15 months in theater and 12 months off, that "they're having trouble getting them healthy."

Nelson said that when he arrived at Camp Buehring in Kuwait, he was told he would be going to Iraq sooner than he thought.

"The agreement was that I was going to be in Kuwait for four or five months, do physical therapy, and then when I'm healthy, I go forward to Iraq," Nelson said.

"I'm not going to Iraq not being able to wear any of my gear, not carry a weapon.

"I become a liability to everybody around me because if they get mortared, they're going to have to look out for me because obviously, I can't run. I can't look out for myself. Now I've got soldiers worrying about my welfare, instead of their own."

Nelson said there were two soldiers deployed with a torn rotator cuff.

Nelson said he was told by superiors that he would be in charge of 52 soldiers who were receiving medical treatment.

"I expected to find a whole bunch of people, but when I got there, they were all gone. They were already all in Iraq," Nelson said.

MORE:

Betrayed: Part 2

"Medically Unfit Soldiers Have Been Deployed To Iraq And Afghanistan To Shore Up Lagging Troop Numbers"

“GAO Investigators Have Identified Cases Of Unfit Soldiers Deployed From Fort Drum And From Fort Stewart And Fort Benning”



Master Sgt. Denny Nelson, standing on crutches outside Fort Carson next to a tank on display, is a 19-year Army vet. (Glenn Asakawa, The Denver Post)

“Almost a battalion of soldiers have had medical conditions that prevent them from coming back to Iraq with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.” “The unit has been under strength, partly because of the number of soldiers who are injured”

January 19, 2008 AP

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado: Seventy-nine injured soldiers were pressed into war duty last month as the U.S. Army struggled to fill its ranks.

Fort Carson’s top general Maj. Gen. Mark Graham said most of the 79 soldiers remain in Iraq, while about a dozen are in Kuwait, the newspaper reported in Friday editions. A few returned to the United States because of inadequate rehabilitation available in theater, Graham said.

Graham said he has asked Fort Carson’s inspector general to investigate whether proper procedures were followed in sending the soldiers into war zones.

Congressional investigators also are reviewing allegations that medically unfit soldiers have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to shore up lagging troop numbers.

“My personal opinion is, is that as the war goes on, you’ll see more and more soldiers with (limitations),” Graham said.

Col. John Hort, commander of Fort Carson’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team, said the 79 soldiers were among 130 who had been judged temporarily unfit for war duty, The Gazette reported.

Hort needed the troops so he could send other soldiers into the streets of Baghdad’s suburbs.

Sending an unfit soldier back to war means “you are not mission capable, and the soldier becomes a risk to himself and others in the unit,” said U.S. Rep. Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat.

He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, which requested an investigation by the Government Accountability Office last summer.

GAO investigators have identified other cases of unfit soldiers being deployed from Fort Drum in New York and Fort Stewart and Fort Benning in Georgia, said Brenda Farrell, director of defense capabilities and management investigations for the GAO, a nonpartisan congressional agency that audits federal programs.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed in December for the third time.

The unit has been under strength, partly because of the number of soldiers who are injured.

“Almost a battalion of soldiers have had medical conditions that prevent them from coming back to Iraq with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team,” Hort said.

MORE:

Betrayed: Part 3 Soldier-Murdering Criminal Rats In Command Are Falsifying Medical Records To Fake Ability For Combat Areas;

“You’ve Got Soldiers That Can’t Put On Their Protective Gear. Are They In Light-Duty Jobs? Yes. But If They Get Mortared, They’re Dead”

He said his original profile stated he was not permitted to carry a weapon or a rucksack or wear body armor. His profile was changed to say that he could wear body armor and could do “combat missions fully geared up.” He said it didn’t “make any sense because my shoulder, obviously, still wasn’t healed.”

01/29/2008 By Erin Emery, The Denver Post

COLORADO SPRINGS — Army Staff Sgt. Jack Auble was in the process of being medically discharged after serving nearly 20 years in the military when he was sent to Baghdad last year.

Auble, 43, suffers from severe osteoporosis of the spine, bulging discs and compression fractures.

Auble had a “permanent” profile, meaning his condition would not improve, and because of his limitations, he did not meet the Army’s retention standards.

Nevertheless, Auble’s medical paperwork was changed.

He received a new, “temporary” status, used to indicate his condition would improve, and he was redeployed.

He said he was not re-examined by a medical professional at Fort Drum, N.Y., before receiving a new profile.

Several soldiers from Fort Carson also claim that their “temporary” profiles were downgraded to give them fewer restrictions so they could be deployed.

Army regulations allow the changing of profiles after a medical examination, but the question is, are all procedures being followed?

The Government Accountability Office began an investigation into the problem last summer; a report is expected at the end of February. At the request of the House Armed Services Committee, investigators focused on cases of soldiers whose medical profiles had been changed shortly before their return to Iraq.

GAO investigators have identified cases of unfit soldiers deployed from Fort Drum and from Fort Stewart and Fort Benning in Georgia, said Brenda Farrell, director of defense capabilities and management investigations for the GAO.

The Fort Carson soldiers, who said they did not visit a medical professional before their profiles changed, declined to be named because they said they feared retribution.

But some say the military is stretched so thin and under pressure to meet deployment goals that it sends into war zones injured soldiers who wouldn't be there otherwise.

E-mails from the brigade surgeon in Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, which sent 3,500 to 3,700 soldiers to war beginning late last year, said: "We have been having issues with reaching deployable strength, and thus have been taking along some borderline soldiers who we would otherwise have left behind for continued treatment."

Commanders ultimately have the final say about who is deployed.

But in some cases, sending injured soldiers or those with medical conditions back to the battle zone may not benefit the effort.

In January 2007, for instance, Auble went to work in the operations center, a room full of computers where the battlefield is monitored, at Camp Striker in Baghdad, but he needed narcotics to dull excruciating pain.

"I took Percocet, and I also took Vicodin," Auble said. "The guy who worked next to me . . . he noticed consistent grogginess, dozing off. I wouldn't catch something that he would say and lose track of the battle and all of that stuff."

Three months later, Auble, with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, was medically evacuated from the war zone after he was sent to a doctor in the theater. He has since been permanently disabled retired.

A Fort Carson soldier with a shoulder injury, who asked not to be identified, said his profile was rewritten days before he deployed.

He said his original profile stated he was not permitted to carry a weapon or a rucksack or wear body armor.

His profile was changed to say that he could wear body armor and could do "combat missions fully geared up." He said it didn't "make any sense because my shoulder, obviously, still wasn't healed." He has since returned to the U.S.

Master Sgt. Denny Nelson, who has 19 years in the Army, was sent to the Middle East with a serious foot injury. His profile prohibited him from running, jumping and carrying more than 20 pounds. The Army assigned him to a job in Kuwait, but a medical professional there said he should never have been redeployed, and Nelson returned to Fort Carson.

"It's not about the violation of a profile, it's about the violation of a soldier's safety and well being," Nelson said.

“The issue is, you’ve got soldiers that can’t put on their protective gear. Are they in light-duty jobs? Yes. But if they get mortared, they’re dead.”

Fort Carson sent 79 injured soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to the Middle East in November and December to perform light-duty jobs. Most were sent to Iraq. Six of them have since returned.

Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at a research group called the Center for American Progress who worked as an assistant secretary of defense under President Reagan, said sending injured soldiers to perform light-duty jobs is another sign of the pressure the Army is under.

“They are in a no-win position,” Korb said. “The Army is not big enough to support the surge, deal with Afghanistan and give people a minimum amount of time at home.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

31 Jan 2008 Reuters & (Xinhua)

Three of Iraq’s deputy electricity minister Salam al-Qazaz’s bodyguards were wounded when their convoy was hit by two roadside bombs in Baghdad’s eastern Palestine Street district, police said. Qazaz was not in the convoy.

“Two roadside bombs detonated simultaneously near the convoy of Salam al-Qazaz, deputy minister of electricity, in the al-Aqari neighborhood near the Palestine Street,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Qazaz escaped the attack unhurt as the double explosion took place after his convoy delivered him at home and left to nearby streets in the neighborhood, the source said.

Three policemen and three civilians were killed by a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol in the Zayouna district of eastern Baghdad, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

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

“All the war-propaganda,
all the screaming and lies and hatred,
comes invariably from people
who are not fighting.”
George Orwell

**“We Keep Sending More Soldiers
To Die In Order That Those Who
Already Died Haven't Died In Vain -
Which They Did”**

**“The Reasons For This War And The
Basis Of The Morale Boosting Hype**

Were Bogus. Talk About Depleting Morale”



By Bill Shunas; The Veteran, Fall 2007, Vol. 37, #2; Vietnam Veterans Against The War.
[Excerpts]

Bill Shunas is a Vietnam veteran, author and VVAW member in the Chicago chapter.

In your dealings with The Wife did you ever have a conflict where you were entirely in the wrong, but, of course, you wouldn't admit it? When that happens you obfuscate and prevaricate or whatever that stuff is that you do. And The Wife lets you off the hook because either she loves you or tolerates you - whichever the case may be in your household.

For example, you roll out of bed one morning more tired than usual. You see underwear on the chair where you had discarded it the night before. You put 'em on. It won't be long before you hear The Wife. "Are you wearing dirty underwear?"

You've been caught, and now you have to save Face. You can try ignorance. "I didn't realize they were the dirty ones." You can try rationalization. "I didn't sweat much yesterday" or "There's only a little yellow." Or you can try an end run. "I was in a hurry. I planned to change later."

You talk about anything but the real issue. That way you save Face.

The above underwear scenario is what comes to mind when one thinks about George Bush trying to justify the Iraq War.

Lately there has been talk about surges, the Petraeus Report, and some of our goals being achieved. It seems that there is joy in the White House whenever a new word or phrase is discovered that creates the illusion of the war as being more necessary or more just or more winnable.

And that is the main point.

It is none of these.

But in order to save Face, Bush keeps coming up with new irrelevancies. In reality, there is a little brown in his underwear.

Now there is a new player in the debate - the confused moralists.

Okay, so there were no WMDs and Saddam was not allied with Al Qaeda. Can we go home?

No.

These people say that even though the war was started for dubious reasons, we have to finish it. We broke it. We own it.

Their assumption is that we have the capability of finishing it.

This is a false assumption.

This is a policy version of the idea that we keep sending more soldiers to die in order that those who already died haven't died in vain - which they did.

Bush may welcome these confused moralists, but he is not of the school that the war was started for dubious reasons.

After all, he started it.

He knows why he started it.

For oil control.

There are those who believe that during the Vietnam War, the lives of some soldiers were lost because of the anti-war activities back home. Their argument is that without support back home, GIs let their guard down and had to pay the consequences.

It is more likely that the factors contributing to the laxity of the troops in Vietnam were other than anti-war activities.

Laxity resulted from seeing first hand that the war was hopeless as well as immoral and needlessly destructive.

The anti-war movement probably saved a few lives by helping to shorten the war.

And America didn't support Vietnam veterans when we returned home. When the nation finally figured out that it should support Vietnam veterans, the right wing made some inroads with the "support the troops" idea.

They meant that anti-war activities did not support the troops because it encouraged them to let their guard down when in harms way.

For the sake of argument, let's say that what happens at home does have an effect on the troops morale and by extension their ability to survive.

At the beginning of the Iraq War, all the hype for this war, and all the reporters embedded with the troops created this popular crusade with the troops all supported and satisfied. Morale was high.

But what happened over the next two years?

The troops found out that there was no WMDs and Saddam was not involved in 9/11. The White House had lied.

The reasons for this war and the basis of the morale boosting hype were bogus.

Talk about depleting morale.

Right there, the White House did it.

And then they send them back for a second tour - and a third.

Bush don't talk about supporting the troops no more.

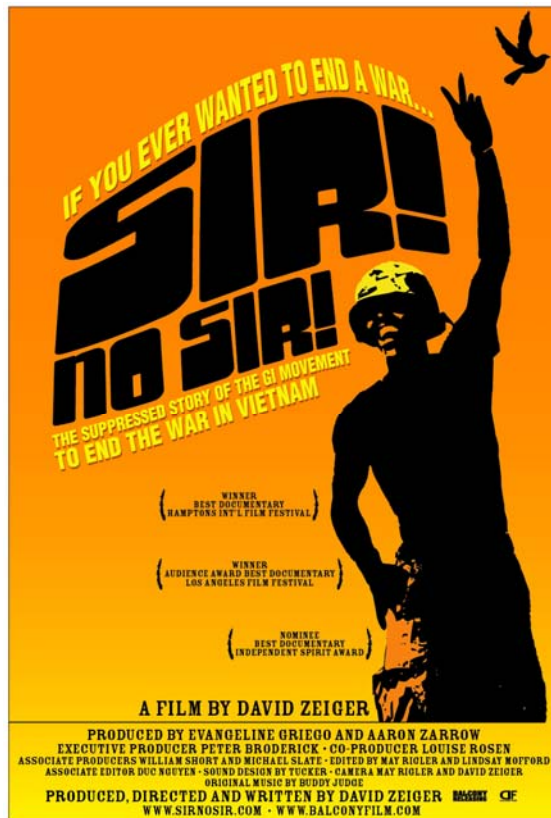


“Leading Voices In The Antiwar Movement Are Preparing For A Replay Of Their Disastrous 2004 Strategy”

January 25, 2008, Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

With the presidential campaign season underway, leading voices in the antiwar movement are preparing for a replay of their disastrous 2004 strategy--when the movement's mainstream leadership protested the Republican National Convention, but otherwise pulled its punches in the hopes of avoiding any demands that might put it at odds with John Kerry's pro-war campaign.

Building a strong movement depends on organizing at the grassroots--on campuses and in neighborhoods, inside and outside the military--not looking to the politicians in Washington.



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OCCUPATION REPORT

**60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops
Dead:
Big Surprise**



Foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. Army searches the personal belongings of an Iraqi family during a night home invasion south of Baghdad on Jan. 20, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

[Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

Fallujah:
**“The Americans Provide Us With
Nothing,” Said One Mother. “They
Bring Us Only Destruction”
“The Siege Is Total”**

Officials say things were getting better. But locals gathering at one ward at the city’s main hospital contradicted the customary upbeat statement. “Every day 20 children die here,” said one.

28 January 2008 IslamOnline.net & Newspapers

CAIRO — Buildings reduced to a heap of concrete slabs as if they were toppled by missiles the other day and walls pock-marked with bullets, while clean water, electricity or medicine are something of a luxury.

It is not a scene from Gaza or the southern suburb of Beirut in the wake of the 2006 Israeli war, but a miniature portrait of the onetime Iraqi resistance hub of Fallujah three years after the US occupation had sealed off the city, the Independent reported on Monday, January 28.

“The Americans provide us with nothing,” said one mother. “They bring us only destruction.”

The US occupation forces launched in March of 2004 an abortive operation to control Fallujah, which went down in history as the country’s resistance command base against the occupation at the time.

Eight months later, the US occupation staged a devastating operation following the killing and mutilation of four US Blackwater contractors by locals, recapturing the resistance hub. The November onslaught left much of the city in ruins and up to 1,300 killed, including children and women. Thousands were maimed for life.

Today, the city’s streets look as if the fighting had finished only a few weeks ago.

The city is still under siege, more difficult to enter than any city in the world.

There are more than 27 checkpoints, only on one road that links the city and the capital Baghdad.

“The siege is total,” said Kamal, a doctor at Fallujah Hospital.

Nobody is allowed to enter Fallujah unless they carry biometric identity cards.

After controlling the city in the wake of the aftermath of the 2004 battle, the US occupation finger-printed locals and gave them a retina scan to issue them biometric IDs which cannot be forged.

The city still lacks many of the basic humanitarian needs, which have become something of a luxury.

“We have no electricity, we have no water,” an elderly man shouted.

Inhabitants say their war-torn city is getting electricity only one hour a day.

Overlooking the apocalyptic scene, the city’s newly built bridge has turned into a park for US armored vehicles.

People still walk warily in the streets as if they expected firing to break out at any minute.

The city’s healthcare system is also collapsing.

When asked what the hospital lacked Dr. Kamal said: “Drugs, fuel, electricity, generators, a water treatment system, oxygen and medical equipment.”

Officials say things were getting better.

But locals gathering at one ward at the city’s main hospital contradicted the customary upbeat statement.

“Every day 20 children die here,” said one. “Seven in this very room.”

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to:
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CLASS WAR REPORTS



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*This is how Bush brings the troops home,
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