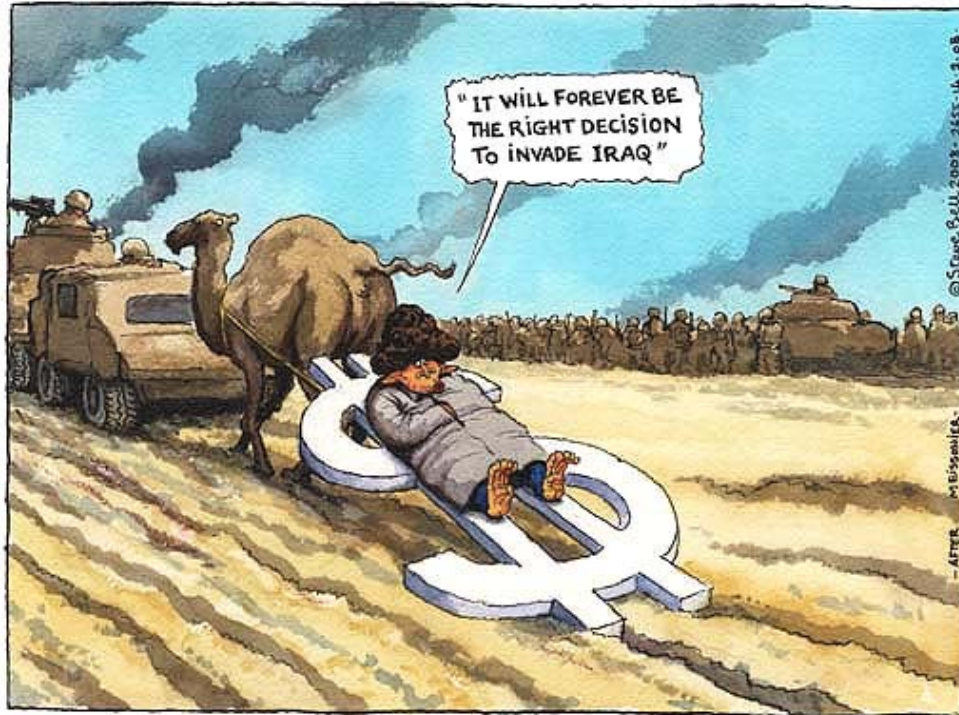


## GI SPECIAL 6C15:



[Thanks to Z & JM, who sent this in.]

**“He’s Supposed To Be Home By  
Now”**

**“You Kept Him Longer Than You  
Were Supposed To”**

**“Don’t Say Sorry To Me When You Don’t  
Know Me”**

03/12/2008 By Tanya Rose, Bay Area News Group

CONCORD - Anni Watson had been in labor for 21 hours when the officers showed up at her hospital room door with news that her brother, Army Sgt. Gabriel Guzman, formerly of Concord, had died Saturday in Afghanistan. His Humvee had run over an improvised explosive device.

The 27-year-old screamed at the officers. Then she kicked them out of her Sacramento hospital room.

“I freaked,” said Watson. “I was crying and I said, ‘How dare you? Don’t say sorry to me when you don’t know me.

“You kept him longer than you were supposed to. He’s supposed to be home by now.’ “

The officers had come to notify her mother, Shelley Tucker, who was in the hospital room, too. Watson said they all cried - her husband, her mother and her.

An hour later, Jordan Lucy Enelia Watson was born. If she had been a boy, he would have been named Gabriel Christopher.

Guzman, who was so close with his sister that they had a code language and nicknames that only they knew, died on Saturday. He was 25.

**He was supposed to come home last July, but the tour extensions added up. In all, he served 24 months in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Though his hometown is listed as Hornbrook, in Siskiyou County, he lived for 10 years - his adolescent and teenage years - in Concord. He went to Oak Grove Middle School and Concord High School, then took classes at Diablo Valley College before joining the Army at 21 and shipping out to Iraq shortly thereafter.

He has a 7-year-old daughter,

Angela Haley Guzman, who lives in Concord with her mother. Watson said the girl, who has Down syndrome, was the light of her brother’s life and much of the reason he joined the Army.

“He thought it would put him on a good, adult path, and that he could come back when it was all over and take good care of her,” Watson said.

“When he got back, we all - me, my husband, my son and the baby - were going to move to Concord or Pleasant Hill with him,” said Watson, a Sacramento resident and college student.

“It’s where he called home.”

Guzman had planned to go back to school and study kinesiology. He had always been into health and fitness, she said.

In the minutes after learning of her brother’s death, Watson tried to focus on her baby girl. She didn’t want the sadness radiating from her into her daughter. When she left the hospital, that’s when it started.

“It’s those little windows you get when you’re alone,” she said Thursday afternoon. “That’s when the memories come pouring back.”

Scab. It was the goofball nickname she gave her brother when they were kids. She can't explain why, but that's what keeps slipping into her mind during those idle moments right before sleep or when she's looking at herself in the bathroom mirror.

"He was goofy," she said. "We were goofy together. He was the one person who got me."

He couldn't call home often, but he did keep in touch through e-mail and his Myspace page.

Tucker, who lives in Mexico but has been in California waiting for her grandchild's birth, said the last communication she had with her son was via computer.

"Don't trip, mom," he wrote on her Myspace page, responding to her worry. He hadn't written, he explained, because he hadn't had the chance. Not because he was in danger.

Tucker wrote him back on March 6, two days before he died.

Watson said the last time she talked to him on the phone, he said he no longer had to go out on patrol, which meant safer times. The last communication she had was an e-mail on March 1, the day Jordan was due.

"Happy due date," he wrote.

Now, he crops up in the funniest places, she said. Her eight-year-old son mimics him - specifically the "Eich!" karate noise Guzman often made when playing with him.

"He was a very inspirational, dignified person," Watson said. "Some people said he was cocky, but I wouldn't say that - he never upset me or made me mad. He was the type who would always take the time to listen to you, even if he didn't agree."

He loved martial arts and gambling. He wasn't a fan of R&B or rap - didn't know the difference between the two, he says on his Myspace page - but loved Metallica.

"I have forgotten what it is to have a normal life," he wrote on his Myspace page.

"I walk the path laid before me for now. Soon I will choose where that path leads. I have had some hard lessons in my life. After everything, I have learned more about myself and what I believe in.

"I have been called arrogant, stubborn, over-confident . . . " he continued. "I enjoy conflict, and I hate to lose. Sometimes people don't understand me or my intentions. I am myself as much as I can be. Much is said in silence. More is learned in defeat than victory."

Watson said she has felt his presence since Saturday - even in that hospital room where all the screaming happened.

She'd had a hard time conceiving a child. It took years after the birth of her son to have another.

“I have this weird feeling and I can’t explain it, but I feel like he’s wants to make sure the baby’s content,” she said. “I wouldn’t call the timing a coincidence. That’s too insignificant a word.”

Though she got upset with the officers - both for recruiting him in the first place and for telling her of his death - she respects the Army and is proud of her brother.

Tucker said she’d tried to talk him out of joining, but she’s proud, too, of his accomplishments.

“I think he’d want his life remembered as a statement of peace,” Tucker said.

Guzman was based out of Fort Bragg, NC, and was killed in Gholam Haydar Kala, Afghanistan.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **IED Kills Three U.S. Soldiers Somewhere Or Other In Iraq**

3.22.08 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080322-04

BAGHDAD – Three Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers were killed when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle during a patrol northwest of Baghdad March 22. Two Iraqi civilians were also killed in the attack. One MND-B Soldier, initially reported as wounded, died as a result of his injuries.

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### **Indirect Fire Kills U.S. Soldier South Of Baghdad; Four Wounded**

March 21, 2008 Reuters & Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

BAGHDAD – A U.S. Soldier was killed from wounds sustained from indirect fire south of Baghdad March 21. Four Soldiers were also wounded in the attack.

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### **Soldier With Ties To Dayton Dies In Iraq**

March 22, 2008 WHIO-TV

The son of a Centerville man was killed in Iraq Saturday. David Stelmat, 27, was killed when the Humvee he was traveling in was hit by a roadside bomb. Two other soldiers in the humvee died as well.

Stelmat's father said his son was a combat medic who spent most of his life in New Hampshire. He did work for a short time in the Dayton area.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Mandali**

March 21 (Reuters)

A U.S. soldier died earlier this week when his vehicle overturned in Mandali, a town about 100 km (60 miles) northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said on Friday.

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## **Family Mourns Soldier Who Had Turned His Life Around**

March 14, 2008 By Doug Myers, Reporter News

Three-year-old Mason Burkett can't quite fathom that his father went away to war and isn't coming back.

Mason's dad, 24-year-old Spc. Donald A. "Wesley" Burkett of Comanche, and two other soldiers were killed Monday when their vehicle came upon an improvised explosive device in Balad Ruz, Iraq.

Soon, however, Mason will have a reminder of his dad, a birthday present Burkett planned to give his only child when he came home on leave from Iraq in September.

"We were supposed to go out and get the puppy, so his daddy could give it to him when he came in," said Carolyn Gray, Burkett's mother.

Now, she said, the family plans to obtain a puppy and give it to Mason, months before his fourth birthday, in remembrance of his late father.

Plans are to tell Mason, Gray said, "That was what Daddy was going to do."

"He was like my grandson. They're both extremely intelligent," the 53-year-old Gray said.

She then chuckled and added: "I don't know where they got it from actually."

A Zephyr high school dropout who received his GED (General Educational Development) in February 2001, Burkett entered the U.S. Army in April 2006 as an

armor crewman, and since August 2006, he was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, according to Fort Hood officials.

Before his death, Gray said, her son had told his family he was “reading the Bible over there and that he wanted us to get Mason into Sunday school and start taking him to church on a regular basis.”

He had his life straightened out, she said. “He wanted to go forward in the Army,” Gray said. “He was very proud to be in the military, and I was very proud he was in the military.”

While he acknowledged recently that he’d “goofed off” and had trouble finding focus over the years, Gray said her son had married, bought his wife, Brandi, a house in Killeen and made plans for the future.

“I was supposed to go down to CTC (Central Texas College) in Killeen Wednesday and sign him up for online classes,” she said. “To further your career in the Army, you have to take classes, and he wanted to get his associate (degree) at CTC and bachelor’s from Tarleton.” His goal was to become a sergeant, she said, and he was extremely serious about his Army duties.

“He would tell us nothing,” Gray said. “Any information we got was through the grapevine.”

Zephyr ISD Superintendent David Whisenhunt said Burkett was “a real smart kid” who was looking for direction in his life. He was well-liked but quiet, he said, and a UIL academic competitor before he withdrew from high school and later earned a GED.

“Wesley was a little ol’ skinny thing back then,” said Gary Bufe, Zephyr school principal for 25 years. “I remember him being really intelligent.”

In fact, Bufe said, Burkett was “extremely smart,” noting he generally scored in the 96th to 99th percentile range on pre-ACT college readiness tests.

However, as Burkett got older, “He really didn’t know what he wanted to do.”

“It saddens all of us very much, especially with someone you knew personally,” Bufe said of his death. “I’m very proud of him for serving. I’m very proud that he changed things.”

On Monday, Burkett was killed along with Capt. Torre Ramoine Mallard, 27, of Oklahoma, and Sgt. Phillip Reid Anderson, 28, of Everett, Wash. The soldiers deployed in November 2007.

Burkett’s awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

According to Gray, Burkett’s body will arrive at Brownwood Regional Airport on Wednesday and a “small ceremony” will be held. He then will be taken to Heartland Funeral Home, which is handling arrangements. A graveside service will be held at a yet-to-be-determined time in Killeen, she said.

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## **British Basra Base Hit By Ongoing Indirect Fire**

March 21, 2008 By Kim Sengupta, The Independent

After a lull following the British withdrawal from their base at Saddam Hussein's old palace in Basra, mortar and missile rounds have continued against the British troops on a regular basis, seen as a sign of renewed confidence by the militias.

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## **Maj. General “Not Terribly Concerned” As Cut In 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Force Strength South Of Baghdad Will Spread Troops Thin: [Maj. General Not Planning On Doing Convoy Or Patrol Duty Himself] [Maj. General Will Be Too Busy Talking To Reporters]**

March 21, 2008 By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press [Excerpt]

One of the military leaders who will have a firsthand look at the effects of the troop cuts will be Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, commander of the 10th Mountain Division. When Oates gets to Iraq in May, he will have three brigades under his command in the region south of Baghdad, rather than the four there now.

Oates said March 20 that he is “not terribly concerned” that he will have 3,500 to 4,000 fewer U.S. troops at his disposal.

And he said his area of responsibility will likely expand, since there will be fewer troops covering the same territory.

He said that his troops will probably extend their reach farther south and west and that his major focus will be on efforts to prepare the Iraqi forces to take over security for their own country.

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# ***Bad Moon Rising:*** **Fighting Breaks Out Between U.S. Government-Backed Pro-Iranian Collaborators And Nationalist Mehdi Army Elements; Dumbfucks Commanding U.S. Forces Order Them To Get Into The Fight And Attack The Nationalists**

[The Players:

[Mehdi Army: Nationalist, anti-U.S. occupation, anti-Iranian armed force.

[Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council: An armed force recruited, training, equipped, and funded by the Iranian Government during Hussein's regime, they came back after the U.S. invasion, and were chosen by the Bush regime to become a key part of the collaborator government that the U.S. occupation put in power. They are an Iranian proxy force in Iraq. They are kept in power by the U.S. Occupation and without U.S. backing, would be a pack of instant dead men. They specialize in torture and murder squads whose mission is to butcher Iraqis opposed to Iranian influence. T]

Mar 21 By Ross Colvin and Randy Fabi, BAGHDAD (Reuters) & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

Mehdi Army fighters attacked police patrols in southern Baghdad overnight, police said on Friday, further fraying a seven-month-old ceasefire called by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to rein in his militia.

**The clashes in Baghdad's Shurta district follow outbreaks of violence in the southern Iraqi city of Kut in which Mehdi Army fighters battled U.S. and Iraqi security forces.**

Three people were killed in fresh fighting in Kut late on Thursday.

**On Friday, five people were wounded in clashes between Mehdi Army fighters and U.S. and Iraqi security forces in the Hay al-Amil area of southwestern Baghdad, police said.**

Sadr, whose militia fought two uprisings against U.S. forces in 2004, first called a ceasefire last August and extended it last month.



**But two weeks ago he issued a statement telling his followers they could defend themselves if attacked. [Imagine that! What a sneaky guy!! Why, if every Iraqi did that, there would be about 500,000 Iraqis opening fire on every occupation soldier in sight! Bush has made it very clear: Iraqis who defend themselves when attacked are nothing but terrorists, unless they're on his payroll. Right?]**

**Shortly afterwards, gunbattles broke out between Mehdi Army fighters and Iraqi and U.S. security forces in Kut, raising fears that the ceasefire was unraveling.**

**Until Thursday, violence involving the Mehdi Army had been confined to Kut.**

**U.S. military spokesman Major Mark Cheadle said U.S. forces had launched an operation on Thursday in the western Rashid district of Baghdad, which includes Shurta,**

Two police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the clashes in Shurta began on Thursday night when Mehdi Army fighters launched simultaneous attacks on police patrols and attacked a checkpoint.

**“They captured 17 policemen and forced them to take off their clothes. Then they freed them in their underwear,” said one of the officials. [Oh, those fiendish bloodthirsty evildoers. Their cruelty knows no bounds.]**

The second police source said they had burnt several cars and captured a number of weapons from the police.

**While Mehdi Army leaders have distanced themselves from the fighting in Kut, rank and file militia members are known to be deeply unhappy with the ceasefire, accusing rival factions and the U.S. forces of using it to attack them.**

**[What a strange notion. Our noble, principled, honorable, heroic commanding generals in Iraqi would never even think of using a ceasefire to attack an opposing force. Why, if Betrayus or any other U.S. generals did such a thing, that would make them dishonorable, treacherous, lying, filthy war criminals fit only for battlefield court-martial, a death sentence, and a firing squad. Wouldn't it?]**

Al-Sadr's supporters have complained that the government has used the cease-fire to accelerate a crackdown against their movement in Baghdad and the Shiite heartland south of the capital.

**Iraqi security forces are heavily influenced by a rival group, the [pro-Iranian] Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, which wields considerable power in the central government and in provincial administrations throughout the south.**

A Sadrist member of parliament alleged that the crackdown in Kut and elsewhere in the south was part of a move by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa party and the [pro-Iranian] Supreme Council to prevent al-Sadr's followers from winning control of key southern provinces in provincial elections expected this fall.

“They have no supporters in the central and southern provinces, but we do,” Ahmed al-Massoudi told the AP. “If the crackdown against the Sadrists continues, we will begin

consultations with other parliamentary blocs to bring down the government and replace it with a genuinely national one.”

Al-Sadr’s followers have been growing increasingly angry at what they consider a government campaign against them under the guise of a security crackdown.

In Basra, a Sadrist cleric, Sheik Nasir al-Mashaykhi, told worshippers at Friday prayer services that “we are committed to the cease-fire decision” and would punish Mahdi Army members who break the truce.

**But al-Mashaykhi warned against any move to crack down on al-Sadr’s followers in Basra, the country’s second largest city and headquarters of Iraq’s vast oil industry.**

“Basra is not Kut or Diwaniyah,” he said.

“Basra will turn into a cemetery for those who try to fight the Sadrists or detain them.”

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## COMMENT UNNECESSARY



A U.S. army soldier from Blackfoot Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment storms a back yard of a small farmhouse during a clearance mission on the outskirts of Muqdadiyah and finds a donkey, Diyala province, Dec. 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

# **Two Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed By Mine In Kandahar; Nationality Not Announced**

Mar 22 (AFP)

A bomb blew up a military vehicle in Afghanistan and killed two soldiers with the US-led coalition, officials said Saturday.

The soldiers, whose nationalities were not released, were killed Friday when their vehicle was struck by a mine planted on a busy road in the southern province of Kandahar, the coalition said.

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## **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed; Nationality Not Announced**

3.21.08 Dow Jones Newswires & BBC

A soldier with the NATO-led force in Afghanistan died on Thursday after being struck by a bomb during a patrol in the south, the alliance said.

The nationality of the soldier and location of the incident weren't disclosed in the International Security Assistance Force statement announcing the death.

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## **Two British Soldiers Wounded: Occupation Troops & Their Collaborators Fight Each Other In Lashkar Gah**

3/21/2008 AFP

KANDAHAR: An exchange of fire between British soldiers and police in southern Afghanistan left a policeman dead and two men wounded from each side, security forces said yesterday.

The shootout, apparently a case of mistaken identity, erupted as police were patrolling the main square in the southern town of Lashkar Gah ahead of celebrations for the Afghan New Year yesterday, police said.

Helmand provincial police chief General Mohammad Hussain Andiwal told AFP that the NATO soldiers had opened fire on the policemen at around midnight, killing one and wounding another.

“I don’t know why they did this because the policemen were in uniform and they were moving near the police vehicle,” he said.

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## **Resistance Action**

Mar 14 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & 3.21.08 Dow Jones Newswires & Mar 22 (AFP) & Gulf News & (AFP)

An Afghan district governor was killed in the north of the country on Saturday in an knife attack provincial officials blamed on Taliban insurgents. Karim Rokai, the governor of Khanaqa district in Jowzjan province, was killed, said provincial spokesman Mahbobollah Zari.

Militants ambushed the security forces in Zabul province before troops returned fire, said district chief Mohammad Younus Akhunzada. No troops were hurt but a police vehicle was damaged.

A commander of the highway police in the northern province of Kunduz was shot dead in an ambush late Friday, said the provincial police’s General Mohammad Ayob Salangi, who blamed the attack on the Taliban.

In the south, a small explosion in a bazaar near the town of Lashkar Gah damaged a police vehicle and slightly wounded a policeman and passer-by, police said.

A Taliban spokesman said it had also killed an “American spy” in the eastern province of Kunar. The provincial police chief, General Abdul Jalal Jalal, confirmed the man had been killed and said his body was recovered in a car that had been set alight.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Morale?**

March 21, 2008 By MICHAEL KAMBER, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

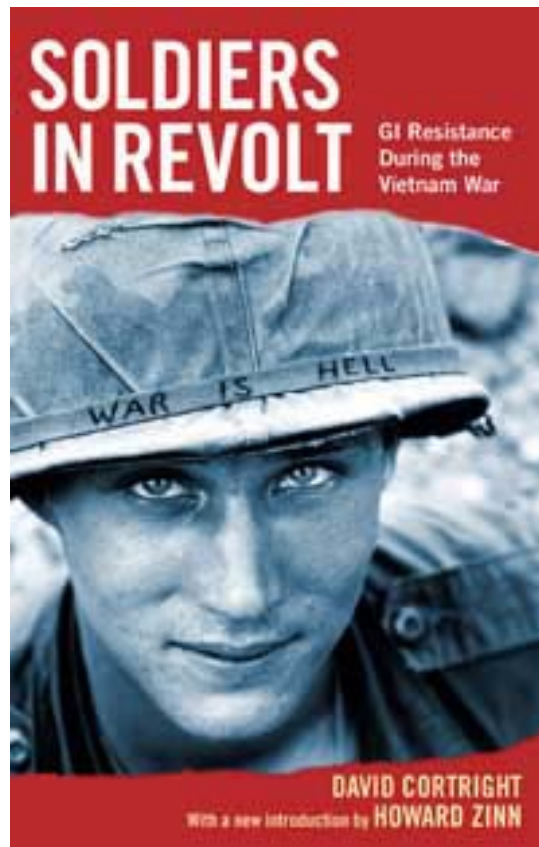
“I have served my time; I’ve done two tours in Iraq,” said Capt. Kirkner Bailey, 26, of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment in Mosul.

“I can’t speak to trends,” he said. “But 8 of my 10 friends who are captains are leaving the Army.”

“We got back from our last tour and immediately there were rumors we were redeploying,” said a captain who requested anonymity for fear of displeasing his superiors.

“Some of these guys are 18, 19 years old. They’d just been through a year of combat. They went crazy. They started fighting, drinking, crashing cars.”

**[And somewhere, on some dusty shelf in the West Point library, there’s a dusty book about Vietnam. And about how there came a day when U.S. soldiers quit destroying themselves or each other, and turned on their enemies, and the enemies of every decent American: the Imperial politicians, Democrat and Republican, who happily kept that war going. They rebelled wholesale against command, against the politicians, and against the war. And that was the end of it. T]**



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



**Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

### **Resistance Action**

20 Mar 2008 (Reuters) & 21 March, 2008 AAP & Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20080321-12 & Reuters & March 22 (KUNA) & The Associated Press

A hospital source said two police officers were killed in clashes between Iraqi police and Mehdi Army militia members in the southern city of Kut on Thursday. Clashes started when officers began a search for militants and other suspects in al-Jihad neighbourhood, a police captain in Kut said.

**Guerrillas killed an Iraqi soldier and wounded another when they targeted their patrol on Wednesday in Mosul, police said.**

**A roadside bomb killed a policeman when it exploded near his patrol in Mosul, police said.**

**Insurgents attacked a police patrol in Mosul, killing two policemen, police said.**

**A policeman's body was found with gunshot wounds on Thursday, hours after his capture in southeastern Mosul, police said.**

**[Wasn't it just last month that the liars running the occupation were bragging for all those stupid U.S. reporters that puke out their bullshit about how a huge U.S. offensive would end the resistance in Mosul? Gee, that sure dropped out of the news fast, didn't it? T]**

Two soldiers were wounded in an attack on an Iraqi army base in Diwaniya, 180 km (110 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

An improvised explosive device detonated on the Karadah Peninsula in the Rusafa district of eastern Baghdad March 19. Initial reports indicate a Ministry of Interior official was killed and a civilian was wounded in the attack. Al Karadah Iraqi Police headquarters report that an explosive device was placed under an IP vehicle. IPs from the Al Karadah headquarters responded to the attack.

An explosive device targeting a police patrol blew up in Kirkuk, northern Iraq. Kirkuk Police Chief Brigadier Sarhad Qader told KUNA that the explosive device targeted the police patrol at Aviation Square. Five policemen engaged in the patrol, were wounded, he said.

An U.S.-funded awakening council member in western Baghdad's Mansour neighborhood was killed and four others were injured in a mortar blast, police and hospital officials said.

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

## **+250 Collaborator Interpreters Killed, So Far**

March 20, 2008 By SUHAIL HUSSEIN, Associated Press Writer

San Diego-based Titan Corporation to work with U.S. troops. The firm recently completed a five-year, \$4.6 billion Pentagon contract to provide linguists to U.S. troops in Iraq. Titan's press office said more than 250 Iraqi interpreters have been killed since the beginning of the war.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### ***Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!***

### **U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army invade and search an Iraqi citizen's home in Mosul March 20, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)



[images.google.com]



## English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:**

**In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.**

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.]**

**[What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

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

# **Occupation Militias Threaten Nationwide General Strike After Stupid Chiselers Running U.S. Command Cut Off Their Wages**

March 22, 2008 Guardian News & Media

THE success of the US "surge" strategy in Iraq may be under threat as Sunni militias employed by the US to fight insurgents are warning of a national strike because they are not being paid regularly.

Leaders of the 80,000-strong Sahwa councils have said they will stop fighting unless payment of their fighters' \$US10 a day wage is resumed.

The fighters are accusing the US military of using them to clear militants then abandoning them.

A survey by Guardian Films reveals that out of 49 Sahwa councils four with more than 1400 men have quit, 38 are threatening to go on strike and two already have.

Improved security in Iraq in recent months has been attributed to a combination of the surge, the truce observed by Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi army, and the councils, which are probably the most significant factor, say most analysts.

But Sahwa leaders are angry the Americans have not compensated them for their work.

**MORE:**

## **U.S. Command Finds The Answer To Strike Threat: Kill Them**



U.S.-funded Awakening council members stand around a vehicle carrying the bodies of six of their comrades killed in a U.S. airstrike near Samarra, March 22, 2008. Six members of the awakening council were killed and two others were wounded when an airstrike hit two checkpoints about 100 meters (yards) apart. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)

March 22, 2008 The Associated Press

Saturday, Iraqi authorities reported that a U.S. airstrike north of the capital killed six members of a U.S.-backed group — straining relations with America's new allies.

On Saturday, a U.S. attack helicopter fired on two checkpoints manned by U.S.-allied fighters near Samarra, 95 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad, killing six and injuring two, Iraqi police said.

The U.S. military said an AH-64 Apache helicopter fired on the positions after five people were “spotted conducting suspicious terrorist activity” in an area notorious for roadside bombs.

“Initial reports suggested the attack may have been a Sons of Iraq checkpoint,” the military said, using a term for the armed U.S.-backed groups. “The incident is currently under a joint Iraqi-Coalition Force investigation.”

**A local official of the U.S.-backed group said the attack occurred about two hours after American soldiers stopped at the two checkpoints to meet the fighters.**

“They asked us general questions like: ‘Have you gotten your IDs?’ and ‘Do you need anything?’ and then they left,” Sabbar al-Bazi told The Associated Press.

“Two hours later, after I had gone home, I heard two explosions, probably caused by two missiles, and machine-gun fire from a helicopter.”

**Lt. Col. Dhiya Mahmoud Ahmed, an Iraqi military officer in charge of security in the area, said he told the Americans after the attack that he had been aware of the friendly checkpoints for two days.**

AP Television News footage of the aftermath showed awakening council members loading bodies into a pickup. Their faces were masked and they wore bright yellow vests — apparently to identify themselves for U.S. forces as members of friendly groups. Bloodstained rocks and bits of flesh could be seen around the checkpoint.

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## ***Five Years Ago:***

**“In The Last Five Years, Iraqi People Get Suffering More Than The 24 Years Of Those During Saddam’s Regime”**

**“The Negative Factors Are So Many That Made Some Iraqis Who Welcomed The Occupied Forces Wish To Have Saddam’s Regime Back Better Than The Recent Days”**

[Comment From Baghdad: #1]

March 20, 2008 by Correspondent Hussein, [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/)

Five years ago, I was, as all Iraqis were, worried about the expected war which would take place whether we like it or not.

I still remembered that day, which was only few hours before Baghdad had been bombed which was the sign of starting what is called the second gulf war. I was working with two of my brothers on digging a well in the garden for water supply in case we lack water supply in our houses during the war. We spent about five hours till we had the water in a hose made for that purpose.

We were so happy for getting that achievement. After having that water supply, neighbours and then relatives asked my brothers to dig wells in their gardens to have water supply in their gardens for the same reasons.

Brothers spent the next five days in digging wells getting gratitude from those people who got the wells with some money in pockets for the equipments they used and their efforts.

Later that night, the war started having some spots had been bombed in Baghdad which was the sign of having that war and the beginning of Iraqi people suffering ever since.

We were a dozen member family living in one house. I was the only member who had a permanent salary with about 3 dollars and a half per month while my three brothers were working in their work shop they have for cooling stuff. Neither me nor my brothers had any kind of financial source during that war, we were depending on our savings and it wasn't so much and the damn war might take so long.

Thus, I decided to sell my library which had more than 200 titles going to the Mutanbi streets, the same place which I got the books from, to get some money which would help in that time. I sacrificed my books, which I spent about 20 years to collect, to have some extra money which was needed in that distress. I spent most of that money in the same day bringing food stuff which we had used during the coming three weeks.

During that three weeks, we had almost everything from food staff, water supply, fuel and power supply, but we were suffering from the explosions shocks which were everywhere in Baghdad, smoke of the black oil which was on fire in trenches made for that purpose by Saddam's followers as a kind of interfering the missiles to reach their targets and the most terrible thing was the dust as a result of the wind coming from the western desert.

The dust and smoke were so terrible especially for kids who were suffering from difficulties in breathing when the power supply was off and the windows kept closed.

**After seeing Saddam statue collapsed at Firdoos square in central Baghdad on April 9th, we forgot all that suffering with great expectations to witness a new era of freedom and prosperity having no Saddam and his followers.**

Five years had passed since the multi national invasion head by the USA, but we had witnessed few positives factors including the space of freedom in society and raising the

standard of livings for some governmental employees, but the negative factors are so many that made some Iraqis who welcomed the occupied forces wish to have Saddam's regime back better than the recent days.

Nowadays, we lack of power supply, water, fuel, reconstruction and other services. We suffer from corruption in all fields. We suffer from the unemployment. We lack the ration food stuff and its bad quality.

The major thing we suffer from is the powerful parties and their mismanagement, abuse of power, discredit, maltreatment and bad faith.

In the past we suffered from Ba'ath party who controlled the country with few names in power while we have now the two Kurd parties control Kurdistan region (north of Iraq) with their endless demands even in interfering the central government and we have the rest parties, religious and non religious ones, control the central and southern parts of Iraq.

**Shortly, in the last five years, Iraqi people get suffering more than the 24 years of those during Saddam's regime.**

**In the past, we have the mass graves hidden while nowadays we can see them in open streets.**

**In the past we had Saddam and his security forces who caused that catastrophe while now we have the Qaeda, the gunmen, the guards of the foreign security companies and Iraqi officials, criminals and the USA troops who can cause death to anyone and anywhere in Iraq with or without reasons and it would be so hard and sometimes impossible to send them to court**

**MORE:**

## ***National Reconciliation?***

**“Our Politicians Are The Problem  
Of The Reconciliation Project”**

**“The Price Is Always Paid By The  
Poors”**

**“The Price Will Be Always More Innocent  
Blood”**

**[Comment From Baghdad: #2]**

March 20, 2008 by Laith, [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/)

I heard the news about a reconciliation conference in JAPAN.

Lawmakers from different political blocs in the Iraqi parliament went to the conference while they ignored the reconciliation conference in Baghdad although its much easier to attend such a conference in Baghdad than Tokyo.

I didn't ever read anything about a sectarian war in Japan and I still don't know the religion of the Japanese emperor but I pray GOD that he is not Muslim because if he is a Muslim, I will need to know whether he is Shiite or Sunni and then I wouldn't accept the result of the conference if it is not on the side of my sect.

I tried to find a political or even a social link between Japan and Iraq but I failed.

The only links I found are our great love to the Japanese electronic equipment and cars in addition to my crazy impossible wish to visit Japan but these links have no relation with the Iraqi national reconciliation.

The problem of the reconciliation project is too simple and all the politicians know it.

Its not the place, not the time and I'm sure the poors in Iraqi never fight to reconcile.

**Our politicians are the problem of the reconciliation project. They never have the real intention to reconcile.**

**The price is always paid by the poors.**

**The price will be always more innocent blood.**

**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.**

**“Americans Brought Our Way Things We Never Knew (Before) Like Terrorism And The Killings We See On The Streets”**

Mar 20 by Jay Deshmukh, AFP

Abu Fares al-Daraji, a tobacco shop owner in Baghdad said Americans “brought our way things we never knew (before) like terrorism and the killings we see on the streets.”

Public services like water and electricity have yet to be fully restored, despite billions of dollars having been spent on often badly managed reconstruction projects.

Last year the US embassy in Baghdad documented a high level of corruption at all levels of government, and questioned the Maliki administration’s willingness to crack down on crooked practices.

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***[Remember That Stupid, Lying  
Occupation Command  
Propaganda Campaign About How  
Happy Iraqi Refugees Were Going  
Home Because The Surge Was  
Soooo Successful?]***

**“The Talk About Improved  
Security In Iraq Is Nonsense  
Because Innocent People Die  
Every Day”**

**“Even Iraqi Officials Are Not Safe”  
“I Will Never Return To Baghdad Unless  
The United States Leaves My Country”**

March 20, 2008 Musa Hattar, Agence France-Presse [Excerpts]

AMMAN - Five years after the U.S.-led invasion, Iraq’s hundreds of thousands of refugees remain unconvinced that security has improved sufficiently for them to return home, even though life has grown more difficult in their countries of asylum.

“It would be suicidal to risk returning to Iraq,” Majed Hassan, 46, said in neighbouring Jordan, where he makes ends meet selling cheap Chinese-made shavers on the streets of the capital.

"I would rather stay in Jordan and suffer than go back to my country and face death," he said.

Mr. Hassan dismissed the claims of the Iraqi government and its U.S. backers that the bloodshed has decreased in recent months.

"The talk about improved security in Iraq is nonsense because innocent people die in sectarian and other violence every day and even Iraqi officials are not safe," he said.

"I will never return to Baghdad unless the United States leaves my country."

Last month, Jordan announced that it would waive the unpaid fines of the estimated 360,000 Iraqi refugees who have remained in the kingdom illegally -- provided they agree to return home.

But to refugees who have lost family members to the sectarian violence raging in their homeland, the financial carrot provides scant incentive to return home compared with the perceived threat to life and limb.

"Suffering from financial burdens in Jordan is much better than going back to Iraq," said restaurant worker Ibrahim, 37, who fled the city of Mosul in 2005.

A 68-year-old Iraqi woman eking out a living selling cigarettes in the centre of Amman tearfully explained why she did not dare return home.

"I can't go back to Iraq," she said. "It is important for me to stay alive in order to take care of my blind husband because we have no children. What we go through in Jordan is nothing compared to the situation in Iraq."

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***[Remember That Stupid, Lying  
Occupation Command  
Propaganda Campaign About  
"Iraqi Sovereignty"?***  
**"Young Army And Marine Captains  
Have Become American Viceroy,  
Officers With Large Sectors To Run  
And Near-Autonomy To Do It. In**



# Military Parlance, They Are The ‘Ground-Owners’”

March 21, 2008 By MICHAEL KAMBER, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

JISR DIALA, Iraq — During the war in Iraq, young Army and Marine captains have become American viceroys, officers with large sectors to run and near-autonomy to do it. In military parlance, they are the “ground-owners.”

In practice, they are power brokers.

“They give us a chunk of land and say, ‘Fix it,’ “ said Capt. Rich Thompson, 36, who controls an area east of Baghdad.

The Iraqis have learned that these captains, many still in their 20s, can call down devastating American firepower one day and approve multimillion-dollar projects the next. Some have become celebrities in their sectors, men whose names are known even to children.

Capt. Brian Gilbert, 30, who controls a million-dollar monthly Army budget for his sector of 200,000 residents here in Jisr Diala, a city east of Baghdad, has pulled together a group of tribal leaders as well as a local Iraqi security force, not to mention kept a close eye on the elected city council.

On a recent afternoon, he ordered traffic control barriers installed to prevent car bombs, checked on refurbished water pumps for farmers and approved money to connect the pumping station to the Baghdad electricity grid. Then there were soccer uniforms to be dropped off for a community team, heated disputes to resolve, an influential sheik to visit.

“It is purely my fight in my area of operation,” Captain Gilbert said.

“I decide the targets, I decide the development projects and I choose to partner with the Sons of Iraq,” a reference to the local security group that he helped to set up.

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CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING  
SOLDIER**

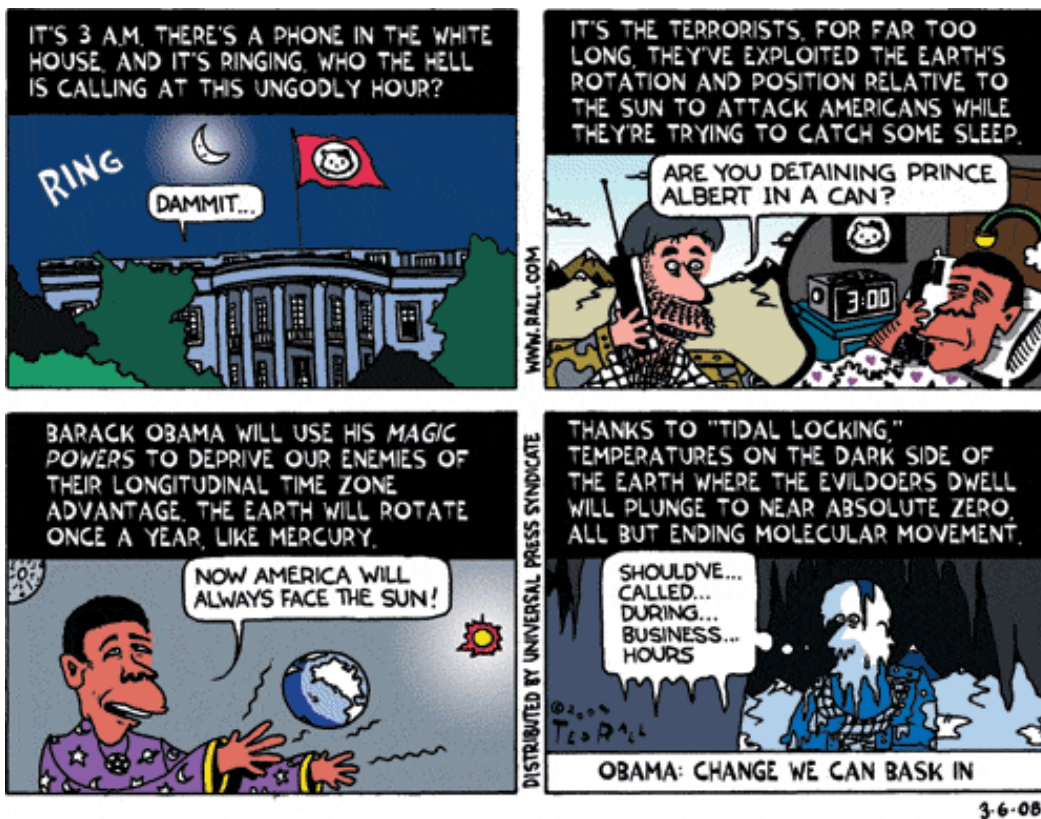
**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.**

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## 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

# GI Special www.militaryproject.org

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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