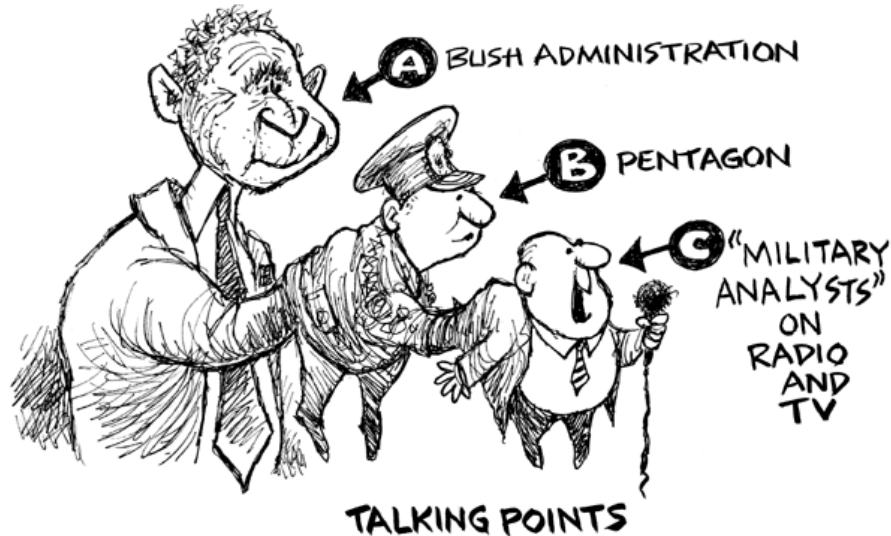


GI SPECIAL 6E12:

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HULME



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Troops Will Long Remember Who Warned That The Democratic Party President Would Keep The Wars Going, And Stressed The Importance Of Helping Build And Strengthen Armed Forces Resistance Now

Troops Will Also Long Remember Who Pandered To The Huge, Understandable Hope That Electing Obama Would Stop The Wars, And Who, By Arguing For His Election, Participated In The Betrayal

Comment: T

There has been a lot of silly nonsense this past week about how, when the House of Representatives voted down the bill to continue funding the Imperial war in Iraq, this represented a victory for those opposed to the war.

What it represented was a move by the Republicans in Congress, who abstained during the vote, to force the Democratic Party leadership to quit pretending they oppose the war, and take responsibility to provide the funding for keeping it going by passing war funding with Democrat votes.

Which, of course, they will do.

The Congressional Democratic party has no intention whatever of cutting off the funding for the war in Iraq, and you can take that one to the bank.

The Democratic Party faction in control of Congress has already decided to fund the wars and the killing in Iraq and Afghanistan not merely until their candidate takes the White House, but has agreed to fund the wars and the killing for at least half a year into 2009.

Everybody knows that.

Congressional Democrats have no intention of breaking with either the Democratic Party now over that, or rejecting the Presidential candidate and breaking with the Democratic Party later.

Everybody knows that too.

Certainly the time, money and effort spent kissing Congressional ass in Washington DC would be more constructively used to do the work that has some hope of stopping the wars in the real world: supporting resistance in the armed forces.

However, many desperately avoid that reality, hoping for something better, which is understandable. Reality is not pretty, and it's hardly surprising that not everyone can face it now.

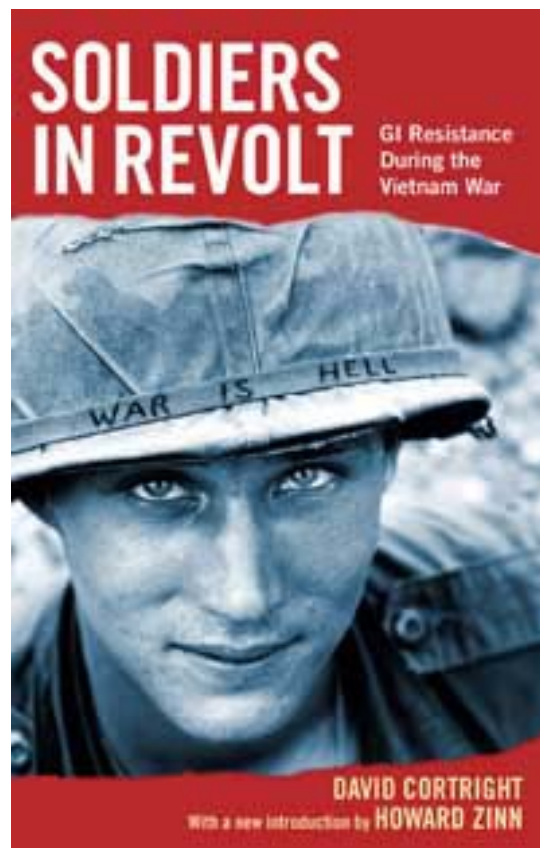
Events will be the most powerful teacher.

People, including troops, will long remember who warned that the Democratic Party president would keep the wars going, and stressed the importance of helping build and strengthen armed forces resistance now.

People, including troops, will also long remember who pandered to the huge, understandable hope inside and outside the armed forces that electing Obama would stop the wars, and who, by arguing for his election, participated in the betrayal, rather than telling the truth, however unwelcome and unpopular it may be now.



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War



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

“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

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

'Our Hero' Killed By Bomb In Iraq

May 4, 2008 John C. Ensslin, Scripps Newspaper Group

Ron Martinez knew something was wrong when he heard the two dogs barking from their kennel on his property in Monte Vista.

He looked out the door and saw two uniformed Marines and a pair of sheriff's deputies.

He knew why they had come.

"My whole world stopped," Martinez said Sunday. "I didn't want to open the door. But I knew I had to."

The officers were there to inform Martinez and his wife, Carol, that their 31-year-old son, Glen, a Marine sergeant based in Fallujah, Iraq, had been killed Friday by a roadside bomb. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

His wife, Melissa Sue Martinez, also a Marine sergeant assigned to Fallujah, will accompany her husband's body to Monte Vista, where services are pending.

Three other Marines also were killed in the blast.

According to iCasualties.org, there have been 4,066 confirmed U.S. troop deaths in Iraq, including 57 identified as from Colorado.

"Glen was our hero," his father said Sunday. "He made us very proud because he always did the best he could."

Born in Alamosa, Martinez grew up in Monte Vista. He was quarterback of the Monte Vista football team for three years. He also competed in the state wrestling tournament three times.

He attended Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kan., on a baseball and academic scholarship, where he obtained degrees in math and land surveying.

After graduation, Martinez had been living in Boulder when he told his family that he planned to enlist in the Marines. "He said, 'I'm tired of listening to people talking down my country. I want to do something positive,'" his father recalled.

"It baffled me. Here he's got these two degrees. I asked him why," the elder Martinez added. "He said, 'It's something I've got to do.' "

While training at Camp Pendleton in California, Martinez met his future wife one night while they were digging holes, his father recalled.

"Dad, I met this chick," the elder Martinez recalled his son saying the next day.

"Well, what does she look like?" the father asked.

"I don't know, but we talked all night," his son said.

Later, Glen Martinez recognized her voice when they were in the mess hall. As it turned out, she was from Denver.

The couple were married on a California beach in February 2006, 10 days before they were first deployed to Iraq. Glen Martinez and Melissa Sue Martinez renewed their vows Dec. 28, 2007, in a formal ceremony in Golden.

Fort Carson Soldier Killed By Baghdad Explosion

May 3, 2008 THE GAZETTE

A decorated veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was killed Wednesday in Baghdad, the first casualty from his Fort Carson-based bomb disposal group.

Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence D. Ezell, of Portland, Texas, died after an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations, the Department of Defense said Saturday.

Ezell, 30, was an explosive ordnance disposal specialist. He was on his second tour in Iraq, deploying Nov. 1 with fellow members of the 71st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group. The unit has fewer than 100 people in Iraq.

He received the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge.

He served in Iraq from March 2003 to October 2004 and in Afghanistan from October 2005 to April 2006, according to records from Fort Carson.

The bombing pushed the Fort Carson death toll to 237, according to Gazette records.

Ezell's death came on the day another soldier from the Colorado Springs area died in a Baghdad bombing. Spc. Ronald J. Tucker, 21, of Fountain, was serving as a mortarman with a unit from Fort Hood, Texas.

Six other soldiers from Fort Carson were wounded in Baghdad last week in fighting between U.S. forces and militiamen loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Ezell joined the Army on Jan. 11, 1997, and the 71st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group on March 23, 2007.

A casualty assistance officer reached by telephone at Ezell's Fountain home on Saturday said the soldier's widow, Christina, did not want to comment. The Gazette could not locate relatives in Texas.

Fiasco In Mosul:
**Most Fighters Were Warned In
Advance Of The Operation Because
Al-Maliki's Government “Had
Trumpeted Its Plans For The
Offensive For Weeks”**
**Those Taken Prisoner Not Fighters “But
Merely Men ‘With Long Beards And Who
Attend Mosques,’ Who Were Known To
Be Anti-American**

May 18, 2008 By SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN, The Washington Post

BAGHDAD -- Iraqi troops have detained hundreds of people in the northern city of Mosul, where a massive operation is underway to clear the area of extremists, Iraqi officials said Saturday.

But many fighters had fled to other areas, according to the officials and a spokesman for an insurgent group.

In a phone interview, Abu Obaida al-Janabi said that most fighters were warned in advance of the operation because the Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government had trumpeted its plans for the offensive for weeks.

The fighters, Janabi added, had moved their heavy weapons, along with "our explosives experts" and "engineers of our missile attacks," to other areas, while a small group of volunteers stayed behind to fight "a war of exhaustion" against Iraqi and U.S. forces.

He said that those detained were not ... fighters but merely men "with long beards and who attend mosques," who were known to be anti-American.

"So far only eight of our men have been captured," Janabi said.

NO MORE OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from 30th Infantry Regiment in Arab Jabour, south of Baghdad, Jan. 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taleban Shoot Down CH-47

18 May 2008 (DPA)

KABUL - Taleban militants shot down a NATO helicopter in southern Afghanistan that was carrying provincial authorities, including a governor.

The militants shot at the helicopter near Musa Qala district in southern Helmand province on Saturday afternoon as Gulob Mangal, the provincial governor and other senior officials were abroad, the Taleban said on Sunday in a statement posted on their website.

'The mujahideen shot the helicopter with an anti-aircraft weapon and it immediately crashed,' the statement said, adding, 'There must have been casualties.'

Mangal confirmed that his helicopter was fired upon by 'enemies of Afghanistan' on the way to Musa Qala district, where he was scheduled to inaugurate a newly-built mosque in the district centre.

'I know I was the target of the attack, but they failed, because none of us on board were hurt,' Mangal told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

He said that after the chopper made a 'hard landing' he, along with other officials and members of the British forces stationed in the province, returned to the provincial capital in another helicopter.

Major Martin O'Donnell, a NATO spokesman in Kabul, confirmed that one of their CH-47 Chinook helicopters was fired upon and made 'a controlled landing' near a British military base in the province.

O'Donnell said the 'chopper's tail was damaged' in the attack.

TROOP NEWS

**Iraq Veteran Condemns “Sham
Democracy”
“He Doesn't See Voters Presented
With A Choice Of Presidential**

Candidates Committed To Ending The War”

““American Foreign Policy Is Designed To Acquire Energy And Resources”



May 9, 2008 By Linda Stout, Journal Staff

ITHACA — Forty-five members of the Ithaca contingent of New York State Marches for Peace left downtown Ithaca Thursday at midday for a 10-day walk to Watertown, home of Fort Drum.

The marchers are a coalition of veterans and others opposed to U.S. involvement in the war in Iraq.

Participant Michael Blake, an Iraq veteran, saw “constant tit-for-tat, eye-for-an-eye” violence, with Americans jailing Iraqi men and boys in reprisals for raids.

“I went to Iraq in 2003, and I decided this was wrong, immoral, and I could no longer be part of it,” he told the group during the send-off ceremony in DeWitt Park.

After his tour of Iraq, he became a conscientious objector and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War. He said he knows many other Iraq veterans and current soldiers, like a friend who told of killing innocent people, including a child.

Blake, now a Syracuse resident and a SUNY Cortland student studying political science, sees the United States as a “sham democracy.”

He said it's not a democracy because he doesn't see voters presented with a choice of presidential candidates committed to ending the war.

“American foreign policy is designed to acquire energy and resources,” he said.

Blake got an honorable discharge for conscientious objection five months before his four-year military commitment ended. This is unusual, he said. He said the discharge

system is biased against soldiers who can't articulate their moral and religious objections to the war as clearly as he did.

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

War Profiteers Peddling Useless Lie Detectors To Army For Afghanistan:

Author Of National Study Says That American Military Men And Women Will Be Put At Risk: "If They Rely On Things That Really Don't Work, And Act As If They Do, We Will Have A Greater Disaster On Our Hands Than We Already Do In The Field In Iraq"

"I Don't Understand How Anybody Could Think That This Is Ready For Deployment"

Fienberg, the professor of statistics, said the Pentagon's pre-deployment studies "are conducted and paid for by the same people promoting the device."

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

April. 9, 2008 By Bill Dedman, Investigative reporter, MSNBC

FORT JACKSON, S.C. - The Pentagon will issue hand-held lie detectors this month to U.S. Army soldiers in Afghanistan, pushing to the battlefield a century-old debate over the accuracy of the polygraph

But the lead author of a national study of the polygraph says that American military men and women will be put at risk by an untested technology.

"I don't understand how anybody could think that this is ready for deployment," said statistics professor Stephen E. Fienberg, who headed a 2003 study by the National Academy of Sciences that found insufficient scientific evidence to support using polygraphs for national security.

"Sending these instruments into the field in Iraq and Afghanistan without serious scientific assessment, and for use by untrained personnel, is a mockery of what we advocated in our report."

The PCASS cannot be used on U.S. personnel, according to a memo authorizing its use, signed in October by the undersecretary of defense for intelligence, James R. Clapper Jr.

The Army has bought 94 of the \$7,500 PCASS machines, which are sold by Lafayette Instrument Co. of Lafayette, Ind. Besides the Army, other branches of the U.S. military have seen the device and may order their own. The total cost of the project so far is about \$2.5 million.

Polygraphs are not allowed as evidence in most U.S. courts, but they're routinely used in police investigations, and the Defense Department relies heavily on them for security screening.

Both the proponents and critics agree on one thing: This new device is likely to be less accurate than a polygraph, because it gathers less physiological information.

Unlike the polygraph, the PCASS does not measure changes in the rate of breathing, and it has no way to detect countermeasures, or efforts to fool the machine, such as by making unusual movements.

The training is different, too.

While polygraph examiners for the Defense Department must have four-year college degrees and experience in law enforcement, the PCASS operators are mostly mid-level enlisted personnel and warrant officers, some as young as 20 years old.

While polygraph examiners take a 13-week course and a six-month internship, PCASS operators undergo only one week of training, though most have military training as interrogators.

"I, like everyone else I know, want the troops in Iraq, in Afghanistan, elsewhere in the world, to be protected," Fienberg said. "I want terrorists to be detected. I do not want to be living in a threatened world, and I want to give my government the best possible advice.

"They need devices that work.

"And if they rely on things that really don't work, and act as if they do, we will have a greater disaster on our hands than we already do in the field in Iraq.

"We simply do not know what a device like this hand-held device will produce in that kind of setting, except for the fact that there's scant evidence that it will produce anything of value."

Fienberg, the professor of statistics, said the Pentagon's pre-deployment studies have several weaknesses:

They're conducted and paid for by the same people promoting the device. They're small studies, involving few people.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“Sadr Offers The Funds For Any Victim Of American Weapons In Sadr City”

“Sadr Is Also One Of The Main Providers Of Emergency Food Assistance In Iraq”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd), who sent this in.]

May 8, 2008 By Shashank Bengali, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — When Ali Ateya was killed last month at the age of 23_ a victim of an American airstrike on a block of concrete tenements in Baghdad's Sadr City slum, according to his family — there was no money for his burial.

Within days, two officials from Sadr City's main humanitarian organization showed up at the family home. Unsolicited, they offered to pay for Ateya's Shiite Muslim burial service and provide food for three days of ritual mourning.

Then they handed the parents an envelope. It was stuffed with 500,000 Iraqi dinars — about \$400 — and on it was printed: "A gift from Sayyid Muqtada al Sadr."

Sadr, the fiery anti-American Shiite cleric [translation; pro-American, anti-Occupation, nationalist politician] has again emerged as the U.S. military's No. 1 problem in Iraq, as his followers [translation: nationalist resistance fighters] wage an increasingly bloody struggle with American soldiers for control of impoverished, militia-infested [translation: patriotic] Sadr City.

But for the slum's 2.5 million predominantly Shiite residents, Sadr plays a different role, one of humanitarian-in-chief — gifting money to families of the dead and injured, resettling displaced families free of charge and, every month, helping to feed tens of thousands of Sadr City's most impoverished people.

Sadr offers the funds for any victim of American weapons in Sadr City.

Evoking comparisons with Hezbollah — the far better established militant Shiite group in Lebanon that's often called a state within a state — Sadr's movement "has established itself as the main service provider in the country," concluded a recent report by Refugees International, a Washington-based nonprofit.

Analysts point out that Hezbollah's military wing is much more disciplined than Sadr's younger and more fractured movement.

But Sadr's charity work helps to maintain popular support for his movement even as its confrontations with U.S. and Iraqi forces [translation: attacks by U.S. and Iraqi traitors] plunge places such as Sadr City deeper into chaos.

"It's a reflection of the existing vacuum and the extremely poor capacity of the state to step in and provide these services," said Peter Harling, an Iraq expert with the International Crisis Group, a conflict-resolution think tank.

International aid workers and ordinary Iraqis say that the U.S.-backed Iraqi government is sitting on billions of dollars meant for humanitarian projects.

"We would be glad if the government could really provide services," said Ibrahim al Jabri, who oversees the Sadr organization's humanitarian projects in eastern Baghdad, including Sadr City.

"But until now there is nothing provided by the government. It's not possible just to leave people waiting."

Iraqi government efforts to help war victims, by contrast, are a bureaucratic morass. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has established a committee to help Iraq's war widows, who are eligible to receive monthly assistance payments of \$40 to \$80.

But advocates say that cases take months or years to wind through the system, and very few applicants end up receiving help.

"The committee has thousands of cases to read and decide," said Salma Jabow, who heads the independent Center for the Rehabilitation of Widows, in Baghdad. "It takes a lot of time for such a small amount of money."

Following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Sadr issued a directive to his then-fledgling movement to assist victims of the conflict. What had been a small social outreach organization based in Sadr's home in the Shiite holy city of Najaf was expanded to meet the massive humanitarian needs of Shiites in Baghdad.

Sadr aides say their support comes primarily from donations by wealthy Iraqi Shiites.

The organization provides 250,000 Iraqi dinars — about \$200 — to family members of people wounded in the fighting and double that amount if the victim is killed.

Sadr is also one of the main providers of emergency food assistance in Iraq.

Every month, the organization distributes rations of rice, cooking oil, sugar, tea and other staples — much of it provided by the nonprofit Iraqi Red Crescent Society — to 10,000 of Sadr City's poorest families.

Sadr representatives also visit injured people in hospitals and send high-ranking delegates, such as parliament members, to funerals — as they did for Ateya, who died in a U.S. airstrike on April 29.

According to relatives, Ateya was at home on that afternoon when a deafening explosion rocked his neighborhood in Sadr City's hard-hit Sector 10.

A few doors away, an American missile had leveled a single-story home and trapped nine members of a family, including four children, under a pile of collapsing concrete.

Ateya and several other neighbors ran to pull the family from the rubble. Ten minutes later, residents said, a U.S. military helicopter appeared and fired another rocket at the site. The strike killed six more people, including Ateya.

U.S. military officials had no information about such an attack and said that they don't target civilians. The family's account, however, was supported by three residents.

After Ateya was buried, his parents moved to a house in a safer neighborhood outside the slum, family members said. It wouldn't have been possible without the gift from Sadr.

"The help from Sayyid Muqtada is spiritual help," said Ateya's cousin, Bashir al Hamidaud, 32, using the Muslim honorific that identifies Sadr as a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

"It's not about the money. It's about the feeling that someone is beside you in a time of sadness and difficulty."

The Iraqi government has pledged \$100 million to the damaged slum, which has sustained more than six weeks of intense fighting, but U.S. and Iraqi officials say none of that has been spent.

The U.S. military has spent \$2 million in aid projects, including medical supplies, food and other humanitarian aid.

Sadr aides like to boast that Iraqi charity groups rely on Sadr's extensive network of humanitarian agents — including more than 300 in Sadr City — to distribute food and other aid.

On a recent afternoon, Jabri juggled several phone calls from aid groups and a meeting with a top official from Mercy Hands, a leading Iraqi charity.

"We know everything about the Shiite areas," Jabri said. "We know in which sector people need things. The other agencies say, 'We'll provide you with everything.' They depend on us."

MORE:

Sadr City Citizens Tell Iraqi Collaborator Troops To Fuck Off

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd), who sent this in.]

May 8, 2008 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces, after more than of 40 days of intense fighting, on Thursday told residents to evacuate their homes in the northeast Shiite slum of Sadr City and to move to temporary shelters on two soccer fields.

Right now the fields are empty, and families have not come.

Um Mohammed, 48, ignored the Iraqi soldiers calling over loudspeakers for residents to leave their homes on Thursday. Earlier this week the Iraqi army dropped fliers around her home that asked residents to turn over Mahdi Army militiamen and cooperate with the government.

"The residents here are laughing at the government," she said. "Their demands are very strange. Either hand over our sons or leave our houses to live in small tents."

Um Mohammed will stay in her home, she said, even though her neighborhood is beset by gunbattles and sporadic airstrikes.

"We refuse to leave," she said. "Our death will be inside our homes."

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Winter Soldier II Investigation



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: May 18, 2008
Subject: Winter Soldier II Investigation

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)

**“If ‘Battle For Haditha’ Is The Closest
Thing To ‘Paths Of Glory’
Or ‘Full Metal Jacket’ That The Iraq
War Has Yet Produced, It's Because It
Doesn't Try To Explain Anything”**

[Film Review]

May 8, 2008 Film review by Andrew O'Hehir, Salon.com

After the shooting is over in Haditha, a Marine corporal named Ramirez takes a few seconds' break behind a Humvee to vomit copiously on the unpaved road where his unit has just been ambushed by an "improvised explosive device" (IED), or homemade bomb.

He comes back out into the roadway, where another Marine seems briefly worried about him. "You OK, Ramirez?" he asks.

"I'm good," says Ramirez, a handsome Latino kid with almost feminine eyes and a fragile, uncertain charisma. He's got his profane, angry game face back on. His Marine face.

His comrade nods appreciatively. "You look good."

Everything about this momentary scene -- the nausea and puking, the nervous macho camaraderie that can't quite mask fear, the sense that these guys aren't talking about what they need to talk about, but can't possibly talk about -- is utterly convincing.

The film they're in looks and feels like a documentary, and was directed by Nick Broomfield, who's known for making such sensation-seeking documentaries as "Kurt and Courtney" and "Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer."

But it's a narrative feature called "Battle for Haditha," which was largely improvised, cast with ex-Marines and Iraqi refugees and shot in Jordan. It might just be the movie this war has been waiting for.

I know, I know; we've been down this road before. Odds are excellent that hardly anyone in America wants to pay money to see this film.

When you think about it, why would they?

Most Americans are heartily sick of the Iraq war and all its sordid events, and even the minority of our fellow citizens who still support the Iraq war don't want to know much about it.

Moreover, "Battle for Haditha" is about the most notorious of the alleged war crimes committed by U.S. forces in Iraq.

On Nov. 19, 2005, after a roadside bomb attack that killed one Marine and severely injured several others, members of a Marine convoy apparently ran amok in the Iraqi city of Haditha, barging into several houses and killing 24 unarmed civilians, among them seven children ages 1 to 14.

Broomfield fictionalizes this event in the most devastating way possible, as a natural consequence of war, a massacre conducted not by Satanic imperialists or

desensitized video-game robots but by ordinary young men in a dreadful situation.

In fact, "Battle for Haditha" is a relentlessly exciting war film, unafflicted by moralism or finger-pointing, that leaves all the judgment to us.

Which only makes it harder to bear.

Cpl. Ramirez (played magnificently by Elliot Ruiz, himself a former Marine corporal who was badly injured in Tikrit) is not the only protagonist in the film, but for American viewers he is unquestionably the focal point.

He's an immensely likable hothead, a little wet behind the ears but fiercely loyal to the men under him. In an ordinary war movie, he'd be either the guy who gets tragically killed or the one who learns painful lessons and comes home as a sobered-up grown man.

In this movie, he's a guy who barely notices crossing the line that separates soldier from murderer.

You can put the blame lots of other places, as Broomfield's film makes clear -- the political and military machine that sent him there, the connivance of his superiors, the ruthlessness of "standard operating procedure" in Iraq and the nature of counterinsurgency warfare -- but this sympathetic, attractive young man commits unforgivable crimes.

We meet another likable character named Ahmad (Falah Abraheem Flayeh), as a burly, middle-aged pedestrian in the streets of Haditha, who goes home after seeing a body on the ground and tells his wife, "Those al-Qaida idiots just shot the English teacher."

But Ahmad has mouths to feed, no means of legal employment and his own injured masculine pride to deal with; he was an Iraqi soldier when the U.S. occupiers disbanded Saddam Hussein's defeated military. As we gradually discover, he works for those al-Qaida idiots, even though he thinks their religious and moral crusade is bullshit, and he will detonate the IED as the Marine convoy passes.

Ahmad is left horrified by the consequences of his actions, and you can't avoid reflecting that in an alternative history of recent years, he and Ramirez could have ended up working together on rebuilding Iraq. His contacts among the Islamic militants are presented as narrow-minded boobs on one hand or shrewd tactical opportunists on the other. Some are obsessed with driving away alcohol merchants, but others see the Marines' debacle in Haditha less as a human tragedy than as a golden opportunity to win the populace to their side. As one imam notes contentedly near the end of the film, "The United States has lost the battle for Haditha."

When Ahmad's and Ramirez's destinies collide, the collateral damage will fall heavily on a large, extended family that lives in several interlocking houses on a ridge overlooking the main road through Haditha.

A boy has recently been born, and the family has gathered, infants to great-grandparents, to celebrate his ritual circumcision. A beautiful young couple, Hiba

(Yasmine Hanani) and Rashied (Duraïd A. Ghaïeb), sneak off for private liaisons, dreaming of escaping the small-town Muslim Puritanism of Haditha for life in Cairo, Egypt; Damascus, Syria; or the West. Some family members have noticed men burying a bomb by the roadside; they don't support the insurgents, especially, but they know better than to get involved in these things.

Before the movie is over, most of them will be dead.

No doubt there will be complaints from various quarters about "Battle for Haditha."

Some people may suggest that Broomfield is apologizing for the Marines' behavior by humanizing them, while others will say he is prejudging them unfairly.

But his film is based on extensive research; he sticks closely to the known circumstances of the Haditha incident, and his inventions, such as the character of Ahmad, are entirely plausible. Cpl. Ramirez is a composite character; the principal Marine who faces murder charges for the Haditha killings is named Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich. (Charges against various other enlisted men and officers have been dropped.)

With its documentary-style hand-held camerawork, clipped and oblique dialogue, and nervous-making death-metal soundtrack, "Battle for Haditha" builds tremendous tension with hardly any moments of exposition or self-conscious character building.

When the violence starts, it seems terrible but impersonal, deadly without being climactic or cathartic, an inevitable and natural occurrence for these men in this place. As the Marines ritualistically tell one another, they're doing exactly what they trained for.

Broomfield allows Ramirez only one brief scene of emotional release, and frankly it's a scene that should have ended up on the cutting-room floor. He doesn't need it. If "Battle for Haditha" is the closest thing to "Paths of Glory" or "Full Metal Jacket" that the Iraq war has yet produced, it's because it doesn't try to explain anything, because it captures the schizophrenic body language, glazed-over expressions and motherfucker-laden, hip-hop-era slang of the men who've been there doing the killing in your name and mine. To prove that war is inhuman, and that it drags every human life it touches down into filth, we don't need to hear Cpl. Ramirez deliver a monologue into his shaving mirror.

Losing his breakfast behind the Humvee is enough.

**“In 1966 I Realized That The ONLY
Way To Stop Vietnam Was For WE
The Lowly Jarheads And Grunts To
Take Our Fingers Off The Triggers
And Say NO”**

“The Military And The ‘Support The Troops’ Piss Ants In This Country Are The Very First Ones To Shove Us Into Killing”

From: Penumbra
To: cawi@yahoogroups.com
Sent: May 14, 2008
Subject: Re: GI Special 6E9: "Burn In Hell"

In 1966 I realized that the ONLY way to stop vietnam was for WE the lowly jarheads and grunts to take our fingers off the triggers and say NO.

I did and have been in trouble ever since!! LOL.

the military and the "support the troops" piss ants in this country are the very first ones to shove us into killing for their "peace and democracy" , and the last ones to defend or care for us after we finish doing their dirty work.

I am attaching something by a truly great Marine, and it's something every GI and Jarhead needs to read.

Last night I got a 3 hour going over by 3 supporters of this insane war, they now admit that "vietnam was a horrible, terrible thing" but here we are.....repeating the mistake of the past over, and over, and over again.

I now believe that moreso than demonstrations, we have to confront these true believers in person.....in small or large groups.....and keep challenging the false assumption, that war is good.....or that this one is winnable.

"support the troops, screw the veteran" is what they really need to say. In truth this country is not even supporting the front line much less those blown to pieces and laying in those damned hospitals.

bush sucks.

ATTACHED:

Quotes From Retired General Smedley Butler USMC:

War is just a racket.

A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers.

There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies, its "muscle men" to destroy enemies, its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to.

I spent thirty- three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General.

And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle-man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers.

In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it.

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914.

I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in.

I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street.

The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912.

I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916.

In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints.

The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents."

MORE:

The Plot To Seize The White House **“Praises Retired Marine General Smedley Butler For Exposing The Plot And Scattering The Conspirators”** **[Book Review]**

THE PLOT TO SEIZE THE WHITE HOUSE:

The Shocking True Story of the Conspiracy to Overthrow FDR.

By Jules Archer, Skyhorse Publishing, 2007, 256 pages; \$15

Review by JOE ALLEN, International Socialist Review May-June 2008

WAS THERE a plot by leading American businessmen to overthrow the U.S. government in the early days of Franklin Roosevelt’s presidency and to establish a fascist dictatorship?

Jules Archer, in his recently republished book, *The Plot to Seize the White House*, answers with an emphatic yes and praises retired Marine General Smedley Butler for exposing the plot and scattering the conspirators.

The “Business Plot” or “Wall Street Plot” is absent from public memory and has been largely ignored by historians of the New Deal or scoffed at by the likes of New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who called it a “cocktail putsch,” despite a congressional investigation that confirmed the existence of the conspiracy.

Why is this?

To a large degree, the answer lies with how one views Smedley Butler, one of the most controversial military figures in American history, who was labeled a crank by the political establishment for his outspoken antiwar and pro-veteran views in the early 1930s.

Archer divides his book roughly into two sections, the first devoted to Butler’s military career and his forced retirement from the Marine Corps, and the plot and how it was exposed.

The historical amnesia concerning the “Business Plot” also lies with the effort in the years following the Second World War to whitewash the support that fascism had among “respectable” people (the rich and their cronies) in the U.S. during the 1930s.

In the four years following the stock market crash of 1929, the U.S. experienced the greatest economic and political crisis in its modern history. By 1933, nearly one-third of

the American workforce was unemployed, another third was underemployed, and millions roamed the country homeless.

The big political question was: “Would the U.S. go ‘communist’ (Stalin’s Russia) or fascist (Mussolini’s Italy, and soon Germany under Hitler)?”

Some leaders of the veterans’ organization the American Legion, industrialists like Henry Ford, popular “heroes” like aviator Charles Lindberg and countless businessmen saw fascism or aspects of fascism as a solution to their problems.

Most of these people were also intensely hostile to Franklin Roosevelt’s election to the presidency in 1932. This is the general background to the plot.

Who were the plotters?

Archer relies heavily on Butler’s 1934 testimony before the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, popularly known as the McCormack-Dickstein Committee (predecessor to the notorious HUAC), named after its chairs, representatives John McCormack (Democrat from Massachusetts), the future speaker of the House, and Morris Dickstein (Democrat from New York), a future justice on the New York State Supreme Court.

Butler pointed to Jerry MacGuire, the former leader of the American Legion in Connecticut and an employee of a Wall Street securities firm, who approached him in the summer of 1933 and throughout that fall about raising an army of military veterans to topple Roosevelt’s presidency.

When pressed by Butler, MacGuire claimed that tens of millions of dollars were available for this adventure, and that he was acting on behalf of other Wall Street magnates such as Colonel Grayson Murphy, who underwrote the founding of the American Legion, and Robert S. Clark, a wealthy banker who inherited a large fortune from a founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Butler also testified that the recently formed American Liberty League, which represented a large array of anti-New Deal corporate interests, from the DuPont family to Standard Oil, was the primary means of funding the plot.

Documents and letters subpoenaed by the McCormack-Dickstein Committee revealed that MacGuire traveled to Europe to study the fascist movements and the role that veterans played in the fighting organizations that brought them to power. MacGuire believed that veterans would also be central to creating a fascist USA.

That is why they approached Smedley Butler, which also reveals the amateurish quality to the plotter’s conspiracy.

Butler is not a name that is familiar to most Americans, but to military historians and antiwar activists he is an extremely important historical figure.

Major General Smedley Butler was one of the key figures in turning the U.S. Marines nearly a century ago into the military force that it is today.

Yet after he retired, he renounced a large part of his military career in the classic antiwar tract *War Is a Racket*, which described his role as a marine as being a “high-class muscle- man for Wall Street.”

Military historians embrace the former part of Butler’s life, while antiwar activists embrace the latter.

Butler was essentially forced to retire from the Marine Corps in 1931 after he publicly denounced Benito Mussolini.

He was arrested and threatened with court-martial by President Herbert Hoover for “conduct unbecoming an officer.”

Soon after he retired from the marines, he began campaigning on behalf of veterans — focusing on a demand to pay them an early bonus for their military service in the First World War.

Uniformed soldiers, led by General Douglas MacArthur and his aide Dwight Eisenhower, attacked the famous Bonus March in the summer of 1932 in Washington.

This enraged Butler, and he spoke out more for veterans and against what we would call today the military-industrial complex, which got rich off the war while its veterans were starving.

Butler was very popular among vets for the same reasons that would make him oppose fascism, but Wall Street plotters didn’t seem to notice.

After Butler’s testimony before Congress in late 1934, the conspirators all denied Butler’s accusations or made themselves unavailable for testimony.

The following February, the McCormack-Dickstein Committee issued its report declaring, “Your committee was able to verify all the pertinent statements made by General Butler.”

No prosecutions followed.

Why?

Archer writes:

As children all of us were taught about the treason of Aaron Burr and Benedict Arnold, whose betrayals were safely cobwebbed by the distant past.

But school texts that deal with the New Deal are uniquely silent about the powerful Americans who plotted to seize the White House with a private army....

There is strong evidence to suggest that the conspirators may have been too important politically, socially, and economically to be brought to justice after their scheme had been exposed.

This is not a complete answer—it may also be true that Roosevelt wanted to make peace with such powerful forces.

Butler also seems to have helped Roosevelt enormously by stopping the conspiracy in its earliest stages of development.

Archer's book is a fascinating discussion of a deliberately ignored incident, but it suffers from being narrowly focused.

It would be a stronger book if it put the "Business Plot" in the wider context of the political battles of the whole decade.

Read it with other histories of the period.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Welcome To The Occupied USA:

Vet Reporter Gets Police State Interrogation By Scum At DC Airport: WHAT STORY ARE YOU COVERING? WHO DO YOU WRITE FOR? WHAT TYPE OF THINGS DO YOU WRITE ABOUT? WHAT TYPE OF POLITICS DO YOU COVER?

When our investigations take us beyond the Washington Beltway, it is not within Chertoff's purview to find out details about the purpose of the trip, even though it may shed an unwelcome light on his network of Mossad operatives and Russian-Israeli gangsters and scam artists who are now running rampant in these United States of America.

May 14, 2008 Wayne Madsen, Online Journal [Excerpts]

In Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff's world of an "Israelized" America, the terms SPOT (Screening Passengers by Observation Technique) and BDO (Behavior Detection Officer) are the new acronyms of Stasi-like control of the American citizenry by a government that treats anyone as a suspicious person in the same manner that Israel mistreats its own Arab citizens and Palestinians.

Sunday, this editor and his colleague faced the Chertoffian menace at Washington's Reagan National Airport while heading to the gate to board a flight to Houston.

It is now clear from a review of the events that unfolded that I was pre-selected for an intensive search and battery of questions even before arriving in line for the security screening. A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screener was overheard saying, "the guy with the beard." Since I was the only person in line who also had a beard, it was evident that a red flag had earlier been raised.

What followed, was worse than anything I had previously encountered while leaving Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, itself a revolting display of ingratitude to citizens of the country that bankrolls Israel, or the Israeli-run screening process at Amsterdam's Schipol Airport.

First, I was instructed to enter a glass isolation chamber and point out my belongings that were exiting the X-ray machine. Anyone with claustrophobia would really enjoy being placed in such a chamber and have to speak to the screener through small holes in the glass.

I was then led to an area where all my carry-on bags were emptied. I was also forced to empty my pockets of everything.

A bevy of screeners then proceeded to go through my wallet examining everything: cash, credit cards, VA medical benefits card, National Press Club card, voter's registration card, and driver's license.

Then came an examination of my press credentials and related IDs: Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) card, Society of Professional Journalists card, National Archives research card, Library of Congress card, three press credentials, and membership card in Association for Intelligence Officers (AFIO).

In a blatant violation of the First and Fourth Amendments, my reporter's notebooks, containing names of contacts in Houston and around the world were paged through by the screeners.

Another screener asked if I minded being probed in "certain private areas." He then asked if I'd like the examination to be conducted in private. I replied, "No, let everyone see this." He then proceeded to examine my groin area.

Then came the battery of questions.

1. Are you feeling okay?
2. Where are you going today?
3. How long will you be there?
4. Why are you going there?
- 5. What story are you covering?**
- 6. Who do you write for?**
- 7. When did you move to Washington?**
8. Where did you live before that?
9. What did you do for a living before?
- 10. Who was the most famous person you ever met?**
- 11. What was the most famous event you ever covered?**
- 12. What type of things do you write about?**
- 13. What type of politics do you cover?**
14. What is your place of birth?

My colleague, who had successfully passed through screening and was waiting for me, was then asked to step into the holding area so she "could see and hear what was going on."

It was a ruse.

She was also subjected to a full carry-on bag examination, frisking, and a series of personal questions:

1. Are you with him?
2. Where are you going?
3. What is the purpose of your visit?
- 4. What story are you investigating?**
- 5. How long were you in the US Air Force?**
- 6. Where were you stationed overseas?**
- 7. Why were you not overseas in the military?**
- 8. When are you returning?**
- 9. Who do you work for?**
- 10. What is an independent journalist?**
11. How long have you been working with him?
- 12. Do you find your job fulfilling?**
13. What is your place of birth?

After this Gestapo-like of questioning, I was told that a TSA screener was writing details in a notebook for the paperwork."

My colleague was told TSA was going to file an "incident report."

The nature of WMR's coverage is that our sources are our lifeblood and anything done to compromise them is a direct attack on the freedom of the press and our rights as journalists.

The notion of press freedom does not exist in Chertoff's worldview of police state tactics and total surveillance but his worldview is a distinctly un-American one, something that is more properly relegated to the history books of his ancestral Czarist Russia.

When our investigations take us beyond the Washington Beltway, it is not within Chertoff's purview to find out details about the purpose of the trip, even though it may shed an unwelcome light on his network of Mossad operatives and Russian-Israeli gangsters and scam artists who are now running rampant in these United States of America.

The antics at Washington Reagan National are not unique. Foreign journalists have been subjected to similar invasive screening either at US embassies when applying for the required journalist visas to visit the United States or at immigration screening at US entry points.

The corporate media will not report on these cases as they are part of the problem in allowing Chertoff and his American Gestapo to continue to turn the United States into one big West Bank-style checkpoint.

One other note.

This editor visited the USSR and draconian nations such as Paul Kagame's Rwanda, Yoweri Museveni's Uganda, Hun Sen's Cambodia, the former military junta's Thailand, surveillance society Singapore, and Muslim monarchy Brunei Darussalam.

Nothing compares to what occurred at Washington National Airport.

"Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff met today (2/8/07) with Minister Avi Dichter, Israeli Minister of Public Security, to sign a Memorandum of Mutual Understanding to enhance collaboration in homeland security matters. Both agreed to the establishment of a Steering Committee to ensure the goals of the Memorandum are achieved."

Note that this Dichter character has officially ordered political assassinations, and is wanted in England for war crimes.

People may not be aware of this, but there is a strain in Israeli politics which traces directly back to people who openly admired and sought to emulate the Italian Fascists.

That same political faction has representatives in the US in the person of the likes of Douglass Feith, and very likely Chertoff.

It is an acknowledge fact that the DHS has employed the services of former communists from both North Viet Nam and the former East German Stasi to craft its policies.

BLOODY MURDER!

These people must be stopped!

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