

GI SPECIAL 6E16:

Memorial Day

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: May 22, 2008 5:07 PM
Subject: Memorial Day by Dennis

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

Memorial Day

Depression is crashing down on the Soldier
from clouds in the air reflecting dead heroes
he can't seem to shake anything off
it has seeped into his body and brain
like hounds on the loose chasing enemies
inside himself that won't come out
that can hardly be seen except for Americans
who send him cards and packages that
he doesn't open anymore because he doesn't know
them or his family or himself or anybody anymore
as the dust flies behind his Humvee waiting
for their death, his death it doesn't
matter anymore, nothing is important
driving into his death he hopes because
he can't take it anymore he needs to be rescued
but helicopters never land
until it is too late everybody dead
except him or everybody is alive
except him as he screams in the air of the desert
but he is only screaming at himself
as the needle goes in and the doctor
tells him not to worry he will be with
his fellow Soldiers in no time, no time at all
but time has stopped there is no history
nothing in the future except for now and dead heroes

between nothingness and nothingness
between half life and half death
he no longer cares about going on living
for what, this ugly world is just evil
the way it takes people, squeezes happiness,
feelings of love out of them, leaving empty cartridges
on a highway in Baghdad motors running
full speed ahead and as he cries to God but God is dead
and the highway he has traveled is bloody
red and black, black and red
a game of dangerous
his family doesn't know him anymore
as he sits on the porch and stares with dead eyes
waiting for someone to give him a gun again.

ACTION REPORTS

Report From Outreach At Garden City, Long Island Marine Corps Reserve Center Pre-Deployment Muster:

**“Yeah, That’s My Mom, And My Mom
Is My Mom. She Does What She
Does To Help You Guys, Because
She Cares About All Of You!”**

**“I Get The Feeling Like The NCO’s And Immediate
Supervisors Were Concerned About Some Of
Them Bolting Or Just Plain Being Scared More
Than By Us Being There Handing Out Stuff”**



Elaine Brower holding sign. The Marine SGT said "Oh, we had that written on a wall in Fallujah last time I was there!"

From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project
To: The Military Project & GI Special
Sent: May 19, 2008
Subject: Report from Saturday Outreach at Garden City

On Saturday three of us from Staten Island traveled to the Garden City, Long Island Marine Corps Reserve Center, home of the 2/25 Battalion, my son's unit.

Over the course of the morning about 200+ marines and sailors arrived there, soon to be deployed to Iraq.

The Garden City location is the "Home Training Center" (HTC) for some military units from all over the east coast area.

So we packed up our 1 gallon Ziploc bags with literature to give to the deploying troops.

We had enclosed the Military Project's "Why We Are Here" statement; the GI Rights pamphlet; the March 2008 issue of "Traveling Soldier", home baked brownies and cookies, and "Sir, No Sir! DVD's.

The three of us arrived at the main entrance of the building at around 9 AM. Since the main gate was open, we decided to take the car inside and park it there.

Bravely we approached the main sentry gate, where it was buzzing with marines in desert cammies and sidearms, with extra rounds!

I went up to the window and asked if we could distribute the literature that I had handed over to the Sgt. on duty so he could look at it.

I told him it was information for the military members, and he said “OK, you could stand right over there.”

So we did, about 20 ft. from the sentry. Pretty neat, but we were hoping he wouldn't take the time to open the bag and start reading everything inside.

Well, that didn't last long, although we did hand out about 4 packets, before we were told we couldn't stand there because there was a statement about “opposing the war in Iraq.”

Funny how words matter.

With that I asked where we could stand, and the Staff Sgt. In charge walked over and said “you could stand by the main gate, on the sidewalk.” So we headed out there, and handed out a few more packets to very disgruntled marines. Not a real happy crew that morning.

As we were standing there, another Sgt. wandered in our direction and walked up to us asking what we were doing. I had a sign with a slogan that my son told me his Gunny had used all the time, “The Military is at War, while America is at the Mall”.

This Sgt. grilled me as to who I was and why we were there. I told him what our purpose was, and that my son, Sgt. James Brower, was coming here shortly and would be deployed for his third tour soon.

He didn't recognize the name, and looked a bit suspicious of me. But then he read the poster with the slogan I had printed, and he said “Oh, we had that written on a wall in Fallujah last time I was there!” He smiled and said “OK, have a nice day,” and left.

About 20 minutes later a Garden City Police car approached us. I knew the drill, and was expecting this.

The officer drove directly up to me and asked me what we were doing, and then said “I really know why you are here, and I respect your right to be here...” he was actually very, very nice to us. He parked and got out of the car, took a lit package, and said that he was getting calls from inside the base, not from the command but from the marines themselves, who said we were “upsetting” the family members there to see their loved ones off for their deployment.

I told him my son was coming shortly, and I would say goodbye to him also, and this is how I felt about his deployment, and that maybe some of those military families shared our feelings, and would welcome our literature.

He agreed, and really tried to explain the “ordinances” about standing on the sidewalk, walking into the street, etc., etc., and didn't want to have to arrest us, really! **[Cop lies: see what the law is, just after this article.]**

He said he wanted to go inside the gate and speak with the marines, which he then did. We stayed there and kept handing out as much literature as we could, although the traffic was light.

We could see, about 100 yards away, 6 marines, with sidearms and extra ammo, speaking directly with this officer. Hands were moving, heads were moving, and the conversation was very intense from the looks of it.

We just waited. Interestingly, we got a few honks by drivers, responding to the sign I had printed.

The officer returned, as I had expected, and said that the marines were upset. They really didn't want us standing there, and even though we had a right to be there, he said he didn't want trouble. I jokingly said "I guess maybe they will get a sniper on the roof if we keep standing here."

He grinned and said he really respected what we were doing, but just to keep everyone "happy" maybe we could stand on the median by the traffic light, or across the street on the grass. **[Or maybe, still grinning, the happy, friendly cop says "How about North Dakota? Or anywhere else you can't do what you came to do?"]**

So we moved across the street, since we didn't think getting shot at was in our plan that morning. We had our literature and signs and got some honks.

With that my son drove up to me and stopped right in the middle of traffic, with the officer, and now a newly arrived Sgt. from Garden City Police watching us. My son said, "Hey, ma, I need money." I told him to go behind us where there was a small parking lot. He went in the wrong entrance and drove up behind me, where the Sgt. got out of his SUV and sauntered over to scold me and him about blocking traffic and turning in the wrong way.

As my son was asking me again about how much money I had, because he had NONE, the Sgt. saw his Veteran plates and USMC window sticker.

Amazing how things changed in an instant. He said "I was just about to tell you that you were blocking traffic and made a wrong turn, but then I realized who you were," he said both to me and my son. I told him he was asking for money and I had to chase him from the street, so I wouldn't get into anymore trouble! The Sgt. said "He must be your son if he is asking for money!"

I gave a lit bag to my son, as well as \$50, and he told me that "family day" was Tuesday, and then he would deploy next weekend, "Bye, ma!" And he drove off.

I guess the 2 officers saw the look on my face and decided it wasn't worth scolding me any longer. The SUV left, and the one officer drove up and said "I am leaving now, and I read the leaflets. Really good stuff in here, really, I mean it." I told him to watch the movie, and he said he would.

He said to all of us "Look, if you have any problems out here you call 911 and I will be right back. I want to protect you too." With that he left, and we stood for another 15

minutes on a little patch of grass, holding our signs. At least the sun was shining, so I looked on the bright side.

We handed out maybe 1 dozen lit packets, after making 125 of them the night before hoping to capture the marines on their way in. As we left, I really didn't feel all that well, nor did my comrades.

We did stir things up on the base, however. We realized that if the written word could cause that much distress and upset to a base full of marines and sailors, then we were on to something. Morale must be really low and they must be really worried.

The rest of my day was filled with despair over the outreach that was the worst I had ever done. But then about 9 PM that evening my son called.

The first thing he asked was "Did you get arrested?" I told him we left right after he went inside. He said he came back out looking for me but I wasn't there, so he assumed I got nailed!

I wasn't looking to get arrested that day, so we gave it up. **[Right move too. When stopping the police from stripping away citizens' rights established by law, witnesses are necessary, and advance preparation with lawyers and the ACLU: see article on legal rights just below.]**

He then told me that as soon as he got inside everyone he ran into asked him about me. And he saw the papers we handed out all over the main area.

They asked, "Was that your Mom? And why was she handing out these newsletters?"

He told them, "Yeah, that's my Mom, and my Mom is my Mom. She does what she does to help you guys, because she cares about all of you!"

Not such a bad morning after all.

"I Get The Feeling Like The NCO's And Immediate Supervisors Were Concerned About Some Of Them Bolting Or Just Plain Being Scared More Than By Us Being There Handing Out Stuff"

[This is as excerpt from a subsequent email 5.20 from Elaine Brower. It highlights how the NCOs ("middle management") were doing the complaining about the outreach, and what their worries might have been. T]

The cops specifically said it wasn't the "command" that was complaining, it was the marines themselves because it was family day and they thought we might be upsetting them. Plus we were upsetting the marines who saw us out front, I don't know how many.

Then the guys I watched pacing with the police were not command types, they were middle management.

[T]hey may have received orders from the top, but it didn't appear that way to me. I think it would have been a much different scenario.

It looked more like the Sgt. and Staff Sgts. were discussing amongst themselves what to do with us, maybe as to not have us seen by the command, and maybe because the newly minted marines, as well as the seasoned vets, were not happy to be deployed.

I asked my son today when he called, and he said that there were a lot of new guys leaving and they were scared.

I get the feeling like the NCO's and immediate supervisors were concerned about some of them bolting or just plain being scared more than by us being there handing out stuff.



Garden City L. Island Marine Reserve Center welcomes you to Iraq. Have a nice day.

MORE:

**IF YOU WANT TO DISTRIBUTE
HANDBILLS ON A PUBLIC SIDEWALK
OR IN A PUBLIC PARK IN NEW YORK
CITY YOU DO NOT NEED ANY PERMIT**

New Yorkers have the right to engage in peaceful protest activity on public sidewalks, in public parks, and on public streets in New York City.

This includes the right to distribute handbills or leaflets; the right to hold press conferences, demonstrations, and rallies; and the right to march on public sidewalks and in public streets.

Do I Need A Permit?

It depends on what you want to do.

If you want to distribute handbills on a public sidewalk or in a public park, have a demonstration, rally, or press conference on a public sidewalk, or march on a public sidewalk and you do not intend to use amplified sound, you do not need any permit.

If you want to use amplified sound on public property, want to have an event with more than 20 people in a New York City park, or wish to conduct a march in a public street, you will need a permit.

If I want to distribute handbills; have a demonstration, rally, press conference; or march on a public sidewalk, what do I need to do?

Nothing but plan your event.

If you want, you can notify the Police Department, but that is not required.

In conducting your event, you cannot block pedestrian passage on a sidewalk, and thus should leave at least one-half of the sidewalk free for use.

You also cannot block building entrances.

Need help or more information?

Contact the NYCLU at

**New York Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad Street, 19th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10004
(212) 607-3300
(212) 607-3329 (fax)**

**MORE ACTION REPORTS
WANTED:
FROM YOU!**

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action or gives permission to be quoted by name.

**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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Bend Soldier Remembered As Someone 'You Couldn't Help But Love'



Cpl. Jessica A. Ellis

May 14, 2008 By Sheila G. Miller, The Bulletin

The Central Oregonian killed Sunday in Iraq was described by those who knew her as a friendly young woman who worked hard and always had a smile on her face.

Cpl. Jessica A. Ellis, 24, was killed Sunday when a vehicle she was riding in was hit by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad.

She was an Army health care specialist serving her second deployment in Iraq, assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). She is the second female Oregonian and fifth Central Oregonian killed since the war started in 2003.

Ellis graduated from Lakeview High School in 2002 and was a student at Central Oregon Community College in Bend for two years before enlisting in the Army in September 2004.

Bob Nash, the principal at Lakeview High School, was the vice principal when Ellis attended the school. "The thing that really stands out is how incredibly friendly she was," Nash said. "She was friends with everybody in the school." "The typical barriers that separate certain types of people did not have any impact on her. ... Whether they were a good student, a bad student, a top-notch athlete, she got on very well with everybody."

Ellis is survived by a brother, Cameron Ellis, and his wife, Irena, who live in San Francisco, and by a sister, Amanda Ellis, of Corvallis, said Judy Wing, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest's public affairs officer.

Both are with their parents now, Wing said, noting no date has yet been set for Ellis' memorial service.

In 2003, her parents moved to Baker City, where her father, Steve, works as the forest supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Her mother, Linda, works as a family nurse practitioner for Eastern Oregon Medical Associates.

Bobbie Steninger, who coached Ellis in track and field as well as cross country, said Ellis was a supportive team member. "You could always count on her," Steninger said. "Some people are good in a wide variety of ways, and she was the kind of person who always had a smile on her face." Ellis ran distance events for the high school and served as an inspiration for her teammates.

"She was just a marvelous young lady who worked very, very hard," Steninger said. "She was the kid you couldn't help but love."

Jan Rekow, whose daughter Corri was close friends with Ellis and who ran cross country with her, said Ellis was always polite and well-mannered, referring to her friends' parents as Mr. and Mrs. Rekow, and saying please and thank you.

"I remember a time when her dad commented on how she was a low-maintenance child," Rekow said. "She never gave her parents any trouble."

But she was adventurous and hardworking, too.

"She was a gutsy little gal. She was never afraid to try anything," Rekow said. "I remember a time when she was applying for a fire crew position, and every day I would see her running up and down the road to get in shape and get ready for fire season."

According to Nash, she was also a solid student. "She was a very motivated student who worked very hard," he said, his voice breaking. "She was a typical, bright cheerful kid. And it's a terrible thing."

From fall 2002 until spring 2004, Ellis studied at Central Oregon Community College, taking mostly general education classes but majoring in education. She didn't earn a degree.

Ellis entered the Army in September 2004, and was stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky., beginning in May 2005. She won numerous awards and decorations, including an Army Commendation Medal and medals for good conduct and terrorism service.

A health care specialist, Ellis was first deployed to Iraq in October 2005. She returned in September 2006 but was sent back to the region a year later, in October 2007. Ellis was in the midst of a 15-month deployment.

Army health care specialists provide basic and emergency medical treatment when an Army physician isn't available. Among their main duties is providing emergency medical treatment to casualties on the battlefield, although they also provide basic care by interviewing patients, taking their temperatures and preparing blood samples for the laboratory.

Rekow said her daughter Corri last spoke with Ellis while she was on leave from her first tour in Iraq.

“She indicated to Corri that she truly loved serving her country as a medic,” Rekow said. “She loved what she was doing.”

Linda Conroy, who taught Ellis to dance at the Lakeview School of Dance, said she was a hard worker.

Ellis and her sister, Amanda, took jazz, tap and ballet classes at the studio from the time they moved to Lakeview in 1997 until Ellis graduated from high school.

“She was a joy,” Conroy said. “She was always helping, and she was just part of the group, a team player.”

That’s one of the reasons Conroy wasn’t surprised to hear about Ellis’ service in the Army.

“She was always a person who liked to help people, so I would imagine that would be a field that she would take to liking. That would be a way she could help people.”

Town Grieves For Marine: ‘This One Hurt’



[Thanks to “Comrade Tribune,” Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

May 11, 2008 By Josh Jarman, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

CARROLL, Ohio -- Time stopped in this small village yesterday as residents turned out to honor the life and death of one of their own.

Lance Cpl. James F. Kimple, 21, was among four Marines killed May 2 by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Hundreds of friends, relatives and village residents attended Kimple’s funeral service at Bloom-Carroll Middle School.

The married father of three young children was based at Camp Pendleton in California and was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. He leaves behind his wife, Amber, and their two children, Drake J. and Maleah R. Kimple, all of Amanda, and his child Dominic J. Kimple of Carroll.

Downtown Carroll was nearly deserted during the funeral, with local businesses paying tribute to the fallen Marine on signs and window displays. Pictures of the men and

women from Carroll serving in the armed forces hang on the wall of Scoons Restaurant and Bar on Center Street.

Kimple's is the only one of the nine marked with a black ribbon. Outside, the sign reads "Welcome home Jimmy Kimple, be at peace."

Rows of motorcycles surrounding the school gym belonged to the Patriot Guard Riders and the Leathernecks Motorcycle Club. The two groups combined to bring more than 75 riders to serve as an honor guard in the funeral procession.

"A Marine is a Marine for life," said Mike Ream, 60, of Columbus, who led the Leathernecks' detail yesterday. "This kid we're burying today is younger than my children, but he's my brother."

Ream said the group would present embroidered and signed Marine Corps flags to the family in a separate ceremony after the funeral. The riders led the hearse to the Greenfield Township Cemetery, where Kimple was buried.

Bud Raver, 84, stood outside the school with his block-O hat held over his heart as the procession passed.

Raver, a Groveport resident who graduated from Carroll High School in 1942 and served in Europe in World War II, said losing a young man to war hits hard in such a tightknit community.

"It makes it seem like you're losing one of your family," Raver said.

Randy and Debra Swingle, whose family lives across from the school, agreed. Randy Swingle served in the Army for nine years, and both said their hearts go out to the children Kimple left behind.

"This one hurt," Randy Swingle said. "You get busy in your day-to-day life. You can almost forget we're fighting over there. This brought the war home."

Debra Swingle said she was just happy to see the town turn out for the funeral and support the family.

"I guess God needs good soldiers, too," she said.

Norwalk Marine Mourned

05/09/2008 By Ruby Gonzales, Staff Writer; Whittier Daily News

NORWALK - Miguel Angel Guzman talked about joining the military even while he was in high school.

About two months after graduating from John H. Glenn High School in 2004, the Norwalk resident joined the Marine Corps.

“His main thing was to go into the military,” said Rosa Maria Gonzalez, who was Guzman’s counselor in the Puente Program, which caters to college-bound students at Glenn High.

He wanted to join the Marines and told her about maybe being able to attend college while in the military.

On May 2, 21-year-old Cpl. Guzman was killed along with three other Marines when a roadside bomb exploded in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

The four Marines belonged to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force. The unit is based out of Camp Pendleton.

They were in a Humvee and passing by a road the evening of May 2, according to Lt. Ken Kunzee, public information officer for the First Marine Logistics Group at Camp Pendleton.

“They were performing combat operations related to logistics support. ... It was a normal mission,” he said.

Kunzee said if one looks at the jobs of the four Marines, they probably were traveling somewhere to repair a truck or heavy equipment.

Guzman was an organizational automotive mechanic while Lance Cpl. Casey L. Casanova of McComb, Miss., 22, was a field radio operator. Lance Cpl. James F. Kimple, 21, of Carroll, Ohio, was a maintenance management specialist and Sgt. Glen E. Martinez, 31, of Boulder, Colo., was an engineer equipment operator.

The Guzman family declined to be interviewed Friday. City officials said Guzman had a fiancée. She couldn’t be reached for comment.

News of Guzman’s death had already spread throughout the community. The city offered a lending hand if needed. At his former alma mater, an announcement was made Friday to staff and students.

“Obviously we’re devastated by the fact the young man was killed. We are ready, willing and able to help her (Guzman’s fiancée) and the family,” said Tony Ayala, spokesman for the city of Norwalk. “I can tell you that the entire community grieves this young man.”

He said the fiancée had called and spoken to the mayor.

At Glenn High, where Guzman played varsity soccer and tennis, he was remembered as generally well-behaved and friendly. “He was open to our suggestions on how to improve things,” said Bill Seals, one of the assistant principals at Glenn High. Seals didn’t know Guzman was in the Marines until he read a story about his death.

Gonzalez said she was “devastated” when she found out. She said Guzman and an older brother went through the Puente Program.

“He was kind of a quiet-type person but he participated. More of an observant type,” Gonzalez said.

One had to qualify for the Puente Program. The students fill out an application and are interviewed as well as their parents. One of the main highlights of the program is to take a trip visiting colleges in Northern California, Gonzalez said.

Since he joined the Marine Corps on Aug. 18, 2004, Guzman has earned the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

U.S. Air Force Launches Massive New Campaign Against Enemy Capital:

**“The Military Has Fired More Than
200 Hellfire Missiles In The
Capital, Compared With Just Six In
The Previous Three Months”**

**“They Are Occupiers And They Consider
Whoever Is In The City To Be An Enemy
To Them!” She Said. “They Came For
The Destruction Of The Country And
This Is What They Are Doing”**

**“They Were Killed Because Of The Cowardly
American Bombings,” The Banners Read**

“They are occupiers and they consider whoever is in the city to be an enemy to them!” she said. “They came for the destruction of the country and this is what they are doing.”

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War, who sent this in.]

May 23, 2008 By Ernesto Londoño and Amit R. Paley, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- From an Apache helicopter, Capt. Ben Katzenberger's battlefield resembles a vast mosaic of tiny brown boxes.

"The city looks like a bucket of Legos dumped out on the ground," the 26-year-old pilot said. "It's brown Legos, no color. It's really dense and hard to pick things out because everything looks the same."

In recent weeks, Katzenberger and other pilots have dramatically increased their use of helicopter-fired missiles against enemy fighters, often in densely populated areas.

Since late March, the military has fired more than 200 Hellfire missiles in the capital, compared with just six missiles fired in the previous three months.

On Wednesday, eight people, including two children, were killed when a U.S. helicopter opened fire on a group of Iraqis traveling to a U.S. detention center to greet a man who was being released from custody, Iraqi officials said.

Those civilians include people like Zahara Fadhil, a 10-year-old girl with a tiny frame and long brown hair. Relatives said she was wounded by a missile on April 20 at approximately 8 p.m. in Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City. The U.S. military said it fired a Hellfire missile in Zahara's neighborhood at that time, targeting men who were seen loading rockets into a sedan.

Her face drained of color and her legs scarred by shrapnel, Zahara spoke haltingly when asked what she thought of U.S. troops.

"They kill people," she said. Lying in bed, she gasped for air before continuing. "They should leave Iraq now."

Many residents described the recent military operations in Sadr City as indiscriminate attacks.

Just before the missile hit, Zahara was returning home from delivering food to neighbors. She was near the door when her grandmother yelled: "Get inside the house!"

As she began to move, the missile crashed into the house, throwing her behind a set of stairs.

One of Zahara's uncles, Dhia Rahi Shaie al-Koreishi, 34, a taxi driver, and her grandmother, Um Fadhil al-Koreishi, were killed by the blast.

"The heart of this family has been ripped out," said Alaa Rahi Shaie, 29, another uncle, who was stoic in describing the death of his brother. "This is his blood," he said, indicating red splotches in front of his home.

"And the remains of his head are over there."

He pointed at a large mound of dirt.

A group of young boys dug out the remains and then showed visitors a black bag filled with clumps of hair and scalp.

Family members and neighbors said they didn't see anyone in the area fire rockets. Two black funeral banners hung outside the battered home to honor the dead.

"They were killed because of the cowardly American bombings," the banners read.

Since the fighting intensified in eastern Baghdad this spring, the U.S. Army has kept six Apaches in the air around the clock.

Hassan Ali Kreidy, 54, a barber in Sadr City, felt the power of the Apaches' missiles on April 28 when one ravaged his shop and a handful of other businesses. The apparent target of a strike was a car parked in front, he said.

"What can you say? We are all helpless," said Ahmed Abdul Rahim, who owns a cellphone store that was also damaged. "What have we done to deserve this? Our stores are now in danger. None of us are safe here."

At the Martyr Sadr Hospital late last month, several patients said they were wounded in U.S. airstrikes.

Hussein Amame Kareem al-Obeidi, 37, a day laborer, lay with a bloody tube sticking out of his right nostril and two others draining fluid from his stomach. They were attached to sacks lying on a filthy floor. One was filled with urine, the other with blood.

He said he was at home on May 1 when a missile landed nearby, damaging nine homes. His mother, standing at his bedside, cursed the U.S. military.

"They are occupiers and they consider whoever is in the city to be an enemy to them!" she said.

"They came for the destruction of the country and this is what they are doing."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Farah; Nationality Not Announced

May 25 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & AFP

A U.S.-led coalition soldier was killed during an operation in the western Farah province, the coalition said in a statement. It did not provide any further information.

Another soldier was killed on Friday in the south when a wheel of a large truck he was working on fell on him.

Friends Recall U.S. Army Sgt. Isaac Palomarez As Smart, Witty



PALOMAREZ

May 14, 2008 By Douglas Crowl, Loveland Connection

Chris Griess never sensed fear in Isaac Palomarez before his friend was shipped back to Afghanistan as an infantry sergeant in the U.S. Army.

The two young men, both 2001 Loveland High School graduates, attended a Colorado Avalanche hockey game the last time they were together, just before Palomarez left for his second combat tour.

“He’d been there before,” Griess said. “It wasn’t routine — I don’t think it can be routine. But he wasn’t scared to go back. He was kind of excited. It’s what he loved to do.”

Palomarez, 26, was killed early Friday (Thursday Colorado time) in the Kapisa Province of Afghanistan, when his patrol encountered an improvised explosive device and came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire, according to a U.S. Defense Department release.

Palomarez was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Griess and fellow high school buddies Brett Sandford and Chip Gray learned of their friend's death Friday and got together Saturday in Loveland to share their memories.

"I really don't even know where to start," Sandford said Sunday. "He knew me better than anyone that I know. He really was my best friend."

People found Palomarez approachable, Sandford said. He was a "straight shooter" usually ready with a witty comment at the right time.

"He was the best smack-talker I ever met. He was just quick on his feet like that," Sandford said.

Though smaller in stature, Palomarez played offensive tackle for the 2000 Loveland High School football state champion team, which reflected a competitive spirit. Then offensive line coach Marty Gocken said Palomarez was a hard-working player who never missed an assignment. "He was a very intelligent kid," Gocken said. "He was very team oriented."

After high school, Palomarez and his friends joined recreation hockey leagues in Fort Collins. "It's one of those leagues that was just for fun, but if we were down, he would get really fired up about it," Sandford said.

He figured that having three older brothers probably contributed to Palomarez's competitive, scrappy attitude.

Palomarez was bright in math and an avid reader who took a few classes at Colorado State University. But he never fully knew what he wanted to study, Sandford recalled.

Despite leaving college, Griess and Sandford considered Palomarez one of smartest people they knew.

"He would pull out his engineering homework when we were watching Monday Night Football and get it done in a quarter — and get it right," Sandford said.

That's one reason why when Palomarez joined the military in 2004, Griess and Sandford were surprised.

"But after he told me about it, I realized it was something he wanted to do for a while. He said it was a fit for him," Griess said.

Palomarez's parents, Loveland residents Elma and Candido Palomarez, told Loveland Connection in an interview Saturday how proud they were of their son.

Candido Palomarez said Sunday he expects his son's body to be flown home in a few days and a memorial service would be scheduled for early next week.

"He was just a great guy," Griess said. "He was one of the best friends I could ever have. He's going to be missed

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.



U.S. Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit under fire near the town of Garmser, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, May 4, 2008. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

4 Canadian Soldiers Wounded In Kandahar City

May 25, 2008 CBC News & By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

Four Canadian soldiers were wounded Saturday in a bomb attack on a military convoy in Kandahar City, Afghan officials said.

The soldiers were taken by helicopter to Kandahar Airfield for treatment. Officials told CBC News they were in fair condition and were expected to resume their duties soon.

The car containing the bomb was parked by the side of the road, waiting for the convoy to pass, Afghan officials said.

NATO soldiers cordoned off the site of the attack, which happened near the house of the ousted Taliban's leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, currently used as a base for the alliance.

The Canadian troops were travelling in armoured vehicles at the time of the explosion.

One military vehicle appeared to be damaged, according to an AP reporter at the scene of the attack.

TROOP NEWS



No Sanctuary: Canada Kicking Out War Resisters

May 21 (AFP) & Courage to Resist

Canada is set to deport in June the first of possibly hundreds of American soldiers who sought asylum to avoid military duty in Iraq, a group backing the US deserters said Wednesday.

Corey Glass, 25, came to Canada in August 2006 after serving in Iraq as a military intelligence sergeant.

Authorities told him on Wednesday that his application to stay in Canada was rejected and he would be deported in early June, a spokeswoman for the War Resisters Support Campaign told AFP.

According to the group, several hundred Iraq War resisters are currently in Canada, many of them living underground. Glass would be the first of them to be deported, it said.

“This goes against Canada’s tradition of welcoming Americans who disagree with policies like slavery and the Vietnam War,” said Lee Zaslofsky, a War Resisters Support Campaign coordinator.

“Corey Glass would be the first Iraq War resister to be deported from Canada and he would face imprisonment and severe penalties in the US,” he said. A spokeswoman for the War Resisters said Glass would face a court-martial and a possible five-year prison term for desertion.

Canada’s Immigration and Refugee Board has said in a decision supported last year by the federal court that US asylum seekers are not conventional refugees under UN High Commissioner for Refugees rules, nor in need of protection.

Accordingly, Glass’s refugee claim was denied.

“Many had hoped that the Canadian government might find this avenue as a face-saving measure that would allow some war resisters to remain in Canada, but not as refugees,” said Gerry Condon, Project Safe Haven.

Gerry Condon concluded, “The prognosis is that the status of U.S. war resisters in Canada will become more difficult. AWOL GI’s will still be able to enter Canada as visitors and apply for refugee status. Because each case is reviewed individually, this will gain them a de facto sanctuary, however temporary.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

May 23 (Reuters) & May 24, 2008 By LEE KEATH, MMC & Reuters & May 25 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb exploded in Falluja when Iraqi police tried to safely dispose of it, the U.S. military said. The blast wounded two policemen.

In Mosul on Saturday, a roadside bomb in the city’s Sumer neighborhood hit an Iraqi army patrol, destroying a vehicle and killing four soldiers, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Near Baqouba -- where a U.S. offensive last year targeted al-Qaida in Iraq – insurgents killed a member of the local Awakening Council, a U.S.-backed group. The attack occurred in the village of Had, north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a patrol of U.S.-allied fighters near a mosque in northern Baghdad, killing one of the so-called Awakening Council members and wounding three others, a police official said.

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers when it exploded near their vehicle in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

Mosul Mayor Zuheir al-Aaraaji said a roadside bomb wounded two guards in the convoy he was traveling in.

A car bomb blew up near the convoy of the Babil provincial governor in Yarmouk district in western Baghdad, wounding seven guards, police said.

Insurgents attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint with rocket-propelled grenades in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Two were wounded.

A roadside bomb wounded five policemen when it exploded near a police patrol in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it struck a police patrol near the Turkish embassy in Waziriya district, northern Baghdad, police said. Another police source said one person was killed.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins**

“The Corporate Rich Lie. The Working Class Die”



Winter Soldier II Investigation

From: Mike Hastie
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: May 19, 2008 12:35 AM
Subject: Winter Soldier II Investigation

**The only truth that George Bush knows,
is the ground-up truth. Lying has always
been the most powerful weapon in war.
The corporate rich lie.
The working class die.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran**

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)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the USA searches the body of an Iraqi citizen on the edge of Baghdad's neighbourhood of Shulla, May 20, 2008. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

[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!

**U.S. Military's Dogs "Have More Rights Than Iraqi Citizens"
"This Is Our Country, This Is Our Land, And We Are The People Of This Land," She Said. "But The Dogs Are Treated Better Than Us"**

May 23, 2008 By Raviya H. Ismail, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq: More than four dozen teams are working in the province with dogs that are trained to attack and subdue detainees and track insurgents. Nowadays, the dogs are used primarily to detect explosives, either on or off a leash and as much as 500 feet from their handlers.

Some Iraqis, however, resent the high priority the military gives its dogs.

"Iraqi citizens have lost all their rights, but dogs have rights?" said Wafa Dawood, who's searched whenever she enters Baghdad's Green Zone, the fortified space where U.S. and Iraqi officials live and work.

Nasreen Rahman said that having dogs search her is humiliating. "It's like I'm a terrorist or I've done something wrong," she said.

She, too, found irony in the fact that the military's dogs have more rights than Iraqi citizens.

"This is our country, this is our land, and we are the people of this land," she said. "But the dogs are treated better than us."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Nazi Germany:
May 24, 1934:**

Hitler’s Secret Police “Began Helping Zionist Organizations Set Up Agricultural Training Centers, So That Jews Would Know How To Farm When They Reached Palestine”

Heydrich, a blond man with a high forehead and long, spidery fingers, began helping Zionist organizations set up agricultural training centers, so that Jews would know how to farm when they reached Palestine.

From: Human Smoke; The Beginnings of World War II, By Nicholson Baker, Simon & Schuster; New York 2008

REINHARD HEYDRICH, head of the intelligence branch of the German secret police, read a position paper prepared for him concerning Jewish policy.

It was May 24, 1934.

“The aim of Jewish policy must be the emigration of all Jews,” the paper said. Jewish “assimilationists”—those who wanted to live their lives as Germans within Germany—should be discouraged; while Zionists—those who wanted to emigrate to Palestine—should be encouraged, according to the memo.

“It is the aim of the State Police to support Zionism and its emigration policy as fully as possible”:

Every authority concerned should, in particular, concentrate their efforts in recognizing the Zionist organizations and in supporting their training and emigration endeavors; at the same time the activities of German-Jewish groups should be restricted in order to force them to abandon the idea of remaining in Germany.

In this way, Germany would eventually become a country “without a future for the Jews.”

Heydrich, a blond man with a high forehead and long, spidery fingers, began helping Zionist organizations set up agricultural training centers, so that Jews would know how to farm when they reached Palestine.

MORE:

“A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988” Do You Really Want To Be The New Gestapo?

The New Wehrmacht? The New SA And SS?

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes:]

Something very different: a poem.

Have you heard of Erich Fried who is often referred to as the greatest modern, Jewish, poet?

He was born in Vienna in 1921 and escaped to England, with his mother, after his father was tortured to death by the Gestapo, in 1938.

Because of his experiences with racism and Fascism he became involved in the Palestinian cause.

He was a leader in the fight against both Fascism and Zionism.

I'm sending a copy of his best poem, in my opinion. It was first published in 1988 just before he died.

Please take the time to read it. I think it's wonderful.

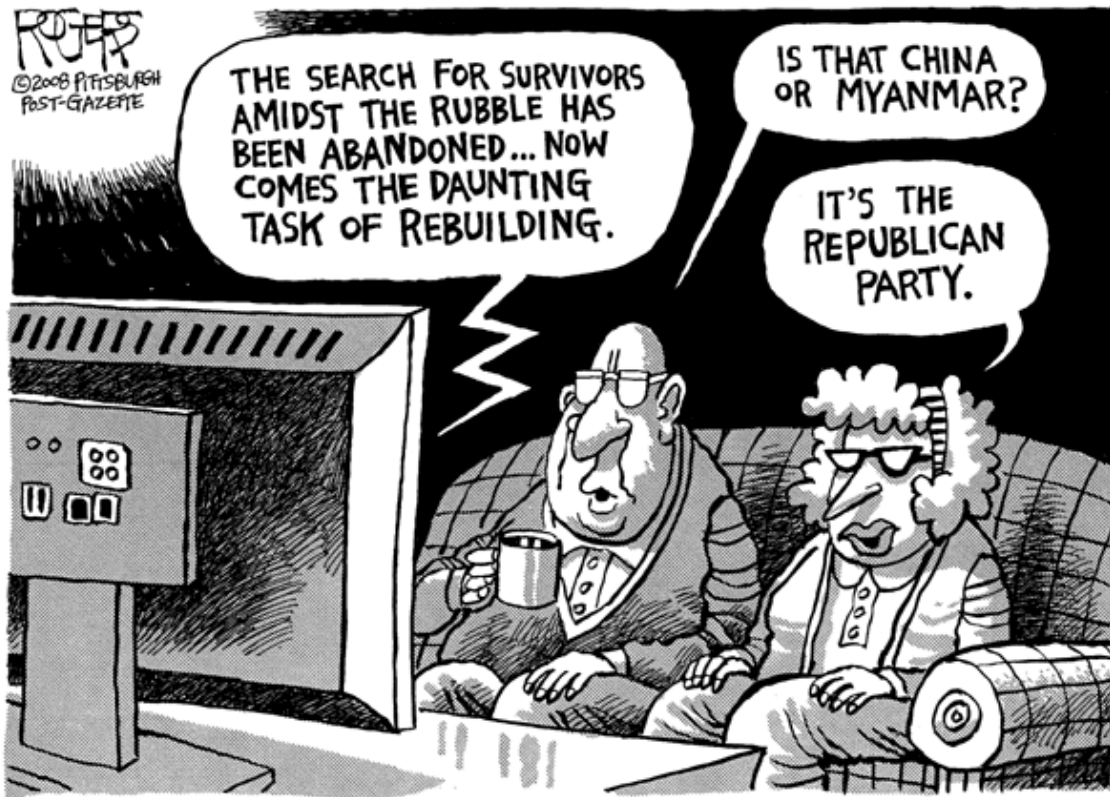
A Jew to Zionist Fighters, 1988

**What do you actually want?
Do you really want to outdo
those who trod you down
a generation ago
into your own blood
and into your own excrement
Do you want to pass on the old torture
to others now
in all its bloody and dirty detail
with all the brutal delight of torturers
as suffered by your fathers?
Do you really want to be the new Gestapo
the new Wehrmacht
the new SA and SS
and turn the Palestinians
into the new Jews?
Well then I too want,
having fifty years ago
myself been tormented for being a Jewboy
by your tormentors,
to be a new Jew with these new Jews**

you are making of the Palestinians
And I want to help lead them as a free people
into their own land of Palestine
from whence you have driven them or in which you plague them
you apprentices of the Swastika
you fools and changelings of history
whose Star of David on your flags
turns ever quicker
into that damned symbol with its four feet
that you just do not want to see
but whose path you are following today

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Bush Launches Particularly Filthy Lie About Obama:

May 21, 2008 By Sreeram Chaulia, Asia Times Online [Excerpts]

NEW YORK - As Senator Barack Obama's astonishing journey from underdog to favorite climaxes in the presidential primaries for the Democratic Party in the United States, his Republican opponents are increasingly aiming fire at his foreign policy.

Bush's innuendo against Obama as an "appeaser" who would negotiate with "terrorists and radicals" has suddenly brought foreign policy issues to the center stage of the presidential election race.

Comment: T

Just another Bush lie.

Obama has made it clear as day that he's for slaughtering Iraqis, Iranians, Palestinians, and anybody else who resists the Empire.

How dare Bush imply otherwise?

Obama is loyal to the people he gets his money from. They are very rich. They are quite horrified at the mess Bush made of their Empire, including near bankruptcy.

Never mind, drive on.

People doing face to face outreach to support resistance among active duty, Guard, Reserves are building our future, and doing something productive with their time.

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

Received:

Paying For Education

From: JM
To: GI Special
Sent: May 25, 2008
Subject: Paying for education- comment

You should be advocating free education as exists in the UK and used to exist in Iraq under Saddam. Having to pay for an education creates a class system and deprives a country of top class brains.

In America it also provides fodder for the army. How can a country boast of it's wealth when education isn't free?.

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.