

GI SPECIAL 6E18:



**“I Hope I Never See George W
Bush”**

**“He And His Cabal Have Killed My
Beautiful Nephew Just As Surely
As If They Had Shot Him”**

**“How Many More Must Die Before
This Atrocity Is Stopped?”**

**Vt. Serviceman Killed In Iraq, Nephew Of
Mia Farrow**

(NECN) - The Pentagon says a serviceman from Vermont has died in Iraq, in a non-combat related incident. Sgt. 1st Class Jason F. Dene died Sunday of injuries suffered in an incident in Baghdad on Saturday. It said the incident was under investigation.

Dene was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Dene was also the nephew of actress and anti-war activist Mia Farrow.

A posting on the website miafarrow.org entitled "What for?" identifies Dene as her nephew. It was posted on Monday.

The full posting is below:

What for?

We have just learned that my nephew, Jason Dene, was killed in Iraq yesterday

His mother is my sister, Tisa Farrow.

Jason loved his parents and sister, his wife Judi and their three small children.

He also loved his country and he was proud to serve it.

But I honestly don't know why Jason died.

There was never any evidence of weapons of mass destruction. That was a lie.

So people speculate -- was it the oil? Or the old grudges of an old man -- Cheney and his Halliburton? Or the unfinished business of the father -- some haunting of the son? Saddam was bad -- but by then a sleeping dog. Not making threats. The world is full of brutal leaders, some are worse than Saddam Hussein.

This war is as incomprehensible as it is unacceptable. In a cloud of confusion politicians, generals and ordinary people have come to see that it is a disaster. Exit plans are being discussed but Iraqi citizens and young Americans like our Jason are being killed.

For four years my sister has lived in fear of this day.

She is a nurse and was working at the hospital when the two uniformed men came to her home. Jason's sister, Bridget opened the door. They went to the hospital to give Tisa the most terrible news a mother could hear.

I hope I never see George W Bush.

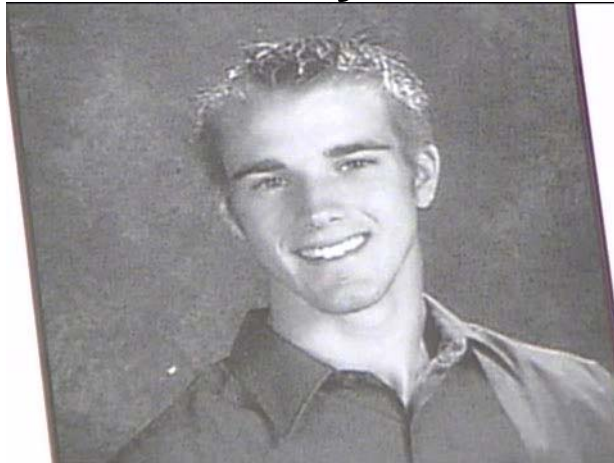
I could not shake his hand.

He and his cabal have killed my beautiful nephew just as surely as if they had shot him. May God, if there is one, forgive them. I cannot.

Today Tisa and Bridget, Judi, and the three little ones - have been given a life sentence of grief.

How many more must die before this atrocity is stopped?

Maine Solider Dies Fighting On Memorial Day



Justin Buxbaum

5.28.08 By Amy Sinclair, NECN: South Portland, Maine

It was a heartwrenching Memorial Day for friends and family of Justin Buxbaum. The 21-year-old soldier from South Portland was killed Monday in Afghanistan.

Justin Buxbaum wasn't the top student at South Portland High School, but he was among the hardest working both in the classroom and on the playing field.

Jeanne: I mean it when I say, in three decades of teaching, he was the one student who worked the hardest to create a bright future for himself.

For Justin, that bright future meant joining the Army National Guard while still in high school.

Ken: He did 2 tours in Iraq looking for bombs then he told us he was safe in Afghanistan and to get killed there..it's just a shock.

Justin had been engaged to Ken's daughter..the families were very close.

Ken: I never had a boy..I had three daughters - Justin was like a son. The only boy I loved is gone.

This isn't the first time the war has hit close to home at South Portland High School. Just last year, two other alumni died while on active duty.

Jeanne: The impact with one is huge but three..you look at these young men..it's hard to understand and accept."

But they will honor his memory as a young man who gave 100 percent to every challenge he faced and died a hero.

Justin Buxbaum was known for his love of children. He had hoped to return to school to become an elementary school teacher.

Family Reports Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb In Iraq

May. 21, 2008 ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI --The father of a 101st Airborne Division soldier says his son was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Bill Haurert of Blue Ash, Ohio, said his son Branden, 21, enlisted in the Army last year and his unit was deployed to Iraq about five weeks ago.

Branden Haurert was a 2005 graduate of Sycamore High School in suburban Cincinnati, where he played baseball, and attended the University of Cincinnati before enlisting.

His father said military representatives told the family Sunday that the Humvee Branden Haurert was in was hit by a roadside bomb, and that he died at the scene.

The entire Haurert family is "devastated," Bill Haurert told The Cincinnati Enquirer on Monday. "His brothers are taking it pretty hard."

Bill Haurert said he and his wife, Tammy, have five other sons. Bill Haurert said Branden wanted to serve his country.

"He knew he'd probably be going to Iraq," his father said. "He was doing what he wanted to do."

Branden Haurert joined the Army in the summer of 2007 and went through basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., before being assigned to the 327th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, an Army post on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

His father said he was doing well in the Army. "He was thinking about re-enlisting. He'd been recommended for Ranger School. I think there's a very good chance Branden could have made a career out of the military."

Chris Shrimpton, Sycamore's varsity baseball coach, described Branden Haurert as fiery, stubborn and competitive. "He wanted to win," Shrimpton said. "He would do anything for you, and he just loved the game of baseball. He'd try hard, and that's the thing I liked about him. He always gave 100 percent, no matter what he did."

**BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from the 4th ID in Sadr City Iraq, May 12, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Town Remembers Marine Killed in Afghanistan

05/20/08 By Jon Kalahar, WLBT

A Mississippi marine was shot and killed over the weekend while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, according to a press release from the Marine Corps.

Corporal Justin Cooper was a decorated marine who will be greatly missed not only by his family but by the town he called home.

Corporal Cooper's father Alan found out Monday his son was killed in action serving his country.

"He knew the risks and he took them, but we never expected it to happen. He was good at what he did." Alan says it was his son's decision to go back to Iraq a second time and then to Afghanistan.

Corporal Cooper did his job well, receiving seven different decorations for his actions. But he never let on to his family, never wanting them to worry.

"I said son, I know you did something to rank that from your commanders, he said I just did my job daddy that's all I did," said Cooper.

Flags were lowered to half staff all over Eupora including the high school Cooper graduated. His principal James Mason remembers Cooper having the characteristics even then to be a marine. "He had that demeanor about him and he had that leadership capability about him."

Cooper's father calls his son, simply a hero. "He was naturally my hero when he hit his first little league grand slam. He was my hero when he played senior football and went to the state championship. He sacked the quarterback 19 times in the state championship game, but he has become the world's hero Sunday, and he did it willingly." And so by all accounts, Justin Cooper was not just a leader in his hometown, at this high school, but a leader on the battle field as well. And now his name will be added to this memorial remembering those who paid the ultimate price.

Lamar Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. 1st Class Davy Nathaniel Weaver

BARNESVILLE --A Lamar County soldier was killed Sunday in Afghanistan when an explosive device hit his vehicle, Junior Hamrick of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6542 in Barnesville said.

Sgt. 1st Class Davy Nathaniel Weaver, 39, a 21-year veteran of the Army, was a 1987 graduate of Lamar County High School.

Weaver's mother, Patsy Rabuck, and his grandparents live in Barnesville on Ga. 36 East. His wife, Susan, and a two-year-old daughter, Ella, live near Fort Stewart in Hinesville. Two sons from a previous marriage, Bradley Ashton Weaver, 10, and Malachi Jon Weaver, 7, live in Auburn, Ala., Rabuck said. Weaver has two sisters and a brother.

Hamrick said Weaver recently had re-enlisted in the military.

"He'd been in service 21 years and he volunteered to go back," Hamrick said. "That's what you call a hero."

Weaver is the first soldier from Lamar County to die while serving in Afghanistan or Iraq, he added.

He previously completed two tours, in Bosnia and Iraq.

Hamrick said the VFW will assist Weaver's family in funeral preparations and other arrangements. "We're willing to do anything," he said. The VFW national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., is preparing a plaque honoring Weaver's service, which Hamrick said VFW Post 6542 will present to his family at a later date.

Weaver joined the military in the 11th grade, when a band teacher suggested he try out for the U.S. Army Band, his mother said.

"His band director, former mayor of Barnesville Dewaine Bell, told him, 'Let's go see if we can get you in that band,'" Rabuck said. "He missed by one measure but still decided to join."

Weaver served part time in the National Guard before attending Georgia Southern University for two years following high school.

His mother said he had been in Afghanistan since last August and was scheduled to return home in July.

Weaver spent two weeks in Alabama in January when his eldest son underwent a complicated ear surgery to correct deafness and underdeveloped motor skills, which had prevented him from learning to walk.

"Call it a miracle in the making, but that child is walking and smiling now," Rabuck said.

Weaver, a saxophone player, loved the outdoors, she said.

"Growing up, he was a Cub, Boy and Eagle Scout," she said. "Then he just fell in love with the military."

She said being a soldier was her son's passion. "He just said that he wanted to serve his country and help any way that he could," she said. "If it meant giving up his life, he would do it."

Two weeks ago, Weaver's Humvee was hit and destroyed by an IED similar to the one that killed him. He and two other soldiers suffered minor injuries then.

"They all got out with scratches and bruises," Rabuck said.

Because of that incident, Rabuck said she was confused when military officers came to inform her of her son's death Sunday.

"It took them three times ... my ears just went blank," she said.

Rabuck said Weaver's grandmother, 73-year-old Alice Smith, suffered a minor heart attack when she learned of his death. She continues to be monitored at a hospital.

Weaver's body will be transported stateside within two weeks. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Resistance Action

May 27 (Reuters) & May 28 AFP & May 29, 2008 The Associated Press

A suicide car bomber hit a convoy of international soldiers in Kabul on Thursday. The attack in Kabul targeted two armored SUVs, causing minor damage to the vehicles. None of the soldiers inside the vehicles was wounded or killed, said Lt. Col. David Johnson, a spokesman for the NATO coalition serving in Afghanistan. He did not immediately know the nationalities of the troops. The attack took place on a road leading to several military bases that is frequently targeted by bombers.

Four Afghan police were killed on Tuesday when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Logar province to the south of capital, Kabul, a provincial officer said.

Two police died in a clash on Monday in a district of Ghazni, which lies to the southwest of Kabul, a district official said on Tuesday.

Insurgents captured four Afghan employees of a foreign group in the southern province of Kandahar on Monday.

In Helmand, a bomber who was on foot blew himself up near a police vehicle in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, killing a civilian passerby, police said. "Two policemen were wounded," deputy provincial police chief Mohammad Kamal Hakim told AFP. A police vehicle was damaged, he added.

In a separate attack on police Tuesday, Taliban ambushed a convoy in the western province of Badghis, a police spokesman said. Three policemen were wounded in the attack, said a police spokesman for western Afghanistan, Abdul Mutalib Rad.

TROOP NEWS

“BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!”



Citizens of Salt Lake City, Utah turn out for an anti-Bush rally May 28, 2008. The traitor Bush is visiting Utah for two fund raisers. (Photo: AP Photo/Douglas C. Pizac)

Huge Increases In Home Foreclosures In U.S. Towns Where Soldiers Live:

“We’ve Never Faced A Situation Like This, Not In The Vietnam War, World War II, Or The Korean War, Where So Many Military Are In Danger Of Losing Their Homes”

Foreclosures In 10 Towns And Cities Within 10 Miles Of Military Facilities Rose By An Average 217%

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & The Military Project, who sent this in.

May 27 By Kathleen M. Howley, (Bloomberg) [Excerpts]

U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Jeffrey VerSteegh, who repairs F-16 jets for the 132nd Fighter Wing, departed Des Moines, Iowa, in April for his third tour in Iraq.

The father of four may lose his home when he returns.

The four-bedroom farmhouse he and his wife, Kathleen, own near the Iowa State Fairgrounds went into default in December after their monthly mortgage costs doubled to \$1,100.

Kathleen missed work because of breast cancer and they struggled to keep up the house payment, falling behind on other bills. Their bankruptcy was approved by the court a week after VerSteegh left for Iraq.

In the midst of the worst surge in mortgage defaults in seven decades, foreclosures in U.S. towns where soldiers live are increasing at a pace almost four times the national average, according to data compiled by research firm RealtyTrac Inc. in Irvine, California.

“We’ve never faced a situation like this, not in the Vietnam War, World War II, or the Korean War, where so many military are in danger of losing their homes,” said Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a Washington-based advocacy group started in 2002 by Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans.”

Foreclosure filings in 10 towns and cities within 10 miles of military facilities, including Norfolk, Virginia, home of the Navy’s largest base, rose by an average 217 percent from January through April from a year earlier.

Nationally, the rate was 59 percent in the same period, according to RealtyTrac, which tallies bank seizures, auctions and default notices.

The biggest surge was in Columbia, South Carolina, home to Fort Jackson, where the Army trains recruits for combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. Properties in some stage of foreclosure rose 492 percent from a year earlier, RealtyTrac said.

The second-biggest increase was 414 percent in Woodbridge, Virginia, next to the Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Foreclosure filings tripled in the cities surrounding Norfolk Naval Base and the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base near Oceanside, California, RealtyTrac said. Havelock,

North Carolina, site of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, saw foreclosures more than double.

Military families were targeted as customers during the boom in subprime lending because their frequent moves, overseas stints, and low pay meant they were more likely to have weak credit ratings, said Rudi Williams of the National Veterans Foundation in Los Angeles.

An Army or Marine Corps sergeant with four years of experience makes \$27,000 a year, plus combat pay of \$225 a month, according to the 2008 Military Authorization Act, which increased basic pay rates 3.5 percent from a year ago.

Soldiers authorized to live off-base also receive a housing allowance that this year starts at about \$500 a month, 7.3 percent higher than in 2007, paid even when they are deployed.

Counting the stipends, they still fall short of the 2007 median U.S. household income of \$59,224 as measured by the National Association of Realtors in Chicago.

“Think about how much stress comes with a foreclosure, and then imagine you’re walking the same tightrope while being employed in Baghdad,” said Paul Rieckhoff, 33, the head of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and a former 1st lieutenant with the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division.

The Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act protects soldiers and sailors from losing homes for nonpayment of mortgages only while on active duty and for 90 days after they return home.

Another flaw in the current law is it puts the burden on the soldiers, sailors or the families they left behind to come up with the paperwork and notify the bank, said Sullivan of the Washington Veterans’ group.

Unlike in other wars, members of the military often are able to telephone home or receive e-mails, creating a “morale problem” as they try to deal with foreclosure notices, he said.

“It’s heartbreaking to see people struggling with a foreclosure while they or someone they love is in a war zone, or when they’re trying to adjust after coming back from one,” said Sullivan, a Cavalry Scout with the Army’s 1st Armored Division during the 1991 Gulf War.

Before leaving for Iraq, the 43-year-old VerSteegh called the Bush Administration’s Hope Now program created to help people facing foreclosure, his wife said.

“We got no hope from Hope,” and no information about the potential interest-rate deduction, according to Kathleen VerSteegh.

The last time veterans lost homes to this extent was during the Great Depression, said Sullivan of Veterans for Common Sense.

The so-called Bonus Army of almost 20,000 World War I ex-soldiers marched on Washington in June 1932 to demand early payment of certificates granted for service.

U.S. infantry and cavalry regiments under the command of General Douglas MacArthur attacked their encampment with bayonets and sabers to disburse them.

Foreclosure Filings Near Military Bases from January to April, Compared With a Year Earlier:

Columbia, South Carolina: 492%
Woodbridge, Virginia: 414%
Triangle, Virginia: 363%
Oceanside, California: 182%
Norfolk, Virginia: 155%
Havelock, North Carolina: 133%
Carlsbad, California: 131%
Barstow, California: 120%
Columbus, Georgia: 102%
Twentynine Palms, California: 73%

U.S. Total: 59%

**Northwest Winter Soldier: Iraq &
Afghanistan:
Sponsored By Iraq Veterans Against
The War**



Saturday, May 31st

**Noon-4:15pm
Seattle Town Hall,
8th Ave and Seneca St.**

Antiwar demonstration @ 4:30pm

**Tickets: \$5 at the door, first-come-first served
Doors open @ 11:00am**

**Directions to Town Hall: [http://www.townhallseattle.org/
Directions And Parking.cfm](http://www.townhallseattle.org/DirectionsAndParking.cfm)**

Hear local and regional chapters of Iraq Veterans Against The War bring home the truth about the occupations with eyewitness accounts of what is really happening day in and day out, on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Panels will address:

Eyewitness accounts and personal stories from veterans and military families

Veterans' Healthcare and the failure of the VA system

The poverty draft and military recruitment today

Supporting war resisters and the future of GI resistance

Racism and the War on Terror

Veterans, GIs, students and labor working together end the war

With guest speaker Antonia Juhasz, respected policy-analyst, author and activist. Her recent book, *The Bu\$h Agenda: Invading the World, One Economy at a Time*, exposes the Bush administration's use of corporate globalization policy as a weapon of war.

Guest appearance and book signing by Dahr Jamail, author of the award-winning book *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*.

Endorsed by: Veterans for Peace (Chapters: 92 Seattle, 72 Portland, 132 Corvallis, 109 Olympia, 139 North Olympic Peninsula, Grants Pass, 913 Wenatchee, 141 SW Oregon, 143 Everett, 134 Tacoma) Dorris Kent - Gold Star Families for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist, Military Families Speak Out Washington and Oregon, Recruiter Watch PDX, Green Party of Washington, Evergreen Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Collateral Repair Project.org, Code Pink Oregon and Washington, Eastside Fellowship of Reconciliation, Tacoma Students for a Democratic Society, Students Educating Students About the Middle East, Teen Peace Project, American Friends Service Committee Washington and Oregon, Vancouver for Peace, PDX Peace Coalition, Oregon Peace Institute, White Feather Peace Community, Washington Truth in Recruiting, International Socialist Organization, Youth Against War and Racism, Freedom Socialist Party, Seattle Central Community College Anti-War Collective,

Courage to Resist, Backbone Campaign, Progressive Democrats of America, Women in Black Seattle, Port Townsend Peace Movement, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Oregonians Against the War, Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War, Lake Forest Park for Peace, World Can't Wait, Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation, El Centro de la Raza.

For more information about NW Winter Soldier go to <http://givoice.org/>

For questions or to endorse the event contact: nwwintersoldier@yahoo.com

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

Army Suicides Up 13 Last Year: “Military Suicide Rate Still Lower Than Rate For People Of Similar Age And Education Level In The Rest Of American Society”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & The Military Project, who sent this in.]

[He writes: Undoubtedly Bush would say that we should expect to see more and more GI's to kill themselves as the U.S. approaches victory in Iraq.]

5.26.08 McClatchy & May 29, 2008 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The number of Army suicides increased again last year, Pentagon officials said Thursday.

Two defense officials said 115 troops committed suicide in 2007, six more than the previous year.

About a quarter of the deaths occurred in Iraq.

The military suicide rate is still lower than the rate for people of similar age and education level in the rest of American society.

The 115 confirmed deaths in 2007 among active duty soldiers and National Guard and Reserve troops that had been activated was lower than previously feared.

The 115 deaths last year followed 102 in 2006, 85 in 2005 and 67 in 2004.

According to the Army, more than 2,000 active-duty soldiers attempted suicide or suffered serious self-inflicted injuries in 2007, compared to fewer than 500 such cases in 2002, the year before the United States invaded Iraq.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

May 28 (Reuters) & Washington Post & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & May 29, 2008 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press

Iraqis stormed the house of a member of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol and stabbed him to death in the town of Garma, 30 km (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

In the northern city of Mosul, insurgents killed a policeman walking in a crowded market area.

In Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad, a bomb detonated inside a house, killing a member of a U.S.-backed neighborhood patrol and wounding four other patrolmen, as well as an Iraqi army soldier.

Baghdad: Around noon, a roadside bomb targeted a police patrol at Diyala bridge neighborhood. 6 people were injured including 2 policemen. Around 12:30 pm, a mortar hit the ministry of planning building. No casualties recorded.

Kirkuk: Wednesday morning, a roadside bomb targeted the colonel Fo'ad Shwani's convoy, the deputy of emergency police in Kirkuk. One of the security guards was injured in that incident.

A roadside bomb targeted an Iraqi Army patrol in Bizayiz Buhruz, 20 km to the south of Baquba at 10 am Thursday, killing 2 servicemen.

Baghdad: General Manager of a private Iraqi oil company, Hussein Ali Abdulhussein survived an assassination attempt in al-Masbah neighbourhood in Karrada at around 9.30 pm. He is now in the neurosurgery hospital being treated for his wounds.

A bomber wearing an explosive belt detonated explosives among a group of men seeking police jobs Thursday, killing 16 people queuing in front of the Directorate of

Police in the southern part of the town of Sinjar crowded around a recruiting station in northwestern Iraq despite warnings of an attack. The dead included 14 would-be recruits and two policemen, Qassim said. Another 21 were wounded, some severely. The Interior Ministry announced that the Chief of Police of Sinjar has been deposed as a result of this incident.

Three policemen were killed and 5 policemen injured when a car bomber detonated targeting a Rapid Response Force patrol in the Ghabat area to the north of Mosul. The bomber was dressed in police uniform and driving a police vehicle, said the commander of RRF battalion. The explosion also caused a great deal of material damage in the area.

In a car bomb attack, the third in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Thursday, police said a booby-trapped car, parking on the side of the road, exploded. Three policemen were killed. Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in eastern Mosul, police said.

In Baghdad, assailants hurled grenades at a minibus carrying Iraqi army recruits, killing two and wounding five other

**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.**

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

Winter Soldier II Investigation



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: May 19, 2008
Subject: Winter Soldier II Investigation

Winter Soldier II Investigation
Silver Spring, Maryland
March 13-16, 2008

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)

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

May 29, 1932:

Betrayed Veterans March On Washington DC



The St. Louis contingent of the Bonus Expeditionary Force is pictured here as it starts for Washington, D.C., in May 1932.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

In the depths of the Great Depression, the “Bonus Expeditionary Force,” a group of 1,000 World War I veterans seeking cash payments for their veterans’ bonus certificates, arrived in Washington, D.C.

By mid-June, they had set up a massive “Hooverville,” a contemporary term for an encampment of the homeless.

One month later, other veteran groups made their way to the nation’s capital, swelling the Bonus Marchers to nearly 20,000 strong, most of them unemployed veterans in difficult financial straits.

In direct violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, they were violently disbanded by the Army in July.

May 30, 1937: Massacre Chicago Police Cowards Murder Striking Steel Workers:

“All But Four Of The Fifty-Four Gunshot Wounds Were To The Side Or Back And One Victim Was Shot Four Times”



Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

1000 striking steel workers (and members of their families), on their way to picket at the Republic Steel plant in south Chicago where they were organizing a union, were stopped by the Chicago Police.

In what became known as the “Memorial Day Massacre,” police shot and killed 10 fleeing workers, wounded 30 more, and beat 55 so badly they required hospitalization.

The Memorial Day Massacre of 1937

uhigh.ilstu.edu [Excerpts]

The 1930s was a period of economic unrest for the United States. Following the prosperous “roaring twenties”, the Great Depression hit the general population hard. Many employees were fired and those who were not lost much of their former salary.

Then, in 1933, as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, the National Recovery Act was passed. One of its most important concessions to laborers was the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

The number of strikes nationwide grew to the highest amount in American history.

When the National Recovery Act was declared unconstitutional in 1935, Congress was still sympathetic to the young labor unions that had been formed under it. They soon passed the Wagner Act, or National Labor Relations Act, to reassert the rights of the laborers.

By the 1930s the steel industry had survived much adversity, yet there were still changes to come.

The Committee for Industrial Organization, (CIO), was founded in November 1935.

Encouraged by the CIO, the steel industry became one of the first to begin organizing under the Wagner Act. Accordingly, on June 17, 1936 The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, (SWOC), was created.

The industry itself did not accept this movement.

Many companies began to stock up on tear-gas, firearms, and ammunition as well as, refining their espionage and police systems.

After a long struggle for further organization and acceptance within the steel industry, the United States Steel Corporation, (the leading producer of steel, dubbed "Big Steel"), signed an agreement recognizing SWOC. This contract allowed for five dollar a day wages in addition to a 40-hour week with time-and-a-half for overtime. By May 1937, there were 110 firms under contract.

Still, some companies refused to sign. In response, SWOC called its first strike involving 25,000 workmen against Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. Thirty-six hours later, the corporation agreed to a Labor Board election. The union won 17,028 to 7,207.

Despite this enormous victory, a combination of "Little Steel" companies including Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel, Inland Steel, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube, refused to sign.

Their leaders had strong anti-union attitudes and felt that the U.S. steel decision to "surrender" to SWOC was a betrayal. Tom Girdler, chairman of the Board of Republic Steel, was one particularly influential anti-union spokesperson.

The company anticipated a strike so they placed a stockpile of industrial munitions at various plants of Republic Steel.

Then, on May 26, 1937, SWOC decided to strike three of the "Little Steel" companies: Republic, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, and Inland. Most of the plants ceased production during the strike; they were willing to wait it out because the steelworkers' union strike benefits were meager.

Picket lines were set up at these plants to prevent any attempt to reopen them.

However, Republic Steel remained defiant and refused to close all of its plants. They even housed non-union workers in the plant, so they could continue working without the hassle of picket lines outside.

One of these plants was the Republic Steel South Chicago Plant.

One half of this plant's 2,200 employees had joined the strike. When the walkout began on May 26, the police interfered in an attempt to prevent other non-committed workers from joining the cause.

The SWOC organizers attempted to form a picket line in front of the gate.

Police Captain James Mooney, despite the fact that the picketers were peaceful, broke up the line and arrested 23 people who refused to move. The rest were forced to 117th Street, 2 blocks from the plant.

Because of this action, the police no longer played an impartial role in the strike. Instead, they were clearly supportive of Republic.

Strike headquarters were established in Sam's Place, at 113th and Green Bay Avenue.

Chicago mayor, Edward J. Kelley, announced in the Chicago Tribune that peaceful picketing would be permitted.

In response to this article, the strikers attempted to establish pickets, but were turned away.

On the next day, at around 5:00 PM, another attempt was made to picket. The marchers marched from Sam's Place to 117th Street. There were a few policemen present, but the marchers continued west towards Burley Avenue.

Once the marchers reached Buffalo the police line had strengthened a great deal. The workers continued and fighting broke out. The police used clubs to fight the workers back. A few had drawn revolvers without orders and discharged them in the air. No one was killed, but there were several bloody heads.

May 28 was a quiet day, but the marchers were upset with police actions.

Nick Fontecchio, a Union leader, called for a mass meeting at Sam's Place the next day, Memorial Day Sunday. Captain Mooney received an anonymous report that on Sunday an attempt would be made to invade the plant to drive out the remaining non-union workers. He did not check the rumor, but proceeded to station 264 policemen on duty at the Republic Steel Mill.

By 3:00 p.m. on May 30, 1937, a crowd of around 1500 strikers had gathered. It was a sunny, warm day with the temperature at around 88 degrees.

Many of the union members and supporters had brought along their wives and children to join in this almost festive gathering organized by SWOC leader Joe Hunt. Several speakers addressed various labor issues most importantly, the right to organize and picket.

Some resolutions were approved to send to government officials concerning police conduct at the Republic plant. It was then moved to march to the plant and establish a mass picket.

When this was approved about 1000 people went into formation behind two American flags. Instead of marching south down Green Bay Avenue, they turned onto a dirt road across a open prairie chanting, "CIO, CIO!"

When the police, saw this they moved their position from 117th street between Green Bay and Burley Avenue to across the dirt road, just north of 117th on Burley.

The 200 police were in double file and watched the approaching marchers with their clubs drawn. The Republic mill had armed some of the officers with non-regulation clubs and tear gas.

The marchers met the police line and demanded that their rights to picket be recognized by the police letting them through.

They were "commanded in the name of the law to disperse", but the picketers persisted. This continued for several minutes. While marchers armed themselves with rocks and branches, foul language was passed between the two parties. Tension was mounting.

Recording all of this was cameraman Orland Lippert. Unfortunately, he was changing lenses at the start of the actual violence. This has caused some dispute as to which side initiated the fighting. The following account, determined at the hearings under Senator Robert LaFollette, is generally accepted.

Police were trying to prevent marchers from outflanking their line.

As some strikers began to retreat a stick flew from the back of the line towards the police. Instantaneously, tear gas bombs were thrown at the marchers.

The next few moments were total chaos.

More objects were thrown at the police by the marchers.

Acting without orders, several policemen in the front drew their revolvers and fired point blank at the marcher's ranks, many of whom were beginning to retreat.

The actual shooting only continued for fifteen seconds, but the violence did not end there.

Using their clubs, the police beat anyone in their paths, including women and children.

During this time, arrests were also made. Patrol wagons were filled to twice the mandated capacity of 8 prisoners. The injured were not even taken directly to local hospitals.

As a result of this atrocity, four marchers were fatally shot and six were mortally wounded. Thirty others suffered gunshot wounds.

Thirty-eight were hospitalized due to injuries from the beatings and still thirty more required other medical treatment.

It is noteworthy that all but four of the fifty-four gunshot wounds were to the side or back and one victim was shot four times.

There were minor police casualties with thirty-five reported injuries, (no gunshot wounds), but only three needed overnight hospital care.

After the riot, sympathetic strikers fervently protested the police brutality. On the other hand, the press, especially the Chicago Tribune, portrayed the marchers as communist conspirators who had essentially attacked the police and attempted to throw out non-union workers.

The LaFollette Committee investigated this tragedy and came to four conclusions.

First, the police had no right to limit the number of peaceful pickets and that the march was not aimed at freeing remaining plant workers.

Second, the police should have halted the march with limited violence, if this action is even justifiable.

Third, the force used by the police was excessive and the marcher's only methods of provocation were abusive language and throwing of isolated missiles.

Fourth, the police could have avoided the bloodshed.

In addition to those killed in the Memorial Day Massacre, 6 other union members lost their lives in pickets of the "Little Steel" strike of 1937.

In fact, the "Little Steel" strike is surpassed by few in the areas of viciousness, press distortion, suppression of rights, and police brutality.

The strike was called off when the many hardships suffered began to demoralize union workers. However, in August of 1941, under legal pressure, the Little Steel companies agreed to cease the committing of unfair labor practices.

A year later, they signed their first contract recognizing the new union, United Steelworkers of America.

The massacre has been referred to as the "blackest day of modern labor history", but the sacrifices of these workers were not in vain. Little Steel had only delayed the inevitable march of unionism in America.

SecDef Says "There Are No Exist Strategies"

2008-05-04 By Tom Engelhardt, Tom Dispatch [Excerpts]

As in Vietnam, so four decades later, we are observing a full-scale descent into madness and, undoubtedly, into atrocity.

At least in 2003, American troops were heading for Baghdad. They thought they had a goal, a city to take.

Now, they are heading for nowhere, for the heart of a slum city which they cannot hold in a guerrilla war where the taking of territory and the occupying of neighborhoods is essentially beside the point.

They are heading for oblivion, while trying to win hearts and minds by shooting missiles into homes and enclosing people in giant walls which break families and communities apart, while destroying livelihoods.

With that in mind, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently gave two sharp-edged speeches, one at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, the other at West Point, each expressing his frustration with the slowness of the armed services to adapt to a counterinsurgency planet and to plan for the next war.

Gates describes our war-fighting future in this way: "What has been called the 'Long War' is likely to be many years of persistent, engaged combat all around the world in differing degrees of size and intensity. This generational campaign cannot be wished away or put on a timetable. There are no exit strategies."

"There are no exit strategies."

That's a line to roll around on your tongue for a while. It's a fancy way of saying that the U.S. military is likely to be in one, two, many Sadr Cities for a long time to come.

It's a recipe for being bogged down in such wars for 100 years -- with the piles of dead rising ever higher.

**“Teacher Should Be Fired And Sent
To Iraq For 4 Consecutive Tours
Immediately And Stop-Lossed For 2
Years After That Even After All U.S.
Forces Withdraw”**

**[That Would Test How The Piece Of Shit
Likes Being On The Receiving End Of**

The PTSD She Inflicts On Others, Wouldn't It?]



Barton family/www.tcpalm.com

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in, with the headline.]

May 27th by Sandy Maple, ParentDish

It sounds like somebody has been watching too many reality shows.

Namely, Wendy Portillo, a teacher at Morningside Elementary in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

She turned her kindergarten classroom into a cruel version of Survivor by allowing her students to vote a fellow student out of the class.

The banished child is 5-year-old Alex Barton, who is in the process of being diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a high-functioning type of autism. Not uncommon to his condition, Alex has had some behavioral issues and as a result, spends a lot of time in the principal's office.

After returning to Ms. Portillo's classroom after a recent visit with the principal, his teacher decided to punish him with humiliation.

She had Alex stand at the front of the class while his fellow students listed off what they didn't like about him. After informing him that they found him "disgusting" and "annoying", the class was instructed to vote on whether or not Alex should be allowed to stay in the class.

By a 14 to 2 margin, they voted him out.

Alex hasn't been back to school since then, but his mother, Melissa Barton, says he is still reliving the incident.

The night after it happened, she says she overheard him saying "I'm not special" over and over.

Incredibly, an investigation by the state attorney's office concluded that Alex's treatment did not meet the criteria for emotional child abuse and no charges have been filed.

I don't know what the criteria for emotional abuse is, but if this doesn't meet it, what does?

My heart breaks for all the children involved in this incident.

OCCUPATION REPORT

**Marine In Fallujah Encouraging
Iraqis To Kill Other Marines:
Stupid "Religious" Freak
Endangering Brothers And Sisters By
Handing Out Christian Religious
Propaganda;
"We Say To The Occupiers To Stop This"**



U.S. Marines are handing out this coin, imprinted with a Christian propaganda, to Fallujah residents. (Photo: Jamal Naji / MCT)

"We feel the Muslims are weak and we hope that we will reach a point when we are strong to let them know what is wrong and what is right."

May 28, 2008 By Jamal Naji and Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

FALLUJAH, Iraq — At the western entrance to the Iraqi city of Fallujah Tuesday, Muammar Anad handed his residence badge to the U.S. Marines guarding the city.

They checked to be sure that he was a city resident, and when they were done, Anad said, a Marine slipped a coin out of his pocket and put it in his hand.

Out of fear, he accepted it, Anad said.

When he was inside the city, the college student said, he looked at one side of the coin. "Where will you spend eternity?" it asked.

He flipped it over, and on the other side it read, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16."

"They are trying to convert us to Christianity," said Anad, a Sunni Muslim like most residents of this city in Anbar province.

At home, he told his story, and his relatives echoed their disapproval: They'd been given the coins, too, he said.

Now residents of the city are abuzz that some Americans whom they consider occupiers are also acting as Christian missionaries.

Residents said some Marines at the western entrance to their city have been passing out the coins for two days in what they call a "humiliating" attempt to convert them to Christianity.

In the markets, people crowded around men with the coins, passing them to each other and asking in surprise, "Have you seen this?"

The head of the Sunni endowment in Fallujah, the organization that oversees Sunni places of worship and other religious establishments, demanded that the Marines stop.

"We say to the occupiers to stop this," said Sheikh Mohammed Amin Abdel Hadi. "This can cause strife between the Iraqis and especially between Muslim and Christians . . . Please stop these things and leave our homes because we are Muslims and we live in our homes in peace with other religions."

A spokesman said the U.S. military is investigating.

"Multi-National Force-Iraq is investigating a report that U.S. military personnel in Fallujah handed-out material that is religious and evangelical in nature," the spokesman, Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, said in a statement e-mailed to McClatchy.

"Local commanders are investigating since the military prohibits proselytizing any religion, faith or practices."

In interviews, residents of Fallujah repeated two words — "humiliation" and "weakness".

"Because we are weak this is happening," said a shop owner who gave his name as Abu Abdullah. "Passing Christianity this way is disrespectful."

"The occupier is repeatedly trespassing on God and his religion," said Omar Delli, 23.

"Now the occupier is planting seeds of strife between the Muslims and Christians. We demand the government in Fallujah have a new demonstration to let the occupier know that these things are humiliating Islam and the Quran."

In Fallujah, Mohammed Jaber saw one of the coins and said he thought of the bullets lodged in the Quran, the torture of Iraqi men at the Abu Ghraib prison in 2004 and the rape of a 14-year-old girl and her murder and that of her family in Mahmoudiya.

"Now we have this missionary way by these coins," he said.

"We feel the Muslims are weak and we hope that we will reach a point when we are strong to let them know what is wrong and what is right."

MORE:

Marine Caught With Propaganda Coins; Relieved Of Duty

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & The Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: Guess he forgot what happened to the original Crusaders...]

May 29, 2008 By Leila Fadel and Jamal Naji, McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military confirmed Thursday that a Marine in Fallujah passed out coins with a Gospel verse on them to Sunni Muslims, a military spokesman in the Iraqi city said. The man was immediately removed from the checkpoint and reassigned.

The coins angered residents who said they felt that the American troops, whom they consider occupiers, were also acting as Christian missionaries in a predominantly Muslim nation.

"It did happen," said Mike Isho, a spokesman for Multi National Forces West. "It's one guy and we're investigating."

Following a McClatchy report about the proselytizing coins, a force was sent to the western gate of Fallujah and the Marines there were searched, Isha said.

One man was found with the coins, removed from the gate and will no longer be working in predominantly Sunni Anbar province, he said.

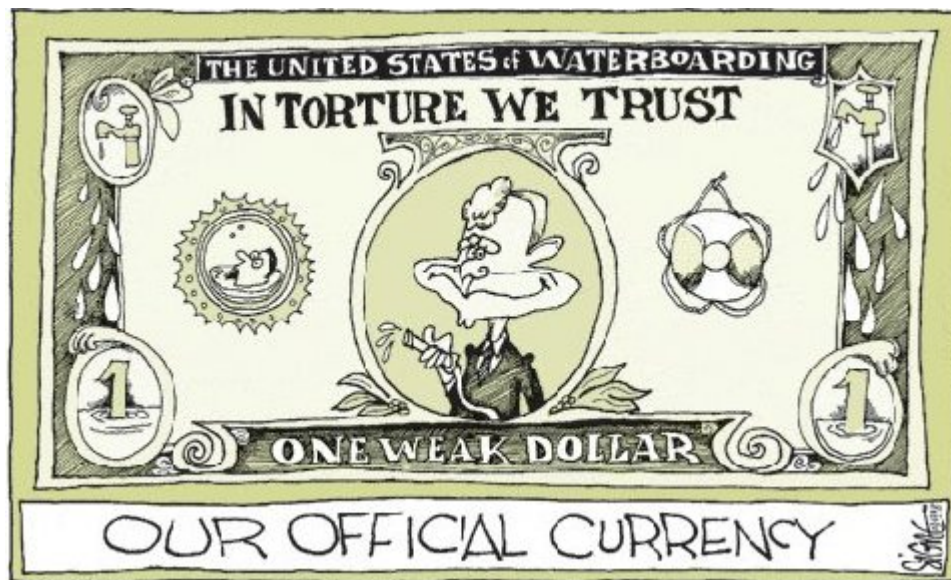
A U.S. military spokesman said he was unsure where the silver coins came from, but speculated that they may have been sent to the young Marine from outside Iraq.

For two days, residents were being handed the coins when they passed through the western gate where all residents are searched and their residence badges are checked.

Many considered the move an affront to their religion, humiliating and straining the relationship between Christians and Muslims in Iraq.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

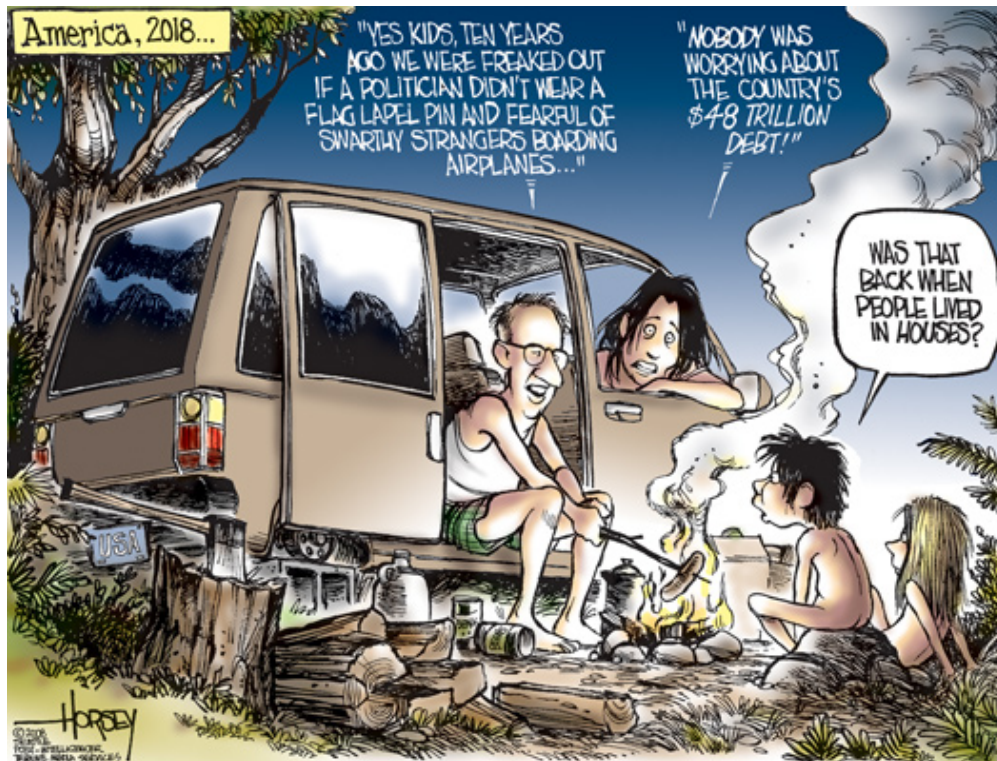


**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

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