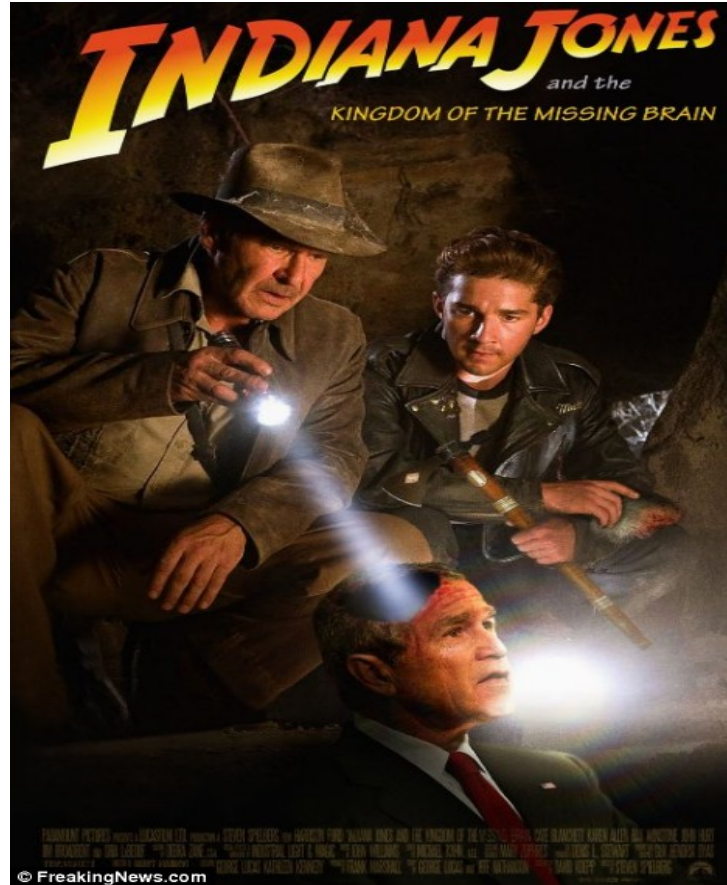


GI SPECIAL 6F2:



**He Gets It:
U.S. Brig. Gen. Confirms “The
Right Lesson” In Iraq Is --
Don’t Fight:
Let The Insurgents Get Away**

June 1, 2008 By ANDREW E. KRAMER, The New York Times Company [Excerpt]

MOSUL, Iraq — The recent successes in quieting violence in Basra and Sadr City appear to be stretching to the long-rebellious Sunni Arab district here in Mosul, raising hopes that the Iraqi Army may soon have tenuous control over all three of Iraq's major cities.

The Iraqi soldiers “are heady from the Basra experience,” Brig. Gen. Raymond A. Thomas III, the commander of American forces in Mosul, said in an interview.

“They have learned the right lessons.”

The crucial lesson, in fact, over the past month appears to be that all sides — the Iraqi military as well as various insurgent groups — prefer, at the moment, not to fight.

Rather, as in Basra and Sadr City, the huge Shiite enclave in Baghdad, the Iraqi military appears to have allowed many insurgents to slip out of Mosul, after scores of negotiations with militias and their leaders.

Out in the dusty streets, for example, Gen. Nooraldeen Hussein, the commander of the Iraqi Eighth Brigade, hunted one insurgent leader until the day he sat down and had tea with the man. The insurgent, whom General Hussein identified as Muhammad Saffo, living in the Rashadia neighborhood, was suspected of killing five Iraqi soldiers with a roadside bomb.

At a meeting with his American advisers two weeks ago, the general said he arrested 14 members of Mr. Saffo's tribe and killed three others before Mr. Saffo came forward to negotiate along with six other tribal members.

“I have all his numbers right here,” General Hussein said, tapping his cellphone. He would call, he said, and negotiate the amnesty in the presence of a tribal sheik.

The American advisers glanced at one another, not quite sure what to make of this new twist to the American effort to tamp down the Sunni insurgents in the city.

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

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Al Hawijah

June 4, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20080604-02 & AP

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Multi-National Division – North Soldiers were killed as a result of a small-arms fire attack in Al Hawijah near Kirkuk June 4.

The area, once a hub for militants is thought to have been pacified in recent months. Last year it hosted one of the largest sign-on ceremonies for U.S.-funded local forces in Iraq.

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT PACK UP GO HOME



US soldiers on the outskirts of Baghdad May 12. (AFP/File/Mauricio Lima)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

S.C. Soldier Dies In Combat

May. 28, 2008 By NOELLE PHILLIPS, The State

Spc. David Lee Leimbach should have been home in South Carolina, resting after a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Instead, he volunteered to serve six more months with the New York National Guard.

On Sunday, Leimbach, 38, of Taylors was killed in Bala Baluk, Afghanistan, when his unit was attacked with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the U.S. Defense Department said Tuesday.

He became the fourth soldier from the S.C. National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team to be killed in Afghanistan. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Moorner, who was Leimbach's platoon sergeant during the first tour in Afghanistan, described Leimbach as the ideal soldier.

"He was probably the most well-liked guy in the platoon," Moorner said. "He was quick to volunteer. He was dedicated. He gave 100 percent, whether it was a simple task or a big mission."

Leimbach, who was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry out of Fountain Inn, deployed to Afghanistan in spring 2007. He served a year with the 218th Brigade Combat Team, which was in charge of training Afghan security forces.

About 1,600 S.C. troops deployed to Afghanistan, and the majority of them returned this month to the United States. About 120 volunteered to serve an additional six months with the New York National Guard. Leimbach was one of them.

"I am saddened by the news of the death of Spc. David Leimbach," said Maj. Gen. Stan Spears, the S.C. Guard's adjutant general. "He was a brave soldier who served his country with honor and valor."

During the first tour with the S.C. Guard, Leimbach and Moorner worked as part of a security force, guarding base camps and convoys near Herat, Afghanistan. He took on a similar role with the New York unit. Leimbach enjoyed the mission and believed he was contributing to the country's progress, Moorner said.

"He felt like he should stay and help out a little while longer. He enjoyed helping people."

Soldiers serving in Afghanistan don't dwell on the possibility of death, and Leimbach wouldn't have considered that risk when deciding to stay, Moorner said.

"You don't think about stuff like that. You try to put that out of your mind."

Now, Moorner said he is struggling as he comes to terms with Leimbach's decision and the sacrifice he made.

"I've been thinking about that a lot."

Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed In Zurmat, Another Wounded: Nationality Not Announced

06/03/08 CNN

Two foreign soldiers were killed and another was wounded on Tuesday during a patrol in eastern Afghanistan. The incident occurred in the Zurmat district of Paktia province.

Canadian Soldier Killed In Panjwai

6.3.08 OTTAWA (AFP)

A Canadian soldier on a foot patrol in southern Afghanistan was killed Tuesday in a melee with insurgents in the volatile Panjwai district, the military said.

“The incident occurred during a dismounted security patrol with our Afghan partners” at about 9:30 am, a military spokesman told a press conference at Canada's base in Kandahar City, broadcast live in Canada.

“The patrol came under small arms fire,” he said. “The soldiers returned fire and under Captain (Steve) Leary's leadership repositioned when he was struck.”

Following a prolonged engagement with the insurgents, a wounded Captain Steve Leary was evacuated by helicopter to a medical facility at Kandahar Airfield, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival, the spokesman said.

Four Canadian Soldiers Wounded In Zharey

Jun 3 OTTAWA (AFP)

Four Canadian soldiers and an Afghan interpreter were wounded Monday.

At midday, one soldier was wounded when his unit came under “light weapons fire” from insurgents in the Zharey district, said Lieutenant Isabelle Riche.

Soon afterwards, a roadside bomb exploded leaving one soldier in “very serious condition” and two in “serious condition,” as well as injuring an Afghan interpreter.

All of them were evacuated by helicopter to a medical facility at Kandahar airfield. From there, one of the soldiers was to be transferred to a military hospital in Germany.

The Afghan interpreter is reported to be in “good condition,” said Riche.

Stupid Bush Collaborators Caught Telling Stupid Lies About Body Counts; “Two Admitted That No Bodies Were Left On The Battlefield To Count”

June 2, 2008 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan: NATO military aircraft supported Afghan police in a 12-hour firefight in western Afghanistan that killed at least 10 militants, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said Monday.

Afghan officials claimed a much higher death toll, saying dozens of militants were killed.

A spokesman for the police in western Afghanistan, Haji Raouf Ahmedi, said 150 militants attacked a police checkpoint Sunday, triggering the daylong battle in Murghab district, near the border with Turkmenistan.

Ahmedi said 46 militants were killed and 30 wounded, though he said police recovered the bodies of only five militants.

Asked how he knew 46 were killed, Ahmedi replied, “We have reports.”

The governor of Badghis province, Ashraf Nasery, said 49 militants were killed and 35 wounded. He attributed the death toll to “intelligence reports.”

He labeled the militants “the enemies of Afghanistan” but offered no more clues as to who they were.

It was the second time in two days that Afghan officials made claims of large numbers of militant deaths.

On Sunday, the Interior Ministry said Afghan forces had killed more than 100 militants in a three-day fight in Farah province, but no officials could say how they reached that toll, and two admitted that no bodies were left on the battlefield to count.

Eternal Occupation:

“The U.S. Has Never Sought To ‘Liberate’ Afghanistan”

“The U.S. Government Pressured Hamid Karzai Into Signing An Agreement In May 2005 Granting The U.S. The Right To Install A Huge Military Presence In The Country Forever”

“To this could be added the deaths by torture at the U.S.-run Bagram prison and the resuscitation of a Soviet-era security law under which detainees are being sentenced to 20-year jail terms on the basis of summary allegations by U.S. military authorities.

May 28, 2008 Socialist Worker Editorial [Excerpts]

If there is one point of agreement between Republicans and Democrats, and even sections of the antiwar movement, it is that the U.S. war on Afghanistan is a legitimate response to the September 11 attacks, mainly aimed at bringing the perpetrators to justice--unlike the occupation of Iraq, which is viewed, even by sections of the Washington establishment, as “unnecessary,” “illegal” and “based on lies.”

George Bush and the Pentagon are currently weighing a “surge” of two additional brigades--about 7,000 troops--to Afghanistan.

The Democrats' likely presidential nominee Barack Obama has repeatedly spoken in favor of sending more troops to Afghanistan--he calls the occupation of Iraq a “distraction” from the war the U.S. should be fighting. Two additional brigades would bring total American troop strength in Afghanistan to more than 40,000 and boost the proportion of U.S. soldiers from about half to two-thirds of NATO forces.

In 2007, because of an expansion of bombing campaigns on villages, deaths of Afghans topped 6,500, the largest number since the war began more than six years ago. Deaths of U.S. soldiers last year, at 110, were also up, while other nations contributing troops to NATO forces lost a combined 111.

The level of death and destruction in Afghanistan, combined with the horrible toll that the war has exacted on U.S. soldiers, including those who return alive but forever scarred by the stress of combat, should be reason enough to oppose the war in Afghanistan.

But this is only a starting point.

If you look more closely at what the U.S. has done in Afghanistan and plans to do in the future, it's clear that the rhetoric about upholding democracy and making

the world safer is--as in Iraq--a smokescreen to justify pursuing imperial ambitions.

FROM THE start, the U.S. cloaked its motivations for going to war in Afghanistan with talk about saving ordinary people in Afghanistan--in particular, women suffering abject oppression--from the rule of the Taliban. But a few years before, the U.S. had quietly backed the ascendance of the Taliban, in the hope that the hard-line regime would impose order--and facilitate the oil corporation Unocal's plan to build a pipeline through the country.

No doubt, some Afghans hoped the U.S. invasion would get rid of the Taliban.

But those hopes turned to bitterness and resentment as the brutality of the occupation--and the savagery of the warlords that Washington has depended on to maintain its grip--became all the more evident.

As the veteran anti-imperialist and author Tariq Ali wrote:

“There have been numerous incidents of rape and rough treatment of women by [NATO] soldiers, as well as indiscriminate bombing of villages and house-to-house search-and-arrest missions. The behavior of the foreign mercenaries backing up the NATO forces is just as bad. Even sympathetic observers admit that “their alcohol consumption and patronage of a growing number of brothels in Kabul...is arousing public anger and resentment.”

“To this could be added the deaths by torture at the U.S.-run Bagram prison and the resuscitation of a Soviet-era security law under which detainees are being sentenced to 20-year jail terms on the basis of summary allegations by U.S. military authorities.

“All this creates a thirst for dignity that can only be assuaged by genuine independence.”

Journalist and filmmaker John Pilger reports that members of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), bitter opponents of the Taliban, make the same point. “We, the women of Afghanistan, only became a cause in the West following September 11, 2001, when the Taliban suddenly became the official enemy of America,” Marina, a member of RAWA, explained to Pilger when he visited Afghanistan.

“Yes, they persecuted women, but they were not unique, and we have resented the silence in the West over the atrocious nature of the Western-backed warlords, who are no different. They rape and kidnap and terrorize, yet they hold seats in Karzai's government. “In some ways, we were more secure under the Taliban. “You could cross Afghanistan by road and feel secure. Now, you take your life into your hands.”

IN TIME-honored fashion, the U.S. has held up a country's terrible history of poverty, repression and inequality as the pretext for imperial aggression that only aggravates poverty, repression and inequality.

The problem is not a lack of money or troops, as George Bush and Barack Obama suggest, but the goal of the war itself.

The U.S. has never sought to “liberate” Afghanistan, but to dominate it and turn it into a stable, U.S.-friendly outpost in Central Asia.

What the U.S. really wants, says Tariq Ali, is “to construct an army able to suppress its own population but incapable of defending the nation from outside powers; a civil administration with no control over planning or social infrastructure, which is in the hands of Western NGOs; and a government whose foreign policy marches in step with Washington's.”

This explains why the U.S. government pressured Hamid Karzai into signing an agreement in May 2005 granting the U.S. the right to install a huge military presence in the country forever--over and against protests that erupted against the agreement before the ink was even dry.

U.S. policymakers understand that Afghanistan, like Iraq, is a strategic beachhead that can be used to spread Washington's geopolitical influence throughout Central Asia.

Sometimes, they even spell this out explicitly. An essay in the NATO Review, for example, sounds more like a threat than a call for security and peace: “In the 21st century, NATO must become an alliance founded on the Euro-Atlantic area, designed to project systemic stability beyond its borders...There can be no systemic security without Asian security, and there will be no Asian security without a strong role for the West therein.”

The “humanitarian-security” case made by the U.S. establishment needs to be rejected--just as the case for the occupation of Iraq has been rejected as a pack of lies to justify Washington's drive to control oil resources and project its power throughout the Middle East.

Resistance Action

06/03/08 By JASON STRAZIUSO, Associated Press Writer & KUNA & DPA & Jun 4 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

In the eastern province of Khost, a car bomb destroyed a district government building in Jaji Maydan. No one was killed but 23 people were wounded, said Gen. Mohammad Ayub, the provincial police chief. In the southern Zabul province, Taliban fighters ambushed a NATO logistics convoy and killed one private security guard, said provincial police chief Saridullah Khan.

Taliban militants killed a district chief of intelligence in southeastern Afghanistan, officials said on Tuesday. Spokesman for the provincial government Khaibar Pashtun said chief

of the national intelligence department of Alisher district of the country's southeastern Khost province was shot dead while on his way to his office. He said the officer was killed this morning as armed men opened fire on his car,

In the Murja district of Helmand province, Taliban fighters attacked a police patrol Monday and killed one policeman, said provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai.

Taliban militants attacked a police post in western Afghanistan, killing a policeman and capturing six others along with their vehicle. The insurgents attacked a police post in the Gulran district of western Herat province on Monday night, according to Abdul Raouf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the police force in the western region. Police found the vehicle during a search operation in the area, but the whereabouts of the police officers was not known.

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Sgt. John Daggett, of Phoenix, Ariz., June 2, 2008, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery. Daggett, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, died May 15, 2008 from wounds sustained in a May 1, 2008 attack when an explosive struck his vehicle in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

Guantanamo Army Col. Seeking The Truth Told To Fuck Off: Dishonorable Rat In Command: Marine Col. Ralph Kohlmann, Dismisses Honorable Officer For Running A Fair Trial; Pentagon “Unwilling To Let Judges Exercise Independence If It Means A Ruling Against The Government”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in, with the headline.]

May 31, 2008 By Carol J. Williams, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

MIAMI -- A judge hearing a war crimes case at Guantanamo Bay who publicly expressed frustration with military prosecutors' refusal to give evidence to the defense has been dismissed, tribunal officials confirmed Friday.

Army Col. Peter Brownback III was presiding over the case of Canadian detainee Omar Khadr.

Marine Col. Ralph Kohlmann, in his role as chief judge at Guantanamo, ordered the dismissal without explanation and announced Brownback's replacement in an e-mail this week to lawyers in Khadr's case.

Brownback had threatened to suspend the proceedings against Khadr unless prosecutors handed over Khadr's medical and interrogation records since his July 2002 capture in Afghanistan.

Khadr's Navy lawyer, Lt. Cmdr. William C. Kuebler, had asked for the records months ago, and Brownback had ordered the government to produce them.

The lead prosecutor in the Khadr case, Marine Maj. Jeffrey Groharing, this week reiterated to Brownback his view that the defense wasn't entitled to the records. He urged the judge to set a trial date.

Brownback said during an April hearing that he had been “badgered and beaten and bruised by Maj. Groharing” to set a date but couldn't do so in good conscience when the prosecution was withholding evidence.

Brownback revealed in a November 2007 session that Pentagon officials had made clear they “didn't like” his decision the previous June to dismiss the Khadr case for lack of jurisdiction.

Human rights monitors saw Brownback's dismissal as indicative of political influence on the tribunal.

“The fact that Judge Brownback has now been taken off the case, without explanation, creates the appearance of political meddling and highlights why these commissions cannot be considered full, fair and independent,” said Jennifer Daskal, senior counter-terrorism counsel for Human Rights Watch.

“The message of the Pentagon's decision seems to be that it is unwilling to let judges exercise independence if it means a ruling against the government,” said Jamil Dakwar, human rights program director for the American Civil Liberties Union.

While Brownback made several rulings in favor of the defense, earlier this month he sided with the prosecution in refusing to classify Khadr as a child soldier at the time of his alleged offenses.

**More Troops In Iraq Caught Encouraging Iraqis To Kill Other U.S. Soldiers:
Stupid, Twisted “Religious” Freaks Endangering Brothers And Sisters By Handing Out Christian Religious Propaganda;
“Members Of The 101st Airborne Stationed In Iraq Will Continue Their Work Evangelizing Iraqis Unless It Is Told Otherwise”**

“The Book’s Cover Includes The Logos Of The Five Branches Of The Armed Forces Giving The Impression That It’s A Publication Sanctioned By The Pentagon”

[Thanaks to Elaine Brower, Military Project and Pham Binh, Military Proejct, who sent this in.]

These inflammatory comic books, published in English and Arabic, not only depict Mohammed, but show both Mohammed and Muslims burning in hell because they did not accept Jesus as their savior before they died

30 May, 2008 By Jason Leopold, The Public Record

Some U.S. military personnel appears to have launched an initiative to covert thousands of Iraqi citizens to Christianity by distributing Bibles and other fundamentalist Christian literature translated into Arabic to Iraqi Muslims.

A recent article published on the website of Mission Network News reported that Bible Pathway Ministries, a fundamentalist Christian organization, has provided thousands of a special military edition of its Daily Devotional Bible study book to members of the 101st Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, currently stationed in Iraq, the project “came into being when a chaplain in Iraq (who has since finished his tour) requested some books from Bible Pathway Ministries (BPM).”

“The resulting product is a 6”x9” 496-page illustrated book with embossed cover containing 366 daily devotional commentaries, maps, charts, and additional helpful information,” the Mission Network News report says.

Chief Warrant Officer Rene Llanos of the 101st Airborne told Mission Network News, “the soldiers who are patrolling and walking the streets are taking along this copy, and they’re using it to minister to the local residents.”

“We need to pray for protection for our soldiers as they patrol and pray that God would continue to open doors. The soldiers are being placed in strategic places with a purpose. They’re continuing to spread the Word.”

That would appear to violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibiting government officials, including military personnel, from using the machinery of the state to promote any form of religion.

The book’s cover includes the logos of the five branches of the armed forces giving the impression that it’s a publication sanctioned by the Pentagon.

Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the government watchdog agency The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), said the religious intolerance among U.S. military personnel calls for a federal investigation.

“The shocking actions revealed just last week of American soldiers in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan callously using the Koran for automatic weapons “target practice” is absolutely connected to the same issues of national security breach wrought by our United States armed forces proselytizing the local populations via the distribution to them of fundamentalist Christian coins, bibles, tracts, comics and related religious materials written in Arabic,” Weinstein said.

“The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has been acutely aware of such astonishing unconstitutional and illicit proselytizing in Iraq and Afghanistan for over three years now and knows how massively pervasive it really is.

“These proselytizing transgressions are all blatant violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and MRFF is now demanding that any and all responsible military personnel be immediately prosecuted under Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation,” Weinstein added.

Members of the U.S. military first started actively proselytizing Iraqi Muslims soon after the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003.

In a newsletter published <http://www.i-m-f.org/pdfs/Gatherings/Spring2004.pdf> in 2004 by the fundamentalist group International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), Capt. Steve Mickel, an Army chaplain, claimed that Iraqis were eager to be converted to Christianity and that he personally tried to convert dozens of Iraqis, which is also an apparent constitutional violation.

“I am able to give them tracts on how to be saved, printed in Arabic,” Mickel said, according to a copy of the IMF newsletter.

“I wish I had enough Arabic Bibles to give them as well. The issue of mailing Arabic Bibles into Iraq from the U.S. is difficult (given the current postal regulations prohibiting all religious materials contrary to Islam except for personal use of the soldiers). But the hunger for the Word of God in Iraq is very great, as I have witnessed first-hand.”

Mickel evangelized Iraqis while delivering leftover food to local residents from his unit's mess hall.

“Such fundamentalist Christian proselytizing DIRECTLY violates General Order 1A, Part 2, Section J issued by General Tommy Franks on behalf of the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) back in December of 2000 which strictly prohibits “proselytizing of any religion, faith or practice,” said Weinstein, a former Reagan administration White House counsel and former Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG).

In addition to coins and Bibles, there have been reports of the distribution to Iraqi children of Christian comic books published by companies such as Chick Publications.

These inflammatory comic books, published in English and Arabic, not only depict Mohammed, but show both Mohammed and Muslims burning in hell because they did not accept Jesus as their savior before they died

Postal regulations prohibit sending bulk religious materials contrary to Islam into Iraq, but allow religious materials to be sent to an individual soldier for their personal use.

Sending more of these materials than would be necessary for an individual's personal use, but not a large enough quantity to risk being flagged by the postal service, is one way that these materials are making their way into Iraq.

Chick Publications advises those wanting to send their literature to military personnel to first find out "just what tracts would be most useful and how many they can effectively use," and "to find out whether the tracts can be drop shipped from Chick Publications or if they should be sent as personal mail from the soldiers' families."

Meanwhile, members of the 101st Airborne stationed in Iraq will continue their work evangelizing Iraqis unless it is told otherwise.

Llanos, the division's chief warrant officer, said about 2,000 copies of the military edition of the Bible provided to the 101st Airborne will soon be distributed to Iraqis.

However, reports on the Bible Pathway Ministries website up to 30,000 of the Christian books have been distributed to military personnel, some of which will presumably end up in the hands of Iraqis.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“A Declaration Of Principles!
What Principles??”**
**“Why Does The U.S
Administration *Need To Find A
Way To Stay Here?*”**
“Hasn't It Done Enough Harm?”

“Why Don't They Just Pick Up And Go, And Leave Us To Lick Our Wounds?”

Then they occupy the country, disband every security agency we had and wonder why there is no security, what with hundreds of thousands of trained killers on the streets with fire in their hearts for being first required to be called “Bathist” by a madman who would not employ them otherwise – and then kicked out by *foreigners* mercilessly because they did!

June 02, 2008 By Sahar IIS [Baghdad] washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/

The Iraqi and American governments are to negotiate a long term agreement for which the *principles* have already been declared:

Political and Diplomatic: *The U.S. and Iraq have committed to strengthening Iraq's democratic institutions, upholding the Iraqi Constitution, supporting Iraqi national reconciliation, and enhancing Iraq's position in regional and international organizations, so that it may play a constructive role in the region.*

Economic: *Both countries have agreed to support the development of Iraqi economic institutions and further integration into international financial institutions, to encourage all parties to abide by their commitments made in the International Compact with Iraq, to assist Iraq in its efforts to recover illegally exported funds and properties and to secure debt relief, and to encourage the flow of foreign investments to Iraq.*

Security: *To support the Iraqi government in training, equipping, and arming the Iraqi Security Forces so they can provide security and stability to all Iraqis; support the Iraqi government in contributing to the international fight against terrorism by confronting terrorists such as Al-Qaeda, its affiliates, other terrorist groups, as well as all other outlaw groups, such as criminal remnants of the former regime; and to provide security assurances to the Iraqi Government to deter any external aggression and to ensure the integrity of Iraq's territory.*

WOW!

Excuse me, but how long is this going to take??

I can see why the US supported *Iraqi government* would jump at the chance to be baby sat in this way – but the *American* government??

Why does the US administration *need* to find a way to stay here? What does it *stand to gain*, going all out like this??

Hasn't it done enough harm?

The mandate under which it is operating in Iraq will terminate at the end of 2008.

Why don't they just pick up and go, and leave us to lick our wounds?

From the 1990s, first they levy sanctions against the Iraqi people, starve them of food, medicine and medical supplies, spare parts to repair and maintain electricity plants that they destroyed in the first place, items necessary for schools, agriculture and the humble industries that we had.

Did they really believe that it was Saddam who would starve??

Then they occupy the country, disband every security agency we had and wonder why there is no security, what with hundreds of thousands of trained killers on the streets with fire in their hearts for being first required to be called “Bathist” by a madman who would not employ them otherwise – and then kicked out by *foreigners* mercilessly because they did!

Five years of death, destruction and misery, and a rent in our social fabric that will never really heal.

And now what?

A new phase, it seems, no doubt to be paid for by the innocent.

It's always the innocent who pay the price, never the people who sit behind desks in the security of their offices far away from our reality – whether in the green zone or far across the oceans.

A Declaration of Principles!

What principles??

Resistance Action

June 2 (Reuters) & June 3 (Reuters) & AFP & June 4 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer & By Aseel Kami and Waleed Ibrahim (Reuters)

In Baghdad a truck bomb that struck the house of police Brigadier-General Nadhim Taeih, killing his nephew and wounding his The explosion crumbled several two-story buildings, buried cars under rubble and sheared off a corrugated steel roof.

A roadside bomb killed wounded three policemen, in Bab al-Muadham district, in central Baghdad, police said.

One Iraqi soldier was killed and four others were wounded when a car bomb exploded near their patrol in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomber killed at least three policemen in Mosul, in an attack against the main police headquarters. At least seven policemen were wounded. Mosul is 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad,

A roadside bomb struck an Iraqi police patrol in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, wounding six policemen, police said.

A roadside bomb struck an army and police convoy, killing two policemen and one soldier and wounding four policemen, near Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, said a police official.

Guerrillas killed a police colonel and wounded his brother, a police lieutenant-colonel, on Tuesday night in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Three policemen were wounded when a parked car bomb targeting a police patrol exploded near a restaurant in the Jadriya neighbourhood of southern Baghdad, police said.

A police officer and his brother were killed after insurgents opened fire on their vehicle in Baghdad on Tuesday, police said

Tens Of Thousands Of Iraqis Take To The Streets In Baghdad And Other Cities To Condemn The Occupation



Protesters display a huge Iraqi flag as they march after Friday prayers in Kut, 150 km (95 miles) south of Baghdad May 30, 2008. Tens of thousands marched through Iraq cities to protest talks between Washington and Baghdad on keeping U.S. troops in Iraq after 2008, responding to a call by nationalist anti-occupation political leader Moqtada al-Sadr. REUTERS/Stringer

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Winter Soldier II Investigation



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

The wound is worth a thousand words.
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)

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

***June 2, 1863: Glorious Anniversary:
“Col. Montgomery And His Gallant Band
Of 300 Black Soldiers, Under The
Guidance Of A Black Woman, Dashed
Into The Enemy’s Country, Struck A Bold
And Effective Blow, Striking Terror Into
The Heart Of Rebeldom”***



Harriet Tubman

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, “led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted”.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

June 2, 1863

Abolitionist and former slave James Montgomery led 300 African-American troops of the Union’s 2nd South Carolina Volunteers on a raid of plantations along the Combahee River. Meanwhile, backed by three gunboats, Harriet Tubman’s forces set fire to the plantations and freed 750 slaves.

The following dispatch, quoted in part, appeared on the front page of The Commonwealth, a Boston newspaper, on Friday, July 10, 1863:

HARRIET TUBMAN

July 10, 1863:

Col. Montgomery and his gallant band of 300 black soldiers, under the guidance of a black woman, dashed into the enemy's country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, cotton and lordly dwellings, and striking terror into the heart of rebeldom, brought off near 800 slaves and thousands of dollars worth of property, without losing a man or receiving a scratch.

It was a glorious consummation.

After they were all fairly well disposed of in the Beaufort charge, they were addressed in strains of thrilling eloquence by their gallant deliverer, to which they responded in a song. "There is a white robe for thee," a song so appropriate and so heartfelt and cordial as to bring unbidden tears.

The Colonel was followed by a speech from the black woman, who led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted.

For sound sense and real native eloquence, her address would do honor to any man, and it created a great sensation...

Since the rebellion she had devoted herself to her great work of delivering the bondman, with an energy and sagacity that cannot be exceeded. Many and many times she has penetrated the enemy's lines and discovered their situation and condition, and escaped without injury, but not without extreme hazard.

The Combahee River, in South Carolina, was the first one visited by the Spaniards in the year 1520. Vasque de Ayllon, having discovered it, gave it the name "River Jordan."

Although subsequently renamed the Combahee, the stream now became a River Jordan literally for more than seven hundred and fifty Negroes who, under the leadership of Harriet Tubman and the auxiliary command of Colonel James Montgomery, delivered this number of blacks into the free lines.

The River Jordan has been in biblical history a reality, and in modern Negro allusion a symbol of the barrier between bondage and freedom, and it is an interesting coincidence, therefore, that the Combahee campaign should so parallel the ancient situation.

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, "led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted".

The N.Y. Tribune " says that the Negro troops at Hilton Head, S.C. will soon start an expedition, under the command of Colonel Montgomery, differing in many respects from any heretofore projected.

The Combahee strategy was formulated by Harriet Tubman as an outcome of her penetrations of the enemy lines and her belief that the Combahee River countryside was ripe for a successful invasion.

She was asked by General Hunter “if she would go with several gunboats up the Combahee River, the object of the expedition being to take up the torpedoes placed by the rebels in the river, to destroy railroads and bridges, and to cut off supplies from the rebel troops.

She said she would go if Col. Montgomery was to be appointed commander of the expedition...

Accordingly, Col. Montgomery was appointed to the command, and Harriet, with several men under her, the principal of whom was J. Plowden...accompanied the expedition”.

Actually in this raid it was Montgomery who was the auxiliary leader. The whole venture owed its success to the complete preliminary survey made by Harriet Tubman’s espionage troops.

Captain John F. Lay, the Confederate investigating officer, discussing the movement afterwards, said, “The enemy seems to have been well posted as to the character and capacity of our troops and their small chance of encountering opposition, and to have been well guided by persons thoroughly acquainted with the river and country.

It was a commentary, however indirect, on Harriet’s work and the labor of her subordinates.

About ten miles north of Port Royal Island, Harriet’s station, was St. Helena Island, and between this island and the mainland of South Carolina was the water known as St. Helena Sound. The Combahee River, a narrow, jagged stream that ran about fifty miles into the interior of the State, began at the Sound: and on its banks were rice fields and marshes.

During the night of June 2, 1863, Harriet and Colonel Montgomery, with a party of about 150 Negro troops in three gunboats, started up the Combahee River. Pickets located at stations near the mouth of the stream spotted the oncoming boats and dispatched word to the Confederate commander, Major Emanuel, located deeper inland at Green Pond...

Every plantation on both sides of the river was aroused; the Union soldiers, in small detachments, raced from one to another, creating a general devastation of the zone.

In the Combahee Ferry region the Blake, Lowndes, Middleton and Heyward plantations were in ruins. The Negroes fled to the gunboats and the slavemasters skedaddled inland. The bridge at Combahee Ferry was burning too “but not badly.

As the gunboats passed up the river, the Negroes left their work and took to the woods, for at first they were frightened.

Then they came out to peer, “like startled deer.” But scudding away like the wind at the sound of the steam-whistle.

The word was passed along that these were “Lincoln’s gunboats come to set them free.”

From that moment on, the overseers used their whips in vain, for they failed to drive the slaves back to the quarters.

They turned and ran for the gun-boats; they came down every road, across every field, dressed just as they were when they left their work and their cabins.

There were women with children clinging around their necks, hanging onto their dresses, or running behind, but all rushed at full speed for “Lincoln’s gun-boats.”

Hundreds crowded the banks, with their hands extended toward their deliverers, and most of them were taken aboard the gun-boats to be carried to Beaufort.

This is about what happened all through the night and morning of June 2 when Harriet, Montgomery and the colored soldiers overran the Combahee.

June 4, 1989

Dishonorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History June 4-10

Hundreds of civilians were shot dead by China’s People’s Liberation Army during a bloody military operation in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square.

Students and workers had become part of a growing pro-democracy movement, gathering there continuously for weeks. The Chinese government still officially denies any deaths occurred; thousands arrested “disappeared” and remain unaccounted for.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. 1-22 Infantry Battalion performs a retina scan of Iraqi citizens during armed home invasions on the edge of Baghdad's neighbourhood of Shulla, May 18, 2008. (Oleg Popov/Reuters)

[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, line them up at gunpoint and make them submit to having their eyeballs photographed, 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.]

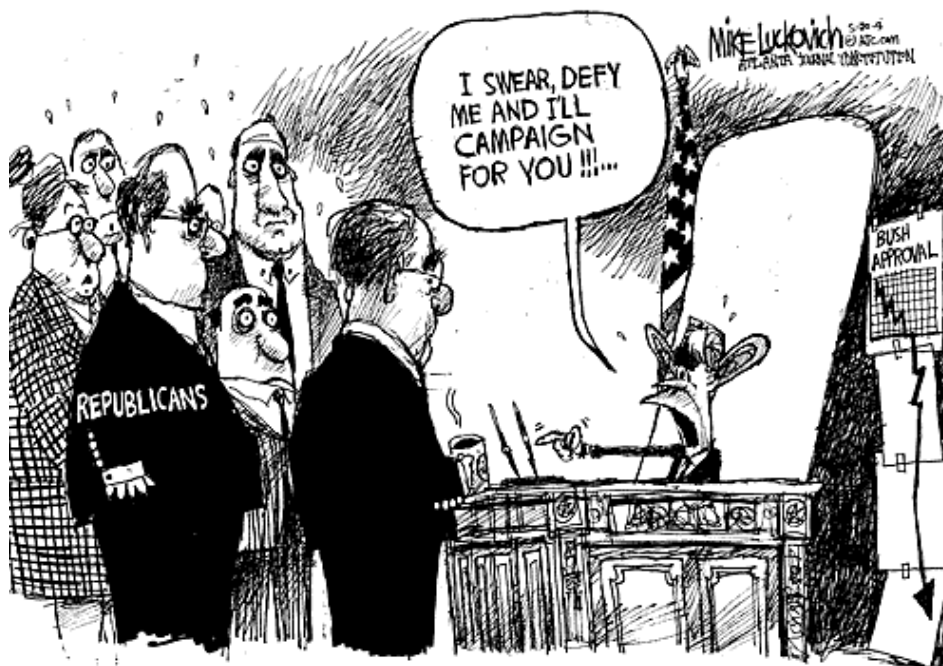
[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[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!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



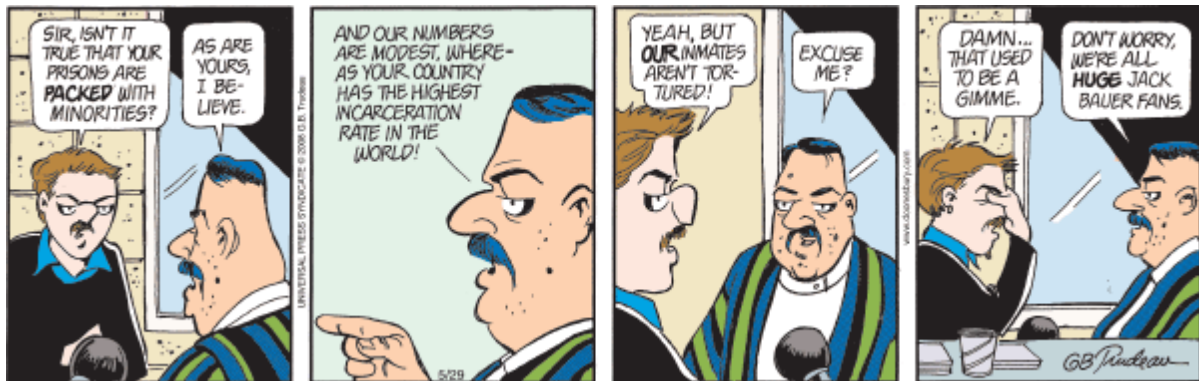
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CLASS WAR REPORTS



Troops Invited:

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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/)

Received:

Frag Dolls Win Rainbow Six: Vegas



[Thanks to LL, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: “Frag had a different meaning back in the day.”]

At the Rainbow Six: Vegas tournament in Dallas, the Frag Dolls become the first all-female team to win a tourney at a pro-circuit event.

The team of Morgan “Rhoulette” Romine, Amy “Valkyrie” Brady, Emily “Seppuku” Ong, Nelly”Psyche” Morel, and Alyson “Calyber” Craghead won after beating team The Unknown. By the way, The Unknown was the undefeated champ until the Frag Dolls came along and took them down.

Frag Doll team captain Rhoulette said the team has been playing Rainbow Six: Vegas up to 12 hours a day since it came out and is the team's favorite multiplayer series. "We played as a team, communicated well, stuck to our strategies and won."

Rumors are going around that they want all the soldiers home, now.



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