

GI SPECIAL 6G13:



U.S. Iraq Casualties Jump To 67,203

July 15, 2008 By Michael Munk

US military occupation forces in Iraq suffered at least 102 combat casualties in the week ending July 15, as the official casualty total reached at least 67,203.

That total jumped by 1,314 because the number of non combat- injured and sick casualties became available for the first time since March 1.

It includes 33,766 dead and wounded by what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and more than 33,437 dead and medically evacuated (as of May 31) because of "non-hostile" causes.

The actual total is over 87,000 because the Pentagon chooses not to count as "Iraq casualties" the approximately 20,000 casualties discovered only after they returned from Iraq -mainly brain trauma from explosions.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by routinely reporting only the total killed (4,121 as of July 15) and rarely mentioning the 30, 409 wounded in combat.

To further minimize public perception of the cost, they cover for the Pentagon by ignoring the 32,673 (as of May 31) military victims of accidents and illness serious enough to require medical air evacuation, although the 4,121 reported deaths include 764 (no change) who died from those same causes, including at least 13 from faulty electrical work by KBR and 145 suicides as of March 1.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Family, Friends Remember Marine As Funny, Adventurous



Lance Cpl. Jeffery Stevenson: 1988-2008

7/15/2008 By ELISA D. KELLER, New Jersey Herald

Stillwater resident Jeffery Stevenson joined the U.S. Marines Corps six months after graduating from Kittatinny Regional High School in 2006. A quiet young man known for his unwavering support of the military, he was all too aware of the danger that came with his deployment to Iraq in February.

"He said if anything did happen (to him), he wanted friends and family to know this is what he wanted to do," said his brother, Robert Stevenson, himself a member of the U.S. Air Force. "He didn't want anybody to feel bad for him."

Lance Cpl. Jeffery Stevenson, a machinist with the Seventh Engineers Support Battalion First Marine Division, was killed Sunday in Iraq. He is the first Sussex County resident to die in the Iraq war.

"He was just way more mature than most people are at his age," said Robert Stevenson, adding that his brother joined the Marines with the hope of making his own path. "I think he just wanted to do something different for himself."

The son of Karen Solarino and stepson of Joe Solarino, Stevenson was only 20 when he died. Described as kind and unselfish, friends and family said he knew from a very young age he wanted to enlist in the military.

"He was always interested in anything to do with the military," said his childhood friend Brad Lambert, who lived two houses away from the Stevensons in East Stroudsburg, Pa., before they moved to Stillwater several years ago.

"We played a lot of video games and we road ATVs together," Lambert said, noting that he got to spend time with Stevenson before he was deployed this winter. "He was friends with everybody -- very well liked. He would do anything for his friends."

Though former teachers have described Stevenson as patriotic, his friend Joseph Corleto saw his desire to join the military differently. "It was more like he wanted to do it for himself," he said. "I guess he wanted his own sense of adventure. He was very quiet, (but) he feared nothing. He said he was living his dream."

Stevenson's MySpace page portrays a similarly adventuresome spirit. The quote listed at the top of his profile reads, "I refuse to tip-toe through life, only to arrive safely at death."

"It's almost like a puzzle," Corleto said about that choice of words. "His motto was, 'Why should I be careful?' I think he lived more than most people have."

"He put nothing in his yearbook. No picture, no profile," said Corleto, adding that Stevenson was very modest about his strength and high pain tolerance when they worked out together. Before he left for the military, the new recruit impulsively decided to get three new tattoos, including an angel and a skull design.

Stevenson also enjoyed lifting weights, playing football with his brother, and playing video games and basketball with his friends.

"He wasn't afraid to get his hands dirty or just to go out and play," said Corleto, describing him as a lover of the outdoors who enjoyed building things and working as a mechanic. When he finished his tour of duty, Stevenson had planned to get involved with electrical work or become a math teacher.

"He was extremely funny. He made everybody laugh (because he was) so blunt," Corleto added. "I'm never going to forget him. It's been like an emotional roller coaster. I still can't believe it."

"As a father, my heart goes out to his mom and dad. It's such a tremendous loss," said family friend Lou Sylvester. "I'm sure they're proud, but I sometimes wonder how that's any easier. When something happens to someone in our town, especially like this, it really does touch all of us. It's a tragedy."

In honor of Stevenson, Kittatinny Regional High School will fly its flag at half-staff throughout the week.

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



U.S. Army soldiers run past a concrete wall that is being built through the Sadr City, Baghdad, May 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Helmand; Nationality Not Announced

July 21, 2008 AP

In the south, where the Taliban insurgency is strongest, a U.S.-led coalition member died Monday after being wounded by a roadside bomb in Helmand province a day earlier.

They did not release the victim's name or nationality pending notification of family. The majority of coalition members are American.

Local Soldier Killed In Action In Afghanistan

7/16/2008 Yvette Martinez, WBIR

Family members are still coming to grips with the news that Specialist Jason Hovater and eight of his fellow soldiers were killed in action Sunday morning in Afghanistan.

Hovater, 24, was stationed in Italy, but his unit was deployed to Afghanistan. He was serving with Chosin company, 2/503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Specialist Hovater grew up in Anderson County and was home schooled with his three brothers and sister. His family describes him as a man of faith who grew up singing, praying and living a life close to God.

The faith he shared with his brothers and sister along with their mom and dad is what they cling to now.

The entire Hovater family has a heart for worship through songs of praise. "He wanted to serve his country and he also wanted to serve his faith in Jesus Christ to people with his singing," Jason's father Gerald Hovater said.

He was a paratrooper trained to fight on the front lines.

But his family remembers him as a talented singer and bold worship leader. "The love of God that was in him and the deposit that God had in him came out behind that piano," Jason's mother Kathy Hovater said.

In December 2006 he married his childhood best friend, Jenna Renae. They met in church when they were just teenagers.

"As hard as this is I feel more blessed just to have known him even for the short amount of time that I did," Jenna said. "He was such a blessing to this world and we all just have to be thankful that God let us know him the amount of time that we did."

Jason was on his last mission in Afghanistan before he was scheduled to leave that country this week to go back to his duty station in Italy.

Meanwhile, his wife was packing to leave East Tennessee and meet him in Italy this Friday as a surprise. They had only been married 3 months when Jason left for his 15 month deployment.

"He really believed in the cause," Jenna said. "I think that he really had faith that he was coming back."

Jenna as well as Jason's brothers and sister say he was the funniest person they ever knew. They say he was an encouragement to his fellow soldiers and was never afraid to share his faith.

"I will never, ever, ever live a day and not just be thankful. He is a hero," Jenna said. Family members believe Jason is safe now, and enjoying his time in eternal worship.

"He's in the best praise team he could ever be in right now and he's doing what his heart's desire was, worshipping," Kathy said.

"We know where he's at and we have comfort in that," Jason's sister Jessica Davis said.

Jason's brother-in-law says he wants the world to remember "he was not just a soldier."

Specialist Jason Hovater leaves behind his wife Jenna, parents Gerald and Kathy, brothers David Bunch, Joe and Jesse Hovater and sister Jessica Davis. He will also be missed by his two young nephews Aiden and Jude.

Jason's funeral arrangements are not finalized yet.

Six RIR Soldiers Hit In Taliban Attack

21 July 2008 Belfast Telegraph

Six Royal Irish Regiment soldiers have been injured in an attack by the Taliban.

Coming just 24 hours after it was revealed another member of the Regiment lost a leg in an earlier attack in the country's Helmand province, it will further highlight the dangerous assignment for local and national RIR members.

Resistance Takes Ajiristan District;

Collaborator Forces Run Away

July 21 AFP

Dozens of Taliban militants captured a district in central Ghazni province overnight, killing one policeman and injuring two others, a government spokesman said.

Local security forces had fled the centre of Ajiristan district, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) southwest of Kabul , the interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary said.

"Security forces abandoned the district centre after Taliban attacked. They withdrew under lots of pressure," he said.

"We're working on a plan to retake the district." [Sure. And the German Army has a plan to retake Stalingrad.]

TROOP NEWS

“Many Active-Duty Soldiers Prefer To Organize The Resistance Inside The Army Underground, Anonymously”

“As A Member Of The Iraq Veterans Against The War, She Fights Against The War”

“I Simply Have To Do It,” She Says

07 Jul 2008 Sterbefeld Deutschland taz portrait [Excerpts]

[Translated from German By Max Watts, who began helping GIs resisting the Vietnam War in the 1960's, and has never stopped helping soldiers opposed to imperialism.]

[Max Watts writes: I received the “taz” article “killing field – Germany“ forwarded from Berlin by my friend (ex us army pvt, selfretired in 1952) Victor Grossman. I have re-translated it rapidly, and want this out before have had time to re-edit.

Please excuse rough job (re-translated, for obviously Sgt. Coppa's original was in U.S. Army/English).]



Once upon a time the Killing Fields were in Southeast Asia, but according to Sgt SELENA COPPA today they are also in Germany.

Officially about 4,100 GIs have died in Iraq till now, but - says Sgt Coppa - in reality there have been approximately 25.000. The statistics are falsified. War-caused suicides are simply not counted. Badly injured soldiers are flown to hospitals in Germany. If they die in the air, or in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, they are counted as deaths in Germany (Not Iraq).

Sgt Coppa is talking about the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center which has treated more than 12,000 US soldiers.

The young woman soldier, a "Indian" appearing beauty, is sitting with her five year old daughter on the sofa of her small apartment in the Wiesbaden US Army Base. In the Army seven years, she has been decorated several times for her work.

And in fact Sgt Coppa has time and again shown courage and bravery, although in a manner which her Superiors no longer seem to appreciate.

As a member of the "Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) she fights against the war, knowing that she risks reprisals.

"I simply have to do it," she says. She smiles, but her eyes remain sad. These eyes say it all.

They have seen horrors.

Asked directly, she refuses to reply. She is prohibited, legally, from giving details about her work in Military Intelligence. In any case, she points out that she is only giving her personal opinion, and does not speak in the name of the Army.

She mentions no Details, no Units, no Names, so as to give no pretexts to arrest or discharge her. She strictly observes the law, but points out that she may speak

politically, as a private person, even to the media, as long as this is off-duty and not in demonstrations.

"Many GI's don't know that, don't know their rights." "But once you stand up and speak openly, then you give courage to others to do so. Above all, you show them that they are not alone".

From her window you look out at the Base. Ugly multi-family houses, a few stands.

The shopping mall offers all, so that the army families feel at home. Flag decos for independence day, American food. In the restaurant a huge picture, showing happily smiling soldiers in front of beautiful mountains.

And also, Selena Coppa explains, the command continues depicting "the Germans" as hostile. Already in her first days in Wiesbaden she was told that contacts with the Germans are dangerous. "The Germans don't like Americans" "They also warned us about football fans, about public events. Be careful, these people are violent, they can attack you".

But this has not prevented Coppa from establishing contacts with "good Germans". She notes that by now "there is no part of the world where the Peace Movement has not arrived."

If the Army sends her again to Iraq they would do her a favor. "In Iraq we now have many members of our organization (IVAW). I can help organize there."

In Germany Coppa points out that the German government supports the war, indirectly,. "They behave like Pontius Pilate, they wash their hands in innocence".

Germany, with its many US Bases and Hospitals, is the strategically essential rear for the "War on Terror".

She has also heard about the Germans attaches in US uniform, who are in Iraq.

A German-speaking soldier told her: "I am training with the US Army." Another "Expert", who does not want to see his name in the papers, confirms the presence of German Army personnel in Iraq. Queried, a spokesperson for the German Federal Defense Ministry denies: "We have no Germans in Iraq"

"The government does not support our troops, quite the opposite," she says. "Those who want to get out of the army, are being kept in with 'Stop Loss' extensions.

Now the same GIs are being sent three, four, five times successively for – on the average - eleven months long tours. These GIs are being sent into the war zones, even with rotten equipment, and never mind how traumatized they are. With PTSD: Post Traumatic Syndrome including panic attacks, sleeplessness, heart racing, depression and other effects.

According to the regulations “anyone with PTSD must not serve,” Selena Coppa explains.

What does that mean for the future of the USA when about a third of the 1.6 million GIs, approximately half a million people, return, traumatized, from Iraq and Afghanistan ?

Selena Coppa’s eyes are sad. “They get no help. Some commit crimes, kill their wives. In Germany, too.”

And what about the female soldiers? According to an American study by professor Helen Benedict since the beginning of “The War on Terror” of the approximately 200,000 woman soldiers in the combat zones almost three-quarters have been sexually harassed and almost a third have been raped.

“I too know many such cases”, Coppa confirms. A woman soldier in Iraq died of dehydration, because she did not dare go to drink water in the hospital area, she was too afraid of being raped. Another female soldier was raped by a group of men, but was sentenced for alcohol abuse. All this is kept quiet.

Many soldiers believe “they can do what they want, in any case we won’t be prosecuted”. A “type of dehumanization” thru the war.

Selena Coppa, 25, comes from a poor New York family. In early 2001 she, then 17, joined the army because she wanted to “serve her country”.

But what she lived thru in Iraq so contradicted her beliefs in humanity and justice that she, on her return to the USA, joined “Iraq Veterans Against the War” (IVAW).

She became a leader in a ‘GI Outreach Team”.

On her free days she flew from one US Base to another, spoke, with GI’s about their rights, organized meetings and contact with for the anti-war movement.

In spring 2008 she participated in the “Winter Soldier” hearings and testified before Congress.

In the historic “Winter Soldier Investigation” of 1971 Vietnam war Vets first revealed what now is known to all. This spring some 200 vets reported about war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. The mainstream media has – once again - attempted to ignore the Hearings. Selena Coppa now knows so much more about Iraq because she checked the testimonies of these vets for their veracity.

Shortly thereafter the Winter Soldier hearing she was transferred to a US Base in Wiesbaden. Apparently an attempt to silence her...

The Internal Front Inside The Army

The "Iraq Veterans Against the War" (www.ivaw.org) are the most dangerous anti-war organisation for the US military. The IVAW is composed entirely of Vets and active-duty GIs and operates effectively inside the Armed Forces.

The IVAW has three main aims:

Withdrawal of the US troops from Iraq

Reparations to the people of Iraq

Support and Trauma treatment for the War Veterans.

Founded in 2004, IVAW officially has more than a thousand members by now, but in fact far more.

Many active-duty soldiers prefer to organize the Resistance inside the Army underground, anonymously

This Internal Resistance is becoming a real problem for the US government.

In Germany the resister soldiers have extra problems getting together, and meeting German anti-war activists.

“We need safe houses and meeting points,” Selena Coppa explains.

“Meetings are important, but we also need legal support, advice, help for traumatized soldiers. Even child-care for single parents such as I. And political support. “It is important to put pressure on the German government, so that it will stop supporting the Iraq war, even indirectly.”

To contact Sgt Selena Coppa (in English): armysergeant@ivaw.org

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

**Cynthia McKinney, Green Party
Nominee For President, Demands
Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq**



Cynthia McKinney [yellowcakewalk.net]

07/12/08 By JEFFRY SCOTT, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution [Excerpts]

CHICAGO — Former Georgia congresswoman Cynthia McKinney reassumed the national political stage Saturday, winning the presidential nomination of the Green Party of the United States at the party's national convention here.

Amid chants of "Paint The White House Green" and signs proclaiming, "Truth. McKinney 2008," McKinney revved up a crowd of about 350 Green Party delegates from 38 states who elected her on the first ballot.

"I am asking you to vote your conscience, vote your dreams, vote your future, vote Green," McKinney told the convention in a 30 minute speech following an address by her running mate, hip hop artist and political activist Rosa Clemente.

She was joined by her father, former Georgia representative Billy McKinney; her mother Leola, and her son Coy, on the stage in the elegant Michigan Avenue hall where the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performs,

McKinney, 53, was the odds-on favorite to win the nomination, coming into the convention with a 10-1 delegate lead over her closest rival, Jesse Johnson of West Virginia.

Since last fall, McKinney has campaigned in 30 states on the slogan "Power To The People" and a platform that calls for single-payer universal health care, the immediate withdrawal of American forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, the creation of a Department of Peace, and reparations for African-Americans.

In her address, Clemente, 36, vowed that she and McKinney would fight all "-isms and ideologies that divide us." Clemente jokingly threw down a challenge to the nation's sitting vice president: "Dick Cheney, bring it on."

In her unlikely re-emergence on the national political stage as the presidential nominee of the Green Party, which she joined in 2007 after leaving the Democratic Party where

she had served six terms representing DeKalb County's 4th Congressional district, McKinney faces a stiff – extremely long-shot – run at the presidency.

She as much conceded winning the presidency was not her goal in her speech Saturday. She said the thrust of her campaign would be to get 5 percent of the vote in November, effectively establishing the Greens as a third party that would not have to fight state-by-state to get on the ballot every four years.

"We are in this to build a movement," said McKinney to roars from the crowd. "A vote for the Green Party is a vote for the movement that will turn this country right-side-up again."

Green Party leaders expect she will be on the ballot in 36 states, where ballot qualification rules vary.

"Don't expect me to keep a count of the major flip flops of the other candidates between now and November, I'm sure there will be plenty," McKinney told the crowd.

"They are in this flip flop because they have to appear to share our values — while they serve somebody else."

U.S. Army Unveils New Blackhawk Helicopter



The iHawk

17 July 2008 Written by Travis Higgins, TheSpooof.com

Fort Campbell, KY - Today the U.S. Army unveiled its newest Helicopter, the UH-60M. The "Mike model," as its affectionately known among those who fly it, will replace its aging Fleet of UH-60A/L model Aircraft Which first entered service in 1979 as a medium lift utility and assault aircraft.

The New Blackhawk Helicopter, which is being fielded in The U.S. Army's famed 101st Airborne Division, incorporates a variety of improvements over the previous design including fully coupled autopilot, swept back rotor tip design for operation at high

altitudes, as well as glass cockpit touch screen instrumentation and interface based on Apple company's original iPhone.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs was on hand for the unveiling and addressed the crowd saying, "This is a historic day for the U.S. Army, Sikorsky helicopters, and Apple as we make the jump from the family home to aviation and military technology"

Apples incorporated Features on the new helicopter include; "moving map" displays, SMS messaging, Google Earth, 3G internet access, GPS locator, as well as full online access to iTunes online store.

Although many of the Army's Pilots who have learned to fly it were excited about the upgrades, there were numerous complaints when problems arose activating the new Aircraft through apples iTunes. iTunes has recently been overwhelmed by the simultaneous release of the second generation iPhone.

So what's next for Apple? When asked, Mr Jobs simply replied, "The space shuttle".

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



July 22, 1877:

American Workers Exploded With Rage — And The Rulers Of The Nation Feared The Fury Of The “Terror” From Within: “Pittsburgh Was ‘In The Hands Of Men Dominated By The Devilish Spirit Of Communism’”

THE GREAT STRIKE OF 1877



REMEMBERING A WORKER REBELLION

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

United Electrical Workers News - 06/02 [Excerpts]

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers of the nation feared the fury of the “terror” from within.

A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists’ anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

After three years, the nation still suffered through a major economic depression.

A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities.

The foreign born were widely blamed for the unprecedented, collective expression of rage against economic hardship and injustice.

The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway.

The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

When the fires turned to cold ash and working-class families buried their dead, no one — neither labor nor capital — would be the same again.

If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike.

It was an explosion of “firsts.”

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America’s industrial revolution.

It was the first national strike, stretching from Atlantic to Pacific.

In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation’s first general strikes.

This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military.

Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.

BORN OF DEPRESSION

The Great Strike was a creature of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history.

A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. “Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased,” wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor’s Untold Story*. The winter of 1873-74, especially in large cities, was one of great suffering for the tens of thousands of unemployed workers and their families who were starving or on the brink of starvation.

As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. But the depression itself became a powerful weapon in smashing unions.

Millions suffered through months upon months of mounting misery. “By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed (roughly 27 percent of the working population),” according to Boyer and Morais. “Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than six to seven months a year and less than one-fifth was regularly working.

“And the wages of those employed had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day.” Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

FIXED ELECTION

Political crisis seemed to mirror the economic mess.

Many Americans in 1877 believed their new president had reached the White House through fraud.

Certainly Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots the previous year. Democrat Samuel Tilden overcame the Ohio governor in the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida and other states threw the election into House of Representatives.

Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes.

As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans. Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden, handing the election to Hayes.

President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of political equality for former slaves. The troops would soon have other uses.

PAY CUTS

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10 percent when it cut wages by another 10 percent in June 1877. The following month that railroad company, the nation's largest, announced that the size of all eastbound trains from Pittsburgh would be doubled, without any increase in the size of crews.

Angry railroad workers took control of switches and blocked the movement of trains.

Meanwhile, on July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day, also by 10 percent. The company also reduced the workweek to only two or three days, a further pay cut.

On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work.

The company tried to bring on replacements — many experienced men were unemployed because of the depression — but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction.

The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, W. Va., where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them.

The railroad company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia.

Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains.

The strike swiftly followed the rails to Wheeling and Parkersburg.

As Harper's Weekly reported the following month, "Governor Matthews evoked the aid of the national government. President Hayes responded promptly."

Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived in Martinsburg on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars bottled up in Martinsburg.

STRIKE SPREADS

But the strike was far from over. "Indeed, it was barely begun," reported Harper's Weekly.

"As fast as the strike was broken in one place it appeared in another," wrote Boyer and Morais. The revolt against the powerful railroad companies spread into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping the eastbound trains from Martinsburg, Maryland's governor ordered out the state militia.

Thousands of the jobless and underpaid in Baltimore clearly saw whose interests the governor's proclamation served.

Within a half hour of the call, "a crowd numbering at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the (Maryland Sixth Regiment) armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers," according to Harper's Weekly. The crowd added bricks and stones to the curses hurled against the armory. The police were powerless.

Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, shots were fired — and shots were exchanged.

The militia killed at least 10 and wounded many others, among them curious onlookers. The Fifth Regiment was also attacked, although no shots were fired.

BATTLE IN PITTSBURGH

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh.

Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against Tom Scott's Pennsylvania Railroad "had the support even of businessmen, angry at the company because of extortionate freight rates." The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so the authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia.

When the militiamen arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with the cries of an angry crowd — and, according to Harper's, "a shower of stones."

They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29.

“The sight presented after the soldiers ceased firing was sickening,” reported the New York Herald; the area “was actually dotted with the dead and dying.”

A newspaper headline read: “Shot in Cold Blood by the Roughts of Philadelphia. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents.”

As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene.

Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms. Wrote Boyer and Morais, “Miners and steel workers came pouring in from the outskirts of the city and as night fell the immense crowd proved so menacing to the soldiers that they retreated into the roundhouse.”

By midnight, Harper’s said, some 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed.

Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building.

‘A NIGHT OF TERROR’

A Civil War veteran among the besieged troops told a New York Herald reporter that he had seen some “wild fighting” in that conflict, but “a night of terror such as last night I never experienced before and hope to God I never will again.”

The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town.

Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers.

The angry crowd then torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars.

The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was “in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism.”

Meanwhile, on July 21, President Hayes had issued a proclamation warning strikers and their sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. The next day, Pennsylvania’s governor had ordered every regiment in the state to report for duty. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS

The strike continued to spread. Reported Harper's, "On the morning of the 25th the strike had reached its height, when hardly a road was running, from the Hudson to the Mississippi, and from Canada to Virginia."

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more.

The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike.

The Workingmen's Party had several thousand members.

At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'"

Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, flour mills, foundries and other shops stopped operating as well.

As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages.

Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses.

Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day.

'SHOT BACK TO WORK'

Business leaders became better organized, rallying their political allies, who mobilized the might of the military. Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad had recommended giving strikers "a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread;" in the end, the government's ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again.

As one worker put it, "We were shot back to work." By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

It had been an unforgettable event, and many railroad workers seemed to have been justifiably proud.

"Without any organization they had fought with bravery and skill and the country had been behind them," wrote Boyer and Morais. "The strike had been as solid as it was spontaneous. There had been few desertions and few scabs."

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed workers in numerous cities had joined the strikers in protests against intolerable conditions.

Farmers, who hated the railroad companies and their extortionate practices, fed the strikers.

More than half the freight on the nation's 75,000 miles of track stopped moving.

More than 100 had died and 1,000 had been jailed, although those imprisoned were not the ones directly responsible for the deaths.

The results of the Great Strike were mixed.

GUNS AND PROMISES

Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never again allow workers the upper hand.

"The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their 'Coal and Iron Police,'" writes van Ophem. "In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns."

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government.

America's Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

**The Revolution Of 14 July 1958:
"Liberating Iraq From Foreign
Domination And Restoring
Sovereignty Over Its Vast Oil Wealth
That Was Plundered By British,
French And Us Monopolies"
"Iraqis Now Have To Fight For The Same
Old Goals: Liberating Their Country And
Their National Resources From Both
Foreign Occupiers And Their Divided,
Corrupt Protégés"**

10 - 16 July 2008 By Salah Hemeid, AL-AHRAM [Cairo] [Excerpts]

Fifty years after the Iraqi army toppled the pro-West monarchy on 14 July 1958, Iraqis who live in their now terror-stricken nation are too preoccupied with survival to celebrate what many of them esteem as a revolution of national liberation against the colonial power of the time, Great Britain.

The episode is not forgotten, however.

On the other hand, the anniversary raises questions about how much US colonial officials know Iraq's history and the memory Iraqis still have of their former occupiers.

On that day, nationalist army officers, disgruntled by then existing corrupt and repressive regime and its blind loyalty to Britain, overthrew the Hashemite monarchy and declared Iraq a free and independent republic.

It wasn't just a military coup, but rather a vast social revolt from below, supported by nationalists who were trying to build a modern state in Iraq while steering it away from Western influence.

Iraqis now may lament the fact that the 14 July revolution failed to achieve its national goals, but that does not stop them from looking at events since then through the same lens, especially the nation's current crisis, awakening them from nostalgia to deal with foreign occupation and sectarianism today that threaten to tear their nation apart.

Two of the main goals of the 14 July revolution, which had deep roots in the Iraqi people's struggle, were liberating Iraq from foreign domination and restoring sovereignty over its vast oil wealth that was plundered by British, French and US monopolies.

Nothing better summed up that stance than the decision by the revolutionary government to pull out of the Baghdad Pact, a military alliance with Britain and the United States, as well as limiting energy exploitation by foreign oil companies to 0.5 per cent of the original oil concessions they received from the pre-revolution regime.

Today, history seems to be repeating itself, as if the clock in Iraq has come full circle to 50 years ago.

Iraqis now have to fight for the same old goals: liberating their country and their national resources from both foreign occupiers and their divided, corrupt protégés and stooges who had carved Iraq into sectarian fiefdoms.

Indeed, one cannot miss the alarming parallel between the proposed pact between the United States and Iraq and the failed treaty that the British government tried to impose on Iraq in 1948 and that prompted a nationalist uprising in Baghdad, which many regarded as the trail run of the revolution that toppled the monarchy a decade later.

With its proven 112 billion barrel oil reserve, the second largest in the world, along with roughly 220 billion barrels of probable and possible resources, Iraq's oil seems destined

-- if foreign colonial powers get their way -- to be under foreign control, some 34 years after its nationalisation.

In historical terms, the 14 July revolution suffered a setback because it failed to build a democratic state for all its citizens. Eventually Iraq stagnated and degenerated under the autocratic rule of Saddam Hussein's one party system, becoming easy prey for its new colonisers.

Despite its failure, however, the revolution is of profound historical significance because it rekindled in Iraqis the twin spirits of unity and patriotism.

Combined emerges a virtue that expresses itself now in the Iraqis' awakening to their present national plight, demonstrated when many Iraqis braved violence in recent years to celebrate the revolution's anniversary in Baghdad's squares.

There is nothing more important now than reviving that spirit of patriotism and freedom of the 14 July revolution by which united Iraqis can reshape their destiny in an independent, democratic, strong and modern state.

If US occupiers are oblivious to these Iraqi ideals, and certainly they are, the question is why the ruling clique of local puppets is so inept at gauging the anti-occupation and anti-sectarian mood of the people.

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING
DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;**

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. Army kicks down a door as others wait to search a school classroom as they occupy a school during in Qubah, north of Baghdad in Diyala province, July 9, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their homes and schools by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

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

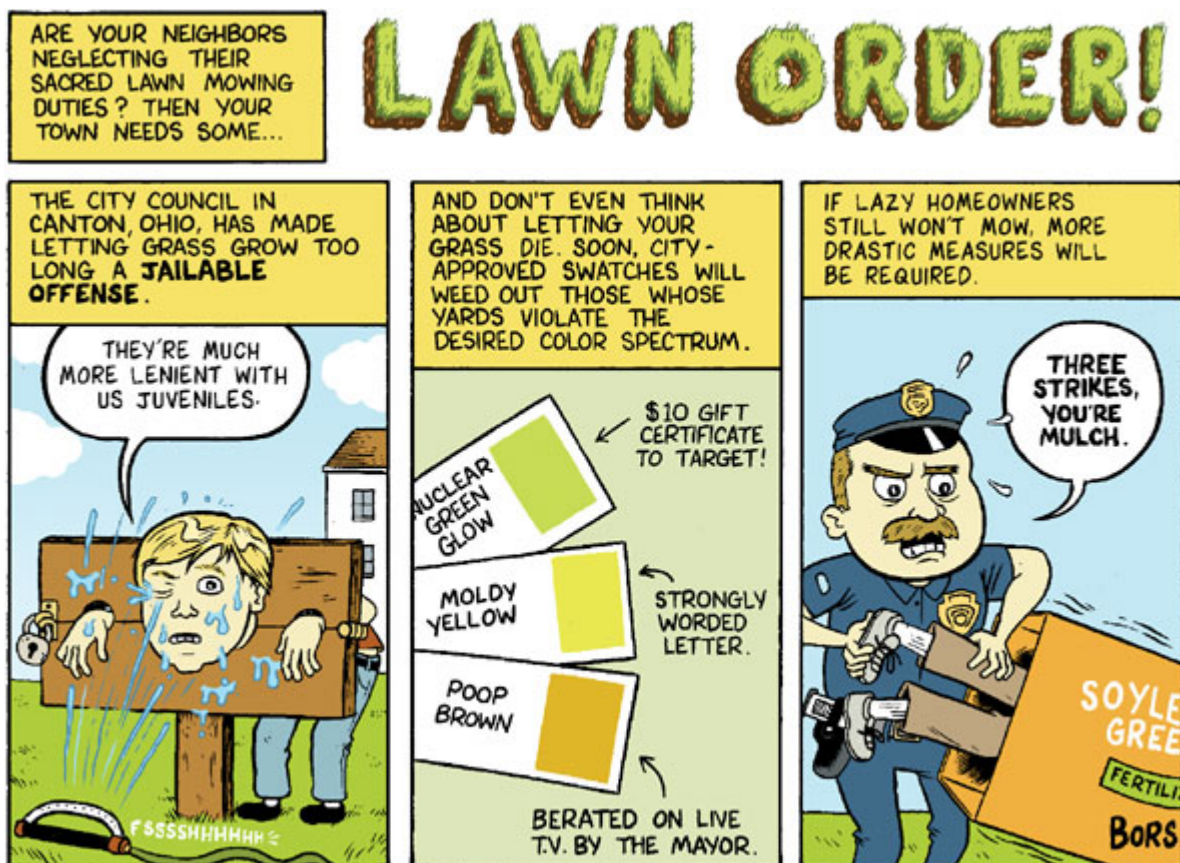
Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Who Owns Obama?
“If You Think Obama’s Light-Speed Blitz To The Right Is Bad

Now, Wait Until The Election Is Over”

“He Won’t Have To Pretend To Give A Damn What The Voters Think And He Can Repay His Top Donors For The Investment They Made In Him”

“He’s Barack Obama, And Wall Street Approved His Message”

Forget “change we can believe in.” I’ve got a better slogan for the Obama campaign: “hypocrisy made flesh.”

July 15th, 2008 by Pham Binh, Dissident Voice

Show me whose hand you eat from, and I’ll show you whose song you sing.

That’s the proverb that comes to mind when looking at Barack Obama’s recent and not-as-recent flip-flops on everything from publicly financed elections to the recent FISA bill legalizing warrantless wiretapping and email snooping by the government. The bill also gives companies like Verizon, which cooperated with the Bush administration’s illegal wiretapping after 9/11, immunity from lawsuits.

In Obama’s announcement that he would opt out of the system of public financing, he claimed that the system “is broken” because of loopholes that Senator John McCain has exploited to raise money from lobbyists and special interest groups. With public financing, Obama would have received \$84 million in taxpayer money, gained from the \$3 check-off on federal tax returns, which he could spend starting at the close of the Democratic Party’s convention until Election Day.

To deflect criticism of Obama’s flip-flop on the issue, apologists for Obama and the candidate himself have made much of the fact that 45 percent of his money comes from small donors (defined as those who donate \$200 or less).

He claims that these small donors “will have as much access and influence over the course and direction of our campaign that has traditionally been reserved for the wealthy and the powerful.”

In reality, big contributors have far more influence in and access to the campaign than the voter who shells out \$200 because he or she really believes in Obama’s message of change.

These small donors did not get advance copies of Obama's "A More Perfect Union" speech addressing the Reverend Wright controversy. They do not participate in weekly and quarterly conference calls with the head honchos of the campaign and with Obama himself.

To sit on the "national finance committee" that gets advance copies of speeches and access to the campaign's decision-makers, donors must bundle contributions of \$200,000 or more from friends, associates, co-workers, and employees.

The top 79 bundlers for Obama's campaign, five of whom are billionaires, are responsible for 27,000 checks from individuals for the legal maximum of \$2,300.

Of those bundlers, 18 work at top law firms and 21 are Wall Street executives and power brokers from Fortune 500 companies.

Others include hedge fund executives, Silicon Valley capitalists, Chicago-based developers, and black millionaires.

Of course, that's not counting the money Obama has raised by exploiting the very same loophole in campaign finance laws that he blasted McCain for.

He got \$28,500 donations recently by dining with rich couples in Hollywood for a grand total of \$5 million in one event. (That money goes to the party, circumventing the \$2,300 legal limit on individual donations to candidates, which is a joke since Obama now controls the Democratic Party).

Forget "change we can believe in." I've got a better slogan for the Obama campaign: "hypocrisy made flesh."

Here's the picture when individual donors are broken down by industry: Lawyers have donated about \$18 million to Obama, the telecom industry has given about \$10 million (thereby purchasing his flip-flop on FISA legislation), employees of securities and investment firms have given about \$8 million, university administrators and employees have given roughly \$7 million, real estate professionals have contributed \$5 million, medical professionals have donated \$7 million, bankers have given \$1.6 million, and hedge fund and private equity managers have given about \$1.6 million.

Broken down by individual companies, we find that Goldman Sachs employees gave more to Obama than any other group, followed by the University of California, UBS, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, National Amusements, Lehman Brothers, Harvard, and Google.

These institutions would have to be stupid to give millions to a candidate that would deliver real, substantive change at their expense for the benefit of America's working-class majority.

If they're that stupid, they can write some checks for a guy I know in Venezuela named Hugo Chávez.

Now that the primaries are over, we can see what Obama really stands for: more of the same.

More of the same policies that have produced a gigantic disparities in income, growing pockets of poverty, more people without health insurance, the highest per-capita prison population in the world, crumbling infrastructure, a failing education system, inner city decay, and an increasingly aggressive foreign policy.

If you think Obama's light-speed blitz to the right is bad now, wait until the election is over.

Then he won't have to pretend to give a damn what the voters think and he can repay his top donors for the investment they made in him.

Already the Wall Street Journal is salivating over the prospect of Obama presiding over Bush's third term.

Remember folks, he's Barack Obama, and Wall Street approved his message.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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