

GI SPECIAL 6/10:

2973 DEAD: DISHONORED BY GEORGE W. BUSH



**4155 U.S. DEAD IN IRAQ, A NATION THAT
HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH 9/11**

“This Is A Mission From Hell”

“Here’s What They Can’t Say, At Least Publicly”

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, for sending this in.]

August 02, 2008 by Mike Francis, The Oregonian [Excerpts]

On the record, the men and women of the Oregon National Guard salute and say they are ready to do their duty when the 41st Brigade Combat Team is summoned to Iraq next year. They are soldiers, they understand the chain of command and they know the "Big Army" doesn't care much what they think anyway.

But here's what they can't say, at least publicly:

This is a mission from hell.

This mission, to provide security for convoys carrying fuel, food, medical supplies and other items from base to base, means that the soldiers of the 41st Brigade are scheduled to spend a year scattered around a shooting gallery, with no ability to control events by participating in neighborhood meetings, training police or raiding houses -- all things that Oregon soldiers have done in previous deployments.

They will be, one officer said, "IED magnets."

As such, they are less likely to fire their weapons than to be fired at.

And when they see one of their colleagues killed by an improvised explosive device, they will inevitably ask themselves if it was worth the life of a friend to escort a load of lettuce, diesel fuel and toilet paper from one military base to another.

Oregonians generally don't realize the implications of next year's deployment, which will be the largest from Oregon in 60 years.

It will gather about 3,500 soldiers -- people from every community in the state -- and send them in the middle of summer to Iraq, where they will endure 10 or so months of duty escorting people and goods from one military base to another. Meanwhile, the Guard's strength in Oregon will be cut almost in half, raising questions about the state's ability to respond quickly and effectively to disasters like the Vernonia floods or widespread forest fires.

Of course, a lot can change between now and next May, when the brigade is scheduled to mobilize, first for 60 days of training in Georgia, then for 10 months of duty in Iraq. For one thing, the new U.S. president may decide not to send the brigade overseas at all. Or he may elect instead to send it to Afghanistan, or give it a different mission in Iraq or elsewhere. There are no guarantees at this stage about how the mission will play out.

But brigade commanders and soldiers must operate on the best information they have today, which is that the Oregon brigade will be broken down into smaller units, scattered around southern and western Iraq, and be given jobs that most soldiers would prefer not to do.

"I think it's a very dangerous mission," Gov. Ted Kulongoski said in a telephone interview. "There are things the active-duty Army doesn't want to do, and I'm very offended by it."

Kulongoski sent a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates on July 10 expressing disappointment in the role the Pentagon is asking the 41st Brigade to play.

“Using (the National Guard brigades) in ad hoc organizations structured specifically for the mission is seen by our soldiers as making them ‘fillers’ rather than trained, cohesive units,” Kulongoski wrote. “It sends the signal to them that they are second-rate soldiers and units.”

Col. Daniel Hokanson, who commands the 41st Brigade, is preparing as if the brigade will be given the mission that the Defense Department described to it this winter.

Nobody has done a precise count yet, but Hokanson thinks about half of the soldiers of the 41st have deployed once already, with the largest chunk going to Afghanistan at a time when that country was relatively peaceful. About 30 percent of the previously deployed have gone twice, estimates Maj. Arnold Strong, the brigade’s public affairs officer.

This suggests the challenges associated with the other end of the mission: when the soldiers return home. Already, the state is grappling with a wave of post-traumatic stress disorder diagnoses, traumatic brain injuries, divorces and even some suicides.

Families in every corner of the state have been touched by the war. Employers are struggling to abide by the law that requires them to hold jobs open for deployed soldiers, despite the difficulties it poses for them. How much more of this will wash over Oregon in the months and years after the brigade comes home in 2010?

“We will see a continued rising number of marriage and family casualties of the war,” said Dr. Jim Sardo, program manager for the PTSD clinical team and substance program at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Portland. Further, he noted, this deployment will dramatically increase the number of veterans who have deployed more than once. And that, he said, “increases the likelihood of long-term mental-health consequences.”

For the roughly half of the brigade that has never deployed, the planned mission in Iraq will come like a blast from a furnace. They will fly from Georgia to a desert where temperatures routinely top 120 degrees, they will be saddled with heavy armored vests and told to ride down roads where other soldiers have been killed, and not to fire their weapons unless they determine they are in imminent danger of attack.

They won’t be in the fight unless fired upon. They won’t interact deeply with Iraqi civilians.

But they will be targets for anybody who aims to disrupt military operations -- and plenty of such people remain in Iraq.

It’s highly likely that some members of the 41st Brigade won’t come home alive. That should cause Oregonians to think deeply about what their fellow citizens are being asked to do.

“I think everybody is worried about the continual deployment of the Guard,” said Kulongoski. “I think sometimes we’re asking too much of these kids and their families.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Kentucky Sgt. Killed In Qadasiyah



Sgt. David K. Cooper, Williamsburg, Ky., was killed Aug. 27, 2008, in Qadasiyah, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol unit came under small-arms fire. He served in the Forward Support Company, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. (AP Photo/U.S.Army)

And After The Surge?
**“The Next Couple Of Months
Could See An Increase Of Enemy
Activity”**

Iraqi Security Forces “Got Rid Of U.S.-Funded Sons Of Iraq Fighters” Sa’ad “Denied That His Policemen Were Avoiding The U.S. Soldiers”

September 2, 2008 By Sean Kimmons, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

Manpower issues and a perceived lack of initiative by Iraqi police have forced soldiers with Company E, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, out of Vilseck, Germany, to patrol Tahrir mainly alone.

Local Iraqi police tend to hold down checkpoints at safer locations on the outskirts, soldiers say.

“It is frustrating,” said Capt. Solon Webb, company commander, adding he has to focus more time spreading out his forces than targeting high-value targets.

Intelligence gathering has also been a difficult process with the scarce Iraqi police, whose police chief is a major sitting in a colonel slot, a two rank difference, he said.

“It’s not as free flowing,” said Webb, 32, of Walnut Creek, Calif. “I still get the same amount but I have to work twice as hard to get it.”

Iraqi police Maj. Sa’ad, the police chief of Tahrir, said he has only 122 policemen and needs twice that number to cover his jurisdiction.

Sa’ad also denied that his policemen were avoiding the U.S. soldiers.

Last week, soldiers held a knock-and-search raid in a troublesome sector of Tahrir. In the searches, which they call “block parties,” soldiers asked Iraqis of any suspicious activity in the area and then snooped around the homes.

Second Lt. Richard Faille, 23 of Beverly, Mass., led his platoon of soldiers in the searches without police support despite inviting them.

“We try to give them support and confidence,” a hard thing to do when they don’t show up for joint missions, he added.

In June, violence surged in Tahrir with suicide bombings, shootings and roadside bombs.

“It’s an area where people love to prove a point,” Webb said.

Iraqi security forces led an offensive starting in late July that cleared the area and got rid of U.S.-funded “Sons of Iraq” fighters.

The city of roughly 75,000 residents was then left to U.S. soldiers and a limited supply of Iraqi police.

“I fear if we keep it sparse, the next couple of months could see an increase of enemy activity,” Faile said.

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

**“Knock-And-Search”
[No, This Is Not Parody]
[The Caption Below Is As Written]**



Soldiers with E Company, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, enter an Iraqi home during a knock-and-search raid in Tahrir. Photos and caption by Sean Kimmons, Stars and Stripes September 2, 2008

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



U.S. Army's soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division take cover behind an armored truck during a patrol in Sadr City in Baghdad May 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

New KIA Make 2008 Deadliest For US Troops In Afghanistan, So Far

[The report fails to mention that the death rate per 100 U.S. troops has been higher in Afghanistan than in Iraq for many years. T]

Sep 12 By JASON STRAZIUSO, Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan - Insurgents killed two U.S. troops in Afghanistan on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks Thursday, making 2008 the deadliest year for American forces since U.S. troops invaded the country in 2001 for sheltering Osama bin Laden.

The deaths brought the number of troops who have died in Afghanistan this year to 113, according to an Associated Press tally, surpassing last year's record toll of 111.

U.S. death tolls have climbed sharply from the first years of the war. Only five American service members died in 2001. Thirty service members died in both 2002 and 2003; the toll climbed to 49 in 2004, then 93 in 2005 and 88 in 2006.

Some 33,000 U.S. troops are now stationed in the country, the highest level since 2001. Overall, more than 65,000 troops from 40 nations are deployed in Afghanistan.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan 9.11.08

September 11, 2008 Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan – Militants killed two U.S. soldiers in eastern Afghanistan on Sept. 11.

One soldier was killed when insurgents attacked a compound. The separate U.S.-led coalition said a second service member died in combat. No other details were released, but a Western military official told the Associated Press that both troops were American.

Two U.S. Officers Killed In Parwan 9.9.08

September 10, 2008 U.S. Department of Defense News Releases No. 764-08 & No. 763-08

1st Lt. Nicholas A. Madrazo, 25, of Bothell, Wash., died Sept. 9 while supporting combat operations in Parwan province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment - 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Capt. Jesse Melton III, 29, of Randallstown, Md., died Sept. 9 while supporting combat operations in Parwan province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Soldier From 2 PARA Killed In Helmand On 12 September

12 Sep 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a soldier from the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment has been killed today, Friday 12 September 2008 whilst on duty in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

This morning the soldier was part of a routine patrol operating in the vicinity of Forward Operating Base Gibraltar when they came into contact with enemy forces. In the ensuing firefight a soldier from 2 Para was shot in the head and killed instantly.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Gary 'Gaz' O'Donnell GM, 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, Killed By IED In Musa Qaleh

12 Sep 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Warrant Officer Class 2 Gary 'Gaz' O'Donnell GM, from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, on Wednesday 10 September 2008, in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

WO2 O'Donnell, 40, died from injuries sustained from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Musa Qaleh, Helmand province.

At the time, he was commanding an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) team within the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Group who were dealing with a confirmed IED that had been detected by a high risk search team. Their task was to clear a route in a vulnerable area for 5 SCOTS Battlegroup, in and around the Western side of Musa Qaleh. Sadly, WO2 O'Donnell, who had completed almost 17 years of military service, died as a result of the explosion.

Minnesota Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Aug 27, 2008 The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A soldier from Minnesota was killed while trying to disarm an explosive device in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense says 28-year-old Staff Sgt. Brian E. Studer of Ramsey died August 22 in Ghazni, Afghanistan.

He was assigned to the 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 28th Transportation Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade out of Mannheim, Germany.

He's the 74th person with strong Minnesota ties to have died in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His mother, Ellen, of Ramsey, tells the Star Tribune her son had been in the Army for nine years and was scheduled to leave the service early next year.

After she gave that interview, Studer's family said through the military that they did not wish to speak with the media.

Zanesville Soldier Critically Injured In Afghanistan

September 9, 2008 By LEEANN MOORE, Staff Writer, Zanesville Times Recorder

ZANESVILLE - Although Robert and Mindy DeBolt are still numb from the shock of the news they received only days ago, they're thankful their son is alive.

Army Pfc. Mike DeBolt was critically injured while serving in Afghanistan last week, according to Robert.

Mike received second- and third-degree burns to his face, chest, arms and back after the Humvee he was driving ran over a land mine.

Mike, a 28-year-old Maysville High School class of 1998 graduate and father of 2-year-old Braylon DeBolt, is being transferred today from a hospital in Germany to Fort Sam Houston, a military hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Hopefully, Robert, Mindy and Mike's sister, Karissa DeBolt, will be on a plane and on their way to see Mike Wednesday.

While Robert doesn't know which town Mike was traveling through when the incident occurred, he does know that Mike turned the Humvee he was driving around after the platoon following his went under attack. The land mine exploded on the side of the Humvee.

"One of Mike's best friends was riding with Mike and didn't survive, but Mike was able to get himself out," Robert said. "He was able to drag his sergeant out to safety."

It took emergency crews 30 minutes to respond to the scene and extinguish the fire, he said.

"He wasn't in Afghanistan very long at all," he said. "It may have been a blessing in disguise. We're praying for the family of the one who was lost, but Mike's injuries aren't life threatening at this time and we are hoping for a full recovery. We'll know more when we get down to San Antonio, Texas." He said he wasn't sure if the attack occurred Sept. 3 or 4, but the family was contacted Sept. 4.

Mike has been in the service for a little more than a year and had only been in Afghanistan about six weeks, Robert said.

"(I'm) pretty numb to the whole thing, proud as all get out, first of all. Always was, even before this happened. I'm proud beyond words, thanking God every second for answering our prayers and keeping him as safe as safe could be," he said.

After high school graduation, Mike received his bachelor's degree from Ohio University in media electronics, something he is still interested in today, Robert said. He loves computers, mixing music digitally, watching and playing sports, the Cincinnati Reds and, most of all, spending time with his family.

"His family is just as proud as all get out, and he's your typical 28-year-old American guy that's trying to raise his family. He's a good hearted kid that everybody likes, no enemies, just enjoys time with his son, wanting to do the right thing," Robert said.

Which is one of the reasons he joined the Army. He said his son just felt it was the right thing to do. "It was a good vs. evil type of thing. Some of his friends were in and we're sitting here with all of our freedoms," Robert said. "It was basically to do the right thing. He got tired of seeing it on the news and hearing about it and his friends were over there fighting. He's a good Christian, young man and with his son, he was thinking, 'Hey, if this is what I have to do to secure my son's future and secure the liberties and freedoms for you and me and the good old US of A,' he was going to take his stand."

He said the whole family, especially Mike, who is optimistic in his brief phone calls to home, has also remained strong in their faith. "In the same way, he's kind of shocked, but faring very well. He's maintaining his faith in his Savior and God and talking over the phone, finding out that he gets to come back to the states and see his family, is a good thing," he said.

Despite what happens in the future, Robert, a part-time preacher at the Zane Trace Church of Christ, and Mindy, a restaurant assistant manager, are and vow to remain proud of their son beyond words.

Mike's future is dependent on an upcoming evaluation that will determine if he gets a 30-day leave from combat or if he is honorable discharged from service. Robert is hoping for an outcome that, at minimum, keeps his son out of any further combat.

"But all that's kind of up in the air for now," he said.

When he sees Mike, the first thing he's going to tell him is that he loves him.

"...And that I always was and couldn't be any prouder than I am now of him. Everybody back home and his family is just as proud as they could possibly be and God has answered a prayer by the fact that I'm standing here at this particular time," he said of the first words he'll speak to his son Wednesday. "I told him he didn't have to have a medal or patch on his arm to have honor, honor comes from the heart."

Occupation Convoy Attacked In Kandahar; Two "Foreigners" Killed

September 11, 2008 The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: A bomber attacked a private security company's convoy in Afghanistan's second largest city Thursday, killing two civilians and wounding four other people, a police officer said.

The bomber rammed his vehicle into the convoy in Kandahar city, said police officer Mohammad Shoaib.

Two civilians were killed and four other people, including two foreigners inside one of the vehicles, were wounded, Shoaib said. The bomber also died.

Afghan Governor Who Helped U.S. Troops Overthrow The Taliban Killed By Blast Near Kabul

Sep 13, 2008 By Hamid Shalizi, KABUL (Reuters) & By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer

An Afghan provincial governor and former cabinet minister was among four people killed in a bomb blast near Kabul on Saturday, police said. Taliban insurgents later claimed responsibility.

Logar governor Abdullah Wardak, a commander of one of the armed factions that helped U.S. troops overthrow the hardline Islamist Taliban in 2001, died on a dirt road outside his home in Paghman, 20 km (12 miles) west of the capital.

Senior Kabul police officer Ali Shah Paktiawal said Wardak was killed when a remote-controlled device witnesses said was set off by two men on a nearby hilltop was detonated next to his car.

The explosion occurred only about 500 yards from the governor's home. He had been traveling in the second car of a three-car convoy that was headed for parliament. The bomb detonated directly on the governor's vehicle, shredding the front half of the SUV and flipping the remains upside down.

A resident in Paghman, the area where the attack occurred about 12 miles west of Kabul, said he saw two men on the side of a hill near the road where the explosion detonated.

Mohammad Shoaib said that after the bomb went off, the two men ran away. Authorities found wires on top of the hill, he said.

"The governor was leaving his house for the office," Mohseni told Reuters by telephone from Logar.

Wardak's driver and two of his bodyguards were also killed in the blast.

A statement on the Taliban's Web site said they had carried out the attack, using a remote-controlled bomb.

Wardak, a former Cabinet member, was in charge of Logar, the province directly south of Kabul. Afghanistan has 34 provinces, each headed by a provincial governor.

After the Taliban's fall from power in late 2001, Wardak served as a government minister under President Hamid Karzai before becoming governor of Logar, where the Taliban and other militants are active.

He is the second provincial governor to be assassinated in recent years. Attacks against politicians, police and civil servants are fairly common in Afghanistan.

Occupation Military Logistics Convoy Ambushed In Farah

12 September 2008 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer & AFP

Dozens of Taliban attacked an international military logistics convoy in Afghanistan Friday, kicking off a fierce battle that left five Afghan guards dead, four wounded and three missing, an official said.

The militants ambushed the convoy as it travelled through the southwestern province of Farah to deliver supplies to a base for soldiers in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, governor Ruhul Amin told AFP.

They attacked vehicles of a US-based security company, USPI, which made up the rear escort of the large convoy, he said.

Herat Base & Airfield Attacked

Sep 13, 2008 KABUL (Reuters) & 9.12.08 AFP

Overnight, five rockets landed near a foreign military compound in the western province of Herat but caused no damage, an official said. That attack came hours after authorities were forced to close the province's only airport briefly after two rockets landed on its perimeter, again without causing casualties or damage, officials said.

A man claiming to be from a group associated with the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to AFP.

He said six rockets had been fired at the airport, one of the busiest in Afghanistan.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Khost & Dandi Darpakheil Massacres

Sep 9, 2008 KABUL (Reuters) & 10 September 2008 Viewlondon.co.uk

A bomb fired by a NATO-led coalition aircraft missed its target in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday and struck a house, killing two civilians and wounding 10, the alliance said, the latest in a mounting toll of civilian casualties.

The alliance said the weapon aimed at an insurgent rocket position in the eastern province of Khost “malfunctioned” and fell more than 2.5 km (1.5 mile) from the target.

At least 25 civilians are also said to have died in the attack on Dandi Darpakheil.

US drones launched the strike on Monday, aimed at a religious school founded by Taliban commander Jalaluddin Haqqani.

Local doctors report more than 20 people were wounded in the attacks, most of whom were women and children.

Eyewitnesses claim around 17 bodies were removed from the rubble of collapsed houses and more are expected to be found.

JCS Chief Struck Down By Blinding Flash Of The Obvious: The U.S. Military Is Not Winning The War In Afghanistan And Is “Running Out Of Time”

September 10 2008 Elana Schor in Washington, Guardian.co.uk

The US military is not winning the war in Afghanistan and is “running out of time” for a workable strategy to combat the insurgency there, the Pentagon’s uniformed leader said today.

“I’m not convinced we are winning it in Afghanistan. I am convinced we can,” navy admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told Congress – the first sentence not present in his prepared testimony.

“Absent a broader international and interagency approach to the problems there, it is my professional opinion that no amount of troops in no amount of time can ever achieve all the objectives we seek,” Mullen said.

TROOP NEWS

4000 From Fort Richardson Off To Bush’s Imperial Slaughterhouse



Sep 11: Troops fall into formation during a Stryker Brigade deployment ceremony in Fort Richardson, Alaska Sept. 11, 2008. The 4,000 soldier brigade is leaving for Iraq. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

Japanese Public Opposition Forces Government To Withdraw All Troops From Iraq War

September 12, 2008 AFP

TOKYO, Sept 11: Japan said on Thursday it was ending an air mission in Iraq, wrapping up a military deployment which was historic for the pacifist nation but deeply unpopular among the public.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said Tokyo planned by the end of the year to bring back planes which flew goods and personnel into Iraq in support of the United Nations and US-led coalition.

The mission is Japan's last remaining military operation in Iraq after the country, which has been officially pacifist since defeat in World War II, ended a landmark ground deployment in 2006.

Japan's opposition, which has been making gains, is staunchly against both missions in Iraq and the Indian Ocean. It briefly forced a halt to the Indian Ocean deployment last year, saying Japan should not be part of "American wars".

Yukio Hatoyama, secretary-general of the main opposition Democratic Party, said that Japan never should have been involved militarily in Iraq in the first place.

"It was clear that dispatching the Self-Defence Forces to Iraq was unconstitutional," he told reporters. "The government should have decided on the withdrawal sooner. The decision came too late."

Then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi sent troops to Iraq after the 2003 US-led invasion, marking the first time that Japan deployed armed forces to a country where fighting was underway since 1945.

But the mission was deeply unpopular with the Japanese public.

Koizumi ended the ground mission in 2006 when the relatively safe area where Japanese forces were on a reconstruction mission was handed over to Iraqi control.

"You can't understand this move by the Japanese government without considering the political situation at home," said Kazuo Takahashi, a Middle East expert and professor of international politics at the Open University of Japan.

"With snap elections to be called any time, now would be the only time for the government to withdraw the troops with a good excuse," Takahashi said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**"No, America, No! No, Agreement,
No!"**



Demonstrators march during an anti-U.S. Occupation rally after Friday prayers in Baghdad's Sadr City September 12, 2008. Photo: REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

September 12, 2008 (AP)

In political developments, Iraqi followers of anti-U.S. cleric [translation: anti-occupation nationalist politician] Muqtada al-Sadr demonstrated in Baghdad and the southern city of Kufa against plans for a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement that will determine the status of the U.S. military in Iraq after the current U.N. mandate expires at the end of the year.

In Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood, Sheik Abdul Hadi al-Mohammadawi, an al-Sadr aide, told worshippers during prayers that it is a "suspicious agreement" that would bring "humiliation and degradation to the Iraqi people."

After the prayers, worshippers burned American and Israeli flags and chanted: "No, America, no! No, agreement, no!"

Resistance Action

Sept 9 (Reuters) & Sept 10 (Reuters) & 11 September 2008 AP & Sept 12 (AP) & 9.13.08 AP

A bomb concealed in a kiosk used to sell ice killed four security personnel and wounded nine people at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said. The dead in the bombing in eastern Baghdad included three Iraqi police commandos and a member of a U.S.-funded armed group. Seven Iraqi security personnel and two bystanders were injured.

Militants shot dead an off-duty policeman outside his house in eastern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi army major-general and two of his guards when it struck their car in the district of Harthiya, in western Baghdad, police said.

Three policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a restaurant frequented by police in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

A roadside bomb detonated near a police patrol, wounding two policemen in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Iraqi authorities say a bomb concealed in a pickup truck belonging to the Iraqi housing ministry has killed three employees and wounded three others in Baghdad's district of Sadr City.

The U.S. military confirmed a car bomb exploded about 6:20 p.m. in Dujail. Four policemen were among the 32 dead.

A roadside bomb attack targeted a patrol of Kurdish peshmerga forces northeast of Baghdad on Saturday, killing six of them including a top commander, an Iraqi Kurdish official told AFP.

The attack took place in an area called Now Dorman on the western outskirts of the town of Khanaqin near the Iranian border, the official said.

Mahmud Singawi, member of the peshmerga committee in the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq, said one of those killed was the commander of peshmerga forces in Khanaqin.

"Colonel Zulfiqar was killed in the ambush along with his son Horman who was a lieutenant," Singawi told AFP giving only the first names of the two men.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**September.11,.1973:
Shameful Anniversary
Soldier Confirms Rogue General
Killed, Imprisoned, And Tortured**

Thousands After Plotting To Overthrow Elected Government And Seize Power



Delivery.viewimages.com

BBC News & Wikipedia

A former army officer in Chile has said numerous executions took place in Santiago's national stadium in the aftermath of the 1973 military coup.

Former non-commissioned officer Roberto Saldias said on national television that he saw prisoners taken off for execution at the stadium when he was on guard duty.

"They took the law in their own hands," he said, adding he was prepared to provide the names of the executioners.

Captain General Augusto José Ramón Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody coup in 1973 and ruled for 17 years, was arrested in London in 1998 after a Spanish judge requested his extradition on murder charges.

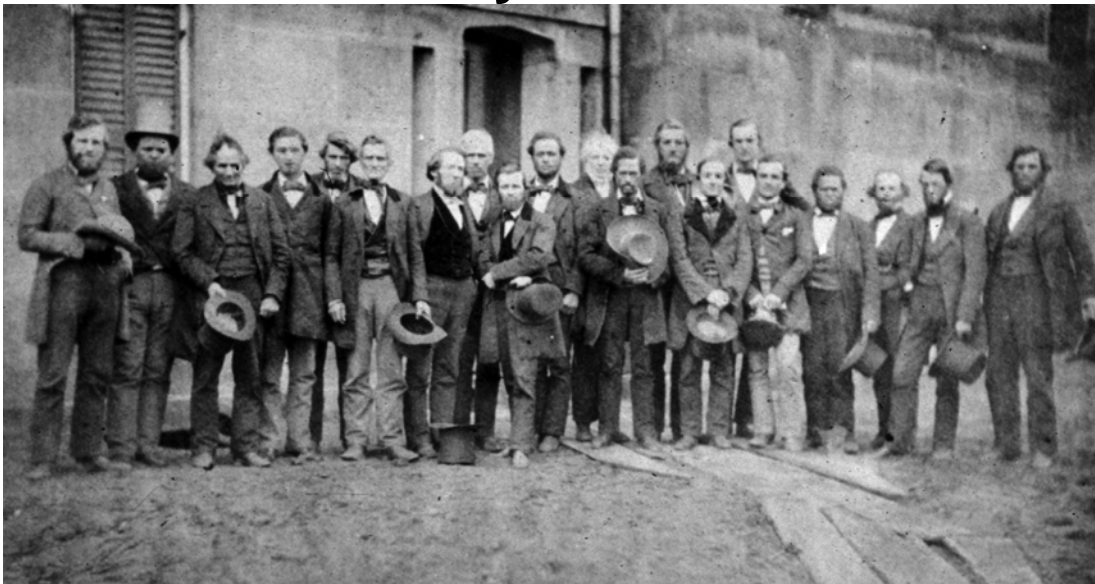
In his memoirs, Pinochet affirmed that he was the leader of the coup, and used his position as Commander-in-chief of the Army to coordinate a far-reaching scheme with the other two branches of the military and the national police.

On September 11, 1973; a coup d'état deposed Socialist President Salvador Allende and established a military government.

Pinochet implemented a series of military operations in which (according to the Rettig Report) approximately 3,000 people are known to have been executed, 27,000 were incarcerated and in a great many cases tortured.

More than 1,000 are still unaccounted for.

**September 13, 1858:
Truly Heroic Action:
Armed Abolitionists Rescue
Captured Ex-Slave:
“The Group Wanted To Proceed
Nonviolently, But When The Kentuckians
Refused To Surrender Price, The
Response Was ‘We Will Have Him
Anyhow’”**



These were twenty of the thirty-seven citizens from Oberlin and Wellington who were charged with breaking the law by helping John Price escape from slave catchers in the fall of 1858. The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue and subsequent trial caught the eye of the nation as escalating tensions over slavery raised the prospect of civil war. (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

“I must take upon myself the responsibility of self-protection; when I come to be claimed by some perjured wretch as his slave, I shall never be taken into slavery.

Carl Bunin Peace History September 8-14

A group of the citizens of Oberlin, Ohio, stopped Kentucky slavecatchers from kidnapping John Price, a black man.

Shakespeare Boynton, son of a wealthy landowner had lured Price with the promise of work. Oberlinians, black and white, from town and from the local College, pursued the kidnappers to nearby Wellington at word of his abduction.

The group, led by Charles Langston, James M. Fitch, bookseller and superintendent of the Oberlin Sunday School, and John Watson, a grocer, wanted to proceed nonviolently, but when the Kentuckians refused to surrender Price, the response was “we will have him anyhow.”

They rushed the door guards of the Inn and theology student Richard Winsor took Price to safety, hidden for a time in the home of Oberlin College President James Fairchild, later helped across the Canadian border to freedom.

Oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin And Anti-Slavery

Oberlin was a uniquely tolerant community in the early nineteenth century.

Founded in 1833, Oberlin College pioneered co-education and in 1835 broke new ground by admitting students regardless of their race. Many residents were abolitionists and over two hundred people joined together to form the Oberlin Anti-Slavery Society in 1835.

The society was dedicated to “the immediate emancipation of the whole colored race within the United States:

“The emancipation of the slave from the oppression of the master, the emancipation of the free colored man from the oppression of public sentiment, and the elevation of both to an intellectual, moral, and political equality with the whites.”

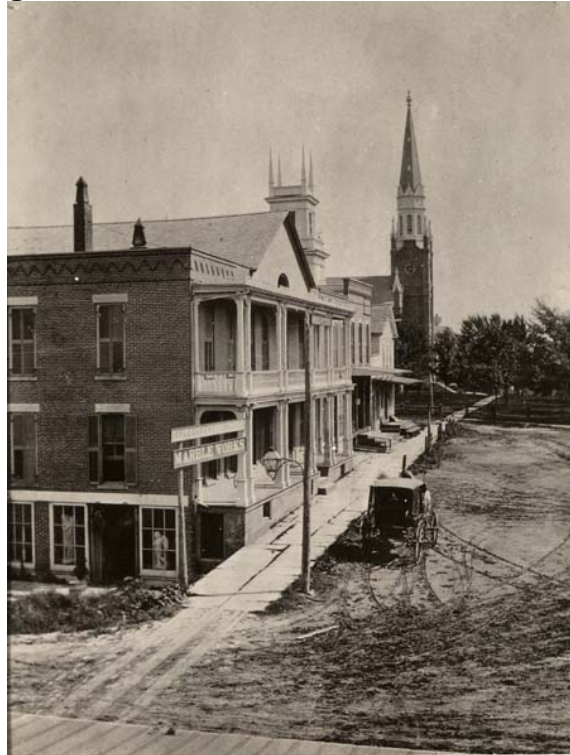
Over the next generation, Oberlinians supported the antislavery cause by helping fugitive slaves escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

After the federal government passed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Oberlin abolitionists grew increasingly concerned about the threat posed by slave catchers hired to recover slaves who had “stolen” themselves from their masters.

Under the 1850 Act, federal marshals received rewards for the arrest and return of alleged fugitive slaves, and anyone caught helping a freedom seeker could be jailed and fined. Antislavery activists throughout the nation denounced the law as immoral and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin to rally public opinion against the measure.

Most Oberlin residents were proud of the town's reputation as a major station on the Underground Railroad and were more ready than ever to safeguard the escaped men, women, and children seeking aid in their community.

The Kidnapping Of John Price And The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue



Side view of Wadsworth's Hotel in Wellington, Ohio (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

John Price was a young man who had escaped from his Kentucky slave owner in the mid-1850s.

He had been living and working in Oberlin for about two years when, in the fall of 1858, slavecatchers Anderson Jennings and Richard Mitchell conspired to kidnap Price and bring him back to his Kentucky master. With the help of a few locals (not everyone in Oberlin was an abolitionist), on September 13, 1858 the slave catchers lured Price out of Oberlin with the promise of work.

Armed with weapons and a warrant, Mitchell, federal marshal Jacob Lowe, and his assistant Samuel Davis forced Price into their carriage. They then drove him eight miles south to Wellington, Ohio to catch the 5:13 p.m. southbound train.

News of John Price's kidnapping spread quickly in downtown Oberlin as townspeople, students, and professors rallied together in response.

"They have carried off one of our men in broad daylight, and are an hour on their way already!" shouted one outraged citizen.

White and black Oberlinians hurried the eight miles to Wellington in wagons, buggies, carriages, and some even on foot to rescue Price from slavery.

When John H. Scott went to his neighbor, Mrs. Oliver P. Ryder, to borrow a horse she told him, "If necessary, spare not the life of my beast, but rescue the boy."

John Watson, a black store owner in Oberlin, arrived in Wellington first.

Soon between 200 and 500 men crowded the streets around the Wadsworth Hotel where the slavecatchers held Price.

The crowd began to shout back and forth with the captors, disputing the legality of the capture and demanding to hear from Price himself.

Many in the crowd were determined to free Price, whatever the law or consequences.

Charles Langston, a black school teacher, moved through the crowd trying to calm the armed protesters.

When the southbound train arrived, the situation grew urgent and the crowd began to force their way into the hotel.

In the confusion that followed, Price escaped with the help of men who had been trying to negotiate with the captors. Energized by the success of the rescue, Oberlin residents paraded back from Wellington, "shouting, singing, rejoicing in the glad results."

Price first hid in the home of James Fitch, but then moved because Fitch was a known agent of the Underground Railroad. Fitch and Professor James Monroe approached Oberlin College professor James Fairchild, who was known as a more conservative, law-abiding citizen. Fairchild disapproved of slavery and agreed to house Price until he was able to continue north.

As the rescuers had hoped, no one came to search Fairchild's home. With the help of others, John Price probably made his way into Canada. Unfortunately, the story of his life after the rescue is lost to us today.

The Trial Of The Rescuers

Jubilant spirits in Oberlin dimmed when thirty-seven of the Rescuers, both black and white, were charged with breaking federal law. Twenty-five of the men were from Oberlin and twelve were from Wellington.

Ever defiant and trusting in the right of a "higher law," many of the accused and their wives attended a "Felon's Feast" on January 11, 1859. Sixty-four guests dined while the Oberlin String Band played. The night was filled with speeches, toasts, spirited criticism of slavery, and a few jokes as well.

The town had less to cheer about in the following months as the lengthy trials began and the Rescuers were remanded to jail for their refusal to post bond. They had little chance

of escaping legal punishment with a Cleveland-based jury entirely formed of Democrats who opposed abolition.



John Scott was an Oberlin harness and trunk maker and one of twelve black men who were charged with breaking the law by participating in the Rescue. (Courtesy of Oberlin College Archives)

Their lawyers used the trial to speak about the horrors of slavery and to persuade people to support the Republican cause. Two of the defendants sold 5,000 copies of their newspaper “The Rescuer” from inside the jail.

Rescuers Simeon Bushnell and Charles Langston were eventually convicted of violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

Bushnell’s sentiments likely matched those of his fellow prisoners when he wrote, “They may do their worst, & when I am again out, I will rescue the first slave I get a chance to rescue.”

On May 24, 1859 thousands of people crowded into Cleveland’s Public Square to support the Rescuers.

Court costs continued to mount and the legal tangle intensified when the Rescuers’ supporters arranged for the arrest of the slave catchers on kidnapping charges in Lorain County. A deal was finally negotiated and the Rescuers were released on July 6, 1859, eighty-three days after being imprisoned.

Most Oberlin residents were proud of their participation in the Rescue and the continued reputation of the community as a safe haven for all men and women, regardless of color.

So strong was their belief in a “higher law” that many were surprised when Bushnell and Langston were found guilty. They saw the trial as a sham and moral outrage, and large numbers of their fellow Northerners agreed.

However, others in the North as well as the South felt the arrests and trial had been justified. By harboring fugitive slaves, Oberlin residents had been breaking the law for years.

What would happen if everyone began disobeying the laws of the state or nation because they followed a “higher law”? While Oberlin residents saw themselves as unwaveringly in the right, many outsiders thought they were arrogant idealists who were pushing the nation towards war.

For the black men and women living in Oberlin, free and fugitive, abstract debates over the law mattered less than the immediate necessity of ensuring their own safety and the safety of their families and friends.

Yet they also recognized that fundamental principles were at stake.

After being tried and found guilty, Charles Langston gave a speech to the court that eloquently expressed his belief in universal human rights:

“I must take upon myself the responsibility of self-protection; when I come to be claimed by some perjured wretch as his slave, I shall never be taken into slavery.

“And as in that trying hour I would have others do to me, as I would call upon my friends to help me, as I would call upon you, your Honor, to help me, as I would call upon you (the prosecuting and defense attorneys) to help me, and upon you and upon you, so help me God! I stand here to say that I will do all I can for any man thus seized and held!

“ . . . We have all a common humanity, and you all would do that; your manhood would require it, and no matter what the laws might be, you would honor yourself for doing it, while your friends and your children to all generations would honor you for doing it, and every good and honest man would say you had done right!”

OCCUPATION REPORT

Still No Oil For Blood: “Six Reported Cancellations Of No-Bid Contracts With Western Oil Companies”

Sep 11 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD (AP) -- France's Total said Thursday that Iraq has ended negotiations to develop an oil field in southern Iraq, one of six reported cancellations of no-bid contracts with Western oil companies.

The French oil firm and U.S.-based Chevron were jointly negotiating a technical support agreement for the development of West Qurna oil field near the southern city of Basra.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry was also negotiating with Royal Dutch Shell PLC, BP PLC and ExxonMobil Corp. and some smaller companies to increase crude production in at least five other fields under the same agreement.

Citing participants in the negotiations, The New York Times reported Thursday that plans to award six no-bid contracts to these oil companies were withdrawn.

The newspaper said Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani told reporters at an OPEC meeting in Vienna on Tuesday that delays in talks had made it impossible for the companies to fulfill the work under one-year deals.

Iraq's negotiations with Western oil companies triggered criticism that U.S.-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein in order to gain access to Iraq's vast oil reserves.

Cholera Confirmed In Baghdad

Sept 13 (KUNA)

Some 21 cholera cases were confirmed in Baghdad on Saturday, while cases in the southern city of Hilla rose up to 40, a spokesman for the Iraqi Health Ministry said.

Some 19 cases were confirmed in Al-Karakh district and the other two cases were reported from Al-Madain, southeast of Baghdad, and eastern Al-Amin district, he said.

Meanwhile, the number of confirmed cholera cases went up to 40 in Hilla, the spokesman added.

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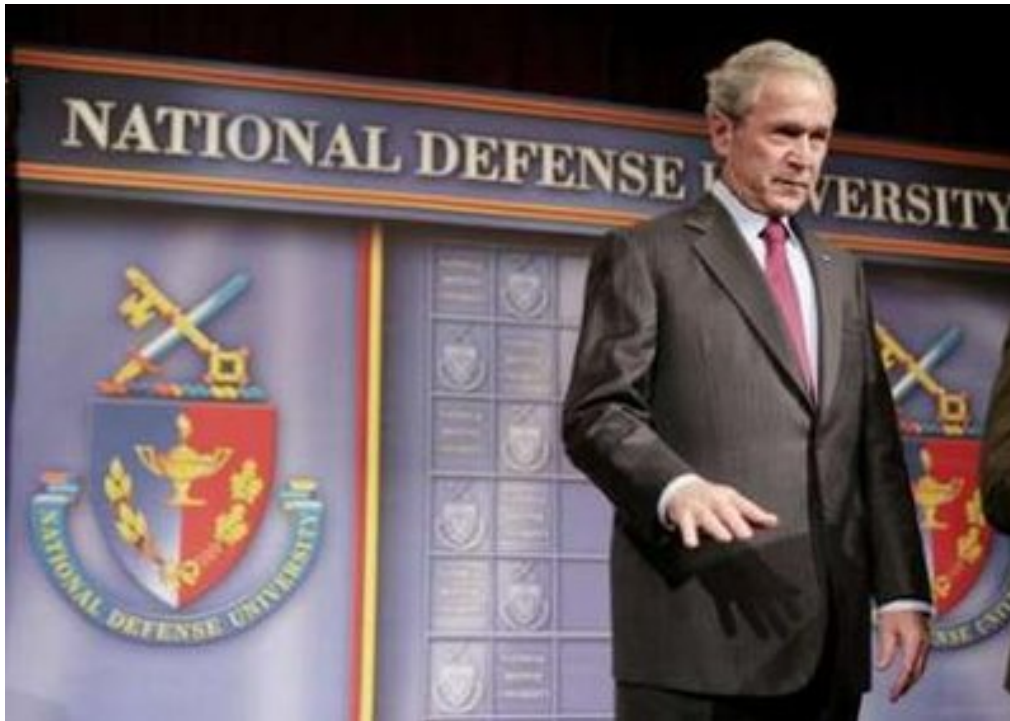
Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

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

SATAN



“The marines that I have had wounded over the past five months have been attacked by a faceless enemy. But the enemy has got a face. He’s called Satan.”
US Marine Colonel Gareth Brandl. [Photo: REUTERS/Larry Downing, 9.9.2008]

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Women and Children Last



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

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