

GI SPECIAL 6J14:

**Section 60:
“A Lot Of Graves”
“And I’m Sure There’ll Be A Lot
More Down Here Before This
War’s Through”**



Smh.com.au

Oct 13, 2008 By William H. McMichael, Army Times

It isn't likely to bring home the sorts of ratings "The Sopranos" scored for HBO.

So one must give the cable network kudos for putting the money, time and effort into producing a documentary with the decidedly noncommercial focus of the cemetery plot in Arlington, Va., where some of the nation's war dead are buried, and where their families and friends come to mourn them.

"Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery" premieres nationally at 9 p.m. Eastern time Monday.

Section 60 is the final resting place for hundreds of troops who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet the film's focus is not on the troops themselves, per se, but on the impact of their deaths on those they left behind.

Those who knew them best were the honored guests Sunday night at a private premiere of the hourlong film, held in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Afterward, a call by one family member for a round of applause for the filmmakers drew a sustained standing ovation.

The film, produced by the same team that produced the acclaimed documentary "Baghdad ER," eschews voiceovers and melodramatic music, and isn't judgmental. Instead, the viewer is essentially the camera, wandering from one mourner to another — wife, husband, mother, father, sister, brother, child — opening very private doors in a very public place.

The camera lingers, although it never stays too long — although some viewers may take exception.

"I doubt that it will be particularly popular," said Mary Neiberger, whose son, Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, was killed in Baghdad on Aug. 5, 2007. Neiberger said the film was well-done but added, "It's too close to real ... and I don't think many people feel very comfortable or very entertained by that."

But the film, although at times an overwhelmingly sad glimpse into the devastating hole left when death unexpectedly takes a loved one, also underscores how shared loss can turn a stranger's shoulder into the comforting embrace of a friend.

At one point, for instance, two mourners see a man who's been sleeping next to a grave for a couple of hours. Concerned, one woman takes him a bottle of water, which he gratefully accepts. A man who pines for his fiancée offers comforting words to a young woman at her husband's grave.

"It was very powerful," said Laura Cowherd, whose brother Leonard, an Army second lieutenant, was killed May 16, 2004 in Karbala, Iraq. "Sort of what we go through every day. The tears. The emotion. I think they did a good job."

Every day, the film remembers to note, can be every bit if not more difficult than coping with the graveside visits.

"The person made a good point of what goes on after the death," said Kimberly Hazelgrove, whose husband, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Hazelgrove, was killed returning from a combat mission near Mosul nearly five years ago. "We're raising young children. We're working full-time jobs. We're trying to live."

Hazelgrove and her children, now 5, 7, 14 and 16, make their home in the D.C. area, although Brian isn't buried at Arlington but back home in Edinburgh, Ind., near his parents. Marine Lt. Col. Joseph T. McCloud does rest at Arlington, where his wife Maggie said he asked to be buried "if anything should ever happen."

"I love the phrase, 'Arlington is where valor rests,'" she said. "It is. He's surrounded by the best of the best. People that willingly gave their life for their country. We live here. I like being close by."

But her young children, now 4, 7 and 9, do not care to visit the grave of their father, who died nearly two years ago in a helicopter crash in Anbar province, she said. "Still too fresh," she said. "And I respect and honor that."

In the film, some kids do come. Children put flowers at a grave. Another colors as her mother makes a rubbing of her husband's tombstone. Yet another places candy canes at the graves and, standing at her father's, says, "Merry Christmas, Daddy."

The mourners include mothers and fathers, as well.

"Sixteen killed in Afghanistan," one father recalled the headline on his computer screen. His wife, he said, had replied, "You know what that means, right? It means there's going to be 16 mothers crying tonight."

He added somberly, standing with his wife at their son's grave, "She did not know she was gonna be one of them."

The film's unrelenting sadness is leavened by a visitor to Neiberger's grave.

"Chris and I are going to share a beer," says his brother, who plops down on the grass with two Samuel Adams Oktoberfest beers. "We'll open a couple, and he can have one, and I can have one." He proceeds to take a swig, and pours the equivalent out of the other bottle onto his brother's grave, drawing chuckles from the premiere audience.

But more often, the camera finds heartbreak. The young woman over her husband's grave, mouthing, "I love you." Another telling a friend, "I wish I could have one more conversation with him." Yet another: "Next week would have been our 20th wedding anniversary."

"A lot of graves," one woman remarks near the film's end.

"And I'm sure there'll be a lot more down here before this war's through."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MND-B Soldier Dies Of Wounds From Baghdad SAF Attack

10.14.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20081014-11

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died of wounds at approximately 5 p.m. at a Coalition force's Combat Support Hospital Oct. 14. The Soldier was wounded when enemy attacked his patrol with smallarms fire in western Baghdad at approximately 4 p.m.

More Stunning Anbar Surge Success News: “The Shortage Of Gas Has Forced Them To Do More Foot Patrols, Said Mohammed Odei” “22 Of The District’s 97 Vehicles No Longer Run”

Oct 13, 2008 By Jim Michaels, USA Today

RAMADI, Iraq — In the past, when Iraqi police here ran out of gas, they often turned to the Marines, who generally obliged by filling the trucks and generators — courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer.

The Marines have a new answer for the Iraqis: no.

There's no shortage of cash. Iraq's government expects \$63 billion in oil revenues this year.

“We describe it as a tsunami of cash,” said Ged Smith, the Treasury Department attache at the U.S. Embassy.

The police are given money from the central government to buy gas from local vendors. They have no storage facilities or distribution system. The size of the force in the province has grown rapidly over recent years, from almost zero to 28,000.

“It's like anything that is centrally managed,” said Marine Col. Art Corbett. “You'll have trucks but not fuel.”

In the meantime, the shortage is forcing Iraqi police here to come up with their own solutions. Some commanders are buying gas from local vendors with IOUs. Still, Iraqis here say they are not happy with the new tough-love approach. The shortage of gas has forced them to do more foot patrols, said Mohammed Odei, a police district commander in Ramadi.

Without continued American support, the dramatic security gains of recent years are vulnerable, he said.

Odei said 22 of the district's 97 vehicles no longer run.

U.S. officials are also worried about the lack of maintenance.

"We've given them all these vehicles," Post said. "Our concern is they're going to run all these Ford (trucks) into the ground and two years from now, they won't start."

Iraqis here also worry that Iraq's government won't deliver promised goods when the Americans leave.

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



An American soldier photographs two rockets discovered while on a routine patrol in the district of Dora in Baghdad, Oct. 6, 2008. (AP Photo/Loay Hameed)

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



An Iraqi boy cries as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. search his house during an armed home invasion in the town of Baquba in the Diyala province, some 65km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad October 14, 2008. Photo: REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[Fair is fair.

[Let's bring 140,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

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

[What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush.

[Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION

ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed By IED In Eastern Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced

14 Oct. 2008 ISAF Public Affairs Office

KABUL, Afghanistan - Three ISAF soldiers were killed in eastern Afghanistan October 14 when their vehicle struck an IED.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed By IED In “South”, “Several Others” Wounded: Nationality Not Announced

10.14.08 KABUL (AFP)

A soldier with US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan was killed and several others were wounded in a bomb blast in the troubled south of the country, the coalition said Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, the force said in a statement, without specifying the exact location of the blast.

The coalition did not release the nationality of the casualties pending notification of their next of kin.

Armed Men Rob 800 Passengers On Highway

13 October 2008 by Abdullah Anwari, Quqnoos

HUNDREDS of passengers travelling on the Herat-Kabul Highway have been robbed by armed men.

About 800 passengers travelling in a large bus convoy were stopped by a group of armed men in the Del Aram and Shindand districts of western Herat province on Saturday, the passengers said.

They accused the security forces of failing to prevent robberies on the highway.

“Another Senior Government Official Has Been Shot Dead In Kandahar City”

Oct 14 (Reuters) & October 15, 2008 Tom Blackwell, Canwest News Service

Another senior government official has been shot dead in Kandahar city, fuelling a new fear in the troubled area as Taliban assassins increasingly target Afghans linked to the government and foreign organizations.

On Tuesday, Dost Mohammad Arghestani, head of the social affairs department in Kandahar province, was killed on his way to work on Tuesday morning by two men on a motorbike. They also killed Arghestani's bodyguard and wounded his driver, he said.

A security expert with an international agency, who asked not to be named, agrees that the assassinations are casting a pall over the city. The city's war-weary residents figure the victims of bomb blasts are simply unlucky. This is different, he said.

“Assassination cases are having more negative impact than any IED attack,” said the official.

“People are really worried. ... If targeted killings start, it puts everyone to thinking ‘I might be next.’ Morale is getting worse”

“We did this action and we will carry on with more assassination attempts against officials, against those who work with foreign institutions,” said Yousuf Ahmadi, the insurgents' self-described spokesman.

“They are the enemy.”

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:

BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Slebodnik, who was killed in Afghanistan, at Arlington National Cemetery, Oct. 8, 2008. Slebodnik also served in Operation Desert Storm, and five tours in the current war in Iraq. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

“Several Soldiers, Many From Cuevas’ Own Platoon, Have Changed Their Position On The War Just In Their First Tour”

“I Put Myself In The Iraqis Shoes, And I Have Seen The Injustice That Is Occurring There And It Angers Me A Lot”

“I Saw Fear And Hatred In Their Eyes For The Oppressive Manner That We Were Treating Them. They Were

Grateful That We Took Out Saddam, But They Didn't Want Us There” “We Are The Dictators -- We Are Telling Them What To Do, How To Live Their Lives, And To Follow Our Rules”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

October 7, 2008 By Sayeda Fazel, Warresisters.blogspot.com [Excerpts]

Some of the most prominent leaders in the anti-war movement are veterans of the battles in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We spoke to one such soldier, former U.S. Army Specialist and current anti-war activist Edgar Cuevas, about his experience.

Cuevas, a first generation Mexican-American, was born and raised in Burbank, California. Cuevas is the child of a gardener and a housewife who, like many others, immigrated to the United States in the 1970s looking for better opportunities. Since childhood, Cuevas longed to become a teacher, and along the way, he joined the army to help him realize that dream.

“My family is lower-middle class. It was difficult for me to go to school because we only had one source of income and my parents had to pay the bills and for my schooling,” Cuevas said.

A military recruiter convinced Cuevas that getting a higher education could be easier through the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

It was because of this promise of the G.I. Bill that, at 18, Cuevas enlisted into the United States Army.

Then in March of 2003, the United States invaded Iraq.

Soon thereafter, Cuevas was one of many soldiers redeployed to Iraq. He arrived for a one year tour in February of 2004 and was stationed in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. Cuevas says he was against the war from the start, but admits not knowing much about the situation in Iraq before he went in.

Military recruiters paint a less than accurate picture of life in the service, according to Cuevas.

"The military will lie to you just like the government has.

"They only tell you what you want to hear. They only tell you they don't tell you the consequences of being in the military -- dying and fighting, being wounded or maimed. The thing is they'll pick up anybody nowadays -- they feed off of these guys," Cuevas said.

"When they go into different areas (to recruit) for example, the X-Games, they put up their shop, they set up their Army of One games or the marines put up the wall climb - they'll use whatever they can to appeal to young people and they try to glorify what they do.

"But in reality, they hide everything all the consequences that the kids are not aware of. They just say you'll see new exotic places. Just like in Vietnam, the Army used to say 'fun, travel, and adventure.'

"But today, it's not like that -- you get your little fun, you get your travel, but you might come back in a pine box," Cuevas said.

As well as going to school to fulfill his unfinished dream of becoming a teacher, Cuevas is taking his own advice: "I'm working my butt off because the G.I. Bill isn't enough," Cuevas said.

"A lot of info wasn't given to us about why the invasion was happening other than the whole 9/11 connection, they have weapons of mass destruction, you know, the usual things the media feeds the public. But then since we also got the military giving us news - it's far more filtered than the Associated Press. And a lot of (the soldiers) just believed what was being told to them," Cuevas said.

"(In Iraq), just two days after taking control of the city of Tikrit, I saw the two casualties in my unit - one would of become a triple amputee and the other one died of major head trauma," Cuevas said.

"(The commanders) were telling us we were gonna come up to a whole lot of confrontation -- don't trust anybody -- if you see anyone in the way when your patrolling, run them over. They told us (the Iraqis) are very hostile, they will shoot at us. Always expect everybody to be an enemy. And that's what we all expected -- for everybody to be an enemy -- coming at us with weapons and firing at us, trying to kill us," Cuevas said.

"The great majority of people -- and I'm talking about 99.2 percent of

the people -- were friendly towards me. And the more time I spent there, the more I was aware that what (the commanders) were telling us was not true. But we were in a mindset not to trust anybody, and unfortunately that's why there was a lot of deaths in the beginning," Cuevas said.

"I remember the look in their faces when we would patrol through their towns and while we were conducting a raid.

"I saw fear and hatred in their eyes for the oppressive manner that we were treating them. They weren't hostile towards me, you know, they were grateful that we took out Saddam, but they didn't want us there." Cuevas said.

After serving a year in Iraq, Cuevas' family at home anxiously waited for him to come home.

But Cuevas didn't come home as scheduled. He got a stop-loss order that prevented him from coming home for another year and a half. When he did return, Cuevas developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and struggled with anger problems.

"I used to blow up for no apparent reason. I blew up at my parents, I left my shoes laying about the house. I got pissed off and I stormed out of the house slamming every door on my way out," Cuevas said.

"I also had flashbacks as if I was patrolling the streets of Iraq while I was in downtown L.A. When I'm at a restaurant, I have to go sit in a corner booth or somewhere up against the wall and be able to look at the exits and entrances -- to make sure everything is safe.

"I don't really trust people that well. I blame myself over incidents that I have no control over," Cuevas said. Cuevas is not alone. Recent studies estimate that roughly 20 percent of Iraq veterans suffer from PTSD.

"My best friend has been shot at with a hand gun, short range, in the chest and the helmet. He has PTSD like I do, but he has it far more severe because he was much more engaged. He has gone twice. He's now in alcoholism, he's drinking his problems away, and yet the army doesn't do anything about that," Cuevas said.

It was over a year before Cuevas decided to get help. He would visit the priest at his local church, and then, prompted by his girlfriend, he turned to an organization called The Soldiers Project, where volunteer therapists offer free psychological treatment to soldiers specifically involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Iraq has changed me. ... I have seen some real shit out there and I put myself in the Iraqis shoes, and I have seen the injustice that is occurring there and it angers me a lot, because most of America doesn't wake up to do anything about it," Cuevas said.

Once he realized he was not alone, Cuevas, like many other soldiers that returned from Iraq, decided to go public and speak out.

He joined IVAW, and joined their efforts to raise awareness. Recently, he helped re-enacted a foot patrol for the public at IVAW's Guerrilla Theater event in Santa Monica.

“The veterans came in their uniforms that they wore in Iraq and we simulated like we had weapons in our hands, and we had (bystanders) play the roles of Iraqi civilians, and we pretty much re-created what happens in Iraq,” Cuevas said.

The number of anti-war soldiers is increasing rapidly.

Several soldiers, many from Cuevas’ own platoon, have changed their position on the war just in their first tour.

Soldiers who protest proactively offer invaluable insight because they have first-hand accounts of effectiveness of the governmental policies being implemented in Iraq and have been integral in convincing the public that the war isn’t the best way to bring political stability to Iraq.

“Our presence agitates the other countries around who don’t want us there, and instead of having a peaceful nation of Iraq, we’re causing more conflict. If we were to pull out come home they would be able to organize themselves create peace with their neighbors.

“(The Iraqis) have their differences but they’re willing to work out their differences but the problems is, when the United States gets involved, we try to divvy up everything, and it’s just harming them,” Cuevas said.

According to Cuevas, a crucial reason to withdraw is that the Iraqis view American soldiers as occupiers not peace-keepers.

“We went in there to take out a dictator -- yes, and we did that but you know what ended up happening?

“We created another one -- ourselves. We are the dictators -- we are telling them what to do, how to live their lives, and to follow our rules.

“Not only are they in this situation, there 4.2 million displaced,” Cuevas said.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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 wars, 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

Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too:

“He Has No Love For Incompetent Leaders Above Him Or The Pogue Units That Rule Kuwait With An Iron PT Belt”

[Intro to Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too, by Alex, Army Of Dude, September 28, 2008:
Excerpt:

Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too

For the uninitiated, fobbits are the miserable soldiers on a FOB (forward operating base) that are deployed for no clear purpose other than to guard gates, buy 50-inch TVs at the base exchange and take pictures of the desert sunset.

If you do not leave the security of the wire on a semi-regular basis, congratulations, you're a fobbit.

Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too is written by Joe, a junior enlisted soldier in the National Guard.

He's infantry, but the merciless gods that assign units to their area of operations had Joe's unit based in Kuwait.

His job is simple: take outlandish amenities like ice cream, X Box 360s and folding lawn chairs across the border into Iraq to feed the never ending appetite for fobbits from Striker to Marez.

They provide security for KBR truckers, usually Iraqi nationals that are working hard to run up Cheney's severance check.

As any anonymous junior enlisted soldier would, Joe rails against the lazy assholes who depend on him to deliver their absurd spoils.

He has no love for incompetent leaders above him or the pogue units that rule Kuwait with an iron PT belt.

I found myself laughing hysterically at all the ridiculous things he goes through (endless formations because of graffiti are among the highlights. The offending word? Breastmilk.).

Joe is getting great buzz within the community for good reason.

He's not swayed by politics or concerned with telling the most dramatic combat story.

He recounts day to day life in combat, trials of incredible highs and devastating lows. If you want to immerse yourself in the view of the common grunt, look no further.

“Last Night Was The Last Night Of Our Duty And We Witnessed One Of The Coolest Live Piracy Events In My Life”

“No One Seems To Give A Shit Because It’s KBR And They’ll Just Write It Off”

September 28, 2008 By Joe; Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too; Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/

Age: 23

Gender: Male

Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

Location: An Nasiriyah, Scania, BIAP, TQ, Taji, Balad, Mosul, Baqubah: Iraq

So right after getting back from Qatar, we were thrown out on a bridge overwatch mission, which I actually enjoy.

It’s the closest thing on this deployment that utilizes the hundreds of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars the Army spent training me to be an Infantryman.

We basically secure a bridge in our AO that all of our convoys pass through, and deter bombers, hijackers, and other whippersnappers from fucking with the precious supply line of Sherbert ice cream and Rockstar energy drinks.

We interact with a lot of locals, which is a good chance to practice some Arabic and also do some do-goodering. The kids asked for “Joose” the past few times we were here and this time we brought some cases of juice boxes from the class 1 yard. The kids gave us puzzled, sad looks. “No, no, JOOSE...JOO-OO-SEEE” scolds one of the kids. Then she points to her feet. “Oh, shoes?” “Yes, yes! JOOSE”. Oh. Next time we’ll bring shoes I guess.

Last night was the last night of our duty and we witnessed one of the coolest live piracy events in my life.

I had given another group of kids some chemlights because they don’t have XBOX so they gotta do something at night, right?

Well, these kids threw chemlights in the road (TCN drivers think chemlights are witchcraft and will NOT drive over them or ever touch them), and the TCN drivers

swerved all over and had to stop because there was two convoys passing each other and they were all intermixed and generally clusterfucked.

So while stopped, the kids jumped on the backs of the trucks and stole a bunch of spare tires.

Also further down, close to the gate of a big FOB in the area, some guys threw a driver out of his truck and stole all of his personal shit and food.

Our HQ element that we report into on overwatch back at the COP (combat outpost) was watching these guys assemble their shit off in the desert with a UAV and walked our truck into their position. So we're 100m from these guys in black out; they don't know we're here and we're watching them with our night vision, organize and amass their loot.

Our HQ element calls the local landowner (a 1st CAV unit, the lazy shitheads mentioned a few weeks ago) and they tell us they're not sure what they want us to do .

Hey assholes, this is your job. You have an entire brigade to patrol this area, and instead you have 4 gun trucks from another unit wheeling around out here doing your job for you. Get the fuck out here and stop these guys.

After no answer for a while, the convoy net becomes hot mic'd with rap music and we can't communicate with anyone anymore. Our HQ element recalled us after the last of our convoys was in the gate and we hit the rack.

Total count was 3 semi-truck tires (worth \$300 a piece supposedly), one guy's personal shit (\$? What's your shit worth to you?), a flat screen (\$5000? more?) and some juice boxes that I wish I could takesy-backsy's on.

No one seems to give a shit because it's KBR and they'll just write it off.

UK's Afghan Casualty Ratio Worst Since Second World War

October 15 2008 Exclusive by IAN BRUCE, Defence Correspondent, Herald & Times

The ratio of dead to wounded for British soldiers fighting in Afghanistan is approaching loss levels not seen since the Second World War, The Herald can reveal.

One UK serviceman has died in action for every five wounded in the past 21 months in Helmand province compared to one in seven for US forces in the same country over the same period.

Ministry of Defence figures obtained yesterday show that while 93 British troops have died at the hands of Taliban insurgents since the start of 2006, another 470 have been injured and hospitalised by bullet, blast or shrapnel wounds.

These include 138 with life-threatening damage and an unknown number who have had one or more limbs amputated as a result of increasingly sophisticated bomb attacks.

The last time British forces sustained combat casualties on this scale was during the advance across France, Belgium and Holland into Germany in 1944-45.

While radical changes in frontline emergency treatment and improvements in protective clothing have reduced the average loss rate to nine or 10 wounded for every fatality in recent wars, the heavy toll on British troops in Helmand reflects the nature of well-planned insurgent ambushes and the increasing deadliness of roadside booby-traps.

The latest figures also reveal more soldiers have been hit in combat in Afghanistan in 21 months than were wounded in five-and-a-half years in Iraq, with 470 in Helmand compared to 426 in Basra.

In the Second World War, according to US records, between one in three and one in five of those wounded in combat died as a result of their injuries. In Vietnam and the 1991 Gulf war, just over one in five of those hit succumbed to wounds.

Critics, including serving officers, have claimed that the MoD masks true casualty figures by recording only the wounded admitted to field hospitals. Soldiers with minor shrapnel wounds who are patched up and returned to duty without being admitted to hospital are not included on casualty returns.

The US forces record as wounded any soldier injured in action who is out of the line for 72 hours, whether or not he returns to duty immediately or is flown out of the country for further treatment.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

“Would Our Own Troops Shoot Their Fellow Americans?”

From: Ryan
To: GI Special
Sent: October 14, 2008
Subject: Scare tactic or reality?

It was recently on Glen Beck and there are various postings on the net about the use of Martial Law during these troubling times in America.

I have asked before but never gotten a straight answer from anyone within the armed services.

If martial law was enacted upon people who were right in their anger over the governments treatment of them, it's shattered economy mishandled by greedy CEOs and politicians and or some “emergency”, would our own troops whom I support, willing abide and even shoot their fellow Americans?

Or, has the distaste for the bullshit being shoved into their faces grown so big they will dissent?

I do not like to think that our forces could be used as enablers to quell the citizenry and allow government to carry on with it's cheating ways.

Our fighting men and women must realise that most of us civilians who oppose the war, do not oppose our troops. That while we distrust and even despise those who supposedly represent us, we do not feel the same towards those who march off to fight in conflicts that are not of their choosing.

I sincerely hope that if the time came, most of them would tell the government to get bent because they support and defend the Constitution and not bureaucrats in DC.

I hope you or someone can answer my question honestly.

I ask you not to candy coat it.

Sincerely,
Ryan S

MORE:

**[Reply: T]
“The Life You Save May Be Your Own.**

The answer depends on what citizens like Ryan S do now to forge bonds with members of the armed forces that bypass the politicians in DC.

Most people don't live near one of the major active duty military bases in the USA, but almost everybody lives within driving distance of an assembly point for National Guard or Reserve troops.

They meet regularly.

They are not abstractions. They are people who live, breathe, think, and worry about the future like the rest of us.

And those that are not officers mostly do not trust the government either.

How they will react, if ordered to attack U.S. citizens, will in large measure depend on the time, place and circumstances.

One clue dates back a long way.

There came a time during the war on Vietnam when troops were ordered into Washington DC by Nixon to act, if so commanded, against a mass demonstration against that war.

The troops stationed near DC were Vietnam veterans. They hated the war. Their commanding general informed the Secretary of Defense that if his troops were ordered to put down the demonstrators, he was unable to guarantee they would not join them.

Think about that.

For several years, members of the Military Project have been showing up on the monthly assembly dates for National Guard troops and handing out packages of information, including GI Special, and material informing troops about Iraq Veterans Against The War.

We are welcome, and well received.

Think about that.

Iraq Veterans Against The War has dedicated a major effort to reaching troops on active duty military bases and organizing chapters there.

They are welcome, and well received.

That said, there are no guarantees in life.

The best way to increase the odds that some politician, or some power-grabbing General, will not be able to use our troops against us is to forge bonds with members of the armed forces that bypass the politicians in DC.

Everybody, including Ryan S, can do that now.

Organize a project to reach out to troops where you live. For how to do that, check out <http://www.militaryproject.org/resources/>

Go talk to them.

Explain why, and what you're worried about.

The life you save may be your own.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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

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

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

No N-Word In The White House

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: October 14, 2008
Subject: No N-Word In The White House by Dennis

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

No N-Word In The White House

A black Vietnam Soldier killed in combat
with a silver star returns in a coffin
but can't be buried back home
in Florida because it's a white cemetery
Military government getting heat about the war
put so many black Soldiers
into the infantry they made almost whole
black companies so the white boys can live
so their white parents shut up
like clam shells they put their boys in the rear
where living is easy
The black infantry Soldiers look at each other
and cry it's just a black man
killing the yellow man for the white man
Martin Luther King assassinated
ghettos set on fire and this is what
the black Soldier comes "home" to
houses burning down like a wild fire
smoking like a battle field
hey welcome "home"
So this is the freedom democracy
on their side of town that they are still
fighting for in Iraq and Afghanistan
the war is a travesty that has no end
so the black Soldiers in Vietnam
were among the first
who refused to kill the yellow man
the gook the towel head
the sand N-Word
the black man killing the Arab man
for the white man
kill him
off with his head on the campaign trail
but it doesn't matter
but it matters.

October 15, 1966:

Americans Organize For Self-Defense



Bobby Seale (L) and Huey Newton (R)

Carl Bunin Peace History October 15-21

Huey Newton and Bobby Seale formed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in Oakland, California. Its revolutionary agenda, and the fact that it was armed, prompted FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover to refer to it as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the United States."

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

Jobs Paying Below Poverty Line Rise 4.7 Million In Four Years

72 percent of low-income families work, with adults in low-income working families working, on average, 2,552 hours per year in 2006, the equivalent of one and one-quarter full-time jobs.

10.14.08 The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The number of jobs paying a poverty-level wage increased by 4.7 million between 2002 and 2006, according to a new analysis of census data released Tuesday.

A report by The Working Poor Families Project, based on an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, found conditions worsened for the working poor in the four years ending in 2006, as the number of low-income working families increased by 350,000. The project is funded by the Annie E. Case, Ford, Joyce and C.S. Mott Foundations.

The number of jobs with pay below the poverty threshold increased to 29.4 million, or 22 percent of all jobs, in 2006 from 24.7 million, or 19 percent of all jobs, in 2002.

“The real surprising news, the alarming news, is that both the number and percentage of low-income families increased during this period,” said Brandon Roberts, co-author of the report. “This was a time when we had solid and robust economic growth.”

An increase in poverty “is not just a new phenomena over the last six months,” he said.

Poverty-wage jobs increased in part because 2.5 million new jobs paid poverty wages; additionally 2.2 million jobs that paid greater than poverty wages in 2002 became poverty-wage jobs by 2006, as pay failed to keep up with the cost of living, Roberts said.

The number of low-income families rose to nearly 9.6 million, or 28 percent of the total population, in 2006 from 9.2 million, or roughly 27 percent, in 2002, according to the report.

The number of children in low-income families rose by roughly 800,000 during the same period, climbing to 21 million from 20.2 million.

During the period, the number of working families spending more than one-third of their income on housing grew to 59 percent from 52 percent.

The report sought to address what it called myths about low-income families.

For instance, it found 72 percent of low-income families work, with adults in low-income working families working, on average, 2,552 hours per year in 2006, the equivalent of one and one-quarter full-time jobs.

It also found that 52 percent of low-income families are headed by married couples; 69 percent have only American-born parents; 43 percent are white and non-Hispanic and only one-quarter of low-income families receive food stamp assistance.

Is Government Intervention Socialism? “Nothing Could Be Further Than The Truth”

October 11, 2008 By Lee Sustar, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

TO THE Neanderthals of the Republican right, even ineffective government intervention is “socialism.”

But nothing could be further than the truth.

This is financial state capitalism, carried out by the same people who used pro-market ideology to justify a three-decade-long transfer of wealth from workers to a tiny minority of the superrich.

If it's necessary for widespread government intervention in the economy to enable capitalists to keep on exploiting workers, the capitalists are all for it.

Whether banks are run privately or by government bureaucrats, they're essentially parasitic institutions in relation to the productive, “real” economy.

[Translation: If the government owns the banks, then the question is who owns the government.

[Over one hundred years ago, when the Imperial government of Germany owned the railroads and much much more, some silly people thought that was a form of “socialism.” A pro-working class revolutionary, Friedrich Engels, pointed out how dimwitted that was, saying that if the government owned something, then what really mattered was who owned the government. In that case, the Imperial German class of capitalists.

[Then and now, the rich and powerful use the Neanderthals of the left to put out their propaganda smoke about how “regulation” and “nationalization” by the government are the answer to our problems — the very government that the class of endlessly greedy capitalists own and operate for their own personal enrichment. Stupid propaganda then, even more stupid now. The liars who promote this bullshit provide the cover while the billionaires stuff more in their own pockets, as usual. Duh. T]

There is a political opening--indeed, a great urgency--to discuss and plan how working people can respond to this crisis. In that debate, it is important to put forward a vision of a different kind of world, free from the inequality, chaos and crisis of capitalism--a genuine socialist alternative.

[For a somewhat less vague “response,” see the next article. T]

**“Workers Will Have To Rely On
Each Other”**

“I Believe That’s The Basic Recipe For Revolution”

[Things being the way they are, identifying information removed from this one. Thanks to D, who sent in this email from an auto industry union brother. T]

October 14, 2008

Money isn’t lost, it changes hands.

Some folks pocketed a bundle.

Now we are getting socked with the bill.

In America profit is the sacred ownership of the individual, but loss is socialized.

Somebody won the jackpot free and clear, but we the workers have to pay for the jackpot.

The name of the game isn’t competition, it’s monopoly.

Competition is for the workers, not the bosses. They are busy buying all the properties and holding us ransom.

If we want jobs or credit or even the basic necessities like shelter, food, health care, and education we will have to work harder and faster and longer for less.

The American Dream isn’t about achieving success and being free and independent, it’s about the beating the other guy. It’s dog eat dog.

Just listen to the gist of the McCain campaign. He’s so desperate I wouldn’t be surprised if he started scapegoating the “UnAmericans”, the illegal immigrants, the dissidents, the labor activists, and anyone resistant to the culture of conformity as advertised on reality TV.

I wouldn’t be surprised if his economic plan involved an expansion of the prison industrial system.

No one trusts the system, they play it, but they don’t trust it.

Because it wasn’t designed to foster relationships.

It was designed to decimate and obstruct genuine relationships based on natural solidarity.

The government won’t be able to afford any programs that help working people.

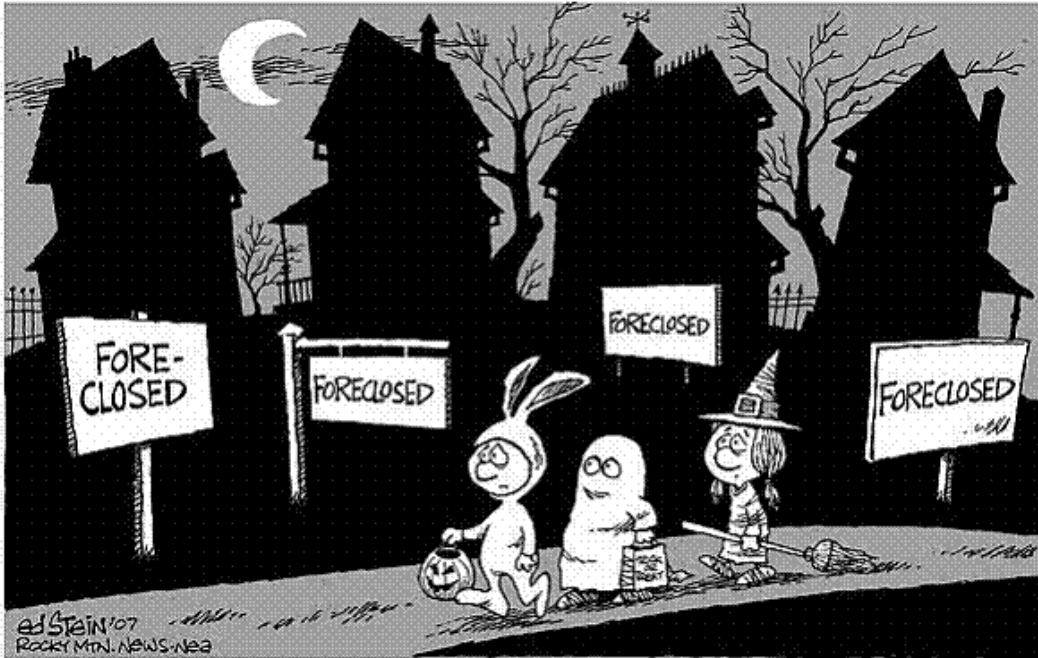
As a result workers will have to rely on each other.

I believe that's the basic recipe for revolution.

Hold on to your gun.

My friend, [XXXXX] who has 31 years seniority and works with me at the GM [XXXXX] in [XXXXX] says, "I'm not buying anything I can't eat."

I say the only worthwhile investment is Alcohol, Marijuana, and Firearms.



[Thanks to Raschid S., who sent this in.]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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



GI Special www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Bush brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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