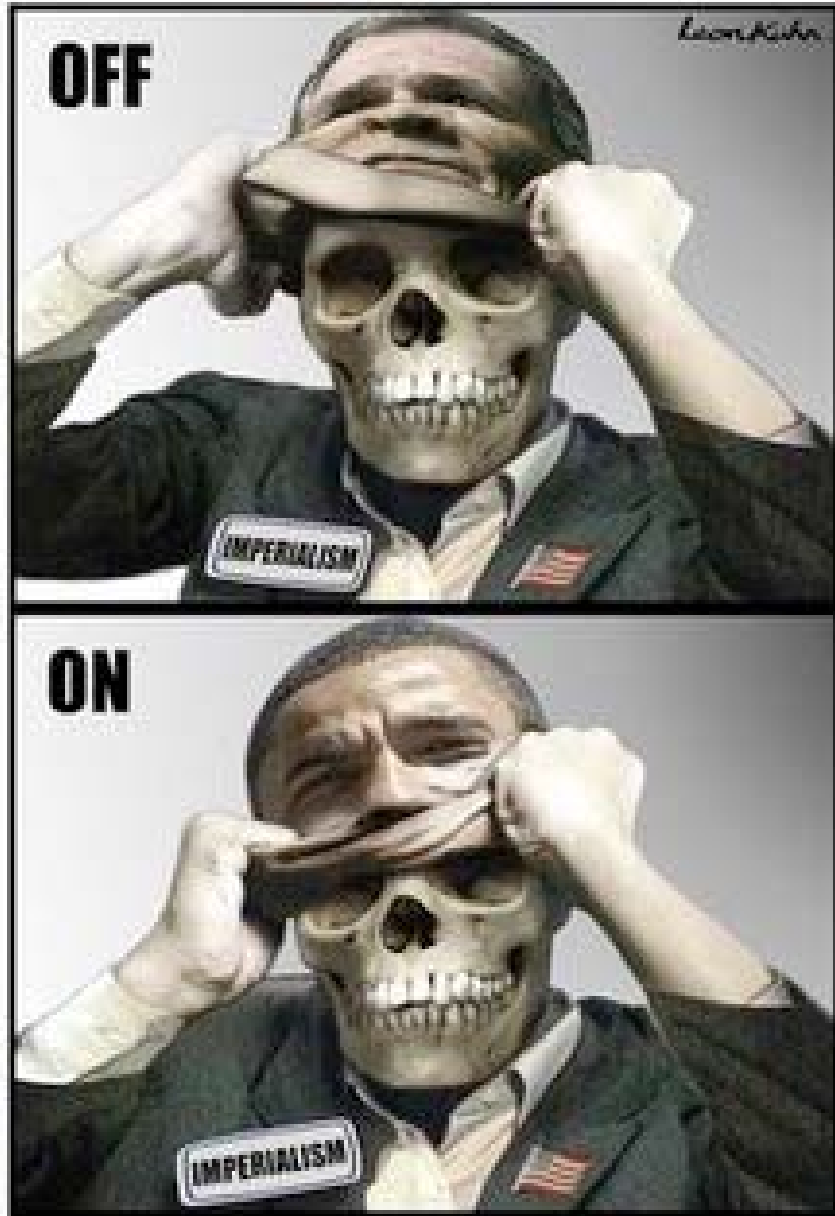


GI SPECIAL 7A11:

CHANGE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Reality: #1

1.21.09 By Gina Chon, Wall St. Journal

Baghdad

A sergeant from the Army's 4th Infantry Division, which has been in Iraq for about 15 months, supported John McCain in the elections.

But, he said, 'If Obama becoming president means I don't have to come back here again, then I'm all for it.'

Khalid Shaqiq Mubarak, at a Baghdad restaurant that was playing videos instead of the news, thought Mr. Obama had been sworn in Monday.

"Who cares?" he asked. "All American presidents have the same policy so it doesn't matter to me who is president."

Reality: #2 Deranged Opportunists Of The World: Go Away!

Comment: T

Here's a news item:

George W. Bush doesn't matter any more.

Perhaps the news hasn't reached you yet?

What other explanation can there possibly be for sending in heavy breathing denunciations, long tedious articles, windy rhetoric and other endless bullshit about the evil doings of George W Bush & Co.

Would you believe that today another email came in raving about the non-Impeachment of George Bush?

Earth to the Bush-obsessed: it's over.

Get it?

Do you really miss him that much, so much you just can't get along without him?

It would be regrettable if it's all a smokescreen to hide your refusal to attack the new Emperor and his Congress, who are committed to killing more U.S. troops, more Iraqis and more Afghans.

Oh yes, and more Palestinians.

Smokescreening for Obama means defending the new Emperor by misdirecting attention away from him, giving him a pass, and if that's the intention, you're up to your neck in blood.

Whatever, please don't send in any more tedious crap about how Bush did this, or Cheney did that, or whoever did whatever before the sparkling new killing machine took over.

These learned commentaries of passivity firmly facing the past demonstrate utter lack of situational awareness.

There's a new Emperor in town.

And the killing goes on.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

20-Year-Old Soldier From Euless Dies In Iraq



McCune

Jan. 14, 2009 By CHRIS VAUGHN, Star-Telegram

EULESS — It was not all that surprising that Sean McCune enlisted in the service.

Three generations — his father, grandfather and great-grandfather — all served in the Air Force, and Sean did not feel quite up to college yet.

What was a bit surprising was that when Sean shipped off for Army basic training in April 2008, he had chosen the infantry as his calling.

“He was kind of a gentle, sensitive kid,” said his father, Larry McCune. “I didn’t quite understand his desire for a combat role. But you know kids. They make their minds up based on what they know. I talked to him about the risks and rewards and just tried to support him in his decision.”

Pvt. McCune, 20, died Sunday in Samarra, Iraq. He had been an infantryman for only six months and was on his first deployment. His is the first war-zone death of a Tarrant County serviceman this year.

The Army told his father that it appeared that Pvt. McCune was killed when his rifle accidentally discharged, perhaps while he was cleaning it. He belonged to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Funeral arrangements for Pvt. McCune are pending, but his father said he will be buried in Alabama, where his mother lives.

Pvt. McCune was born June 2, 1988, at Carswell Air Force Base, shortly before his father left the service. He was reared mostly in Haltom City and Grapevine and attended Haltom High School his freshman and sophomore years.

He then moved to his mother’s in Alabama and finished high school there in 2007. He moved back to Tarrant County soon afterward and resumed living with his father in Euless.

Pvt. McCune loved to play computer games and video games and enjoyed wildlife and photography. Until a few months ago, he still shot photos on an old manual-everything, film-only Nikon camera.

“He wouldn’t hurt a flea,” his father said. “He preferred to shoot animals with a camera.”

He had an enormous sweet tooth, having bought \$40 worth of candy and consuming most of it while on leave last summer.

“You’d never know it by seeing him,” said his sister, Amber McCune, 23. “He was as skinny as they come. But he could eat anybody under the table.”

After he deployed to the Middle East in late October, his family didn’t hear from him very often. His e-mails were short and sweet. He sent one e-mail during the holidays to say

that he had gotten to meet the musician Kid Rock in Iraq. His story of that encounter lasted one sentence.

“When we were younger, he was a pain in the butt,” his sister said. “But as we started our teenage years, he was my best friend.”

Pvt. McCune is also survived by his mother and stepfather, Sandi and Sandy Gibson; stepsister Natasha Gibson; and half sister Vicki Gibson.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Family Mourns, Remembers Hero Bronx Marine Lost In Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Alberto Francesconi

January 7th 2009 BY PATRICE O'SHAUGHNESSY, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The family gathered Tuesday, as it often does, in the small, cozy living room of a Bronx apartment: Alberto Francesconi's parents, his brothers, aunts, mother-in-law and his pretty, young wife.

Francesconi was not there except in photos covering the wall - as a stern Marine lance corporal, a curly-haired baby, a little boy in a white graduation cap, a teen with his two big brothers, a handsome groom, a youth in denim cutoffs at Orchard Beach.

A life of family traditions, hard work and achievement was in those photographs; a life that ended when Francesconi was blown up in Afghanistan on New Year's Day, the nation's first casualty there in 2009.

His father, Alberto Sr., was pale and could barely speak. He was supposed to have heart surgery this Friday.

Instead, he will bury his son.

"I wish I'd die," he said, tears welling in his eyes. "He was my baby. He was 21."

Francesconi grew up in a tough area of the Bronx, but always dreamed of more - of making a better life for his family and his wife of two years, Cynthia.

"We were looking into starting a family, owning our own business after he came back," the new widow said. "He always wanted to do better."

"Everything he did, he excelled at," cousin William Nolasco said.

"We grew up together at 187thSt. and Park Ave. It was nothing but drugs and crime."

That was not the life for Francesconi. He was baptized and attended Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Marion Ave. and attended Middle School 45.

There, he met his future wife.

"We became best friends," said Cynthia Francesconi, 23.

They started dating five years ago, when Francesconi was at Aviation High School in Long Island City. "He always wanted to be a pilot," his widow said. "He got two degrees, in maintaining planes and repairing engines."

After graduating, he worked for Bank of America in midtown. "He was a personal banker at 18," Nolasco said with awe.

Alberto and Cynthia married at City Hall on Dec. 12, 2006. The reception was at an Arthur Ave. restaurant.

To pursue his flying dreams, Francesconi joined the Marine Corps, and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

The couple moved down there and bought a puppy.

Meanwhile, his parents moved to a second-floor walkup on the other side of the Grand Concourse.

Tuesday, a silver-and-gold garland was draped on the door. Christmas cards were taped to the wall, their edges curling with age.

A large Puerto Rican flag hung in the hallway, surrounded by tiny lights. The Christmas tree was still glowing.

An aroma of home cooking permeated the apartment, and large pots sat on shelves in the kitchen. The pet bird, a green parrot, squawked loudly, as if it were wailing in grief.

Francesconi's mother, Minerva Negron, wept on the shoulder of her sister as Cynthia held her hand.

Francesconi's brothers, Robert Rivera and Manuel Vega, wore large white-gold crucifixes on chains around their necks, identical to the one Francesconi wore in the photos.

"We all bought them together," Rivera said.

"My little brother was attached to family, he kept to traditions."

Francesconi saw action in Iraq for six months in 2007. He was a sniper. Last Veterans Day he was deployed to Afghanistan.

"He said it was three times worse than Iraq," said Rivera, 31.

Cynthia Francesconi said she spoke to him the day he was killed in Helmand Province.

"He said he'd be gone for a week, and would call when he got back," she said. She smiled when she recalled him asking when the next shipment of goodies would be coming.

"We sent him peanut butter and jelly and crackers, and doughnuts and cookies," she said.

In the vestibule of the family's building, three white roses, dozens of flickering votive candles and empty Hennessy bottles formed a makeshift tribute, the kind you usually find in this neighborhood to memorialize victims of street crime.

Top British General Says "Relentless" Pace Of Afghan Deployments "Unacceptable" Also Condemns Use Of Antique Armored Vehicles

January 20, 2009 (CNN)

British soldiers have been "seriously stretched" by six years of fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, the head of the British Army has warned.

In a speech in London, General Sir Richard Dannatt also warned that the army was undermanned and said that the goodwill of soldiers and their families had been undermined by the “relentless pace of operations.”

“A gap of one year between operational deployment is not unusual and often soldiers are spending much of the year before a deployment away from home, in training and preparation. This is unacceptable,” Dannatt told an audience at the Institute for Public Policy Research on Monday, the UK’s Press Association reported.

He also criticized delays in the development of a new army armored vehicle, saying that many of the vehicles used by soldiers “harked back to the ‘60s and ‘70s.”

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



Hit By Vehicle Born IED: Kandahar: [Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO, who sent this in.]

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

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

TROOP NEWS

Army 10,000 Short Of Recruiting Goal In 2008

January 21, 2009 National Priorities Project [Excerpt]

NORTHAMPTON, MA::

A new NPP analysis highlights a significant gap in the Army's 2008 quantity and quality goals. Using census material, combined with data on 2008 Army enlistment obtained through a Freedom of Information Act, NPP research also uncovers a continued trend of disproportionate recruits from southern states.

While the army claims 80,517 new army recruits this year, surpassing its goal of 80,000, in actuality, its figures reflect the number of individuals with whom they have some form of often non-binding contract.

The number of accessions, or actual recruits who reported for duty in 2008, was 69,357.

The percent of Tier 1 recruits, at 74% is 16 percentage points below the army's goal of 90%. This is the fourth year running that the army has missed its quality goal.

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.**

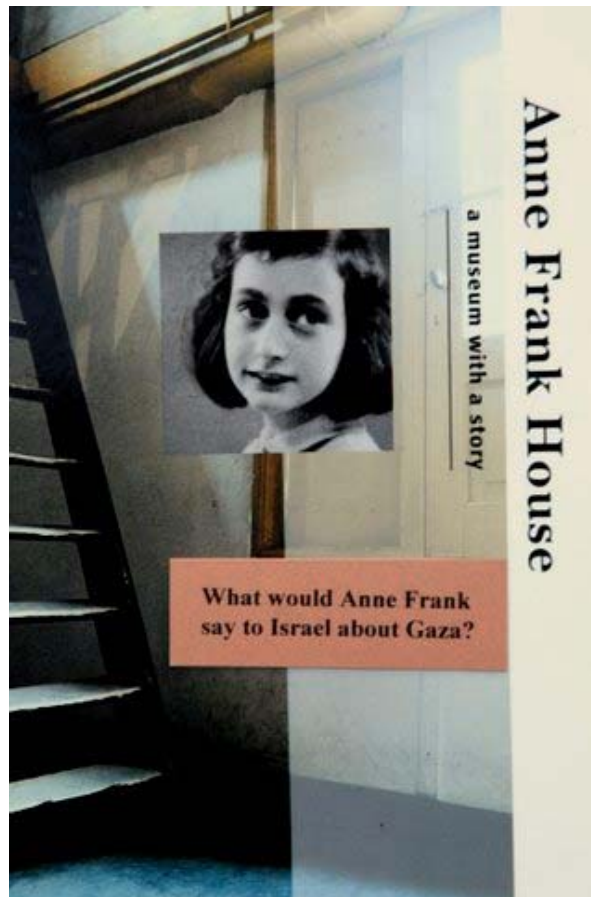
**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins**

“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

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**

What Would Anne Frank Say To Israel About Gaza?



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special

Sent: January 20, 2009

Subject: What Would Anne Frank Say To Israel About Gaza?

What Would Anne Frank Say To Israel About Gaza?

**I went through Dachau in 1954,
when I was nine-years-old.**

I am now 63.

**What I saw and experienced in 1954,
is still very much a part of my life.**

**So, with that said, I will write something
that I think Anne Frank might say to Israel
about Gaza.**

“I’m still dying.”

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Medic
January 20, 2009**

<p>Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)</p>

“We Who Dared To Say No To War: American Antiwar Writing From 1812 To Now”

[Book Review]

“As We Act, Let Us Not Become The Evil That We Deplore”

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

2008-09-22 By David Swanson, Davidswanson.org/ [Excerpts]

Murray Polner and Thomas E. Woods, Jr., have edited a new collection of writings called “We Who Dared to Say No to War: American Antiwar Writing from 1812 to Now.”

Read it and weep ... and cheer.

Weep because we’ve been lied into wars in very similar ways for two centuries and have had to discover the deception anew each time.

Cheer because some people have been there to denounce the lies on the spot every time, and their ranks have steadily grown.

In 1812, taking over Canada was going to be a cakewalk. In 1846 Mexico had supposedly attacked the United States, whereas the opposite was true.

In 1898 lies about the Spanish that would have made Fox News proud (including lies about the Maine, a ship that was actually blown up from within) helped launch a U.S. war to liberate Cuba, which however occupied Cuba instead of liberating it and occupied the Philippines for good measure, slaughtering people there by the thousands for years.

In 1916 Woodrow Wilson was reelected president on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War," and proceeded to set up an early version of the White House Iraq Group known as the Committee on Public Information whose mission it was to make Americans hate Germans.

The lies (including about the content of the Lusitania) were so effective that they shaped the settlement at the end of the first world war, contributing to the rise of Nazism and the second world war.

We entered that second war following an unprovoked attack by the Japanese, unless the threats we had sent the Japanese and the economic sanctions we had imposed on them count as provocation, and ignoring the fact that the U.S. Navy had been given, nine days before Pearl Harbor, orders to shoot down any Japanese planes and blow up Japanese boats it encountered.

The lies of the Cold War, and the Gulf of Tonkin, and the mythical babies taken out of incubators prior to the first Gulf War are still familiar to most Americans.

What is unfamiliar to most Americans is the history of truth telling that has accompanied all these warmongering lies. If you want to be informed and inspired by this rich heritage, pick up a copy of "We Who Dared to Say No to War." Here we find Daniel Webster and John Randolph opposing the War of 1812, Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln Denouncing the Mexican War, Stephen Crane and William Jennings Bryan opposing the war on Cuba and the Philippines, Robert M. La Follette and Helen Keller speaking against World War I, and many, many lesser known prophets for peace.

And the endless wars against native Americans are not even included.

Henry Wallace and Robert Taft oppose the Cold War, while Wayne Morse and Philip Berrigan oppose the slaughter in Vietnam, along with many other eloquent voices.

And the chapter on Iraq and the "War on Terror" is richer than any before it. Numerous other lesser wars might have been included as well, but this collection is a thing of beauty.

"Where is it written in the Constitution," asked Daniel Webster, "in what article or section is it contained, that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war, in which the folly or the wickedness of Government may engage it?"

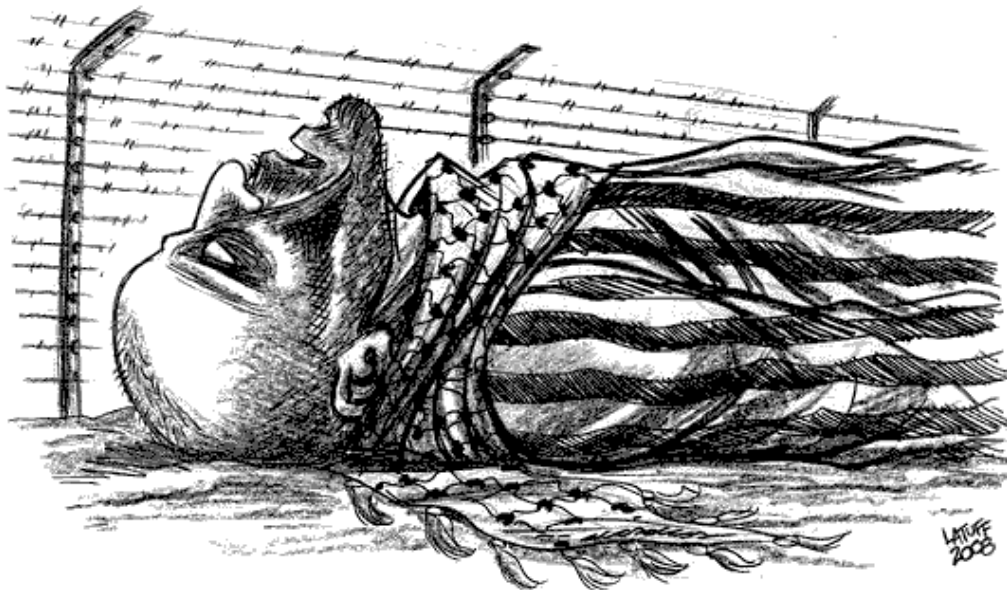
“(T)aking for true,” said Abraham Lincoln, “all the President states as fact, he falls far short of proving his justification; and ... would have gone farther with his proof, if it had not been for the small matter, that the truth would not permit him.”

“I have agonized over this vote,” said Congresswoman Barbara Lee on September 15, 2001, when she stood alone against launching an open-ended war on Afghanistan. “But I came to grips with it in the very painful yet beautiful memorial service today at the National Cathedral.

As a member of the clergy so eloquently said, ‘As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore.’”

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**“Major Leibovich, Was Asked
About The Israeli Killing Of, At
That Time, 800 Palestinians”
“She Replied Instantly That ‘500 Of
Them Were Militants’”
“That Was The Reply Of A Nazi”**



Carlos Latuff

My grandmother was ill in bed when the Nazis came to her home town of Staszow. A German soldier shot her dead in her bed.

My grandmother did not die to provide cover for Israeli soldiers murdering Palestinian grandmothers in Gaza.

January 15, 2009: Text of Labor Member of Parliament and former government minister Sir Gerald Bernard Kaufman's speech, House of Commons

I was brought up as an orthodox Jew and a Zionist. On a shelf in our kitchen, there was a tin box for the Jewish National Fund, into which we put coins to help the pioneers building a Jewish presence in Palestine.

I first went to Israel in 1961 and I have been there since more times than I can count.

I had family in Israel and have friends in Israel.

One of them fought in the wars of 1956, 1967 and 1973 and was wounded in two of them. The tie clip that I am wearing is made from a campaign decoration awarded to him, which he presented to me.

I have known most of the Prime Ministers of Israel, starting with the founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. Golda Meir was my friend, as was Yigal Allon, Deputy Prime Minister, who, as a general, won the Negev for Israel in the 1948 war of independence.

My parents came to Britain as refugees from Poland.

Most of their families were subsequently murdered by the Nazis in the holocaust.

My grandmother was ill in bed when the Nazis came to her home town of Staszow.

A German soldier shot her dead in her bed.

My grandmother did not die to provide cover for Israeli soldiers murdering Palestinian grandmothers in Gaza.

The current Israeli government ruthlessly and cynically exploits the continuing guilt among Gentiles over the slaughter of Jews in the holocaust as justification for their murder of Palestinians.

The implication is that Jewish lives are precious, but the lives of Palestinians do not count.

On Sky News a few days ago, the spokeswoman for the Israeli army, Major Leibovich, was asked about the Israeli killing of, at that time, 800 Palestinians-the total is now 1,000.

She replied instantly that "500 of them were militants."

That was the reply of a Nazi.

I suppose that the Jews fighting for their lives in the Warsaw ghetto could have been dismissed as militants.

The Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asserts that her government will have no dealings with Hamas, because they are terrorists.

Tzipi Livni's father was Eitan Livni, chief operations officer of the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi, who organized the blowing-up of the King David hotel in Jerusalem, in which 91 victims were killed, including four Jews.

Israel was born out of Jewish terrorism.

Jewish terrorists hanged two British sergeants and booby-trapped their corpses.

Irgun, together with the terrorist Stern gang, massacred 254 Palestinians in 1948 in the village of Deir Yassin.

Today, the present Israeli government indicates that they would be willing, in circumstances acceptable to them, to negotiate with the Palestinian President Abbas of Fatah. It is too late for that. They could have negotiated with Fatah's previous leader, Yasser Arafat, who was a friend of mine.

Instead, they besieged him in a bunker in Ramallah, where I visited him. Because of the failings of Fatah since Arafat's death, Hamas won the Palestinian election in 2006. Hamas is a deeply nasty organization, but it was democratically elected, and it is the only game in town. The boycotting of Hamas, including by our government, has been a culpable error, from which dreadful consequences have followed.

The great Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, with whom I campaigned for peace on many platforms, said: "You make peace by talking to your enemies."

However many Palestinians the Israelis murder in Gaza, they cannot solve this existential problem by military means.

Whenever and however the fighting ends, there will still be 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza and 2.5 million more Palestinians on the West Bank.

They are treated like dirt by the Israelis, with hundreds of road blocks and with the ghastly denizens of the illegal Jewish settlements harassing them as well.

The time will come, not so long from now, when they will outnumber the Jewish population in Israel.

It is time for our government to make clear to the Israeli government that their conduct and policies are unacceptable, and to impose a total arms ban on Israel.

It is time for peace, but real peace, not the solution by conquest which is the Israelis' real goal but which it is impossible for them to achieve.

They are not simply war criminals; they are fools.

“There Is No Law In Israel Anymore”

**“Some Were Even Detained For
‘Damaging The Nation’s Morale’ – A
Charge Which Doesn’t Even Exist”**

**“Nowadays, We Heard ‘I Know I’m
Talking Like A Nazi, But At Least The
Nazis Knew How To Deal With Their
Enemies’”**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

21 January 2009 Seth Freedman, Guardian News and Media Limited

Last week, at the height of Operation Cast Lead, a group of Israeli firemen threw their hats into the political ring, albeit in somewhat undiplomatic and uncivilised fashion.

During a peaceful anti-war vigil outside a Tel Aviv air force base, several members of the fire brigade turned on one protester, drenching her relentlessly with water from their hoses, before approaching her and ordering her into the station in order to “give us all head”.

Their actions were, while wholly illegal, none the less emblematic of a massive shift in Israeli public opinion over the last few years, according to Sharon Dolev, the woman on the receiving end of the assault. A veteran activist, Dolev has suffered a great deal during her 20 years of campaigning in the Israeli peace camp (“death threats, being shot with rubber bullets, hate mail, beatings”), but said that this incident was “the first time that the establishment felt safe in (taking action such as this)”.

“It used to be a big deal if bus drivers criticised protests and vigils in public,” she recalls, “since as employees of the state, they were not allowed to express political opinions in uniform.”

Now, however, the firemen felt so secure of escaping punishment that they even bombarded her with firecrackers during the attack, telling her “now you know what it’s like to live in Sderot”.

When video evidence emerged on an Israeli news website of her ordeal, readers' comments were predictably scathing of Dolev and her fellow protestors for daring to speak out in the first place against the IDF's operation.

"Of the 380 comments, all but 10 were in support of the fire brigade," said Dolev. "Some readers even called openly for our murder, urging the police to shoot us, or saying 'Why use water – use acid instead'."

In her view, the inexorable shift of the Israeli public towards out and out hostility and hyper-defensiveness was inevitable from as far back as 1967, when the West Bank was first conquered.

"We used to hold signs at protests reading 'The occupation will corrupt'," she told me. "Now, we can see that it has. As a society, we have lost our ability to see clearly; we have let fear blind us."

Once, calling someone a racist was the harshest accusation you could make.

Later, you began to hear people say 'I know I'm a racist, but...'; nowadays, we heard 'I know I'm talking like a Nazi, but at least the Nazis knew how to deal with their enemies'."

Despite others employing Nazi comparisons to describe Israeli military actions, Dolev isn't comfortable with such terminology herself, not least because it derails the debate about the issues at hand. "It's all too easy for the Israeli authorities to say 'we didn't build an Auschwitz for the Palestinians, so everything's ok', but in reality everything is not ok."

She believes that history has come full circle, and that instead of learning the lessons of the Holocaust, "we have become the racists ourselves".

"Isn't Gaza a ghetto?" she continues. "OK, we don't use the Palestinians' hair for cushions, but the (stage is being set for the) same kind of process of dehumanisation here."

Working in a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation in Gaza in 1989 gave Dolev her first exposure to "the banality of evil", she says. "It wasn't seeing a soldier get scared and shoot into a crowd, but rather seeing a girl sitting in her house and getting shot by a stray bullet."

And then, when she needed to be transferred to a Cairo hospital, the Shabak officers saying only she could cross, and no one else. A 12-year-old girl, in a vegetative state, and they wouldn't even let her mother accompany her. That is the banality of evil."

In her eyes, the Israeli public has allowed its leaders and military to get away with such punitive measures simply because they have allowed fear to override all other emotions:

"Fear turns us into beasts," she says flatly. "I remember in my first week at school, aged six, we were taught how to blockade the classroom in case a terrorist got into the playground. While some fear is justified, there is not enough reason to make the public terrified on a daily basis." The media are just as responsible as the government for

perpetually scaring ordinary Israelis, she believes. "Fear sells papers," she says cynically.

Such defensiveness allowed the police to get away with imprisoning some 700 activists over the course of Operation Cast Lead, she believes; many on the most spurious of charges.

"They arrested some on the charge of disturbing public order, others on even vaguer charges. And some were even detained for 'damaging the nation's morale' – a charge which doesn't even exist. There is no law in Israel anymore."

As well as her experience at the hands of the fire brigade, Dolev also points to the kind of sloganeering in the election campaign as proof that the bedrock of democracy on which Israel is founded is beginning to look far less solid. "When you have Lieberman declaring 'No loyalty, no citizenship', you start to worry about what point we've come to."

However, she is undeterred in her struggle on behalf of the peace camp, believing that hope is not lost in terms of convincing the Israeli public of an alternative to perpetual war and aggression. A firm promoter of the Arab Peace Initiative, she is convinced that the proposal is the best way to resolve the decades-old conflict.

"It's the biggest carrot ever offered to the Israeli people," she says. "One-state or two-state is a non-issue; whatever the two peoples agree on I would take with both hands.

"All that matters is that there are borders, and that those living within the borders are given full rights and citizenship. However, I worry about (Israeli Jews) becoming a minority, because after all we've taught them over 60 years of how to treat minorities, it's become dangerous to be a minority ourselves ... "

Israeli Attack With White Phosphorus Weapons On UNRWA School In Beit Lahia, Gaza, Palestine

January 19, 2009 "AJJP"

To get a visual feeling of what it means for a school -- sheltering civilians -- to be subjected to Israeli white phosphorous bombs ... rain of inextinguishable fire balls falling from the sky in all directions, deliberately designed to cause maximum death and destruction.

No wonder it is illegal to use white phosphorous as a weapon of war, particularly in civilian settings, let alone a UN shelter!

In this criminal attack two children were killed, their mother lost her legs, and dozens of children and women were injured -- some from inhaling the phosphorous smoke, the effects of which will only be revealed with time.

Omar







The Unilateral People

Jan 18th, 2009 By Gilad Atzmon [Via Ed Pearl]

They withdraw unilaterally
They ceasefire unilaterally
They invade unilaterally
They win unilaterally
They destroy unilaterally
They massacre unilaterally
They bathe in blood unilaterally
They spread white phosphorus unilaterally
They kill women and children unilaterally
They drop bombs unilaterally
They live on stolen land unilaterally
They support their homicidal leaders unilaterally
They love their 'Jewish Only State' unilaterally
Their democracy is unilateral
They love themselves unilaterally
They are the unilateral people.
Living behind walls of concrete, hatred and arrogance
They are still united and lateral failing to love their neighbours

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**A WIN FOR OUR SIDE!
Occupation Checkpoint In
California Fucked Up When
Pomona Citizens Rebel:
“One Lady Even Pulled Over To Join
In On The Protest”
“The Protesters Showed What A Small
Group Of Militant People Can
Accomplish”**

January 16, 2009 Jared Moreno, from the Internet, Socialist Worker

RECENTLY, A student from Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) in Pomona, Calif., Daniel, was driving when he ended up in a long line. While in line, he saw a sign that read “checkpoint ahead.”

Worried because he did not have his license at the time, he tried to find a turnoff, but there was none.

He reached the police officers, and they asked for his license. He told the police officer that he did not have it, and was asked to pull off to the side. His car was towed, impounded and he was fined \$2,000.

“I was scared for my mom,” Daniel said, “I was just thinking of the hardship she would have to go through. \$2,000 dollars is a lot of money.”

When checkpoints are formed, this is a situation many families are forced into.

At checkpoints, police check the ID of any driver passing by. The location often tends to be in areas of high Latino or immigrant concentration. This leaves immigrants in a peculiar situation, because they are not allowed to obtain a California driver’s license.

They are then vulnerable at the checkpoint.

If they pass through, their car can be taken from them; the fines associated with being stopped can be more than some families can bear.

“The expenses are about \$1,500, excluding the cost of a traffic ticket,” according to Palm Springs Desert Sun reporter Rasha Aly. This is the minimum cost to any driver caught without a license in California, no exceptions. Because of the high cost, sometimes the driver cannot afford to get their car back.

The police are allowed to do this because the checkpoints are disguised as a sobriety checkpoint.

But the police only ask for a driver’s license.

In other words, these checkpoints are a clear attack on immigrants.

There is money to be made from these checkpoints as well.

According to Cristina Carrizosa, a Pomona city councilor, the city can gain millions from the cars being towed:

There are fines on the driver for towing the car, impounding the car and picking it up. If the driver does not pick up their car, the car is sold.

The city could get over \$1 million from a checkpoint.

At 6:30 p.m. on the evening of December 5, 2008, Pomona police set up a “sobriety” checkpoint at the intersection of Holt and Endpoint.

Around two hours later, students from Mt. SAC arrived, ready to protest the checkpoint. There, they met with students from Pitzer College and Cal Poly Pomona, plus a community group called Pomona Habla.

In response to these checkpoints, Laura from Students for Immigrant Rights Internationalist Current, a club from Mt. SAC, decided to organize the club to protest.

She sent out a text to a network of people with the location of a checkpoint and made sure everyone was aware of the situation. Then she began calling people to see who would be available to protest the checkpoint.

Word spread of a protest, and when there was a sufficient number of people ready, they headed to the location of the checkpoint.

They brought signs that would warn drivers passing through that there was a checkpoint ahead.

Since the checkpoint stopped people from two directions, for the students to be able to warn as many people as possible, there had to be protesters on both sides. Students organized around two streets, and protesters warned people. Their locations was far enough away from the checkpoint that unlicensed drivers had a chance to turn away without getting pulled over.

Once the protesters arrived, there were immediate signs of success.

Many cars were turning away from the checkpoint. Some drivers honked in support, or rolled down their window to thank the protesters.

One lady even pulled over to join in on the protest.

Even though the people passing through Pomona were appreciative, the same can't be said about the police.

Chanel Ortiz, a student protester, was able to drive a lady and her children past the checkpoint. The lady did not have her license at the time. She had stopped near the protesters to find out what was going on. Chanel notified her of the checkpoint and how the police were checking licenses. She was able to get past the checkpoint safely with her children because Chanel drove her through.

The police responded to these protesters with hostility, trying to find any excuse to suppress the protest or arrest them. One student was stopped and questioned after being told that he was "disturbing" the neighborhood with his loudspeaker.

Other students came to back him up and began questioning the officer on what the laws are regarding noise.

The officer was unable to answer the questions and repeated his statement telling the students to "back away."

A lawyer from Pomona Habla came and questioned the growing gathering of police on the scene and eventually, the police backed down and let the student go.

Later on that night, Laura received word that many of the protesters on one street had left. So she and another student decided to go to that street.

The two of them were offered a ride by council member Cristina Carrizosa and her daughter.

When police saw two of the protesters enter the car, they pulled the car over.

One officer stated that the reason they were pulled over was because they were "obstructing traffic."

The police approached with hostility and aggressively attempted to get the driver to incriminate herself. Miriam, a student from Mt. SAC who was also in the car stated, "They hassled the councilwoman.

Police were telling her she was obstructing traffic and trying to push her to incriminate herself."

Since many of the cars were turning away from the checkpoint, the success of the protesters was obvious.

The police even decided to extend the checkpoint farther into the night, hoping to impound more cars or to outlast the protesters.

But protesters were diligent and ready to stay the night if they had to. They stayed until around 1 a.m. and made sure that no cars were being stopped.

Laura stated that, "The cops got around 79 cars before we showed up, and afterward almost no other cars were towed."

The protesters showed what a small group of militant people can accomplish.

Even though their numbers didn't reach beyond a couple dozen, they were able to greatly hinder the success of the checkpoint.

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

ANOTHER A WIN FOR OUR SIDE! British Citizens Wreck Factory That Made Missiles For Zionists And U.S. Occupation In Iraq

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

From its Moulsecoomb base it manufactures laser-guided missiles that have been used extensively in Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Somalia.

17 January 2009 Guardian.co.uk

Nine people are being questioned by police following extensive damage at an arms factory where protesters say military components are being made for Israeli warplanes bombing Gaza.

The group, which calls itself Smash EDO, entered the EDO MBM Technology plant in Moulsecoomb, Brighton, in the early hours of this morning.

During the incident computers and furniture were hurled from the windows of the Sussex factory.

Police described the damaged as “substantial”.

Demonstrators said they were “decommissioning” the site in protest against the killings of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military. They said equipment made at the plant was being used in Gaza by the Israeli air force.

DCI Graham Pratt of Sussex police said: “Windows had been smashed and offices turned over in what I would describe as wanton vandalism, but with machinery and equipment so targeted that it could have been done with a view of bringing business to a standstill.

“The damage is significant and the value substantial.”

EDO MBM is the sole British subsidiary of US weapons company EDO Corp.

From its Moulescoomb base it manufactures laser-guided missiles that have been used extensively in Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Somalia.

The weapons were reportedly used by Israel against Lebanon in 2005, and have also been used in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

How Many Stock Brokers Does It Take To Change A Lightbulb?

1.10.09 Economic Meltdown Funnies

1. What’s the difference between an investment banker and a pigeon?

A pigeon can still make a deposit on a new Ferrari.

2. With the current market turmoil, what’s the easiest way to make a small fortune?

Start off with a large one.

3. How many stock brokers does it take to change a lightbulb?

Two. One to remove the lightbulb and drop it -and the other to sell it before it crashes.

4. What's the difference between an investment banker and a large pizza?

A large pizza can still feed a family of four.

5. Why are all MBAs going back to school??

To ask for their money back.

RECEIVED

“They Not Only Have The Horrors Of War But They Lost Belief In Their Country”

From: Johanna Pettit
To: GI Special
Sent: January 20, 2009
Subject: 20th

Vets with PTSD should get the same treatment a wounded soldier gets.

A man who works with Vets as a volunteer in a VA Hospital told me the World War 11 guys when they are dying start letting it out. Some held it in all these years.

You have a group of Vets working with you that are suffering.

They not only have the horrors of war but they lost belief in their country.

“As Bush Goes - A Parting Piece By Kipling [A Dead Statesman]

From: Nigel Baldwin
Sent: January 19, 2009
Subject: As Bush goes - a parting piece by Kipling

A Dead Statesman (1924)

**I could not dig, I dared not rob,
And so I lied to please the mob.**

Now all my lies are proved untrue,
And I must face the men I slew.
What tale will serve me here among
Mine angry and defrauded young?

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

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

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



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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