

GI SPECIAL 7A5:



The sidewalk across from the North American International Auto Show Jan. 11, 2009 in Detroit. (AP Photo/Gary Malerba)

Two Homes

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 07, 2009
Subject: Two Homes

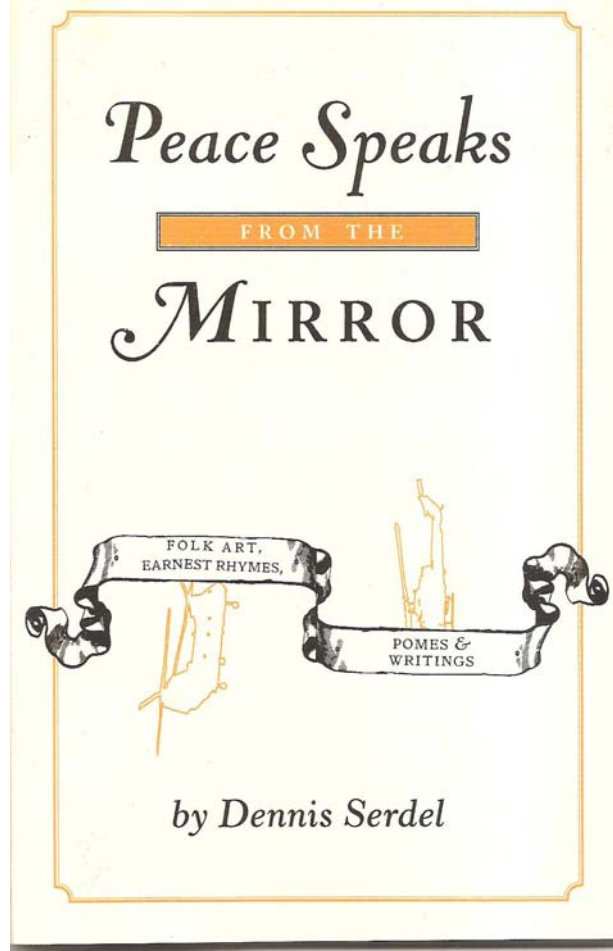
By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Two Homes

“Why don’t you go back home?”
she yacks holding her brown scarf
against the wind and sand,
“We didn’t kill the twin towers,
all you do is attract suicide bombers

who just make us martyrs
go back to your wife and your children
doesn't that make you feel good,
we just want to feel good too."
But Kenny just stands there
listening to a language he doesn't understand
her body language is full of passion
he wishes he could help her
but there is an invisible Wall
between them and the sand and rain
at the same time, mountains and valleys
flea covered desert dogs
a lifestyle of garbage splattered
like they are living in the past,
a third world, Kenny thinks
it will take 40 years to catch up
so this is the division
in a brown and white world
so he moves on
in the languages of misunderstanding,
she is probably bitching
about killing her husband
or son they all sound the same
millions of people in a space
between them in their foreign
language as he wishes she could tell him
where the enemy is, he knows
she knows, but this gibberish
she talks like all over Iraq
a war of confusion
no interpreter by the Army
or government, all he understands
is a sniper shot an IED a fire fight
no illusions
as he wishes he was home
where everybody speaks english
where life is not cheap
in a country where he can be
with his wife Sally where he is safe
spend some time with
his daughter Marsha his little boy Adam
they are growing up so fast
but with no Walls between them
no ocean between them,
no people between them
just being home where
he feels good most of the time
until the next tour.

**You've Know The Power Of The Poems By Dennis
Serdel From The Front Pages Of GI Special:
Now They're In Book Form
[Ordering Information Below]**



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Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

ACTION REPORTS

“My Daughter, Very Reluctant At First, Couldn’t Believe How Welcoming They Were” “I Think Seeing 2 Friendly Female Faces Lets Them Know That People Do Care About Them” [Outreach To New York National Guard]

From: Elaine Brower
To: GI Special
Sent: January 11, 2009
Subject: Outreach in S[XXXX]

Here is my report from today.

The S[XXXX] National Guard Armory was active this weekend. I was able to get the schedule last month, so we now have drill dates until the end of the year.

Since they mustered on Friday evening, and I had to work, I decided to go today, when the drill was over. About 3 PM I headed to the armory, with my reluctant daughter in tow, the only person around for me to go with today.

I prepared the literature, the same contents as for the Harlem armory outreach, the new “Why We are Here” statement, the Traveling Soldier January issue, GI Rights Pamphlet and the Bring the Guard Home Brochure. I had 10 copies of “Sir, No, Sir” DVD’s, since I gave most of them for the Harlem outreach. I didn’t have much time for baking, so packed some chocolate kisses.

We arrived and sure enough the soldiers were just starting to leave, it was a trickle at first. We could only cover one entrance, the main gate.

Some were on foot, since they had parked their cars on the side streets, a real luxury in the suburbs. They all took our packets, along with a DVD of "Sir, No, Sir!"

The mood was light, and they were very friendly.

My daughter, very reluctant at first, couldn't believe how welcoming they were to take our offerings.

She was thinking of her brother, the Marine who is in Iraq, and said to me "he would never take this stuff!"

We handed out 50 packets, and finished the DVD's quickly.

We waited until 4 PM, until we ran out of lit. Cold and glad to have made the outreach, we went back home.

It's nice to do this where I live, makes it so much easier, and they will get to know us.

I think seeing 2 friendly female faces lets them know that people do care about them probably makes them hopeful, and I know it gives me a sense of deep contentment, as well as a longing for my child to come home soon.

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Daytona Man Killed In Iraq

January 08, 2009 By AUDREY PARENTE, Staff Writer, News-Journal

The first time Forrest Buckwald saw Anthony Davis, he was 8, peeking in the door of Buck's Gun Rack. Buckwald didn't know he'd eventually become a foster father to a boy who would give his life for his country.

An Army Ranger serving with 1st Battalion, Staff Sgt. Davis of Daytona Beach was conducting combat operations in Northern Iraq when he was killed during heavy enemy fire Tuesday.

This was his sixth combat deployment, including tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"What do you want?" Buckwald recalls asking the young child some 20 years ago. "He said, 'Can I do something for a Coke?' He picked up pieces of paper in the parking lot, and I gave him a Coke," Buckwald said Wednesday. "It was during the summer, and he came back and asked again. I offered him a make-work job, and he was one of the best employees I ever had."

The relationship deepened through the years, as Buckwald befriended Davis' mom, Ellen Davis, and her other children, Paris and Nakischa, who now is an Army staff sergeant in Fayetteville, N.C.

"He (Anthony Davis) went on vacation with us. I sent him and his brother (Paris) to camp for a couple of years. Then, I became a defacto father to him and did all the stuff it took to raise a great young man," Buckwald said.

Davis, 29, lived on and off with Buckwald during a successful Seabreeze High School career as No. 21, a running back, on the Sandcrab football team. He became very popular with the girls, Buckwald said.

“He went from a ragamuffin kid with a crooked smile to being an extremely handsome young man,” Buckwald said. “. . . I loved him so much.”

As a teenager, Davis was one of the first fire explorers when the Daytona Beach Fire Department pioneered the program -- from 1994 until he joined the Army in 2000.

“He was my first fire explorer when we developed the program about 16 years ago,” Lt. Loraine Becker said. “We mentored and nurtured him all the way through high school and were a big part of his success in life.”

Becker discovered Davis at Campbell Middle school “at age 13, eager to ride a firetruck and wear his first badge.”

While Davis served with Explorer Post 415, he won first place for marksmanship at a national leadership conference in Arizona. He used his own money so all the post members that day could take a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon, Becker said.

“It was apparent to us all Anthony was special, with his skill as a marksman and his generosity toward others,” she said. “We knew he was going places and, as his post leader, friend and mentor, I was very proud of his decision to join the military 10 years ago.

Davis trained as an infantryman, then did a Basic Airborne Course and was assigned to the Ranger Indoctrination Program, all at Fort Benning, Ga. He graduated from the Indoctrination Program in June 2001 and became a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in July 2001. He served there as a fire team leader and a team leader.

Col. Richard D. Clarke, 75th Ranger Regiment commander said Davis distinguished himself as a member of the Army’s premier light-infantry unit.

“Staff Sergeant Davis leaves behind a legacy in the countless Rangers who he has trained, influenced and befriended through numerous years of service and multiple deployments with this Regiment,” Clarke said in a military press release.

On Tuesday, Davis was engaged in combat with enemy forces, and he was the only fatality. The enemy combatant was subsequently killed, said Col. Richard D. Clarke, 75th Ranger Regiment commander.

“Our nation mourns the loss of Staff Sergeant Anthony Davis,” said Lt. Col. Brian Mennes, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment commander. “A man who selflessly chose to serve his country during this tumultuous period in our nation’s history in a manner that is both honorable and respected.”

Davis was born in Mainz, Germany, and moved here with his family before he was a year old. His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Indoctrination Program, Warrior Leader Course, Combat Lifesavers Course and the U.S. Army Ranger Course. He earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Ranger Tab (2002).

Davis' mother moved to Fayetteville, N.C., two months ago to be near her daughter, Nakischa, and her granddaughter Ariana, Nakischa's daughter. "I am extremely proud of what he did. He gave his all for the country," Ellen Davis said by telephone Wednesday. "He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country."

The family will return to Daytona Beach for funeral services at the News-Journal Center at a date and time to be announced. Baggett & Summers is in charge.

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.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Edgardo Acevedo, from Puerto Rico, of Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, patrols in the Al Islah Al Serai neighborhood, northwestern Mosul, Iraq, Nov. 17, 2008. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Bankrupt Governments May Get
Their Troops Out Of Afghanistan:**

U.S. General Says “The Danger Would Be A Sudden And Unexpected Withdrawal”

Jan 9, 2009 By David Morgan (Reuters) [Excerpts]

The economic crisis may make NATO members consider pulling out of operations in Afghanistan, a top NATO commander said on Friday, as U.S. President-elect Barack Obama prepares to press allies to send more troops.

Asked whether the global slump would affect participation by allies, U.S. Army Gen. John Craddock, the alliance’s operational commander, said, “It will increase the risk that they won’t be able to stay longer.”

Craddock, speaking to reporters at a breakfast, said budget problems could have an impact on alliance operations in the Balkans and the Mediterranean Sea as well. “We are going to have some hard times ahead and it’s going to impact... the ability of nations to stay in operations,” he said.

He said NATO members were looking for cutbacks in defence budgets, many of which were already under pressure before economic problems mounted last year.

Craddock said NATO faced “a security stalemate” against insurgents in southern Afghanistan, although he denied Western forces were losing a nationwide battle against militants. “But we’re not winning fast enough,” he said. **[Jan. 9, 1968 (Reuters) General William Westmoreland said the U.S. faced “a security stalemate” against insurgents in South Vietnam, although he denied that U.S. forces were losing a nationwide battle against militants. “But we’re not winning fast enough,” he said.]**

“The nations are expecting a call for greater contributions. But we have to temper that with the financial downturn, this economic situation,” Craddock said.

“They’re expecting to be asked to do more. I think it’s going to be harder for them to do it because of decreasing defence budgets.”

But Craddock said the danger would be a sudden and unexpected withdrawal by other NATO partners. “Then we’ll have a problem,” he said. **[No problem with the war now, of course.]**

“The Public Mood Of Frustration, Desperation And Disgust Has

Played Into The Hands Of Taliban Insurgents”

“More And More, People Recall The Five Years Of Taliban Rule As A Time Of Brutal But Honest Government”

“The Leaders Are Not Rebuilding Afghanistan, They Are Only Lining Their Pockets”

Jan. 12, 2009 By Pamela Constable, Washington Post [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan - Across the street from the Evening in Paris wedding hall, a monument to opulence surrounded by neon-lighted fountains and a five-story replica of the Eiffel Tower, is a little colony of tents where 65 families, mostly returnees from Pakistan, huddle against the winter cold and wish they had never come home.

Similar startling contrasts abound across the Afghan capital.

Children with pinched faces beg near the mansions of a tiny elite enriched by foreign aid and official corruption. Hundreds of tattered men gather at dawn outside a glittering new office building to compete for 50-cent jobs hauling construction debris.

“I am a farmer with 11 children. Our crops dried up, so I came to the city to find work, but all day I stand here in the cold and no one hires me,” said Abdul Ghani, 47.

“All the jobs and money go to those who have relatives in power, and corruption is everywhere. How else could they build these big houses? Nobody cares about the poor,” he added bitterly. “They just make fun of us.”

Yet against this grim backdrop, pockets of wealth have mysteriously sprung up in Kabul and other cities.

Officials who earn modest salaries on paper have built fantasy mansions, and former militia commanders with no visible means of support roar around the muddy streets in convoys of sport-utility vehicles, spattering the burqa-covered widows who squat at intersections with their hands held out.

There are endless tales of official corruption, illegal drug trafficking, cargo smuggling and personal pocketing of international aid funds that have created boom industries in construction, luxury imports, security and high-tech communications.

“The entire economy has become criminalized,” said Ashraf Ghani, a former World Bank official who quit his post as Afghan finance minister several years ago and is expected to challenge President Hamid Karzai in elections this year. “There is a crisis of governance. Corruption is way up, and poverty is massive. People are disheartened and confused.”

Afghanistan has always been poor. Its people are among the hardiest on the planet, and its warriors have been famed for fighting foreign armies in sandals and shawls. But it is the widening gulf between the haves and the have-nots -- between the VIPs in speeding SUVs and the garbage scavengers riding donkey carts -- that has increasingly embittered the public, turning it against the Karzai government and its foreign backers.

In dozens of interviews this month, Kabul residents complained that they were struggling to feed their families and heat their rooms on scanty or occasional wages, while access to sources of prosperity such as ministerial sinecures and jobs with international agencies was limited to the lucky few with relatives in high places or the means to pay bribes.

“People are really feeling the gap between rich and poor now,” said Ebadullah Ebadi, a spokesman for the World Food Program here.

“Once there were three classes in Afghanistan: the rich, the middle and the poor. Now those in the middle are joining the poor, and prices are rising so high that people can’t feed their families on salaries that once allowed them to educate their children and even save a little money.”

Karzai has publicly acknowledged that corruption plagues all levels of his government, yet critics say he is either unable or unwilling to stop it. The new Afghan constitution has numerous provisions requiring officials to disclose their assets and perform their duties with financial transparency and accountability, but they are rarely heeded, according to a recent study by the Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan.

The public mood of frustration, desperation and disgust has played into the hands of Taliban insurgents, who present themselves as an alternative source of justice and carry out swift physical punishments of thieves or other miscreants in rural areas under their control.

It was a similar appeal to law and order in the mid-1990s, when Afghanistan was in the throes of civil war, that allowed the Taliban militia to quickly achieve power with little bloodshed.

But more and more, people recall the five years of Taliban rule as a time of brutal but honest government, when officials lived modestly and citizens were safe from criminals.

“Nobody loved the Taliban, but what we see now is outrageous. The leaders are not rebuilding Afghanistan, they are only lining their pockets,” said Abdul Nabi, 40, a high school teacher. “I haven’t been paid in three months. The other day, a colleague came to me weeping and asked to borrow money to buy bread. Who can we blame for this?” he demanded. “Where can we turn to change things?”

In the tent colony next to the Evening in Paris, Zakia, a mother of seven, recounted how her family had been forced to leave its refugee camp in Pakistan and return to Kabul last year. They had expected to obtain land and jobs but found neither, she said. Last week, a young woman in one tent died while giving birth. "If we had known what we would face here, we would never have come back," she said.

Across the street, sitting in his ornate office, the owner of the French-themed wedding hall expressed surprisingly similar sentiments. He complained that the government had done nothing to encourage private development, that he had to buy water and power privately and that the unpaved street outside his elegant premises was a sea of mud.

"Do I regret making this investment? I regret it 100 percent," said the owner, who gave his name as Hajji Obaidullah. "When I built this hall five years ago, there was a lot of hope and excitement, but now it has all turned to disappointment. We have no electricity, no drinking water, no security.

"If the government doesn't want to help people like me, how is the man with the little shop or the donkey cart going to survive?"

TROOP NEWS

195 From Indiana Guard Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

1.12.09 Army Times [Excerpts]

Nearly 120 members of a National Guard unit based in western Indiana are about to begin their deployment to Iraq.

The Indiana National Guard said that after a mobilization ceremony Jan. 2 in the city of Brazil, the soldiers from the 138th Quartermaster Support Co. would depart for Camp Atterbury.

The unit performs logistics operations such as issuing, receiving, transporting and storing supplies.

The Indiana National Guard announced approximately 75 soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Brigade, based in Shelbyville will deploy to Iraq in early January.

“The Adults Cried Because They Understood What Was Happening; The Young Children, Perhaps, Because They Didn’t” “Tell Daddy You Love Him”



Lt. Sephan Frazier of Columbus hugs his daughter, Shai'anne, 7, after a deployment ceremony for the Ohio Army National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. Photo: Kyle Robertson, Dispatch

[Thanks to Comrade Tribune, Vietnam Veterans, who sent this in.]

December 28, 2008 By Marla Matzer Rose, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The adults cried because they understood what was happening; the young children, perhaps, because they didn't.

As other families hit the mall or went to the movies during the weekend lull between Christmas and New Year's, more than two dozen families gathered at Ohio State University to send off their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers to a dangerous part of the world for the next eight months.

Twenty-eight young men of the Ohio Army National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade left yesterday on a mission to train the Afghan national army.

As the 122nd Army band played traditional marches, more than 200 people filed into an upstairs ballroom at the Blackwell Inn on campus. There was certainly pride but no joy in the room, where a number of people wore T-shirts and buttons bearing the image of a departing soldier.

Shannon Frazier tried to contain the energy of her young daughters as her husband prepared to enter the room with his fellow guardsmen.

Shai'anne, 7, fidgeted on the chair next to her, while Sierra, 3, sat on her lap looking around and asking questions.

"I'm not looking forward to being a single mom," Frazier said.

It's even harder on the girls, she said. Their dad, Lt. Sephan Frazier, already had to miss their birthdays in the fall because he was training overseas.

After the program, the hallway filled with families eager to spend a final 40 minutes with their loved ones before a chartered bus across the street was scheduled to whisk them away.

Master Sgt. Andy Duch's wife, children, parents and siblings gathered for a group photo.

Mark Parsons spoke quietly in a corner with his mother and father, who had left their other children in North Carolina to drive the redheaded University of Cincinnati student to Columbus and see him off on his first deployment.

Spc. Tyler Helton gave strong, lingering hugs to his mother, Theodora Helton, and his girlfriend, Krista Forney.

By the time the crowd moved to the parking lot, both women were crying and wiping mascara from their cheeks.

Sarah Stanton said goodbye to her husband of four months, Lt. John Stanton. The two were able to spend a total of about four weeks together after the wedding.

As Lt. Frazier walked away from the family sport-utility vehicle after saying goodbye to his girls, his wife called after him.

"Wait," she said, then directed her daughters: "Tell Daddy you love him."

70 From Ohio Guard Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

[Thanks to Comrade Tribune, Vietnam Veterans, who sent this in.]

December 26, 2008 By Howard Wilkinson, The Cincinnati Enquirer

Christmas might be the last holiday at home for a while for about 70 members of the Ohio Air National Guard's 123rd Air Control Squadron. They have been called to active duty in Iraq.

It is not the first call-up for the 123rd, which is based in Blue Ash, a Cincinnati suburb. Eight members were among the first area guardsmen called to active duty after the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

That call in November 2001, amid the war in Afghanistan, led to deployment in Kuwait for three months, monitoring air traffic over southern Iraq more than a year before the U.S.-led invasion.

In 2004, a dozen members of the unit completed a tour of duty at Balad, Iraq, returning in January 2005.

On this deployment, members of the 123rd will operate an air control center and radar and radio unit that will give ground troops information on military air traffic in Iraq.

It is not known when the unit will leave for Iraq, but Lt. Col. Gene Hughes, the unit commander, said a call-to-duty ceremony for the airmen and their families will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Raymond Walters College in Blue Ash.

The squadron was formed 60 years ago and was at Cincinnati's Lunken Airport for its first three years. After short stints headquartered in South Carolina and Germany, it moved to the Air National Guard station in Blue Ash in November 1953. The unit was called to active duty in the Korean War.

Pentagon Condemned For Faking Study Of Balad Burn Pit Dangers; 109 Service Members Tell DAV They Were Sickened By The Balad Pit: “Thirty-Three Of The 109 Developed Cancer Following Their Deployment To Balad”

1.12.09 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

While military officials insist they know of no long-term health effects that could be caused by chemicals released by open-air burn pits in the war zones, they have been hit with questions from a top-level Pentagon advisory panel about the data underlying that assertion.

A 2007 report on the large burn pit at Joint Base Balad in Iraq shows no dioxin — the cancer-causing chemical in Agent Orange — above levels deemed unsafe by the Environmental Protection Agency.

But an initial report, classified by the Pentagon and not releasable even with pertinent information redacted, according to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, states that sampling in 2004, 2005 and 2006 found “occasional presence” of dioxin, as well as polyaromatic hydrocarbons, or

benzene, known to cause leukemia; and volatile organic compounds, some that are known or suspected to cause cancer in humans, as well as throat and eye irritation.

The Defense Health Board, an advisory panel to the defense secretary, questioned the Army's sampling methods in the 2007 report. In a newly released update, CHPPM responded in an addendum signed by Jeffrey Kirkpatrick, the center's director of health risk management, and Air Force Lt. Col. Jay Vietas, chief of its health and safety division.

The board had concerns that the report did not clearly state that it was a screening risk assessment, not a comprehensive assessment. The former would determine if the latter was necessary. Kirkpatrick and Vietas responded that the risk assessment was used to determine what had to be done to make burn pits safer.

The board also said there was an indication that levels of potential exposure among personnel were not correlated with the physical locations of those personnel when they were exposed. And when locations for sampling were known, they were not used to analyze exposures among personnel in different areas.

The board also said the military should have monitored what was being disposed of in the pit as they conducted the sampling.

Early in the Iraq war, service members disposed of everything from batteries to plastic bottles to petroleum products in the pit.

If service members have the potential to be exposed to dioxins from burning plastics, but no plastic was disposed of during sampling, then it's impossible to definitively declare that the pit never produces dioxin.

Kirkpatrick and Vietas acknowledged that the pit was inspected "on a limited basis" for unapproved items and an inventory was not maintained. However, they said they tested for chemicals that would be expected from burning plastics, paper, wood and metal cans.

The simmering burn-pit issue has caught the attention of veterans' groups. Kerry Baker of Disabled American Veterans is piecing together a spreadsheet listing the ailments of 109 service members who say they were sickened by the Balad pit, and said the results are a concern.

"Of those, 28 had some kind of pulmonary disorder," said Baker, associate national legislative director for DAV. "I thought that would be the biggest number — the asthma and breathing disorders. But the number of people with cancer is higher than anything else on the list."

Thirty-three of the 109 developed cancer following their deployment to Balad.

"That's kind of telling," Baker said. "Of those, lymphomas and leukemias are the black bar — the top of the list. I think now the burn pit is a major contributor — though it's not the only source."

The pulmonary disorders include asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic coughs and allergy-like symptoms. Many other troops in the database have sleep problems and frequent headaches.

Baker can be e-mailed at kbaker 22@comcast.net.

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 Douglass, 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.**

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

Zev to Fatima [Song Of Rape & Robbery]



[From Z]

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: January 10, 2009
Subject: song of rape & robbery

Hope your New Year is off to a good start!

It's a pity to put harsh new lyrics to the sweet old tune of Hava Nagila, but the times call for it.

Imperialism

Supremacy
Racism
Atrocities
Expansionism
Lies

Israelism is anti-Semitism

Solidarity,
Z

Zev to Fatima

Lovely Fatima
Lovely Fatima
Lovely Fatima, I'll have my way
With Uncle on my side
With Uncle on my side
With Uncle on my side, you have no say.
I will, I will take your
I will take your hills and valleys
I will take your hills and valleys
I will take your hills and valleys
I will take your hills and valleys
Take your all
With Uncle's help I'll take your all.

Stubborn Fatima
Stubborn Fatima
Stubborn Fatima, all will be fine
I'll use my Uncle's guns
I'll use my Uncle's guns
I'll use my Uncle's guns to make you mine.
I will, I will break your
I will break your knitting needles
I will break your knitting needles
I will break your knitting needles
I will break your knitting needles
Terrorist bitch
How dare you jab my butt, you witch!

Silly Fatima
Silly Fatima
Silly Fatima, bend to my will
I am a man of peace
I am a man of peace
I am a man of peace, don't make me kill.
You will, you will be my
You will be my loving mistress

You will be my loving mistress
You will be my loving mistress
You will be my loving mistress
Serve me well
Or I will make your life pure hell.

Sexy Fatima
Sexy Fatima
Sexy Fatima, how about a date?
You've met your chosen one
So lie back happily
Pull up your pretty skirt –
Yield to your fate!

**January 13, 1874:
Shameful Anniversary
New York City Cops Attack
Unemployed, Leaving Hundreds Of
Casualties;
Police Commissioner Commented, “It
Was The Most Glorious Sight I Have Ever
Seen...”**



Carl Bunin Peace History January 7-13

The depression of 1873-1877 left 3 million people unemployed.

In the winter of 1873, 900 people starved to death, and 3,000 deserted their infants on doorsteps.

A public meeting was called in New York City's Tompkins Square Park to lobby for public works projects.

The night before, the city secretly voided the permit for the gathering.

The next morning, mounted police charged into the crowd of 10,000, indiscriminately clubbing adults and children, leaving hundreds of casualties.

Police commissioner Abram Duryee commented, "It was the most glorious sight I have ever seen..."

The Tompkins Square event was part of a wave of parades of the unemployed and bread riots across the nation. In Chicago, 20,000 people marched. Even under police attack, workers in New York, Omaha, and Cincinnati refused to disperse.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



A Palestinian boy wounded during the Zionist attack on Gaza, Palestine, is carried into Shifa hospital in Gaza January 11, 2009. REUTERS/Ismail Zaydah (GAZA)

How Many Divisions?

“Not Only Is Israel Unable To Win The War, Hamas Cannot Lose It”
“From The Point Of View Of The Population, The Hamas Fighters Are Not A Foreign Body, But The Sons Of Every Family In The Strip And The Other Palestinian Regions”



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

What will be seared into the consciousness of the world will be the image of Israel as a blood-stained monster, ready at any moment to commit war crimes and not prepared to abide by any moral restraints.

10.1.09 By Uri Avnery, Gush Shalom [Israel] [Excerpts]

NEARLY SEVENTY YEARS ago, in the course of World War II, a heinous crime was committed in the city of Leningrad.

For more than a thousand days, a gang of extremists called “the Red Army” held the millions of the town’s inhabitants hostage and provoked retaliation from the German Wehrmacht from inside the population centers.

The Germans had no alternative but to bomb and shell the population and to impose a total blockade, which caused the death of hundreds of thousands.

Some time before that, a similar crime was committed in England.

The Churchill gang hid among the population of London, misusing the millions of citizens as a human shield. The Germans were compelled to send their Luftwaffe and reluctantly reduce the city to ruins.

They called it the Blitz.

This is the description that would now appear in the history books – if the Germans had won the war.

Absurd?

No more than the daily descriptions in our media, which are being repeated ad nauseam: the Hamas terrorists use the inhabitants of Gaza as “hostages” and exploit the women and children as “human shields”, they leave us no alternative but to carry out massive bombardments, in which, to our deep sorrow, thousands of women, children and unarmed men are killed and injured.

IN THIS WAR, as in any modern war, propaganda plays a major role. The disparity between the forces, between the Israeli army - with its airplanes, gunships, drones, warships, artillery and tanks - and the few thousand lightly armed Hamas fighters, is one to a thousand, perhaps one to a million. In the political arena the gap between them is even wider.

But in the propaganda war, the gap is almost infinite.

Almost all the Western media initially repeated the official Israeli propaganda line.

They almost entirely ignored the Palestinian side of the story, not to mention the daily demonstrations of the Israeli peace camp. The rationale of the Israeli government (“The state must defend its citizens against the Qassam rockets”) has been accepted as the whole truth.

The view from the other side, that the Qassams are a retaliation for the siege that starves the one and a half million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, was not mentioned at all.

Only when the horrible scenes from Gaza started to appear on Western TV screens, did world public opinion gradually begin to change.

True, Western and Israeli TV channels showed only a tiny fraction of the dreadful events that appear 24 hours every day on Aljazeera’s Arabic channel, but one picture of a dead baby in the arms of its terrified father is more powerful than a thousand elegantly constructed sentences from the Israeli army spokesman.

And that is what is decisive, in the end.

War – every war – is the realm of lies. Whether called propaganda or psychological warfare, everybody accepts that it is right to lie for one's country. Anyone who speaks the truth runs the risk of being branded a traitor.

The trouble is that propaganda is most convincing for the propagandist himself. And after you convince yourself that a lie is the truth and falsification reality, you can no longer make rational decisions.

An example of this process surrounds the most shocking atrocity of this war so far: the shelling of the UN Fakhura school in Jabaliya refugee camp.

Immediately after the incident became known throughout the world, the army “revealed” that Hamas fighters had been firing mortars from near the school entrance. As proof they released an aerial photo which indeed showed the school and the mortar.

But within a short time the official army liar had to admit that the photo was more than a year old. In brief: a falsification.

Later the official liar claimed that “our soldiers were shot at from inside the school”.

Barely a day passed before the army had to admit to UN personnel that that was a lie, too.

Nobody had shot from inside the school, no Hamas fighters were inside the school, which was full of terrified refugees.

But the admission made hardly any difference anymore. By that time, the Israeli public was completely convinced that “they shot from inside the school”, and TV announcers stated this as a simple fact.

So it went with the other atrocities.

Every baby metamorphosed, in the act of dying, into a Hamas terrorist.

Every bombed mosque instantly became a Hamas base, every apartment building an arms cache, every school a terror command post, every civilian government building a “symbol of Hamas rule”.

Thus the Israeli army retained its purity as the “most moral army in the world”.

THE TRUTH is that the atrocities are a direct result of the war plan.

The real aim (apart from gaining seats in the coming elections) is to terminate the rule of Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

In the imagination of the planners, Hamas is an invader which has gained control of a foreign country.

The reality is, of course, entirely different.

The Hamas movement won the majority of the votes in the eminently democratic elections that took place in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

It won because the Palestinians had come to the conclusion that Fatah's peaceful approach had gained precisely nothing from Israel - neither a freeze of the settlements, nor release of the prisoners, nor any significant steps toward ending the occupation and creating the Palestinian state.

Hamas is deeply rooted in the population – not only as a resistance movement fighting the foreign occupier, like the Irgun and the Stern Group in the past – but also as a political and religious body that provides social, educational and medical services.

From the point of view of the population, the Hamas fighters are not a foreign body, but the sons of every family in the Strip and the other Palestinian regions.

They do not “hide behind the population”, the population views them as their only defenders.

Therefore, the whole operation is based on erroneous assumptions.

Turning life into living hell does not cause the population to rise up against Hamas, but on the contrary, it unites behind Hamas and reinforces its determination not to surrender. The population of Leningrad did not rise up against Stalin, any more than the Londoners rose up against Churchill.

He who gives the order for such a war with such methods in a densely populated area knows that it will cause dreadful slaughter of civilians.

A top priority for the planners was the need to minimize casualties among the soldiers, knowing that the mood of a large part of the pro-war public would change if reports of such casualties came in. That is what happened in Lebanon Wars I and II.

This consideration played an especially important role because the entire war is a part of the election campaign.

Ehud Barak, who gained in the polls in the first days of the war, knew that his ratings would collapse if pictures of dead soldiers filled the TV screens.

Therefore, a new doctrine was applied: to avoid losses among our soldiers by the total destruction of everything in their path.

The planners were not only ready to kill 80 Palestinians to save one Israeli soldier, as has happened, but also 800. The avoidance of casualties on our side is the overriding commandment, which is causing record numbers of civilian casualties on the other side.

That means the conscious choice of an especially cruel kind of warfare – and that has been its Achilles heel.

A person without imagination, like Barak (his election slogan: “Not a Nice Guy, but a Leader”) cannot imagine how decent people around the world react to actions like the killing of whole extended families, the destruction of houses over the heads of their inhabitants, the rows of boys and girls in white shrouds ready for burial, the reports about people bleeding to death over days because ambulances are not allowed to reach them, the killing of doctors and medics on their way to save lives, the killing of UN drivers bringing in food.

The pictures of the hospitals, with the dead, the dying and the injured lying together on the floor for lack of space, have shocked the world.

No argument has any force next to an image of a wounded little girl lying on the floor, twisting with pain and crying out: “Mama! Mama!”

The planners thought that they could stop the world from seeing these images by forcibly preventing press coverage. The Israeli journalists, to their shame, agreed to be satisfied with the reports and photos provided by the Army Spokesman, as if they were authentic news, while they themselves remained miles away from the events.

Foreign journalists were not allowed in either, until they protested and were taken for quick tours in selected and supervised groups.

But in a modern war, such a sterile manufactured view cannot completely exclude all others – the cameras are inside the strip, in the middle of the hell, and cannot be controlled.

Aljazeera broadcasts the pictures around the clock and reaches every home.

THE BATTLE for the TV screen is one of the decisive battles of the war.

Hundreds of millions of Arabs from Mauritania to Iraq, more than a billion Muslims from Nigeria to Indonesia see the pictures and are horrified.

This has a strong impact on the war.

Many of the viewers see the rulers of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority as collaborators with Israel in carrying out these atrocities against their Palestinian brothers.

The security services of the Arab regimes are registering a dangerous ferment among the peoples.

Hosny Mubarak, the most exposed Arab leader because of his closing of the Rafah crossing in the face of terrified refugees, started to pressure the decision-makers in Washington, who until that time had blocked all calls for a cease-fire. These began to

understand the menace to vital American interests in the Arab world and suddenly changed their attitude – causing consternation among the complacent Israeli diplomats.

People with moral insanity cannot really understand the motives of normal people and must guess their reactions.

“How many divisions has the Pope?” Stalin sneered. “How many divisions have people of conscience?” Ehud Barak may well be asking.

As it turns out, they do have some. Not numerous. Not very quick to react. Not very strong and organized.

But at a certain moment, when the atrocities overflow and masses of protesters come together, that can decide a war.

THE FAILURE to grasp the nature of Hamas has caused a failure to grasp the predictable results.

Not only is Israel unable to win the war, Hamas cannot lose it.

Even if the Israeli army were to succeed in killing every Hamas fighter to the last man, even then Hamas would win.

The Hamas fighters would be seen as the paragons of the Arab nation, the heroes of the Palestinian people, models for emulation by every youngster in the Arab world.

The West Bank would fall into the hands of Hamas like a ripe fruit, Fatah would drown in a sea of contempt, the Arab regimes would be threatened with collapse.

If the war ends with Hamas still standing, bloodied but unvanquished, in face of the mighty Israeli military machine, it will look like a fantastic victory, a victory of mind over matter.

What will be seared into the consciousness of the world will be the image of Israel as a blood-stained monster, ready at any moment to commit war crimes and not prepared to abide by any moral restraints.

This will have severe consequences for our long-term future, our standing in the world, our chance of achieving peace and quiet.

In the end, this war is a crime against ourselves too, a crime against the State of Israel.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

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

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RECEIVED

A Question

From: Tomassoni, Mark E
To: Military Project
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 10:21 PM
Subject: Communication

Do you know anyone I can talk to who has first hand experience with Army FOBs in Afghanistan and specifically the numbers of contract personnel working at the different types of FOBs?

Mark E. Tomassoni
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NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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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.

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