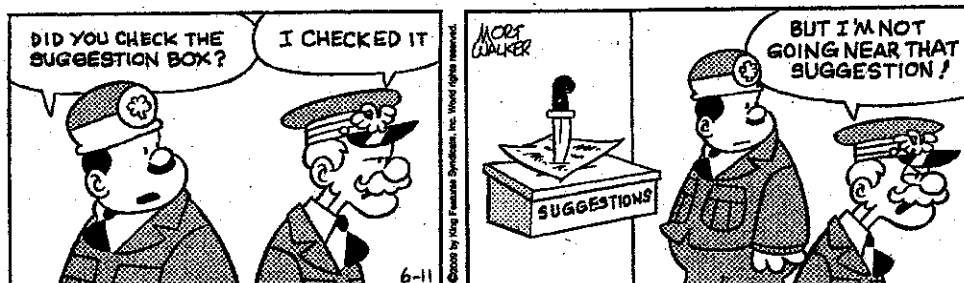


## GI SPECIAL 7F5:



# “Nobody”

June 6, 2009 By Liz Sly, Los Angeles Times [Two excerpts]

### [First two paragraphs]

Reporting from Baghdad -- When the combat outpost in northwest Baghdad known as Joint Security Station Hurriya 2 closes Sunday, it won't be a day too soon for the 180 or so U.S. soldiers based there.

"There's not much to do around here, and we go stir-crazy sometimes," said Army Spc. Corey Hessler, 22, who is looking forward to the fast-food outlets and air-conditioned barracks that await him on the vast Camp Victory base beside Baghdad's airport.

### [Last two paragraphs]

And the soldiers, some of whom are on their fourth tour of duty, say they're tired too.

If this retreat doesn't work, few will be keen to make another push back into the city.

"Nobody wants to come back here," Pfc. Devlin Lasiter said.

"It's been six years, and if now is not the right time, it never will be right."

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## May 2009: 25 Down It's Been 11 Months Since More U.S. Troops Were Killed In Iraq

[Thanks to Carl Foster, Military Project, who sent this in.]

1 June 2009 BBC & Iraq Coalition Casualties Report & Wire Services

US forces in Iraq suffered their worst casualties last month since 29 were killed in June, 2008. The 25 soldiers killed in May tied with the number for September 2008.

That brings the total number of US casualties since the 2003 invasion to just over 4,300.

**Period US Dead**

<b>5-2009</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4-2009</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3-2009</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2-2009</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1-2009</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>12-2008</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>11-2008</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10-2008</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9-2008</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>8-2008</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7-2008</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6-2008</b>	<b>29</b>

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## **U.S. Convoy Ambushed In Faluja, Military Vehicle On Fire; Casualties Not Announced**

6.6.09 DPA

An explosion in Faluja targeted a US convoy the previous night, Iraqi police said, setting a military vehicle on fire. Police said they had no information on US casualties in that attack, and the US military did not immediately confirm the incident.

The US military did say that a US Marine had died in a 'non-combat related incident' in the western Iraqi province on Friday, but provided no further details.

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## **Resistance Action: The Resistance Rises Again In Falluja & Ramadi**

June 3 (Reuters) & June 5 (Reuters) & 6.6.09 DPA & Reuters

**A bomb attached to a vehicle killed a police captain in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.**

**A car bomber wounded the Anbar police chief, Major-General Tariq Yusuf, and five other people in Ramadi, police said.**

**A roadside bomb killed three militia soldiers north of the western Iraqi city of Faluja in Anbar Province on Friday night, police said Saturday. The brother of the leader of the U.S.-allied local 'Sahwa' or 'Awakening' militia was among the three killed when the explosion blew up their car in the district of al-Karama, police told the German Press Agency dpa.**

Insurgents killed one policeman and wounded another in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A grenade attack targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed one Iraqi soldier in Diyala province in the east of the country, the U.S. military said in a statement.

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## HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Army Cpl. Ryan C. McGhee, of Fredericksburg, Va., at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del. May 14, 2009. McGhee died of wounds received from small-arms fire in central Iraq. (AP Photo/Pat Crowe II)

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**UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH;  
ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier inspects rockets which were found during a search operation in Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad May 3, 2009. Police found rockets ready to launch at the U.S. consulate in Hilla. REUTERS/Stringer

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced**

June 6 (KUNA)

A soldier of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed in southern Afghanistan on Saturday. Spokesperson for the multinational force Brigadier-General Richard Blanchette said the soldier died as a result of a hostile incident. The ISAF headquarters did not release name and nationality of the slain soldier. Exact location of the incident was also not disclosed.

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# **Texas Reserve Counterintelligence Lt. Col. Who Served Three Years With Israeli Army Killed Near Kabul; In Afghanistan Working For MPRI Intelligence And Security Corporation**

May 23, 2009 Shawn M. Pine, Associated Press & Wire Reports

A San Antonio man working as a security contractor in Afghanistan was killed Wednesday when his SUV hit a roadside bomb near Kabul.

Army Reserve Lt. Col. Shawn M. Pine was working for Alexandria, Va.-based MPRI in Afghanistan at the time, the San Antonio Express-News reported in its Saturday editions.

He served in a counterintelligence detachment at Fort Sam Houston and commanded the Army Reserve's now defunct Austin-based 300th Military Intelligence Company from 1999 to 2002.

Pine recently returned from Israel where he was a Ph.D. candidate in international relations at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He received a Master of Arts degree in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University.

**Prior to attending Georgetown University, he served three years in the Golani Brigade of Israeli Defense Forces.**

He completed nine years active duty as an officer in the United States Army and served in a myriad of positions including: serving with the Multinational Force and Observers mission in Sinai, Egypt, commanding a mountain training camp at Fort Lewis, Washington, and serving as detachment commander of the Fort Sam Houston Counterintelligence detachment, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

## ***Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!***

### **U.S. Occupation Commands' Crude, Stupid, Humiliating Armed Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



Foreign occupation troops from the U.S. force humiliate Afghan citizens by forcing them at gunpoint to submit to ID and fingerprinting in the village of Ashak. Photograph: Sean Smith, Guardian News and Media Limited. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan 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 Afghans 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 Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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## TROOP NEWS

# **Obama's Eternal Imperial Bloodbath In High Gear: 141,997 National Guard And Reserve Personnel Called To Active Duty As Of June 2, 2009**

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, Military Project, who sent this in.]

June 03, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

National Guard (In Federal Status) and Reserve Activated as of June 2, 2009

This week the Army, Navy, and Air Force announced an increase, while the Marine Corps and Coast Guard announced a decrease. The net collective result is 1,016 more reservists activated than last week.

The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 109,976; Navy Reserve, 6,712; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 15,435; Marine Corps Reserve, 9,121; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 753.

This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 141,997, including both units and individual augmentees.

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## **Marine Recruiter Charged With Pimping Girl, 14: "Police Are Trying To Determine If Cunningham May Have Been Using The Girl To Entice Marine Recruits"**

Jun 2 AP

HEMET, Calif. – Police have arrested a U.S. Marine Corps recruiter on charges of felony pimping and kidnapping and are looking into whether he used sex with a 14-year-old girl to entice potential recruits.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Damone Cunningham, 33, of San Pedro pleaded not guilty to seven felonies last Thursday after police in Orange discovered the teenage girl in a car with Cunningham and two other men. The two men, ages 18 and 19, were potential Marine recruits, police said.

The girl, who has since been returned to her parents in Hemet, told police that she met Cunningham online and had sex with all three men. She also told police Cunningham wanted her to work as a prostitute and had tried to take her to Los Angeles County against her will.

Police said they are trying to determine if Cunningham may have been using the girl to entice Marine recruits.

"It's not proven ... but when you look at it, this is a grown man, a Marine staff sergeant," said Hemet police Lt. Joe Nevarez. "Why would he be taking them out to have sex with a 14-year-old girl?"

The two potential Marine recruits face felony charges on having sex with a minor.

Cunningham is being held on \$1 million bail and has a court hearing June 18, said John Hall, a spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney's office.

**MORE:**

## **Enraged By Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan, Arkansas Man Opens Fire On Army Recruiters; One Dead, One Wounded**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) & Katherine G, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

June 1, 2009 By STEVE BARNES and JAMES DAO, The New York Times Company  
[Excerpts]

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A 23-year-old man upset about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan opened fire from his truck at two soldiers standing outside a military recruiting station here on Monday morning, killing one private and wounding another, the police said.



The gunman, identified by the police as Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad of Little Rock, fled the scene and was arrested minutes later a short distance from the recruiting station, in a bustling suburban shopping center. The police confiscated a Russian-made SKS semiautomatic rifle, a .22-caliber rifle and a handgun from his black pickup truck.

The two privates, who were both from Arkansas, were in Little Rock as part of a recruiting program that typically uses soldiers recently out of basic training to promote the Army in their home regions, Army officials said.

The dead soldier was identified as Pvt. William A. Long, 23, of Conway, about 30 miles north of Little Rock. The other victim, Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula, 18, was in stable condition at Baptist Medical Center, Chief Stuart Thomas of the Little Rock Police Department said.

In a lengthy interview with the police, Mr. Muhammad said he was angry about the killing of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan, Chief Thomas said. Previously known as Carlos Bledsoe, Mr. Muhammad told investigators that he had converted to Islam as a teenager, Chief Thomas said.

Chief Thomas said investigators believe that Mr. Muhammad acted alone. He seemed to be familiar with the Army recruiting office because it was not far from his home, the chief said, but might have been on the prowl for anyone in uniform.

"I would say he was looking for any and all targets of opportunity that happened to be military," the chief said in a telephone interview. "That may have well been the first place he found."

Mr. Muhammad will be charged with one count of capital murder and 15 counts of terroristic acts, one for each person who was hit or endangered by the shots he fired. Thirteen people were in the recruiting office at the time.

Chief Thomas said Mr. Muhammad had previously lived in Memphis and Nashville and moved to Little Rock just a few months ago, possibly to work at his parents' tour company.

At Mr. Muhammad's apartment complex in west Little Rock, a collection of low-rise buildings known as Bristol Park, residents said they were evacuated for four hours on Monday while the police searched Mr. Muhammad's apartment.

Though many at the apartment complex said they did not know him, two people, who declined to give their names, said Mr. Muhammad often wore a uniform, possibly for work.

A witness to the shooting, Lance P. Luplow, said he was parking his car in front of his house across the street from the recruiting office when he heard about seven loud bangs and looked up to see the black truck with tinted windows speeding away, its tailgate down and bottles of water rolling from the flatbed into the street.

Mr. Luplow, 26, said he ran across the street to the recruiting station, where he saw one soldier in fatigues lying still in a pool of blood, while a second one was crawling into the station, holding a bloodied ear.

“He was saying, ‘Tell me this isn’t real, tell me this isn’t real,’ ” Mr. Luplow said.

He said other soldiers from the station had tried to stop the bleeding and performed CPR on the victims before ambulances arrived.

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## **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

“Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.”  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

# My Lie



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 25, 2009  
Subject: My Lie

## My Lie

**The My Lai Massacre became, " My Lie," as a metaphor for what America did to the Vietnamese. So many people want to separate our government's actions from the American people. We were all complicit in the Vietnam War. You cannot separate the people from their government in a democracy. When you don't want to know the truth about what your government is doing, that is a form of violence. What we don't know won't hurt us, is one of the great lies of human behavior. 504 innocent Vietnamese people were murdered in our name on March 16, 1968. Fast forward forty years, and America is doing it all over again in the Middle East. And, the American people don't want to know it. When you search and destroy your own history, you burn your own village down. America is burning right in front of us.**

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
Memorial Day 2009

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

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

## **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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

**“As Someone I Served With Once  
Said, The Point Is Not To Support  
The Troops, But To Understand  
Us”**

# **The U.S. Government Defines Post-Traumatic Stress As A Disorder: “In Reality, Coming Home After Witnessing Or Taking Part In The Killing Of Other Human Beings And Being Able To Feel Completely Fine With It Is A Disorder”**



June 4, 2009 By Phil Aliff [Iraq Veterans Against The War], Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THERE ARE moments in every person's life that define who we are. These moments are like scars that we bear to show not only where we have been, but also receipts showing that we have paid our debt for being alive.

Combat is one human experience that is guaranteed to change you.

While smoking a cigarette in my backyard, Jason said something so obvious, yet at the same time so profound. It helped me to contextualize the spectrum of emotions that I am faced with every day.

"I don't want to freak you out or anything, but you should be dead, man."

Of course, at face value, this is a response that anyone would have when faced with the reality that one has experienced combat. But stepping forward toward its logical conclusion, one can say that there are a lot of feelings involved with trying to figure out why you didn't die.

I don't believe that I am alive today because some spiritual being had a greater plan for me. I don't believe that I am alive due to divine intervention.

As an infantryman in the United States Army, I have learned one simple truth. When your time is up, it's up. There are no second chances. There is no restart button.

After searching for the answer to this question, I have realized that I am alive today simply because of a roadside bomb being buried too deep or inaccurate gunfire due to the person firing the weapon being just as scared as we were. I am not a hero because I lived. I am just lucky.

Staff Sgt. Lewis was not so lucky.

I remember when they placed his body on the helicopter after he was mortally wounded by a bullet to the neck. As I watched through my night vision, I remember thinking to myself that I would carry this memory without remorse, because Lewis would not be able to carry it himself. His wife was in the military and deployed to Afghanistan when he died. It took them weeks to locate and notify her.

This firefight happened only moments after my platoon returned from a patrol that was disorienting and frustrating because we could not locate and kill the Iraqis who were ambushing us on an almost daily basis.

**When you cannot inflict casualties on the enemy, you learn that there are no limits to the level of human rage.**

**It is the kind of rage that eats away at you. It is like a disease that tears you apart from the inside.**

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**[Comment on the above: T]**

**[Add to that the dawning realization that the enemy is the government that sent the soldier to fight for no good cause, but in a crude war for Empire, and add to that the rage generated by the associated feelings of complete betrayal.**

**[Vietnam soldiers and veterans who turned their mountain of rage into action against their real enemy, the Imperial government of the United States of America, and organized to fight it, tended to avoid turning the rage inward, against themselves.**

**[Like Aliff, they found that enlisted in a truly good cause that inflicted massive political casualties on their enemy, the Imperial government, they kept their shit together. Their vision, and their rage, became a force that ended the Vietnam war and shook the world.**

**[Honor and respect to Aliff and all the others who fought then and who fight now in the best cause there is: universal human liberation.]**

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**[Aliff continues:]**

MILITARY VETERANS continue to carry this rage when we return home.

When you are in Iraq, it is easy to justify shooting into a house or calling in mortars on a palm grove. But when you return home, you can't fire a machine gun at someone who cuts you off on the highway.

This feeling of vulnerability drives a veteran mad. We pack up our civility to prepare for combat. Everyone at home carries their socially accepted morals, while we throw them out the window to justify killing someone for nothing. We were taught how to pack our morals away, but we were never given directions for unpacking them.

Sometimes, I find myself driving in the middle of the road for fear of a bomb detonating underneath my feet. I have a hard time sitting in traffic because I am worried that a car bomb will detonate next to my vehicle. I get anxiety in large crowds because I am worried about getting shot at.

The paranoia of returning home seems so out of place, but we will never be able to put the war behind us. We will never readjust to civilian life.

Sometimes, your shelter from the storm is the place where you feel the most vulnerable. The best place to deal with these feelings is during combat. You can understand it. And the most ironic part of post-traumatic stress is that veterans cannot enjoy the moments where Americans celebrate our freedom.

On July 4, the iconic image is sitting in a park and feverishly firing gigantic rockets into the air. These fireworks sound like the soundtrack to a military battle. When I hear fireworks, I hear bombs and automatic machine gun fire.

This is the foundation of post-traumatic stress. The U.S. government defines it as a disorder.

In reality, coming home after witnessing or taking part in the killing of other human beings and being able to feel completely fine with it is a disorder.

It is completely justifiable to not be able to sleep because you would wake up at 6 a.m. and see your whole platoon running to dodge mortar fire.

I think about all of this at least 1,000 times a day, and it makes me incredibly angry. I fought for a country that refuses to take care of us when we come home. When I realized that, it was the worst feeling. This is the true cost of war that you will not hear about in any State of the Union address or cable news report. If you go to any homeless shelter, unemployment office or VA hospital, you can ask someone who actually knows what they are talking about.

I am a combat veteran, and I am 23 years old. What the fuck.

As someone I served with once said, the point is not to support the troops, but to understand us.

I cannot wrap myself in a yellow ribbon like a child's blanket when I feel scared or vulnerable.

We must understand our dark past in order to build a brighter future.

I don't want my children to experience firing a weapon in anger, having a bomb detonate next to their vehicle, or hearing the screams of someone who has been shot.

That is change I can believe in.



2008: U.S. Army soldier wears a peace sign on his helmet as he patrols in Bejjia village in Arab Jabour, south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

## **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

# **U.S. Senator Calls For Military Defeat Of Invading U.S. Army: Supporting Resistance, Corwin Says "If I Were A Mexican I Would Tell You, 'Have**



# **You Not Room In Your Own Country To Bury Your Dead Men? If You Come Into Mine We Will Greet You With Bloody Hands, And Welcome You To Hospitable Graves’”**

[Corwin, along with many others, understood the war on Mexico was initiated by slaveholders controlling the U.S. government to grab more territory for slavery. Therefore, he, along with many others, made very clear which side he was on, as in this speech. The biographical information below is based on data from Wikipedia. He and this speech deserve to be well remembered.

[Thanks to Fabian Bouthillette, Iraq Veterans Against The War & Military Project, for copying from a very old book. T]

\*\*\*\*\*

By THOMAS CORWIN, of Ohio. Speech opposing the U.S. war on Mexico delivered February 11, 1847.

Corwin served in the U.S. Senate from March 4, 1845 to July 20, 1850. He was again elected to the House of Representatives in 1858, and returned to that body as a Republican and served from March 4, 1859 to March 12, 1861.

**He resigned only a few days into the 37th Congress after being appointed by the newly inaugurated President Abraham Lincoln to become Minister to Mexico, where he served until 1864.**

**Corwin, well-regarded among the Mexican public for his opposition to the Mexican War while in the Senate, helped keep relations with the Mexicans friendly throughout the course of the Civil War, despite Confederate efforts to sway their allegiances.**

Born 1794. Died 1865.

\*\*\*\*\*

**What is the territory, Mr. President, which you propose to wrest from Mexico?**

**It is consecrated to the heart of the Mexican by many a well-fought battle, with his old Castilian master.**

**His Bunker Hills, and Saratogas, and Yorktowns are there. The Mexican can say, “There I bled for liberty! and shall I surrender that consecrated home of my affections to the Anglo-Saxon invaders?**

What do they want with it? They have Texas already. They have possessed themselves of the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

What else do they want? To what shall I point my children as memorials, of that independence which I bequeath to them, when those battlefields shall have passed from my possession?

**Sir, had one come and demanded Bunker Hill of the people of Massachusetts, had England's lion ever showed himself there, is there a man over thirteen, and under ninety, who would not have been ready to meet him — is there a river on this continent that would not have run red with blood — is there a field but would have been piled high with the unburied bones of slaughtered Americans before these consecrated battlefields of liberty should have been wrested from us?**

But this same American goes into a sister republic, and says to poor, weak Mexico, "Give up your territory — you are unworthy to possess it — I have got one-half already — all I ask you is to give up the other!"

England might as well, in the circumstances I have described, have come and demanded of us "Give up the Atlantic slope — give up this trifling territory from the Allegheny mountains to the sea; it is only from Maine to St. Mary's — only about one-third of your Republic, and the least interesting portion of it."

What would be the response?

They would say, "We must give this up to John Bull." Why?

"He wants room."

The Senator from Michigan says he must have this. Why, my worthy Christian brother, on what principle of justice?

"I want room!"

Sir, look at this pretense of want of room.

With twenty millions of people, you have about one thousand millions of acres of land, inviting settlement by every conceivable argument — bringing them down to a quarter of a dollar an acre, and allowing every man to squat where he pleases. But the Senator from Michigan says we will be two hundred millions in a few years, and we want room.

**If I were a Mexican I would tell you, "Have you not room in your own country to bury your dead men? If you come into mine we will greet you with bloody hands, and welcome you to hospitable graves."**

Why, says the chairman of this Committee of Foreign Relations, it is the most reasonable thing in the world! We ought to have the Bay of San Francisco. Why? Because it is the best harbor on the Pacific!

It has been my fortune, Mr. President, to have practiced a good deal in criminal courts in the course of my life, but I never yet heard a thief, arraigned for stealing a horse, plead that it was the best horse that he could find in the country!

We want California. What for? "Why," says the Senator from Michigan, "we will have it;" and the Senator from South Carolina, with a very mistaken view, I think, of policy, says, "You can't keep our people from going there." I don't desire to prevent them. Let them go and seek their happiness in whatever country or clime it pleases them.

All I ask of them is, not to require this Government to protect them with that banner consecrated to war waged for principles — eternal, enduring truth.

Sir, it is not meet that our old flag should throw its protecting folds over expeditions for lucre or for land.

But you still say, you want room for your people. This has been the plea of every robber-chief from Nimrod to the present hour.

I dare say, when Tamerlane descended from his throne built of seventy thousand human skulls, and marched his ferocious battalions to further slaughter, I dare say he said, "I want room." Bajazet was another gentleman of kindred tastes and wants with us Anglo-Saxons — he "wanted room."

Alexander, too, the mighty "Macedonian madman," when he wandered with his Greeks to the plains of India, and fought a bloody battle on the very ground where recently England and the Sikhs engaged in strife for "room," was, no doubt, in quest of some California there. Many a Monterey had he to storm to get "room."

Sir, he made quite as much of that sort of history as you ever will.

Mr. President, do you remember the last chapter in that history? It is soon read. Oh! I wish we could but understand its moral. Ammon's son (so was Alexander named), after all his victories, died drunk in Babylon!

The vast empire he conquered to "get room" became the prey of the generals he had trained; it was disparted, torn to pieces, and so ended. Sir, there is a very significant appendix; it is this: the descendants of the Greeks — of Alexander's Greeks — are now governed by a descendant of Attila!

Mr. President, while we are fighting for room, let us ponder deeply this appendix. I was somewhat amazed, the other day, to hear the Senator from Michigan declare that Europe had quite forgotten us till these battles waked them up. I suppose the Senator feels grateful to the President for "waking up" Europe.

Does the President, who is, I hope, read in civic as well as military lore, remember the saying of one who had pondered upon history long — long, too, upon man, his nature and true destiny? Montesquieu did not think highly of this way of "waking up." "Happy," says he, "is that nation whose annals are tiresome."

The Senator from Michigan has a different view of this.

He thinks that a nation is not distinguished until it is distinguished in war; he fears that the slumbering faculties of Europe have not been able to ascertain that there are twenty millions of Anglo-Saxons here, making railroads and canals, and speeding all the arts of peace to the utmost accomplishment of the most refined civilization. They do not know it!

And what is the wonderful expedient which this democratic method of making history would adopt in order to make us known? Storming cities, desolating peaceful, happy homes, shooting men — aye, sir, such is war — and shooting women, too!

Sir, I have read, in some account of your battle of Monterrey, of a lovely Mexican girl, who, with the benevolence of an angel in her bosom, and the robust courage of a hero in her heart, was busily engaged, during the bloody conflict, amid the crash of falling houses, the groans of the dying, and the wild shriek of battle, in carrying water to slake the burning thirst of the wounded of either host.

While bending over a wounded American soldier, a cannon ball struck her and blew her to atoms!

**Sir, I do not charge my brave, generous-hearted countrymen who fought that fight with this.**

**No, no! We who send them — we who know that scenes like this, which might send tears of sorrow “down Pluto’s iron cheek,” are the invariable, inevitable attendants on war— we are accountable for this.**

And this — *this* is the way we are to be made known to Europe.

**This — this is to be the undying renown of free, republican America!**

**“She has stormed a city — killed many of its inhabitants of both sexes — she has room!”**

**So it will read.**

**Sir, if this were our only history, then may God of his mercy grant that its volume may speedily come to a close.**

Why is it, sir, that we of the United States, a people of yesterday, compared with the older nations of the world, should be waging war for territory — for “room?” Look at your country, extending from the Allegheny mountains to the Pacific ocean, capable itself of sustaining, in comfort, a larger population than will be in the whole Union for one hundred years to come. Over this vast expanse of territory, your population is now so sparse that I believe we provided, at the last session, a regiment of mounted men to guard the mail, from the frontier of Missouri to the mouth of the Columbia; and yet you persist in the ridiculous assertion, “I want room.” One would imagine, from the frequent reiteration of the complaint, that you had a bursting, teeming population, whose energy was paralyzed, whose enterprise was crushed, for want of space.

Why should we be so weak or wicked as to offer this idle apology for ravaging a neighboring republic? It will impose on no one at home or abroad.

**Do we not know, Mr. President, that it is a law never to be repealed, that falsehood shall be short-lived?**

Was it not ordained of old that truth only shall abide forever?

**Whatever we may say to-day, or whatever we may write in our books, the stern tribunal of history will review it all, detect falsehood, and bring us to judgment before that posterity which shall bless or curse us, as we may act *now*, wisely or otherwise:**

We may hide in the grave (which awaits us all), in vain; we may hope there, like the foolish bird that hides its head in the sand, in the vain belief that its body is not seen, yet even there, this preposterous excuse of want of "room," shall be laid bare, and the quick-coming future will decide that it was a hypocritical pretense, under which we sought to conceal the avarice, which prompted us to covet and to seize by force that which was not ours.

Mr. President, this uneasy desire to augment our territory has depraved the moral sense, and blunted the otherwise keen sagacity of our people.

**What has been the fate of all nations who have acted upon the idea that they must advance?**

**Our young orators cherish this notion with a fervid, but fatally mistaken zeal. They call it by the mysterious name of "destiny." "Our destiny," they say, is "onward," and hence they argue, with ready sophistry, the propriety of seizing upon any territory and any people that may lie in the way of our "fated" advance.**

Recently, these progressives have grown classical; some assiduous student of antiquities has helped them to a patron saint. They have wandered back into the desolated Pantheon, and there, among the Polytheistic relics of that "pale mother of dead empires," they have found a god whom these Romans, centuries gone by, baptized "Terminus."

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**Cairo:**  
**"As Expected The New Deal Of  
Obama Has Turned Out To Be The  
Same Old Deal Of Oligarchy,  
Imperialism And Nationalistic  
Insanity"**

# **“As Expected Obama Has Sold Out To The Self Appointed ‘Royalty’ Of America”**

June 06, 2009: Relayed by George McAnanama, via Ben Chitty, Veterans for peace.  
McAnanama writes:

“Please forward widely, Terry is a Vietnam Vet I marched with along the US Gulf Coast in our veterans and survivors march in March of 2006 from Mobile Alabama to New Orleans.

“He has a very keen bullshit detector as you will read, below.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Tool Of The Rich**

**Jun 5, 2009 By Wm. Terry Leichner, RN; Denver Vietnam Veterans Against The War member**

What part of Obama's speech in Cairo should give us hope for a new relationship with the Islamic world? Rhetoric is just rhetoric when actions contradict.

Obama has become the new salesman for the American royalty of rich power brokers and entitled elitists.

The significance of Obama's journey to the Middle East to give a polished speech he began writing before his election is window dressing and disingenuous.

His destinations of Saudi Arabia and Egypt are the cues to his lack of sincerity toward the Muslim world. He chose the two most repressive regimes of the region to curry favor with the long misunderstood and vilified people of Islamic faith.

He spoke eloquently about peace in Palestine and even dared to challenge Israel but his failure to speak of the repression of Egypt's Mubarak and the Saudi royal family makes his words hollow and hypocritical.

Progressives and liberals may want us to give Obama time but families sending their sons and daughters off to the quagmires of Iraq and Afghanistan war wonder when enough is enough after multiple deployments of their loved ones.

Yes, there is still two wars being waged in the name of this nation and billions each month is being spent to fund them. Billions that could be spent to "bail-out" the millions who have lost jobs due to the handling of the phony economic crisis.

What goodwill is being gained by this nation when we continue to wage illegal and immoral wars in nations of large Islamic populations?

And how do we stem the hatred toward Americans when we send drones into Pakistan and make multiple mistakes in bombing the homes of innocent civilians instead of the alleged enemy?

As expected the new deal of Obama has turned out to be the same old deal of oligarchy, imperialism and nationalistic insanity.

As expected Obama has sold out to the self appointed "royalty" of America.

**The richest families and multi-national corporations continue to wield the greatest influence and power in this alleged democracy. Locally and nationally special interests buy the elected political prostitutes while the poor and diminishing middle class go begging for table scraps of the great American dream.**

While Obama speaks with a charisma not heard since JFK, like JFK he is merely a tool of a corrupted system never meant to be about "we, the people".

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

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

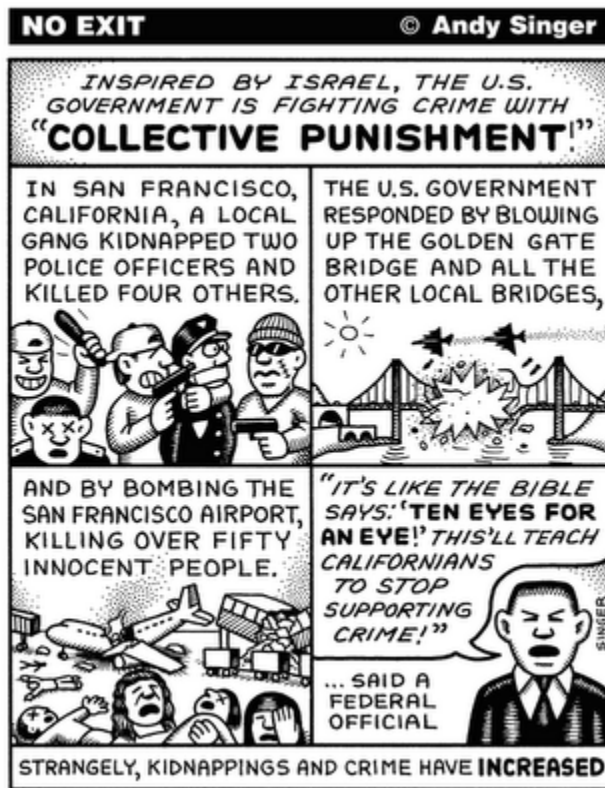


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**Troops Invited:**

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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE



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

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

**GI Special Available In PDF Format**

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)



## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

**Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to**

[contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



## **U.S. Unemployment Rate Hits 16.4%: “Nearly 25 Million Americans Were Either Unemployed, Underemployed Or Had Given Up Looking For A Job In May”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Jun 5 By FRANK BASS, Associated Press Writer Frank Bass, Associated Press Writer  
[Excerpts]

Because of the surge of hiring for the census, April unemployment only rose to 8.9 percent — a much slower increase than had been feared. Figures out today show unemployment now stands at 9.4 percent.

But consider these numbers:

\_The 9.4 percent May unemployment rate is based on 14.5 million Americans out of work.

But that number doesn't include discouraged workers, people who gave up looking for work after four weeks. Add those 792,000 people, and the unemployment rate is 9.8 percent.

\_The official rate also doesn't include "marginally attached workers," or people who have looked for work in the past year but stopped searching in the past month because of barriers to employment such as child care, poor health or lack of transportation.

Add those 1.4 million people, and the unemployment rate would be 10.6 percent.

**\_The official rate also doesn't include "involuntary part-time workers," or the 2.2 million people ... who took a part-time job because that's all they could get, plus those whose work hours dropped below the full-time level.**

**Once those 9.1 million workers are added to the unemployment mix, the rate would be 16.4 percent.**

**All told, nearly 25 million Americans were either unemployed, underemployed or had given up looking for a job in May.**

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## **“Medical Bills Are Involved In More Than 60% Of U.S. Personal Bankruptcies”**

### **“Your Family Is Just One Serious Illness Away From Bankruptcy”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

Jun 4, 2009 By Maggie Fox, Health and Science Editor [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, June 4 (Reuters) - Medical bills are involved in more than 60 percent of U.S. personal bankruptcies, an increase of 50 percent in just six years, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday.

More than 75 percent of these bankrupt families had health insurance but still were overwhelmed by their medical debts, the team at Harvard Law School, Harvard Medical School and Ohio University reported in the American Journal of Medicine.

"Using a conservative definition, 62.1 percent of all bankruptcies in 2007 were medical; 92 percent of these medical debtors had medical debts over \$5,000, or 10 percent of pretax family income," the researchers wrote.

"Most medical debtors were well-educated, owned homes and had middle-class occupations."

"Unless you're Warren Buffett, your family is just one serious illness away from bankruptcy," Harvard's Dr. David Himmelstein, an advocate for a single-payer health insurance program for the United States, said in a statement.

"For middle-class Americans, health insurance offers little protection," he added.

About 170 million people get health insurance through an employer but President Barack Obama says soaring healthcare costs are hurting the economy and forcing businesses to drop medical insurance for their workers.

**"Nationally, a quarter of firms cancel coverage immediately when an employee suffers a disabling illness; another quarter do so within a year," the report reads.**

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## GI SPECIAL RAFFLE REPORT

Big thanks to everybody who sent in contributions to the GI Special fund raising raffle. A final collection of envelopes will be made Monday, June 8 from the PO Box to allow for envelopes to arrive that were sent in from overseas before the May 31 deadline. The drawing, by members of the Military Project, will happen June 9 and winners notified in series, first place winner first, and on down the line. T

### **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>; [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/)

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