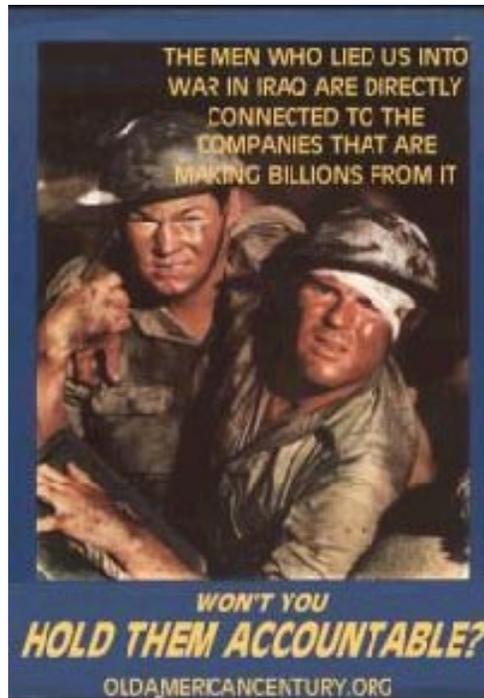


GI SPECIAL 4K21:



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

“Soldiers Are Waking Up, Stepping Forward, Standing Up And Choosing Sides”

An officer caught wind of the "conspiracy" and confronted him asking for the film to view it himself. Later on he (the officer) returned the film telling him he'd look the other way but cautioning him not to be caught passing it around because the film was considered subversive.

The soldier summed it all up by stating, "You know, that film puts the whole war in question".

From: Stop The War Brigade
To: GI Special
Sent: November 21, 2006
Subject: "I know it's wrong, but when the War began we shot everything that moved."

By Darnell Stephen Summers, (US Army 1966-70, CONUS, Germany & Viet Nam)

"I know it's wrong, but when the War began we shot everything that moved."

Those words ring constantly in my ears.

As perhaps some of you already know, I'm a Viet Nam Vet. I've been involved in the Anti-War Movement before, during and after my stint in the US Army (1966-70). 41 Years to be exact.

That's a long time and I've seen many things and heard many stories. I've talked to a multitude of soldiers in that span of time and many of those soldiers have become my life-long friends, wherever they may be. The work that I do among the soldiers is always challenging and, almost without fail, rewarding.

This work is not without risk and has ultimately cost me some time in prison for my efforts, but I continue as do the other dedicated Soldiers & Vets with whom I have the honor and pleasure of working towards a common and noble goal and no sacrifice is too great to offer in achieving the objective of Peace and an end to the senseless slaughter.

Recently I spoke to a soldier who had just returned from Iraq.

He was a survivor of a murderous I.E.D. attack on his supposedly impregnable compound. That explosion blew his buddy away who was sitting just a few feet from him. There were many dead and at least 40 who were seriously wounded. E.O.D. experts said that it was one of the largest explosions of its type that they had ever investigated.

He spent hours after the attack picking up the body parts of his fallen comrades and also those of the person who was sent to dispatch them. We sat there facing each other for hours just kicking it, exchanging experiences, war stories and viewpoints.

If you talk to someone for that length of time then barriers start to fall and the conversation becomes more relaxed. He began to confide in me.

He talked about the mood after the attack among the soldiers and their difficulty in dealing with what had just happened and of course the inevitable cover-up of the true facts concerning that attack.

He talked about about gathering the blackened shreds of skin and flesh that once belonged to a soldier that he knew personally.

He showed me photos and film of the carnage with his young wife looking, their baby sleeping peacefully in a crib nearby.

It was a strange scene. Death on one side and a life just beginning on the other. It was only the luck of the draw that kept that child, his child, from growing up fatherless and it will only be the luck of the draw that keeps him from growing up in a broken home.

Just a few scant days after our meeting this soldier's wife is contemplating Divorce.

A few weeks before she was waving a flag, shouting at the top of her voice, welcoming him home into her arms and then later they undoubtedly made the kind of wild, passionate love that can only come as a result of a long and tortuous separation in the midst of war. Those precious moments are now all but forgotten, made meaningless by an inescapable Truth.

A cruel reality has set in. His wife lies there night after night alongside her "husband", now a stranger, she might as well be having a never-ending series of "one night stands" rather than sleep with him.

That scene constantly repeats itself whenever and wherever these soldiers return to their "homes" from Iraq and Afghanistan.

This soldier has begun to contemplate and question all that he and his comrades have done and are doing.

He and his compatriots have murdered people for fun and now, after the gunsmoke has cleared, they see all of the dead and dying and the untold suffering that their actions have wrought.

They have to look in the mirror every day and hold a dark secret close to their bosoms out of sight of their loved-ones and friends. Who should know about these terrible crimes and their lack of humanity that no amount of drum-beating and patriotic pep-talk can assuage or absolve?

Broken men and women in a broken, forlorn and forsaken army.

Towards the end of our conversation he held his head down and said in an almost inaudible voice unsolicited, "I know it's wrong, but when the War began we shot everything that moved."

We both knew what that meant and suddenly the claim of 600,000 Iraqis having been killed up until now didn't seem to be so preposterous, so unreal.

I know soldiers with 3 or more confirmed kills and by simple extrapolation it's not difficult to come up with figures in the hundreds of thousands without grandiose empirical studies.

Some of these soldiers after several redeployments must have double digit kills. The look on this soldier's face gave testimony to the Orgy of Blood that this war has become. They are trained to annihilate everything in their path with no regard for "convention" or compassion. There's was nothing that I could say to ease his pain or his conscience.

But I did sense some remorse and he was reaching out to me like so many soldiers had done in the past.

To put it bluntly the US Military is, at the very least, a pack of undisciplined and blood-thirsty rabble forged by dishonest, criminal, deceitful, and incompetent leadership at every level. That's the end result.

The proof is in the pudding and that's why they are destined to fail. They are invaders, Robber Barons, with no just cause.

However within that cess-pool, soldiers are waking up, stepping forward, standing up and choosing sides and I commend and encourage them to continue to be bold and resolute and to Refuse, Resist and Rebel.

That is the one "Duty" that they must embrace, the one Oath they must honor with body and soul. It will be the only redeeming factor when history will judge us all. Without these brave young men and women putting it all on the line where it matters, an entire nation will lose itself-respect and the right to call itself civilized.

Those troops are truly the "Real Heroes" and deserving of our support.

p.s. It was time to rap it all up and call it a day or a night, whichever you prefer, when he dropped a bombshell.

He asked me if I had seen the film "Loose Change" and I said I had.

He then related a very interesting story to me about how he had been passing the film around in Iraq, to some of his fellow soldiers.

An officer caught wind of the "conspiracy" and confronted him asking for the film to view it himself. Later on he (the officer) returned the film telling him he'd look the other way but cautioning him not to be caught passing it around because the film was considered subversive.

The soldier summed it all up by stating, "You know, that film puts the whole war in question".

It was at that point that I breathed a sigh of relief and my position was confirmed that there is hope and that we're making serious progress..

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Soldier From Stanwood Killed In Iraq

Nov. 20, 2006 Associated Press

STANWOOD, Mich.: A Mecosta County man serving in the Army National Guard was killed in Iraq over the weekend, his wife said.

Spc. Brad Shilling died Saturday, his wife D.J. Shilling said. He was 22.

"I've only realized how it's made me stronger," she told Cadillac television station WWTV-WWUP. "It made me realize a lot about myself. It made me realize I can handle a lot more than I thought I could."

Brad Shilling had been serving in Iraq since this summer, his wife said.

"I'm still adjusting," said D.J. Shilling, who was wearing a T-shirt with "ARMY" across the front. "I just always expected him to come back."

She said her husband was always helping others.

"If you needed him, he'd be there," she said. "I'm sure the guys over there right now would probably say the same thing."

Brad Shilling also leaves behind a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Abbie, and a 3 1/2-month-old son, Jordan. The family lives near Stanwood, about 30 miles west of Mount Pleasant.

"He really didn't get a lot of time with Jordan ... but I know he's going to miss him - he's going to miss that," D.J. Shilling said. "He'll be here watching."

Texas Soldier Killed In Baquba



Army Spc. Mitchel T. Mutz, 23, Falls City, Texas, died Nov. 15, 2006, in Baquba, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was in during combat operations. (AP Photo/Family Photo via San Antonio Express-News)

Michigan National Guard Soldier Killed



Army National Guard Spc. Brad Shilling Nov. 18, 2006, in Iraq, his wife D.J. Shilling said. He was 22. (AP Photo/Family photo via WPBN-TV)

Harrisonburg Soldier Recovering In Iraq; Roadside Bomb Injures Unit In Baghdad

2006-11-20 By Kelly Jasper, Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG: A Harrisonburg soldier is recovering in Baghdad this week from injuries sustained in a roadside bomb attack.

Alice and Mike Minnis of Nelson Drive got the news last week in a call from an Army official in Alexandria. The official told the family that their son, Cpl. Michael Minnis, had been injured in combat.

Minnis, 22, is a fire-support specialist with Company A, 23rd Infantry Division, 1st Battalion. He was deployed to Iraq in June.

Thankfully, Alice said, her son only suffered a concussion and busted eardrum in the incident.

Details were sparse at first, but now, a week after the improvised explosive device blew up near Minnis' platoon near Baghdad, she knows he's doing OK. It's not clear where exactly Minnis and his unit were at the time of the explosion or what type of vehicle they were traveling in.

"We just know he was in Baghdad," Alice said. "We weren't told much else."

While others from his unit were injured, no one was killed in the attack, Alice said.

"They were very lucky," she said from her home on Sunday.

Alice said she doesn't know the extent of the other soldiers' injuries but that Michael was traveling with a 12-person striker unit.

The IED that exploded near the unit is a common roadside bomb responsible for more than half of all American fatalities in Iraq, according to Icasualties.org, a Web site that tracks U.S. military casualties.

The Harrisonburg family said they talked to Michael online last week.

He told them he was hospitalized for a day and a half at the base hospital in Baghdad.

"He said, "Everybody's doing just fine," Alice said.

As of Sunday, her son wasn't back to full duty just yet, she said.

"It could be within the next couple of days," she said. He's still on medication to help with the concussion, she said.

Minnis is scheduled to return home next summer.

Throughout her son's deployment, Alice says the community has been supportive.

In September, her neighbors tied dozens of yellow ribbons and bows around trees and mailboxes on Nelson Drive.

"We appreciate all the community support and prayer," she said.

Fruita Man Wounded In Iraq, Expected To Recover

November 14, 2006 By SARAH PROTZMAN The Daily Sentinel

A 2004 graduate of R-5 High School was wounded in Iraq and is expected to make a full recovery.

Mark Daniel Renshaw, 20, was shot in the stomach around midday Monday.

Doctors at a trauma hospital repaired Renshaw's kidney, and the prognosis is good, family friend Rusty Boyd said.

Renshaw is the son of Grand Junction real estate agent Theresa Manthei. Manthei said she believes her son is in Haditha, northwest of Baghdad.

She said officials told her Renshaw was in surgery within 45 minutes of the incident.

“They called to say he was stable, and that’s all we know,” she said Monday.

“I’m just waiting.”

Renshaw, who grew up in Fruita and also attended Fruita Monument High School, left for Iraq in mid-September, Boyd said.

Renshaw also served seven months in Afghanistan in 2005, after which he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor for saving four Afghan troops while under fire an eastern Afghanistan village.

“Terrorism is an idea and will never be able to be killed,” Renshaw told The Daily Sentinel in February upon his homecoming to Walker Field Airport. “But we can at least make it not worth their efforts.”

Renshaw’s great-uncle, Joseph Francis Tallarico; great-great uncle, Joseph Santoro; and grandfather, Robert Tallarico, also served in the Marines.

Renshaw enlisted in summer 2004, spurred by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, his family told the Sentinel earlier this year. “He’ll probably be very angry that he was shot,” Boyd said Monday, “because he won’t get to finish what he set out to do.”

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team soldier checks car in central Baghdad's Karradah district, Oct. 24, 2006. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

***Great Moments In U.S. Military
History:***
**Occupation Butchers More
Civilians In Sadr City:**
**“I Will Not Return To Parliament Until
The Occupation Troops Leave The
Country”**



Women grieve next to a bloodstained blanket in a room where a baby died and another relative was wounded after a U.S. air strike in Baghdad's Sadr city November 21, 2006. A U.S. air strike in Baghdad's Sadr City district killed at least three people on Tuesday. U.S. military spokesman Colonel Christopher Garver said he was checking the reports. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem (IRAQ)

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Playing with fire.]

11.21.06 AP & By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) U.S. and Iraqi forces raided the overwhelmingly Shiite Sadr City slum on Tuesday.

Tuesday's raid in Sadr City was the third in four days by U.S. and Iraqi forces in the slum, which is the headquarters of the Madhi Army.

At least three people were killed.

The 3 a.m. assault in the east Baghdad grid of streets lined with tumbledown concrete block structures and vacant lots was the third in four days by U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Angry Shiites denounced the raid.

Health Ministry spokesman, Qassem Abdul Hadi, said the dead included a six-month-old infant, while up to 50 had been wounded and were being treated at the local Imam Ali Hospital.

Iraqi Police Capt. Mohammed Ismail said a young boy and two other people were killed in the early morning raid and 15 people were wounded. Several houses were damaged.

After Tuesday's raid, a Shiite legislator Saleh Al-Ukailli cradled the body of the dead child outside the hospital morgue and angrily condemned Iraq's government for allowing such attacks.

"I am suspending my membership in parliament since it remains silent about crimes such as this against the Iraqi people," al-Ukailli said. "I will not return to parliament until the occupation troops leave the country."

The boy's body was wrapped in a bloodstained cloth, with only the face visible. Nearby, minivans left with two wooden caskets on their roofs.



A boy cries after his nephew was killed after a U.S. air strike in Baghdad's Sadr city
November 21, 2006. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem (IRAQ)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Collaborator Politicians Do Things The American Way: “Graft And Corruption, I Think, Are Just Accepted” Sgt. Major Says

Tuesday, November 21, 2006 TOM GORDON, The Birmingham News staff writer
[Excerpt]

An Alabama National Guard sergeant who recently returned from Afghanistan says turning back the country's growing Taliban insurgency requires turning around the Afghan economy and curbing its corruption.

"You can kill them forever," Sgt. Maj. Kevin Griffin of Grayson Valley said in a recent interview. "But you also have to provide them the opportunity to not want to fight. We have to somehow figure out a way to get them back to work."

While Griffin came home concerned about the Afghan economy, he also was bothered by the pervasive corruption he observed among government officials.

"They didn't understand that, as elected officials, you are a servant of the people,' Griffin said.

"Graft and corruption, I think, are just accepted..."

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Ryan T. McCaughn at St. Anne-St. Augustin Catholic church in Manchester, N.H., Nov. 20, 2006. McCaughn, 19, died Nov. 7 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. (AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

National Guardsman Says “No More People Should Die In A Mistaken War” At Rally In Duluth



Tara Fanning, wife of National Guardsmen Daniel Fanning, stands with a sign which reads, "Save Our Troops. Bring them home."

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

November 17, 2006 By Naomi Yaeger, American Chronicle [Excerpts]

Nov. 12 was the twelfth protest held by the Northland Anti-War Coalition since it's inception in December of 2002. Many of the of the organizers and attendees event live in the Hillside, including Sharla Gardner and Joel Sipress. The event was planned long before the Nov. 7 elections and would have been held no matter what the outcome.

After the election the theme was “Demanding that the newly elected government honor the will of the people.”

A massive scroll of newsprint two feet wide by 20 feet long was signed by the protesters and will be mailed to Congress.

Speakers at the rally included: Daniel Fanning (a recently returned Iraq war vet), Fletcher Hines (a Vietnam vet, and leader of Veterans and Military Families for Progress), Joan Najbar (of Military Families Speak Out, and mother of a MN National Guardsman deployed in Iraq), Sharla Gardner (of AFSCME Local 66, who read a statement from State Senator and Gold Star Mother Becky Lourey who was unable to attend the event) and Ellie Schoenfeld (local poet extraordinaire).

The talking points of the speakers were:

Daniel Fanning: A military member who said the occupation is doing more harm than good. No more people should die in a mistaken war.

Fletcher Hines: A Vietnam vet who listed numerous similarities between the Iraqi War and the Vietnam War. He said to bring peace the United States needs to bring earnest and effective engagement with the neighbors of Iraq.

Joan Najbar: the mother of a National Guard member who said for every ten soldiers that are killed, seven are wounded, many of them with head and brain injuries. Federal funds to help wounded vets have been cut.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? 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 war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Shafting The Vets;

“A Returning Vet Must Wait An Average Of 165 Days For A VA Decision On Initial Disability Benefits. An Appeal Can Take Up To Three Years”

Reserve and National Guard troops - who make up between 40 and 50% of the frontline troops in Iraq and Afghanistan - have a particular problem, because their military medical insurance benefits only cover conditions diagnosed in the first 100 days. PTSD sometimes takes years, even decades to kick in.

November 20, 2006 By Conn Hallinan, Portside [Excerpts]

"War is hell," Union General William Tecumseh Sherman famously said 14 years after the end of the bloodiest conflict in US history. "It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation."

Clearly the U.S. Civil War is not on the reading list of psychiatrist Sally Satel, a scholar at the right-wing American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

Indeed, Satel sees war less as hell than as a golden opportunity for veteran layabouts to milk the government by "overpathologizing the psychic pain of war."

Satel, whom the AEI trots out anytime the Bush administration needs cover for cutting veteran services and benefits, says the problem for former soldiers is not Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"The real trouble for vets," she writes, is that "once a patient receives a monthly check based on his psychiatric diagnosis, his motivation to hold a job wanes." Her solution? "Don't offer disability benefits too quickly."

The commentary makes an interesting contrast to a powerful piece in the October 2006 issue of the California Nurses Association's magazine Registered Nurse titled "The Battle at Home" by Caitlin Fischer and Diana Reiss.

They found that "in veterans' hospitals across the country - and in a growing number of ill-prepared, under-funded psych and primary care clinics as well - Registered Nurses ... are treating soldiers ... and picking up the pieces of a tattered army."

According to the authors, RNs across the country "have witnessed the guilt, rage, emotional numbness, and tormented flashbacks of GIs just back from Iraq and Afghanistan," as well as older vets from previous wars, "whose half-century-old trauma have been 'triggered' by the images of Iraq."

How many soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will eventually fall victim to PTSD is not clear, although a U.S. Defense Department study in 2006 found that one in six returnees suffer from depression or stress disorders, and 35% have sought counseling for emotional difficulties. The Veterans Administration (VA) treated 20,638 Iraq vets for PTSD in just the first quarter of 2006 and is currently processing a backlog of 400,000 cases.

Out of 700,000 soldiers who served in the 1991 Gulf War, 118,000 are suffering from chronic fatigue, headaches, muscle spasms, joint pains, anxiety, memory loss, and balance problems, and 40% receive disability pay. Gulf vets are also twice as likely to develop amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and between two and three times more likely to have children with birth defects.

Modern battlefields are toxic nightmares, filled with depleted uranium ammunition, exotic explosives, and deadly cluster bomblets. The soldiers are shot up with experimental vaccines that can have dangerous side effects from additives like squalene. In short, soldiers are not only under fire, they are assaulted by their own weapons systems and medical procedures.

Satel need have no worries about the VA rushing to hand out cash to veteran couch potatoes. According to Fischer and Reiss, "A returning vet must wait an average of 165 days for a VA decision on initial disability benefits. An appeal can take up to three years."

Reserve and National Guard troops - who make up between 40 and 50% of the frontline troops in Iraq and Afghanistan - have a particular problem, because their military medical insurance benefits only cover conditions diagnosed in the first 100 days. PTSD sometimes takes years, even decades to kick in.

When they do complain, vets can expect that their ailments will be dismissed or their cause stonewalled.

When Gulf War vets complained about the symptoms which have come to be called "Gulf War Syndrome," the Pentagon told them it was in their heads, in spite of studies by the British Medical Journal and the U.S. Center for Disease Control that showed the returnees were suffering illnesses at 12 times the rate of non - Gulf vets.

For five years after the Gulf War the Pentagon denied that any troops had been exposed to chemical weapons.

It took pressure from veterans' organizations and Sen. Donald Riegle (D-MI) to get the Pentagon to admit finally that as many as 130,000 troops (the vets say the number is higher) were exposed to chemical weapons from the destruction of the Iraqi arms depot at Khamisiyah.

Veteran organizations are currently fighting the Pentagon over its refusal to screen returning soldiers for mild brain injuries.

Figures indicate that up to 10% of the troops suffer from concussions during their tours, a figure that rises to 20% for those in the front lines.

Research shows that concussions can cause memory loss, headaches, sleep disturbances, and behavior problems. The Pentagon, arguing that the long-term effect of brain injuries needs more research, is unwilling to fund a screening program.

Given the wide use of roadside bombs, "Traumatic brain injury is the signature injury of the war on terrorism," George Zitnay, co-founder of the Brain Injury Center, told USA Today. And according to researchers at Harvard and Columbia, the cost of treating those brain injuries will be \$14 billion over the next 20 years.

Upwards of 20,000 Americans have been wounded in Iraq, some of those so grotesquely that medicine has invented a new term to describe them - polytrauma. An estimated 7,000 vets have severe brain and spinal injuries, and have required amputations. For the blind, brain damaged, and paralyzed, war is indeed hell.

But the hell we bring home is only a pale reflection of the hell we leave behind.

According to a recent estimate by the British medical journal, The Lancet, upwards of 650,000 Iraqis have been killed since the invasion. Most of the country's infrastructure - already damaged in the first Gulf War or degraded by a decade of sanctions - has essentially collapsed.

So war is indeed hell - for those who fight it, those caught in the middle of it, and those who eventually pick up the pieces.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

Nov 21 (Reuters)

Guerrillas killed Ali al-Shimari, the mayor of the town of Hibhib, near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, and wounded four of his guards.

Guerrillas killed an off-duty police officer in the northern city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen in the eastern Camp Sara district of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen, an Interior Ministry source said.

Guerrillas killed a policeman on his way to work in the town of Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

Car Bombs Found Inside Green Zone

11.21.06 AP

U.S. troops blew up two cars inside the heavily fortified Green Zone after sniffer dogs indicated explosives were inside the vehicles that were used in the motorcade of the parliament speaker, an adviser to parliament said.

A small explosion in another vehicle damaged the car of Iraqi parliament speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani outside the parliament building, though the official was not aboard, a parliamentary source said

In what could signal a major security breach, the explosives were found and detonated near the Convention Center, where parliament meets and government officials hold news conferences, Wissam al-Zubeidi said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

It's Happening Right In Front of Us



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 21, 2006
Subject: It's Happening Right In Front of Us

It's Happening Right In Front of Us

While tens of thousands of American soldiers are recycled back to Iraq, most Americans just go on with their busy day. The word sacrifice is not part of their reality.

Thirty-five years after returning from Vietnam, I continue to take medication to get me through my day.

My main problem: I'm extremely resentful of political leaders who send soldiers to war, when they would not send their own family members into such an evil environment.

"United We Stand," and "Home Of The Brave," are slogans of mental illness.

It is happening right in front of us--Class War.

The pathetic leaders of this country are sending the less privileged off to do their dirty work. And, I mean their dirty work.

Iraq is a death march.

And, when American soldiers come back in a casket, with an American flag draped over it, telling family members that their loved ones are heroes, I have flashbacks to the Nam.

I wakeup from a nightmare, with all of the bedding on the floor, and yell, FUCK YOU!!

I take medication so I won't act out my fuck you on my precious government.

Everyday I save lives, because I believe in sacrifice.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 21, 2006**

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) T)

Voting For Trash

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 18, 2006
Subject: Fwd: Voting For Trash by Dennis

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

Voting For Trash

Stan waits in line in the creepy drizzly cold rain
waiting to vote for his favorite rich man, who above all
wants his son to carry weight on his back
and carry a rich man's gun in a holocaust called Iraq.
He moves forward in the line, as good people
try to decide if they will vote for
Republican and Democrat trash.
Stan is finally at the table and they find his name,
then goes to another table where he too waits.
At least the people are warm now
and they give Stan his ballot and he stands all alone in the booth,
trying to figure out if he wants to vote for
the Republican and Democrat trash.
Stan is switching from one leg to the other for a long time
trying to decide which rich man will let a few pennies
trickle down to him or cut off welfare
and send jobs to China and stop the war
when they are making billions
and voting for Republican and Democrat trash.
Make him have to be a Christian to live in the USA
round up gays and gas them,
make elementary schools have a course how to break down
a M-16 and put it back together.
Build walls and make it legal for minute men
to shoot Mexicans
and voting for Republican and Democrat trash.
Build walls around the blacks in the inner city ghettos
like they did to the Jews in Warsaw.
Put up huge crosses on the top of our schools

on top of the White House
on top of the Supreme Court
and embossed on our soldier's helmets.
Outlaw evolution and outlaw abortion
and vote for Republican and Democrat trash.
So Stan rips up his ballot and throws it on the floor,
people look up as he leaves the room,
some with an "I feel that way too."

Move It Back Into The Streets: Stop The War Now!

**“It Is The Protesters Who Decide The
Course Of The Movement, Not The So-
Called Leadership Or Any Of Their
Democratic Pals”**

From: Ron Jacobs
To: GI Special
Sent: November 21, 2006

By Ron Jacobs

A little more than thirty-seven years (November 14-15, 1969), the streets of Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA were filled with a million protesters against the US war in Vietnam.

These protests, known as the National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, had been preceded by a national Moratorium Against the War on October 15 the same year.

The politics of the protesters ran from pacifists to liberals to hardcore anti-imperialist radicals bent on revolution.

According to permanent war architect and advisor Henry Kissinger, the sight of so many protesters in the streets of DC caused the Nixon White House to reconsider its pending decision to nuke Hanoi, Vietnam.

Furthermore, the pitched battles between police and some ten to twenty thousand protesters intent on storming the South Vietnamese Embassy on November 14th, 1969 and the Justice Department building the following day led Nixon's Attorney General John Mitchell to compare the scene to Russia's October revolution.

While Mr. Mitchell was obviously exaggerating the situation, the comment itself is an indication of the level of paranoia then present among the rulers in Washington.

Another indication of the rulers' fears was also taking place in Chicago that fall. This was the conspiracy trial of the Chicago 8. Without going into too much history, let it suffice to say that this trial was an attempt by the State to destroy the antiwar and Black liberation movements in the United States.

While this trial did not reach its intended goal in the courtroom -- indeed, the men were not convicted of the conspiracy charges although they did get convicted for a number of other political crimes -- the repression that the trial was a part of did temporarily diminish the numbers involved in those movements.

I mention this historical moment not because I believe that the US antiwar movement against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are operating from a similar position of strength: indeed, today's movement is far from that.

Sure, we've elected Democrats in an election that most everyone from Nancy Pelosi to General Abizaid believes was a statement against those wars, and we could even convince ourselves that it was pressure begun by certain elements among the antiwar voices that caused the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld. But, that's about it.

Once again, if we look back to Fall 1969, we discover that Richard Nixon dismissed General Hershey, the head of the Selective Service in September 1969 in an attempt to make it appear that he was listening to his critics.

Meanwhile, here in 2006, incoming chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Charles Rangel has stated that he will reintroduce his bill that would restart the military draft.

(Of course, he says he is doing this to prevent other wars from starting using a circular reasoning that if the rich have to send their kids to war, they won't be as gung-ho about starting them. This rationale has been proven wrong in the past, since it tends to be working class soldiers that end up fighting while the rest end up elsewhere.)

The war continues, much as the Vietnam war did after the aforementioned protests. In fact, George Bush recently commented during his visit to Vietnam that the basic mistake made by the United States during its murderous campaign in Vietnam was that it quit before victory was achieved.

Now, I don't know about you, but that statement sounds awfully dangerous to me. If Bush and his advisors (civilian and military) truly believe this and are willing to say so in public, then we are even further from a withdrawal of US forces from Iraq than every politician in DC thinks (or hopes) we are.

At least, back in 1969, Richard Nixon was telling the US people that he was working on a withdrawal plan that he called "Peace With Honor." Of course, that turned out to be a lie, as the invasion of Cambodia proved a mere five-and-a-half months later.

George Bush and Dick Cheney aren't even pretending that they want US forces to withdraw from Iraq. In their minds, anything short of their definition of victory is

surrender. General Abizaid recently backed these two men on this when he told Congress that setting any kind of withdrawal date or timeline would not be a good idea.

At this time, it is not clear to anybody willing to talk about it how such a victory is to take place. Rumors abound about increases in US troop strength in Iraq and a step up in the training of Iraqi forces. Simultaneously, Guard and Reserve units are being reactivated for another tour of duty in the war zone. Acquaintances of mine with sons in the US Special Forces tell me their kids (young men actually) are going over to Iraq and Afghanistan in the spring with a new mission: to train Iraqi and Afghani troops in US leadership techniques. Given what we know about Special Forces training, one can assume that the training will include more than leadership techniques.

Furthermore, any influx of Special Forces tends to prove Washington's intentions of fighting in Iraq over the long haul.

To illustrate this point, let me quote a piece by a certain Bruce Hoffman, a US counterinsurgency expert employed by the RAND corporation (if the reader will recall, the Rand Corporation was Pentagon Papers exposé Daniel Ellsberg's employer, as well).

Anyhow, Hoffman writes, "Increasing the number of U.S. military special forces in Iraq in coming months could enhance the training of Iraqi military forces and police in counterinsurgency." He continues by noting that the presence of such forces in Iraq would have to be for the foreseeable future. Given that the piece was written in 2004, that foreseeable future two years after the fact is (even more so) at best indeterminable. Succinctly put, there is no indication from the Pentagon or the White House that they believe or want US troops (much less the CIA and its mercenaries) to leave either Iraq or Afghanistan in the next few years, much less the next few months.

This is where we come in.

There is a protest against the war being planned by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) for January 27, 2007 in Washington, DC. This is around the date when the new Congress will take its seats in the Capitol Building. The stated purpose of the protest is to "call on Congress to take immediate action to end the war." The hope is that hundreds of thousands of US residents will show up on that Saturday and bring the message home that we want an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

Now, despite UFPJ leadership's tendency to gloss over the weaknesses of the Democratic Party, as evidenced by their refusal to challenge the Hilary Clintons and other Democrats who have yet to call for immediate withdrawal (or for any withdrawal at all), its muted opposition to Israeli aggression in the West Bank and Gaza and the PATRIOT Act with its accompanying repression of Muslim and Arab peoples, it is important that people do show up for this protest.

And every other protest against the war coming up in the future.

After all, it is the protesters who decide the course of the movement, not the so-called leadership or any of their Democratic pals.

Another national protest is scheduled for March 17, 2007 in DC and other cities.

Of course, one needn't wait for national calls. There is always time to protest in your home town.

Walden Bello put it best in a recent piece published in Counterpunch: "The movement cannot afford to squander this momentum," wrote Bello, "for the price of stepping back and letting the Democrats come up with (a protracted exit) strategy will be more Iraqis and Americans dead, sacrificed for a meaningless war with no real end in sight."

Not to mention Afghanis and perhaps Iranians.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Rancid Stack Of Shit Rangel Babbles About Bringing Back The Draft: The Liar Pretends He Doesn't Know The Privileged Can Easily Escape It

[This despicable, lying rat acts like he doesn't know that during Vietnam rich kids, important politicians kids, and any kid related to anybody powerful and wealthy could escape the draft as easy as breathing. They had all kinds of different ways; paid-for doctors to come up with medical excuses, friends on Draft Boards, and many, many more. His stupid, silly oral diarrhea has nothing to do with reality. It's all a fraud, put out there by a fraud.]

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

Nov 19 By Jackie Frank, Reuters

An influential Democratic lawmaker on Sunday called for reinstatement of the draft as a way to boost U.S. troop levels and draw a broader section of the population into the military or public service.

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (news, bio, voting record), the incoming chairman of the House of Representatives' tax-writing committee, said he would introduce legislation to reinstate the draft as soon as the new, Democratic-controlled Congress convenes in January.

Asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" if he was still serious about the proposal for a universal draft he raised a couple of years ago, he said, "You bet your life. Underscore serious."

"If we're going to challenge Iran and challenge North Korea and then, as some people have asked, to send more troops to Iraq, we can't do that without a draft," he said. [Yes, clearly he's against the Empire. Right. Sure.]

Rangel, who opposed the 2003 invasion of Iraq, also said he did not think the United States would have invaded Iraq if the children of members of Congress were sent to fight. He has said the U.S. fighting force is comprised disproportionately of people from low-income families and minorities.

[For more on how the privileged stayed safe from the draft, see: WORKING CLASS WAR, by Christian G. Appy, U. Of North Carolina Press, 1984. T]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

GET THE MESSAGE?



11.20.06: Indonesians demonstrating in Bogor, West Java. Bush faces a storm of protest when he arrives in Bogor on a brief visit that has generated intense opposition from Indonesians angry over the Iraq war. (AFP/Jewel Samad)

Airline Scumbags Out Of Control:

#1:

After Woman And Her Family Thrown Off Plane For Breast Feeding Baby, Women Fight Back And Kick Delta Ass



Marnie Glickman, right, breast-feeds her daughter, Calliope, while Rachel Brusseau, middle, breast-feeds her son, James, and Chanda Hall, left, holds her daughter, Lucy in front of the Delta Airlines gate at Portland International Airport in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006. Approximately 35 mothers with children showed up in support of a woman that was removed, along with her family, from a Delta flight in Vermont for breast-feeding her child. (AP Photo/Don Ryan)

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: BREAST FEEDING IS NOW CLASSIFIED AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY, ALONG WITH ARABIC SHIRTS THAT SAY "WE WILL NOT BE SILENT."]

11.21.06 By JOHN CURRAN, Associated Press Writer

Carrying signs with slogans such as "Best in-flight meal ever," scores of mothers breast-fed their babies at airports around the country Tuesday in a show of support for a woman who was ordered off a plane for nursing her daughter without covering up.

"It's about raising consciousness about our culture's sexualization of the breast. Breast-feeding needs to be supported wherever and whenever it happens. Babies don't know the meaning of 'wait,'" said Chelsea Clark, 31, wearing a "Got breast milk?" T-shirt as she nursed her 9-week-old son at the Burlington airport.

About 25 women turned out for the “nurse-in” at the airport, parking themselves near a ticket counter in a peaceful, but not-so-quiet, demonstration. Similar protests were held at airports in Boston; Columbus, Ohio; Nashville, Tenn.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Hartford, Conn.; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Louisville, Ky.

Some of the women carried signs that read, “Don't be lactose intolerant” and “Breasts: Not just for selling cars anymore.”

On Oct. 13, Emily Gillette, 27, of Santa Fe, N.M., was ordered off a Freedom Airlines plane about to take off from the Burlington airport after a flight attendant asked her to cover up while she was breast-feeding her year-old daughter.

She had been sitting on the New York-bound plane, which was three hours late in leaving, when she began nursing. The flight attendant handed her a blanket, but she refused it. She was removed from the plane along with her husband and child.

The airline later disciplined the unidentified employee. But “lactivists” and women's rights supporters were outraged, and Gillette filed a complaint with the Vermont Human Rights Commission.

“It's a basic human thing that we are doing and we should be able to do it in public without being kicked off planes, without being told to sit in bathrooms,” said Susan Parker, 30, who participated in a demonstration at Bradley International Airport near Hartford, Conn., along with 10-month-old daughter Anna.

Gillette herself joined about 30 women, children and fathers at the Albuquerque airport. “When women are harassed for breast-feeding, a woman can end up feeling ashamed and she shouldn't,” she said, tears welling in her eyes.

At the Nashville airport, about 25 mothers, fathers and children took part in a demonstration, holding signs that said “Breast fed is best fed” and “Best in-flight meal ever.” About 40 mothers nursed their babies at the Portland, Ore., airport.

Passers-by called out words of encouragement at the Columbus, Ohio, airport, where about a dozen women sat on benches and on the floor, some breast-feeding.

#2:

***Avoid U.S. Airways:
Too Stupid And Evil To Fly
Anything Anywhere;***

U.S. Airways Assholes Throw 6 Preachers Off Flight For Praying; Then Racist Scumbag Cops Handcuff And Torment Them For Hours; Then The Greedy Airline Shits Won't Put Them On Another Flight When They're Found To Be Totally Harmless!

November 21, 2006 The Associated Press

Six Muslim imams were removed from a US Airways flight at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and questioned by police for several hours before being released, a leader of the group said.

The six were among passengers who boarded Flight 300, bound for Phoenix, around 6:30 p.m. Monday, airport spokesman Pat Hogan said.

A passenger initially raised concerns about the group through a note passed to a flight attendant, according to Andrea Rader, a spokeswoman for US Airways.

She said police were called after the captain and airport security workers asked the men to leave the plane and the men refused. [Good for them, and a big eat shit and die for the ignorant bigots who did this to them.]

"They took us off the plane, humiliated us in a very disrespectful way," said Omar Shahin, of Phoenix.

The six Muslim scholars were returning from a conference in Minneapolis of the North American Imams Federation, said Shahin, president of the group. Five of them were from the Phoenix-Tempe area, while one was from Bakersfield, California, he said.

Three of them stood and said their normal evening prayers together on the plane, as 1.7 billion Muslims around the world do every day, Shahin said. He attributed any concerns by passengers or crew to ignorance about Islam. **[Wrong. Not knowing would merely arouse curiosity. This wasn't a lack of information, this was stupid, primitive, domestic terrorism by a bunch of airline officials and cops unfit to wear their uniforms. If they feel so highly motivated by their shitbird patriotism, let them enlist and go to Iraq. But like most bullies, they're too cowardly to do that.]**

"I never felt bad in my life like that," he said. "I never. Six imams. Six leaders in this country. Six scholars in handcuffs. It's terrible."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, expressed anger at the detentions.

"CAIR will be filing a complaint with relevant authorities in the morning over the treatment of the imams to determine whether the incident was caused by anti-Muslim hysteria by the passengers and/or the airline crew," Hooper said. [What, he's forgot about the racist cop scumbags? They get off?] "Because, unfortunately, this is a growing problem of singling out Muslims or people perceived to be Muslims at airports, and it's one that we've been addressing for some time."

Hooper said the meeting drew about 150 imams from all over the country, and that those attending included U.S. Rep.-elect Keith Ellison, a Democrat of Minneapolis, who just became the first Muslim elected to Congress. Shahin said they went as far as notifying police and the FBI about their meeting in advance.

Shahin expressed frustration that, despite extensive efforts by him and other Muslim leaders since even before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, so many Americans know so little about Islam.

"If up to now they don't know about prayers, this is a real problem," he said.

Reached by cell phone just after his release, Shahin said he did not know where they would spend the night or how they would try to get back to Phoenix on Tuesday.

Hooper said US Airways refused to put the men on another flight.

[So, they harass them, throw them off the plane, put them in handcuffs, and then the airline that caused this police state idiocy keeps their money and won't put them on another flight? Sounds like the perfect combination of greed, ignorance, and racist bullying. And definitely sounds like an airline too cheap and stupid to maintain it's planes safely. Might be a good one to avoid like the plague. The life you save may be your own. Isn't this the same rotten outfit that used to be known as US Air before they went bankrupt after putting some planes into the ground? Headfirst that is? T]

Hogan said more information would likely be released Tuesday.

The other passengers on the flight, which was carrying 141 passengers and five crew members, were re-screened for boarding, Rader said. The plane took off about three hours after the men were removed from the flight.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation 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 - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

Received:

Thanks To Jeff Englehart, IVAW

From: Kathy Kelly
To: GI Special
Sent: November 21, 2006
Subject: a word of thanks

The exchange between the recently wounded combat medic and the IVAW's Jeff Englehart is especially helpful. Thank you so much for your amazing tenacity in producing the GI Special.

Kathy Kelly
Voices for Creative Nonviolence

REPLY: The thanks to go Jeff Englehart, and implacable civilian anti-war activists like Kathy Kelly, who make their lives a testimony to decency, all the people who work so hard gathering articles and sending them in for publication, and the membership of the Military Project, who sustain this effort. T

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

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