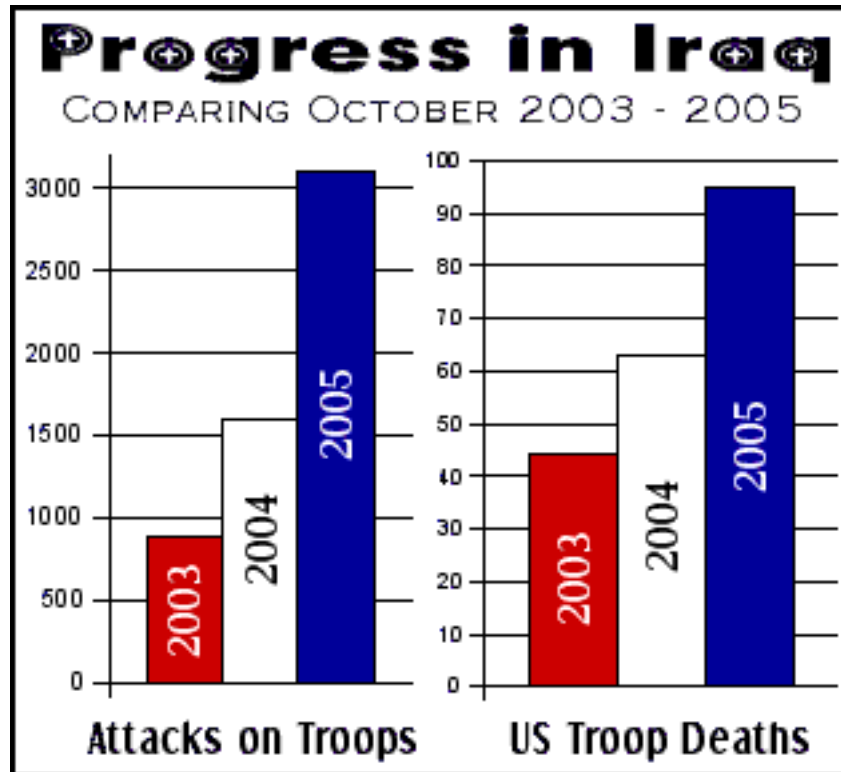


GI SPECIAL 3D43:



December 11, 2005, BenFrank.net

“I Ain't Been Blown Up Yet, But My Time's Coming”

Dec. 12, 2005 AP writer Ryan Lenz

SUNDAY, Dec. 11, 5:15 p.m. local.

BEIJI, Iraq.

Going outside the wire. It's a slang expression for leaving the security of a military base in Iraq to travel on highways pocked with holes from roadside explosions.

Silence runs deep during that moment soldiers cross the barrier lined with concertina wire and guard posts. At first their silence struck me as boredom, which sometimes it surely is if nothing happens.

But after several patrols into the villages around Beiji, I've realized it's an uncomfortable mix of excitement, fear and the realization this could be it that keeps them silent.

Have you been blown up yet? The question is normal among soldiers in Iraq. Sgt. Marcus Barnes, a 22-year-old from Birmingham, Ala., said this when I asked him the question recently. "I ain't been blown up yet, but my time's coming."

The reality is that soldiers sometimes die in a flash of tearing metal while on patrol in Iraq. They've burned to death, been shredded by shrapnel that tears through the skins of their vehicles when an artillery shell disguised on the side of the road blows up.

A soldier told me not to worry the first time I went out with the 101st Airborne Division. "If we die, we won't be around to know about it," he said. He slapped me on the back and laughed.

A convoy rolls past a pile of sand on the side of the road; I grit my teeth. If there's a pothole in the side of the road, my stomach turns to the point of nausea.

But the truth in Barnes' statement can be comforting. The fact that IEDs blow up nearly every day across Iraq make even the shortest of drives a tense moment.

There's a saying the soldiers tell each other often. Being bored is OK. A boring day is a good day.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

II MEF SOLDIER KILLED NEAR RAMADI

December 12, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-12-19C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: A Soldier assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action by a suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) attack while conducting combat operations against the enemy near Ar Ramadi, Dec. 11.

BAGHDAD SOLDIER KILLED BY IED

December 12, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-12-20C

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed when a patrol struck an improvised explosive device south of Baghdad Dec. 12.

NEW YORK SOLDIER KILLED



Army Sgt. 1st Class James 'Shawn' Moudy, 37, 71st Calvary Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y., was killed Dec. 12, 2005, in Baghdad, his mother said, from her home in Newark, Del. (AP Photo/Courtesy of the Moudy family)

Three Fort Campbell Soldiers Killed

December 12, 2005 The Courier-Journal

Three Fort Campbell soldiers assigned to Task Force Baghdad in Iraq were killed over the weekend, the Army said.

Fort Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling confirmed three of the casualties were from Fort Campbell and said their names should be released today.

Counting the three soldiers' deaths, 29 troops from Fort Campbell have been killed since the 101st Airborne returned to Iraq for a second yearlong tour starting in September.

Soldier From Franklin County Killed

December 12, 2005 By Mason Adams, The Roanoke Times

A Franklin County soldier was killed in Iraq late Sunday or early Monday when his armored vehicle rolled over a land mine.

Jared William Kubasak was in the middle of his second tour of Iraq in the U.S. Army, according to Franklin County court officials. His mother, Daina Kubasak, works as clerk in Franklin County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. She was informed of his death by U.S. Army officials Monday morning.

Jared Kubasak, who was in his mid-20s, was a 1999 graduate of Franklin County High School. He was described as a "success story" by Franklin County High School Principal William Gibson.

"He was a very likeable guy here at the school," Gibson said. "I knew him primarily through Cub Scouts. My wife was his den mother.

"I remember him as what I would call a success story. At an early age he seemed to find problems and troubles without looking very hard. But by the time he graduated, he was a pretty outstanding young man, and one I know all of us were proud of."

**LETHAL ENVIRONMENT
NO HONORABLE MISSION
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Nov. 8, 2005, Marines with 1st Platoon, Echo Company, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment patrol the streets of Husaybah. (AP Photo/ U.S. Marine Corps, Cpl. Michael R. McMaugh, 1st Marine Division Combat Camera, HO)

Falluja Car Bomb Wounds Marine

Dec 12 (Reuters)

FALLUJA - A car bomber targeted a U.S. patrol as it passed through the city on Monday, killing himself and injuring one U.S. Marine, the U.S. military said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Nine Occupation Cops Killed

12.12.05 Wall St. Journal

Taliban distributed a fatwa for Karzai's death, and killed nine policemen in two weekend attacks.

TROOP NEWS

Ukrainian Troops Getting Out Of Iraq By Dec. 31

NEW YORK, December 12 (Itar-Tass)

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has confirmed that the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent will be withdrawn from Iraq before December 31.

**“What We Want Is Our Boy Back.
If We Can't Have Him Back, We**

Want Everybody Else's Boys Back”

She also said that the Downing Street Memos prove that the crimes of this war were premeditated. "If I were to commit premeditated murder in the US, I would be executed. I'm not for execution, but they should be imprisoned for the rest of their lives. I don't want to stop with impeachment. They need to be tried for war crimes.

2005-12-08 By David Swanson, AfterDowningStreet.org [Excerpts]

Today, Cindy Sheehan and Scottish mothers who have lost their sons in Iraq held a rally outside the Scottish parliament, spoke at a cross-party meeting of Members of the Scottish Parliament, were welcomed to the City of Glasgow by the Lord Provost, and addressed an anti-war rally in Glasgow.

Rose Gentle, who lost her son in Iraq, was with us today together with her mother and daughter. Susan Smith lost her son in Iraq just recently, and she has joined with Rose and others in speaking out and braving all threats and bribes from the MOD. Susan spoke at today's events as well.

Rose Gentle said McConnell "is running scared from military families." But she had some choice words for Blair as well. "I wonder," she said, "what Tony Blair's face looks like when he gets home and takes the makeup off. I wonder if he has as many bags as we've got....I'm sorry, Mr. Blair. Military Families are going to haunt you until our boys come home.

Rose Gentle said that any money paid to the families of dead soldiers is "blood money." She said she'd also been offered free vacations to keep her quiet. "I won't take nothing off them. What we want is our boy back. If we can't have him back, we want everybody else's boys back."

Rose also sounded a theme that was common to virtually every speaker, including the MSPs, namely that the war was being fought for oil. "Tony Blair should go now. He should step down. Enough is enough. No more lives for oil. The best Christmas present anyone could want is their boy to walk through the front door."

Susan Smith, who has lost her son most recently, spoke through tears about the lack of equipment that was leading to the deaths of soldiers.

She said that 97 percent of people in the Midlands want the troops home.

"They want to put democracy into another country," she said of Bush and Blair, "but they can't listen to us here."

"There are elections next week for Iraqis," she said. "Put a box on that ballot and let them decide. Or if they can't do that, let the people of this country vote."

Both Susan and Rose stressed the great number of soldiers coming home injured and complained that only dead soldiers make the news.

Cindy proposed the creation of a ministry of history, because – she said – every occupation in history has had an insurgency, and yet Bush predicted there would not be one this time.

She also said that the Downing Street Memos prove that the crimes of this war were premeditated. "If I were to commit premeditated murder in the US, I would be executed. I'm not for execution, but they should be imprisoned for the rest of their lives. I don't want to stop with impeachment. They need to be tried for war crimes.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, everyone stood for a Lament on the Pipes, played by a lone bagpiper. Cindy spoke first, and then we split to catch a plane.

Among other things, she said, "I don't want George Bush impeached out of revenge for the death of my son. I want him impeached for what he did to the world." This got a great round of applause.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL 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.

Anti-War Activists Break Into “The Most Secure Military Establishment In Australia” After Giving Advance Notice!

[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in.]

11 Dec 2005 From: Donna Mulhearn [Excerpts]

Journey Into Pine Gap: A Miracle!

In the early hours of Friday morning I was part of a group of four concerned citizens to enter Pine Gap military base with the aim of conducting a citizens inspection.

How on earth can a hotch-potch group of unfunded, untrained, unarmed (and in my case unfit!) Christian pacifists break into one of America and Australia's most significant military bases, and in relative ease, causing the base to be shut down for several hours?

In a nutshell: it was a miracle!

For heaven's sake we even told them we were coming!

I have four charges against me and we are bailed to appear in Alice Springs court next week (hopefully Monday) with the trial to be some time early next year. We are all pleading not-guilty as we believe we have committed no crime.

9th December 2005

Today we were part of a miracle.

When I first proposed the idea of exposing the terrorist nature of Pine Gap by attempting to enter it and perhaps climb on one of the structures, my intention was to get a group together to do it in secret. Then the most enthusiastic person I met proposed an alternative of openly announcing our intention to inspect Pine Gap with or without permission. Plan "B" was accepted and "Christians Against ALL Terrorism" was born.

Michael the one with the new idea dropped out and Bryan Law took his place. Bryan introduced enormous energy and made the group viable.

He notified police and Senator Robert Hill we were coming and even told them the planned date of our action: December 8th.

We were full of enthusiasm, but still it was a firm belief of most participants that only a miracle would enable us to succeed given that Pine Gap is the most secure military establishment in Australia.

Today that miracle took place.

On Wednesday morning we sought out Pat Hayes, the traditional Arrente caretaker for the Pine Gap area and asked his permission to walk on his land in order to expose the violence of the base which occupied part of that land. No permission had ever been sought or given for Pine Gap to be used by the military. However Pat graciously gave us permission to enter the area.

Late at night on Thursday the 8th, December 2005 four of us, Donna Mulhearn and Brian Law in one group and Jessica Goldie and myself in the other started the walk to the base from two different directions. We walked for five hours and three hours respectively.

At 4 am Adele and I came close to the first 3meter high security fence. As we lay on the ground perhaps 500 metres from the fence security vehicles drove nearby with their floodlight panning the area.

We thought they must have known of our presence and were searching for us. At least twice we thought they must have seen us and our attempt to enter the base was over. Later we realised their surveillance was routine, and they had miraculously not seen us.

After two vehicles had gone Adele and I made the last 100 meter dash through the open floodlit area to the outer security fence. As Adele hung our banner:

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIES OUT
TO ME FROM THE EARTH: Gen. 4; 10**

on the fence, I placed Jessica's beautiful barbed wire crucifix against the fence. Then I cut through the fence.

We climbed through and I cut the second fence about ten meters away.

Again we climbed through and realised all the power of the greatest empire in history could not stop two untrained, unfunded, unarmed Christian pacifists from entering one of their most important and secure bases, even after we had told them we were coming.

I looked around at the huge white domes and radar dishes around us. It was obviously not possible to climb onto one of the white domes as I had sometimes fantasized.

Adele headed for a tower next to a building and climbed on to the roof. I followed.

Once on the roof we placed photos, leaflets, and other information on the roof and gave thanks to God. Shortly after we watched as a security guard on a bicycle road around. We still had not been seen.

But the guard then rode around to the back of the building and must have noticed the banner on the fence. Meanwhile Adele and I took photos of one another with a huge white dome behind us. The security guard came back in sight and quickly climbed a tower holding a radar dish directly in front of us.

Amazingly (although by this time nothing would surprise us), he must have looked around for a minute before seeing us. I waved, and he scrambled back down.

Within a minute there were a number of Federal security guards and police assembled below us. My response to the first one who asked us to come down was to inform him that we had come to inspect the base for terrorist activity and would come down when we had something in writing from the Commander saying we would not be stopped from doing so.

A second guard angrily yelled at me that he was coming up to drag me off the roof. I responded that I would certainly not be surprised by violence as I was aware the base had been directly involved in the slaughter of thousands in terrorist attacks.

Of course it is easy to be brave when you are "king of the castle". But shortly a number of guards and police were on the roof. The first one said, "Get on your knees". "That's a

good idea", I replied. I knelt down and prayed that he would withdraw his co-operation from the violence of Pine Gap.

Unfortunately, when praying it was impossible to hear the instructions that were being given to me. This made the original guard who threatened us rather annoyed.

Amazingly he used a new compliance technique with which I am becoming familiar, the old "push the head into the ground and push your knee into the head" technique. Luckily unlike the concrete floor last time, the metal roof we were on had a little give and I only suffered a bruised cheek instead of a bloody face.

After being escorted from the roof and into a wagon we were driven to the front of the base, searched numerous times and driven to the watch house.

Meanwhile Bryan and Donna had just completed their amazing walk. Bryan has health conditions which made the walk extremely difficult and any chance of running impossible. So they slowly walked the last stretch to the security fence, Donna dressed in black and Brian in his bright white "Citizens Inspection Team" overalls.

This walk was truly amazing. A security van drove towards them. They waved and the vehicle drove on. They reached the first security fence, unchallenged by the numerous police and guards now behind it, until Bryan started to cut the fence with bolt cutters.

Then the security forces realised Bryan was the "enemy" and called out. Bryan kept cutting until a security guard put his hand on his gun, and perhaps not coincidentally Bryan decided he had done enough inspecting for the moment.

Bryan and Donna were "captured" by Ken who had talked to us two days before. Ken had totally lost his jovial sense of humour as Bryan was rolled roughly in the dirt.

Candidate For Congress Demands Immediate Withdrawal Of All Troops From Iraq

December 12, 2005 Via UICNoWarIraq@yahoogroups.com

The State Committee of the Socialist Party of Pennsylvania has voted to endorse the candidacy of John Murphy for the U.S. House of Representatives, 16th Congressional District.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON JOHN A. MURPHY

John A. Murphy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA (1968) and an MBA from Drexel University in Philadelphia,

PA (1978). He is a former adjunct professor in the MBA programs at Temple University, Rutgers University and St. Joseph's University. Early in his career Mr. Murphy was a high school history teacher and later worked for major companies like Michelin Tire Corporation and a subsidiary of W. R. Grace. For 14 years he was an independent management consultant.

Murphy is a member of the Green Party and one of the founding members of the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition. Mr. Murphy plans to run for House of Representatives in the 16th Congressional District.

Mr. Murphy was politically active in the early 1960s and was president of the young Republican Club at St. Joseph's University. The escalation of the war in Vietnam caused a political rebirth for Mr. Murphy as he became an active antiwar demonstrator during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Mr. Murphy's antiwar background however can be traced as far back as 1952 when he pulled a wagon filled with literature behind his father who was campaigning for the antiwar candidate Dwight David Eisenhower who promised to bring our troops home from Korea.

Murphy lives in Chester County with his wife and two children.

POLITICAL AGENDA: POPULIST UNIFICATION

Although politically left of center Mr. Murphy's Congressional campaign will concentrate on areas that are important to all Americans and are championed not only by members of the Green Party but by members of the Socialist Party, Libertarian Party and Reform Party. The following is a list of Mr. Murphy's positions on some very critical issues.

*** The invasion of Iraq was based on lies and our troops should be brought home immediately.**

*** The invasion of Afghanistan was both in immoral and unconstitutional and our troops should be brought home immediately.**

* Torturing prisoners and holding them without due process in Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib, the "black-site" prisons in Eastern Europe and elsewhere must end immediately as must the practice of "special" rendition.

* The entire war on terrorism is bogus; the lies should be exposed and the funds redirected. The real causes of terrorist attacks against the United States of America and its allies should be examined by an independent organization and those findings along with recommendations be made public to the American people.

*** The entire war on drugs is bogus; the lies should be exposed and the laws should be changed appropriately.**

*** The USA Patriot Act is the greatest violation of civil liberties in American history and should be immediately repealed.**

* The United States now quarters troops in 126 foreign nations. Most of these nations are friendly allies quite capable of providing for their own defense. The practice of quartering troops in other sovereign nations must end.

* The practice of corporate welfare must be abandoned.

* "Corporate Personhood", based on the error of a law clerk in 1886, should be admitted and the concept of corporate personhood should be abolished along with the entire corpus of corporate law.

GOT THAT RIGHT



Demonstrator Ruth Duca holds a sign reading 'Lies' during a protest against President Bush's policy in Iraq in downtown Philadelphia as Bush delivered a speech nearby, Dec. 12, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacqueline Lamra)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Two-Thirds Of Iraqis Want Occupation Troops To Get Out

Dec 12, 2005 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, AP & By Will Lester, The Associated Press

A new poll found most Iraqis disapprove of the presence of U.S. forces in their country, yet they are optimistic about Iraq's future and their own personal lives.

More than two-thirds of those surveyed oppose the presence of coalition troops, and less than half, 44 percent, say their country is better off now than it was before the

war, according to an ABC News poll conducted with Time magazine and other media partners.

Half now say the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq was wrong, up from 39 percent in February 2004.

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

Maybe Surprising, Maybe Not

BAGHDAD, 6 Dec 2005 (IRIN)

“It was surprising to see hundreds of insurgents walking freely among our houses and asking locals to help finish off US troops,” said Sheikh Saleh Ibrahim, a local [Ramadi] religious leader.



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Assorted Resistance Action

12.12.05 (AP) & Reuters & Aljazeera

An empty mini-bus loaded with explosives detonated Monday near the al-Kindi hospital in east Baghdad, injuring including five police officers, authorities said.

Police Lt. Mohammed Khayoun said the driver of the van abandoned it on the street and ran, he added.

BAGHDAD - Three policemen and a civilian were killed in clashes between Iraqi police and militants in western Ghazaliya district of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Seven Iraqi policemen were wounded in clashes with militants in Baghdad's western Amiriya district, police said.

A police sergeant was reportedly killed by an American patrol, police Capt. Taleb Thamer said.

Insurgents killed three men and injured a woman when they opened fire on a pickup truck with Education Ministry license plates.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

“A Guerilla Army Cannot Function Without The Support Of The Citizenry”

12/02/05 By Manuel Valenzuela, ICH [Excerpt]

AMERICA IS THE CAUSE AND THE EFFECT OF THE RESISTANCE, the reason Iraqis fight, whether carrying AK-47's or giving logistical support.

Whether planting improvised explosive devices or acting as eyes and ears infiltrating the Green Zone, Iraqis see America as the enemy, yet one more imperial invading army thinking itself blessed by providence to claim the lands of the Fertile Crescent.

A guerilla army cannot function without the support of the citizenry, and neither can the success the resistance is having against American forces.

With every Iraqi death a dozen more resistance fighters join the battle, with every Iraqi death or American crime the hatred grows and calls for vengeance beckon. Trapped inside a vicious cycle of violence begetting violence, American forces have been their own worst enemy.

Each year the resistance grows stronger, more sophisticated, more dangerous, learning, improving, evolving, and becoming ever more destructive.

“The Iraqis Are Not Against Democracy, They Are Against Our Occupation”

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: **FINALLY SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON WHO IS RIGHT.**]

Dec 12, By NEDRA PICKLER, Associated Press Writer

Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., a decorated Vietnam veteran who had initially supported the war in Iraq, reiterated his current stance that U.S. troops should be withdrawn. "The Iraqis are not against democracy, they are against our occupation," he said.

"It's not going to get better with us over there," Murtha said at a Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce reception for his state's congressional delegation.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

“Unexpected? Were You On A Picnic In South Downs?”

December 11, 2005 Truth About Iraqis blogspot.com [Excerpt]

The British Military released a report last week that the Hercules plane which crashed on 30 January was indeed shot down.

"Despite the brave efforts of the experienced crew to counter this unexpected and catastrophic event, the aircraft crashed with the tragic loss of ten lives; the crash was not survivable."

Unexpected? Were you on a picnic in South Downs?

Catastrophic? As in Biblical?

Will someone tell the hash-pipe limeys they are in an occupied country and that the typical response of an occupied people is to resist, punch, shove, maim and kill the occupier till he has exited.

The statement then says:

"The Board found that the aircraft was flying on a routine mission at low level in a hostile operational environment in Iraq and the crew did all they could in planning the mission to minimise the risks of attack."

And why is an environment hostile, wot?

Unbelievable. It mimic's Bush's tired rhetoric that there are good stories in Iraq. Yeah, send your daughters to report on 'em, Double-ya.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi boy and his father stand next to a U.S. soldier from Charlie Company 2th Battalion 22 Infantry Regiment as their car is searched in Sadr City in eastern Baghdad December 8, 2005. REUTERS/Laszlo Balogh

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can harass and humiliate fathers and their kids in their own country at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, 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 changes being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to occupy their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?]

Iraqi General Tells Of Prison Torture Horror

12/11/2005 Agence France Presse

AMMAN - An Iraqi general formerly in charge of special forces said on Sunday he witnessed horrific scenes of torture in Iraqi prisons and accused a Shiite militia of being responsible.

"It was horrific. Thousands of detainees, often teenagers, beaten, burned, receiving electric shocks, then the majority killed," Muntazar al-Samarrai, who fled Iraq for Jordan five months ago, told AFP.

In video footage Samarrai said he filmed at one detention center, men show whip marks and acid burns. One of them has lost an eye. Another's legs are broken. Still another has nails driven into his body.

The video also shows the mutilated corpses of three men who Samarrai said died as a result of torture.

Samarrai said he began to encounter problems with his superiors in the interior ministry after he fired a 14-member inquiry commission and replaced it with what he called "men of integrity," and also freed 124 "innocent" detainees from a facility north of Baghdad.

He also said there are two detention centers for women in Baghdad where "female prisoners are tortured and raped."

The testimony given by a Shiite woman during ousted dictator Saddam Hussein's trial last week "could have been the testimony of a female prisoner in one of these centers. Nothing has changed," he said.

Samarrai was making reference to "Witness A," who testified on December 6 with a chilling account of how she was tortured by intelligence agents and flung into Baghdad's notorious Abu Ghraib jail in the early 1980s for four years.

Samarrai, a father of four, said he plans to move to another undisclosed location shortly, though he would never have left Iraq had he not realized his life was in danger.

He said he was proud to have been able to free some detainees before he left, the last of whom was a Muslim religious leader Abdel Karim Abdel Razzak, who recently told Arab television of how Samarrai liberated him.

Collaborator “Prime Minister” Won’t Talk To U.S. Commanders

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

"There is no room for dialogue with anyone who carries arms in Iraq" Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari. 11 Dec 2005, Michael Georgy, Reuters

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Remember Bush Last Week Babbling About Progress In Mosul?

Five days to election

December 10, 2005, **By A Citizen Of Mosul**, Moslawi.blogspot.com [Excerpt]

The election of the new parliament will hold next Thursday.

The situation in the city of Mosul is very stressful. The US convoys wandering through out the city day and night. The police cars full of policemen holding gun aiming at the pedestrians and firing their guns at any car which fail to stop or approaching the convoy.

From the other side there were explosions every where, masked gunmen attacking the US soldiers and the Iraqi police. The roads are blocked by either a concrete blocks or barbed wires making the moving in the city streets very difficult and dangerous.

Lie-Clocks

December 11, 2005 LC Wolf, Veterans For Peace, Georgia

A man died and went to heaven.

As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him.

The man proceeded to ask, "What are all those clocks?"

St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone on Earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh," said the man, "whose clock is that?"

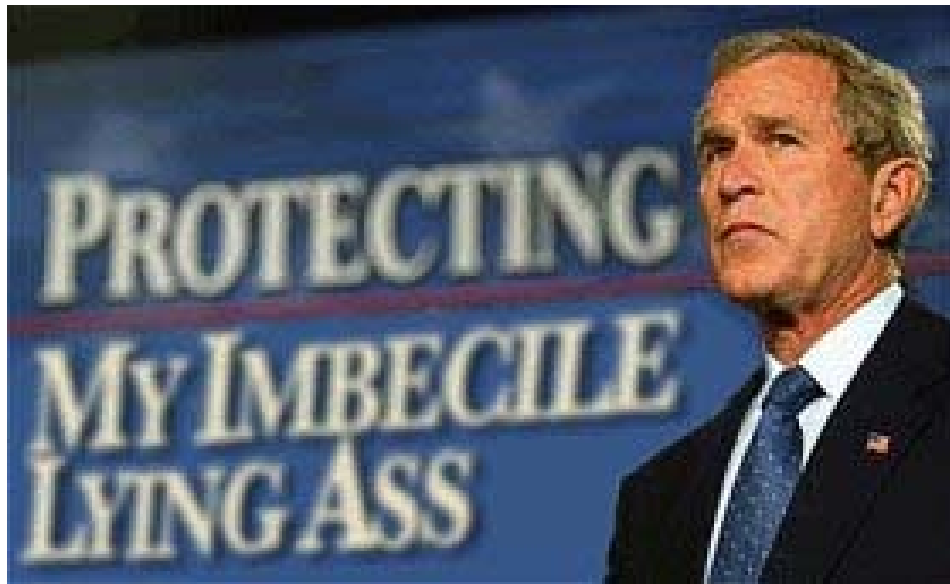
"That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"Incredible," said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"

St. Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire life."

"Where's Bush's clock?" asked the man.

"Bush's clock is in Jesus' office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."

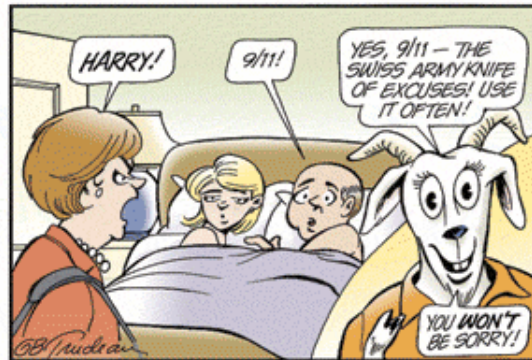
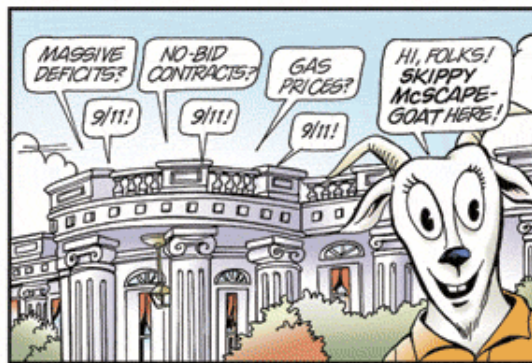
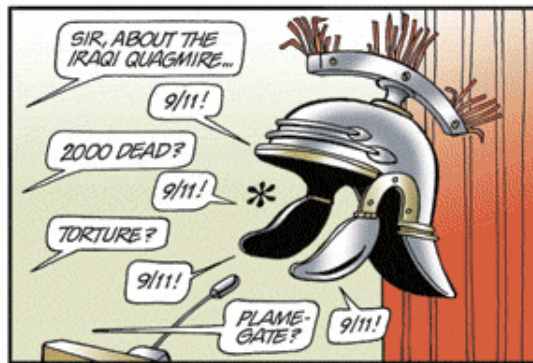
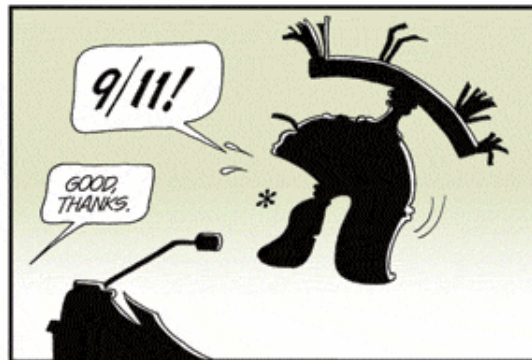
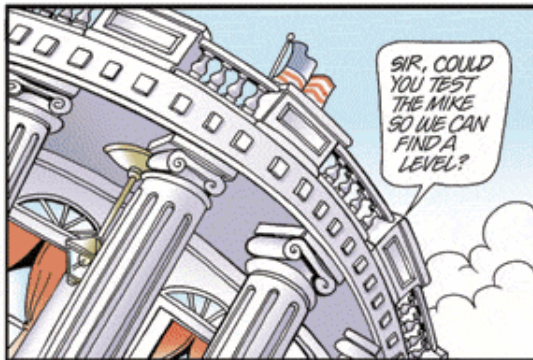


[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

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)



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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Chinese Dictators Get Nervous: Detain Commander in Protest Deaths

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

December 12, 2005 By AUDRA ANG - Associated Press Writer, DONGZHOU, China

China's government Sunday announced the detention of a commander whose forces opened fire on villagers protesting land seizures, trying to defuse anger over what could be the deadliest use of force since the killings around Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The commander's "wrong actions" were to blame for the deaths, said a statement issued by the government of Guangdong province, where Dongzhou is located. It did not give his name or say what his actions were.

The government earlier defended the shootings, saying police opened fire after protesters, led by three men, armed themselves with knives, spears and dynamite and attacked a power plant before turning on authorities.

But the detention of the commander, and the announcement, is almost unprecedented for the government and suggested Chinese leaders were trying to mollify angry villagers.

The government also promised to resolve local grievances over land seizures and said medical specialists were sent to Dongzhou to treat the wounded.

“The Victims Of Injustice And Corruption Are Once Again Refusing To Keep Silent”

[T]ake a closer look at China's 'economic miracle', at a country rife with corrupt officials getting fantastically wealthy through the abuse of power and authority, while the people for whom they ostensibly work languish in poverty.

December 2005 By Han Dongfang, Redpepper.org.uk/

Han Dongfang was a founding member of the Beijing Workers' Autonomous Federation, which was suppressed in Tiananmen Square. He was captured and spent 22 months as a political prisoner. More recently, he has run the China Labour Bulletin from Hong Kong and broadcasts the problems of Chinese workers live on Radio Free Asia. This edited article was originally published in China Labour E-Bulletin Issue No 24.

Sixteen years ago, the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 left the blood of the Chinese democracy movement on the streets of Beijing. Now China's new economy is claiming more lives. But the workers are fighting back. Han Dongfang reports

It is now more than 16 years since the Tiananmen Square massacre on 4 June 1989, in which the People's Liberation Army crushed thousands of unarmed protestors in the streets of Beijing. Following the events of that dark day, the Chinese government began a nationwide crackdown to punish those who'd had the temerity to speak out against corruption and injustice. To this day, we still don't know how many people were killed that night, or how many are still languishing in prisons and labour camps for their participation in what the government calls merely the 'Tiananmen incident'.

For 16 years the Chinese authorities have done everything in their power to whitewash those events, but the world still remembers.

And, more importantly, China itself remembers.

There are those who point to the economic gains that China has made over the past decade, as if to say: 'Perhaps the government was too harsh then, but don't the ends justify the means?'

I ask such people to take a closer look at China's 'economic miracle', at a country rife with corrupt officials getting fantastically wealthy through the abuse of power and authority, while the people for whom they ostensibly work languish in poverty.

While actively working to suppress democratic reform in China ('because the Chinese people are not ready for democracy,' they claim), these same officials are throwing the door wide open to any business, regardless of its nature.

And so the morally corrupt and ethically bankrupt are rewarded, while many of those who strived in 1989 to bring China into a new era of social justice and accountability are still behind bars or under police surveillance.

In November last year, 166 coal miners were killed in a horrific gas explosion in Shaanxi Province, at the Chenjiashan coalmine in Tungchuan city. On 14 February this year, in the Fuxin coalmine in Liaoning Province, a further 214 miners died in a similarly appalling explosion.

These events are not anomalies: they are happening with increasing frequency across the country today.

But who accepts responsibility for the deaths of these workers? Sadly, in today's China, the answer is nobody.

From the owners of the mines, who place personal profit ahead of human life, to the corrupt government officials who accept bribes from the owners in exchange for looking the other way, the real culprits in the deaths of these workers are the same evils that so many gathered in Tiananmen in 1989 to fight against: official corruption, cynicism and the blind pursuit of profit.

In many ways, things have become worse. Public health policy in China is failing dismally. How many retired and unemployed workers die daily, unable to afford increasingly expensive medical treatments that might save their lives?

And how many more workers have died, and are dying, of occupational diseases that could be minimised, or in many cases avoided entirely, by improving basic workplace health and safety?

Worse still, how many of these victims of occupational diseases wind up intentionally misdiagnosed by corrupt, bribe taking, government-run occupational health agencies so that the companies whose criminal negligence caused their illnesses can avoid paying compensation? Such things are daily realities nowadays for countless Chinese people.

Though told in different accents and dialects, the stories coming from all over China are remarkably similar in nature: workers are losing their health because factory owners are able to bribe their way out of providing adequate health and safety protection. Children from rural villages are forced by rising school fees and skyrocketing living costs to work in factories to help feed their families. Their parents are being mangled and even killed, all because of the bosses' criminal negligence.

But despite continuing suppression, the victims of injustice and corruption are once again refusing to keep silent.

The past few years have seen migrant workers across the country struggling for their rights and slowly advancing their causes.

And there have been real victories.

In October 2004, tens of thousands of farmers in Hanyuan city, in Sichuan province, were dislodged from their land by a government-sponsored hydroelectric project and corrupt local officials confiscated their compensation money. The farmers' mass protests actually succeeded in stopping construction of the dam, despite an attempt by the local government to quell the protests by sending in the military police.

In Zhejiang province, farmers blocked the entrance of a factory and covered the surrounding area with industrial waste. The factory owner called on cronies in the local government to quell the disturbance, and the government again responded by sending in military police.

But the farmers were fighting for their very lives, and in their struggle for survival they didn't merely hold their own but actually blocked the military police from entering their village. Similar scenes occurred in towns in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces and elsewhere when villagers refused to roll over and accept

being cheated out of their land by corrupt local officials hoping to sell it for a quick profit.

In cities, the peaceful struggles by ordinary Chinese citizens against oppression and corruption are also multiplying.

Joining the list of workers fighting against poor working conditions, wage arrears and unfair dismissal in recent years are workers at the Daqing petroleum factory in Heilongjiang province; workers at the Ferro-alloy factory of Liaoyang city; textile workers in factories in Suizhou and Xianyang; electronics and shoe factory workers in Shenzhen; and teachers in Shandong, Hubei and Guangxi, to name but a few.

The government responds by handing out longer prison sentences to organisers, as in the case of the Ferro-alloy factory workers, two of whose leaders are now serving prison sentences of four and seven years.

But in the cities, too, there have been victories.

After 50,000 retrenched Daqing workers staged a three-month protest, the local government finally promised increased payouts for workers made redundant and promised to hire the children of retrenched workers.

And at the Japanese-owned Uniden electronic factory in Shenzhen, workers demanded to be allowed to set up a trade union to fight for legal working hours and reasonable wages.

After a large and well-publicised protest, the factory owner caved in.

<p>Sixteen years on from 4 June 1989, the social struggle that took such a bloody turn on that day has continued to deepen and intensify, in the face of all the efforts to suppress it.</p>

Received:

Christmas 1914: “My Father, Fritz Giessler, Took Part In This Historic Episode”

From: Roni Nicholson
To: GI Special
Sent: December 12, 2005
Subject: Christmas 1914

I was very happy to see this article particularly because my father, Fritz Giessler, took part in this historic episode. This experience played a most important part in

his becoming a pacifist and a social activist for the rest of his life which ended at the age of 51.

My brother reminded me that it was the only thing he ever talked about his war experience.

Thanks,
Roni

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