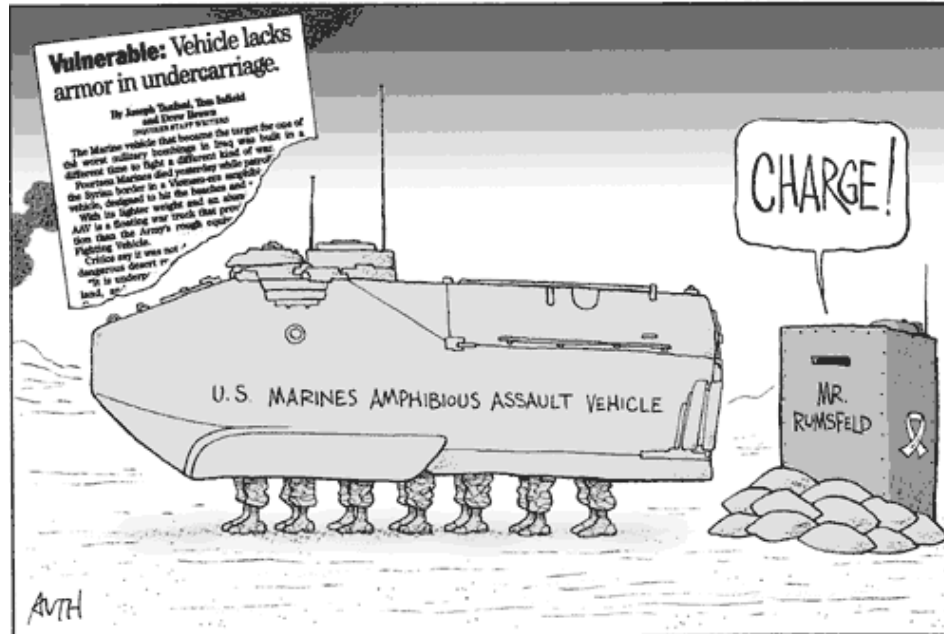


GI SPECIAL 3C22B:



NOTICE:

The reason for a GI Special B issue for 8.15 is that there are two articles here, outstanding, but too long for a news issue of GI Special.

First, "Jack At The Ranch" gives the death of a thousand cuts, with wit, to Bush's assorted nonsensical efforts to defend the indefensible.

Second, "The Justice Of Heaven Will Get To You One Day," is written by an Iraqi with nothing but loathing for the old regime of Saddam Hussein, and the new regime of George Bush. Below in RESISTANCE ROUNDUP section.

Meanwhile, Jack At The Ranch

August 12, 2005 Ed Naha, SmirkingChimp.com

When I saw that Bush would be speaking live from his pig sty Ponderosa in Crawford, I figured, what the heck. It's summer. I'll settle back with a bottle of tequila and play a drinking game. Every time Bush said something stupid, I'd have a shot. I turned on the TV, got a tape recorder to record my reactions and opened the bottle. After Bush warmed up, he got to the nitty-gritty of his delusional speech.

The following transcription was made after I returned from the emergency room.

Bush: ...Despite the acts of violence by the enemies of freedom, Iraq's elected leaders are now finishing work on a democratic constitution. And later this year that constitution will be put before the Iraqi people for their approval...

Me: (taking a shot) Say what? The Kurds want their own independent state. Today the Sunnis said they might opt out. Don't you read anything in the newspaper but 'The Family Circus?'

Bush: And we're helping them succeed. We have a strategy to help them succeed. On the one hand, we're hunting down the terrorists, and we're training the Iraqi security forces so Iraqis can defend themselves. Our approach can be summed up this way: As Iraqis stand up, we will stand down.

Me: (taking a shot) Perfect. Our foreign policy is based on a round of dyslexic "Simon Says."

Bush: And when that mission of defeating the terrorists in Iraq is complete, our troops will come home to a proud and grateful nation. The mission in Iraq is tough, because the enemy understands the stakes. A free Iraq in the heart of the Middle East will deliver a serious blow to their hateful ideology.

Me: (taking a shot) Whose hateful ideology? Ours?

Bush: The second part of our strategy is to help freedom prevail in Iraq. The recent violence in Iraq is a grim reminder of the brutal enemies we face in the war on terror. And we are a nation at war. The war arrived on our shores on September the 11th, 2001.

Me: (taking a shot) Different war, Sparky.

Bush: And since that day, the terrorists have continued to kill. They have killed in Madrid and Istanbul and Jakarta and Casablanca and Riyadh and Bali and London and elsewhere, and they are determined to do more harm. And they kill indiscriminately. In other words, they don't care who they kill.

Me: (discarding the shotglass and just sticking a straw in the bottle) They should kill their travel agent if they're not getting some serious frequent flier miles.

Bush: And they kill because they're trying to shake our will. They're trying to drive free nations out of parts of the world, so they can topple governments across the Middle East, and establish Taliban-like regimes in the Middle East, and turn that region into a launching pad for attacks against free people, and they will fail.

Me: (gulping) 'Cause our theocracy's not gonna resemble the Taliban at all, huh? Iraqi women are already worried about this constitution. (I turn to my six foot tall invisible rabbit friend, Harvey.) What do you think, Harvey?

Harvey: Pfffft.

Me: Well said.

Bush: After September the 11th, I made a commitment to the American people that this nation will not wait to be attacked again, and we're going to stay on the offense.

Me: (gulping) Ayup. America's been pretty offensive since you stole the office.

Bush: And we're fighting the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere so we do not have to face them here at home.

Me: (swigging) Pfffft.

Harvey: Why would any terrorist want to go to his home?

Me: Open bar.

Bush: We're also fighting the murderous ideology, the hateful ideology of the terrorists, and we're doing so by spreading freedom. See, our ideology is hopeful and optimistic and uplifting. I've got great optimism about the spread of freedom because I believe deep in everybody's soul is the desire to be free, and I know that history has shown that peaceful societies are those that are free, that democratic neighbors don't war, that democracies promote peace.

Me: (swigging) Except ours.

Harvey: He's optimistic about the spread of freedom. Is that some sort of dip?

Me: No, HE's some sort of dip. Drat!

(At that point, I notice that I've run out of tequila. I fall off the couch and crawl into the kitchen on a 45 degree angle looking for another bottle. Finding nothing, I stagger back with a can of varnish, some diet Coke and a bucket of ice, missing Bush's rah-rah we love our troops finale and the beginning of his press conference. Harvey is doing the hula when I return. He's not bad.)

Bush: I also know there's a lot of folks here in the United States that are, you know, wondering about troop withdrawals. They're concerned about the violence and the death.

Harvey: Is it me? Or does he look like a monkey?

Me: It's not you.

Bush: They hear the stories about a loved one being lost to combat. And, you know, I grieve for every death. It breaks my heart to think about a family weeping over the loss of a loved one. I understand the anguish that some feel about the death that takes place.

Me: (guzzling) Which is why you're hiding from Cindy Sheehan.

Bush: I also have heard the voices of those saying, pull out now, and I've thought about their cry, and their sincere desire to reduce the loss of life by pulling our troops out. I just strongly disagree. Pulling the troops out would send a terrible signal to the enemy. Immediate withdrawal would say to the Zargawis of the world, and the terrorists of the world, and the bombers who take innocent life around the world, you know, the United States is weak; and all we've got to do is intimidate and they'll leave.

Me: (guzzling) Perfect. War is now officially a pissing contest.

Harvey: How many Zargawis are there in the world?

Me: Dunno. I think he has a cousin in Duluth.

Bush: Pulling troops out prematurely will betray the Iraqis.

Me: I wish your old man had pulled out prematurely.

Bush: Our mission in Iraq, as I said earlier, is to fight the terrorists, is to train the Iraqis. And we're making progress training the Iraqis. Oh, I know it's hard for some Americans to see that progress, but we are making progress. More and more Iraqi units are becoming more and more capable of fighting off the terrorists.

Me: What are we up to, now? Nineteen guys and six angry goats?

Bush: And remember, and that's a country where 8.5 million Iraqis went to the polls. They've said, we want to be free. And our mission is to help them have a military that's capable of defeating those who would like to dash their ambitions to be free.

Me: Would that be us?

Harvey: (scrutinizing Bush) What do you think? Chimpanzee or orangutan?

Me/Harvey: Chimp.

Bush: Withdrawing before the mission is complete would send a signal to those who wonder about the United States' commitment to spreading freedom.

Me: Second only to our commitment to spreading bullshit.

Bush: You see, I believe and know that we're at war, and we're at war against a hateful ideology. And the way to defeat that ideology in the long-term is to spread a hopeful ideology, one that says to young girls, you can succeed in your society and you should have the chance to do so...

Me: Sure sounds like Iraq to me.

Bush: ...one that says to moms and dads, you can raise your child in a peaceful world without intimidation; and one that says to people from all walks of life, you have a right to express yourself in the public square.

Me: Unlike in America.

Harvey: Whatever he's on? I want.

Me: (sniffing at glass) This stuff isn't bad. Hey! The floor seems bigger.

Harvey: You've fallen over.

Bush: It's the spread of liberty that is laying the foundation of peace, and is very important for our citizens -- no matter what side of the political aisle you're on -- to understand that the mission is a vital mission and it's one that will be -- that we obviously couldn't complete if -- if we -- if we didn't fulfill our goals, which was to help the Iraqis.

Me: That's about our sixteenth goal in two years.

Harvey: What ever happened to the WMD?

Me: We took them back.

Question: Just to make clear, you're referring to Mrs. Sheehan here, I think?

Bush: I'm referring to any grieving mother or father, no matter what their political views may be. Part of my duty as the President is to meet with those who've lost a loved one. And so, you know, listen, I sympathize with Mrs. Sheehan. She feels strongly about her -- about her position. And I am -- she has every right in the world to say what she believes. This is America. She has a right to her position.

Me: THIS week.

Bush: And I've thought long and hard about her position.

Me: Bending over.

Bush: I've heard her position from others, which is, get out of Iraq now. And it would be - - it would be a mistake for the security of this country and the ability to lay the foundations for peace in the long-run, if we were to do so.

Me: Blarggghhhhh!

Harvey: Nice projectile vomiting.

Bush: But no, Steve, I've met with a lot of families, and I have done my best to bring comfort to the families and honor to the loved one, and get different opinions when you meet with moms and dads and sons and daughters and wives and husbands of those who have fallen. One opinion I've come away with universally is that, you know, we

should do everything we can to honor the fallen. And one way to honor the fallen is to lay the foundation for peace.

Me: Or prevent others from entering "the fallen" category, dipshit.

(At this point, I accidentally sit on the TV remote and for two minutes wind up watching VH-1's "The Surreal World." I finally figure out I've switched channels because "The Surreal World" is making more sense than the press conference. I return to the press conference. Harvey isn't pleased. He begins to gnaw the couch.)

Question: Mr. President, these rumors about a troop draw-down really took flight when some of your military people started talking about drawing down in spring. What was that about? Are they out of line?

Bush: I think they were rumors; I think they're speculation.

Me: So, military guys held a friggin' press conference to spread rumors?

Harvey: Maybe they couldn't find Bob Novak.

Me: What's next? A Department of Innuendo? My head hurts!

Harvey: You're drinking varnish and Coke.

Me: Oh, yeah.

Bush: One of the things that we did announce was a joint Iraqi-U.S. commission to look at the security situation in Iraq.

Me: From a bunker, no doubt.

Bush: Clearly -- my position has been clear, and the position -- therefore, the position of this government is clear, that as Iraqis stand up, we'll stand down.

Me: And when Iraqis blow up?

Bush: And that means that there's a -- obviously, the conditions on the ground depend upon our capacity to bring troops home, and the main condition, as to whether or not the Iraqis have got the capability of taking the fight to the enemy.

Me: Scramble the flying carpet kamikazes!

Bush: And so I suspect what you were hearing was speculation based upon progress that some are seeing in Iraq as to whether or not the Iraqis will be able to take the fight to the enemy. In other words, you've got people -- obviously, it's important to plan. It's important to think down the road.

Me: Did he just say "think down the road?"

Harvey: Maybe he's telekinetic?

Bush: And you've got people saying, well, if the Iraqis are capable, if more and more units are capable of taking the fight to the enemy, it would then provide an opportunity to replace coalition troops with those Iraqis. I think that's what you're seeing. I think it's kind of what we call speculation.

Me: It's kind of what we call horseshit.

Bush: And the decision finally will be made by me upon the recommendation of General Casey, through Secretary Rumsfeld, to me.

Me: And Bob Novak.

Harvey: And Judith Miller.

Question: Does that speculation grounded in fact, to you, given the way things have gone just recently?

Me: Oh, my God! I can't believe this! His stupidity is spreading like West Nile! That question wasn't even a question!

Harvey: His answers aren't exactly answers, either.

Me: That question didn't even have a subject!

Harvey: I'd hate to diagram it, that's for sure.

Bush: Well, the -- I am pleased with the progress being made when it comes to training Iraqi units.

Me: Yeah, the 101st Tactical Rock Throwers are coming along really nicely.

Bush: One of the things I announced at Fort Bragg was our strategy to embed our troops within Iraqi units so to better facilitate the training of those Iraqi units. And this morning, General Casey reported to me and Secretary Rumsfeld and -- the folks standing right back here -- reported to us that more and more units are becoming more and more capable, and that the embedding process is working.

Me: So, surrounding our troops with inexperienced former clerks and gas jockeys improves the odds?

Harvey: I can tell he's not into Sun Tzu.

Me: Custer, maybe.

Harvey: What he needs is an invisible friend.

Me: He has one.

Harvey: Who?

Me: God.

Harvey: Oy!

Bush: Now, there's not that many that can stand alone yet, but there are a lot more that are -- have gone from raw -- you know, that raw recruit stage, to plenty capable. In some cases, some units need no United States or coalition force help; in some cases, they need minimal help. But the point is, is that there is a matrix, and we're following that matrix as more and more troops become capable and competent. And so my answer to you is that we are making progress.

Me: I'm losing serious brain cells, here.

Harvey: I'm a six foot hallucinated rabbit and I have no idea what he just said.

Me: And you're his target audience, too.

Bush: And I've said all along we'd like to get our troops home as soon as possible -- but soon as possible is conditions-based. And so we're monitoring progress. The important thing for the American people to know is we are making progress. There's a political track on which we're making progress, and the security track on which we're making progress. And I know it's tough and I know it's hard work, but America has done hard work before. And as a result of the hard work we have done before, we have laid the foundation for peace for future generations.

Me: If you define "peace" as civil war and global instability for decades to come.

Harvey: He probably doesn't crack open the dictionary very often.

Bush: And I remind people, when they think about the conflict we're in, to think about World War II, when an enemy of ours -- Japan, for example -- is now a loyal friend and an ally because of the hard work we did, not only during the war, but in the post-war reconstruction of Japan.

Me: Why don't we just think about bananas? Bananas have as much to do with the Iraqi invasion as World War friggin' III!

Bush: And the sacrifices that our troops are making, our family are making, are -- are unbelievably noble, and I am incredibly proud of our military, and I know most of the American people are, as well.

Me: Our family ARE making? Whose family am making these sacrifices? Yours? Me not thinking so!!

Harvey: I hear his daughters are training to be commandos.

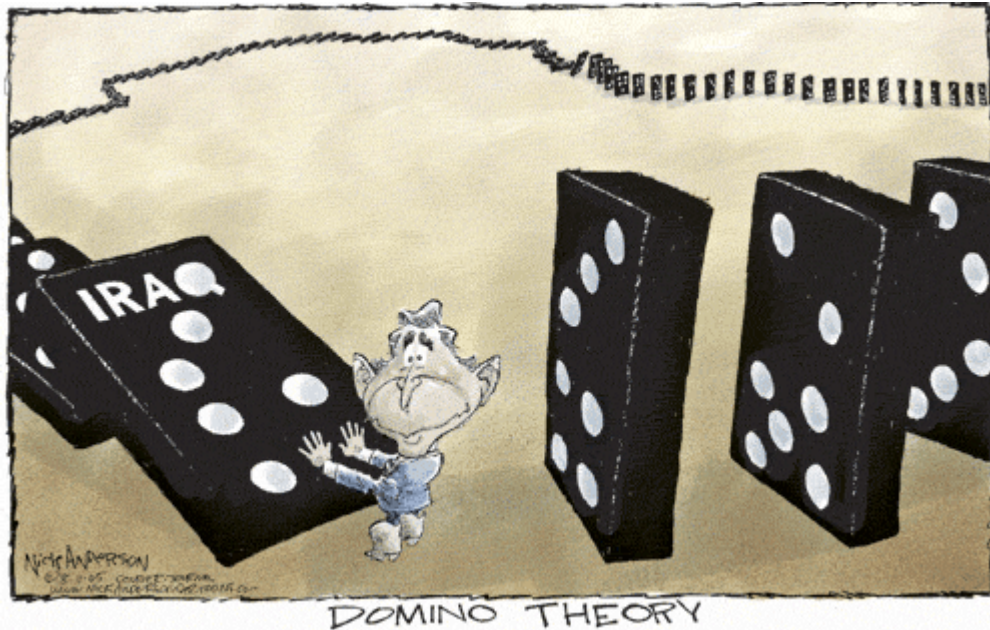
Me: You're kidding!

Harvey: Yeah.

At that point, Bush walked off, I collapsed, Harvey called the paramedics and I was introduced to the wonderful of stomach pumping.

Coming soon: Another fact-challenged Bush speech and I buy my first crack pipe!

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.



TROOP NEWS

Rolling Coffins Still In Use: Iraq General Admits Tractor Trailer Fleet Still Not Up-Armored

08/12/05 Special DoD Press Briefing: August 12, 2005 9:00 a.m. EDT: Presenter:
Brigadier General Yves J. Fontaine, USA, Commander, 1ST Corps Support Command,
Multinational Corps-Iraq

All the humvees are **Level 1 and 2**, which is the **best up-armoring** that we can provide these young soldiers.

The HETS -- the heavy equipment transporters are also Level 1, 2 and 3, **mainly at 1 and 2.**

And we are focusing right now on up-arming our 915 fleet, which is our tractor-trailer, to Level 1 and 2.

Bottom line: **all our trucks are up-armed when they go out of the gate to a *different level***, which protects our soldiers.

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)**

Anti-War Protesters Invade Patch Barracks, Hang Up Protest Sign: Nobody Challenges Them

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

August 12, 2005 By Charlie Coon, Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Three anti-war protesters, including a 70-year-old woman, turned themselves in to police on Tuesday after they cut a large hole in the fence at Patch Barracks, walked onto the base, hung a banner, and weren't challenged by anyone.

The three Germans, the woman and two men ages 51 and 22, were apparently surprised they weren't arrested after breaking onto the base at about 11:30 a.m. So they walked through the base and out the main gate, where they turned themselves in to German police, according to Hermann Karpf, a spokesman for the Stuttgart police department.

Patch Barracks, located in the Stuttgart suburb of Vaihingen, is home to the headquarters of the U.S. European Command, European Plans and Operations Center and Defense Information Systems Agency. The base also has houses and

apartments where U.S. personnel live, along with schools, stores, a medical clinic and other facilities.

The three protesters, who Karpf said are well-known to German police from past anti-war protests, have not yet been charged with a crime but will be prosecuted after German prosecutors determine which charges should be filed. He did not release the names of the suspects.

“They went in and made a little demonstration,” Karpf said Thursday. “They waited and nothing happened; nobody paid attention. They walked through the (base) and went out of Patch Barracks and told German policemen that they were in the area.

“We took the names and all the things we have to know from them for the police report. We have to write up all the (details) and give them to prosecutors, and they will decide the charges,” Karpf said Thursday, adding that the three are currently not being detained.

“They are not violent,” he said.

Kim Walz, a spokeswoman for Installation Management Agency-Europe, which oversees Army bases in Europe, said she did not suspect the security breach in Stuttgart would cause other bases to immediately review their security set-ups.

“We do a review of security procedures already on a regular basis,” Walz said. “I don’t think this one incident would prompt (additional reviews).

After cutting through the fence and not being challenged, Karpf said, the suspects walked onto the base and hung a 13-foot-long banner between two trees. The banner noted the 60-year anniversary of the U.S. dropping an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, as well as other anti-war sentiments.

Karpf speculated that the suspects could be charged with trespassing as well as destruction of property for cutting the 2-by-5 foot hole in the fence.

German police, who are responsible for security outside the base, Karpf said, patrol outside the base around the clock, both on foot and on horseback, including the wooded area where the suspects allegedly cut the hole in the fence. He declined to say how many police officers patrol the area.

Karpf said he believed the wooded area where the suspects gained access was near Patch American High School, located on the opposite side of the base from the main gate.

“We have to look: Where was the mistake?” Karpf said. “We will speak with the American colleagues, and we will see what we can make better for the future.

“I’m sure we will have a very fast look at whether our concepts are good or in which cases we have to make things better. I think both sides have to speak and see what we can do.”



IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“The Justice Of Heaven Will Get To You One Day, We Shall All See It, And How Shall It Be....”



Well then, who of you didn't stain his hands with the blood of Iraqis till now?

Come on, be my guests, speak up, bring your witnesses as to your innocence, say that you didn't kill, or assassinate your opponents, or even the strong independents, whose power you were afraid of?

Shame on your deeds.....your end shall not be better than that of Saddam Hussein....

07/24/2005 - 07/30/2005 By Faiza, "A Family in Baghdad"

Monday, July 25, 2005

Good Evening..

we are feeling better day after day, trying to wake up from the nightmare we have lived in the past two weeks..

as our friend Sharon from America said that may be God sent my son to be in jail in Baghdad to see what is going on inside Iraq, and the unknown poor Iraqis who are in jails for many months and nobody of their families knew about them, and they have no right to have lawyer to defend them, what kind of justice is that?

Bremer put emergency law in Iraq, it means the government has the right to arrest anyone, anytime, took him out of his bed in his underwears to jails, stay there for months, tortured or abused, and nobody cares about him.

is this the security policy to protect the citizens from terrorist?

its the terrorism my dear !

I have met different kinds of Iraqi people, working with government as moderate, trying to make change, but I saw how depressed they are, and trying to protect their families to get them out of Iraq, this is their priority now, and I saw them as powerless, they can't help any Iraqi in jail or bad condition, they have nothing to do..

so I asked : why you are in power ?

just to get high salaries and new apartments in Amman ?

the Iraqi people elected you in the last election to defend them, but you did nothing, you have just change your life to the better, get your kids and wives out of Iraq to live in a fancy way, and you go back to live in Baghdad under the protection of security men .

in Saddam Hussain era, the jails were filled with Shi'ite Iraqis, now its filled with Sunni Iraqis and nonIraqis like Jordanians and Palestinians or others from Arab Countries.

now the men in jail because of their Identity card no more, most of the time.

so, after this horrible war on Iraq, what we have changed ?

its the same criminal mentality controlling and torturing Iraqi people.

who will stop this nightmare going on in Iraq?

can you tell me that the American Government dont know what is going on in Iraq now?

and asking ourselves : what is the future awaiting for iraq?

where is the shining future that Bush promised iraqis when he started this war?

and what about the iraqi victims who are falling everyday in jails or streets?

dont tell me they are the price of our shining future...

it should be named : the blood stained future

faiza

July 3rd, 2005

But President Bush invested their presence positively, saying in his last speech last week, in meaning; that Iraq has become the confrontation field between America, and the international terrorism in Iraq...

Hummm...

Thanks to you, oh government of America, for what you have brought to the Iraqis; happiness, welfare, and security.... I mean, to the Americans...

As for the Iraqis, my dear, they are always the omitted item from all the calculations...

When I was a student at the Collage of Engineering, our teacher at the structural design class said: when some of the calculated forces are too small compared to the others, the designer is permitted to cancel them from the equation, and the final calculations, meaning; we can call them "negligible".

I used that principal all my life as a structural designer. And I can see there are some who deal with the Iraqi people by that same principal now, for it does not exist in the equations and calculations of the American government, the priority being the security of America, and those in it...

And let the negligible elements go to hell...

Many stories I hear from the Iraqis coming from Baghdad to Jordan, I hear them, and remain silent, my eyes wide open...staring at the speaker's faces...

The Iraqi national guards would arrest men from their homes, and some two days later, the body of the arrested person would be found on a heap of garbage somewhere, with his eyes torn away, and his body burned, or punched with a wall punching machine...

People became accustomed to saying: we wish the American army would enter the houses to search, because the Iraqi national guards do not respect us, behaving more aggressively than the American soldiers used to act when they would search a house,

stealing what they find in the people's closets, (some of the American soldiers also stole what the people had in their closets, money, or gold jewelry, and I have seen many people in Baghdad telling this story as eye witnesses).

They say that they do not knock on the doors to ask the permission to enter and search, but kick the door away, so they can get in....only to intimidate people and scare them...

If they should pass the street, people would panic and run away, because they usually aim their Kalashnikov machineguns at the people's faces in the streets...

Is this the Iraqi army we want?

Is this the army that is supposed to handle the security of the Iraqi street after the American army withdraws from the cities?

Hummm...

Who trained these people, or gave them the instructions?

What is the difference between them and the security troops of Saddam Hussein?

By GOD, I returned to Iraq since 1991, and I haven't heard such stories... perhaps because I lived at that time while the Saddam Hussein regime was weak, and falling apart, but at the beginning of his rule I heard the same stories... **after his fall we heard that the C.I. A. used to back him up, so perhaps they taught him these barbaric methods so he could control the miserable Iraqis, and destroy their lives.**

Today, I saw a news conference on the Iraqi space channel.

And the government speaker said: we regret some of the wrong behaviors from the National Guards, and some of the government employees; we are now studying how to compensate the harmed people, like the case in Turkey, or we are studying some solutions to protect the human rights in Iraq...

That means that the talk and the accusations are correct!

They asked him about the Iraqi resistance, and why does the government refuse to negotiate with them?

He said that he met an Iraqi man at the Airport some time ago, who advanced and presented himself as a member of the Iraqi resistance, and that the resistance is innocent of the operations of killing the Iraqi civilians...

Then, the official government speaker said: but we do not know with whom to negotiate, and who says those do represent the resistance?

I thought he was stalling, eluding the direct, clear answer....

Then I saw a subtitle on the same channel saying: Mr., the head of the Party says we shall not negotiate with the Saddamists, whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iraqis... and another subtitle saying:...the Prime Minister

pledges to the Iraqis to eliminate the terrorists, whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iraqis...

Who are those terrorists, whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iraqis?

I always used to say, while I was in Baghdad, then in Amman, then in America, that the first step to calm the situation down is to sit on the negotiation table, face to face, and listen.....

The terrorists, with the blood stained hands will not attend these meetings, in my opinion, because they are not a national resistance with clear objectives, like: we want to push out the occupier, and participate in a fair, national government with a fair distribution of the people's representation...

How would a party leader from the government, or other, dare to describe them as Saddamists and criminals before meeting them? Does he know them, and seen their identities?

Why do you deceive people, and lie? Why do you justify your inability to comprehend the existence of others on the political field?

What is your difference from the tyrant, Saddam Hussein?

The same foolish, selfish, spiteful behaviors that wouldn't respect the other, nor admit his existence, describing him with ugly qualities, like: The criminals, the dirty people, whose hands are blood stained...

Well then, who of you didn't stain his hands with the blood of Iraqis till now?

Come on, be my guests, speak up, bring your witnesses as to your innocence, say that you didn't kill, or assassinate your opponents, or even the strong independents, whose power you were afraid of?

Shame on your deeds.....your end shall not be better than that of Saddam Hussein....

The justice of heaven will get to you one day, we shall all see it, and how shall it be....

As for the story of the arrested people, and how they are tortured then thrown on a garbage heap, I swear by GOD that I have seen the same scenes in a film I watched in the Vermont Institute of Peace Building, telling the story of a christen clergy man, by the name of Romario, I think, in El-Salvador, in Latin America, who stands up against the government, and its injustice to people.

The events of the film were real, in the beginning of the 1980's, the country was under a military, dictatorship rule, **the National Guard used to arrest people and torture them, men and women, then throw them on the garbage pile, with the marks of torture on their bodies, the government had strong ties with the American government, and the CIA.**

Poverty, hunger, and injustice enveloped the country, while the corrupt government was well sated, used to having parties, and its members' wives wear fur, and diamonds.....

In that film I saw the ugly face of America....

And I said to my colleagues there: I see that this would become the future of Iraq, if the occupation forces would remain in it.... What with the C.I.A., and their collaborators, and agents.....whoever implements their infernal schemes.

I said to one of my friends, whom I met yesterday by chance: we must work together to get them out of Iraq, then arrange our lives all over again...

She looked at me with tearful eyes, and a sad, broken look, and whispered in a tired voice: what are you saying? Saddam Hussein destroyed a part of us, then those came along to destroy what was left....

I looked at her in amazement; this woman works in the Conference Palace, she still receives her salary from there, she works with them... she is supposed to approve of the existence of the occupation, according to the assessment of the Iraqis, because she works with them..... But her speech says something else.....

Her speech as an Iraqi says something else.....

I see people in Iraq now, like me when I was there six months ago; psychologically shattered, they do not comprehend what is going on around them, who is in control of things, and where is the country heading for....

Torturing questions, without answers.....

And there in America, I saw people living in peace, a very normal life, even for that who runs from morning till evening, crushed by the pressures of life, and whose blood is sucked by the capitalist greed companies, who can never have enough... nevertheless, he goes to his job securely, his kids go to school securely, and his wife goes shopping securely... he has water, electricity, a clean, safe public park in which he spends the week-ends with his family...

And he pays the taxes, to send an occupation army to us....and what do you know of the occupation army?

Is it merely a tank, a Humvee, a helicopter, and a soldier?

Wish it was only that.....

The occupation army is an indescribable catastrophe.....

Evil, unseen hands tampering with all the country...

A total, unequalled chaos....

Thefts by millions from the state and ministries accounts, and no body prosecutes...

Assassinations and murders, and nobody investigates; people take their dead, bury them, and keep their mouths shut....

Party leaders backed by the occupation forces exhale poison among people and disperse them, possessing trained and dangerous militia.... Whom GOD only knows what they do...

Security and safety are none existing, and nobody protects the poor citizen...

No defense layers, and no human rights for the detainees...

Empty words and grudges fill the media, with promises to make revenge upon the enemies of the people...

Hummm...

Who are the enemies of the people?

That is an important question...

I think that " the enemies of the people" is an expression they play with however they wanted, explaining it however they wanted....

Just like Saddam Hussein used to do...

He used to arrest or kill whoever opposes him or stands in his face, then he would say: this is one of the people's enemies...and we couldn't declare that he was lying....his guards and watch dogs were surrounding us, staring in our faces...

And now, they play the same tune, and the same Saddamies' actions....

And the question is: shall we keep silent, as we used to do in the days of Saddam, or do we talk?

Shall we say that those who assumed the power after the war, thanks to the occupation forces, are no better than he was?

Shall we say that they treat the Iraqis by the same mentality?

The mentality of presuming people to be stupid, donkeys, and do not understand?

We kill whoever opposes us then say; he is the enemy of the people, and for that who shuts up, perhaps there will be a chance to remain alive, or perhaps he shall also be the victim of a stray bullet from an American soldier, an Iraqi policeman, a thief, or a kidnapper in the street?

Who cares?

The street is full of all causes of death...

Who cares?

He's an Iraqi, let him go to hell, he is always the negligible number in the calculations....

Because of the injustice of Saddam Hussein, they used to die, or be tortured, or be thrown into prisons...and without Saddam Hussein they also die, or be tortured, or be imprisoned...

All is the same.....

Those who went away....and those who came along....

All is the same.....

The violence and killing shall continue, to reap the green and the dry in Iraq...

Until the hands that are tampering with Iraq, decide it is time to make peace in Iraq??

And the question is: when, and how will it be peace in Iraq?

It is obvious that the decision isn't in the hands of the Iraqis Because they are the negligible number, and they will remain so, until they decide to wake up from the slumber, or fear, face the reality and understand what's going on in it, then move on to change...

Change can not be made by an individual, or a group of individuals...

Change is in the hands of the masses

In the hands of all the people who suffered, endured anguish, and the long night...

My heart is full of hope....

In spite of the dark picture in Iraq now, with all its darkness, fear, panic, devastation, destruction, and blood...

But change will come, no doubt....

My heart is full of hope.....

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

RESISTANCE: Of Hoisting And Petards

August 9, 2005 By Stan Goff, Stangoff.com [Excerpt]

On July 29th, Sergeant Kevin Benderman was sent to prison for 15 months for filing a conscientious objector application with the Army.

Soldiers and soldier's families are constantly instructed on something called courage.

People can only hear that word so many times before they begin to actually reflect on what it means; and the briefest reflection reveals something much deeper than the pumped-up physical bravado required to engage in gunfights with strangers.

This administration knows now that the very training and indoctrination that prepares troops for battle can slip the leash and provide the will to face first the truth, and then themselves, and then even prison.

That really sucks for them, for Bush and Rumsfeld, who can never understand anything but the bravado of the rich bully. Because history will be far kinder to Kevin and Monica Benderman than it will be to George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld.

Back when warfare was not digital, and not even mechanized, there was a weapon used to blow holes in walls – an explosive device called a petard. From that era we get the chestnut about being “hoisted on his own petard.”

It's when one gets blown up by his own bomb... a kind of grim poetic justice. In Iraq, as in Vietnam, the people themselves are the potentially faithless weapons.

It was Brecht who wrote:

**General, your tank is a powerful vehicle
It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men.
But it has one defect:
It needs a driver.**

**General, your bomber is powerful.
It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.
But it has one defect:
It needs a mechanic.**

**General, man is very useful.
He can fly and he can kill.
But he has one defect:
He can think.**

Perhaps this is why Donald Rumsfeld is hell-bent on building robot armies; but even still, as an Iraqi man tells a US infantry lieutenant in the upcoming (and highly recommended) film *Occupation: Dreamland*, “America is very powerful. It can build nuclear rockets and put people on the moon. But we are the people. America cannot make the people. Only we can make the people.”

So Rumsfeld and Cheney’s ventriloquist dummy Bush are now looking at their nasty little petard and beginning to realize that it is made with an unstable explosive.

Benderman is the latest in a series of military resisters to face prison, both from the ranks and from the families – because we have to point out that a Monica Benderman is engaging in the same resistance as a Kevin Benderman, and her sacrifice is shared with Kevin’s.

The families, unlike during the GI resistance of the Vietnam era, are far more directly and aggressively involved in this resistance.

The one time that the sacrifice is not shared between family member and soldier is when the soldier is killed. Then only those who most loved the soldier are left behind with that terrible irreversible absence. The Bush administration doesn’t want to talk about that either.

On the back of my old Veterans for Peace tee-shirt, there is a poem by Vietnam Veteran George Swiers:

**If we do not
speak of it others
will surely rewrite
the script. Each
of the body bags
all of the mass
graves will be
opened and their
contents abracadabraed
into a noble cause.**

Thus are the powerful now trapped in the starched and coiffed, securitized and scripted abracadabra of trying to make their war a noble cause, while Benderman sits in prison a free man because there is nothing they can take away from those who learn to walk past their fear.

The administration cannot talk about Kevin and Monica Benderman’s sacrifice without putting Benderman’s freedom on display – emboldening others to do the same – and they cannot talk with the aggrieved who have lost their flesh and blood in Iraq – like Cindy Sheehan.

Cindy Sheehan’s son Casey was killed on April 4, 2004, during the Sadr rebellion – a rebellion provoked by the Coalition Provisional Authority’s decision to bring democracy to the slums of Baghdad by closing their most popular newspaper, *al Hawza*. When

demonstrators protested, American troops opened fire, killing several unarmed people and sparking the armed rebellion that killed Casey Sheehan.

Six days after Kevin Benderman went to prison and Monica started to look for a place in Washington State, Cindy Sheehan, who had come to Dallas for the Veterans for Peace Annual Convention, decided to interdict George W. Bush's vacation at the Crawford "Ranch" two and a half hours away.

She and about 50 conventioners, including a squad of newly joined Iraq Veterans Against the War, loaded up an "Impeachment" bus and deposited Cindy in a tent adjacent to the Crawford snake and gopher ranch. Cindy said she will stay there until the police drag away a bereaved mother, until the President answers her one question face-to-face, or until Bush leaves Crawford:

"Why did my son die? What was the noble cause that he died for?"

Abracadabra.

Cindy Sheehan and Kevin Benderman and Monica Benderman, and the host of other Gold Star families and military resisters – many of whom were with us at the VFP Convention in Dallas last week, may not be able to wear the expensive clothes, or sport the expensive coifs, or ride in the armored and body-guarded limousines of those powerful men who are trapped in their abracadabra scripts and their tail-spinning agendas, but when you look at them you can see the straight line from freedom to dignity, how something real is inside these ordinary people who have discovered courage in extraordinary circumstances --- people like the Benders and Cindy Sheehan. ‘

Alongside them compare the Bushes and the Rumsfelds and the Cheneys and the Roves – buffoons made dangerous with power, the C-Team of a ruling class in an epoch when their power is hemorrhaging through the wounds being opened by resistance from Baghdad to La Paz, men (and a few women) encircled by the demands of governance and fearful of even the tiniest truths.

Abracadabra --- who is nobler than the nobles now?

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

“Reconstruction”?

Top General Admits It's A Pathetic Obscene Joke: Here's What Billions Have Bought:

08/12/05 Special DoD Press Briefing, Friday, August 12, 2005 9:00 a.m. EDT:
Presenter: **Brigadier General Yves J. Fontaine, USA, Commander, 1ST Corps
Support Command, Multinational Corps-Iraq**

Our reconstruction efforts have been extremely productive and include the construction of over **24 water filtration systems that provide clean water to over 20,000 Iraqi people**, the distribution of humanitarian aid packages, comprised of items such as **clothing, school supplies, hygiene items and toys to over 18,000 Iraqi people**, the funding for the construction of **three new health clinics, 16 new or renovated schools** and **65 kilometers of road construction projects** through our area of responsibility.

We have also planned, coordinated and executed a sponsorship program through which **two Iraqi children** have been flown to the United States for necessary emergency medical care.

Dead Kid? Too Bad: Freedom Isn't Free, Is It?



A woman grieves for her son after doctors failed to revive him at Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital August 10, 2005. The woman was driving with her son near the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad when U.S. soldiers opened fire on their car. The son was shot in the face and later died in hospital. REUTERS/Atef Hassan

Half-Price Colombian Fighters Offered For Iraq

August 13, 2005 (AEST)

A US company operating out of Ecuador says it has signed up about 1,000 Colombian police and military staff to work as hired guns in Iraq, for less than half of their US counterparts' salaries.

Colombians "have been fighting terrorists for the past 41 years and are experts in their respective areas" such as explosives and guerrilla warfare, Epi Security and Investigation says on its website.

The company based in the Ecuadoran city of Manta is run by American Jeffrey Shippy, who is in Baghdad, according to his Ecuadoran wife.

He works out of his home not far from the Manta air base Washington rented from the Ecuadoran Air Force to relocate some of the troops and planes it used to have in Panama.

The Colombian daily El Tiempo reported Friday that the Colombians would be paid \$US2,500 to \$US5,000 a month, roughly half what their US and British counterparts earn.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Heaven

August 12, 2005 By J.T., Interpax

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

He asked, "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. 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 twenty times. Abe told only twenty lies in his entire life."

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

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

MUMBLERS BEWARE: How To Be Safe On The Subway!

July 27-Aug 2, 2005 New York Press

All those years of internalizing the subtle rules of NYC subway etiquette are out the window, thanks to the NYPD, a few mad Londoners and some words of advice from Israeli "intelligence."

Over the past couple of weeks, cops have been riding the subways and buses, telling passengers what sorts of personality quirks reveal a terrorist about to strike. The pointers have also been dispersed and echoed throughout print and electronic media very effectively.

Police ask that, for their own safety, commuters be on the lookout for the following:

People with clenched fists.

People patting their clothes.

People who wear too much perfume.

People who sweat.

People who won't make eye contact with other people.

People who mumble to themselves.

People who display some other suspicious behavior.

Since that describes about 85 per cent of every NYC subway car, I suppose the new warning means we'll never be able to enjoy the MTA's crown jewel ever again. According to the NYPD, we're not just living in New York among twitchy freaks and funny smelling weirdos, we're surrounded by terrorists!

In order to avoid being mistaken for a terrorist yourself, the NYPD also urges New Yorkers to keep certain rules in mind while riding a bus or subway:

- Be very aware of your behavior and how it might be interpreted by others. As much as possible, act just like the people around you.
- If you get mad for some reason, don't express it in any way. Keep it bottled up until you get home, where you can unleash it on your family in private.
- Make sure your hands are open, palms up with fingers spread, at all times.
- Do not sing, or even hum, along with your iPod, as this could easily be mistaken for heathen chanting to an evil foreign god.
- If you suspect your wallet has been lifted or you've lost your keys, don't pat your pocket to check, as this might send the wrong message. Again, just wait until you get home.
- Since cologne and perfume can be used to mask the smell not just of your own stinky self, but of explosives as well, take no chances. Skip the deodorant, too.
- Don't sweat, no matter how hot it is.
- Dress just like everyone else.
- Since avoiding eye contact is considered suspicious, stare at people for long periods of time.

If, in spite of following all the above rules, you still find yourself accused of being a terrorist or shot multiple times in the back by confused NYPD officers, we recommend you accuse the person sitting next to you of being the real terrorist.

That is, if you can still breathe.

This should take the heat off of you for a bit. At least until they find that copy of *The Satanic Verses* in your fanny pack and send you to Guantanamo.

Web Copies:

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,

www.williambowles.info/gispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for purely educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. Go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml> for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

