

GI SPECIAL 3C79:

WOUNDS NO ONE WAS ABLE TO SEE:

**“When He Was In The Apartment,
He Was Calling For Air Strikes”**



PFC Joseph Dwyer (AP)

[Thanks to Alan S for sending this in.]

Oct 10, 2005 BY INDRANI SEN, STAFF WRITER, Newsday

Photographed carrying a terrified, half-naked Iraqi child to safety in March of 2003, Army Spc. Joseph Dwyer, of Mount Sinai, was on front pages across the country, a potent symbol of American heroism.

Friday morning, Dwyer, 29, was arrested in El Paso, Texas, after a three-hour standoff in which he fired a 9-millimeter handgun in his apartment.

Dwyer's family says he's suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and that he's fallen through the cracks of the Army mental health system since he returned two years ago to Fort Bliss, Texas, from his tour of duty as a medic in Iraq.

"If you look at the picture, he's holding this baby, but he's got an M-16 on his back," said Dwyer's older sister, Christine Dwyer-Ogno, 38, of Mount Sinai, crying. "These guys

need help ... I didn't know how much pain he was in. I don't want him to be in any more pain."

El Paso Police said Dwyer was arrested early Friday after the standoff, in which no one was injured, and charged with discharging a firearm in a municipality, a class-A misdemeanor. An Army spokeswoman for Fort Bliss, Jean Offutt, said Dwyer was released from police custody Friday and is being treated at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. "They will determine whether or not he can be released," she said.

Dwyer, who joined the Army on Sept. 13, 2001 in response to the terrorist attacks, was married a month before he was deployed to Iraq, in March of 2003.

His wife, Matina Dwyer, who was not in the off-base apartment during the incident Thursday night, is pregnant, Dwyer's family members said. She has since been evicted and is staying at the base, they said.

Family members say they saw Dwyer changed from the cheerful kid who loved to fish and played golf for Mount Sinai High School. The first sign was the 50 pounds he put on in six weeks after he returned from Iraq, more than making up for the 30 pounds he lost during his deployment.

Then there was the car accident in El Paso, caused by Dwyer swerving to avoid what he thought was a roadside bomb detonating device. Friends told the El Paso Times that Dwyer had been having nightmares and had been abusing alcohol and sniffing inhalants.

Friday's incident was the most alarming, said his father, Patrick Dwyer of North Carolina.

"When he was in the apartment, he was calling for air strikes," Patrick Dwyer said. "He put a mirror out the window to see what was going on. He was being very defensive. Totally not connected to reality. And that's not like him."

When the picture of him saving the Iraqi child came out, she said, Dwyer didn't like the fame it earned him.

"He wished he had never been identified," she said. "He said everyone over there was doing the same thing." Now, she said, he has a different perspective.

"With everything he's going through," she said, "he's hoping that that picture can be associated with post-traumatic stress."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed At Green Zone Checkpoint

10.10.05 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

A car bomb exploded in Baghdad that killed a U.S. soldier at a checkpoint near the capital's highly fortified Green Zone, where Iraq's parliament and the U.S. Embassy are located, the military said. An Iraqi army soldier, an interpreter and an Iraqi civilian also were wounded in the attack, the military said.

Both U.S. and Iraqi army forces were present during the explosion by a car packed with 11 mortar rounds and 60 pounds of explosives, said Sgt. 1st Class David Abrams.

Marine From Canton, 19, Killed



Lance Cpl. Shayne M. Cabino was killed 10.6.05 (AP Photo/Cabino Family)

October 9, 2005 By Chase Davis, Globe Correspondent

A 19-year-old Marine from Canton was killed in Iraq Thursday.

Lance Corporal Shayne M. Cabino was killed by a roadside bomb during combat operations near Al Karmah.

Alliance Marine Was Terrific Young Man

October 09, 2005 Angela D. Chatman, Plain Dealer Reporter

An Alliance man was among six U.S. Marines killed Thursday during combat in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Daniel M. McVicker, 20, was killed when the Humvee he and the other Marines were riding in hit a roadside bomb during combat operations against enemy forces near Al Qaim, Iraq.

McVicker joined the Marines after graduating in 2003 from West Branch High School in Beloit, about 60 miles south east of Cleveland. He and nine class mates joined the military after being inspired by the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

On Saturday, McVicker's mother, Carey Meissner, remembered her oldest child as a young man who liked to have fun.

In his junior and senior years, he was one of 20 members of Young and Alive, a highly competitive group that performed throughout the community. He sang with the group at Disney World in Florida.

McVicker performed in spring musicals, Meissner and Weingart said. Among them were "Guys and Dolls," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Grease."

Weingart said McVicker earned the honor of being elected Assistant Warrior Chief, one of three mascots.

The color guard lowered the flag to half-staff in McVicker's honor before Friday night's game with Alliance High School at Mount Union College.

Marine From The UP Killed



Marine Cpl. Nicholas O. Cherava, 21, of Ontonagon, Mich. killed Oct. 6, 2005 near Karmah (AP Photo/Family Photo via U.S. Marine Corps)

October 8, 2005 ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONTONAGON -- A Marine from the Upper Peninsula has died in Iraq, the Department of Defense announced Saturday.

Cpl. Nicholas O. Cherava, 21, of Ontonagon was killed Thursday by an improvised explosive device.

Cherava was the 61st member of the U.S. Armed Forces with Michigan ties to be killed in Iraq.

Marine From Suburban Pittsburgh Killed

10/7/2005 The Associated Press

A Marine was killed in Iraq when an explosive hit the vehicle he was traveling in, his family said Friday.

Lance Cpl. Patrick Brian Kenny, 20, of the Pittsburgh suburb of Emsworth, was killed Thursday in Fallujah, said his sister, Katy Kenny. "My brother, he was passionate about life, everything. Everyone considered him a friend, a brother, or a son," she said.

Patrick Kenny graduated from Avonworth High School, where he was captain of the football team and a wrestler. He left for boot camp a week before his graduation ceremony, his sister said.

He was the first in the family to join the Marines since his uncle was killed in Vietnam, Katy Kenny said.

"No one else talked about the Marines. It was Army or Air Force. He broke the ice," she said. "He always wanted to be a Marine."

Her brother inspired her to join the Marines, said Katy Kenny, a 19-year-old private. "He inspired everyone around him. He didn't care who you were, what you've done in the past — if he liked you, he liked you," she said.

The military notified the family at 1:23 a.m. Friday, she said, but details of her brother's death were not completely known.

"The only thing I could say is he wanted to make my parents proud. He wanted to be a father. He wanted to find a good wife and be a father. That's all he talked about," Katy Kenny said.

Kansas Soldier Hurt

Oct 9 AP

A Hutchinson man says his 20-year-old son was badly injured during a U.S. led offensive in the western part of Iraq.

Dan Stephenson says his son, Chris Stephenson, a 2004 Buhler High School graduate, is in stable condition at Rammstein Air Base in Germany. He gone through three surgeries for injuries to his back, lower legs and feet.

Humvee Damaged In Baghdad: Casualties Not Announced Yet



U.S. soldiers arrest a man after a roadside bomb explosion on a main highway in Baghdad October 10, 2005. A roadside bomb exploded as a U.S. military convoy was driving past in central Baghdad, damaging one Humvee. A U.S. medivac helicopter was called to evacuate wounded, witnesses said. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

U.S. Military Vehicle Destroyed In An-Ani

10.10.05 Aljazeera

A US military vehicle was also destroyed when an army patrol was ambushed in the al-Ani district north of Baghdad, according to Iraqi police.

U.S. Consulate Mortared In Hilla

10.10.05 Thomas Crosbie Media

A mortar shell hit an hotel where the US consulate is based in Hillah, Iraq, but no casualties were immediately reported, police said.

The shell was one of five fired at the Babil Hotel complex at about 2.30am local time, with four of them exploding nearby and one hitting the three-storey building and causing some damage, said Capt. Muthana Khalid, spokesman for Hillah police.

“Overstretched” “Just Too Much” BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Marine from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment monitors a grove of palm trees and fields near the Euphrates River in Haditha, Iraq, on Oct. 7, 2005.

For some Marines in 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment from Camp Pendleton, California, this hectic pace is how they prefer life.

But for others, many on their third tour in Iraq in as many years, the demands of life these days in the overstretched U.S. military is just too much, regardless of the plum bonuses being dangled in front of them. (Photo caption AP; AP Photo/Antonio Castaneda)

“Hey, What Took You Guys So Long To Get Here?”

October 10, 2005 By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer

They [the “insurgents”] easily melt into and out of the local population, Maj. Gen. Stephen Johnson, commander of II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward. said. “When we take over a place, they put down their weapon, put on (traditional Arab clothes) and say to us, ‘Hey, what took you guys so long to get here?’ ”

Past operations here and elsewhere have temporarily cleared insurgent-held areas, only to see the towns and neighborhoods retaken when U.S. troops leave.

But Johnson said the 15,000 Iraqi troops now operating in Anbar allow him to leave Iraqi army units in place to hold areas cleared in recent operations. [Oh right, everybody knows how that's going to work out; not]

MORE:

Huge Surprise! Troops Find Few Al-Qaeda Fighters In Anbar Sweep

10.3.05 Washington Post

U.S. and Iraqi troops combed the city of Sadah near the Syrian border for insurgents loyal to al Qaeda. The searches yielded weapons but few foreign fighters loyal to al Qaeda in Iraq, an insurgent network led by Abu Musab Zarqawi.

MORE:

Meaningless Metrics

10.3.05 Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon, Los Angeles Times

It seems evident that defeating Iraq's insurgents is based on body count, which has little relevance to what it really will take to win the war on terror.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

One U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Paktika

10 October 2005 Aljazeera

In eastern Afghanistan, a US soldier was killed and another was wounded, the US military said on Monday.

American and Afghan troops were carrying out a military offensive operation in eastern Paktika province on Friday when they came under fire, a military statement said. The wounded soldier was evacuated to a nearby base and was in stable condition, it said.

Four Britons Wounded

09 October 2005 Aljazeera

An explosives-laden car has rammed into a vehicle carrying foreigners in southern Afghanistan, wounding four of them.

The vehicle was carrying Britons who were wounded in the explosion in Kandahar city, said Colonel Steve Bowes, a Canadian commander with the US-led coalition.

Two of the Britons were in serious condition, while the other two were lightly wounded, Kandahar governor Asadullah Khalid said.

He said the four were working on a customs project in the city.

At least two Afghan passers-by were hurt in the blast on a main road about a kilometre from a US military base, not far from the city centre, they said.

A spokesman for the British embassy said there had been an attack involving Britons in an armoured vehicle in Kandahar, but did not give any further details.

Chinook Destroyed

October 10, 2005 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — An MH-47 Chinook helicopter of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment was destroyed in an accident Friday, but all crew members emerged virtually unscathed.

The helicopter went down at about 8.30 p.m. during a combat operation in the Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan.

“Initial indications are it was an engine malfunction which caused the aircraft to make a hard landing,” said Lt. Col. Jerry O’Hara, spokesman for Coalition and Joint Task Force 76 at Bagram air base, in an interview today.

As the twin-rotored helicopter was landing, “the aircraft shifted its balance and a rotor blade hit the ground, causing the aircraft to roll over,” he said.

Although O’Hara would only describe the helicopter as a “coalition aircraft,” the 160th is the only unit in the world that flies the MH-47.

There were seven personnel on the helicopter. “All crew members got out safely, but the aircraft was destroyed,” O’Hara said.

Three of the crew suffered minor injuries that were treated at the scene, according to O’Hara. All have returned to duty, he said.

It was unclear why the military authorities here took over two and a half days to release information about the incident. However, "recovery operations took awhile," O'Hara acknowledged. "They were recovered by another helicopter," he said, declining to be more specific about how long the crew was on the ground.

"The operation was ongoing at the time of the incident so they had to be concerned about that and the enemy situation and the terrain," O'Hara said, adding that he had heard nothing to indicate that any fighting took place between the crew on the ground and any enemy fighters in the area.

Former Afghan Commander Killed

10 October 2005 Aljazeera

A bomb has exploded in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Monday, killing four people and wounding three others.

The bomb was hidden outside the home of a former commander, deputy police chief Abdul Hakim Hungar said on Monday.

The former commander, Agha Shah, was allied to the US-backed Northern Alliance and assisted in the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The blast killed the former commander, a supporter of President Hamid Karzai, as well as three other civilian passers-by, he said. The three injured were taken to hospital.

Attacks against Karzai's US-backed government, its supporters, and international military forces have increased, leaving more than 1300 dead in the past six months.

TROOP NEWS

Iraq Toll For Reservists, National Guards, At Record Highs: Dying To "Buy Time" For Regular Army

[Thanks to PB and Phil G who sent this in.]

[Phil G writes: Check out the last two paragraphs. What a cynical piece of shit.]

Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, the Army's deputy chief of staff for operations, said in an interview that the increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve in 2005 was deliberately planned to allow active-duty units like the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division to complete a reorganization before they returned to Iraq. "It bought us the time we needed," Lovelace said.

October 10, 2005 By Robert Burns, ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The National Guard and Reserves are suffering a strikingly higher share of U.S. casualties in Iraq, their portion of total American military deaths nearly doubling since last year.

Reservists have accounted for one-quarter of all U.S. deaths since the Iraq war began, but the proportion has grown over time.

The trend accelerated this year . For the first nine months of 2005 reservists accounted for 36 percent of U.S. deaths, and for August and September it was 56 percent, according to Pentagon figures.

The Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve accounted for more than half of all U.S. deaths in August and in September – the first time that has happened in consecutive months. The only other month in which it even approached 50 percent was June 2004.

Casualties in Iraq have shifted toward citizen soldiers as their combat role has grown to historic levels. National Guard officials say their soldiers have been sent into combat in Iraq in numbers not previously seen in modern times – far more than were sent to Vietnam, where active-duty troops did the vast majority of the fighting.

Charles Krohn, a former Army deputy chief of public affairs, said the reservists are taking up the slack for the highly stressed active-duty Army.

"Decisions made years earlier made going to war in any significant way impossible without Guard and Reserve participation. But I can't imagine anyone postulated the situation we face today:

"We don't seem very anxious to bring back the draft and we can't get enough volunteers for a war that is not universally popular," Krohn said.

Forty-five percent of all Guard and Reserve deaths since the start of the war – 220 of the 487 total – occurred in the first nine months of 2005, according to Pentagon figures. The deadliest month was August, when 49 Guard and Reserve members died.

The mounting casualties among reservists in Iraq has been overshadowed by the attention focused on a rising overall U.S. death toll, now approaching 2,000.

It complicates recruiting for the National Guard and Reserve, which often attract people who think of the military reservists' role as something other than front-line combat.

At one point this year more than half of the combat forces in Iraq were National Guard.

"That's a first," said Army Maj. Les Melnyk, historian for the Pentagon office that manages the Army and Air National Guard. "The Guard can't claim that (level of combat) for World War II or World War I – the other major wars we fought in. Never more than 50 percent of the combat forces were Guard."

At present, of the approximately 152,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, about half are reservists: 49,000 Army National Guard, 22,000 Army Reserve and 4,000 Marine Reserve, according to figures provided by those organizations.

At least 300 soldiers of the National Guard, 78 of the Army Reserve and 93 of the Marine Corps Reserve, have died in the Iraq conflict. The Navy Reserve has lost 13, the Air Force Reserve three and the Air National Guard one. Together that is one-quarter of the total U.S. death toll, which stood at 1,947 on Monday, by the Pentagon's count.

Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, the Army's deputy chief of staff for operations, said in an interview that the increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve in 2005 was deliberately planned to allow active-duty units like the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division to complete a reorganization before they returned to Iraq. "It bought us the time we needed," Lovelace said.

MORE:

Comment:

10.10.05 By Richard Mellor (by way of Tom Condit: tomcondit@igc.org)

"It complicates recruiting for the National Guard and Reserve, which often attract people who think of the military reservists' role as something other than front-line combat."

What the above quote from the article below is talking about is the fact that in Iraq, the front line is everywhere. It's not like Hogan's Hero's where an under performing soldier would be threatened with a tour of the front line away from a relatively secure post.

The occupying US and British troops along with the 12,000 or so mercenaries in Iraq claiming the not so offensive title of security, are despised by their victims and quite rightly so, we would defend our lands from this sort of invasion and certainly can't fault others for doing so even if we disagree with those who have fallen in to the leadership vacuum.

Consequently, enemies are everywhere hence the "front line" is everywhere.

The Minister Of Death Has Struck Once More

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: October 10, 2005
Subject: blair

look out Briton the Blair bug has struck agen the minister of death has struck once more

he is sending more Young boys to Iraq, kids just starting off in lief thinking they are doing good getting off the streets, getting to travel

well these kids will travel, to Iraq, and see things they would naiver think they would ever see, Dede kids in the street, and god help them when they have to pull the trigger on that gun, and when thy try to forget what they have saw, and had to do.

Mr Blair seed the troops will stay in Iraq, till the Iraq pollice are traind and, how long will that be, how can our troops do this when kids like my boy only had 24 weeks training, the recruitment has went down 66 percent, so who will protect our troops when we cant get more,

i can see Mr Blair, colling Young boys up very soon, for Natanil service.

how Meany more people will get killed, just for oil. i hope one day Blair looks in the mirror and says god Whit have i dun, i pray for all the Iraq people. and all the troops, god i feel for all the parents, not to get the chap on the door i got.

Mr Blair pitcher your boys out in Iraq, or being brought back home in a body bag.

25,000 Evacuated To Landstuhl, So Far

10 October 2005 By Mark Benjamin, Salon.com. [Excerpt]

The Pentagon says 15,000 GI's have been wounded. Half of those, given the severity of their wounds, could not return to duty.

But that number is misleading. The statistics, released in Department of Defense "casualty status" reports, only count GI's wounded by the bullets and bombs of the enemy. The reports exclude tens of thousands of soldiers who became ill or were injured in other ways.

The US Transportation Command says that by the end of August, it had evacuated 23,576 GI's from Iraq and Afghanistan for injuries or illnesses that were not directly caused by combat. Stars and Stripes reports that the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, treated its 25,000th patient from Iraq or Afghanistan in July, including some civilians and coalition partner soldiers.

“How To Blog From The Frontlines Without Getting Caught”

[Thanks to CS, who sent this in.]

September 23 2005 By Guardian Unlimited

Most people probably think of media freedom group Reporters Sans Frontières as the sort of sober NGO that spends its time putting out rather dry reports which don't get the publicity they deserve, writes David Fickling.

So its latest offering - which comes over like a cross between a motivational business guide and the internet's answer to the Anarchist Cookbook - is a bit of a surprise.

The Blogger's Handbook carries instructions on everything from how to choose a blogging platform to how to get yourself to the top picks on search engines.

More seriously, there's advice on how to blog from the frontlines without getting caught. It ranges from the obvious - such as not revealing your identity online - to the technical, such as using proxy servers to disguise your IP address when posting.

In many parts of the world, the freedom of expression offered by the internet has cracked open decades of media censorship.

Iran is ranked as one of the world's 10 most repressive countries for journalists, but its 75,000 bloggers get away with more than the country's mainstream media ever could. And China, home to the vast majority of the world's imprisoned cyberjournalists, such as Yang Zili, has an incredibly active blogging scene.

The positive way to look at the issue is to note that a thousand flowers have bloomed as a result of new internet freedoms - but the cynic might see things differently.

Cyberjournalists are rapidly catching up with their mainstream colleagues in terms of the numbers being imprisoned worldwide, with 70 of them having been jailed since 1999.

Worse still, unlike mainstream journalists who are paid for their work and have employers who are often ready to kick up a fuss, bloggers normally have no one looking out for them.

Last month, the blogiverse gained the tragic distinction of having its first online journalist killed in action. He is unlikely to be the last.

[To find out how, check out http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=542]

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.

500 Fewer UK Soldiers To Be In Iraq

[Thanks to Tom Condit for posting.]

10 October 2005 BBC

There will be 500 fewer UK soldiers in Iraq after a shake-up due next month, Defence Secretary John Reid has said.

He told MPs that the latest routine rotation of UK troops would leave 8,000 soldiers in Iraq - but he said the move was "relatively minor".

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Modifies IED Emplacements

10 October 2005 By Neil Arun, BBC News

According to Charles Heyman, a defence analyst with the UK-based Jane's Information Group, convoys and patrols are the Achilles heel of the modern army.

The insurgents, he says, have learnt that military vehicles have the heaviest armour along the under-body, in areas where they are traditionally most likely to be struck.

In response, bombs in Iraq have been fastened to telegraph poles and the underside of bridges, directing the blast at the relatively exposed top and sides of army vehicles.

"Concealing something by the roadside is just too easy," he told the BBC News website.

Assorted Resistance Action

10.9.05 Reuters & 10.10.05 Aljazeera 7 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press Writer

MOSUL - The bodyguard of Hanin Moheemmed al-Kadu, a member of the Iraqi parliament, was killed by armed fighters when he was driving his car in northern Mosul, police said.

Four Iraqi soldiers have been killed and 10 wounded in overnight attacks near the northern city of Kirkuk.

The first attack took place around midnight (2100 GMT) in al-Hawija, west of the oil centre, when an explosion ripped apart an army patrol, police Colonel Ahmad al-Ubaidi said on Monday.

Two soldiers were killed and eight wounded in the overnight blast.

Early on Monday, two more Iraqi soldiers were killed and two wounded in similar circumstances as they patrolled a town south of Kirkuk.

A mortar round was lobbed into the heavily protected administrative Green Zone in Baghdad, the source added, but details on any casualties were not immediately available.

A car bomb exploded near an Iraqi checkpoint in western Baghdad on Monday, killing three policemen and three civilians, police said.

The attack occurred around 11am near Al-Nusur Square. Teacher Riyadh Qassim heard the blast from his nearby elementary school.

"A car bomb exploded. We ran out of school and saw two cars engulfed in flames, one of them a police car. Some of the policemen were in a panic," he said in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

One Iraqi soldier and one Iraqi policeman died in two separate drive-by shootings in Mosul, officials said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents attacked Iraqi police convoys in separate incidents in the capital, killing one policeman and wounding nine, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents fired on a police checkpoint in the Shi'ite district of Khadimiya in Baghdad, wounding eight officers, police said.

BAGHDAD - Police said they shot at a suspected car bomber, exploding the bomb before it reached its target. Four officers at a nearby checkpoint were wounded, the U.S. military said at the scene.

A roadside bomb blast killed an Iraqi policeman in the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Veterans Disrespected At The 9/14 D.C. Rally: “Why Were There No VETERANS From The Current Iraq War Or The Earlier Desert Storm As Featured Speakers?”

3 Oct 2005 From: Gene Glazer, Veterans For Peace; vfp-chaptercontacts

The sponsors of the giant protest rally and March of Sept. 24 did an outstanding job. We can imagine the problems and obstacles that had to be overcome to pull off this event.

However, we are compelled to submit what we believe is a constructive, but major suggestion, for future anti war demonstrations.

We welcomed the opportunity to see and listen to Cindy Sheehan and other mothers/wives whose loved ones are in Iraq or who were wounded or killed in pursuit of George Bush's "noble cause". They deserved, more than anyone, the opportunity to address the rally and the nation.

But following them, what better informed individuals should be designated as featured (not 15 second sound bites) speakers, other than VETERANS??

VETERANS are an essential and unique part of the anti war movement.

Why then, were there no VETERANS from the current Iraq war or the earlier Desert Storm designated as featured speakers? In addition to these groups – Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Korean veterans and just plain VETERANS were in D.C. that day.

Mike Hoffman (IVAW), Michael Mc Phearson (Desert Storm), Dave Cline (VFP) and Stan Goff (VVAW) are all knowledgeable, articulate speakers. At the largest anti war protests in 2 years – the voice of Veterans should have been heard.

Peace and solidarity

Gene Glazer - -WWII geneandalice@comcast.net

Joseph Attamante –Vietnam joseph_attamante@att.net

Members, Veterans for Peace (for identification only –The opinions are our own)

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.

“Does Anyone Care????”

Bush visited Walter Reed???? Why???? They are closing it down - what good does it do to visit????

From: Wounded Iraq Soldier's Mom

To: GI Special

Sent: October 09, 2005

Subject: Re: GI Special 3C76: Rumsfeld At It Again

Hey I just wanted to speak about the 53,000 wounded soldiers that are having to wait until "processing" claims up to one year or more. That is not right - again our soldiers are hurt from roadside bombs, fire fights, "terrorist": coming home wounded bodies banged up like Washington doesn't care.

Bush visited Walter Reed???? Why???? They are closing it down - what good does it do to visit????

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY FOUGHT FOR IN IRAQ FOR OUR FREEDOM.

It comes at a cost of lives and wounded soldiers - they are told they get paid for every wound and a check. Most are now Iraq Veterans of War

Does anyone care????

Let me know if you find someone that really cares about the wounded soldiers????

“The U.S. Government Is A Non-Stop Death Machine”

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 10, 2005

Our government reminds me of an earthquake, you never know how bad it is going to be.

When I see Bush and his Gang Members, I see SS Officers. And, when they speak my native tongue, they scare me even more. At least with German, I don't understand the language.

When the American SS give orders at a health spa, some one else pulls the trigger. The people that give the orders, never see the body parts.

Johnson and Nixon were very good at that, and 50,000 Vietnam veterans committed suicide.

My greatest revelation after returning from Vietnam, was the realization that I was the enemy in Vietnam. Me, the guy who spoke English. "Gooks," was an American invention that was put in our heads, like the concept of the devil.

Bombing the poor people in Vietnam, was like bombing the poor people in Mississippi. THE UNITED STATES WILL REGRET EVERY BULLET THAT WILL BE FIRED IN IRAQ, LET ALONE, EVERY BOMB THAT WILL BE DROPPED.

This war will haunt every American who is presently taking a breath right now. The final out come of this war, will be far worse than Vietnam.

The U.S. Government has thrown a switch, and it reminds me of an American soldier in Vietnam who shot himself in the head with his M-16. I had blood on my uniform, and brains in my lap.

This war in Iraq, is a suicide mission.

On another occasion, I unzipped a body bag, and saw where another American soldier had shot himself in the head with a pistol.

The U.S. Government is a non-stop death machine, and it will ultimately attend its own funeral.

And, what will be in the casket, will be the American flag.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
October 10, 2005

“Suicidal Statecraft”

[When even firm partisans of U.S. Imperial dominance are pissing their pants, like this old Democrat politician, you know “the handwriting is on the wall.” That expression, by the way, derives from a warning given to a former Emperor who thought his rule in Babylon would live forever. Thanks to Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

October 9, 2005 Zbigniew Brzezinski, The Los Angeles Times

Some 60 years ago Arnold Toynbee concluded, in his monumental "Study of History," that the ultimate cause of imperial collapse was "suicidal statecraft."

Sadly for George W. Bush's place in history and — much more important — ominously for America's future, that adroit phrase increasingly seems applicable to the policies pursued by the United States since the cataclysm of 9/11.

Though there have been some hints that the Bush administration may be beginning to reassess the goals, so far defined largely by slogans, of its unsuccessful military intervention in Iraq, President Bush's speech Thursday was a throwback to the demagogic formulations he employed during the 2004 presidential campaign to justify a war that he himself started.

That war, advocated by a narrow circle of decision-makers for motives still not fully exposed, propagated publicly by rhetoric reliant on false assertions, has turned out to be much more costly in blood and money than anticipated. It has precipitated worldwide criticism.

In the Middle East it has stamped the United States as the imperialistic successor to Britain and as a partner of Israel in the military repression of the Arabs. Fair or not, that perception has become widespread throughout the world of Islam.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Arab League Delegation Attacked

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Oct. 10, 2005 Associated Press & Reuters

Gunmen opened fire Monday on a convoy of cars carrying members of an Arab League delegation that is visiting Iraq, but no one was hurt, police said.

The gunmen, traveling in four vehicles, pulled alongside the convoy of the 10-member Arab League delegation on a highway in Baghdad and started shooting, killing three Iraqi police officers and wounding four, said police Maj. Mousa Abdul-Karem.

The convoy was driving toward a western neighborhood of Baghdad for a meeting with the Muslim Scholars Association, an Arab Sunni Muslim group [opposed to the occupation].

The Arab League also has gotten a cold reception from some Shiite leaders in Iraq's government who resent the organization's perceived inaction in response to Saddam Hussein's regime and the predominantly Sunni League's alleged bias in favor of Iraq's Sunni minority.

Iraq's "Constitution" Made In The USA

"This is the first time ever that an occupying power has dismantled the internal law system of the country it occupies."

October 8, 2005 Al-Jazeera

The U.S. influence in drafting Iraq's constitution is excessive and "highly inappropriate", Justin Alexander, legal affairs officer for the office of constitutional support with the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq

"It is a matter of public record that in the final weeks of the process, the newly arrived U.S. ambassador took an extremely hands-on role," Mr. Alexander, told Inter Press Service (IPS).

Zaid al-Ali, a legal expert who also oversaw the drafting process in Baghdad, raised similar concerns at a meeting at the International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies in UK.

"There are three ways in which the occupation intervened in the context of Iraq's constitution-writing process," he said.

"First, the occupation authorities selected and affected the makeup of the commission that was charged with drafting Iraq's transitional law and its permanent constitution. Second, the occupation determined the limits and parameters within which the constitution was to be drafted. Third, the occupation authorities intervened directly in order to safeguard its interests in the context of the constitutional negotiations."

One article in the draft constitution on foreign military bases was dropped from the final version, he added.

"One article contained in a previous draft provided that setting up foreign military bases in Iraq was to be forbidden, and that the only way in which this could be deviated would have been by a two-thirds majority vote in parliament."

Also senior lecturer of law at the University of London, Dr. Marinos Diamantides, described the drafting process as illegal.

"One could argue the entire process is against the law," IPS quoted Diamantides as saying. "According to the 1907 Convention for the pacific settlement of disputes, the occupying power has a duty to maintain the legal system of the country it occupies.

"This is the first time ever that an occupying power has dismantled the internal law system of the country it occupies."

So Much For That "Sovereignty" Bullshit #1

10/10/05 London Financial Times

If Iraqis confirm the draft constitution on Saturday, Ibrahim al-Jaafari's government will have only three more months in office. For most of Iraq's politicians this will be a welcome end to what they see as an ineffective leadership.

In talks over the proposed constitutional draft, Mr Jaafari has often appeared to lack a national vision - and sometimes a physical presence - at the negotiating table. At a critical stage, the country's first elected leader after decades of totalitarian rule failed to show up at all.

According to insiders, he was not allowed to leave the Green Zone, the heavily fortified compound in central Baghdad, after his American security detail vetoed his request to attend a constitutional summit with Kurdish leaders.

The no-show incident fuelled perceptions about his ineffectiveness, whether due to US interference or the conflicting agendas within his cabinet and among Shia parties.

So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit #2

The Americans did not reveal the causes and motivations of this military raid in which Karbala residents saw a strong indication that the turning over of security responsibility was only a propaganda operation.

It proved clearly to them that the Americans dominate entirely the security situation in Karbala and take their decisions without consulting any of the official authorities of the Governorate.

October 8, 2005 Gilbert Achcar, zmag.org. [Excerpt]

How US and British Forces help Iraqis recover their sovereignty:

Karbala -- after Najaf, the second major Shiite holy city in Iraq -- was supposed to have come under full Iraqi sovereignty. In his Radio Address of October 1, Bush boasted that "this week coalition forces were able to turn over security responsibility for one of Iraq's largest cities, Karbala, to Iraqi soldiers."

Today, Voice of Iraq has broadcast the following report, posted by nahrainnet (my translation from Arabic) revealing what US forces have done in Karbala at the same time as their British counterparts in Basra:

"KARBALA'S GOVERNORATE CONDEMNS THE MILITARY OPERATION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY AND CONSIDER IT A VIOLATION OF THE TURNING OVER OF SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY

"The information office in the Governorate of Holy Karbala, contacted by the Voice of Iraq correspondent, condemned the military operation executed by special units of US forces Thursday evening in Holy Karbala, in the district of Eastern Abbasiya in the middle of the town.

"The representative of the information office of the Governorate said: This military operation constitutes a violation of the agreement concluded between the multinational forces and the Iraqi side, represented by the officials of the Governorate of Karbala, by which security responsibility has been turned over to the Iraqi side two weeks ago.

"The governorate of Karbala had seen, on Thursday evening, US forces supported by helicopters operate an airborne raid in the district of Eastern Abbasiya in the middle of the Governorate, during which, according to eyewitnesses, they targeted three houses in the district. The airborne raid led to the arrest of ten suspected persons, seven of whom were released and the others taken to an unknown destination.

"The correspondent of Voice of Iraq visited the district targeted by the airborne raid, one of Karbala's old popular districts.

"He saw houses with fallen awnings, shattered window glasses and fallen parts of their roofs, as a result of the sound grenades used before troops landed. One of those arrested and later released said:

"The raid was rapid and sudden, helicopters filled the sky over the district and made an intensive use of sound grenades, frightening hundreds of families in the district.

"The Americans did not reveal the causes and motivations of this military raid in which Karbala residents saw a strong indication that the turning over of security responsibility was only a propaganda operation.

"It proved clearly to them that the Americans dominate entirely the security situation in Karbala and take their decisions without consulting any of the official authorities of the Governorate."

No further comment needed.

ONLY 388,904 MORE TO TAKE DOWN



Capt. Raymond Mattox, commanding officer, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne, removes a sign posted by insurgents warning local Iraqis not to cooperate with U.S. forces in al Hakliniya, Iraq. (AP Photo/ Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton, US Army)

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

OCCUPATION HAITI

Journalists Face Occupation Terror

October 09, 2005 John Maxwell, jamaicaobserver.com. [Excerpt]

In Haiti, journalists are being beaten and murdered by forces under the influence of the United States and the UN mission.

Guyler Delvas, president of the journalist's association, (who has been on Jamaica radio several times) was arrested and beaten by the presidential security guard (Americans) last week as was another journalist with him, Radio Metropole reporter Jean Wilkens Merone.

They were covering a ceremony marking the beginning of the judicial year. Both journalists reported serious injuries after being dragged inside the courthouse and then severely beaten.

On September 9, journalists Jean Ristil and Kevin Pina were arrested while monitoring a search warrant at Rev Fr Gerard Jean-Juste's church in the Delmas district.

On July 10, journalist Jacques Roche was kidnapped and subsequently tortured and murdered by his assailants. On April 7, reporter Robenson Laraque died from injuries suffered while observing a clash between UN troops and members of the disbanded Haitian military in the city of Petit-Goâve.

On January 14, radio reporter Abdias Jean was murdered while covering a police operation and raid in the Village de Dieu sector of Port-au-Prince.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“They Beat Him Until He Was Lifeless”

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

October 10, 2005 Benjamin Joffe-Walt in Taishi, southern China, The Guardian

The last time I saw Lu Banglie, he was lying in a ditch on the side of the street - placid, numb and lifeless - the spit, snot and urine of about 20 men mixing with his blood, and running all over his body.

I had only met him that day. He was to show me the way to Taishi, the hotspot of the growing rural uprisings in China. It felt like heading into a war. Taishi is under siege, I was warned. The day I arrived a French radio journalist and a Hong Kong print journalist were rumoured to have been beaten somewhere around Taishi.

The Taishi election had also been scheduled for that very day, and news of a hunger strike by one of the two most famous figures in Taishi had just come out.

Mr Lu was a very soft-spoken man, one of those skinny guys who looked like he might start tearing at any moment. Born as a peasant in Baoyuesi village of Bailizhou town in Zhijiang city in Hubei province, he was a people's representative and had been in the village of Taishi since the start of a democratic movement in the area.

That movement, deeply unpopular with the local authorities, has come to be seen as a weather vane for China's tentative steps toward a more representative society. It has led to beatings and mass arrests among its population as well as for observers who ventured into its environs.

Mr Lu was at the forefront of this maelstrom. And yesterday this was where the problem lay. We had hired a taxi. Mr Lu got in the car to put us on the right road. As we got closer, I asked him to get out. He refused. "If you go, I go," he insisted. I told him he would be endangering himself, the driver and maybe us. He was unfazed, not even listening. I repeated for a third time that I wanted him to get out of the car. It didn't work. The translator was annoyed and asked me to leave it. Mr Lu knew the risks better than us, he reasoned. So I dropped it, and it was this appeasement that determined Mr Lu's fate.

We arrived on the outskirts of Taishi, just as the dirt roads start. There were 30 to 50 men - angry, inebriated, bored men. Most looked like thugs. Some wore military camouflage uniform. Some wore blue uniforms with badges on the shoulders, and one guy had a greyish-mauve uniform with a walkie-talkie. Our taxi driver, who we had hired randomly in a neighbouring village, was called out by the thugs. They screamed at him: "What the fuck are you doing here?"

He knew nothing. He came back in and screamed at us. "Fuck all of you, look now you've gotten me into trouble."

We told him to reverse but by that time it was already too late, the car was encircled. "Don't go out!" I screamed, telling everyone to lock their doors. I called a colleague on my mobile, asked him to stay on the phone with me.

The men outside shouted among themselves and those in uniform suddenly left. Those remaining started pushing on the car, screaming at us to get out. They pointed flashlights at us, and when the light hit Mr Lu's face, it was as if a bomb had gone off. They completely lost it. They pulled him out and bashed him to the ground, kicked him, pulverised him, stomped on his head over and over again. The beating was loud, like the crack of a wooden board, and he was unconscious within 30 seconds.

They continued for 10 minutes. The body of this skinny little man turned to putty between the kicking legs of the rancorous men. This was not about teaching a man a lesson, about scaring me, about preventing access to the village; this was about vengeance - retribution for teaching villagers their legal rights, for agitating, for daring to hide.

They slowed down but never stopped. He lay there - his eye out of its socket, his tongue cut, a stream of blood dropping from his mouth, his body limp, twisted. The ligaments in his neck were broken, so his head lay sideways as if connected to the rest of his body by a rubber band.

We were probably in the car another five to eight minutes. The front windows were open and various men were reaching in to unlock my door. I held my hand tight to the lock. They punched me, twisted my wrist, tried everything possible with a quick grab to get me out. But I wouldn't let go, and I defended myself while watching Mr Lu get beaten through the window.

Eventually, my translator got out. I followed. They opened my pen, searched my pockets, underwear and socks, asked my translator if his watch could record anything. They asked what we were doing in Taishi. They found my Chinese press pass. "You foreigners you are ruining Taishi," they screamed. "You write write write so much about what's happened here that all these businesses have fled the new industrial zone."

My head was spinning. I was in a mixed state of shock at what had happened to Mr Lu and utter fear for my life.

I shamelessly begged. I prayed. I offered them money. I tried to smile at them. Random people came up to Mr Lu and kicked him in the head, clearing their nose of snot on his body, spitting on him, peeing on him, showing off for each other. I had no idea what to do.

I stood there, sweating, my hands ripping my hair out, just staring at the blood all over the man who had risked his life to help me.

An ambulance came. The medic got out, checked his pulse and left. Then it hit me: I'd done absolutely nothing to save Mr Lu. I stood there watching. I'm trained as a medic, and I did nothing to save Mr Lu. Absolutely nothing. They put us in a car, told us we were being taken for interrogation. On the way the men joked, laughed and we shook.

Mr Lu spent his adult life working to empower villagers and to get the attention of Beijing and the world. He was beaten up many times, had scars all over his body. This, he thought, was part of his work.

Once at the township, they put us at a conference table with flowers and spring water. About 15 officials sat round it and politely questioned us, videotaping the interaction as if it were a TV show. "Why did you come to Taishi? Why did you meet Lu Banglie? How did you meet him?" they asked.

"We are not interested in the reception of media interviews of any kind at this juncture in time," one official explained. His superior arrived: Ms Qi Hong, associate director of the government news office in Guangzhou. "China is open to foreigners," she said. "We

welcome any journalists in Guangzhou, but if you don't follow the proper procedures how can we guarantee your safety?"

The initiator of Mr Lu's beating sat at the table, eyes bloodshot, arms crossed at an angle, his elbow jutting into the air as if to show his extreme disinterest in us.

They said we had broken the law by coming here without permission. We apologised. That is all, that is how the night ended. We walked out of the government building, still being filmed, across the lawn, past the Chinese flag at high mast, and into the car.

What I can tell you is that what's going on in Taishi is perhaps the most significant grassroots social movement China has seen since the Cultural Revolution, a rural revolt against corruption, against deterioration of healthcare, against the illegal sale of farmland, and broadly against urban capitalism that has reaped no benefits for these farmers.

The Guardian has been unable to confirm what happened to Mr Lu.

Police said they had received reports that he had been taken to hospital, but that he had been released and was "fine". The three nearest hospitals said that no one had been admitted yesterday.

The last words of Mr Lu I wrote down were: "The police cover their arses. They employ all these thugs whose lives mean nothing to them to kill you. That's why once we are in this we can't go out."

Received:

“That's Not Something I Will Ever Forget”

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: October 09, 2005
Subject: Thanks, again

Dear GI Special,

Thanks again for all the things you publish.

Thanks for the article in 3C78 on Dang Thuy Tram and Fred Whitehurst.

Thanks for the pointer in 3C78 to "The Other Israel" <http://otherisrael.home.igc.org/>

And thanks for the quote in 3C78 from Sgt. Todd B. Bowers on soldiers' having to buy their own body armor: "It is not fair that those who have the money can be better prepared than others."

During the Civil War you could just hire a "replacement" for three hundred bucks, if you had "other priorities" than being cannon fodder.

It was the same in Viet Nam. If you could afford to stay in school long enough, or were otherwise well-connected enough, your "replacement" would go and be destroyed, one way or another, in your place.

Now the American armed forces are made up people to whom the promised money for education represented a better deal than they otherwise had. Those with more "financial independence" here in the "land of the free" need not serve.

Hearing the neo-con yuppie scum sneer at the Americans with "skin in the game", a phrase I've heard Cindy Sheehan use, for what amounts to having been "dumb enough" to have signed a contract with the Department of Defense, as though they hadn't been smart enough to read the fine print... that's not something I will ever forget.

Received:

Correction

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 10, 2005

I regret I made a mistake in the piece where I mentioned Barbara Lee. I had the wrong war. With so many over the years, sometimes it is hard to keep track. You might mention it, so we don't have egg on our face. Sorry about that

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