

GI SPECIAL 3A9:

THE ENEMY DOMESTIC



(AFP/File/Paul Richards)

**George Bush:
A Domestic
Enemy Of The
United States**

November 20, 2004

To: George W. Bush
From: SGT Kevin M. Benderman

When are you going to tell the truth to the people of the United States?

Why don't you tell them why you want to be in Iraq so bad?

I was there for six months and I did not see the first weapon of mass destruction. I did receive orders from the company commander to shoot children if they threw small rocks at us and that was when I figured out that the entire thing was way over the line.

Over 1200 soldiers have died in Iraq so that you can have a couple billion more dollars, that should make you feel very good about yourself.

The soldiers that have died for this sham that you have put over on the American people are so much more deserving than that. You are not worth the dust off of their boots.

If you truly had respect for the military and the people that serve then you would not continue to kill them in your war.

I joined the Army to protect my country and not to be a mercenary for a political despot.

If you wish to put me in prison because of my views then you should make room for about 75% of the military.

And while you are at make some room for yourself and about half of your administration. You are responsible for what happened at Abu Gharaib and you are shirking your responsibility.

The commander in chief is not above the UCMJ, as you would like to believe.

I want to fulfill my contract that says I joined the Army to protect my country against all enemies foreign and domestic, and as far as I am concerned you are a domestic enemy of the United States.

You care nothing for this country; you just care about the profits that are to be made from the oil in Iraq. That much is evident to me from the way the contracts were passed out to Halliburton and KBR. It must be nice to have the deck stacked in your favor by the president of the USA.

Since your are raising the debt ceiling of America so that we can pay the bills that you have run up, why don't you forgive the debts of every one in the armed forces since they are the ones that are making it possible for you to make billions from the oil from Iraq.

Sincerely,

SGT Kevin M. Benderman

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Resistance Offensive Cuts Off All Oil Exports From Iraq

8 January 2005 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Power cuts have halted Iraq's crude oil exports from its southern Gulf terminals and saboteurs blew up domestic crude and gas pipelines in northern Iraq, shipping sources and officials said on Saturday.

Loadings at the southern Basra oil terminals stopped on 0845 (GMT) on Friday, disrupting all exports. Flows from the north have been halted for three weeks due to sabotage.

Iraq has the capacity to export about two million barrels per day from its offshore Basra and Khor al-Amya terminals in the Gulf. [Wrong. HAD the capacity.]

Saboteurs blew up domestic oil and gas pipelines in northern Iraq on Saturday and crude exports through Turkey remained disrupted following an earlier attack, oil officials said.

An explosion ripped off a section of an oil pipeline running from northern fields to the 350,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Baiji refinery in the Safra area, around 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, they said.

Two guard posts for an oil protection force composed of tribesmen were blown up around the area and one guard was wounded.

Saboteurs also blew up a gas pipeline in the Fatha area near Baiji, home to Iraq's biggest refinery, the officials said. The gas line feeds the Baiji power plant, they said.

One civilian suffered burn wounds in the blast, the officials added.

Attacks against Iraqi oil facilities in northern areas have escalated since U.S. forces attacked the former rebel stronghold of Falluja in November.

The export pipeline to Turkey's Ceyhan port, which can carry 500,000 barrels per day, has also been repeatedly hit.

There have been no flows through the line since an explosion damaged it on Dec. 18. Officials expect repairs to take at least another week. **[At which time, it will be blown up again. Duh.]**

Soldier Killed In Non-Hostile Vehicle Accident

01/08/05 cjtf7 Release #050108b

Camp Fallujah — One Soldier assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in a non-hostile motor vehicle accident on Friday, Jan. 7, in the Al Anbar Province.

Abu G Attacks Do Damage

07 January 2005 Aljazeera

A US military vehicle, part of a US patrol, was damaged in the Samilat district in Abu Ghraib when an explosive device was detonated by fighters on Friday, Aljazeera has learned.

Aljazeera has also learned that a house used as a base by US troops in the Zaidan District in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, came under heavy mortar fire. **Eyewitnesses said a number of US soldiers were hit in the attack.**

Command Admits Air Force Attack Kills Wrong 14 Civilians In N. Iraq Village; Say Dead Kids Are “Possibly” Innocent Victims

AP) Residents gather around a house reduced to a pile of rubble, in the village of Aitha, Iraq,

Jan 8, 2005 AAYTHA, Iraq (Reuters) & 09 January 2005 Aljazeera & By NICK WADHAMS BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

The United States military said it dropped a 500-pound laser-guided bomb on the wrong house outside the northern city of Mosul on Saturday, **mistaking it for a nearby suspected hideout of fighters, *killing five people.***

The man who owned the house said the bomb killed 14 people.

An official from a joint US-Iraqi security centre for Salahuddin province put the toll at 13, including four women and three children. He said the dead were all from the same family.

Late Saturday, a U.S. military statement said an F-16 jet dropped a 500-pound GPS-guided bomb on a house that was meant to be searched during an operation to capture "an anti-Iraqi force cell leader."

"The house was not the intended target for the airstrike. The intended target was another location nearby," the military said in a statement.

The homeowner, Ali Yousef, told Associated Press Television News that the airstrike happened at about 2:30 a.m., and American troops immediately surrounded the area, blocking access for four hours. The brick house was reduced to a pile of rubble, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene.

An Associated Press photographer said from the scene that 14 members of the same family - seven children, four women and three men - were killed, and six people were wounded, including another child in the house and five people from neighboring houses. By evening, all 14 victims had been buried in a nearby cemetery, Yousef said.

The house in northern Iraq was destroyed.



The U.S. military statement said coalition forces went to the area to provide assistance and said *five people were killed*. It said there was no other damage. [Even as they admit they hit the wrong house, they just keep on with the bullshit lies, as if the truth can be covered up. What lame, stupid, murderous clowns. If you think this is bad, check the next sentence.]

"Multi-National Force Iraq deeply regrets the loss of *possibly* innocent lives," the statement said, adding that an investigation was underway. [How many dead kids does it take to get rid of the "possibly"? How young a kid do you have to be

before they drop the “possibly” innocent after they kill you? That’s about as suave as saying Hitler possibly killed some Jews or Stalin possibly ran slave labor camps. Command stooges in the press office may think they’re being clever, but all they do is show every single Iraqi they are not only the enemy, but cowardly sneaks as well. The Iraqis are right to resist the Bush invasion and occupation. And so are U.S. troops.]

Reuters pictures showed a house in the village of Aaytha, southeast of the northern city of Mosul, reduced to rubble. They also showed rows of freshly dug graves where locals said the dead had been buried.

Insurgents Making More Powerful Bombs

Jan 07, 2005 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer, WASHINGTON & January 9, 2005 Reuters

Roadside bombs, which have been the Iraqi insurgents' main weapon against U.S. troops for more than a year, are getting larger and more powerful, Army Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, the Joint Staff's deputy director for regional operations said Friday.

"We've noticed in the recent couple of weeks that the IEDs are all being built more powerfully, with more explosive effort." **["We've" noticed? They got IEDs in the Pentagon lunch room now?]**

On IEDs, Rodriguez was responding to a question about the implications of an attack Thursday in Baghdad in which a roadside bomb struck a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, one of the more heavily armored U.S. military vehicles, killing all seven U.S. soldiers inside and destroying the vehicle.

The roadside bombs have been so effective that the Army has been adding armor to more vehicles, even trucks that haul supplies, as well as Humvees used as utility vehicles. Although that is believed to have saved lives, the attack on the Bradley showed that even heavily protected vehicles cannot always escape the deadly effects of IEDs, Rodriguez said.

Over the last two weeks, IEDs have been packed with larger amounts of explosives, Rodriguez said. Although there have been fewer, they have grown more powerful, he said.

The general could offer no explanation for the new tactic, including whether or not the insurgents were using new experts to cobble together explosive shells and other devices.

TROOP NEWS

Pure Poetry

DIRT

From: Soldier, Iraq
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2005
Subject: Iraq Dirt

Dirt

Iraqi dirt is everywhere

in my boots and in my hair

the dark clay that soldiers keep

where they march and where they sleep to prevent the ache in a
mothers heart

white sand becomes penned pure art

we exaggerate and bring to light

when the gravel grains are colored bright under wheels and under track

dirty bombs reality lacks

stuck to sweat under trigger finger nails

that itches and stings when a child wails dirt so heavy that one can't
hide

inside sand bags that divide the sides

turning to grime when it begins to rain

American pride turned to pain Scandalous chit chat in day to day gossip

"those veterans are insane they really lost it"

closed minds, mass destruction of innocence

and truth gets a purple heart amidst all the ignorance red white and blue
covered in dust the color of money, oil, and lust

soiled uniforms brown with taint

breathe uranium air contaminate Jesus pimps our children like whores

like Uncle Sam's hate crimes that the family ignores

under patriot makeup is the garbage and filth

body bags filled with love, swept under the rug is guilt scum put on sale,
but they put us on trial

it's in our teeth when we bite and we smile

grease fed to the masses on the daily news

if the war never ends we'll never lose we dig and dig, but they cover the
hole

when we discover the truth we pay the toll

an unknown soldier in a shallow grave

burdened and battered and buried alive

heretic

Thinking Of Joining The Army?

From: Rose Gentle

To: GI Special

Sent: January 05, 2005

Subject: Thinking Of Joining The Army?

[ROSE GENTLE'S SON GORDON, A MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY, WAS BETRAYED AND DIED IN IRAQ. TODAY, THEY SHE FIGHTS TO END THE WAR, AND BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW.]

thinking of joining the army?

1. the army's main job is fighting , expect to kill people and may be killed,
2. being a soldier is very risky, apart from being killed, you could end up ill. disabled, traumatized.
3. once you're in its really hard to get out,
4. but sometimes you are sacked early to save paying you a full pension.'
5. being in the army is all about obeying orders, you can disagree but you must obey.
6. you could be sent to fight wars which are illegal like the iraq war.
7. if you refuse, you could be court martialled
8. are you prepared for the army experience/ living like sardines in army barracks in depressing places. you may be bullied.
9. if you really want adventure, fun, qualifications, money. and see the world there are other ways to achieve these things.

you don't need to join the army..

rose gentle

Hope?

phone went today
a major phoned me to tell me the troops are going to iraq,
how,
me,
he is telling me don't stop,
the next 10 days,
the troops are off,
will the troops come home,
ask Blair?
hope they all come home
they should not be there.

Rose Gentle.

with hope?

Broke Down Army; “We’ve Tapped ‘Em Out,” The Army Official Said

In putting together a force to rotate into Iraq starting this summer — the fourth rotation since the war began — the Army found itself with a smaller proportion of Guard and Reserves available because there just weren’t enough left.

January 07, 2005 By Robert Burns, Associated Press

The strain of fighting a counter-insurgency war in Iraq, on a scale not foreseen even a year ago and with no end in sight, is taking a startling toll on the American military. The U.S. death count is rising — at least 1,350 in all, rising by 70 or more each month. Costs are escalating — more than \$1 billion a week, with the total now exceeding \$100 billion.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has recently used the term “bleak” to describe the situation.

The Pentagon is so strapped to sustain a force of 150,000 troops in Iraq that some senior Army leaders are worried that the war — combined with the conflict in Afghanistan — is wearing out their soldiers.

In putting together a force to rotate into Iraq starting this summer — the fourth rotation since the war began — the Army found itself with a smaller proportion of Guard and Reserves available because there just weren’t enough left.

“We’ve tapped ‘em out,” the Army official said Thursday, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the manpower question has not been settled within the Pentagon.

The Army has about 135,000 soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, and the official said that for planning purposes the service is figuring it will have to maintain that level for another four or five years. That’s an astounding level of commitment, considering that the Army has many other obligations, including deterring war on the Korean peninsula and keeping peace in the Balkans.

And there is the “other” war — the one in Afghanistan, now in its fourth year.

MORE:

Endless War Planned By Pentagon For Reservists

January 7, 2005 By MARK MAZZETTI, Los Angeles Times & (Washington Post, January 7, 2005, 2004, Pg. 1)

Army leaders are considering seeking a change in Pentagon policy that would allow for longer and more frequent call-ups of some reservists to meet the demands of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, a senior Army official said.

Army authorities are having increasing difficulty limiting the active-duty time of some normally part-time soldiers to a set maximum of two years, the official said.

The senior general also said the Army would push to change policy to allow the Pentagon to keep reservists on active longer than they now serve.

Under current Pentagon policy established just days after the Sept. 11 attacks, a reservist's cumulative time on active duty cannot exceed 24 months. Under the policy being considered, a reservist could be deployed multiple times, for up to 24 months of active duty each time.

Commanders have complained about the existing policy and Army officials said Reserve commander Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly is pushing for the change so reserve units can stay together for the entire length of their deployments.

"Helmly believes that the change will help maintain unit cohesion," the Army official said. "Right now, we're really struggling to fill out units heading over to Iraq."

However, doing away with the 24-month limit is also likely to upset long-serving reservists and their families, who complain they are increasingly bearing the weight of a military stretched beyond its capacity. [Pissing off people who bear arms is not a brilliant political move. Troops fucked over too much can, and have, turned their guns on their officers and whatever rotten government is tormenting them. Good for them. Ask Milosevic, Suharto, and other similar scum about that.]

"There's Not Much Chance Of Dying Here"

(Boston Globe, January 7, 2005) When the contingent of 1,300 Marines boarded the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard in San Diego a month ago, they thought they were on their way to Iraq. Now, they have arrived off the Indonesian coast, prepared for a very different mission: bringing badly needed aid to people left isolated by the tsunami that battered coastlines along the Indian Ocean.

"A lot of guys would say they want to go right to Iraq," says Lance Cpl. Keith Delatorre, 23. "But I'm kind of glad. There's not much chance of dying here."

Soldier From Greene Is Wounded

01-07-2005 By: By BILL JONES/Staff Writer, East Tennessee Network

A young woman soldier who grew up in Greene County and whose parents and sisters reside here was injured this week in an attack in Iraq.

Rev. Charles Ricker and his wife, Diane, said during a Thursday telephone interview that their daughter, Sgt. Angela Michelle Ricker Jarbo, 28, was wounded in Iraq on Monday, Jan. 3.

Rev. Ricker said his daughter had been serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army's 594th Transportation Company since last June.

Rev. Ricker said his daughter told him that she had suffered a broken leg and other, less serious, injuries on Jan. 3 when a roadside bomb exploded near a military truck in which she was a passenger.

"She didn't realize she was hurt until she tried to get out of the truck," Rev. Ricker said his daughter told him.

He noted that the soldier who had been driving the truck had jumped from it after the explosion but had rushed back after his daughter yelled that she was unable to get out of the burning vehicle.

"He carried her out (to safety)," Rev. Ricker said.

Mrs. Ricker said Angela is married to Tony Jarbo, whom she met while both were in the Army. Tony Jarbo, who has gotten out of the Army since the two married, has been caring for the couple's three sons: Kenneth, 4; Anthony, 2, and Jaylen, 1, while Angela has been serving in Iraq, Mrs. Ricker said.

Angela has served in the Army for more than seven years and hopes to be released from active duty soon, her mother said. [Amen to that.]

Diane Ricker also said that she and her husband plan to travel to Fort Campbell, Ky., on Saturday so they can meet an airplane that is expected on Sunday to bring their daughter there from Germany.

Rev. Ricker said his daughter was in good spirits when he spoke with her and was looking forward to seeing her sons and other family members. "She can't wait to see her boys," he said.

Raped Air Force Cadets To Be Punished

Colorado Springs Gazette, January 7, 2005)

Air Force Academy cadets will no longer get blanket amnesty for coming forward to report sexual assaults, in line with a recommendation by the Pentagon inspector general, officials said.

The relaxed procedures were introduced in March 2003 at the height of a sexual assault scandal to encourage women to come forward without fear of being punished for related infractions, including being off base without permission or underage drinking.

Turbulent Ground; A History Of U.S. Armed Forces Rebellions

Vietnam, raked with contradictions, led many troops that committed atrocities and war crimes to transform and rebel. Soldiers invented and discovered new forms of resistance that were creative and defiant in response to the conditions they found themselves in. They forged new solidarities that led to interconnections across racial divisions, confrontations against maltreatment, and insubordinations in the face of a war that appeared to lack any meaningful purpose.

By Martin Smith (Sgt. USMC ret'd)

I believe the soldiers' resistance in Vietnam can best be understood as a labor rebellion.

Drawing on Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker's concept of the multi-ethnic "motley crew," I argue that the infantry soldiers in Vietnam were also members of the working class that labored in an ethnically diverse workforce.

The partnership of African Americans, Chicanos, Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Puerto Rican, Japanese, Native Americans and "White" ethnicities broke down the divide of race in combat as soldiers depended on the work of others.¶ Herman Melville's descriptive prose of the combined work on whaling vessels also compares to the collective nature of the skilled work required in an infantry unit.¶

Owning no property and selling only their labor power, via contract labor, soldiers worked for what James William Gibson in *The Perfect War* describes as the "production of death" or in occupations that supplied the means to continue the prosecution of the war.¶

Moreover, by looking at the social relationships that troops entered as soldiers, class conflict emerged in the battle between the career officers and soldiers and the lower enlisted and draftees.

I am arguing the system of military rank mimics the hierarchical relationship of employer and employee.

As the historian E.P. Thompson points out, class is a social relationship in which people, due to a set of common experiences, embody a particular set of interests. With these common interests, they interact, experience, and create an identity that they share, in opposition to other people who hold different interests. Similarly through their experiences, soldiers developed a shared set of interests that emerged in opposition to those of military planners and the career enlisted.

Therefore, the many definitions of the working class must also include the work and world of the soldiers in the Vietnam War. We must redefine the accepted boundaries of the working class to include GIs and their collective struggle for survival.

Troops, however, were not united across all identities. Just as the working class at home is divided along lines of race, gender, nationality, and sexual identity, so too were the troops in Vietnam. In particular, race cut across class unity. Racist white troops flew the rebel flag in the base camps, and the racialized segmentation of work gave the most menial and dangerous jobs to African Americans.

The dehumanization of the Vietnamese, as well, led to war atrocities and savagery, and racist terminology labeled all Asian people as sub-human. The existence of the soldier in Vietnam was also a particular experience of maleness and masculinity. Soldiers used vulgar and sexist language, frequented prostitutes, and even committed rape. All of these acts should be seen in the context of the brutalization of women that is common to all wars. Yet these identities and conflicting agendas were products of the circumstances that the troops found themselves in.

Vietnam, raked with contradictions, led many troops that committed atrocities and war crimes to transform and rebel. Soldiers invented and discovered new forms of resistance that were creative and defiant in response to the conditions they found themselves in. They forged new solidarities that led to interconnections across racial divisions, confrontations against maltreatment, and insubordinations in the face of a war that appeared to lack any meaningful purpose.

Soldiers also engaged in what George Lipsitz calls the “forbidden, frowned upon, and the frivolous.”

They developed a culture of opposition based on activities that were illegal or discouraged by the military brass and society, in general.

Soldiers contributed to underground newspapers, ran pirate radio stations, used drugs, and listened to counterculture music. Similarly, Robin D. G. Kelley describes how

African Americans, as members of the working class, engage in “infrapolitics,” informal acts of resistance that inform the “hidden transcript” of political action.

Kelley describes the many forms of resistance that take place beyond the strike and the political meeting, including shiftless behavior and evasiveness, work slowdowns and contestations, and the transformation of work time and space for personal tasks and elbowroom, which often go unnoticed.[]

To understand how the large scale mutinies and organized resistance developed in Vietnam, one must look underneath the official military and news reports to find the unofficial relationships that troops formed with each other.

Soldiers formed networks of solidarity around pot smoking, listening to music, and rapping against the war that laid the basis for and fomented larger collective actions.

Thus when viewing the soldiers’ rebellion in Vietnam as a narrative that begins from the relationships they shared, activities they defined, and experiences they challenged, troops’ self-activity can be located on a different terrain. Soldiers were not merely victims of an unequal world of class oppression but were also subjects of their own history of contestation, negotiation, and struggle.

The source material I used from the lower enlisted ranks of the military also determined the methodology of my research.

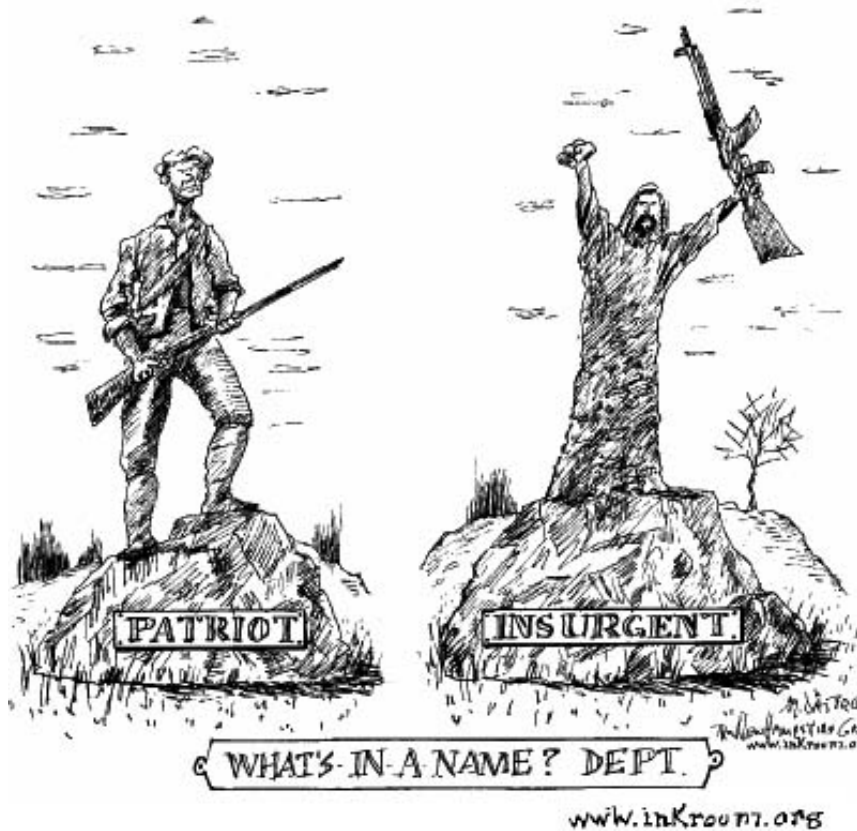
I examined oral histories, underground newspapers and pirate radio broadcasts by troops in Vietnam; television war footage and documentaries; poetry and letters by troops written home and inscribed on their Zippo lights. I also conducted interviews of five veterans that either served in Vietnam: Bill Davis and Stan Goff, or participated in the GI Movement, Tom Barton, Tom Bernard, and Pat True. For continuity and to avoid confusion to those readers unfamiliar with the military rank structure, I did not include specific pay rates to identify all source material.

However, it should be noted that all my sources were from the regular enlisted ranks of private to sergeant and the vast majority are from the U.S. army, though some included are from the marine corps, as they shared a similar experience as infantry troops. The viewpoints of the officers and career soldiers rated above sergeant are not within the scope of this work, and neither are their voices, unless a specific example needs context.

I argue that the soldiers’ rebellion in Vietnam broadens the accepted borders that define labor and social movements. Indeed, the “working-class war” was a working-class revolt on the grandest scale. The soldiers’ rebellion in Vietnam as a labor study, intersecting race, class, and resistance, challenges the boundaries of what is called the “Vietnam Anti-War Movement” and simultaneously expands the framework of working-class history.

[To be continued.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



Three Senior Iraqi Collaborators Captured South Of Baghdad

January 8, 2005 (AP) BAGHDAD & 09 January 2005 Aljazeera

Iraq Authorities in Tikrit say gunmen have abducted a deputy governor of a central Iraqi province and two other senior Iraqi officials.

The delegation was heading for a meeting with Iraq's top Shiite cleric when it was stopped and the members kidnapped yesterday about 40 miles south of Baghdad.

The delegation included the head of the northern Salaheddin provincial council, the deputy to the provincial governor and the dean of Tikrit law school, police and tribal sources said.

More Collaborators Dead

By NICK WADHAMS BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Insurgents in Baqouba beheaded a translator working with the U.S. Army, police said Saturday. An Iraqi policeman was killed by masked gunmen as he left his house in Baghdad's southern Dora neighborhood.

Samarra Election Commission Members Resign; 2 Occupation Guards Killed

8 January 2005 Khaleej Times & 09 January 2005 Aljazeera

TIKRIT - All of the members of the High Election Commission in the Sunni-majority city of Samarra resigned Saturday in support of a call to boycott upcoming elections from the Muslim Clerics Association, one of the most influential Sunni Muslim groups in Iraq.

"All the 24 members of the commission in Samarra have resigned to support the association's call," a member of the commission who refused to give his name told DPA.

Meanwhile in the al-Alam area, 15 kilometres north of Tikrit, gunmen attacked a school on Saturday which is supposed to be used as a polling centre during the election. According to police sources in Tikrit, the attackers destroyed the school.

In other violence on Saturday, **armed men shot dead two Iraqi National Guards south of Samarra,**

"If We See A Humvee, We Destroy It"

Jan. 7, 2005 By Richard Engel, NBC News

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A cab driver trolled down Baghdad's Karadah Street, past rows of barber shops and electronics stores just lifting up their gates for the day, fishing for a final fare to cap off a long night of kidnap and murder.

My friend flagged down the taxi and, according to one of many fraternal Arab customs, sat in the front seat, so as not to make the driver feel too much like a driver.

"Where you going?" the cabbie wanted to know.

"Dora," said my friend, who, without casting aspersions, looks remarkably like Saddam Hussein when he was in his 40s, with a bristly mustache, an athletic build and deep-set brooding eyes.

But their conversation was interrupted by a convoy of Humvees that cut them off, an American gunner in the turret pointing a machine gun at the car, telling the driver in no uncertain terms to stay back.

"Where I'm from they can't do that," the driver grumbled acerbically.

Thus began their conversation about Mahmoudiya, a Sunni Muslim town south of Baghdad.

"If we see a Humvee, we destroy it. The Americans can't come into our city," bragged the driver, also in his early 40s, but unlike my fastidiously groomed friend, he had an unkempt salt-and-pepper beard and a strong yet plump physique like an aging fisherman or a construction foreman.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

<p>"Rulers who failed to recognize this first principle of government and, relying upon the alleged irresistibility of their armed troops, disdained the spirit and ideas, have finally been overthrown by the assault of their adversaries." Ludwig von Mises</p>

Give Me A Break

January 8, 2005 by Morgan Reynolds, lewrockwell.com

Last summer my wife and I went motorcycling for a week in California, which is about the size of Iraq. Even though I lived 28 years in Texas, I couldn't help but marvel at how big California is.

"Can you imagine invading this place, and then trying to control a hostile population of 25 million with 130,000 troops," I asked my wife.

"No way," was her response.

Bush knows a lot more though, right? He's got access to superior information. Just another 10,000 troops and "progress" over there will be even faster. Give me a break.

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.

Big Surprise: Wall St. Oil Analyst Says U.S. Troops Dying For Oil Wealth; “You Can’t Ask For Better Than That”

November 2004 Monthly Review, Notes from the Editors

U.S. corporate interests and the U.S. government have never been shy about explaining-at least within business circles-their postwar economic goals for Iraq, which were to start with a 'Mass Privatization Program.'

Robert Ebel, former vice president of a Dutch-based oil exploration company, now connected to the influential Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, makes it clear that U.S. corporations are prepared to invest tens of billions of dollars in Iraq and are insisting that Iraqi oil be privatized.

'We're looking for places to invest around the world. You know, along comes Iraq, and I think a lot of oil companies would be disappointed if Iraq were to say -- we're going to do it ourselves.'

An example of such blunt telling-it-how-it-is can be seen in recent statements by Fadel Gheit, a leading oil analyst for the prestigious Wall Street firm Oppenheimer and Co.

Linda McQuaig tells us in an article in the September 20, 2004, Toronto Star (based on her new book, *It's the Crude, Dude*) that Gheit simply smiles at the notion that oil was not a major factor in the invasion of Iraq, and quotes him as saying: 'Think of Iraq as virgin territory....This is bigger than anything that Exxon is involved in currently...It is the superstar of the future. That's why Iraq becomes the most sought- after real estate on the face of the earth.'

In addition to its own oil, Iraq is strategically located so that the occupying power is well placed to dominate the other oil countries of the Middle East. **Gheit explains: 'Think of Iraq as a military base with a very large oil reserve underneath...You can't ask for better than that.'**

If the war had gone as planned the United States would have seized what control it wanted and few questions would have been asked.

As it is, the Iraqis have launched a ferocious guerrilla war and the United States is now in the odd position of pretending it is promoting democracy and free elections in a country where practically the only place where the government is in control and where elections can be held is on the very ground that the U.S. military is standing on.

Hence, **the claim that the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq has something to do with the promotion of democracy is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain even at the heart of the U.S. empire and with the help of the most sophisticated propaganda machine that the world has ever seen.**

It is becoming more and more obvious as the antiwar movement originally claimed (though often mocked by establishment experts for being too simplistic) that all the blood shed in the war has been about oil, money, and power - and nothing else.

It is capitalism and imperialism not security and democracy that the United States is seeking to promote in Iraq.

Big Surprise: Military Analyst Says War Is Hopeless Disaster

05 January 2005 By Joseph L. Galloway, Knight Ridder Newspapers
Joseph L. Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers and co-author of the national best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young."

Why can't we win?

Because we charged in with false premises and bogus assumptions.

Because for every insurgent we kill, two or three more join the cause.

Because even our advertised victories - like Fallujah, where we apparently had to destroy the city in order to save it, or Samarra or Ramadi - only turned the entire Sunni population against the United States and its Iraqi allies.

If we learned nothing else from the bitter history of Vietnam it should be that there are places and people who won't accept change and won't quit fighting until even the most powerful nation and army in the world wearies of the killing and dying.

The fallout from staying the course will be thousands more American soldiers killed and wounded, an Army so broken that repairs and reconstruction could take a decade or more and a federal budget deficit staggering under the costs of this war.

Consider these stories published this week:

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, commander of the U.S. Army's 200,000 Reserve soldiers, tells his boss, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, that the Reserves are "rapidly degenerating into a broken force." The cause: The war in Iraq and dysfunctional Pentagon and congressional policies. (Baltimore Sun, Jan. 5)

U.S. casualties as of this week: 1,340 killed in action, 10,252 wounded in action and an estimated 12,000 ill or injured. More than half the wounded Americans are hurt so badly they are not able to return to duty.

The Bush administration is preparing to send to Congress a supplemental request for as much as \$100 billion to cover unbudgeted costs of the Iraq war this year. **That will bring the total cost to American taxpayers of this war to an estimated \$230 billion. That against an original Bush administration estimate of total costs of \$50 billion to \$60 billion.**

Under Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz has signed off on a Pentagon document proposing \$30 billion in cuts in once untouchable Air Force and Navy weapons projects to help pay for Iraq and help reduce the overall budget deficit.

Gen. Muhammad Abdullah Shahwani, director of the Iraq government's new intelligence service, told The Times of London that he estimates there are more than 200,000 insurgents and active supporters opposing American, coalition and government forces in Iraq. "I think the resistance is bigger than the U.S. military in Iraq," Shahwani said.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. 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)

OCCUPATION REPORT

World Class Idiocy On The March In Falluja

THIS IS NOT A SATIRE. THIS IS AN REAL NEWSPAPER REPORT. NONE OF THESE QUOTES HAVE BEEN MADE UP. IT'S A CLASSIC OF IMPERIAL ARROGANCE, BLIND STUPIDITY, AND A TEXTBOOK ILLUSTRATION OF WHY THE U.S. EMPIRE LOST THE WAR IN IRAQ. THE COMMAND READS SOME BOOK ABOUT HOW TO TREAT THEIR VICTIMS, BUT THEY'VE LOST WHATEVER GRIP THEY EVER HAD ON REALITY. IT'S SURPRISING THEY DIDN'T BRING ALONG GLASS BEADS TO HAND OUT TO THE NATIVES.

January 7, 2005 By Tony Perry, L.A. Times Staff Writer

FALLOUJA, Iraq — As he navigated his Humvee through rubble-strewn streets, Lance Cpl. Sunshine Yubeta articulated a question key to the Marines' mission here.

"I wonder," said the 23-year-old from Madras, Ore., nodding toward several sullen-looking men on a corner, "if they hate us or like us." [God, there's a tough one.]

At five heavily guarded entry points to the city, military interrogators are selectively asking returning residents whether they have heard of the upcoming election and, if so, which, if any, candidates they support. [That's called democracy.]

The goal, officials say, is not to influence how Iraqis vote but to gauge how well residents of politically isolated Fallouja understand the changes that have occurred in their country since Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled.

[Incredible. Having an invading Imperial army slaughter your people and turn your city to dust isn't exactly "political isolation," except in the feeble minds of whatever dimwits thought this up. The Fallujans have a lot better understanding of political reality than the people who have some silly notion there is any point to keeping U.S. troops in Iraq one more day.]

Posters offer rewards for the capture of insurgent leaders, although apparently there have been few takers. [Wow! Imagine that!]

Outside the Humanitarian Assistance center tents, Iraqis stand for hours to receive water and food packets stamped with a U.S. flag and the words "A Food Gift From the People of the United States of America." Hands are marked to prevent a return for seconds. Iraqis gather here not only for aid but for a chance to work in the assistance program, a job that pays about \$8 a day.

Many of those in line Thursday were hungry, cold, and appeared dazed by the events that had turned their city, which was untouched in the initial U.S.-led invasion in 2003, into a battlefield.

"I didn't do anything wrong, but the Americans destroyed my house," said Sami Fafaj, 49, holding two bottles of water and two food packets.

"I want America to rebuild my house and give me money for what they have done," said Fayed Abdullah, 37, collecting food for his seven children.

"The Americans are rich and strong, but sometimes I wish they had never come to Iraq."

Although older residents may seem fatalistic, the younger ones show signs of impatience.

"We are not free to move in our own city," said Maged Haraj, 20. "We want to be free."

The young Marines say they are confident that residents will come to accept that the destruction was necessary to rid Fallouja of the insurgents, whom the locals called mujahedin. [This is NOT satire.]

"Any time we can interact with these people is good," said Sgt. James Regan, 29, of San Antonio. "They can see us for what we are. I asked one of them, 'When was the last time the mujahedin gave you water or food?' Never."

["Any time we can interact with these people is good," said Sgt. James Regan, 29, His Majesty's Royal Fusiliers, of London. "They can see us for what we are. I asked one of them, when was the last time Thomas Jefferson or George Washington gave you water or food? Never."]

But other Iraqi men remained on the curb, offering no smiles and returning no waves. One gestured in disdain. Some refused to ask for handouts but instead sent children to bring back items, particularly cigarettes.

"It's kind of bad we destroyed everything, but at least we gave them a chance for a new start," said Navy corpsman Derrick Anthony, 21, of Chicago. [This is NOT satire.]

In preparation for Iraq, officers were ordered to reread the manual, particularly the section on insurgencies. One rule it discusses is maintaining moral superiority in the minds of the populace by stressing that the fighting was the insurgents' fault. [This is NOT satire.]

Amid the destruction here, it is not an easy rule to follow.

"It's hard to look these people in the eye after blowing everything up," said Staff Sgt. Travis McKinney, 31, of Vallejo, Calif.

"These people were just victims."

[Bullshit. They're the resistance, and won't stop fighting until you're gone, one way or another. Don't kid yourself, they hate your guts. They have the silly idea it's their country, and they want you, and every other troop Bush sent to take it away from them, gone yesterday. They'll keep on fighting for however many years that takes. They're Iraqi patriots. Get it? Patriots? Recognize the word? Fighting for their country. A simple concept. Easy to grip. Time to go home, alive, while that's still an option.

[There is one last card to play. Why don't you tell the Iraqis if they don't like the way the Emperor Bush runs Iraq, they can all go back where they came from? Hey, love or leave it, right?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

"How many Bush Administration officials does it take to change a light bulb?

None. There's nothing wrong with that light bulb. There is no need to change anything. We made the right decision and nothing has happened to change our minds. People who criticize this light bulb now, just because it doesn't work anymore, supported us when we first screwed it in, and when these flip-floppers insist on saying that it is burned out, they are merely giving aid and encouragement to the Forces of Darkness. - - John Cleese [Via James, Veterans for Peace.]

Received:

Bring Them Home Alive

From: K
To: GI Special
Sent: January 08, 2005

We all need to support our troops and bring them home alive....this is our way of helping them out

K. Soldiers' Wife

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