

GI SPECIAL 5L17:



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

**“He Doesn’t Believe
Adhamiya Was Worth
Their Loss”**

**“For Every One We Kill, Three
More Are Going To Pop Up”**

**“I Don’t Think It’s Ever Going To
End,” He Said**

“I Feel Like I’m Fighting For Our Freedom, But There’s None For Me”

December 24, 2007 Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

And he [Spc. Gerry DeNardi] remembers June 21, the day five friends died when a deep-buried IED destroyed a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

“I try not to think about that day, but everything I do brings it up,” DeNardi said. Because he organized the singing and playing, he couldn’t do either without remembering a friend. But his anger had mellowed into sadness.

He doesn’t believe Adhamiya was worth their loss. The Iraqis need to fight for themselves, he said, and he didn’t see that.

He plans to get out of the military to become a history teacher.

“When I look back, nothing can stop me,” DeNardi said. “I’m lucky I made it through Adhamiya — Iraq. I’m not going to waste the rest of my life sitting around in a hammock.”

At his apartment, Sgt. Ely Chagoya pulled out his guitar. After months of not playing, emotion seeped from the guitar to his fingers and up through his voice. He sang a mournful piece he wrote in Spanish about a homeless man who returned to the same park bench each day; that was where his lover said to meet her, and he waited his whole life.

But feeling the emotions behind his song scared him. “The moment you start feeling is the moment you’ll start remembering,” he said.

He worried about his family. The last he had heard, his brother and sister were being deported.

His parents, originally from Mexico, had their green cards, and Chagoya had been born in the States, but his siblings had not.

“I feel like I’m fighting for our freedom, but there’s none for me,” he said. “I got the news at Apache. I just wanted to turn in my weapon and quit.”

But he wouldn’t quit his friends. “My main mission was to bring my soldiers back,” he said. “That’s why I went out.”

Staff Sgt. Robin Johnson, 29, jumps up as his wife Jeana comes in the front door of his apartment with the stroller. When he left from R&R just after she was born, his daughter Mia weighed six pounds. Now she crawls to him. He plays with their son, Sean, 2, on the floor and beams at his wife, who understands where he’s been. They met on his last deployment in Samarra, when she was a medic and he was a self-described schmuck.

Every time he sees someone who was at Apache — at the gym, walking past the PX — he calls him “brother” and gives him a hug. He knows they had his back, and he said Spc. Ross McGinnis proved it when he gave up his life by throwing himself on a grenade to save four friends.

“We all say, ‘I don’t know what I would have done,’” he said. “But every single one was willing to die for somebody else.”

That makes it all the harder to come back and feel like the war will never be won.

“I don’t think it’s ever going to end,” he said.

“For every one we kill, three more are going to pop up. We can defeat each network, but they’ll just go somewhere else.

“We used to make fun of the soldiers in Baghdad when we were in Fallujah and Samarra. Then it was Ramadi. Now it’s Baghdad.

“It’s almost like we’re chasing our tails.”

For a time, he said, soldiers will make an area better, but the Iraqi people “don’t keep it better.”

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Kirkuk Province IED Kills U.S. Soldier; 11 Wounded

December 22, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071222-06

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Multi-National Division - North Soldier was killed and 11 were wounded during two improvised explosive device explosions near their vehicles while conducting operations in Kirkuk province Dec. 21.

The injured Soldiers were transported to a Coalition Forces medical facility for treatment.

Fallbrook Man Killed In Iraq

December 13, 2007 By: TOM PFINGSTEN, Staff Writer; North County Times

FALLBROOK ---- Friends of a decorated Navy SEAL who grew up in Fallbrook and died in Iraq this week described him as a quiet, athletic young man whose dream was to join the elite Sea Air Land commandos after high school.

Chief Petty Officer Mark T. Carter, 27, was killed "while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," the Navy said in a press release Thursday. Navy officials declined to elaborate.

As a SEAL, Carter earned a long list of honors, including two bronze stars with "V" for valor, a Joint Service Commendation Medal with "V" and various other awards for achievement, combat and good conduct.

He is survived by his father, Tom, and mother, Cindy, along with three brothers and four sisters. Carter's family moved to Northern California, and efforts to contact them were unsuccessful Thursday.

Jonathan Moffat, who grew up with Carter and was a year ahead of him in school, said he was interested in anything that had to do with Navy SEALs or the military.

"I can remember playing paintball with him, and he'd always be the one hiding in the grass, or making cover out of potato sacks," said Moffat, 28, who now lives in Los Angeles but went to school and church with Carter in Fallbrook. "He always took it one step further. Ever since I can remember, he had Navy SEAL posters up on the wall of his room."

He added that Carter was well-liked within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fallbrook, where his family attended.

Carter enlisted in the Navy after graduating from Fallbrook High in 1998. He volunteered for SEAL training in Coronado in 1999 and served with two West Coast SEAL teams until 2004, when he was assigned to an East Coast-based team, said Naval Special Warfare spokesman Lt. David Lockett.

Carter was stationed at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Norfolk, Va., at the time of his deployment in Iraq.

Beth Moffat, a friend of the Carters when they lived in Fallbrook, said the tightknit Mormon community in Fallbrook has been hit hard by the news of Carter's death.

"I think we're all very sad, and he'll be missed," she said. "But we believe we'll be with him and see him again. It doesn't make the pain any less, but it certainly gives you hope."

Growing up, Carter was pleasant and focused, said Beth Moffat. "He was an outstanding young man," she said, adding that his making the SEAL program was not a surprise. "His goal in life was to be a Navy SEAL ---- that's all he ever wanted to do."

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY ABOUT HALF A MILLION MORE TO GO:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Army soldier stands guard over a man suspected of weapons trafficking in Hawr Rajab, southern Baghdad Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

What is the point of a European getting himself killed in Afghanistan? Or an American, for that matter?

There is nothing in Afghanistan except fields of opium and men with rifles.

-- Charley Reese, December 22, 2007, King Features Syndicate, Inc.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



12.12.07: Doctors at the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad work to repair the damage done to the legs of U.S. soldier wounded in a roadside bomb attack. (Ely Brown/ABC News)

2,300 Soldiers Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

12.24.07 Army Times

About 100 members of an Indiana National Guard unit preparing to deploy to Iraq received a sendoff from family and friends.

About 200 people wore yellow ribbons and waved flags during the ceremony Dec. 10 in Huntington.

The Huntington-based soldiers are members of Delta Company, part of the Fort Wayne-based 293rd Infantry Regiment. The company will go to Iraq in January as part of the deployment of 3,400 Indiana National Guard soldiers.

The ceremony ended with a roll call and, as each soldier's name was called, each walked to the podium to receive a banner, a flower and a bag of gifts.

Members of the Jasper-based 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, left Tell City on Dec. 13 to prepare for a one-year mobilization to Iraq, the Perry County News reported.

The soldiers were to report to Camp Atterbury for 10 days of training before returning home for Christmas break, then report to Fort Stewart, Ga., for two months of additional training before leaving for Iraq, according to the report.

The soldiers will perform security duties in Iraq, the article stated.

About 2,300 soldiers will participate in the deployment, according to the report.

MORE:

Plus 450 More From Fort Huachuca

12.24.07 Army Times

About 450 soldiers deployed Dec. 9-10 from Fort Huachuca for a 15-month tour in Iraq, according to a local news report.

The deployment reflects one of the largest at the southern Arizona post in years, a base spokesperson told KOLD-TV.

The members of the 40th Signal Battalion will provide critical communications to U.S. and coalition forces in Baghdad, where they will be in charge of computer and phone networks, the station reported. The signal battalion sets up communications systems for the Army, according to the report.

New \$ For Vets Forced Out Short Of 20 By Combat Injuries

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

December 06, 2007 Tom Philpott, Military.com [Excerpt]

Tens of thousands of veterans forced from service short of 20 years because of combat-related injuries will be eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation effective Jan. 1, 2008, under a compromise 2008 defense authorization bill worked out by House and Senate conferees.

The CRSC payments would be set using the same formula as military retirement, usually 2.5 percent of base pay multiplied by years of service. CRSC would be paid on top of

disability compensation, thus ending for these combat-injured the long time ban on “concurrent receipt.”

The size of the eligible population among so-called “Chapter 61” retirees was not immediately available but the projected cost of the combat-related program is \$678 million over the next 10 years. Conferees rejected a more modest House plan which would have restricted CRSC eligibility to the most seriously disabled who served at least 15 years.

Bullshit Of The Week: Holiday Party Favors Sent To Troops Had To Be “Disabled” Because Regulations Classify Them As Explosives

12.24.07 Army Times

Hundreds of packages of holiday party favors sent by family and friends to United Kingdom troops serving abroad have had to be “disabled” because regulations classify them as explosives.

The bizarre rule was uncovered by Maj. Iain Dalzel-Job of the Scots Guards Association, who planned to send 650 festive parcels to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to have with their turkey dinners Dec. 25.

The parcels included novelties known as “party crackers” — small cardboard tubes wrapped in decorative paper and enclosing a small gift. When pulled from each end, the friction creates a small “pop” produced by a narrow strip of chemically treated paper, and the cracker tears open to reveal the gift inside.

In the eyes of the Royal Air Force, that puts the crackers in the same class as nitroglycerine, fireworks and blasting caps — none of which can be transported on RAF planes.

With typical British resolve, Dalzel-Job’s team defused each cracker. “It’s quite tricky to get them out. It took us two hours to go through them all. The soldiers will just have to go ‘bang’ themselves when they pull them.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

12/22/07 AP & Reuters

A car bomb exploded at a checkpoint manned by Iraqi army and police in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliyah Saturday afternoon, killing a policeman and a soldier. The wounded included two policemen and two soldiers, the officers said.

To the north in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, another roadside bomb targeting a passing police patrol killed one policeman and injured two others, local police said.

Two policemen were wounded in clashes with Iraqi police in a village near the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Police said they found the body of a guard who works for the minister of state for national security in the town of Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, on Friday.

Two roadside bombs killed a policeman and wounded two others in an attack targeting a police patrol in the northern town of Sinjar, near the Syrian border, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins**

"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."

-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“If You Ever Wanted To End A
War”**

**“We Have Been Able To Get This
Extraordinary Film Into The Hands Of
Over 1000 Active Duty Soldiers”**



BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS NOW

HELP GET SIR! NO SIR! INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST

Since Sir! No Sir! opened in theaters last April, many activists and friends of the film have argued that it should be made available to everyone for free. I couldn't agree more. In the world I want to live in, films like Sir! No Sir! and, in fact, all art would be free to everyone.

But in that world, films would not cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to make. In that world, artists could survive and continue making the films people need.

That's not the world we live in. In this world, we need your direct support.

The best way to both support and spread Sir! No Sir! is to buy and help distribute the DVD, especially the new "Director's Edition" that includes 1 1/2 hours of incredible new stories from the GI Movement both then and now.

This DVD is available at www.sirnosir.com and in stores and websites everywhere.

If you've already bought one, buy another for a friend. Or buy several to hand out-and play an important role in getting this long-suppressed story into everyone's hands.

We have been able to get this extraordinary film into the hands of over 1000 active duty soldiers.

We could not have done this without your financial support. We ask that you continue to donate to our "Make a Resister out of a Soldier" program so that we can send out another 200 copies before the new year.

Or buy bulk copies (10 or more) yourself at drastically reduced rates and get them to those who need them most.

To purchase 10 or more DVDs, contact us directly at jadefox@sirnosir.com to arrange for a discount.

FREE SHIPPING UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2008

We are offering free shipping on all domestic U.S. orders from now until January 1, 2008.

Take advantage of the deal for your last minute holiday shopping.

Also, we have been grueling over a redesign of our new site for several months now. We have new home pages on rotation right now and would LOVE your feedback. Please take a moment to go to our site and navigate through.

If you click on the refresh button, you will get a new home page each time. Not only that, but we have made the shopping cart much more efficient.

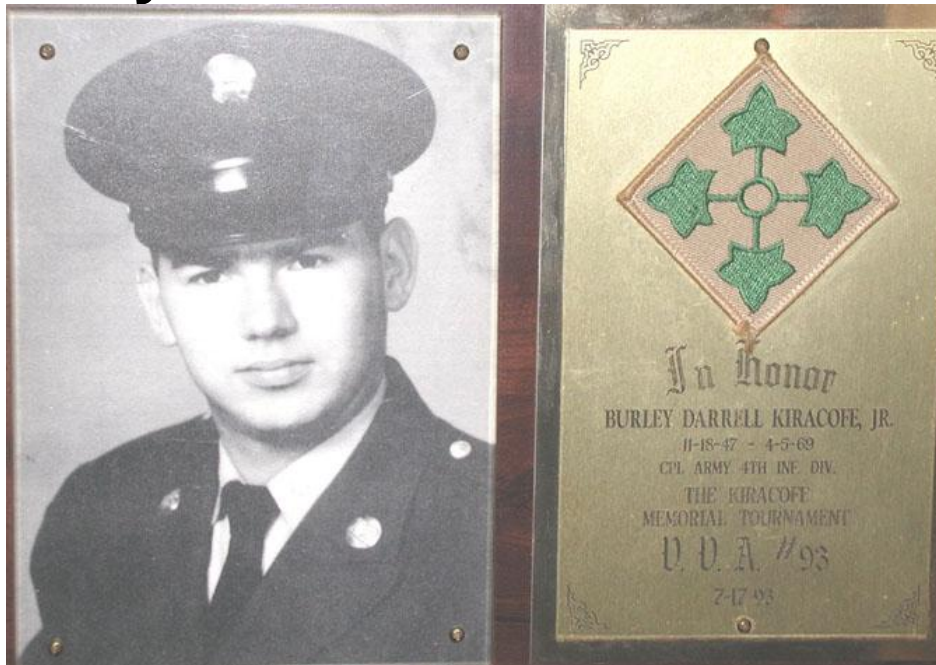
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Thanks again for all of your support!

Displaced Films:

David Zeiger, Jade Fox, May Rigler, and James Lewes
jadefox@sirnosir.com

My Brother KIA 4-5-1969



[1-22infantry.org/kia/]

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: December 22, 2007
Subject: My Brother KIA 4-5-1969 by Dennis Serdel

Written by Dennis Serdel 7-8 years ago with different names.

Dennis Serdel: Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

My Brother KIA 4-5-1969

Serdel smoked a joint and headed for the Air Force mess hall where he knew the food was good.

And there was Burley, sitting there scared just looking at his food.

Serdel had his tray full and was headed for a table when their eyes met.

He set down the tray and sat across from Burley.

They were old high school buddies, they cruised together in Burley's bad ass 426 Plymouth along with some other bad boys in their crew,

got drunk together, chased girls, got into fights with other street toughs, but most stayed away because of Burley's brother who had a reputation.

"Just getting back from R&R?"

"No, I just got here."

"Clerk?" "No, Infantry." "What are you?"

"Infantry." "How long you been here?"

"Too long, I'm waiting on a Silver Bird and then I'm gone." "What's it like out there?"

"It's bad." Burley held his head down.

"Look, you only have to remember two things and you will be alright."

Burley looked up. "You have to shoot first and keep your head down."

In another land, a place that used to be "home," there was a funeral with a red white and blue flag draped across it like a memory.

Serdel broke down and fell to his knees.

Jesus wept too from his bloody cross, tears ran down his face, dripping off his beard into a pool of holy water.

“What We Were Fighting For Was To Give Absolute Power To A Bunch Of Fat Bastards Who Sat Out The War In Hanoi Bunkers”

Excerpt from Absolute Rage; Robert K. Tenenbaum; Atria Books, New York 2002

“We Vietnamese are connoisseurs of sorrows, you know. We make the Russians look like the French. Or the happy Americans, the fortunate people. My hope is that the boys I bring over will in time learn something about this.”

‘Who are they?’

“Sons of my old comrades. Southerners, of the NLF. I find as many of them as I can, and whoever remains of the people I served with, and their families.

“We were all disgraced after the war. Insufficiently grateful to our northern comrades, too many bourgeois tendencies, our grandfathers could read, perhaps.

“We had imagined we were fighting for a better life, so we all had to be reeducated. It turned out that what we were fighting for was to give absolute power to a bunch of fat bastards who sat out the war in Hanoi bunkers. Imagine our surprise!”

“How can you get them out?”

“Oh, in Vietnam now anything can be arranged with money. The country is one great bazaar.

“The granddaughters of the Vietcong are selling themselves to fat Germans in Saigon hotels. Nothing changed.

“All the wars, twenty years of them, so that the pimps can be Vietnamese instead of French. Or Americans.

“You should have dropped dollars from your bombers instead of bombs; it would have been cheaper.”

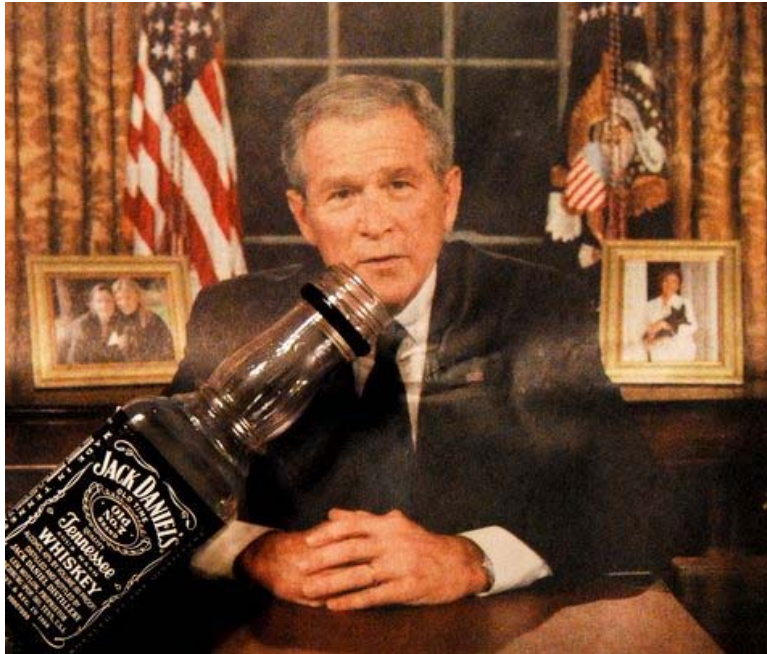
He took another long drag and closed his eyes.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

George Bush's Policy On The Iraq War



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 14, 2007
Subject: George Bush's Policy On The Iraq War

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Troops Invited:

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

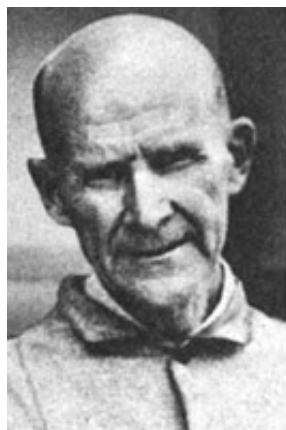
June 16, 1918:

***The Most Powerful Speech
Against Imperial War In
American History: [Conclusion]***

**“They Are Continually Talking
About Your Patriotic Duty. It Is
Not Their But Your Patriotic Duty
That They Are Concerned About”**

**“Their Patriotic Duty Never Takes
Them To The Firing Line Or Chucks
Them Into The Trenches”**

**“The Class Which Has The Power To Rob
Upon A Large Scale Has Also The Power To
Control The Government And Legalize Their
Robbery”**



***“I'd rather vote for
something I want
and not get it than
vote for something
I don't want,
and get it.”***

**Eugene Debs
(1855 - 1926)**

wellredusa.com

[Too good to cut, and much too long to run in one GI Special. It frightened the government so badly they threw Debs in prison, where he ran for President, and received 2 million votes in 1920, still in prison.]

[In the first part of his speech he attacked German Imperial militarism. He moved on to condemn the war for Empire being waged against Germany by the Imperial government in Washington DC. The Wilson government found that part of the speech intolerable and ordered his arrest. T

Via Carl Bunin Peace History December 10-16

Delivered: June 16, 1918

First Published: 1918

Source: The Call

Online Version: E.V. Debs Internet Archive, 2001

Transcribed/HTML Markup: John Metz for the Illinois Socialist Party Debs Archive & David Walters for the Marxists Internet Archive Debs Archive

In the Republican and Democratic parties you of the common herd are not expected to think. That is not only unnecessary but might lead you astray.

That is what the “intellectual” leaders are for.

They do the thinking and you do the voting.

They ride in carriages at the front where the band plays and you tramp in the mud, bringing up the rear with great enthusiasm.

The capitalist system affects to have great regard and reward for intellect, and the capitalists give themselves full credit for having superior brains.

When we have ventured to say that the time would come when the working class would rule they have bluntly answered “Never! it requires brains to rule.” The workers of course have none. And they certainly try hard to prove it by proudly supporting the political parties of their masters under whose administration they are kept in poverty and servitude.

The government is now operating its railroads for the more effective prosecution of the war. Private ownership has broken down utterly and the government has had to come to the rescue.

We have always said that the people ought to own the railroads and operate them for the benefit of the people. We advocated that twenty years ago. But the capitalists and their henchmen emphatically objected. “You have got to have brains to run the railroads,” they tauntingly retorted.

Well, the other day McAdoo, the governor-general of the railroads under government operation; discharged all the high-salaried presidents and other supernumeraries. In other words, he fired the “brains” bodily and yet all the trains have been coming and going on schedule time. Have you noticed any change for the worse since the “brains” are gone?

It is a brainless system now, being operated by "hands." But a good deal more efficiently than it had been operated by so-called "brains" before. And this determines infallibly the quality of their vaunted, high-priced capitalist "brains." It is the kind you can get at a reasonable figure at the market place.

They have always given themselves credit for having superior brains and given this as the reason for the supremacy of their class.

It is true that they have the brains that indicates the cunning of the fox, the wolf, but as for brains denoting real intelligence and the measure of intellectual capacity they are the most woefully ignorant people on earth.

Give me a hundred capitalists just as you find them here in Ohio and let me ask them a dozen simple questions about the history of their own country and I will prove to you that they are as ignorant and unlettered as any you may find in the so-called lower class.

They know little of history; they are strangers to science; they are ignorant of sociology and blind to art but they know how to exploit, how to gouge, how to rob, and do it with legal sanction.

They always proceed legally for the reason that the class which has the power to rob upon a large scale has also the power to control the government and legalize their robbery.

I regret that lack of time prevents me from discussing this phase of the question more at length.

They are continually talking about your patriotic duty.

It is not their but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about.

There is a decided difference.

Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.

And now among other things they are urging you to "cultivate" war gardens, while at the same time a government war report just issued shows that practically 52 percent of the arable, tillable soil is held out of use by the landlords, speculators and profiteers. They themselves do not cultivate the soil. They could not if they would. Nor do they allow others to cultivate it. They keep it idle to enrich themselves, to pocket the millions of dollars of unearned increment.

Who is it that makes this land valuable while it is fenced in and kept out of use? It is the people. Who pockets this tremendous accumulation of value? The landlords. And these landlords who toil not and spin not are supreme among American "patriots."

In passing I suggest that we stop a moment to think about the term "landlord."

"LANDLORD!" Lord of the Land!

The lord of the land is indeed a superpatriot.

This lord who practically owns the earth tells you that we are fighting this war to make the world safe for democracy — he who shuts out all humanity from his private domain; he who profiteers at the expense of the people who have been slain and mutilated by multiplied thousands, under pretense of being the great American patriot.

It is he, this identical patriot who is in fact the archenemy of the people; it is he that you need to wipe from power.

It is he who is a far greater menace to your liberty and your well-being than the Prussian Junkers on the other side of the Atlantic ocean.

Fifty-two percent of the land kept out of use, according to their own figures! They tell you that there is an alarming shortage of flour and that you need to produce more. They tell you further that you have got to save wheat so that more can be exported for the soldiers who are fighting on the other side, while half of your tillable soil is held out of use by the landlords and profiteers. What do you think of that?

Again, they tell you there is a coal famine now in the state of Ohio. The state of Indiana, where I live, is largely underlaid with coal. There is practically an inexhaustible supply. The coal is banked beneath our very feet. It is within touch all about us—all we can possibly use and more. And here are the miners, ready to enter the mines. Here is the machinery ready to be put into operation to increase the output to any desired capacity.

And three weeks ago a national officer of the United Mine Workers issued and published a statement to the Labor Department of the United States government to the effect that the 600,000 coal miners in the United States at this time, when they talk about a coal famine, are not permitted to work more than half time. I have been around over Indiana for many years. I have often been in the coal fields; again and again I have seen the miners idle while at the same time there was a scarcity of coal.

They tell you that you ought to buy your coal right away; that you may freeze next winter if you do not. At the same time they charge you three prices for your coal

Oh, yes, this ought to suit you perfectly if you vote the Republican or Democratic ticket and believe in the private ownership of the coal mines and their operation for private profit.

The coal mines now being privately owned, the operators want a scarcity of coal so they can boost their prices and enrich themselves accordingly. If an abundance of coal were mined there would be lower prices and this would not suit the mine owners. Prices soar and profits increase when there is a scarcity of coal.

It is also apparent that there is collusion between the mine owners and the railroads. The mine owners declare there are no cars while the railroad men insist that there is no coal. And between them they delude, defraud and rob the people.

Let us illustrate a vital point. Here is the coal in great deposits all about us; here are the miners and the machinery of production. Why should there be a coal famine upon the

one hand and an army of idle and hungry miners on the other hand? Is it not an incredibly stupid situation, an almost idiotic if not criminal state of affairs?

We Socialists say: "Take possession of the mines in the name of the people." Set the miners at work and give every miner the equivalent of all the coal he produces. Reduce the work day in proportion to the development of productive machinery. That would at once settle the matter of a coal famine and of idle miners. But that is too simple a proposition and the people will have none of it. The time will come, however, when the people will be driven to take such action for there is no other efficient and permanent solution of the problem.

In the present system the miner, a wage slave, gets down into a pit 300 or 400 feet deep. He works hard and produces a ton of coal. But he does not own an ounce of it.

That coal belongs to some mine-owning plutocrat who may be in New York or sailing the high seas in his private yacht; or he may be hobnobbing with royalty in the capitals of Europe, and that is where most of them were before the war was declared. The industrial captain, so-called, who lives in Paris, London, Vienna or some other center of gaiety does not have to work to revel in luxury. He owns the mines and he might as well own the miners.

That is where you workers are and where you will remain as long as you give your support to the political parties of your masters and exploiters. You vote these miners out of a job and reduce them to corporation vassals and paupers.

We Socialists say: "Take possession of the mines; call the miner to work and return to him the equivalent of the value of his product." He can then build himself a comfortable home; live in it; enjoy it with his family. He can provide himself and his wife and children with clothes — good clothes — not shoddy; wholesome food in abundance, education for the children, and the chance to live the lives of civilized human beings, while at the same time the people will get coal at just what it costs to mine it.

Of course that would be socialism as far as it goes. But you are not in favor of that program. It is too visionary because it is so simple and practical. So you will have to continue to wait until winter is upon you before you get your coal and then pay three prices for it because you insist upon voting a capitalist ticket and giving your support to the present wage-slave system.

The trouble with you is that you are still in a capitalist state of mind.

Lincoln said: "If you want that thing that is the thing you want"; and you will get it to your heart's content. But some good day you will wake up and realize that a change is needed and wonder why you did not know it long before.

Yes, a change is certainly needed, not merely a change of party but a change of system; a change from slavery to freedom and from despotism to democracy, wide as the world.

When this change comes at last, we shall rise from brutehood to brotherhood, and to accomplish it we have to educate and organize the workers industrially and politically, but not along the zigzag craft lines laid down by Gompers, who through all of his career has favored the master class. You never hear the capitalist press speak of him

nowadays except in praise and adulation. He has recently come into great prominence as a patriot. You never find him on the unpopular side of a great issue. He is always conservative, satisfied to leave the labor problem to be settled finally at the banqueting board with Elihu Root, Andrew Carnegie and the rest of the plutocratic civic federationists. When they drink wine and smoke scab cigars together the labor question is settled so far as they are concerned.

And while they are praising Gompers they are denouncing the I.W.W. There are few men who have the courage to say a word in favor of the I.W.W. I have. Let me say here that I have great respect for the I.W.W. Far greater than I have for their infamous detractors.

Listen! There has just been published a pamphlet called "The Truth About the I.W.W." It has been issued after long and thorough investigation by five men of unquestioned standing in the capitalist world. At the head of these investigators was Professor John Graham Brooks of Harvard University, and next to him John A. Fish of the Survey of the Religious Organizations of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Bruere, the government investigator.

Five of these prominent men conducted an impartial examination of the I.W.W. To quote their own words they "followed its trail." They examined into its doings beginning at Bisbee where the "patriots," the cowardly business men, the arch-criminals, made up the mob that deported 1,200 workingmen under the most brutal conditions, charging them with being members of the I.W.W. when they knew it to be false.

It is only necessary to label a man "I.W.W." to have him lynched as they did Praeger, an absolutely innocent man. He was a Socialist and bore a German name, and that was his crime. A rumor was started that he was disloyal and he was promptly seized and lynched by the cowardly mob of so-called "patriots."

War makes possible all such crimes and outrages.

And war comes in spite of the people.

When Wall Street says war the press says war and the pulpit promptly follows with its Amen.

In every age the pulpit has been on the side of the rulers and not on the side of the people.

That is one reason why the preachers so fiercely denounce the I.W.W.

Take the time to read this pamphlet about the I.W.W. Don't take the word of Wall Street and its press as final. Read this report by five impartial and highly reputable men who made their investigation to know the truth, and that they might tell the truth to the American people. They declare that the I.W.W. in all its career never committed as much violence against the ruling class as the ruling class has committed against the I.W.W.

You are not now reading any reports in the daily press about the trial at Chicago, are you? They used to publish extensive reports when the trial first began, and to prate about what they proposed to prove against the I.W.W. as a gigantic conspiracy against

the government. The trial has continued until they have exhausted all their testimony and they have not yet proven violence in a single instance. No, not one! They are utterly without incriminating testimony and yet 112 men are in the dock after lying in jail for months without the shadow of a crime upon them save that of belonging to the I.W.W.

That is enough it would seem to convict any man of any crime and send his body to prison and his soul to hell. Just whisper the name of the I.W.W. and you are branded as a disloyalist. And the reason for this is wholly to the credit of the I.W.W., for whatever may be charged against it the I.W.W. has always fought for the bottom dog. And that is why Haywood is despised and prosecuted while Gompers is lauded and glorified by the same gang.

Now what you workers need is to organize, not along craft lines but along revolutionary industrial lines. All of you workers in a given industry, regardless of your trade or occupation, should belong to one and the same union.

Political action and industrial action must supplement and sustain each other. You will never vote the Socialist republic into existence. You will have to lay its foundations in industrial organization. The industrial union is the forerunner of industrial democracy. In the shop where the workers are associated is where industrial democracy has its beginning. Organize according to your industries! Get together in every department of industrial service! United and acting together for the common good your power is invincible.

When you have organized industrially you will soon learn that you can manage as well as operate industry.

You will soon realize that you do not need the idle masters and exploiters. They are simply parasites. They do not employ you as you imagine but you employ them to take from you what you produce, and that is how they function in industry. You can certainly dispense with them in that capacity. You do not need them to depend upon for your jobs. You can never be free while you work and live by their sufferance. You must own your own tools and then you will control your own jobs, enjoy the products of your own labor and be free men instead of industrial slaves.

Organize industrially and make your organization complete. Then unite in the Socialist Party. Vote as you strike and strike as you vote.

Your union and your party embrace the working class. The Socialist Party expresses the interests, hopes and aspirations of the toilers of all the world.

Get your fellow workers into the industrial union and the political party to which they rightly belong, especially this year, this historic year in which the forces of labor will assert themselves as they never have before. This is the year that calls for men and women who have courage, the manhood and womanhood to do their duty.

Get into the Socialist Party and take your place in its ranks; help to inspire the weak and strengthen the faltering, and do your share to speed the coming of the brighter and better day for us all.

When we unite and act together on the industrial field and when we vote together on election day we shall develop the supreme power of the one class that can and will bring permanent peace to the world.

We shall then have the intelligence, the courage and the power for our great task. In due time industry will be organized on a cooperative basis. We shall conquer the public power. We shall then transfer the title deeds of the railroads, the telegraph lines, the mines, mills and great industries to the people in their collective capacity; we shall take possession of all these social utilities in the name of the people. We shall then have industrial democracy. We shall be a free nation whose government is of and by and for the people.

And now for all of us to do our duty! The clarion call is ringing in our ears and we cannot falter without being convicted of treason to ourselves and to our great cause.

Do not worry over the charge of treason to your masters, but be concerned about the treason that involves yourselves. Be true to yourself and you cannot be a traitor to any good cause on earth.

Yes, in good time we are going to sweep into power in this nation and throughout the world. We are going to destroy all enslaving and degrading capitalist institutions and re-create them as free and humanizing institutions.

The world is daily changing before our eyes. The sun of capitalism is setting; the sun of socialism is rising. It is our duty to build the new nation and the free republic. We need industrial and social builders.

We Socialists are the builders of the beautiful world that is to be. We are all pledged to do our part. We are inviting — aye challenging you this afternoon in the name of your own manhood and womanhood to join us and do your part.

In due time the hour will strike and this great cause triumphant — the greatest in history — will proclaim the emancipation of the working class and the brotherhood of all mankind.

Yes

October 2007 Michael G. McPhearson, Exec. Director, Veterans For Peace, Veterans For Peace Newsletter [Excerpt]

Now we must regain the initiative.

How?

First, there is no silver bullet. It will take the cumulative effect of various tactics, actions and ideas.

We must support Iraq Veterans Against the War as they execute their future plans.

We must make a concerted effort to educate the public and service members about resistance to this war within the military and soldiers' rights to speak out.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**“The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney.”
David McReynolds 9.29.07**

December 23, 1961: The First KIA: Vietnam



James Davis

Carl Bunin Peace History December 17-23

James Davis of Livingston, Tennessee, was killed by the Viet Cong, the insurgents in South Vietnam, and became the first of some 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War.

Lyndon Johnson later referred to him as “the first American to fall in defense of our freedom in Vietnam.”

Over two million Vietnamese would die before the end of the war.

"Lyndon Johnson told the nation
Have no fear of escalation
I am trying everyone to please
Though it isn't really war
We're sending fifty thousand more
To help save Vietnam from Vietnamese"

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: How Amazing



An Iraqi citizen in tears in her bedroom after foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. army search her personal belongings and throw them on the floor during a night home invasion on the outskirts of Muqdadiah, Diyala province, north of Baghdad, Dec. 14, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

Iraqis feel the same way you would feel about Iraqi troops breaking into your moms' bedroom. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

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

Welcome To Iraq, The Worlds' Largest Open Air Prison: A Few Prisoners Sign Silly Occupation Propaganda & Get Turned Loose With Instructions To "Talk About Reconciliation"

December 20, 2007 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — When Leila Nasser was six months pregnant, U.S. soldiers burst into her house and wrestled away her husband, Mohammed Amin, who was asleep on the roof, trying to escape the summer heat.

This week, Nasser waited outside what's now called the "reconciliation hall" in Baghdad's Jihad neighborhood for Amin to appear. In her arms she cradled her year-old son, whom she'd named Moubin, the Iraqi word for apparent.

"I called him Moubin hoping that his father would appear for his eyes," she said. Moubin had never met his father.

Now Amin was one of 15 detainees who'd be released as part of a reconciliation program that the U.S. military's 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment put together in hopes of easing tensions in this divided neighborhood.

But the release showed how far reconciliation has to go.

More than 25,000 Iraqis are now in U.S. detention facilities. The Jihad reconciliation committee of Sunni and Shiite Muslims had requested that 562 men be released. Last month, 48 people were released, but 40 more were detained.

Most of those held are never charged with crimes. Sometimes Iraqis are detained because of a tip from a neighbor or because a few cables and cleaning agents are mistaken for bomb-making material.

Nasser said that there was no evidence linking her husband to Shiite Muslim militias.

"They destroyed the house with us in it," she said of the U.S. soldiers.

"The reason? Because he has a revolver, a revolver that he puts under his pillow to defend me and my daughter."

A member of the reconciliation committee, eavesdropping interrupted her.

"Talk about reconciliation," he instructed.

"Reconciliation? Which reconciliation? What did we understand from the reconciliation?" Nasser asked.

"It's been one year and three months and he did nothing."

Nasser counts Amin's detention in more than just time — one year, three months and four days. She also counts it in the days she's had to be a single mother to her daughter, Banin, now 3.

She counts it in the joy she couldn't share with her husband when their son was born. He wasn't there as security in Jihad deteriorated and Sunnis and Shiites separated into their own enclaves. When a tenuous stability returned, she couldn't celebrate with her husband.

"He never prayed in a Husseinayah," she said, referring to Shiite places of worship, "or in a mosque, and he doesn't get involved in anyone's business."

The tears began to flow.

The Americans divided Iraqis, she said, by accusing all Sunnis of being insurgents and all Shiites of being aligned with militias.

"I swear to God I didn't recognize people as Sunni or Shiite until after the collapse," she said, referring to the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

"Our lives are full of injustice. ...God willing all the detainees will be released," she said. "We tasted bitterness, no salaries — we have nothing. We suffered so much."

As his wife wept outside, Amin was inside, preparing to be released. U.S. soldiers cut the plastic cuffs from his wrists.

He and the other detainees were asked to sign a "reconciliation oath."

Behind each detainee sat a relative or friend who'd promised that he'd honor the oath. Amin's brother put his hand on Amin's right shoulder and Amin recited the oath.

"I, Mohammed Amin, acknowledge the recent signing of the reconciliation agreement, have ushered in an era of peace and partnership between Shiite, Sunni, Kurdish, Christian, Jaysh al Mahdi (the Mahdi Army of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al Sadr), Iraqi security forces and American forces," he said.

"Based on a review of my arrest record, Iraqi government and coalition force leaders have agreed that my immediate release would be beneficial to the reconciliation process. I pledge not to commit any violation of the reconciliation agreement's 12 points, violate Iraqi law or attack coalition forces."

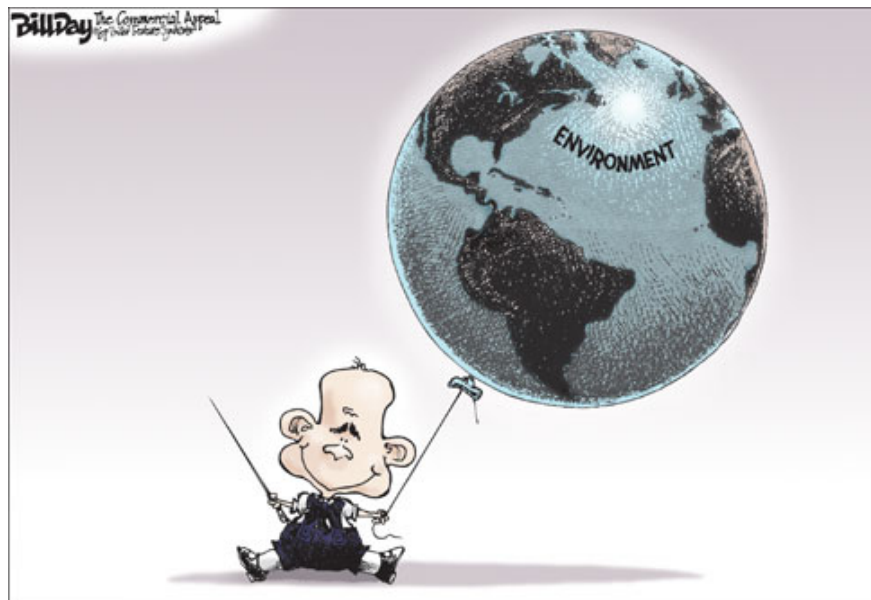
Amin said he'd never been a threat to security. He thought about his children waiting for him outside.

"It was a lot of suffering and I lived with very little hope," he said. "I always hoped to hug my son and daughter and to raise them with the right principles. ...I depended on God to get through and now I forget it. It's only a page in my past."

He went to collect his personal items from a U.S. soldier, but before he could shake hands with the soldier, Nasser pulled him away.

"They might take you again," she said.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Received:

**“Tell A Friend!
CONVICTION REVERSED
Traffic Stop Not Based On Probable Cause**

From: JWG
To: GI Special
Date: 12.21.07
Subject: Tell a friend!

United States v. Herrera, ___ F.3d ___ 05-3057 (10th Cir. (Kan.) Apr. 19, 2006).

Search and Seizure (Administrative Automobile Inventory Search -Mistake of Fact - Exclusionary Rule - Good Faith Exception Inapplicable).

A Kansas state trooper pulled over defendant's pickup truck to conduct a random commercial vehicle safety inspection pursuant to a state regulatory statute.

Defendant's pickup, however, was not a commercial vehicle subject to such random inspections, about which the trooper was mistaken.

The defendant was unable to produce proof of insurance, and the trooper arrested him.

The trooper then conducted an inventory search, and discovered 23 kilograms of cocaine.

The defendant was charged federally with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

He filed a motion to suppress, that was denied. He was convicted, and appealed.

Held: Conviction reversed and case dismissed.

Ruled: The traffic stop was not based on probable cause, or reasonable suspicion, and was not a valid administrative stop because defendant's pickup was not a commercial vehicle subject to random safety inspections.

Hence, the warrantless stop was unconstitutional.

Moreover, the trooper's mistaken belief concerning the statutory regulatory scheme did not save the stop, search, and seizure because the trooper had no lawful authority to make the random inspection and there was no reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Thus, the good-faith exception did not apply.

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