

GI SPECIAL 2#C65

NO MORE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Marine, Falluja (Louis Sinco, Los Angeles Times)

Military Resistance To The War Grows: Sailor Who Refused War Gets Support From Active Duty Troops & Vets

"I don't want to be a part of a ship that's taking 3,000 Marines over there, knowing a hundred or more of them won't come back," said the surface-to-air missile technician, who enlisted in the Navy in 2000 at age 17. "I can't sleep at night knowing that's what I do for a living."

San Diego attorney Jeremy Warren, who represents Paredes, said much of the e-mail he has received from active duty and former military about the case reflects similar sentiments.

December 27, 2004 By SUSAN ELAN, THE JOURNAL NEWS

A Bronx sailor who refused to board his ship bound for the Persian Gulf earlier this month has shone a spotlight on the small but growing resistance within the military to the war in Iraq.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Pablo Paredes, 23, could have sat out the remaining 20 months of his six-year enlistment in air-conditioned comfort aboard ship. Instead, Paredes sat on the pier at Naval Station San Diego on Dec. 6, as the amphibious assault ship he was assigned to, the USS Bonhomme Richard, pulled out for the Middle East.

"I don't want to be a part of a ship that's taking 3,000 Marines over there, knowing a hundred or more of them won't come back," said the surface-to-air missile technician, who enlisted in the Navy in 2000 at age 17. "I can't sleep at night knowing that's what I do for a living."

San Diego attorney Jeremy Warren, who represents Paredes, said much of the e-mail he has received from active duty and former military about the case reflects similar sentiments.

"The military may be concerned that he is the tip of a developing iceberg," Warren said. "They may make an example of him."

Opposition within the military to the war in Iraq has taken a variety of forms, including 5,500 desertions reported by the Pentagon, lawsuits filed by reservists fighting prolonged tours of duty, and refusal of an Army Reserve platoon to deliver fuel because their vehicles were insufficiently armored. A small number of troops have sought refuge in Canada or deliberately injured themselves to avoid returning.

Paredes' stance has generated both hostility and support among veterans. Lt. Col. Oliver North, a key figure in the Reagan administration and now a conservative syndicated columnist, has condemned Paredes as a coward. Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic, author of "Born on the Fourth of July," calls Paredes a hero for his "courageous opposition to the war in Iraq."

Local veterans have reacted with equal passion.

"I'm proud of Pablo because the Iraq war is not right and not moral," said Ivan Medina, 23, of Middletown, N.Y. An Army assistant chaplain who was among the first ground troops to enter Iraq, Medina co-founded Iraq Veterans Against the War after his identical twin brother, Irving, was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on Nov. 14, 2003.

"We were lied to and sent to die for a reason no one understands," Ivan Medina said.

But Danny Griffin, who heads the Westchester County Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, said members of the military have a duty to follow orders and Paredes is no exception.

"It may not be the right war but he's not in a position to question that," said Griffin, 57, of White Plains. "He signed a contract to serve our military. He's free to speak but not to refuse orders."

In the Navy, Paredes said, he was taught that he had a duty not to follow orders that are unlawful. "I feel that way about any order that has to do with this war," he said.

No formal charges have been filed yet, although a warrant for his arrest as a deserter was issued prior to his return to the naval station, said Capt. Jacquie Yost, spokeswoman for the Navy's Southwest region.

Until action is taken, Paredes is reporting daily for duty to the Naval Station San Diego's Transient Personnel Unit.

Chris Harrison, 31, of Mount Kisco, a former first lieutenant in the Army Reserves and now a member of the anti-Iraq war group Military Families Speak Out, filed for classification as a conscientious objector in December 2002. His application was still outstanding when Harrison was discharged Sept. 1.

"What Pablo is doing is incredibly brave," Harrison said. "We live in a society where the ultimate ideal of courage is presented as going into combat. I'm not diminishing that, but we have lost sight of the bravery of people who stand up for what they believe in, especially when it's unpopular at the time."

In a statement made as he surrendered to Navy authorities, Paredes said he is prepared to suffer the consequences of his act and hopes his efforts have helped raise awareness.

"I wanted to have people hear a voice from within that is willing to say this is criminal, this is injustice, this is murder," he said.

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.

The Death Of An Army

William Pfaff
(International Herald Tribune, December 29, 2004)

Iraq is now destroying the professional army the United States recruited after the Vietnam War to take the place of a citizen army.

The Bush administration's refusal to supply the manpower and means necessary for its vast military and political ambitions is now having its effect, as America's military leaders once again find themselves victims of the policies of appointed ideologues and elected amateurs.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Mosul Resistance Attack In Force Badly Wounds At Least 15 U.S. Troops

December 29 By Maher al-Thanoon, (Reuters) & Aljazeera

Witnesses said the fighting began when a suicide bomber detonated a fuel truck outside a house in Mosul that has been occupied as a combat outpost by U.S. troops since last month.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Hastings, U.S. military spokesman in Mosul, said **a patrol responding to the blast was attacked by a second suicide car bomb, and also had to deal with several roadside bombs before reaching the combat outpost.**

He said 15 U.S. troops were wounded, *none of whom had returned to active duty*, in the fierce coordinated assault by two suicide bombs and dozens of insurgents.

Around 50 insurgents then attacked the outpost with assault rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, which also damaged a vehicle, Hastings said.

Ruaa Ahmad, an independent Iraqi journalist in Mosul, said half of the building collapsed following the huge explosion.

"An eyewitness also confirmed that another car bomb exploded outside the building," she said.

The rebel assault on Wednesday illustrated the increasing boldness of insurgents in the city.

The U.S. military has conceded it is not in control of some areas. [Which means the Occupation is in control of no areas.]

Marine Dead In “Non-Hostile Incident”

December 29, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1329-04

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Marine.

Staff Sgt. Jason A. Lehto, 31, of Mount Clemens, Mich., died Dec. 28 in a non-hostile incident in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lehto was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve’s Marine Wing Support Group 47, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Sailor Killed In Al-Anbar

12/29/04 cjt7 #0412029a

One Sailor assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force died in a non-hostile incident Tuesday, Dec 28

U.S. Soldier Wounded In Samarra Fighting

12.29.04 Aljazeera

Anti-Americans clashed with US and Iraqi occupation forces in the centre of the northern town of Samarra on Wednesday, witnesses said.

US helicopters circled above and the sound of gunfire could be heard. Shops were shut and the area was deserted.

A US military spokesman said two patrols came under fire, adding there were no US casualties and the clashes were over.

A roadside bomb explosion wounded a US soldier and five Iraqi police officers in Samarra on Tuesday night, he said.

At Least One British Soldier Hit In Mine Attack

29 December 2004 Evening Post

Two Neath soldiers stationed in Iraq have escaped an ambush attack. Guardsman Daniel Andrews and Craig Attwell were in army Land Rovers as they patrolled in Southern Iraq.

The two Welsh Guards heard a loud bang as one of the vehicles in the patrol hit a mine that had been planted on a railway line.

Other vehicles in the area immediately left the scene to prevent them coming under further attack.

Mr Andrews said: "As normal we drove straight out of the killing zone.

"Then we were told we should go back for the casualty. So Craig and myself went back into the killing area to pull out the immobilised Land Rover."

As they waited for reinforcements to arrive - and give them cover - **Mr Attwell assisted the driver of the Land Rover, who had been seriously injured in the explosion.**

"Then we stayed with him before a chopper took him to Shaibah Hospital."

Resistance Shoots Down C130

Dec. 29, 2004 Associated Press

A plane operated by an Air Force Reserve wing based in Milwaukee was struck by enemy ground fire several weeks ago shortly after picking up 57 soldiers heading home after their tour of duty in Iraq, crew members say.

"I noticed a lot of fire coming out of the No. 1 engine - the motor pretty much exploded," said Master Sgt. James Grigsby, 41, of Brodhead, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in an interview published Wednesday.

The ground fire punched a large hole in one of the engines of the C-130, and severed fuel lines.

The crew took the plane to a small nearby airfield that had been used by the Iraqi air force which had been heavily damaged and was being repaired.

Maj. Rolf Breen, 36, of Grafton, managed to set down the C-130 on a part of the runway that was not damaged or strewn with construction equipment.

"I said quite a few Hail Marys and a few Our Fathers. I didn't have time to get through a whole rosary," Breen said.

Tech Sgt. Robert Sczesny, 40, of Milwaukee and Grigsby made sure the soldiers got off the craft safely after it landed.

"We got them off the plane in less than a minute, which is pretty fast for 57 soldiers. They made a beeline off the plane because the engine was still smoking," Sczesny said.' They were all standing at attention and they began to applaud as we got off, which was really nice."

Local Soldier Hurt In Iraq

December 29, 2004 NewsChannel 19's Carson Clark Reports

A soldier from Morgan County has been hurt while serving in Iraq. His family is having a hard time getting information on his condition.

The soldier is 22-year-old Jonathan Johnson. He graduated from Brewer High School in 2001. His mom and dad live in Hulaco and run a store in Arab.

Deborah Johnson says her son was hurt on December 27. She doesn't know badly. She says her daughter-in-law called from Germany, saying Jonathan had been driving a truck when a roadside bomb went off. Johnson has shrapnel in his left leg from the knee to the thigh. He is still in Iraq, but should soon be moved to Germany.

Johnson is part of the 230 MP division, which is based in Germany. **He's also part of a special operations outfit. Because of this, Johnson's family has very little information on what his mission in Iraq is and where he's located inside the country.**

After Johnson graduated from Brewer, he joined the Army. His first day of basic training was on September 11, 2001.



SILLY U.S. OCCUPATION COMMAND BRAGGED ABOUT TIKRIT AS EXAMPLE OF “HOW PEACE COULD BE MODELED”



FORMER POLICE STATION IN PEACEFUL TIKRIT

December 28, 2004 Photo from Raed Jarrar, Raed in the Middle

Washington Post, December 29, 2004

Tikrit was a city that U.S. commanders held out as an example of how peace in Iraq could be modeled. But Tuesday, insurgents launched a wave of attacks against Iraqi forces there.

An employee at the Tikrit city hall said 25 members of the Iraqi National Guard resigned immediately after the attacks.

Combat Up Close And Personal: “The Whole City, From Every Side, Was Fighting”

November 29, 2004 By Steve Liewer, Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SUMMERALL, Iraq — Guerrillas hiding in “gasoline alley,” a fuel and maintenance district on the city’s south edge, opened fire on Staff Sgt. James Tucker’s platoon with grenades and AK-47s as it left Bayji around midday Nov. 9 after a quiet, three-hour patrol.

Tucker's men — from Task Force 1-7, based at nearby FOB Summerall — jumped out and flanked the insurgents while gunners laid down cover fire with .50-caliber machine guns. When they'd killed or driven off the gunmen, they discovered nine homemade bombs and some rocket-propelled grenades.

"They were setting up for an attack," said Tucker, 30, of Tulare, Calif. "It could have been a lot worse."

Within a few minutes of that encounter U.S. and Iraqi troops in several parts of the city came under fire. U.S. patrols and convoys dodged heavy gunfire all the way down Highway 1, the main north-south thoroughfare in Bayji, a city of 125,000 people.

"There was so much gunfire, we couldn't get through," said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Manning, 29, of Valdosta, Ga., a platoon sergeant in the unit's Battery C. "Pretty much the whole city, from every side, was fighting."

For most Task Force 1-7 troops who were there, it was the longest, fiercest gunbattle they'd seen during nine months in Iraq.

"[Nov. 9] was the first time in a long time we've had a straight-up fight," said Sgt. Melvin Davis of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, currently assigned to Task Force 1-7.

"Usually (the rebels) just take off running," said Spc. Greg McMeekan, 23, of Kalamazoo, Mich., one of Davis' soldiers. "This time, hell no, they stood their ground."

Task Force 1-7 combat platoons ran a gauntlet of rifle fire to take up positions at the police station and city hall, both on Highway 1. Tanks and Bradleys headed down "Market Street," the city's chief shopping area and the insurgents' favorite spot for mounting attacks.

The armored vehicles blasted away at nests of rebels, inflicting heavy damage on the neighborhood.

"We destroyed a lot of the buildings, the places where they fight," said Capt. Michael Byard, 30, of Trenton, N.J., the Battery C commander.

At one point, insurgents were firing at U.S. and Iraqi positions from behind a fuel truck on Highway 1. After getting permission from his commander, Tucker fired an AT4 rocket at the tanker.

It exploded in an enormous fireball that was visible for miles.

"It was like a nuclear bomb," said Davis, 32, of Houston.

McMeekan, on the police department rooftop 500 meters away, said he had to turn his head away from the intense heat.

"I don't know what happened to those [insurgents]," Tucker said, "but they weren't there anymore."

Late in the day, the opposition vanished into the city. **Task Force 1-7 counted at least 20 enemy dead and left the downtown in ruins.**

Soldiers can't figure out why the people in Bayji side with the terrorists when the Americans have built new buildings for them and given out toys and school supplies to many of the city's children. **[Well, let's try it this way. How many toys and school supplies would your kids have to get to stop you from taking up arms against an Iraqi army occupying your home town? Would you be a traitor to your country for a couple soccer balls and a yo-yo?]**

"You hope they'll become frustrated with the [insurgents], but they're intimidated, too," Byard said. "Why do they always attack the people who are trying to help them?" **[Well, let's try it this way. The British said they were only trying to help peaceful Americans when George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and those other terrorist scum were killing decent people and British soldiers. Why did those Americans always attack the people who said they were just trying to help them?]**

"We tried to start out as humanitarians," said Tucker, who has been nominated for a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions Nov. 9. "We tell these people, 'we want to help but you have to help us.'" **[And every Empire since time began comes out with the same lame, lying bullshit.]**

NO MORE. PAYBACK IS OVERDUE.



Avalon Jacobsen, 2, wanders from her mother during a memorial service for her father, Capt. William W. Jacobsen Jr., and five other Fort Lewis soldiers Dec. 29, 2004 at Fort Lewis, Wash. The soldiers were killed in last week's mess tent bombing in Mosul. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

TROOP NEWS

Bossier City Soldier Wounded In Iraq Dies In D.C.

12/29/2004 BOSSIER CITY, La. (AP) — A national guardsman from Bossier City who was wounded in Iraq died Wednesday of his injuries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Craig Nelson had been paralyzed from the neck down since his unit was hit by a roadside bomb Dec. 16. His family had flown up to Washington D.C. to be with him.

Nelson, 21, was with the 1/156th Armor Battalion based out of Fort Humbug in Shreveport. He had been in Iraq since October.

Feeling “Anger Toward The Government,” Washington Cuts Funding For Unemployed Iraq Vets Job Training

December 27, 2004 By Jessica Heslam, The Journal News

Bay State shelters are bracing for an influx of Iraq war veterans, concerned the returning troops will be confronted by costly housing, cheating wives and a tight job market when they get back home.

Recent vets are already showing up in group therapy, said Lightfoot, who is helping them deal with anger toward the government, cheating wives and spouses who have drained bank accounts.

Veterans make up about 30 percent of the nation's homeless, said Fran McMorrow, director of the Quincy Veterans' House, where three jobless Iraq veterans already are receiving help.

“We're helping them with their rents,” McMorrow said.

Nearly two dozen unemployed Iraq and Afghanistan veterans enrolled in a job training program at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, but the federal government recently cut funding for the program. [If they were pissed at the government before, this should throw gasoline on the fire.]

Nick Tenney, 23, joined the Marines after high school. The machine gunner returned to his parents' home in Lynn last summer after serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tenney recently took a security training course at the shelter.

``It's a whole different world when you're in the Marines and then you get out and come back into the civilian world," said Tenney. ``It was kind of hard."

Soldier Loses Stop-Loss Law Suit; Duty Extended To 2031

12/29/2004 PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)

An Oregon Army National Guardsman must report for duty after failing in his challenge of a military program that extends his enlistment.

In a federal lawsuit, Sgt. Emiliano Santiago argued he was improperly called to active duty after his formal eight-year contract with the Oregon Guard had ended. The case centered on the Department of Defense's "stop-loss" policy, which has generated lots of debate in the past year as thousands of soldiers were barred from leaving Iraq and Afghanistan even though their enlistment terms had been fulfilled.

U.S. District Judge Owen M. Panner on Tuesday denied Santiago's motion for a preliminary injunction, less than a week before the soldier is due to report for active duty in Fort Sill, Okla.

Panner said he thought the military would endure more harm than Santiago if he ruled in the soldier's favor, essentially agreeing with the government's argument that thousands of military members who are subject to stop-loss orders might file similar legal challenges.

Panner's ruling is not an end to the case, but a judgment that Santiago likely would not prevail. The full merit of the case could still be heard.

After the hearing, Steven Goldberg, Santiago's lawyer, said the Bush administration has been defending the stop-loss policy because it has no other way to maintain troop strength.

"A back-door draft like this is an extraordinary method," he said, "and they're doing it because they're having trouble sustaining the ranks."

Santiago, 27, lives in Pasco, Wash., but is a soldier with D Company of the Oregon Guard's 113th Aviation Battalion, based in Pendleton. **He signed up for an eight-year tour beginning June 28, 1996. In April, less than three months before he was scheduled to be discharged, the Army alerted Santiago's unit that it might be mobilized.**

As a result, Santiago's termination date was extended more than 27 years — to December 2031. In October, Santiago learned that the Army planned to activate his unit Jan. 2, 2005, and deploy the soldier to Afghanistan in early February.

U.S. Military Prosecutors Allege Murder, Cover-Up

December 6, 2004 By Edmund Sanders, L.A. Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- U.S. military prosecutors alleged Monday that American soldiers shot to death two unarmed Iraqi men in their homes, then tried to cover up their crimes by claiming that the Iraqis had reached for guns.

In chilling detail, the prosecutors and other U.S. soldiers described in a makeshift courtroom here how the two accused U.S. servicemen casually executed the Iraqis last August even though the civilians posed no immediate danger.

Sgt. Michael P. Williams, 25, of Memphis, Tenn. and Spc. Brent W. May, 22, of Salem, Ohio, are the second pair of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan., to face murder charges stemming from separate incidents in August.

Williams and May, who are being held in what authorities described as military confinement here, could face the death penalty if convicted.

The allegations against them are among about a dozen murder cases filed against U.S. troops in Iraq.

Two soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment have testified that some rogue members of the unit showed so little regard for the lives of Iraqis that they felt obligated to complain to superiors about alleged criminal conduct including murder, mistreatment of a corpse and soldiers firing on a truck waving a white flag. Some soldiers in the unit bragged about their misdeeds, the witnesses said.

One of the Army whistle-blowers had to be transferred to another unit for his own safety.

"It was a real moral dilemma," said Pfc. Gary Romriell, who testified that he switched units after complaining about his fellow soldiers' conduct. "On the one hand, my friends and associates were involved in the crimes. On the other hand, it was wrong."

Williams and May were charged in September, but details of the killings were made public for the first time Monday at a preliminary court-martial hearing for May.

Monday's hearing focused on the killing of an unidentified Iraqi man on the morning of Aug. 28 when the regiment's Charlie Company conducted house-to-house searches in Sadr City. At the time, the Baghdad slum experienced daily skirmishes between U.S. troops and black-clad members of the Mahdi Army militia, who follow radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Soldiers approached a small, one-story home and found a family sleeping on blankets in the courtyard to escape the summer heat, several soldiers from the unit testified Monday. Soldiers detained the family -- including a father, mother, daughter, son and baby -- in the courtyard while they searched the home.

Soldiers found a revolver and an AK-47 assault rifle. Because of Iraq's security problems, it is not uncommon for Iraqi families to keep guns in their homes. The law permits each household to carry one weapon for protection.

At least one soldier testified that he suspected the occupants of the house might have used the weapons to attack U.S. troops.

After finding the weapons, Williams, the squad leader, entered the house with May. The two motioned for the Iraqi man to follow them inside, soldiers testified.

Once inside, Williams and May stood in front of the Iraqi.

"You know what you have to do," Williams told May, according to an account of the incident presented by military attorneys.

"Can I shoot him?" May asked Williams.

"Shoot him," Williams replied, according to military attorneys.

May fired two shots.

"I shot him in the head twice, took a picture of him, and walked outside," May told military investigator, Special Agent James Suprynowicz, in a sworn statement several weeks later. It was read in court Monday.

After the shooting, May bragged about the incident to fellow soldiers, prosecutors alleged.

"Spc. May was pretty hyped up," Spc. Joshua R. Sickels of the 1-41st testified. "He was excited. He said he'd never shot someone that close up before."

When his commanding officer asked him what happened, May replied that the Iraqi tried to grab a gun. In the sworn statement later, May admitted that he fired two shots at the unarmed Iraqi man, according to Suprynowicz.

He told investigators that he shot the man "because I was ordered to," Suprynowicz testified.

After soldiers dragged the bleeding man from the house, his wife became hysterical, wailing, throwing dirt in the air and beating herself with her hands. Soldiers watched in shock as she laid her baby on top of the man's bleeding body.

"We were all taken aback by that," said Lt. Col David Batchelor, task force commander of the 1-41st, who arrived on the scene shortly after the shooting. "I'll never forget that."

Batchelor ordered his medic to treat the man's head wound and considered calling for a medical evacuation. At the time, however, he said he suspected the Iraqi was a militia fighter because May had told him that the man was shot after reaching for a gun.

Batchelor said he decided to order soldiers to leave the scene because he was "pressed for time" and the unit needed to get to its next mission. As they left, soldiers saw a motorcycle drive up. Some Iraqis put the wounded man in the motorcycle's sidecar and drove away.

Military investigators visited the house about a month later, but the family had moved away, leaving behind blood-splattered rugs and furniture. Military investigators say they have been unable to identify the victim or his family.

Soldiers who took part in the Aug. 28 raid said they immediately suspected that their two colleagues had murdered the Iraqi.

When May and Williams took the Iraqi back into the house, "we figured something fishy was going on," testified Spc. Tulafono Young, a team leader in Charlie Company. "Sgt. Williams wanted to kill the guy."

Under cross-examination, Young was forced to admit that he is under investigation in a separate incident for shooting at passengers in a truck waving a white flag and that he initially lied to investigators in that probe.

The second killing occurred less than 30 minutes earlier, soldiers testified, when troops discovered an AK-47 rifle during a search of another house down the street. After the rifle was found, Williams ordered that the Iraqi man, who had been handcuffed and was being held on his knees in front of the house, be brought inside, according to military attorney Capt. Daniel Estaville, who summarized the statements of witnesses.

Williams cut off the plastic handcuffs, laid the rifle near the Iraqi and said aloud to other soldiers in the room, "I feel my life has been threatened."

Williams then shot the man twice, Estaville said. The victim has not been identified.

Keith Higgins, a civilian attorney from Massachusetts who is representing May, declined to comment on his client's guilt or innocence. He said that at the time of the shooting, May was struggling to cope with stressful combat conditions in Sadr City. **He added that evidence would show that May was ordered to kill the Iraqi by Williams, his superior officer.**

Attorneys for Williams could not be reached for comment. Williams' preliminary hearing is expected to take place later this week.

Higgins said the alarming number of allegations of murder and other misconduct against soldiers in the 1-41st suggested a systemic problem. He noted that two additional soldiers from the unit are facing murder charges in the U.S. for killing two of their colleagues.

"One instance might point to the individual," Higgins said. "But when you see multiple separate instances, you have to start looking for the common denominator. You've got to look to the command."

Military officers with the 1-41st have declined to comment on the murder cases.

In September, military prosecutors filed murder charges against two other soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, after an Aug. 18 incident in which they attacked a dump truck carrying teenage trash collectors, killing seven and wounding eight others. The soldiers said they believed the truck was filled with insurgents who were planting roadside bombs. They said they shot a wounded Iraqi lying on the road because they believed he was going to die anyway.

<p>Military investigators said they investigated that shooting after a U.S. soldier slipped an anonymous note under the door of the unit's commander, alleging that "soldiers had committed serious crimes that needed to be looked at."</p>

On Sept. 15, prosecutors in Kansas charged Sgts. Eric J. Colvin, 23, of Papillion, Neb., Pappilion, Neb., and Aaron R. Stanley, 22, of Bismarck, N.D., with the shooting death of Staff Sgt. Matthew H. Werner, 30, of Oxnard, Calif., at a home some 30 miles from Fort Riley.

Werner was in Iraq on his second tour of duty but returned to the U.S. for surgery on an injured hand. Another member of the unit, Spc. Christopher D. Hymer, 23, of Nevada, Mo., was wounded in the shooting and died later. Prosecutors were expected to file murder charges against Colvin and Stanley for Hymer's killing.

Higgins, May's attorney, insisted that blame should rest with the unit's leadership. "How is it that the same group is involved in these same activities?" he asked.

OOPS

(Cincinnati Enquirer, December 27, 2004)

TV host David Letterman visited Marines in Iraq on Friday, and when hands flew in the air at Camp Taqaddum in response to requests for a volunteer to help deliver the opening monologue, he asked: "Isn't that how you got here?"

44% Of Women Troops Say They've Been Sexually Harassed In Service

(Army Times, January 3, 2005, Pg. 15)

Forty-four percent of the women responding to the Military Times Poll said that they had been sexually harassed while in the service, compared to only 4 percent of the men.

[Time to put those weapons to better use than killing Iraqis.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Huge Explosion Kills Occupation Cops Lured To Ambush



The wreckage of an Iraqi police vehicle sits under the rubble of a destroyed house following an overnight blast in western Baghdad, December 29, 2004. (Faleh Kheiber/Reuters)

30dec04 AFP/ By Slobodan Lekic AP

A POWERFUL blast destroyed a house in western Baghdad during an overnight raid by a contingent of special police and national guards that turned into a devastating ambush.

It flattened nearby buildings and killed at least 28 people, including seven Iraqi officers.

As they burst in, a blast tore through the building. Five nearby houses were also destroyed.

"The house was turned into a bomb," a police source said.

The elite Iraqi police unit were reportedly lured to the home by an anonymous tip-off.

An Iraqi police official said the attack was evidently an ambush and that massive amounts of explosives were used.

The Ghazaliya area, where the houses blew up, is off the main highway to the west, leading to Fallujah, 50km away.

Regular mortar, rocket and bomb attacks make clear there are considerable numbers of insurgents in the capital

5 Occupation Officials Killed, 20 Wounded In West Baghdad Ambush

12.29.04 Aljazeera

In west Baghdad, five Iraqi security officials were killed and 20 others were injured in an ambush, police said.

The officials were en route to the raid in Ghazaliya when they were attacked near a mosque late on Tuesday, police commissioner Ali al-Hamdani said.

Occupation Guard Killed, 110 More And Siniya Village Council Have Resigned

12.29.04 Aljazeera

An Iraqi National Guardsman was killed on Wednesday in the Siniya area west of Samarra, an officer in the US-backed force said. Around 110 Guards resigned after their Siniya commander was killed in a car bomb explosion along with several Guards two weeks ago.

The eight-member Siniya village council also resigned on Tuesday following the killing.

Four Occupation Guards Killed In Yusufiya

Dec 29 By Maher al-Thanoon, (Reuters)

Four men in police and National Guard uniforms were found dead in Yusufiya, south of Baghdad. One had been shot, the others beheaded.

Two Military Collaborators & Truck Driver Killed

12.29.2004 Feza Newspaper Publishing Co

A Turkish truck driver has reportedly been killed in the north of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Police sources report that a Turkish truck driver was ambushed and killed by armed people around Bidiyyah in the south of Samarra. The name of the Turkish driver has not been announced yet.

Meanwhile, US army sources have announced that two people working for the US army, one a female engineer, were killed and their corpses were found near Tikrit.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Why Indeed?

[Thanks to John Gingerich, who sent this in:]

Robert Fisk 12/27/04 "The Independent"

Still we are not told how many civilians were killed in the American attack on Fallujah. The Americans' claim that they killed more than 1,000 insurgents — only insurgents, mark you, not a single civilian among them — is preposterous.

Still we are not free to enter the city. Nor, given the fact that the insurgents still appear to be there, is it likely that anyone can do so.

Why are American aircraft still bombing Fallujah, weeks after the US military claimed to have captured it?

True Then, True Now

“[W]e find here two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends — and the nation is powerless against these two great cartels of politicians, who are ostensibly its servants, but in reality exploit and plunder it.”

Frederick Engels, in his introduction to Karl Marx’s brilliant history of the Paris Commune, “The Civil War in France”.

Lost Military History: **The Magnificent Canadian Anti-War Troop Rebellion**

At a base in Terrace B.C., French- and English-speaking troops joined forces, armed themselves, took over the camp, and mounted guns to command the approaches.

November 24, 2004, Part of talk by John Riddell and Ian Angus, Socialist Worker (Canada)

In November 1944, [Prime Minister] King ordered that 16,000 conscripts be sent to Europe.

In British Columbia, where most of them were stationed, there was a wave of demonstrations and mutinies.

At a base in Terrace B.C., French- and English-speaking troops joined forces, armed themselves, took over the camp, and mounted guns to command the approaches.

Popular slogans’ were “Down with conscription” and “Conscript money as well.” One placard read, “We can end the war here at home.” Another, “Zombies strike back.”

These disturbances died down, but there were recurring bouts of rioting and sit-down strikes.

Half the 16,000 went AWOL and only a fifth of the missing men were ever retrieved—a sure sign of strong community support.

The hunt for deserters proved hazardous. In Drummondville, Quebec, on 24 February, a 100-man raiding party was attacked by a mob, their vehicles overturned and smashed, while fighting lasted on the streets for three hours, and scores required hospital treatment.

Even after sending conscripts to Europe, opposition was so high that King had to promise not to send them to fight in the Pacific unless they agreed.

Result: when Canada's most powerful and prestigious warship, the HMCS Uganda was ordered to move against Japan, the crew voted overwhelmingly to end their participation in the war and sailed back to a Canadian port.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Iraq To Dissolve National Guard

12.29.04 BBC News

Iraq's interim rulers say the National Guard (ING), currently spearheading anti-insurgency activity, is to be dissolved and merged with the army.

The merger was originally planned for much later, after ING defeated the insurgency with the help of US forces.

It will now take place on 6 January, the defence minister said on Wednesday.

No reason was given for the change, but it may be a way to improve recruitment as the ING is seen as ill-disciplined and an easy target for insurgents.

Lies The Occupation Command Told Me

A survey conducted by the coalition forces revealed that the majority of Iraqis support the resistance against the occupation and will continue to fight, in either the armed struggle or the non-violent political struggle, until the occupation ends.

October 21, 2004, by Donna Mulhearn

Claim: Electricity, water, telephone and sanitation systems have been restored to at least pre-war levels.

Fact: Electricity in pre-war Iraq was constant and reliable. Now it is intermittent, unpredictable and barely there. Iraqis are furious that power is still erratic almost 18 months since the invasion.

Fact: Water quality in Iraq before the war was excellent. Now it is appalling. Often, in Baghdad, when you turn on your tap nothing comes out. If something dribbles out it is brown and contaminated. Outside Baghdad people are drinking from the rivers. **All over Iraq hundreds of people, mostly children, have died from water-related diseases not seen in Iraq for decades. These diseases are at epidemic levels.**

Fact: Sanitation before the war was of a high standard. Now there are large pools of raw sewerage in the streets in most neighbourhoods. In squatter camps, people are forced to live amongst their own waste. Hundreds of children and adults are dying as a result.

Claim: Mobile phones, once outlawed, are being sold at the rate of 15,000 a week.

Fact: Indeed, Iraqis have outlaid a huge investment to purchase mobile phones from Iraqna, an Egyptian company who currently have a monopoly on providing mobile services in Baghdad. But most of the time the service simply doesn't work. Iraqis are outraged at the appalling service provided by the incompetent Iraqna, given the over-priced fees that average Iraqis are forced to pay in US currency. On any given day there are queues of angry Iraqis outside Iraqna offices complaining that they have been robbed and cheated. Many Iraqis end up throwing the phone away.

Most landlines are still not functioning after all the exchanges were bombed during the invasion.

Claim: All the universities are open and 2,500 schools have been rehabilitated.

Fact: Of the universities that remain open, many classrooms are lifeless and empty. Students might turn up but many professors have simply left, or were sacked by the coalition. Science labs, medical faculties etc have no equipment for practical lessons. Students are demoralized.

The majority of schools are in various states of disrepair and do not have the equipment or books required for lessons. Some schools have reported any hasty 'renovations' to be shabby and incomplete.

Many students don't turn up because their parents are too afraid to send them to school because of the chaos and violence on the streets.

Teachers also attribute the high drop-out rate among students to poverty and the need for children to contribute to the family's income.

Psychological problems related to trauma, which is widespread among children, are also an issue.

Claim: All 240 hospitals as well as 1,200 health clinics are operating. As of March 2004, vaccination against preventable diseases was 70 percent completed.

Fact: It is untrue to say that all hospitals are open as coalition forces regularly shut down hospitals in areas where there are high levels of conflict. Examples of areas that have had hospitals closed down by US military include Sadr City, Fallujah and Najaf.

The hospitals and clinics function without equipment and medicines. Preventable diseases have sky-rocketed since the invasion due to poor hygiene and contaminated water.

Claim: Some 194 city councils have been established since July 2003.

Fact: City Councils are considered irrelevant as the coalition controls any major decisions for cities.

Claim: Crude oil production is already at pre-war levels with the benefits flowing directly to the Iraqi people. Real GDP is forecast to grow by 30 percent in 2004.

Fact: The reality is the supply of petrol to Iraq is so poor that Iraqis queue for seven to eight hours in order to full their cars.

Claim: There is an independent media with over 120 newspapers and wide access to the internet and satellite TV.

Fact: There is no freedom of speech in Iraq. Media outlets that express opinions critical of the coalition are closed down and broadcasters are censored or deported from the country. Internet access was available in Iraq before the war.

Claim: In March, the Iraqi Governing Council adopted new laws protecting basic human rights. The transfer of power to the new Iraqi Government has been endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council. On the 28th June, the new Iraqi Government assumed authority with national elections planned for next year.

Fact: The Iraqi Governing Council was dismissed by the Iraqi community as a group of Ali Babas (thieves). Being out of Iraq for up to 20 years, they held foreign passports and were known only by their criminal records and bad reputations.

Basic human rights do not exist in Iraq.

The new Iraqi Government is widely considered to be illegitimate as is the coalition's election plans.

Conclusion: Iraq is in chaos. The people are bitter that the entire fabric of their community has been destroyed. Basic services are not available.

Unemployment is high, people live in poverty.

Iraqis long for the foreign military occupation to end, for basic services to be restored and for peace and security to return to their neighbourhoods.

A survey conducted by the coalition forces revealed that the majority of Iraqis support the resistance against the occupation and will continue to fight, in either the armed struggle or the non-violent political struggle, until the occupation ends.

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)

While Iraqi Civilians Go Hungry, Thieves In Puppet Government Send Hundreds Of Millions To Lebanese Banks

(London Financial Times, December 29, 2004)

Iraq's trade ministry has transferred hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for the country's food rations into two Lebanese banks, bypassing the Iraqi Trade Bank, in what one senior Iraqi official called a revival of a kickback system instituted by Saddam Hussein [Nice to know your dying so these assholes can loot the country.]

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

Received:

**“Getting Out The Word”
A Soldiers’ Mom Writes**

From: SG
To: GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, December 28
Subject: Getting Out The Word

I've been getting your emails for some time now and enjoy them.

Some of us anti-war folks are brain-stormin' about how to get the word to troops that they should refuse to leave the US for Iraq and The War on Terror.

As you know, troops generally feel more allegiance to one another than to the war, the leadership, etc.

I think we should be able to get whole units to refuse to go...that way no-one is letting anyone in the unit down...hell, why stop there? Let's talk whole companies into not going. I'm serious.

We're also beginning to form sanctuaries around the country where soldiers can seek refuge if necessary.

My position is one of mother of a soldier, concerned US citizen, and concerned citizen of the world.

I'm founder of MotherSpeak and I also work on the GI Rights Hotline so I know what troops are going through these days. (BTW, my advocating wholesale mutiny is NOT a position of the GI Rights Hotline. It is my own homegrown idea come about through trips to Iraq, talking to Iraqi, Afghan, and American mothers...we just gotta stop the killing and maiming of all people.)

Any ideas on how to get the word out to troops that ending the war is also about them refusing to ship out and fight?

SG

Web Copies

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

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/> ; www.qifightback.org ;
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>,
www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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