

GI SPECIAL 5C8:



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

**“It Struck Me Then That
We, The American
Soldiers, Were The
Terrorists”**

**“Given What We Were Doing To
Them, Who Could Blame Them
For Wanting To Kill Us, And All
Americans?”**

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

Feb 7, 2007 By JOSHUA KEY. Excerpt from *The Deserter's Tale*, published by House Of Anansi

Joshua Key, 28, was a poor, uneducated Oklahoma country boy who saw the U.S. army and its promised benefits -- from free health care to career training -- as the ticket to a better life. In 2002, not yet 24 but already married and the father of two, Key enlisted. He says his recruiting officer promised he'd never be deployed abroad, but a year later he was in Iraq.

Only 24 hours after arriving, as Key recounts in *The Deserter's Tale* (Anansi), he experienced his first doubts about what he and his fellow soldiers were doing there:

In December 2003, Key went home on a two-week leave. He never returned to Iraq. Instead, Key went into hiding. The following March, he and his family crossed the Canadian border at Niagara Falls.

I was scared out of my wits that first day in Ramadi.

Our own air force had just finished bombing these people, but as soon as we got out of our vehicles we began patrolling their streets, on foot. With nearly 100 lb. of weaponry, equipment and clothing on my back, I was about as mobile as a cow.

It was just my platoon, 20 guys, walking single file through streets full of Iraqis. I could not stop thinking that anywhere, at any time, some half-starved sniper on a roof could have taken me out in no time flat. Iraqi kids surrounded me in swarms, hands out, asking for water and food.

I kept hearing the last words (my wife) Brandi said to me before I flew out: "Don't you let those terrorists near you, Josh. Even if they are kids. Get them before they get you."

I was awakened at 3 a.m. that first night and told to get my ass up quickly because in one hour we were going to raid a house full of terrorists.

Capt. Conde and some sergeants showed me and my squad mates a satellite photo of a house and a drawing of the layout of the inside. Our assignment was to blow off the door, burst into the house, raid it fast and raid it good -- looking for contraband, caches of weapons, signs of terrorists or terrorist activity, then rounding up the men and getting out damn fast. The longer we stayed in any one location, the longer somebody would have to put us in the sights of a rocket-propelled grenade or lob mortars at us.

I had no idea what to expect.

Would I charge through the door, only to be blown to bits by a grenade? Would somebody with an AK-47 knock my Oklahoman ass right back out that door?

Would some six-year-old terrorist with two days of gun training be waiting to put me in his crosshairs?

The minutes ticked on, and I wanted the hour to speed forward so we could get on with it. One or two guys did push-ups to pump themselves up. I borrowed Mason's portable CD player and bombed out my eardrums to the beat of Ozzy Osbourne. It got me going.

High and ready for action. I checked my watch, wished it would accelerate, and stuck some dip -- Copenhagen, bourbon flavor -- behind my lip. You can't manage a cigarette when you've got an M-249 automatic weapon on your arm. So dip was best. Makes your mouth black as sin, and rots the roots right out of your gums, but dip was my nicotine hit of choice going into that raid.

I committed our instructions to memory. I knew the angles of the house, what door I would help blow down, how many floors were in the house, and who would do what when we busted inside.

I would be third in the door, which means I was the second most likely to get shot if anybody had a mind to take us down, and I'd head to the left. Always, for every raid, I would be third in, heading left.

I gripped my M-249. Yes, it could belt out 2,000 rounds a minute but only in theory. You couldn't really hold your finger down that long. When you were blazing away like that, the bullets turned the barrel as hot as Hades. And if you held your finger down too long, it would warp the barrel.

It took thirty seconds for Jones and me to put the charge of C-4 plastic explosive on the door.

Then we dashed around to the side of the house so we wouldn't blow ourselves up. You'd be fried meat if you were anywhere near the explosion. I set off the blast, and then the six of us charged in. Jones went first -- that skinny, red-haired Ohio boy was always hot to trot. With Jones leading the way we burst into the house, armed to the hilt. Kevlar helmets, flak jackets, machine guns, combat boots, the whole nine yards.

I'd never been inside an Iraqi's house before.

We charged through a kitchen. I had been told by squad leader Padilla to check everything, so I even opened the fridge. Perhaps, I thought, I would find guns or grenades hidden inside. No such luck.

In the fridge, all I saw was a bit of food. In the freezer I found big slabs of meat, uncovered. No wrapping. No plastic. Frozen, just like that. We ran into a living room with long couches, one along each wall.

In this room with the couches we found two children, a teenager, and a woman. We also found two young men in the house. One looked like a teenager and the other was perhaps in his early 20s -- brothers.

We hollered and cussed. I spat dip on the floor and screamed along with the other soldiers at the top of my lungs. I knew they didn't understand, but I hollered anyway.

“Get down,” I shouted. “Get the f--k down. Shut the f--k up.”

They didn't know what “get down” meant, so we knocked the two brothers to the floor, face down.

We put our knees on their backs, pulled their hands behind them, and faster than you can bat an eye we zipcuffed them.

Zipcuffs are plastic handcuffs that lock on tight. They must have bit something fierce into those young men's skin. There was no key, nothing -- the only way to get them off was to slice them with cutters.

We pushed the brothers outside, where 12 other soldiers from our platoon were waiting.

The Iraqi brothers were taken away to an American detention facility for interrogation.

I don't know what it was called, and I don't know where it was. All I know is that we sent away every man -- pretty well every male over five feet tall -- that we found in our house raids, and I never saw one of them return to the neighbourhoods we patrolled regularly.

Inside, we kept on ransacking the house.

The more obvious it became that we would find no weapons or contraband, the more we kicked the stuffing out of the house.

We knocked over dressers, sliced into mattresses with knives, kicked our way through doors, raiding the three bedrooms on the second floor, then raced up to the third floor.

We turned over everything we could and broke furniture at random, searching for contraband, weapons, proof of terrorist activity, or signs of weapons of mass destruction.

We found nothing but a CD.

Soldiers initially said it showed proof of terrorist activity, but it turned out to have nothing on it but a bunch of speeches by Saddam Hussein.

Once we had everybody outside the house and had done our initial job of ransacking, another squad took over inside.

They kept raising hell in there, breaking and turning over more furniture, looking for weapons that we might have missed.

Outside, under a carport, I was assigned to watch the women and children. We weren't arresting them, but we weren't allowing them to go anywhere either. The family members couldn't go back inside, and they couldn't wander off into the neighbourhood. They had to stay right there while we tore the hell out of their house.

A girl in the family -- a teenager -- started staring at me. I tried to ignore her.

Then she began speaking to me. Inside, when we had been screaming at her and the others, I'd assumed that nobody understood a word of English. But this young girl spoke to me in English, and her eyes bored holes right through me.

She was skin and bones, not even 100 lb., not yet a full-grown woman, but something about her seemed powerful and disturbing.

I feared that girl, and I wanted to get away from her as fast as I could, but it was my job to stay right there and make sure she didn't move. I had my weapon ready. She was wearing a blue nightgown and had a white scarf covering her hair. She had no veil, so I could see her face perfectly. Her eyes were coal black and full of hatred.

In English, she asked me, "Where are you taking my brothers?"

"I don't know, Miss," I said.

"Why are you taking them away?"

"I'm afraid I can't say."

"When are you bringing them back?"

"Couldn't tell you that either."

"Why are you doing this to us?"

I couldn't answer that.

I hoped she would not raise a fuss. I didn't want her to start screaming, which could attract the attention of my squad mates. One or two, I feared, would be more than happy to use a rifle butt to knock out her teeth.

I hadn't been in Iraq more than 24 hours and already I was having strange feelings.

First, I was vulnerable, and I didn't like it.

Even with all these soldiers and all this equipment, I knew that anywhere, at any time, any Iraqi with a gun, a wall to hide behind, and one decent eye could pick me off faster than a hawk nabs a mouse.

Second, with hardly one foot into the war, I was also uneasy about what we were doing there. Something was amiss.

We hadn't found anything in this girl's house, but we had busted it up pretty well in 30 minutes and had taken away her brothers. Inside, another squad was still ransacking the house. I didn't enjoy being stuck guarding this girl under the carport, in the cool April air before dawn in Ramadi.

Her questions haunted me, and I didn't like not being able to answer them -- even to myself.

Busting into and ransacking homes remained one of my most common duties in Iraq. Before my time was up, I took part in about 200 raids.

We never found weapons or indications of terrorism.

I never found a thing that seemed to justify the terror we inflicted every time we blasted through the door of a civilian home, broke everything in sight, punched and zipcuffed the men, and sent them away.

One raid was far worse.

It was a handsome two-storey house and quite isolated.

As usual, I put the charge of C-4 explosives on the door and we blew it in. As we rushed into the house, women were staggering out of their rooms. Three teenage girls screamed when they saw us.

Some of my squad mates grabbed them and held them at gunpoint, and the rest of us ran through the house. We found no men at all, just six more women in their 20s and 30s. The guys in my squad couldn't find a thing, not even any guns -- and it seemed that the more incapable they were of locating contraband, the more destructive they became. They smashed dressers, ripped mattresses, broke cabinets, and threw shelves to the floor.

Outside I found Pvt. 1st Class Hayes with a woman under an empty carport. He pointed his M-16 at her head but she would not stop screaming.

"What are you doing this for?" she said.

Hayes told her to shut up.

"We have done nothing to you," she went on.

Hayes was starting to lose it. I told her that we were there on orders and that we couldn't speak to her, but on and on and on she bawled at Hayes and me.

"You Americans are disgusting! Who do you think you are, to do this to us?"

Hayes slammed her in the face with the stock of his M-16. She fell face down into the dirt, bleeding and silent. The woman lay still on the ground. I pushed Hayes away.

"What are you doing, man?" I said to him. "You have a wife and two kids! Don't be hitting her like that."

He looked at me with eyes full of hatred, as if he was ready to kill me for saying those words, but he did not touch the woman again.

I found this incident with Hayes particularly disturbing because during other times I had seen him in action in Iraq, he had showed himself to be one of the most level-headed and calm soldiers in my company. I had the sense that if he could lose it and hit a woman the way he had, any of us could lose it too.

Then something happened that haunts my dreams to this day.

All the women were led back inside the house and our entire platoon was ordered to stand guard outside it. Four U.S. military men entered the house with the women. They closed the doors. We couldn't see anything through the windows. I don't know who the military men were, or what unit they were from, but I can only conclude that they outranked us and were at least at the level of first lieutenant or above.

That's because our own second lieutenant Joyce was there, and his presence did not deter them.

Normally, when we conducted a raid, we were in and out in 30 minutes or less. You never wanted to stay in one place for too long for fear of exposing yourself to mortar attacks.

But our platoon was made to stand guard outside that house for about an hour. The women started shouting and screaming. The men stayed in there with them, behind closed doors. It went on and on and on.

Finally, the men came out and told us to get the hell out of there.

It struck me then that we, the American soldiers, were the terrorists.

We were terrorizing Iraqis.

Intimidating them.

Beating them.

Destroying their homes.

Probably raping them.

The ones we didn't kill had all the reasons in the world to become terrorists themselves.

Given what we were doing to them, who could blame them for wanting to kill us, and all Americans?

A sick realization lodged like a cancer in my gut.

It grew and festered, and troubled me more with every passing day.

We, the Americans, had become the terrorists in Iraq.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By IED Northwest Of Baghdad

Mar 7 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer & BBC

Three American soldiers died when a roadside bomb exploded northwest of the capital. The U.S. soldiers were killed as they patrolled a well-traveled route northwest of Baghdad to clear it of explosives. A fourth member of the patrol was injured in the incident.

NO MORE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



19-year-old Marine Pfc. Tarryl Hill's funeral at St. Paul Tabernacle Church in Detroit, Michigan February 16, 2007. Hill was killed in Fallujah. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

North Mississippi Soldier Killed In Iraq

“Some In The Family Just Want It To End So No One Else Has To Die”



(AP Photo/Mayo Family Photo via The Pontotoc Progress)

March 6, 2007 Posted by Dennis Turner, WREG

Myrtle, Miss - Private Barry Wayne Mayo was killed in Baqubah, Iraq yesterday during combat operations. He only had a few more weeks in the military before he got out and planned to attend Ole Miss to study computers.

On Monday, his plans came to an end in Iraq, leaving his family in mourning. Private Mayo had just turned 21 a couple of weeks ago. He was lucky enough to spend his birthday with his family at their home in Myrtle, where they laughed, joked and celebrated.

Today, they're grieving. Mayo was killed in Iraq, days after returning. He joined the Army while still underage.

“He just up and told his Dad he was gonna join the Army, and he did,” says his grandmother, Patricia Mayo of Myrtle.

By the time he turned 18, he found himself in Iraq as part of the First Cavalry out of Fort Hood, Texas. He had apparently seen plenty of action in Iraq, but wouldn't say a word to his family about it.

“He just didn't talk much about stories. He didn't elaborate about anything going on over there....and didn't want you asking him anything like that,” explains Mayo.

His grandmother could see Iraq had taken its toll on Barry. She says her grandson insisted on putting the best face on the situation.

“He pretended like it just wasn't all that bad,” says Mayo. “...we knew better.”

Private Mayo's Grandfather says Barry didn't like 'good-byes'. In fact, he would never tell his Grandfather good-bye. It was always “See you later.” His Grandmother says he would never be the one to hang up the phone. She always had to do it.

His family got the news Monday from visiting military officers.

“It's just bad. I mean it's not my grandchild it's somebody else's child or somebody else's grandchild. War is never good,” says Mrs. Mayo.

Some in the family have now changed their minds about the war and just want it to end so no one else has to die. They also want people to know Private Barry Mayo served his country well.

“...as a brave soldier who went to war for our Country, and to remember his happiness that he had,” says his grandmother.

Funeral arrangements for Private Barry Mayo are incomplete at this time. The Army doesn't expect to have his body back to his family for at least a couple of weeks.

Spotsylvania Soldier Killed In Iraq

March 7, 2007 Media General News Service

FREDERICKSBURG -- A paratrooper from Spotsylvania County was among nine soldiers to die in Iraq on Monday, his family said today.

Staff Sgt. Robert Stanley, 27, graduated from Spotsylvania High School and was on his third combat tour.

“He didn't like war, but he thought he was helping the people over there,” said his father Robert Stanley, who owns Shannon Airport in Spotsylvania.

A member of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fayetteville, N.C., the younger Stanley had previously served in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks and was on his second tour in Iraq. He had also been sent to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Stanley was killed in one of two bomb blasts north of Baghdad on Monday, the deadliest day for U.S. soldiers since the security crackdown in the Iraqi capital started last month.

He leaves behind a wife, his parents and a sister.

Lubbock Born Soldier Killed In Iraq

3/7/07 KCBD

The Associated Press is reporting the death of another West Texas soldier.

Andrew Perkins, 27, was born in Lubbock, and graduated from Amarillo High School in 1998. Perkins was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and stationed out of Fort Bragg.

The military says he and six others were killed by an IED north of Baghdad Monday.

Newport Soldier Killed In Iraq

03/07/07 The Associated Press

NEWPORT, N.H. News reports say a soldier from Newport (New Hampshire) was killed this week in Iraq by a roadside bomb.

Justin Rollins, who was 22, was serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. He was a 2003 graduate of Newport High School.

Teacher Kathryn Hanson, a close family friend, told WMUR-TV that Rollins had visited some of his teachers after basic training, and they noticed a difference in him immediately. Hanson says it brought about a change and a purpose that was important to Rollins.

Hanson said Rollins was a gunner on a Humvee and had a close call in December when he was injured by a roadside bomb.

Alaska Man Dies In Iraq



Pfc. Adare W. Cleveland

February 23, 2007 By DON HUNTER, Anchorage Daily News

A 20-year-old soldier from Anchorage was among three men killed in Iraq on Monday when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

Pfc. Adare W. Cleveland was a cavalry scout assigned to the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Sgt. Shawn M. Dunkin, 25, of Columbia, S.C., and Pfc. Matthew C. Bowe, 19, of Coraopolis, Pa., died in the same incident. Two other soldiers in the same 10th Mountain Division unit were wounded.

Cleveland was home-schooled in Anchorage through Family Partnership charter school, district and school officials said. He joined the Army in July 2005 at the age of 18, completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and was assigned to the Commando Brigade in November 2005.

He was deployed to Iraq in August. Cleveland was a gunner and dismount with Team Hellcat on Task Force Vigilant. His team guarded Victory Base Complex and patrolled the villages of Al Furat, Iraqi Family Village and Airport Village in the southern areas of Baghdad, according to the Sandstorm, a publication of the 10th Mountain Division. "I love my job," Cleveland said in an interview published in the military magazine. "I love the little (children)."

An Anchorage neighbor, George Hixon, said Cleveland was a friendly young man who loved Alaska and loved hearing birds singing in the morning. He was proud to serve his country, Hixon said.

Columbia Union Graduate Killed By Roadside Bomb

March 3, 2007 By Martin Weil and Sandhya Somashekhar, Washington Post Staff Writers

At Columbia Union College, Jonathan D. Cadavero was known as a fine student, an able basketball player and a gregarious and popular figure on the campus in Takoma Park.

Cadavero, a 2004 graduate of Columbia Union, a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, entered the Army and was trained as a medic. He became part of a platoon that carried out one of the most vital and dangerous assignments in Iraq -- hunting for improvised explosive devices, or roadside bombs.

In an interview published online, he had told a reporter from the Military Times organization something that now seems tragically prophetic.

"With IEDs," he said, "either we find them, or they find us."

In Baghdad on Tuesday, an IED found him, according to a statement released last night by the Pentagon.

Spec. Cadavero, 24, and two other soldiers from his unit died when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle, the statement said.

The three were assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum, N.Y.

"Every time you leave the base, anything could happen," Cadavero said in the interview, given Feb. 11.

"Route clearance can be boring," he said, "but it's Iraq. It doesn't stay boring for long."

Cadavero "was a tremendous personality" on the Columbia Union campus, the college's Web site said.

He was a cum laude graduate and was on the dean's list every year, and he was also a member of an academic honor society and a psychology honor society.

According to the Web site, Cadavero's survivors include his sister, Krista, a 2001 Columbia Union graduate; his mother, Nadia, and his father, David, who is superintendent of schools for the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Cadavero "really made quite an impact" on the Takoma Park campus, school spokesman Scott Steward said. "He was a tremendous guy."

Funeral To Be Held For Area Soldier

3.5.07 By Caroline An, Staff Writer, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Louis G. Kim was enthralled by the military at a young age.

The West Covina resident regularly talked about a military career with friends and played soldiers as a child, carrying a gun and singing army songs, said his mother, Bridget Shin.

He even sneaked into the R-rated "Saving Private Ryan" in junior high school, friends said.

So Kim's family supported him when he enlisted in the U.S. Army after he turned 18.

But the 19-year-old Army specialist died Feb. 20 from wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small-arms fire in Ramadi, Iraq.

His funeral will be held at 6 tonight at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary in Whittier. A military service will take place Friday.

"He was a sweet boy, always so nice and had a lot of friends," Shin said in Korean. "My heart hurts."

Kim's mother said that during Christmas, the last time she saw him, it seemed the young soldier knew his time was near. He spent time with family and bought presents for all of his cousins.

Friends recalled Kim's loyalty to friends, quirky humor - he loved the television show "Reno 9-1-1" - and intelligence. He also effortlessly made friends in any situation.

During basic training and in Iraq, he would keep in contact with friends through letters or e-mail.

"He was usually the center of attention," said John Lee, a friend since the eighth grade. "People just looked up to him." It was a talent that he relied on as his family moved throughout his childhood.

Kim spent his early years in Irvine, then Chicago and Raleigh, N.C., for high school and back to the San Gabriel Valley shortly before his senior year in high school.

The uprooting and lack of stability may have been a contributing factor to joining the military, said Brian Lee, Kim's former youth pastor in Irvine. Brian is not related to John Lee.

"The one thing Louis was good at was being loyal to friends, and with the military there is sense of a band of brothers," Brian Lee said.

Both men were raised by their grandmothers - a bond they shared - and Lee often took care of Kim when his grandmother was out of town.

"He was very mature and independent," Lee said. "He was barely in junior high school and he was preparing breakfast for me. I was shocked."

Kim faced many challenges but maintained a positive attitude, friends said, and always had a smile on his face.

He would view adversity as training for the military, said Tyson Manalo, a friend since second-grade. "Whenever there was something difficult, he would chant `it is training for the Navy SEALs,'" Manalo said. Kim joined the Army instead and hoped to be a Ranger, friends said.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division when he was killed.

Georgian Helicopter Crashes In Iraq

7 March 2007 FOCUS News Agency

Baghdad. A Georgian helicopter crashed in Iraq, the Georgian TV channel Rustavi-2 reports. According to initial information there are no casualties.

The helicopter, owned by the Tusheti airline company, crashed in the region of the Alasan village. Three Ukrainians, members of the crew, were injured slightly.

**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from Company A of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment patrol a street in New Baghdad, an eastern neighborhood in Baghdad, Dec. 27, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“Every Day We Have Been Firing
Rockets At The British Bases, But
Soldiers Are Not Coming Out”**

Mar 7, 2007 By Noor Khan - The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The Taliban has 4,000 fighters bracing to rebuff NATO's largest-ever offensive, which entered its second day Wednesday, a Taliban commander said.

The top Taliban commander in northern Helmand province, Mullah Abdul Qassim, said the insurgent group has 8,000 to 9,000 fighters in all of the province, including about 4,000 in northern Helmand, where NATO on Tuesday launched its largest-ever offensive. He said all the fighters were Afghan, denying reports of hundreds of foreign fighters in the region.

The Taliban leader said the militants control all of Helmand, where British soldiers operate, and noted that the province's governor had not been to the region in weeks, instead choosing to operate from Kabul, the capital.

"Every day we have been firing rockets at the British bases, but soldiers are not coming out," he said. "They're not fighting with us. We are ready but they are staying inside."

Resistance Shaking In Terror As Latvia Sends More Troops

February 27, 2007 The Associated Press

RIGA, Latvia: Latvia will gradually decrease its troop numbers in Iraq and boost its presence in Afghanistan over the next two years, the defense minister said Tuesday.

The Baltic state has 125 servicemen in Iraq serving in the Polish-led contingent and 36 in Afghanistan under a Norwegian unit.

On Wednesday, he said Latvia would increase its presence in Afghanistan to 100 soldiers this year and then 150 in 2008, the ministry said.

TROOP NEWS

“Soldiers in Revolt” “Building Today's GI Movement”

From Tod Ensign at Citizen Soldier

On Sunday, March 11th, at 3:00 pm, Citizen Soldier will host as part of the Left Forum at Cooper Union in New York City, the following panel/workshop:

“Soldiers in Revolt: Building Today's GI Movement”

Panelists include:

Mark Hrutkay, Iraq combat vet, served at Ft Drum, organizer, Iraq Vets Against the War

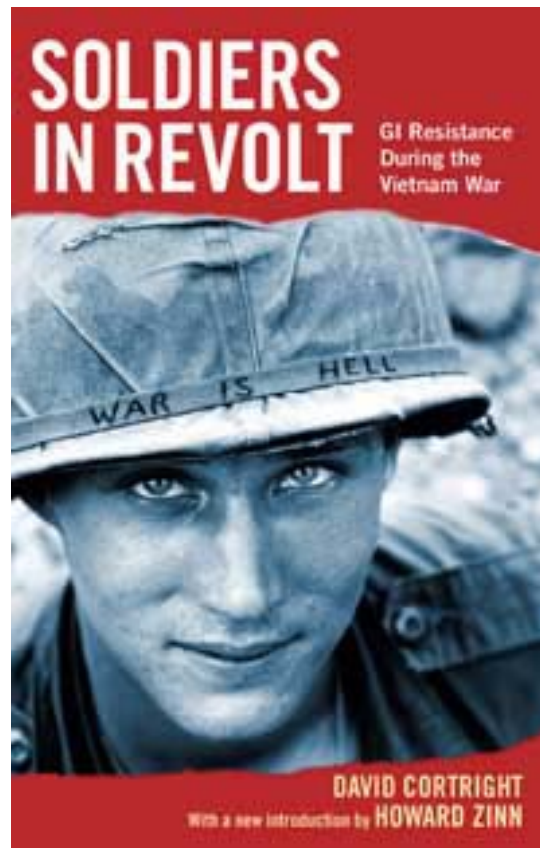
Cindi Mercante, Army veteran and coordinator of the “Different Drummer” a GI internet cafe near Ft Drum, 10th Mountain Division, upstate New York,

Fernando Braga, Iraq war vet, Army National Guard, Bronx, NY, now active with IVAW

Jose Vasquez, Army Reservist, CO claimant, Pres. NYC Chapter, IVAW

Tod Ensign, Director, Citizen Soldier, sponsor of the “Different Drummer” cafe (chair of panel)

We urge people with an interest in helping to build the emerging GI movement to participate in this workshop. In addition to reports on current organizing efforts, this panel will encourage participants to help us brain storm new ideas and strategies for this essential work.



THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Sgt. Pedro J. Colon at the Church of Santa Maria for his funeral Mass, , March 2, 2007, in the Bronx borough of New York. Colon died Feb. 19 in Baghdad, of wounds suffered when his unit came under attack by enemy forces using multiple weapons. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

Marine Iraq Vet Says Opposing War Is Defending Constitution

“The first thing I did in the United States military was swear to defend the Constitution,” recalled [former Marine Cpl. Matt] Howard, who served two combat tours in Iraq, deploying with the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

“I swore an oath to defend the Constitution, and that is what I'm doing now by speaking out against the war and against this administration.” Quoted By John Nichols March 6, 2007 The Nation

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

Dishonorable Rat Col. Morris Davis Threatens UCMJ Prosecution Of Major Trying To Defend Australian Guantanamo Prisoner; “Davis’s Threats Were Only The Latest Example Of The ‘Corrupt’ System”

Colonel Davis has accused Major Mori of breaching Article 88 of the US military code, which relates to using contemptuous language towards the president, vice-president, and secretary of defence. Penalties for breaching the code include jail and the loss of employment and entitlements.

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

March 5, 2007 By Tom Allard, The Sydney Morning Herald

MAJOR MICHAEL MORI, the defence lawyer for David Hicks, could be removed from the case after threats from the chief US prosecutor, Colonel Morris Davis, to charge him under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The intervention may derail Hicks's trial, and possibly prompt his return to Australia. It would take months for a new lawyer to get to grips with the case and the new military commission process.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, has told the US that any action leading to further delays would be unacceptable and would prompt him to demand the return of Hicks, 31, after five years in Guantanamo Bay.

Colonel Davis has accused Major Mori of breaching Article 88 of the US military code, which relates to using contemptuous language towards the president, vice-president, and secretary of defence. Penalties for breaching the code include jail and the loss of employment and entitlements.

Major Mori denied he had done anything improper but said the accusations left him with an inherent conflict of interest.

“It can’t help but raise an issue of whether any further representation of David and his wellbeing could be tainted by a concern for my own legal wellbeing,” Major

Mori told the Herald. “David Hicks needs counsel who is not tainted by these allegations.”

Major Mori, who has been to Australia seven times, will seek legal advice. The issue will also have to be raised with Hicks when his legal team next sees him.

Indeed the Federal Government has highlighted Major Mori's work as proof of the fairness of the much-criticised US military commission system.

However, Colonel Davis said Major Mori was not playing by the rules and criticised his regular trips to Australia. He said he would not tolerate such behaviour from his own prosecutors. **[Right about that. Asshole Davis wants everybody to agree the man is guilty before the trial. That's how worthless pieces of shit like Davis operate. How dare the Major actually defend the man he is supposed to defend? Can't have that. Davis is no doubt all bent out of shape because he couldn't perform his filthy little tricks where they would have been truly appreciated: working for Hitler or Stalin.]**

Hicks's lead defence counsel, Joshua Dratel, a New York lawyer, said Colonel Davis's threats were only the latest example of the “corrupt” system under which Hicks would be tried.

He pointed to the former senior Pentagon official in charge of detainee affairs, Cully Stimson, who resigned last month after urging businesses not to hire law firms that had worked for Guantanamo Bay prisoners.

US prosecutors are under intense pressure to offer Hicks, a former kangaroo skinner and father of two, a plea bargain deal by the end of the month.

Senior Australian government members want Hicks to come home a free man, provided he agrees to a pretrial plea of guilty.

Amid rising public anger in Australia about Hicks's long wait for justice and alleged mistreatment, any Hicks trial - he is to be the first person to appear before a military commission - risks becoming a public relations disaster.

The world's media will be focused on the case, including Al Jazeera and other Middle Eastern outlets.

They will hear graphic testimony of abuses and torture by US guards and interrogators, and it will involve a man, Hicks, whose alleged offence pales alongside the serious accusations made against alleged senior Al-Qaeda leaders in Guantanamo Bay.

Prosecutors have decided not to press ahead with three charges against Hicks - attempted murder, aiding the enemy and conspiracy to commit war crimes.

There is now only the lesser charge of providing material support to a terrorist group.

That charge is retrospective, since it did not exist for non-US citizens when Hicks was arrested.

[The fact there was no law against what the man did won't stop a traitor like Davis , who hates our freedoms. He is a perfect example of the "enemy domestic" every soldier is sworn to defend us all against. He is the deadly enemy of every citizen in and out of uniform who loves our liberties. The UCMJ also provides for what to do with Davis: "Penalties for breaching the code include jail and the loss of employment and entitlements" for openers, and such additional condign punishment as will tend to discourage anyone in command from conducting him or herself in a similar fashion ever again. Sticking him in a cage at Guantanamo would be a reasonable opening move. T]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

07 Mar 2007 Reuters & (Xinhua) & By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer

A car bomber struck a police patrol protecting Shiite pilgrims in southern Baghdad on Wednesday.

"The final police report said that 12 policemen were killed and 15 policemen wounded," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The bomber targeted police who were marshalling Shi'ite pilgrims walking to Kerbala.

A police lieutenant and his 15-year-old son were shot to death in their car late Tuesday on a road in Diwaniyah, 80 miles south of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomb killed three police commandos at a police checkpoint in southwest Baghdad, 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

Dead Silence



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: March 05, 2007
Subject: Dead Silence

Dead Silence

When you do not know what your military
does behind closed doors,
you
get
Iraq.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
March 4, 2007

I

R emember

A nother

Q uagmire

Photo 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)

March 8, 1965; Unhappy Murderous Imperial Stupidity Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History

About 3,500 U. S. Marines became the first American combat troops in Vietnam, landing near the coastal city of Da Nang. The USS Henrico, Union, and Vancouver, carrying the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under Brig. Gen. Frederick J. Karch, took up stations 4,000 yards off Red Beach Two, north of Da Nang.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

Two Magnificent Anniversaries In The Fight For Human Liberation:

#1: March 8, 1908: New York City Women Strike For Higher Wages, A Shorter Workday And An End To Child Labor



Carl Bunin Peace History; un.org [Excerpts]

March 8, 1908

Thousands of workers in the New York needle trades (primarily women) demonstrated and began a strike for higher wages, a shorter workday and an end to child labor.

This event became the basis for International Women's Day celebrated all over the world since March 8, 1945.

#2: March 8, 1917 With 2 Million Russian Soldiers Dead In The War, Women Ignore The “Political Leaders” And Lead

A Revolution To Overthrow The Imperial Tyrant Czar Of Russia



*Two old women lament
Old days of sorrow,
When prayers went unheard
And the grave was relief.*

*But no more does the stick
Fall upon women's shoulders.
Free and equal they march,
Comrades of men!*

March 8, 1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for “bread and peace”.

Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway.

The rest is history:

Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.

That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



US Soldier of the 6-9 squadron, 3rd brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, questions an Iraqi citizen forced to lie on the floor of his home during a search for suspected insurgents in al-Khala village outside Muqdadiyah, Iraq, north of Baghdad, March 5, 2007. Iraqi citizens have to right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"My sons and wife were very terrified," complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. "Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?" BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



2.22.07

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, 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.

CLASS WAR NEWS

Private Healthcare: Money Down A Rathole

March 6, 2007 By Deborah Burger, RN; Huffingtonpost.com [Excerpt]

The U.S. spends more, far more, on health care than any other nation, but much of it is diverted into the pockets of corporate CEOs, gobbled up in record profits for the healthcare industry, and consumed by administrative waste.

Just last week the commission that advises Congress on Medicare reported that Medicare has to spend 12% more for care that is administered through private insurers than through traditional Medicare.

Meanwhile the healthcare lobby cheerleads for more privatization, and the Bush Administration, joined by a number of politicians and even some advocacy groups, argue that the solution to our healthcare nightmare is more private insurance, not more healthcare.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

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

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