

GI SPECIAL 5K9:

**As Activists Block
Stryker Movements At
Olympia Port,
“Overwhelmingly
Positive Gestures Such
As ‘Thumbs Up’ From
Troops As They Drive By
In Their Strykers And
Other Vehicles”**

**NCO “Pulled Over, Got Out Of
His Car, Came Over, Shook
Their Hands And Said, ‘I Just
Want To Thank You People For
What You’re Doing’”**

“He Told Them That He Had Been Deployed To Iraq Twice Before And Found It To Be A Hopeless Situation”

[Thanks to David McReynolds for this report.]

November 12, 2007 Zoltan Grossman, ZNet [Excerpts]

Olympia, Washington -- Late Friday afternoon, approximately 50 members of Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (OlyPMR) sat down near the main gate of the Port of Olympia in Washington State.

Two tractor trailers, one carrying two Stryker combat vehicles, another filled with military cargo, were blocked from exiting the port.

Police arrived on the scene and after failing to persuade the demonstrators to allow one truck through, ceded control of the entrance.

The 2 trucks were forced by these circumstances to back up - returning inside the port gate.

OlyPMR was founded in May of 2006 when Olympia peace activists attempted to block outgoing Strykers and other military equipment in advance of the deployment of the 3rd Brigade Stryker Team from Ft. Lewis. Activists united under the banner of Olympia Port Militarization Resistance, declaring a common mission to “end our community’s participation in the illegal occupation of Iraq by stopping the US military’s use of the Port of Olympia.” Thirty- seven people were arrested for acts of nonviolent civil disobedience over the course of 10 days during that first campaign.

On Thursday evening, at an open meeting, a packed room of more than 60 activists agreed on a plan for using human blockades to nonviolently contain military cargo at the port.

200 people gathered at the port entrance, which activists say was a number twice as large as that needed to execute their plan. www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOkn2Fg7R8w

After several hours it became apparent that there would be no movement of vehicles from the port that night, and activists set up an encampment in order to keep watch while others rested.

Civil disobedience and other actions at the port are expected to continue as anti-war activists have declared their commitment to ongoing resistance.

As the nation begins its annual observance of the Veterans Day holidays, OlyPMR says they stand with the men and women of the military by demanding an immediate halt to the War, and the return of all the troops.

"We want the troops to know we are glad they are home. We also want them to know that we will do everything we can to make sure that they never have to go again," said Mayes.

This message seems to resonate with many soldiers.

Activists involved in PMR actions in Olympia or Tacoma report overwhelmingly positive gestures such as "thumbs up" from troops as they drive by in their Strykers and other vehicles.

TJ Johnson, Austin Kelley and others vigiling at a busy intersection in Olympia this Thursday report that a Non Commissioned Officer wearing fatigues pulled over, got out of his car, came over, shook their hands and said, "I just want to thank you people for what you're doing."

He told them that he had been deployed to Iraq twice before and found it to be a "hopeless situation."

He said that he and other soldiers wished that they could speak out against the war, but military regulations prohibited them from publicly opposing the war.

Members of OlyPMR argue that they are struggling for what most US soldiers, and the majority of citizens in the US and Iraq clearly want.

American Opposition To Iraq War At All-Time High: Majority Also Opposes Any Attack On Iran; Bush Finally Tops Nixon -- In Unpopularity

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

November 9, 2007 CNN & November 06 By E&P Staff

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Opposition to the Iraq war is at an all-time, according to a CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll released Thursday.

Sixty-eight percent of poll respondents opposed the war, setting a record.

Support for the war in Iraq among Americans has dropped to 31 percent from 34 percent last month, the new poll found.

The last time CNN reported a majority supporting the war was in October 2003, with 54 percent backing it, according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll.

Just one quarter of Americans believe the United States is winning the war, while 62 percent said neither Americans nor insurgents are winning, the latest survey found.

There has been virtually no change in the past month in the number of Americans who believe that things are going badly for the United States in the war in Iraq.

The public also opposes U.S. military action against Iran. Sixty-three percent oppose airstrikes on Iran, while 73 percent oppose using ground troops in that country, the poll found.

Seventy percent said they oppose any military strike on Iran, slightly higher than 66 percent in 2005 but significantly higher than 23 percent in 2002 in CNN/USA Today/Gallup polls.

For almost two years, President Bush has been threatening to unseat Richard M. Nixon as the most unpopular president in the history of the Gallup poll, and it finally happened this week.

The latest USA TODAY/Gallup survey finds Bush with a 31% approval rating -- and for the first time ever in the polling history, 50% say they “strongly disapprove” of a president.

The previous high (or low?) was a 48% strong disapproval rating for Nixon at the worst moments of Watergate in 1974.

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

U.S. Hummer-Modeled Vehicle In Baghdad “Completely Destroyed”

Casualties Not Reported

November 11, 2007 (VOI) & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

A U.S. army armored vehicle was completely destroyed when an explosive charge went off near a patrol vehicle in eastern Baghdad, Iraqi police said on Monday.

“An explosive device planted by unknown gunmen in Falasteen Street blew up at a late hour on Sunday evening, totally destroying a U.S. Hummer-modeled vehicle that was passing the location,” an official security source, who requested anonymity, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI).

The source did not indicate whether any casualties were reported on the U.S. side, but said that U.S. forces sealed off the scene immediately after the blast.

Around 2.m., a roadside bomb targeted an American patrol in Palestine street (east Baghdad). No casualties reported.

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



Iraqis chat as U.S. soldiers from A Company 2-23 Infantry Battalion take up positions during a patrol in Muqdadiyah, north of Baghdad, Sept. 13, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

U.S. Patrol Attacks Collaborator Cops

November 11, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

Around 2 p.m., an American patrol opened fire on an Iraqi police check point at Doura near the (60) street in the neighborhood (south Baghdad) injuring 3 policemen.

Occupation Forces Thinned In Diyala

Nov 12 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

The current total of 20 combat brigades is shrinking to 19 as the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, operating in volatile Diyala province, leaves.

The U.S. command in Baghdad announced on Saturday that the brigade had begun heading home to Fort Hood, Texas, and that its battle space will be taken by another brigade already operating in Iraq.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Kills Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed, Another Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

KABUL, Nov. 12 (Xinhua)

Two soldiers of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force were killed and another wounded while conducting an operation in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, said an ISAF statement.

An ISAF's convoy was struck by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations, the statement added.

Resistance Action

November 11, 2007 By AMIR SHAH (AP) & Nov. 12 (Xinhua) & The Associated Press

Taliban militants ambushed a police checkpoint near the city of Lashkar Gah in Helmand, leaving three policemen seriously wounded.

In the eastern province of Khost, police patrolling on foot Saturday were hit by a land-mine blast that killed one officer and wounded two civilians, said Wazir Pacha, a spokesman for the provincial police.

On Saturday, Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint near Qalat city in Zabul province. The ensuing gun battle left two policemen dead and one wounded, said provincial highway police commander Jailali Khan. Another policeman was missing, he said.

Taliban insurgents in an overnight attack on a police checkpost in central Afghanistan's Ghazni city killed four policemen and wounding two others, provincial police chief Alishah Ahmadzai told Xinhua on Monday.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, however, told Xinhua through telephone from an unknown location that some seven policemen were killed in the incident which took place on Sunday night.

Afghan police came under attack by land-mine blast, ambush and an assault on a checkpoint. Three policemen died, one was missing and three were wounded in the scattered attacks.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket carrying the remains of 12 U.S. soldiers killed when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq on January 20, 2007, is carried by horse drawn caisson for a group burial at Arlington National Cemetery October 12, 2007. The single casket holds the remains of all 12 soldiers. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

“Soldiers Are The Ones Who Are Going To End The War” Iraq Veterans Against The War Chapter Organized At Southern Illinois U.



From left, Vietnam veterans Benny Romo and Mike Wagner, Iraq veteran Todd Augustine, and Jon Klemke, a Freshman from Glenview, after the Iraq Veterans Against the War meeting Thursday night.

11/9/07 By Madeleine Leroux, Daily Egyptian [Carbondale, Illinois] [Excerpts]

Aaron Hughes is no longer afraid.

Hughes said he was told not to help starving children in Iraq. He also said he wasn't allowed to voice opposition to the war in Iraq during his time in the military. For two years after he returned from Iraq, he was still afraid to speak.

Not anymore.

More than 30 people voiced their concerns at a speak-out against the war Thursday night in Lawson Hall, hosted by Iraq Veterans Against the War. No attendees identified themselves as supporters of the war.

IVAW, a national group of veterans and active service people who oppose the war in Iraq, co-hosted the speak-out with Students for Peace and Democracy.

Veterans shared their stories with the community and told why they are against the war.

It was also the unofficial announcement of the founding of an SIUC chapter of IVAW.

David Adams, a junior from Plainfield studying speech communication, said he spent about five months in Iraq after being deployed in the initial invasion in March 2003.

“This is our unofficial announcement,” Adams said. “We have just enough people as of last week.”

The speak-out featured five speakers, four of whom were war veterans and one inactive servicewoman in the Illinois National Guard who is being transferred to the Army Reserves.

Veterans spoke of their experiences in war and how it changed them. Hughes, president of the IVAW Chicago chapter, came to campus to show support for the new chapter.

Hughes said IVAW gives veterans the opportunities to speak out, and one goal of the group is to let the troops speak for themselves.

Barry Romo, a Vietnam war veteran and member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said the Iraq war is worse than Vietnam.

“They didn’t send people back who didn’t want to go,” Romo said. “How dare they throw away lives when we absolutely know that this war isn’t right.”

Hughes said the soldiers are the ones who are going to end the war, and in March 2008, soldiers will be going to Washington, D.C. to testify on the war in Iraq.



“It Seems The War Has Come Home”

Shooting Leaves A Husband And Wife Dead And Two Young Children Without Parents;

“Ongoing Depression Over The Hardships Of Serving In Afghanistan And Iraq May Have Played A Role”

From: Nancy J Sindelar

To: GI Special
Sent: November 09, 2007
Subject: Bring the war home

I read your almost daily eletter, thank you. These articles showed up in my Casper (WY) paper, with Billings Gazette bylines.

Something about “Fighting them over there so we don’t have to fight them here,” rings false.

It seems the war has come home.

Nancy S., Veterans For Peace 65, WY

11.7.07 By RUFFIN PREVOST, Billings Gazette Wyoming Bureau

LOVELL, Wyo. - Two families joined by marriage and grief struggled Tuesday to make sense of a shooting that left a husband and wife dead and two young children without parents.

Ongoing depression over the hardships of serving in Afghanistan and Iraq may have played a role in sparking the incident, said relatives of Steven D. Lopez.

An active-duty sergeant in the U.S. Army, Lopez, 23, shot his wife, Brenda Lee Davila, 22, before turning the gun on himself Monday afternoon.

“Our hearts go out so much for Brenda’s family,” said Daniel Lopez, Steven Lopez’s father.

“We can’t even begin to - it’s terrible. It’s the ultimate pain, to lose a child, and it makes it so much worse to know your child took a life. We feel so bad for the other family,” he said.

Outside Brenda Davila’s Carmon Avenue residence Tuesday afternoon, her mother, Martha Davila, laid a single red rose on the concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk to the home. Family members consoled her as she tearfully commemorated the spot where the shooting happened.

“She was always joking and laughing. She was a lot of fun to be around,” recalled Carlos DeLaCruz, Davila’s cousin. “The last time I came over, about a week ago, I walked in the door and she had me in a headlock, just messing around.

“She was happy to be home with her parents,” he said.

Based on accounts by police and family members, the couple had a dispute around 1:30 p.m. Monday, with Davila saying she did not want Lopez to see their toddler children, a boy and girl. Lopez left, but returned shortly before 2 p.m. to confront Davila, said Amy Lopez, his sister.

Lopez told Davila that if he couldn't see the children, then neither could she. Then he shot her and, without hesitation, shot himself. It all happened in seconds, said Lovell Police Chief Nick Lewis.

Lewis said as many as seven people witnessed the event.

"I don't think it was a plan," Amy Lopez said of the incident.

"Right before, he was talking about going back (to the Army), and he had just cut his hair," she said.

Lopez was listed Tuesday as absent without leave from the Army, according to a clerk with the U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation and Center. He was due to return to base by Oct. 18, Lewis said.

"We were making arrangements for a bus or plane ticket. He knew he needed help. That's what he was going to go back for, was help," Daniel Lopez said.

Steven Lopez served with a construction repair unit in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he and Davila had bought a home and had been living.

They met in Lovell at Christmastime 2004 and got married soon afterward, family members said.

Lopez had talked with doctors at Fort Bragg about his depression, Amy Lopez said.

He had been prescribed Paxil, an anti-depressant, but did not consistently take the medication, said Judy Lopez, his mother.

After running into some trouble as a teenager, Steven Lopez joined the Army at 18, shortly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, his father said.

He served first in Afghanistan, then in Iraq during 2006.

"After that was when he really started having a tough time," Daniel Lopez said.

"He volunteered for a lot of patrols, and he participated in a lot of close combat situations. He told me he had seen a lot of things that he couldn't even talk to me about," he said.

"We knew he would have bouts where he was really depressed, but he would assure us he would be OK."

Steven Lopez had once wanted to make a career of the military but became disillusioned with the Army after Iraq and wanted to use his training to find a civilian job and focus on his marriage, his family said.

They credited Davila with helping Lopez advance to the rank of sergeant, and they said he was devastated that she had decided not to return to Fort Bragg with him.

Members of both families said Lopez's recent behavior was uncharacteristic.

"He was most definitely not himself," Amy Lopez said.

"But he was trying very hard to be," Daniel Lopez said.

Army Says New Helicopter Isn't Safe To Fly On Hot Days

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Nov 10, 2007 By AARON C. DAVIS Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

The Army is spending \$2.6 billion on hundreds of European-designed helicopters for homeland security and disaster relief that turn out to have a crucial flaw: They aren't safe to fly on hot days, according to an internal report obtained by The Associated Press.

During flight tests in Southern California in mild, 80-degree weather, cockpit temperatures in the UH-72A Lakota soared above 104, the point at which the Army says the communication, navigation and flight control systems can overheat and shut down.

The Army has received 12 of the Lakotas so far from the American Eurocopter Corp., a North American division of Germany's European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., or EADS. Testing on the first six by an independent arm of the Pentagon revealed the problems.

The rest of the choppers are scheduled for delivery to the active-duty Army and the National Guard over the next eight years. [Lucky them.]

The Army plans to use the Lakota for such things as search-and-rescue missions in disaster areas, evacuation of injured people, reconnaissance, disaster relief and VIP tours for members of Congress and Army brass. **[OK! By all means use the worthless, dangerous piece of shit for Congress and Army brass!]**

The Lakota has another problem: Testers said it fails to meet the Army's requirement that it be able to simultaneously evacuate two critically injured patients. The Lakota can hold two patients, but the cabin is too cramped for medics to actually work on more than one of them at a time, the testers said.

And the report said inadequate ventilation, heat emitted by aircraft electronics and sunlight streaming through the large windows caused cockpit temperatures to reach 104.9 degrees during a simulated mission in California.

The report did not say how long the helicopter was in the air before it reached that temperature. The Lakota is supposed to be able to fly for 2.8 hours.

The aircraft's safe operating limit is 104 degrees, according to the Army. Beyond that, alarms may sound, signaling the pilot has 30 minutes before possible system shutdown, the report said. It said pilots should land as soon as possible or take other action to cool the cockpit.

"The Minnesota Air National Guard probably doesn't need air conditioners," he said. The cost of an air conditioning unit per aircraft is about \$98,000, [Pentagon Army spokesman Maj. Tom] McCuin said. **[Right. Everybody knows that however hot the summer gets in the rest of the Midwest, they never get the "mild, 80-degree weather" in Minnesota that caused the test failure described above. Major Tommy gets the Pentagon Daryl Dumbfuck Award for November 2007.]**

Air Force Captain Paid Out Millions Of \$ For Sex

November 12, 2007 United Press International

WASHINGTON -- A former employee of a Tennessee defense company is accused of sleeping with an Air Force contracting officer to secure Iraq contracts.

Eric W. Barton, who worked for EOD Technology Inc., which won at least \$2.5 million in Iraq contracts, is accused of having a six-month relationship with Air Force Capt. Sherrie Remington, who at the time was in charge of awarding some contracts for work in Iraq, The San Antonio Express-News reported Nov. 11.

From 2005 through spring 2006, when the affair was allegedly taking place, the company's contracts increased from \$3.8 million to \$106 million.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

11 Nov 2007 Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & 12 Nov 2007 Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & (VOI)

The governor of Mosul, Dureed Kashmoola and the general brigadier Wathiq Al-Hamadni, the chief in command of Mosul police, survived from two assassination attempts by two roadside bombs, one in the forest area and the second one was few minutes after that first one near the north bus station area .

The deputy governor of Wajihyah village (20 km east Baquba) had survived from an assassination attempt in his village. Two of his guards was injured in the incident.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a policeman and wounded three in the city of Tikrit, 175 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen and one militant were killed in an attack on a police patrol in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a car of guards working for a local constructions company near south of Kirkuk yesterday, injuring five guards.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol in southern Kirkuk yesterday, one policeman was killed.

An IED targeted an Iraqi army vehicle in New Baghdad yesterday, killing a 10 year old girl and causing damage to one army vehicle and one apartment.

Around noon an IED detonated inside the car of an Iraqi army officer LC Salam Ismaeel as he was driving his car in Al Yarmouk neighborhood, Ismaeel was injured.

“An explosive charge targeted a Kirkuk police patrol in the al-Khadra neighborhood, southern Kirkuk. The blast caused severe damage to the patrol vehicle but left no casualties,” the source, who refused to be named, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI).

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

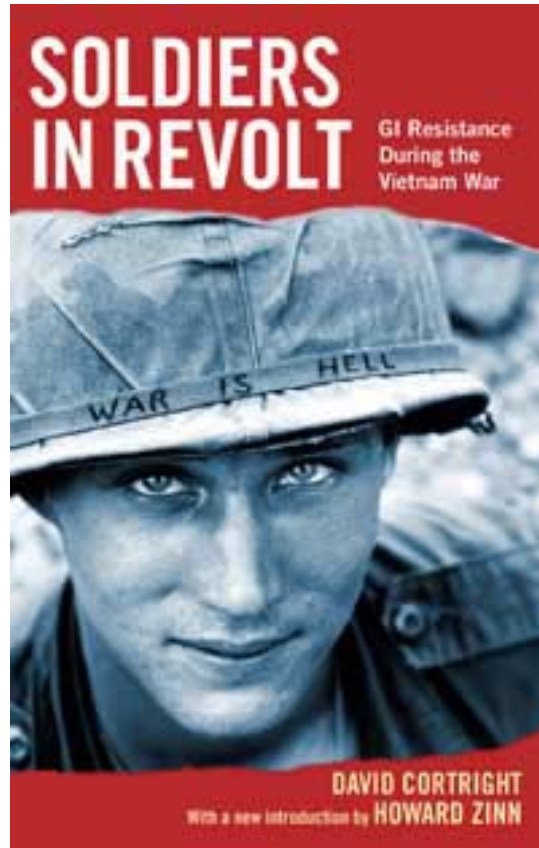
FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

How To Stop A War:

**“On April 27 [1968] A Group Of Forty
Active-Duty People Marched At The
Head Of An Anti-War Demonstration
In San Francisco, The First Time GIs
Led A Civilian Peace Rally”**

**“On February 16, 1969, The Alliance
Sponsored A Peace Rally In Downtown**

Seattle, With Two Hundred Active- Duty People Leading A Crowd Of Several Thousand”



[No, they didn't go to DC and march around in silly circles begging the Imperial Congress to stop the war. They weren't fools. They knew that when the army rebelled, the war would end. They did, and it did. Duh. T]

Excerpts from: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. [Reprint available from Haymarket Books]

The young people forced into the ranks by the Vietnam build-up expressed a sometimes articulate, sometimes desperate, opposition to an unwanted mission.

The GI movement imbued the military with the voice of a troubled citizenry, providing a measure of democratic restraint on though otherwise unresponsive and imperious institutions of war.

The appearance of coffeehouses and a burgeoning GI press, in an atmosphere of mounting disillusionment over stalemate in Vietnam, set the stage for the first significant GI action.

The Army's huge armored training center at Fort Hood experienced a particularly rapid deterioration of troop morale, especially among combat returnees, and throughout the Vietnam period witnessed extensive unrest and drug use (the base's copious marijuana supplies earned it the sobriquet "Fort Head").

The civilians who opened the Oleo Strut in the summer of 1968 thus met with an enthusiastic response; with the founding of Fatigue Press, a long history of successful GI activism began.

The first political gathering of Fort Hood soldiers occurred in Killeen on July 5, 1968.

A "Love-In" and countercultural festival was held in Condor Park, featuring rock music and anti-war speeches; approximately two hundred soldiers attended, most of them white.

The atmosphere at the base grew considerably tenser in the following weeks, however, as thousands of troops were prepared for possible use against civilian demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago — culminating in a dramatic and important act of political defiance among black troops.

On the evening of August 23, over one hundred black soldiers from the 1st Armored Cavalry Division gathered on base to discuss their opposition to Army racism and the use of troops against civilians.

After a lengthy, all-night assembly, which included a visit from commanding general Powell, forty-three of the blacks were arrested for refusal to follow orders.

The action of the blacks was spontaneous and unrelated to the work of the white soldiers (reflecting a common pattern of parallel but separate development of dissent among blacks and whites), but the Oleo Strut GIs supported the brothers and helped with their legal defense.

Because of widespread support for the resisters, especially among blacks, the Army's treatment of the Fort Hood 43 was not as harsh as it might have been; most received only light jail sentences.

The San Francisco Bay Area has been in the vanguard of most of the radical movements in the United States during the past decade, and the GI movement was no exception.

With the support of two local GI newspapers, The Ally and Task Force, area servicepeople were among the first to speak out in 1968.

On April 27 a group of forty active-duty people marched at the head of an anti-war demonstration in San Francisco, the first time GIs led a civilian peace rally.

Two months later, also in San Francisco, nine AWOL enlisted men (five soldiers, two sailors, one airman, and one Marine) publicly took sanctuary at Howard Presbyterian Church in moral opposition to the war. After a forty-eight-hour "service of celebration and communion," they were arrested by MPs on July 17.

In the fall, the growing network of GI activists in the area laid plans for the largest servicemen's peace action to date — an active-duty contingent for the scheduled October is anti-war rally in downtown San Francisco.

Among the efforts to mobilize area soldiers and distribute literature about the march was Navy nurse Susan Schnall's daring feat of dropping leaflets from an airplane onto five area military bases (for which she was later court-martialed).

As the demonstration date approached, military authorities became nervous that a large number of GIs might become involved, and, in a manner that became standard whenever protests were planned, sought to prevent servicemen from attending.

A communication from the Military Airlift Command in Washington, later anonymously released to *The Ally*, depicted the military's attitude toward even lawful dissent: it urged that 'this demonstration be quashed if possible because of possible severe impact on military discipline throughout the services.'

On the Saturday of the actual march, soldiers at the nearby Presidio were detained for mandatory company formations, while special maneuvers and other diversions were held at several West Coast bases.

Despite such obstruction, two hundred active-duty GIs and some one hundred reservists marched at the head of the demonstration, in what was the largest gathering yet of the expanding GI movement.

Two days later, in an incident partly inspired by the show of antiwar strength on October 12, twenty-seven inmates of the Presidio stockade held a sit-down strike to protest the shooting death a few days earlier of fellow prisoner Richard Bunch and to call attention to unbearable living conditions—what became known later as the Presidio mutiny. (For a sensitive and penetrating account of the Presidio incident see Fred Gardner's *Unlawful Concert*.)

As the GI movement emerged, civilian radical organizations played an important role in helping to sustain rank-and-file dissent. One of the first agencies to recognize the changes taking place within the Army was the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) and its closely allied counterpart, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

One of the first examples of this co-operation was the GI-Civilian Alliance for Peace (GI-CAP) and the newspaper Counterpoint at Fort Lewis.

Aided by SMC activists, GI-CAP developed into one of the most successful early GI-movement groups, with as many as fifty servicemen at regular weekly meetings.

On February 16, 1969, the Alliance sponsored a peace rally in downtown Seattle, with two hundred active-duty people leading a crowd of several thousand.

A few months later, the servicemen formed their own organization apart from the civilians and continued their work as an all GI group.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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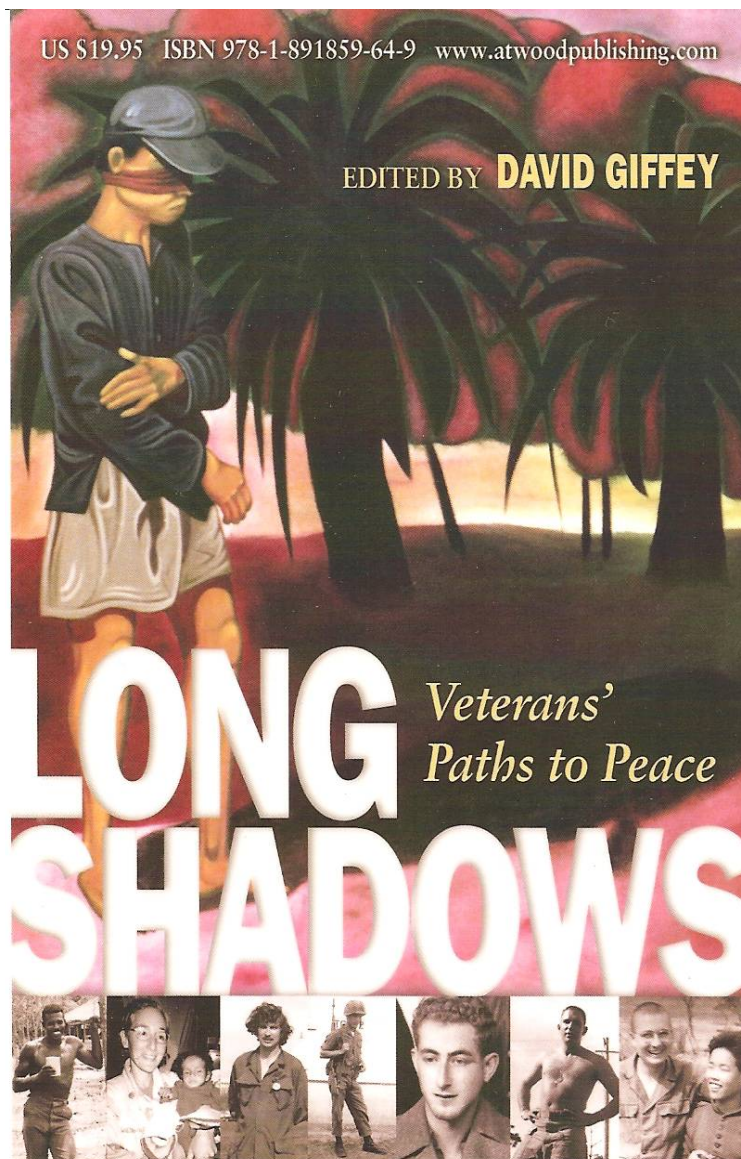
What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

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



19 War Veterans Speak For Themselves

**“We Should Be Ready At All Times To
Resist As Much As We Can And Make It
Uncomfortable For The War Makers”**



[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, for transcribing the information below.]

LONG SHADOWS: Veterans' Path to Peace

Veterans speak of war and peace with a certain credibility that others lack. Having experienced war and peace more intimately than many others, their responses and thoughts reflect the life-defining or life changing capacity of war.

Long Shadows is a collection of 19 interviews with veterans who candidly discuss their paths from military involvement to peace activism.

Beginning with a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish Civil War and ending with a veteran of the Iraq war, each tells a unique story with an individual perspective, and yet, each echoes the message of the futility and destruction of war.

The long shadows of war are evident in each of the interviews, with each participant hoping that his or her experience will inform others and contribute to the public discussion.

The editor and contributors are all members of the Clarence Kailin chapter of Veterans for Peace in Madison, WI. Editor, David Giffey, is a Vietnam veteran where he served as combat journalist.

Arranged chronologically according to dates of military service, Long Shadows provides a sobering examination of the reasons men and women go to war, and the toll it takes on individuals, families, and cultures.

“This is not a book with a happy ending,” editor Giffey writes in a brief conclusion.

While the destructive cost of war is clearly evident in the stories told, many of the veterans provide thoughtful descriptions of alternatives to war and express hope that someone is listening. An array of personalities and diversity of experiences is overcome as each veteran concludes, in his or her fashion, that war is not the answer.

Howard Zinn writes in the Foreword:

These are veterans with a point of view whose trajectories of belief had many different starting points, took many different paths, but in every case led to an abhorrence of war. ...anti-war feeling among veterans has not been given the attention it deserves, and this volume is an attempt to correct that imbalance.

Clarence Kailin states in his interview:

We've got to understand that war is a part of the system that we live under. New wars should not catch us by surprise. We should be ready at all times to resist as much as we can and make it uncomfortable for the war makers.

David Giffey states in his conclusion:

This book was three years in the making. Or it could be said, Long Shadows was 70 years in the making. Seven decades, 9 wars, and a collective decision reached separately by 19 veterans who tell their stories here: No more war.

Aside from a growing passion for peace, these veterans shared little until coming together as activists.

Each dealt with their memories personally, painfully, and often in secret. Long Shadows contains stories about war as preludes to quests for peace undertaken by each narrator.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. 2nd Platoon, G Company, 3rd Squadron 2nd Striker Cavalry Regiment trashing an Iraqi citizen's belongings during an armed home invasion in Baghdad November 10, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

“You’ll go into the fridge, if he has a fridge, and you’ll throw everything on the floor, and you’ll take his drawers and you’ll dump them.... You’ll open up his closet and you’ll throw all the clothes on the floor and basically leave his house looking like a hurricane just hit it. Sgt. John Bruhns

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

[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?]

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“The Harder Israel Beats Gaza, The Harder Its People Become”

November 8, 2007 by Johann Hari, The Independent/UK

The Israeli Attorney General, Menachem Mazuz, will this week decide whether to tighten to slow the strangulation of an entire people.

Since the democratically elected Hamas government took power in the Gaza Strip in June, the 1.5 million people who live in that cramped and crumbling prison on the Mediterranean have been punished by being choked off from the world.

Gaza is surrounded by gun-toting soldiers and razor-wire; nothing goes out, and almost nothing goes in.

The result?

The factories are shuttered. Some 85 per cent of the people have no work. Virtually all the essential building projects - including repairs to the sewage system - have stopped, because there is no concrete.

The price of flour has soared by 80 per cent. The banks have almost run out of money. The charity Save the Children say that malnutrition - once confined to the worst refugee camps - is rippling out into the general population.

And then a new form of punishment was thought of. The Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak decided to turn out the lights. Some 60 per cent of Gaza’s power supply comes from Israel - so Barak decided to halt it. Food rotted in freezers. Work in hospitals stuttered to a halt.

Israel’s message seemed to be: Let there be darkness.

This plan was halted when a slew of brave Israeli human rights organisations appealed to the Attorney General, claiming the black-outs were illegal. He is mulling it over. But he refuses to stop the overall blockade, and he has waved through plans to choke off Gaza's supply of diesel - necessary to run ambulances and the few remaining sparks of economic activity.

The Israeli government claims it has to engage in this because Qassam rockets are being fired from Gaza at the nearby Israeli civilian city of Sderot.

But the Israeli journalist Gideon Levy has shown that these rockets are being fired in retaliation for Israeli attacks against Gaza's civilians.

He writes: "Anyone who takes an honest look at the progression of events during the past two months will discover that the Qassams have a context: they are almost always fired after an IDF (Israeli Defence Force) assassination operation, and there have been many of these.

"The question of who started it is not a childish question in this context. The IDF has returned to liquidations, and in a big way. And in their wake there has been an increase in Qassam firings."

Once this is pointed out, the Israeli government shifts to a different rationale.

It says its goal is to put pressure on the Palestinian people, so that they realise their folly and get rid of Hamas.

But imagine if the surrounding Arab countries had decided to punish Israel for electing Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert by encircling it with tanks and barbed wire, shooting anyone who tried to get out, and ruining the Israeli economy.

Would the Israeli people have shrugged, expelled Sharon, and elected the peace party Me'retz? Of course not.

They would have turned to whichever hardline party promised to fight back with the biggest guns and loudest rockets.

The Palestinians are just doing the same.

Whenever I try to explain this, I think of a 19-year-old girl called Mirsat Massoud. I went to her home in Jaballya refugee camp in Gaza last winter.

She wasn't there: she had blown herself up a few weeks before, and I wanted to understand why.

As their remaining children scampered around us, her parents explained that Mirsat had lived all her life in this bashed-up, broken-down camp, and she had never left the claustrophobic cramp of Gaza.

Her mother, Hijam, told me that as a small girl Mirsat would wake to the sound of Apache helicopters above the camp. When she was 10 she saw Israeli soldiers shoot up a family in their car. "She was nervous all the time," Hijam said.

But she didn't fall for extremism, at first. She joined Fatah, and campaigned for Mahmoud Abbas to become president. But Mirsat was shocked to see Abbas being so blatantly humiliated: he offered Israel negotiations and compromise, and in return Sharon snubbed him.

She felt it as her own humiliation. She was drawn towards Hamas, and as the attacks in Gaza became more extreme, so did she.

On the morning she blew herself up - taking a clutch of Israeli soldiers with her - Mirsat's father, Amin, found her watching the television at 4am and crying. He explains: "She just kept saying, 'Now they are firing at schoolchildren.'

She kept repeating it again and again. She was very distressed."

A school bus carrying 20 nursery school kids through Beit Lahia had been hit by an IDF shell. Their teacher was killed in front of them, the blood splattering over the kids. Two teenagers walking to school on the street were also blasted to pieces. "I think that is what tipped her over the edge," her father says. "She became a martyr that afternoon."

Mirsat's mother tries to offer all the standard-issue bravado about how she is "proud" of her daughter's actions. So I ask if she would like her other children to be suicide-bombers. Reflexively, without thinking, she clutches the son who is at her heels, hard. "No," she whispers.

The harder Israel beats Gaza, the harder its people become.

Even the right-wing Jerusalem Post - a cheerleader for the strategy of strangulation - admitted this week that "there is no doubt that Hamas (is) now stronger than it has ever been."

As I left her home, Mirsat's father peered at me very closely and said: "I want my daughter to be the last suicide-bomber. But when our children grow up like this" - he waved his hand across the refugee camp - "how can she be?"

If next week the Attorney General decides to plunge a new generation of Palestinian children into darkness, he will ensure that more Israeli civilians die, far on to the bloody horizon.

MORE:

“The Palestinians Never Looked Like This,” The Surprised Soldiers Told Haaretz:

“In All Parameters, We Are Facing An Army, Not Gangs”

“If Not For Hezbollah, We Would Still Be In Lebanon; If Not For Hamas, We Would Still Be In Gaza”

11/11/2007 By Gideon Levy, Haaretz [Israel]

The group of reservist paratroopers returned all astir: Hamas fought like an army.

The comrades of Sergeant-Major (Res.) Ehud Efrati, who fell in a battle in Gaza about two weeks ago, told Amos Harel that “in all parameters, we are facing an army, not gangs.”

The soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces were impressed by their enemy’s night vision equipment, the tactical space they kept between one another - and their pants even had elastic bands to make them fit snugly around their boots.

This is good news from Gaza.

First, it is good that reservists were sent on this mission because “if these missions were left to the regular soldiers, no one on the home front would understand what’s happening in Gaza,” one of them said.

Indeed, the time has come for the soldiers to speak out.

But the news the soldiers brought is also encouraging on several other levels.

According to their descriptions, a Palestinian Defense Force has emerged.

Instead of a rabble of armed gangs, an orderly army is coalescing that is prepared to defend its land.

If it makes do with a defensive deployment against Israeli incursions, we will again have no moral claim against them: Hamas is entitled to defend Gaza, just as the IDF is entitled to defend Israel.

The coalescence of an army also ensures that if Israel tries to reach an accord with the Hamas government - the one and only way to stop the firing of Qassams - there will be

someone in Gaza to prevent the firing. An armed and organized address in the chaos of Gaza also means good news for Israel.

But the respect the reservists felt for the way Hamas fought is liable to trickle down deeper.

“The Palestinians never looked like this,” the surprised soldiers told Haaretz.

A bit of respect for the Palestinians and, in particular, an end to our dehumanization of them is liable to mark the beginning of a new chapter.

Without violent Palestinian resistance, life in occupying Israel is great and no one pays any attention to the need to end the occupation.

No resistance - no Palestinians.

If not for Hezbollah, we would still be in Lebanon; if not for Hamas, we would still be in Gaza.

MORE:

“The People We Killed Weren’t Terrorists, They Were Soldiers,” An Officer In The Company Told Haaretz: “Every Penetration Into The Gaza Strip Of More Than One Kilometer Faces Coordinated Resistance From Hamas”

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

November 09, 2007 By Amos Harel, Haaretz [Excerpts]

During the patrol company’s operations deep in Palestinian territory, four Hamas militants and one Israel Defense Forces soldier, Sergeant- Major (Res.) Ehud Efrati, were killed.

“The people we killed weren’t terrorists, they were soldiers,” an officer in the company told Haaretz.

“In a direct confrontation, the IDF has superiority over them, but in all parameters - training, equipment quality, operational discipline - we are facing an army, not gangs,” he said.

“On the professional level, Hamas in the Gaza Strip is nothing like the terrorists we dealt with before. We saw the bodies of their men after the incidents. They had elastic bands on their pant legs. How many reservists do you know in the IDF who are that well kitted out, with elastics on their pants?”

The paratroopers were impressed by their adversaries’ discipline and good equipment.

On the bodies of the Hamas fighters the reservists found, in addition to their weapons, night-vision equipment identical to the IDF’s. And it was not from Israel. “It’s available on the Internet, you can order it from eBay and have it sent to an Arab country and then smuggle it to Gaza,” the intelligence officer said.

Hamas, which provides a support “umbrella” for the smaller organizations launching the rockets, dispatches cells to harass the IDF. It also deploys defensive forces at the entrances to settled areas based on its analysis of the IDF’s routes.

The result, say the reservists, is that every penetration into the Gaza Strip of more than one kilometer faces coordinated resistance from Hamas.

“Shooting, sharpshooters, mortar shells. Pass the one-kilometer mark, the war is on.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Looks In The Mirror

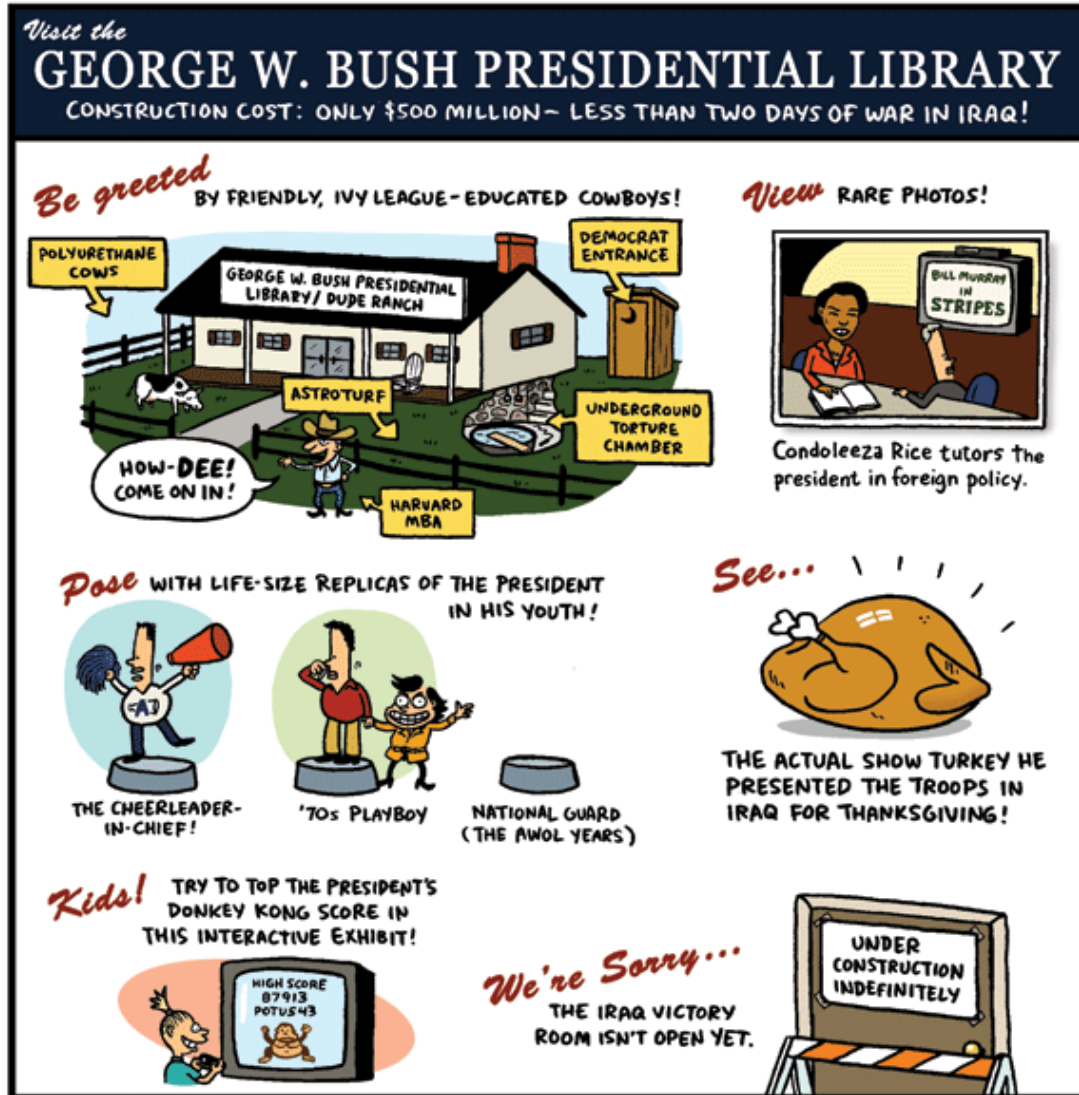
November 9, 2007 CNN

“And there are killers and radicals and murderers who kill the innocent to stop the advance of freedom. - George W. Bush, 11.7.07



SLOWPOKE

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

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