

GI SPECIAL 6D14:

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



Kathy Fendelman comforts her twins Samantha and Benjamin, 9, as their father First Sgt. Barton Fendelman 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, leaves Philadelphia for deployment in Iraq. He will begin his second deployment to Iraq following training at Ft. Dix, N.J. (AP Photo Joseph Kaczmarek)

Shell Shocked

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: April 13, 2008
Subject: Shell Shocked

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

Shell Shocked

In Memory of My Grandfather Who Came Back Shell Shocked and Deaf

**Don't worry about me because I'm already dead
I died a long time ago when the world was at war
They said it would be the war to end all war
but that was just a lie to get men to fight
Soldiers fought from the trenches but these machine guns
could kill the men as fast as they jumped up from them
chemical gas that floated yellow across the night
new fashioned airplanes that drop bombs from the air
they even had this new vehicle made of hard steel
it rolls on tracks with a big gun and they called it a tank,
mankind was shocked, they never saw killing like this
all these industrial inventions they now used for war
by WWII everybody was used to it and they were even
not shocked by atomic bombs that could kill a whole city
and don't worry about them they are already dead
But for the Soldiers in Iraq, Soldiers in Afghanistan
you have everything to live for and nothing to die for
because there were no weapons of mass destruction,
it was just a lie to get you to fight
with computerized death vehicles tanks and beyond
insulated death from the B-1 airplanes and others with
laser guided "smart bombs" and dumb bombs,
50 cal. and mini machine guns that fire faster than ever
a government that does not want a war to end all wars
but wants a war that goes on and on endlessly
because that's where the money is, that's where the empire is
you are not defending anything, you are just a bite
in a computer war that only you can stop
by living and not dying
by not fighting and learning to say no
when war has become so wrong like it has
I came back with shell shock
but don't worry about me because I'm already dead.**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Salah Ad Din IED

April 14, 2008 AP

TIKRIT, Iraq – A U.S. soldier was killed in an improvised explosive device attack in the Salah ad Din Province April 14.

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

April 14, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080414-06

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed from wounds sustained when an improvised-explosive device struck the vehicle the Soldier was riding in while conducting a combat patrol in northeastern Baghdad at approximately 4:45 p.m. April 14.

The Soldier was quickly transported by air to the combat army support hospital where he later died of his wounds.

Fallen Airman Could ‘Light Up A Room’ Tech Sgt. Anthony L. Capra Had Disarmed One Roadside Bomb When Another Exploded



April 11th, 2008 Anthony L. Capra, Northwest Florida Daily News

EGLIN AFB — Husband, father, son, soccer coach and protector of American soldiers in Iraq are just a few descriptions of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Anthony L. Capra.

The 31-year-old Eglin Air Force Base explosive ordnance technician was stationed at Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division, Md. He died Wednesday in northern Iraq after a roadside bomb detonated.

Capra's former boss, Capt. Shane Frith, commander of the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Flight, characterized Capra as very capable and packed with a sense of humor.

"He was a character," said Frith. "You couldn't be around this guy without laughing. He was a great guy. He would light up a room."

Frith added that Capra was a family man to the core. He and his wife have five children and came from large families themselves.

Capra was working from an Army forward operating base north of Balad Air Base, Frith said. He was on the "in lieu of" deployment to help the Army fill a manpower need for explosive ordnance disposal.

Frith said Capra had disarmed a roadside bomb when a hidden, secondary bomb triggered. Capra died of his wounds. Fellow EOD airman Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hollar said Capra was "the best."

He said ordnance disposal is risky, but that did little to soften the blow of his friend's death. "It happens," Hollar said. "We signed up for (EOD). We know things happen, but this was a (expletive) deal. ... It's the loss of a brother."

Hollar and Capra received Bronze Stars for meritorious service on the same day in 2006. During the ceremony at Eglin, Hollar also received a Purple Heart medal for injuries he sustained while disarming an improvised explosive device.

Hollar said Capra's know-how had him working in two subsets of ordnance disposal at the 96th CES flight, robotics and "specialized exploitation." Specialized exploitation determines how foreign munitions, particularly IEDs, function and how they can be disarmed.

Staff Sgt. Amanda Bryant also praised Capra. Some of her words came with tearing eyes.

"He was great to work with. He really believed in what he was doing. He was always smiling no matter what," she said.

Bryant, who works on electronics at the EOD flight, said Capra was a quick learner, but it was his warmth that kept coming up.

"He was the sweetest ... person you will ever meet. He would help anybody," said Bryant.

Sauk Village 19-Year-Old Killed Serving In Iraq



Shane Penley of Sauk Village was killed in Iraq on Sunday. (Courtesy)

April 9, 2008 BY STEVE METSCH SouthtownStar

David and Dena Penley didn't want to open their front door, knowing two men in uniform on the other side had the worst news parents can hear.

"You hope it never happens to you. I knew why they were here. Our daughter [Crystal] was across the street. She saw them and called us," David Penley said Tuesday.

The Sauk Village couple learned Sunday their only son, Shane Penley, 19, had been killed hours earlier by a sniper's bullet while on guard duty at a patrol base in Iraq.

Penley was a private first class and assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) out of Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

In early December, Penley's father, David, drove to the camp to pick up Shane for his grandmother's funeral.

"He wore his uniform. It meant a lot to people," David Penley said.

That was Shane's last visit home. He was dispatched to Iraq on Dec. 28, his father said.

On Tuesday, there was a somber mood at the Penley family's home, as the soldier's love of football and wrestling was discussed. They said he also doted over his parents' five grandchildren.

Shane played football with the Glenwood Cougars, a local league for kids. He graduated from Rickover Junior High in Sauk Village where the American flag flew at half-staff for him Tuesday.

A 2007 Bloom Trail High School graduate, Shane joined the Army because he was frustrated trying to find a good job. He waited on tables at Glenwood Oaks Restaurant for a while.

"He said, 'Dad, I can't stand this,' " David Penley said.

Shane's three sisters --Crystal, 29; Amber, 25; and Ashley, 21 -- tried in vain to talk him out of joining the Army, his family said.

"I [also] tried, but once he sets his mind to something, he stays with it. So I had to come to terms with it," said his mother, Dena Penley.

Meanwhile, grief counselors were on hand at Bloom Trail High School in Steger, helping students cope with Shane's death and the murder of Brashai Griffin, 15, who lived up the block. Griffin was found strangled in a creek near her Sauk Village home Saturday.

Shane's former French teacher, Francie McMillan, said he was a "very nice, quiet young man."

Shane was a member of First Baptist Church in Hammond. Funeral arrangements are pending.

U.S. Forces Ambushed Twice In Baghdad; Casualty Specifics Not Announced

4.14.08 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press

A large section of a market area in eastern Baghdad was set ablaze early Monday when a bomb exploded next to a convoy of U.S. military vehicles driving down a commercial thoroughfare. The U.S. military said none of the soldiers involved was seriously hurt in the 2 a.m. blast.

The U.S. military said militants firing rocket-propelled grenades ambushed an American patrol in eastern Baghdad late Sunday night. Fire from armed helicopters and an Abrams tank repulsed the attack, killing six of the gunmen, the statement said.

Occupation Command Halts Advance On Sadr City: "Stalemate" "Mahdi Army Ranks Are Swelling"

Apr. 15, 2008 By MARK KUKIS/BAGHDAD, Time Magazine [Excerpt]

On Monday Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, the commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, said American troops operating at the edge of Sadr City in support of Iraqi troops would not press deeper into the area.

That means any decisive push into the heart of the Mahdi Army stronghold in east Baghdad would be left to Iraqi security forces, which so far have been unable to deal any meaningful blows against the militia.

The conflict in Sadr City remained stalemated Tuesday.

There were no reports of serious fighting, but Iraqi government forces clung to their foothold in the area by manning checkpoints.

Sadr's political power appears to be growing even as the crisis wears on.

A new report by Refugees International says the Mahdi Army ranks are swelling with new recruits drawn from internally displaced people who've gotten aid from the militia.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers scramble out of a bunker after getting the 'all clear' signal after a car bomb disrupted Easter Sunday at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, March 23, 2008. The blast struck a neighborhood in western Mosul. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two RAF Personnel Killed In Kandahar Province; Two More Wounded

14 Apr 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the deaths of two servicemen from the Royal Air Force Regiment yesterday, Sunday 13 April 2008, in Kandahar Province, southern Afghanistan.

Two other servicemen were also injured in the same incident. At approximately 1848 hrs local time, the men were conducting a routine patrol two kilometres west of Kandahar Airfield when the vehicle they were travelling in hit an explosive device. Medical care was given at the scene and all four servicemen were evacuated to the field hospital at Kandahar Airfield.

Sadly, despite the best efforts of the medical team, two of the servicemen died as a result of their wounds. The injuries sustained by the other two men are not believed to be life-threatening.

Resistance Action

4.13.08 (AP) & Apr 14 & 15 April 2008 By VOA News

Militants launched two attacks against Afghanistan's vulnerable police, killing a total of eight officers. Taliban fighters attacked a police checkpoint in the Gereshk district of Helmand province overnight, said district police chief Khair Uddin Shuja. Police dispatched backup to the checkpoint, but Taliban militants ambushed one of the police trucks, killing four officers and wounding seven, he said.

Taliban militants attacked a group of police officers sleeping on the mud floor of an isolated roadside checkpoint early Monday in southern Afghanistan, killing 11

Insurgents apparently sneaked up on the police checkpoint 15 miles north of Kandahar — the Taliban's former stronghold — just after midnight, killing an officer who was supposed to be keeping watch

Militants walked into the mud-brick compound and opened fire on the officers, who were sleeping on simple mattresses and blankets on the dirt floor, Rauf said.

Of the 12 police officers at the compound, 11 were killed and one was seriously wounded, he said.

After the attack, the compound, which is on the road leading from Kandahar to Uruzgan province, was filled with bloodstained blankets and the black shoes the police took off before they went to sleep.

Police make inviting targets for Taliban attacks. They have less training and less firepower than the Afghan army or NATO soldiers. They also tend to work in small teams in remote parts of the country where they can easily be overwhelmed by a small insurgent force.

Jahi Karim Jan Agha said he could hear the burst of gunfire from his nearby home, which sits in a region filled with pomegranate orchards and grape fields, all good cover for militants trying to launch an attack. An hour after the gunfire stopped, he and some neighbors went to investigate, and found the slain police.

Two Afghan policemen were killed and three others wounded in a roadside bomb attack in southern Kandahar province Tuesday. A police official, Sahib Jan, says the blast blew up a police vehicle in the Spin Boldak district.

Militants launched two attacks against Afghanistan's vulnerable police, killing a total of eight officers.

Taliban fighters attacked a police checkpoint in the Gereshk district of Helmand province overnight, said district police chief Khair Uddin Shuja. Police dispatched backup to the checkpoint, but Taliban militants ambushed one of the police. Militants launched two attacks against Afghanistan's vulnerable police, killing a total of eight officers. Taliban fighters attacked a police checkpoint in the Gereshk district of Helmand province overnight, said district police chief Khair Uddin Shuja. Police dispatched backup to the checkpoint, but Taliban militants ambushed one of the police.

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan: U.S. Military Dictatorship Can Hold You Prisoner Forever With No Charges, No Trail, And No Way Out

Apr. 15, 2008 By Fisnik Abrashi, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Red Cross criticized how the United States handles prisoners at the highly secretive Bagram military base, urging reforms yesterday that would allow detainees to introduce testimony in their defense.

The criticism of the prison, which few outsiders have seen, goes to the heart of the system the Bush administration uses to justify holding detainees outside the United States.

Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said that many of the 600-plus detainees at Bagram complain that they do not even know why

they are being held. Kellenberger spent a half-day at the prison during a one-week visit to Afghanistan that ended yesterday.

"They do not know what the future brings, how long will they be there, and under which conditions will they be released," he said at a news conference.

Red Cross chief spokesman Florian Westphal, in Geneva, Switzerland, said there was "a strong parallel" with the U.S. military detention centers in Iraq and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

U.S. military officials at Bagram declined to comment yesterday. Unlike the U.S. prison in Guantanamo, the military does not let journalists visit.

It also does not disclose who is detained at Bagram or what their alleged offenses are.

TROOP NEWS

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



U.S. Army Cpl. Steven Candelo's casket April 8, 2008 at the Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery in Houston, Texas. Candelo died March 26, in Baghdad, when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. (AP Photo/The Houston Chronicle, Nick de la Torre)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“A Full Infantry Battalion — Refused To Fight Or Joined The Militias, Handing Them Weapons And Vehicles”



A representative of Moqtada al-Sadr hands a copy of a Koran and flowers to Iraqi policemen who surrendered to their office in Amara, Maysan Province, near Basra, March 29, 2008. Members of Amara’s Rapid Reaction police handed over their weapons and surrendered to the Sadr office in Amara. REUTERS/Salah Thani

4.13.08 By SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - Iraq’s government moved Sunday to restore discipline within the ranks of the security forces, sacking more than 1,300 soldiers and policemen who deserted during recent fighting against Shiite militias in Basra.

The Basra offensive — which opened on March 25 — quickly stalled amid strong resistance from the outnumbered militiamen, despite artillery and air support provided by U.S. and British forces.

During the attack more than 1,000 security troops — including a full infantry battalion — refused to fight or joined the militias, handing them weapons and vehicles.

37 Senior Police Officers Ranging In Rank From Lieutenant Colonel To Brigadier General AWOL Since Attack On Madhi Army

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

4.14.08 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press & By Tina Susman, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr demanded Monday that the Iraqi government reinstate all security forces fired for deserting during fighting in Basra.

Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf told reporters Sunday that the government had fired 421 policemen who have not returned to duty since fighting ended.

They included 37 senior police officers ranging in rank from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general.

Khalaf said that 500 soldiers who have been absent without leave since the campaign ended on March 30, had also been dismissed and would be tried by military courts.

"Some of them were sympathetic with these lawbreakers, some refused to (go into) battle for political or national or sectarian or religious reasons," Khalaf said.

Khalaf described their offenses as "showing solidarity with outlaws," but did not detail the specific charges they face.

Resistance Action



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

14 Apr 2008 Reuters & By Hamid Ahmed, The Associated Press & (KUNA)

Insurgents killed a policeman in a drive-by shooting on Sunday in central Basra, 550 km (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

In Basra, on Sunday night, guerrillas killed police Maj. Ali Haider, a commander in the department's serious crimes directorate. Haider was a member of the [collaborator] Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, a political party that is part of the governing coalition of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Basra police Col. Salim Zaydi said.

In northern Iraq, a parked car bomb exploded near an Iraqi army convoy in the Rabiaa area west of Mosul, police chief Col. Mutlaq al-Shimmari said. Ten soldiers died and seven were wounded.

A car bomb exploded near a military patrol vehicle in the Kurdistan region, which resulted in killing 14 soldiers and injuring 14 others.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Imperial Sodomy: Dorko Says It's Getting Better All The Time



Dorko and Stooge

TO: GI SPECIAL

By Z

It's clear that the US occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are going so much better than Germany's occupation of Russia, Japan's occupation of China, and Italy's occupation of Ethiopia combined.

Everyone loves a good occupation, just as we all love to be forcibly sodomized.

John McCain, wearing body armor and a pisspot on his head, assured us recently that the war is being won.

He's a veteran of another victorious war and he should know.

And General Dorko says the Iraqi people are living better and better every day.

Granted, not everything is coming up roses.

Dorko's friend in the photo, the puppet government's spokesman Dr. Tahseen Sheikhly, was kidnapped the other day and his three bodyguards were killed, but he'll be back on the air just as soon as he's found and touched up by the military's finest taxidermists.

So, whom are we going to believe: Dorko and company who urge us to stay stuck in other people's butts forever, or our own stubborn heads that tell us to get the hell out now?

01 March 2008: MNF IRAQ: PRESS CONFERENCE: Iraq: Dr. Tahseen Sheikhly, civilian spokesman for Operation Fardh al-Qanoon & Brigadier General Jeffrey Dorko, Gulf Region Division Commander for the United States Army Corps of Engineers discuss ongoing projects in the Baghdad area.

[excerpt]

[Dr T] And I think General Dorko will provide a good representation for all the major projects that have happened, implemented, and are implemented in Baghdad through the coordination between the GOI and the coalition forces. Thank you very much, and we will take your questions after General Dorko speaks.

BG DORKO: Thank you sir. I'd like to thank Admiral Smith and Dr. Tahseen Sheikhly for this opportunity to speak with you today about what the US Army Corps of Engineers is doing to help Iraqis rebuild their country, specifically focusing on Baghdad province.

Every day we, along with our coalition and Iraqi partners are making progress in the reconstruction of essential services in the country, and every day our program is yielding positive, tangible results that are significantly improving the lives of the Iraqi people.

[Next slide.]

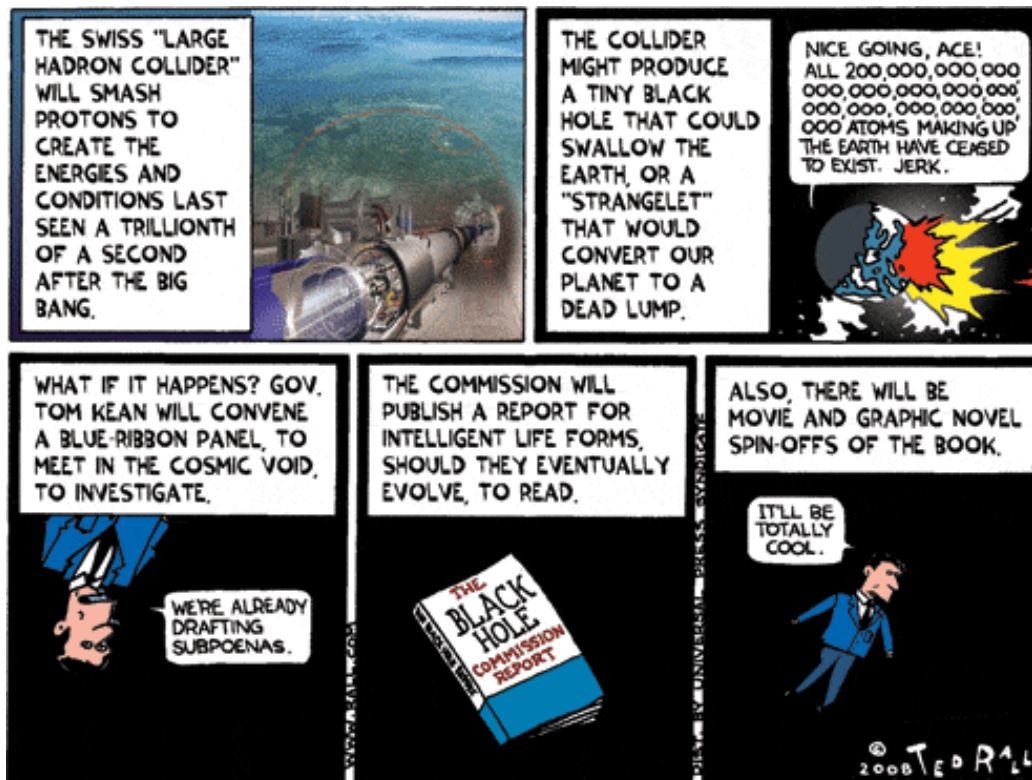
April 16, 1971:



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

Carl Bunin Peace History April 14-20

Members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) threw medals they had earned in Vietnam on the U.S. Capitol steps in protest of the Vietnam



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

OCCUPATION REPORT

Our Speaker Tonight



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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Traitor Bush Digs His Own Grave: LBJ Wasn't So Stupid

From: WORKING CLASS WAR, by Christian G. Appy, U. Of North Carolina Press, 1984

President Johnson rejected the military's frequent request for a major mobilization of the reserves and the National Guard. He feared that activating these units would draw unwanted attention to the war and exacerbate antiwar sentiment.

Since these men were drawn from specific towns and urban neighborhoods, their mobilization would have a dramatic impact on concentrated populations.

Johnson also realized that reservists and guardsmen were generally older than regular army troops and were, as a group, socially and economically more prominent.

Terrorists In Zimbabwe Set Fire To People Who Voted Against Their Regime; Military Officers Leading Torture Gangs To Keep Rat President In Power



Mike Mavhura in hospital in Harare. Photograph: Chris McGreal

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

April 16 2008 By Chris McGreal in Harare, The Guardian, UK

It is called Operation Makavhoterapapi - Shona for 'Where did you put your cross?' - and it descended on 15-year-old Privilege Chikwana as she was doing her homework.

Privilege was too young to have voted in Zimbabwe's still unresolved election but her mother did and the men at the door suspected she voted the wrong way.

So they took the child back to the school in Chiwaka village where scores of Zanu-PF activists were holding opposition supporters prisoner and started beating her.

"They beat her on the buttocks with wooden rods, beat her and beat her because they said she was hiding me. Men were doing this," said Privilege's mother, Faustina Chikwana. "When I heard they had taken her to the school I went straight there. There was a big group of Zanu-PF, about 100. They had drums. They were singing. They grabbed me and they had a list of where we voted. That's when it started."

Chikwana and her daughter are now in a private Harare hospital hardly able to move because of the injuries inflicted on them as a wave of state-sponsored terror sweeps rural Zimbabwe to punish voters for supporting the opposition and to ensure that if there is a run-off presidential election they do not repeat their mistake.

Scattered around the same hospital are others who have survived the systematic punishment beatings and burnings but with terrible injuries.

They include Mike Mavhura, whose hands are swollen, bloodied and seared after burning grass was piled on him and his arms were broken in several places.

A little way down the corridor is Daniel Muchuchuti, a 62-year-old retired major from the Zimbabwean army and village head, being treated for broken ribs. On the floor below is Linus Mubwanda, whose brother was beaten to death in front of him.

They are from diverse parts of rural Zimbabwe - Mashonaland to Manicaland and the Mozambican border - and they are just a fraction of the many hundreds of people the opposition says have been assaulted as gangs of armed Zanu-PF supporters under military leadership move through the countryside using polling station returns from the election nearly three weeks ago to identify villages where support for the opposition was strong.

Many hundreds more have been forced from their homes. War veterans burned the houses of 30 families in Centenary. Those who have tried to report the attacks to the police have sometimes themselves been arrested.

Chikwana, 38, says she is not an opposition activist and that her vote is her secret. But not secret enough. There were two polling stations in Chiwaka. The one in the centre appeared to be correctly run but the other, on the edge of the village, raised suspicions. Ahead of the elections Zanu-PF was telling people that they should vote there.

"When they were beating me they wanted to know why I didn't go to their polling station. They said to me: there we could see how you put your vote, if you vote in the other place it's secret and that means you voted for the opposition. They said they knew how people voted in that polling station from the figures and it wasn't for Zanu-PF," she said. "They said we must vote for Zanu-PF. If you don't vote Zanu-PF you must go away. They said we were selling the country to the whites."

Chikwana said that the Zanu-PF supporters also burned four houses in the area.

"I recognised some of the people in the group. There were war vets and village men, councillors from Zanu-PF. They brought people from villages all around to the school and were beating them," said Chikwana.

"They beat us for at least an hour then they took us to a large room and kept us there with other people they had beaten. We were there for about six hours. Then they said we could go but we couldn't walk. We were crawling out the door."

Zanu-PF arrived at Felix Gutima's door in Baradze village at about midnight. He is the ward secretary for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change.

"They smashed in the door and entered the house. They demanded the party register. They told me they were on Operation Makavhoterapapi. It means: where did you put your cross?" They said they were finding out how people voted. They wanted to use that register to track down our members," said Gutima. "I'd already hidden it and when I wouldn't show it they attacked me. They hit me with wood and iron bars."

Mike Mavhura, an opposition activist, was dragged from his small general store in Musaruro village. "They came and broke down the door and dragged me out and beat me. They threw burning grass on to my body. They said: you are an MDC member so we want to give you a reason to change your mind," he said. "After that they broke all the windows in my store and took the goods."

The four men and two women who attacked Mavhura, 22, left him with extensive burns and deep lacerations on his arms and hands. The ends of his fingers are bloodied and burned from trying to snatch off the burning grass. The men also beat him severely with wooden rods, particularly his buttocks and arms, leaving him with four broken bones in his left hand and two fractured fingers on his right.

One feature of the beatings is that very few people are killed. It would appear that Zanu-PF has learned that deaths attract attention. But there has been at least one killing in the past few days. Tapiwa Mubwanda was the MDC district chairman in Mhfreyenyoka village in the north of the country. He was bludgeoned to death on Saturday as his brother Linus, another opposition activist, was beaten next to him.

"They said it was to teach us how to vote," said Linus, 58. "They said: 'It's your own fault, voting for the opposition. That's why we are doing all these things to you. When we have the run-off you will know how to vote'."

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057



CLASS WAR REPORTS



GI Special www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Bush brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

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://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.