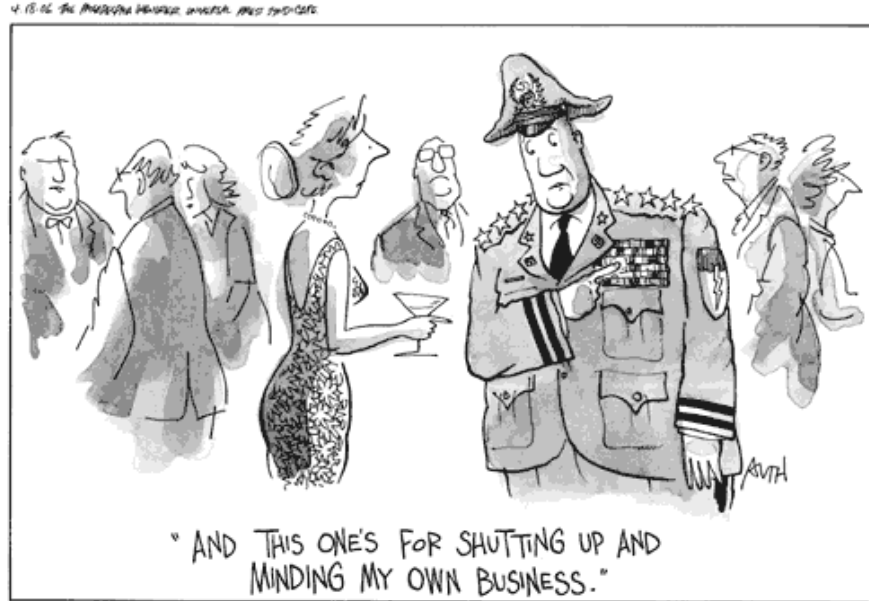


GI SPECIAL 4D22:



[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

**“Radical Opposition To
American Foreign Policy
By Thousands Of Our
Own Soldiers, Sailors,
And Airmen During
Vietnam Has Been
Largely Forgotten”**

April 18th, 2006 by Bill Gallo, The Village Voice

Sir! No Sir! never mentions the words Iraq or Afghanistan.

It doesn't have to.

Unseen and unremarked upon, those bloody venues nonetheless inhabit the entire 85 minutes of David Zeiger's impassioned documentary like some deadly, creeping virus for which there's no cure.

Zeiger's actual subject, which he says has been on his mind for decades, is the G.I. anti-war movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, a phenomenon far more powerful than the Swift Boat Veterans and all those neocon revisionists dedicated to putting a heroic new face on the ugliness of the Vietnam War would have us believe.

From its mild beginnings, poetry readings and discussion groups for young recruits at coffeehouses set up near U.S. military bases, to its angriest, most desperate measures (the "fragging" of officers by their own men in the jungles of Southeast Asia), radical opposition to American foreign policy by thousands of our own soldiers, sailors, and airmen during Vietnam has been largely forgotten.

So have the uniformed dissidents' underground newspapers, pirate radio stations, and huge stateside demonstrations.

If we can believe Zeiger (and his evidence is pretty convincing), the entire movement has been more or less erased from the record, like the inconvenient fact of romantic love in 1984 or the notion of individual freedom in Stalinist Russia.

Sir! No Sir! recalls the follies and failures of one American war, but disturbing parallels to the one now being waged by the Bush administration are inescapable.

For Zeiger, who as a young activist helped organize demonstrations of veterans against the war, the time is right to remember. To that end, he has assembled a collection of grizzled servicemen who have plenty to say about what happened to them.

The myth of the silent vet reluctant to talk about his war experience goes up in smoke here.

Dr. Howard Levy, a dermatologist who served three years in prison for refusing to continue training Green Beret medics, tells how during his court martial, hundreds of G.I.'s would hang out of their barracks windows, flashing him the peace sign or the clenched fist.

David Cline, an ex-grunt who was wounded three times in the killing fields, recalls the terrible day that he shot a North Vietnamese regular at close range and, moments later, stared into the dead soldier's face, wondering about his family, his life, his dreams.

Medic Randy Rowland remembers grotesquely paralyzed U.S. soldiers begging him to kill them in their hospital beds because they couldn't do it themselves.

Later, Rowland helped organize the now forgotten "Presidio 27" stockade protest in San Francisco, provoked by the shooting of an escapee.

"I kind of came in as an AWOL," he says, "and within two days of hitting the stockade, I was facing a death sentence for singing 'We Shall Overcome.'"

Love her or leave her, Jane Fonda's also in the film, talking (a bit self-absorbedly) about how she found a way to combine her acting career with her anti-war sentiments: "It just seemed like a perfect fit."

Fine, but how shall we "fit" into the larger scheme of things a black soldier and outspoken war critic named Billy Dean Smith, who in 1969 was singled out as a scapegoat in a "fragging" case?

Held in solitary confinement for 22 months, he was eventually acquitted because there wasn't a shred of evidence against him.

He wound up homeless, then landed back in prison. As for John Kerry, he's not mentioned here because Zeiger thought he would have been a major distraction. You'll have to catch Going Upriver for that story.

As it is, this one is compelling enough, a potent mix of outrage, residual anger, and sorrow that speaks not just to the legacy of our misadventures in Vietnam, but to the entire uncertain future of a nation at war.

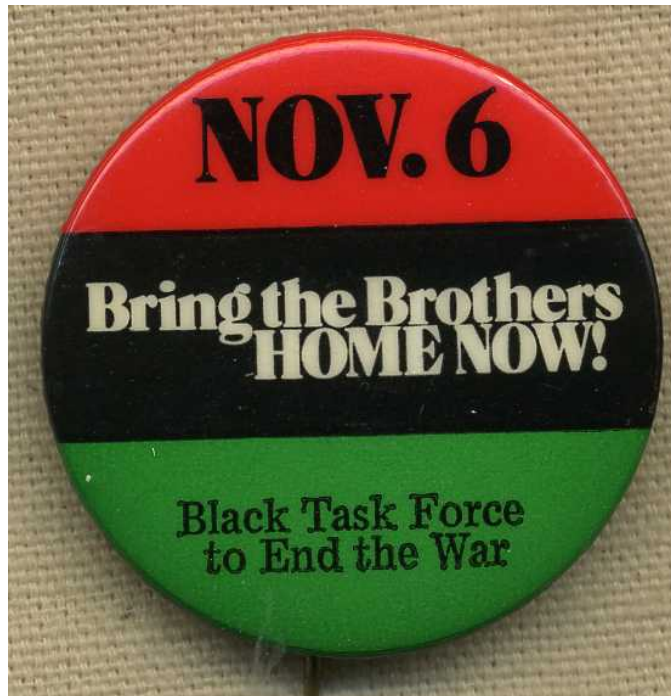
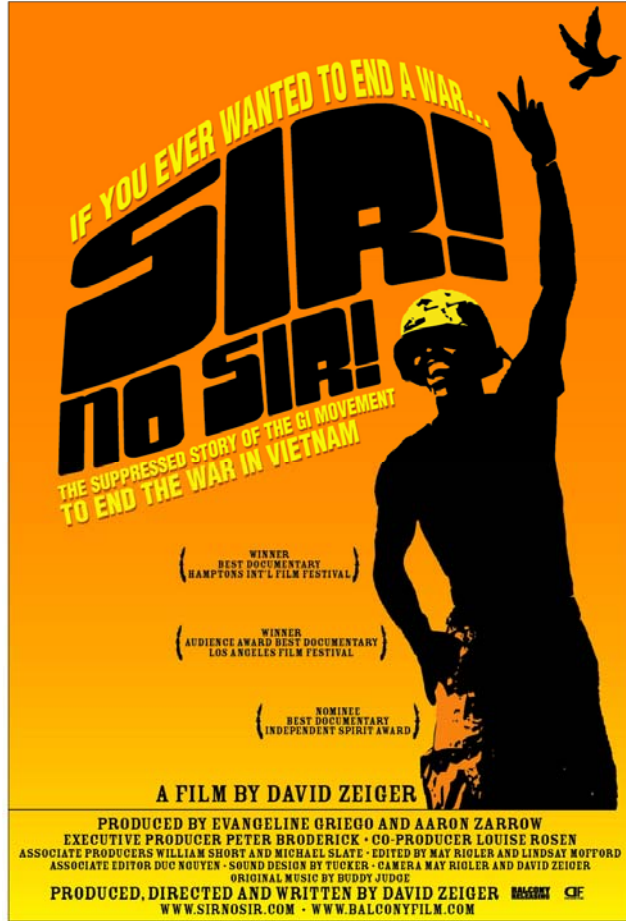
Sir! No Sir! OPENS for one week on Wednesday April 19th at the IFC Center 322 Sixth Avenue, at West Third Street, New York City

Advance tickets on sale NOW through the IFC box office

Recording: 212-924-7771
Live box office: 212-924-5246
Online at www.ifccenter.com

Check out the trailer at www.sirnosir.com

Please contact max@riseup.net or celia@riseup.net for posters, postcards and flyers to help promote this event!



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

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Kentucky Marine Killed



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Justin Sims of Covington, Ky. was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack April 15, 2006, in Ramadi. (AP Photo/The Enquirer, Craig Ruttle)

MARINE KILLED IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE

4.21.06 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE
Number: 06-04-02C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died due to enemy action while operating in al Anbar Province April 20.

Westmoreland County Marine Dies



Apr 5, 2006 (KDKA)

TRAFFORD The Department of Defense reports that another local soldier has died in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Eric A. McIntosh, 29, of Trafford, was one of four Marines who recently died in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

McIntosh was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

McIntosh was a 1996 graduate of Penn Trafford High School.

McIntosh was an infantry unit leader and had joined the Marines in September 1996, according to Marine spokesman First Lt. Barry Edwards.

Local Marine Killed



Lance Cpl. Marcus Glimpse

April 14, 2006 By JEFF ROWE, The Orange County Register

Lance Cpl. Marcus Glimpse of Huntington Beach was killed Wednesday when an improvised bomb exploded at the security checkpoint where he was deployed in Al Anbar province in Iraq.

Glimpse, 22, is the 26th Orange County resident to die in Afghanistan or Iraq. He was a machine gunner and on his second tour in Iraq.

Glimpse was born in Fort Sill, Okla., and spent his elementary and junior high years in Plano, Texas. He graduated from Huntington Beach Continuing Education High School.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 2003 and had been stationed at Camp Pendleton.

His twin brother, Michael, was an Army paratrooper. "He (Marcus) always needed to outdo his brother," said his father, Guy Glimpse, speaking of Marcus' decision to join the Marine Corps.

Besides his father and brother, Marcus leaves his mother, Maryan, and sisters Mandy and Megan.

Maine Soldier Killed

April 10, 2006 (WABI)

21-year old Dustin Harris from Patten died earlier this week.

Harris joined the Army after graduating from Katahdin High School in 2002.

Five U.S. Troops Wounded In Baghdad, Bradley Destroyed

April 21 (KUNA) & Reuters

Five U.S. soldiers were wounded on Thursday when their Bradley armoured fighting vehicle was destroyed, then set on fire, in an attack in the southwestern Sadiya district of the capital, the U.S. military said. The soldiers were taken to a field US hospital for treatment.

The statement did not report any other details about the incident or the way the vehicle was attacked.

Remember All That Bullshit From Bush About How Things Were Just Wonderful In Tal Afar?

April 21, 2006 Mideast Stars and Stripes

One U.S. soldier and two Iraqi army soldiers were injured and several Iraqi civilians killed when a bomb exploded beside an American vehicle in northwest Tal Afar, according to officials from the 1st Armored Division.

The area has experienced a surge in attacks in recent weeks.

Brookfield Man Shot In Iraq

Apr 21 2006 Elizabeth Putnam, The News-Times

BROOKFIELD: When Gail Nimer-Karey answered her phone on Good Friday and heard Capt. Matthew Staton's voice, she feared the worst.

Karey's son, Spc. Scott Nimer of Brookfield, has been serving in Iraq with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team since December.

"He told me right away, though, that my son was okay," said Karey, who lives in Florida.

But what Staton said next brought the mom of four to tears.

Nimer, 24, was clearing houses near Balad with other soldiers from his unit. He was the first one through the door of a home when he was shot through the abdomen and possibly in the leg.

"It was the worse day of my life. It was my child who was shot, and I am so far away," Karey said in a phone interview Friday.

Nimer, who grew up in Brookfield and attended Western Connecticut State University for about a year, is now back with his unit in northwestern Iraq after undergoing surgery sometime over the weekend, said Nimer's father, Randy Nimer of Brookfield.

Scott Nimer is expected to stay with his unit until he comes back to the United States at the end of May for a two-week leave. It is uncertain if he stay or return back to Iraq with the rest of his unit.

U.S. Base At Al Diwaniya Under Heavy Attack

Apr 21, 2006 By DPA

A US Army base in Al Diwaniya, some 200 kilometers south of Baghdad, came under a rocket attack launched by insurgents in the city on Friday, eyewitnesses reported.

They said the attack took place in the early morning hours, with a number of rockets directly striking the base located in the city's suburbs.

Reports said smoke was seen billowing from the base, followed by helicopter patrols hovering over the site of the attack. US forces were deployed to the surrounding areas.

The extent of the damage inflicted on the US base and information regarding casualties was not yet known.

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
NOT WELCOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. Army in the Dora section of Baghdad April 15, 2006. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Dihrawud

April 21, 2006 Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan: One U.S. soldier was killed and an Afghan soldier wounded Friday in a clash with militants in the central Uruzgan province, the American military said.

The clash occurred in the district of Dihrawud, about 270 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, during an inspection of a weapons cache, the U.S. military said in a statement.

At least 224 U.S. military personnel have now died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001. Of those, at least 141 were killed by hostile action.

TROOP NEWS

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

PRESENTS

SOLDIERS SPEAK OUT!!

A discussion with combat veterans
and conscientious objectors

Friday, April 28, 2006
6:00-9:00 pm

The Community Church
40 East 35th Street
Between Madison and Park Avenue

Sponsors: Veterans for Peace • Vietnam Veterans
Against the War • Military Families Speak Out • Gold
Star Families for Peace • Campus Antiwar Network •

Army Fucks Over Military Families, As Usual

April 21, 2006 Arizona Daily Star

Dozens of Arizona National Guard families, who had planned to live near their active-duty spouses in Texas while they trained for a long deployment to Afghanistan, have been left in the lurch after the Army first said it was OK for them to relocate and then said it was not.

Many had already canceled leases or sold homes in the Tucson area and put deposits on new apartments in Texas. Some got word of the change as they awaited moving trucks to pick up their belongings.

What Did You Do In The War, Grandma?



Attorney Norman Segal (L) and Court Officer Sgt. Peter Dolan (R), assist Betty Brassell into the state court building in New York April 20, 2006 to face charges of protesting the war in Iraq. Brassell is one of 18 grandmothers charged for blocking access to the U.S. military recruiting station in Times Square during a recent protest. REUTERS/Chip East

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in. He writes:

[Mom (75) called me today, and announced that she too is joining the Granny Peace Brigade. Go Grannies, go! May Grandpas lend full support as well and together with the rest of us bring Washington's murderous tyranny to a swift and long-overdue end! Solidarity, Z]

No ageism is intended, but we're willing to lay heavy odds that it has been a long while since the Manhattan district attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, found someone older than he is to take to court.

Bear in mind that Mr. Morgenthau is 86. He has held his job for so long that it sometimes feels as if he began before they invented Ovaltine. How many 90-year-old drug dealers or mob hit men cross his path?

Yesterday, things changed. The district attorney's office pursued a criminal case against a band of women, some of them old enough to call Mr. Morgenthau "sonny."

Not that Marie Runyon, 91, is what you'd call a hardened criminal. Nor is Molly Klopot, 87, nor Lillian Rydell, 86. Nor, for that matter, are any of 15 other women — a few of them practically kids, no older than 61 or 62 — who went on trial yesterday in Manhattan Criminal Court, charged with disorderly conduct.

The Granny Peace Brigade, they call themselves. Last October, they descended on the armed forces recruiting station in Times Square. They wanted to enlist, they said. They've been around. Send them to Iraq, they demanded, instead of some 20-year-old who has barely tasted life.

When the military, shockingly, showed no interest in signing them up, this Walker and Cane Brigade held a sit-in. The police ordered them to leave. They refused. So officers young enough to be their great-grandchildren handcuffed them gently and put them under arrest.

Obviously, theirs was an exercise in street theater, intended to draw cameras and scribblers to record their opposition to the war in Iraq. The tactic worked. Grandmothers being hauled away in a police wagon is what we in the news business call a story.

While the style was somewhat whimsical, the grannies' message could not have been more serious. A similar mixture of soberness and good cheer was evident yesterday at a pretrial pep rally outside the Criminal Court building on Centre Street. Sure, there were denunciations of the war. But there were also photos of grandchildren and great-grandchildren hanging from strings around the women's necks.

The mood was a contrast to much of the political dialogue these days — simultaneous monologues, really, often about as witty as a Pat Robertson fatwa. The grannies are "positive, upbeat, respectful, loving America," said their lawyer, Norman Siegel, who added, "But they also recognize that we have some fundamental problems that need to be overcome."

The nonjury trial that got under way yesterday, before Judge Neil E. Ross, did not have to be. Mr. Morgenthau's office proposed a plea deal that would have allowed the dismissal of the charges in six months provided the grannies, forgive us, kept their noses clean. But the women insisted on their day in court, hoping for a chance to speak against the war from the witness stand.

"We are at a very important point in the history of our country," Ms. Klopot said. "It is our responsibility as patriots not to be silent."

Whether Judge Ross will give her a courtroom soapbox remains to be seen. As far as the prosecution is concerned, Iraq is a nonstarter. "It's not about the war," Amy Miller, an assistant district attorney, told the judge. "It's about disorderly conduct."

That's not how Mr. Siegel saw it. The purpose of the protest was "to alert an apathetic public," he said to Judge Ross.

He also argued that the grannies did not entirely block access to the recruiting center, a point conceded by police officers who testified. And so, Mr. Siegel contended, the order for the women to clear out was not lawful. They had "acted on principle," he said, "in a great American tradition of peaceful, nonviolent protest."

Then again, a guiding principle of nonviolent protest is that one must be prepared to suffer the consequences. Age should not matter.

If convicted, each of the women could be fined \$250 and sent to jail for 15 days. Are they prepared to do the time? Absolutely, said one of the younger defendants, Jenny Heinz, 61. "A number of us have made a decision that we will not accept fines or community service."

Of course, a guilty verdict would have to come first. Then Judge Ross, 46, would have to decide if sending some women nearly twice his age to the slammer is really how he wants to be remembered.

Fundamentalist Preacher Steals Her Dead GI Son's Insurance Money From His Daughter

Apr. 21, 2006 Associated Press, PORTAGE

The mother of a soldier who died in Iraq has been charged with spending more than \$250,000 in insurance money set aside for the man's young daughter.

Prosecutors charged Janie Lee Espinoza, a 56-year-old pastor, with eight counts of felony theft.

A month after Spc. Roy Buckley died in Iraq in 2003, Espinoza became the guardian of \$250,000 from his life insurance policy. Police say the money was to go to Buckley's then-6-year-old daughter when she turned 18.

But police say Espinoza spent all the money, plus \$406 in interest, on cars, jewelry, a time-share property in Florida, church pews and a baby grand piano. The pews and the piano apparently were given to the Church of Jesus Christ south of Gary in New Chicago, where Espinoza is pastor.

Defend San Francisco State University Anti-War Students: See Petition!

From: Charles Jenks, Chair of Advisory Board and Web Manager, Traprock Peace Center: <http://www.traprockpeace.org>
To: GI Special
Sent: April 20, 2006
Subject: Join Cindy Sheehan, Meada Benjamin and 65 others in defending SFSU students: see petition!

Ten peaceful student protesters at SFSU were grabbed and pushed out of a career fair by police, where the students were protesting military recruitment.

They were kicked off campus without a hearing and given notice that if they returned within two weeks, they were subject to "immediate arrest." Some students were instantly made homeless or jobless, and none could go to class on campus. The university let them return to campus after 3 days, in the face of NBC planning to televise coverage.

Students are waiting for the other shoe to drop. Let's not let it drop on them.

Tell the university how you feel about its treatment of these students and their rights to protest. Tell the university that you oppose any discipline of these students.

Sixty-Seven international antiwar activists, including 2 former Assistant Secretary Generals of the UN, Denis Halliday and Hans-Christof von Sponeck, have taken a stand for student rights and against the occupation of Iraq.

Join Cindy Sheehan, Meada Benjamin, Kathy Kelly, Camilo Mejia, Dahr Jamail and 60 others in standing up for these students.

As the letter puts it: "Let's not forget what these students - "the SFSU 10" - were protesting.

They were protesting the military's recruiting students into 'careers' that would foster death, destruction and injustice.

They were trying to protect their fellow students from serious risks of their being among the tens of thousands of US troops killed, maimed or traumatized in Iraq. They were trying to protect students from participating in war crimes - a war in which 100,000 or more Iraqis have been killed, according to the peer reviewed Lancet study; a war in which the US uses uranium, a radioactive neurotoxin, in munitions; a war in which 1 in 4

combat marines admitted to having killed a civilian, with 8 in 10 having reported seeing injured women or children whom they were unable to help (Boston Globe, July 1, 2004)."

"We stand in defense of the SFSU protesters and call on you to take no disciplinary action against them and to apologize to them for violating of their civil liberties and human rights.

"We believe the university should also compensate any of the group who may have become homeless or otherwise suffered economic hardship because of the SFSU actions.

"And we invite you to join us as we renew our efforts to build the movement to end this war, bring all the troops home now, and institute reparations for the people of Iraq."

Please sign this letter at <http://www.petitiononline.com/sfsu10/>

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

U.S. Trained National Guard And Resistance Fighters Getting Along Just Fine In Adhamiya!

There was at least one incident, a couple of weeks ago, when a National Guard commander warned the 'Mujahideen' that Interior ministry forces had entered the area, and turned over his weapons to residents so they could defend themselves.

April 20, 2001 Zeyad, Healing Iraq [Excerpts]

The Adhamiya battle in a nutshell: Iraqi security forces from the Interior ministry (some believe to be accompanied by militiamen) attempted to enter Adhamiya from the Raghiba Khatoun area around 1 am, Monday. Adhamiya residents and its dozens of watch teams responded with heavy fire and thwarted the perceived attack.

The same, or another, force later attempted to enter from the other side through Omar bin Abdul Aziz Street. The attack was repelled and several vehicles were burnt. 7 to 12 residents were killed in the clash.

Electric power returned at 3 am and the area calmed down for a few minutes. American helicopters were circling the area, and National Guards backed by an American force soon arrived at the scene and engaged with what it thought to be an insurgent force attacking the Adhamiya police station. The residents continued to return fire and the random exchange lasted until 12 pm.

By then, both sides had realised their mistake. Adhamiya elders and local clerics rushed to clear the misunderstanding with the National Guard. National Guards set up checkpoints and helped restore security. The district was cordoned, residents stayed indoors and stores remained closed, even at Raghiba Khatoun, which is usually oblivious to whatever happens in other parts of Adhamiya.

There had been a previous understanding for a few months between the 2 parties that, as long as Interior ministry forces do not enter Adhamiya, National Guards were free to patrol and maintain checkpoints in the area.

National Guards in return, turned a blind eye to the many neighbourhood watch teams and even the 'Mujahideen' as long as they don't target them.

National Guards were considered allies and during the Samarra events they stepped back in the shadows and watched as vigilant units took over and patrolled Adhamiya at nighttime.

There was at least one incident, a couple of weeks ago, when a National Guard commander warned the 'Mujahideen' that Interior ministry forces had entered the area, and turned over his weapons to residents so they could defend themselves.

Tuesday, 6:45 am: a speeding vehicle drove by and fired a few shots at a lethargic National Guard unit near the corner of Omar bin Abdul Aziz and Siham Al-Mitwali streets. The unit responded with a rapid barrage of Douchka and PKC fire, damaging several stores and hitting the nearby Al-Anbia' mosque. The mosque guards snuck to Dhubat Street from back alleys, took positions on a 3-floor building and started taking potshots at the National Guards at the intersection of Omar and Dhubat streets. Other watch teams thought it was another attack, and by 8 am the whole district erupted into an inferno of machine gun fire. Amidst the chaotic firefight, we could make out the familiar buzz of an American unmanned surveillance plane in the air.

"Please refrain from firing at the mosque. Does a house of Allah have no sanctity to you?" a haughty voice was broadcasting from the Al-Anbia' mosque loudspeakers to the National Guards. "You are supposed to restore order. Cease fire immediately or face the consequences. He who has warned is henceforth excused."

The message only served to provoke heavier fire from both sides.

American Humvees entered Adhamiya and returned fire at everything that moved. The fire was random now and at 1 pm the situation had calmed down again.

People were seen on the streets at 5 pm and bakeries and supermarkets opened for a couple of hours. We went out for supplies; bread, petrol, cigarettes and Pepsi. There was no electric power since Monday morning.

We heard from friends and relatives that life was going on 'normally' in other parts of the capital; the obligatory car bomb or roadside bomb, politicians still bickering, corpses still turning up at random locations, people still being kidnapped and assassinated, you know, the usual everyday stuff.

Tuesday night was calm. And except for another short clash near the Adhamiya police station, nothing much has happened on Wednesday, yet.

National Guards were manning checkpoints all over Adhamiya and residents were cooperative. The district is getting extremely difficult to navigate.

[T]here are barricades blocking every street and back alley. The area is now one huge fortress, armed to the teeth and expecting an attack any moment now.

Assorted Resistance Action



An Iraqi policeman injured by a bomb explosion lies on the ground April 21, 2006 in Baghdad. A bomb targeting a police patrol exploded, wounding three policemen, and when additional police and bystanders arrived to investigate, a second bomb exploded. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

April 21 By Ahmed Rasheed and Mussab al-Khairalla, Reuters & THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press & Khaleej Times

Two bodies were found on Thursday on a desert road between Qaim and Rutba about 500 km (300 miles) west of the capital, hospital sources and police said on Friday. Witnesses said the men were Iraqi contractors working for a U.S. military base.

Two roadside bombs went off close to an Iraqi police patrol in western Baghdad on Friday (April 21), wounding at least 11 policemen, police said.

They said the first blast wounded three policemen and when reinforcement arrived at the scene, the second one exploded, wounding another eight policemen.

The attack took place in al-Qadisiya neighbourhood of western Baghdad.

"The attack took place in this area (points). We received an information from police about the attack and when we arrived another blast occurred. (QS: Do you know the casualties?). Yes, seven to nine were wounded in the attack," said unidentified Iraqi soldier.

Three Iraqi policemen also were wounded by a roadside bomb that hit their patrol on Friday morning in Baghdad's western neighborhood of Yarmouk, said Abdul-Razzaq. When police and witnesses rushed to the scene a second bomb exploded, said an AP photographer who was there.

In Khalis, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, a drive-by shooting killed a policeman walking on a street of the city, police said.

In Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of the Iraqi capital, four policemen were killed when their patrol hit a roadside bomb, police said. Two policemen and a bystander were wounded.

Another roadside bomb targeted an Iraqi military patrol in Mosul, killing one civilian and injuring two soldiers and a nearby policeman, said police.

Five police commandos, dressed in civilian clothes, were ambushed and shot dead by gunpersons near the northern city of Tikrit who opened fire on their car, police said. The driver of the car was wounded.

In Baquba, some 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of the capital, a policeman was shot dead as he was on his way home.

Six off-duty Iraqi soldiers were captured and shot execution-style outside a restaurant in northern Iraq on Friday, police said.

The soldiers were just leaving the restaurant after lunch there when they were taken into custody by a group of unidentified resistance fighters waiting outside. The captives were taken to a nearby street, lined up and shot.

The attack occurred in the industrial city of Beiji, where the soldiers had stopped en route to their military base in Mosul, 90 miles to the north.

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

“They Would Protect Sunni People In Basra And That They Don't Want The Sunni People To Leave”



April 21, 2006 in Basra: Supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr march through the streets of Basra saying that they would protect Sunni people in Basra and that they don't want the Sunni people to leave. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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[This poster, which ran previously as a front page in GI Special, may be copied from: <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/poster>. Thanks to JoAnn.]

OCCUPATION REPORT

2003: Sowing The Wind 2006: Reaping The Whirlwind



Former Iraqi Army soldiers shout slogans as they march towards the US Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Services or ORHA in Baghdad June 7, 2003, to demand the restoration of the dissolved Iraqi Army. The Iraqi Army was dissolved recently by the new US administration in Iraq to pave the way for the formation of the new Iraqi Corps. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

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

How Bad Is It?

Apr 19 By Barbara Slavin, USA TODAY

Security is the "No. 1 factor that impedes progress," said Stuart Bowen, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction.

Contractors and Army Corps of Engineers officials "are being shot at or threatened every day," he said. At least 467 contractors in Iraq have been killed, said Christine Belisle, a spokeswoman for the special inspector general.

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)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

CIA Fires Employee For Leak

[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: SO WHEN THE PRESIDENT LEAKS LIES ABOUT IRAQ'S NON-EXISTENT WMD, HE KEEPS HIS JOB, BUT WHEN A CIA GUY LEAKS ABOUT TORTURE CENTERS IN EASTERN EUROPE, HE GETS CANNED.]

4.21.06 By KATHERINE SHRADER, Associated Press Writer

The CIA has fired an employee for leaking classified information to the news media, including details about secret CIA prisons in Eastern Europe, officials said Friday.

A federal criminal investigation has also been opened.

CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano said an officer had been fired for having unauthorized contacts with the media and disclosing classified information to reporters, including details about intelligence operations.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to thomasfbarton@earthlink.net. Name, I.D., address withheld unless publication requested. Replies confidential.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“These Are Not Protests Any More. This Is A Revolution” “Death To The King”

It was the opposition parties that began the protests, but on the streets the people say they are out of the parties' control now. "We have nothing to do with the parties," said Uttam Shrestha.

"We are the people of Nepal. If the parties make a deal with the King now, we will march against them. We don't want a monarchy any more."

21 April 2006 By Justin Huggler in Kathmandu, Independent News and Media Limited

They came in their tens of thousands, ordinary Nepalis who defied a curfew and shoot-to-kill warnings, and marched through their capital to demand the King give up his power and restore democracy.

And he greeted them with bullets. Soldiers and police opened fire on the protesters, shooting them down in the streets.

At least three were killed, and more than 40 were in critical condition last night. A young man, one of the subjects who King Gyanendra claims to rule over, lay dead on the street yesterday, his head in a pool of his own blood.

And still the protesters came, refusing to be cowed.

"These are not protests any more. This is a revolution," said Harish Dhal, a demonstrator. "We don't want a monarchy. We want real democracy."

King Gyanendra remained hidden in his palace while on the streets his people were dying. There were more than 100,000 people protesting in Kathmandu, despite warnings that anyone violating the curfew would be shot on sight.

"We are not afraid," said Mr Dhal, a young man who had come into the city from the countryside to demand democracy. "The King is not strong enough to stop us. If he does not give up power, we will march into the centre of Kathmandu and take him from his palace," added Mr Dhal.

Tourists were confined to their hotels as the protests raged. "Death to the King", the demonstrators chanted.

"Cut off the heads of Gyanendra and his son."

The opposition parties that organised the protests are demanding that King Gyanendra gives up the absolute powers he seized last year and restores democracy. But most of the protesters on the streets want to go further, and are calling for the monarchy to be abolished.

In a desperate attempt to stop the outside world seeing what is going on in the country, security forces tried to keep diplomats and journalists off the streets and warned they would be shot as well.

In a ghoulish development, police stormed the hospital last night where the bodies of the three dead protesters were being held and took them away. But there were plenty of witnesses.

To stop the mass rallies called by the democratic opposition, the King had ordered a curfew across central Kathmandu. Determined to go ahead with the rallies, protesters began streaming into the suburbs of Kathmandu, gathering at the edge of the curfew zone in six or seven meeting places.

One was in Kalanki, a poor suburb on the edge of town. None of the protesters there had been stopped by police. But when they tried to advance into the centre of Kathmandu, towards the royal palace, police fired tear gas. When that did not work, they opened fire with live rounds.

Witnesses spoke of seeing a body being carried from the scene. Television pictures showed a young boy, still alive but with blood pouring from his head, being carried like a rag doll between two police officers. One television station, unable to get footage because of the draconian restrictions on journalists, instead showed still pictures of the bodies on its news bulletins.

Yesterday was supposed to be the culmination of a two-week general strike and daily protests against the King's rule. Instead it became the culmination of the King's bloody response. At least 10 people had been killed already in police shootings in other towns and cities.

The protesters failed yesterday in their aim of reaching the city centre and the royal palace. But they insisted last night they would not be intimidated. "We will not leave these streets," said Marish Thapa. "We will keep protesting, and we will go inside the curfew zone, and we will go to the palace."

Even among the police who were keeping the protesters at bay, there was precious little support for the King. "The police are very tired," said a senior officer commanding the barricades. "Do the police support the King? That is a very difficult question for me to answer. Some do. As for the rest of us, well, you can guess."

Out on the streets, protesters were building barricades to keep the police out of their areas. They prised bricks out of the pavements and stones from the walls.

It was the opposition parties that began the protests, but on the streets the people say they are out of the parties' control now. "We have nothing to do with the parties," said Uttam Shrestha.

"We are the people of Nepal. If the parties make a deal with the King now, we will march against them. We don't want a monarchy any more."

MORE:

Why Kings Get Their Heads Cut Off

21 April 2006 By Gopal Sharma, Reuters

Kathmandu: Nepal's King Gyanendra, facing sweeping anti-monarchy protests, said on Friday he was handing over political power to the people and asked a seven-party alliance to choose a new prime minister.

There was no immediate reaction from the parties which have spearheaded more than two weeks of violent protests to force the restoration of democracy.

But the king appeared to rule out any change of the constitution to curb his powers, which has been one of their demands.

While Troops Die In Iraq, Rich At Home Get Richer

19 April 2006 By Derrick Z. Jackson, The Boston Globe [Excerpts]

The Institute for Policy Studies and United for a Fair Economy, the two liberal think tanks that annually chart the gap between CEOs and workers, currently list the gap at 431-to-1, or \$11.8 million to \$27,460.

That compares with a gap of 107-to-1 in 1990.

If salaries of the average worker had kept up with that of a CEO, he or she would be making \$110,136. Had the minimum wage risen at the same pace as CEO compensation, it would stand today at \$23.01. The federal minimum wage of \$5.15 has not risen since 1997.

In 1980, the gap was only 42-to-1.

Where the spoils go are quite clear.

According to 2005 federal data from the Congressional Budget Office, the share of America's income that went to the highest 20 percent of households increased from 45.5 percent in 1979 to 52.2 percent in 2003. The remaining 80 percent of American households all saw their share of the nation's income drop.

The higher you go in that top 20 percent, the more the rise in their share of the income.

The top 1 percent of Americans saw their share of America's income zoom from 9.3 percent in the last quarter century to 14.3 percent. The top 10 percent saw their share go from 30.5 percent to 37.2 percent.

“Business Still Runs The World”

Millionaires Call The Shots: “The Views Of The Public Have Zero Impact On Military Action”

12 April 2006 By Bradford Plumer, Mother Jones [Excerpts]

In politics, this all matters very much, as the APSA findings reveal. Larry Bartels of Princeton has studied the voting record of the Senate between 1989 and 1994, a time, note, when Democrats controlled Congress.

He found that Senators were very responsive to the preferences of the upper third of the income spectrum, somewhat less attentive to the middle third, and completely ignored the policy preferences of the poorest third of Americans.

In one striking example, Bartels discovered that Senators were only likely to vote for a minimum wage increase if and when their wealthier constituents favored it - the views of those directly affected by the hike had "no discernible impact."

Nor is this pattern limited to domestic policy.

Lawrence Jacobs of the University of Minnesota and Benjamin Page of Northwestern found that that the foreign policy views of the executive and legislative branches are primarily influenced by business leaders, policy experts - whose think tanks are often funded by businesses - and, to a lesser extent, organized labor.

Surprisingly, Jacobs and Page found, the views of the broader public have essentially zero impact on the government when it comes to tariffs, treaties, diplomacy, or military action.

The political theorist Walter Russell Mead famously argued that "Jacksonian" nationalism in the heartland drove American foreign policy, but the data doesn't back him up.

Business still runs the world.

To some extent, these findings are probably a result of the fact that elected officials tend to hail from the upper classes, and so tend to be the sort of people who worry more about the burden the estate tax imposes than, say, food insecurity or too-high heating bills.

In 2003, financial records revealed that 40 senators and 123 representatives were millionaires.

This shouldn't be surprising. Without publicly-financed elections, it takes a good deal of personal wealth to run for office - the average Senate campaign in 2006 will cost about \$10 million, minimum, according to a recent University of Washington study.

Indeed, in the 2000 election, 95 percent of all campaign contributions came from households making over \$100,000.

George W. Bush once reportedly told the Rev. Jim Wallis, "I don't understand how poor people think." Presumably he doesn't hear much on the subject during face time with key donors.

[So much for all that "democracy" bullshit. Welcome to the real world. T]

So Much For All That "Democracy" Bullshit: Welcome To The Real World

04/21/06 By Paul Krugman, New York Times [Excerpts]

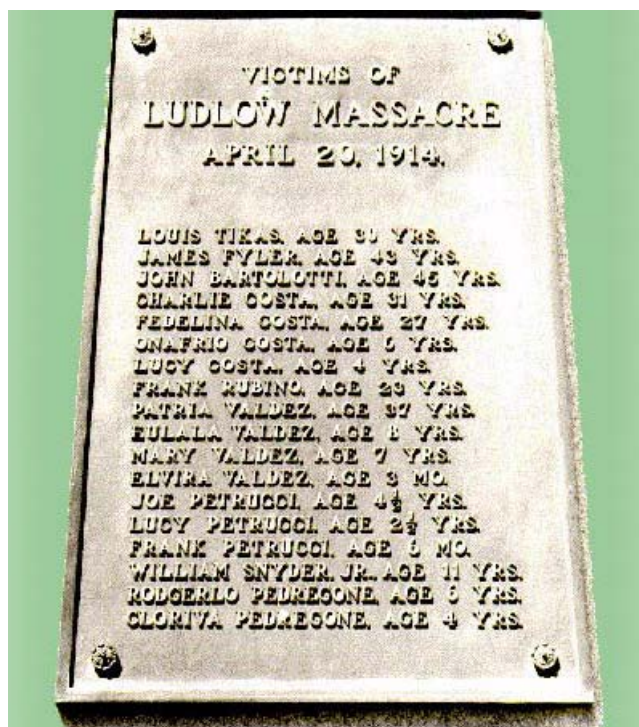
The latest Fox News poll puts Mr. Bush's approval at only 33 percent.

According to the polling firm Survey USA, there are only four states in which significantly more people approve of Mr. Bush's performance than disapprove: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska.

If we define red states as states where the public supports Mr. Bush, Red America now has a smaller population than New York City.

The fewer than eight million residents of what's left of Red America are represented by eight U.S. senators; the more than eight million residents of New York City have to share two senators with the rest of New York State.

Remembering A Day Of Infamy For American Workers: The Ludlow Massacre



[Thanks to George S. Weber, Veterans For Peace, for posting.]

United Mine Workers Of America:

The date April 20, 1914 will forever be a day of infamy for American workers. On that day, 20 innocent men, women and children were killed in the Ludlow Massacre.

The coal miners in Colorado and other western states had been trying to join the UMWA for many years. They were bitterly opposed by the coal operators, led by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

Upon striking, the miners and their families had been evicted from their company-owned houses and had set up a tent colony on public property.

The massacre occurred in a carefully planned attack on the tent colony by Colorado militiamen, coal company guards, and thugs hired as private detectives and strike breakers. They shot and burned to death 20 people, including a dozen women and small children.

Later investigations revealed that kerosine had intentionally been poured on the tents to set them ablaze. The miners had dug foxholes in the tents so the women and children could avoid the bullets that randomly were shot through the tent colony by company thugs. The women and children were found huddled together at the bottoms of their tents.

The Baldwin Felts Detective Agency had been brought in to suppress the Colorado miners. They brought with them an armored car mounted with a machine gun--the Death Special-- that roamed the area spraying bullets.

The day of the massacre, the miners were celebrating Greek Easter. At 10:00 AM the militia ringed the camp and began firing into the tents upon a signal from the commander, Lt. Karl E. Lindenfelter.

Not one of the perpetrators of the slaughter were ever punished, but scores of miners and their leaders were arrested and black-balled from the coal industry.

A monument erected by the United Mine Workers Of America stands today in Ludlow, Colorado in remembrance of the brave and innocent souls who died for freedom and human dignity.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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