

"Don't Believe the Hype!" – *Truth in Recruiting* Now

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010

(scroll down for details about any story - links back to full articles also provided)

Lead Story - from the past month's news:

follow up on gangs in military, wreaking havoc in U.S. cities upon their return
Gangs in the military pose problem for civilian police, Texas detective says
file under: bringing the war home

quote:

"The gang members at Fort Hood get their dope from Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston. The Gangster Disciples at Fort Hood are directly linked to the Gangster Disciples in Houston."
~Det. John Bowman, Killeen, Texas

related story

Army confronts escalating drug abuse as soldiers return from Iraq

--follow up drug addictions created while soldiers posted overseas

facts & figures:

One brigade kicked 200 soldiers out of the Army. They were discharged from the 4th Brigade of the 1st Armored Division, the unit having just returned to Texas.

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Lied To, Shot At, Shell Shocked

--Aaron Glantz on American GIs, on antiwar radio

excerpt from 'rush' transcript:

"I remember **how stupid I was when I was 17 years old**. And on TV they say the Marine Corps means you get to dress up real fancy, walk around with a neat sword all day, and just play. "War is honor," and all these stupid things... They never tell you how dirty it is, how bad it stinks, how hard it is to get the replaying of the audio of people's dying screams out of your ears, or your best friend dying in your arms and trying to get that out of your head."
~Scott Horton, host of the show

"They target 17-year-olds because they love **first-person shooter games** that were designed by the American military. And they thought that "war" would be just like the first-person shooter game that they play at home in front of their television screen or their computer. And you know, when they go in to sign up, no one in the Army recruiting office tells them that 'hey, that's just a computer game, you know, real war is different.' So they go out to the front and they discover war is not like a computer game, that real people die, the smells are there. And it might not be worth anything. You might kill someone and it might affect you differently than killing some electronic character in a video game. Everyone says 'how silly is that' but we're talking about seventeen-year-olds. "

~Aaron Glantz, journalist in Iraq 2003-2005, and author of *The War Comes Home*, and the best-seller, *How America Lost Iraq*

featured op/ed

Hoy newspaper editorial: Say No to the so-called "Dream" Act, because it Militarizes Immigration

--Spanish-language article title: *Dicen no a Dream Act -- Argumentan que militarizaría a jóvenes. Es una pesadilla.*

related group: San Diego

¡Raza Sí; Guerra No!

Unión del Barrio

follow up on epidemic of suicides in the U.S. military

Italian film documents trauma of Iraq war veterans

--entitled "Ward 54," the film is named for the psychiatric wing of the U.S. military's Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington

facts & figures:

Last month, a Congressionally-ordered report found historically **high rates of suicides** in the U.S. military, saying more than 1,100 members of the armed forces had killed themselves from 2005 to 2009 and that suicides are rising again this year. The sharpest increases were in the Army and Marine Corps

sidebar: follow up on TBI

Traumatic Brain Injury earns a mention in President Obama's Speech to the Nation

--**brains jostled** inside the cranium by powerful blasts, causing permanent brain injury

quote:

"[W]e have already made one of the largest increases in funding for veterans in decades. We are treating the signature wounds of today's wars post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury, while providing the health care and benefits that all of our veterans have earned."

~President Obama, Aug 31st 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/01/world/01obama-text.html?pagewanted=3>

related exclusive:

One Iraq veteran's harrowing struggle with TBI, and then PTSD, leading to his eventual succumbing to suicide

--an IED, or improvised explosive device, gave him a concussion, starting the soldier's demise

facts & figures:

IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), planted by insurgents targeting American troops, are the one attack all soldiers fear. The bombs reach up from the earth and rip your arms from your shoulders, legs from your torso, or **rattle your bones inside your head**, for days, months, years afterward.

book review:

Tom Engelhardt's new book: *The American Way of War: How Bush's Wars Became Obama's*

--review by Mamoon Alabbasi – London

also see, just published: Bob Woodward's *Obama's War* which documents the infighting at the White House over the deliberate **escalation of hostilities** in Afghanistan

sidebar:

Brisbane war correspondent alleges **U.S. forces committed war crime in Iraq**

--Mr. Michael Ware, journalist, says he caught the gruesome episode on film

quote:

“The footage should be shown so people know how callously US soldiers treat the Iraqis,”

~Mr John Martinkus, journalist, commenting on film shot by an Australian reporter, in possession of CNN, but never shown to the public

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file under: what?! there are rules during wartime?

More Stryker Brigade soldiers charged with assault on Afghan civilians

--two U.S. soldiers incarcerated and facing court-martials on separate **murder charges**

more coverage:

file under: decline of moral in U.S. armed services

US troops took body parts, 'kept finger trophies' : 2nd Stryker Brigade run amuck

--American soldiers murdered Afghan civilians and took body parts as trophies, it was alleged

--documents show five soldiers have been charged with **killing innocent Afghans** in January, February and May this year after forming a secret "kill team".

--the five soldiers standing accused face the death penalty or life in prison, if convicted

quote

They don't 'hate us for our freedoms.' They hate us because we're ***sociopaths.***

~Commentary from Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG)

op/ed

How To Spot A Whitewash In Army's Death-Squad Inquiry

--American soldiers have become what we'd prefer to think doesn't exist in the U.S. army: a **death squad** bent on committing war crimes

quote

The motives of the “Kill Team” appear to be **indistinguishable from sadism**: we only know about the plot because a private came forward to investigators after “Kill Team” members beat him up.

Call for 'Gaza style' inquiry into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan

--former UN official demands investigation into coalition link to deaths revealed by WikiLeaks

--rising concern over the level of **civilian casualties** caused by coalition forces

follow-up story on active-duty war resisters find refuge in Canada

Iraq war resister marks one year since taking sanctuary in Vancouver church

quote:

Watson recalls the Iraqi man asking him "why do white soldiers and white contractors hate us so much?" Watson replied saying he'd been wondering the same questions for years back in America. "We clicked on that," he said "We knew we had something in common, even though we came from different worlds."

related:

Liberal MP will negotiate on bill to keep U.S. war resisters in Canada

file under: betrayed by your so-called brothers

Navy, Marine theaters decline to screen Tillman film

--The film does not portray the Army and Defense Department in a positive light, and therefore is being censored by all U.S. armed services

file under: mercenary companies and war profiteers

A Maryland Judge rules that "Military Contractors" Can Be Sued

--A federal judge says military contractors can be sued by soldiers and others who allege they were harmed by improper waste disposal while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

sidebar: up in smoke

\$13m Reaper Drone Crashes During Test Flight in California

--Air Force says one of its unmanned MQ-9 Reaper aircraft has crashed in a sparsely populated area in California's Mojave Desert.

featured book:

***Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death*, by Jim Frederick**

--war crimes committed by U.S. troops, reviewed by Edward Wilson, of *The Guardian*

--chilling echoes of Vietnam war in a US platoon's rape & killing spree in Iraq

quote:

"In retrospect, it was obvious that Green was a troubled youngster whom the army couldn't redeem."

related:

Pentagon destroyed 10,000 copies of army officer's book, at a cost of \$47,000

The Pentagon has admitted buying up and destroying 10,000 copies of an insider's account of life in Afghanistan by an army intelligence officer. It said that the book, *Operation Dark Heart* by Lt Col Anthony Shaffer, threatened to divulge state secrets. Lt Col Shaffer, a bronze star recipient, said he had no intention of jeopardising American lives or damaging national security. "The whole premise smacks of retaliation," he told CNN. "Someone buying 10,000 books to suppress a story in this digital age is ludicrous."

file under: U.S. war crimes in Iraq

Two Soldiers Allege that U.S. Commander Ordered "360 Rotational Fire" in Iraq

--indiscriminate killing of civilians is a war crime, for which people were thrown in jail for life, the

Nuremberg Trials led by the U.S.

quote:

"I learned that the military trains people to hate and dehumanize entire people groups... And sadly, the military tries to rob you of what's inside and the result is people treating killing like a joke and showing little care for human life."

~Sp. Josh Stieber, a witness to the **street massacres committed by U.S. troops in Iraq**, carried out "maybe five to ten times."

file under : mercenaries run amuck

Murder trial under way for 2 ex-Blackwater contractors in 2009 deaths of 2 Afghan men

backpage:

An Indiana Town Reflects Growing Doubts Among Americans About the Afghan 'War'

--A majority of Americans say the war has not been worth its cost, an opinion voiced frequently in Elkhart, a hard-luck town that sees the conflict through the lens of loss and economic hardship.

"Why are we there? Why are we even there?"

~Donna Shoecraft, the shock still fresh from her **son's death in Afghanistan**.

"We've been there too long, way too long. I just think it's a useless war," said Fisher, a soldier from 1958 to 1967. The billions in taxpayer dollars should be spent on "people who are sleeping under bridges or living out of food banks."

file under: Colorado used as military dump

Makings of an Environmental Disaster in Colorado? Mustard gas shells

--crazy idea of blowing up 125,000 shells has been withdrawn

--EPA yet to vet idea of blowing up **leaky shells**

follow up: Japan still occupied 65 years later

Okinawa city elections reveal strengthening anti-U.S. base stance

--U.S. base opponents in the northern Okinawa city that hosts Camp Schwab won a 60 percent majority in the elections.

more war crimes committed in Afghanistan

Australian soldiers charged with manslaughter of five Afghan children

--civilians died after the Special Operations Task Group soldiers used gunfire and hand grenades during the operation

sidebar:

British have withdrawn from Helmand province, Afghanistan

--the Dutch are already gone completely, the Canadians will be gone by next year

from the archives:

How the British military fetishized the bayonet and enabled sadists, in World War I

--mostly they used it to kill unarmed prisoners who posed no threat, or the wounded; the weapon was largely ineffective otherwise

facts & figures:

"Downed" opponents who pose little threat are protected under proper application of military law, and have been, since World War I.

related event:



Oct 2nd, 2010 12 noon to 2pm

Rally in Tulsa sponsored by TPF, co-sponsored by T-Town DFA (Democracy for America), in solidarity with "One Nation Working Together" rally in Washington D.C., same day

Location in Tulsa: 41st & Yale

Bring Our War \$\$ Home -- U.S. Out of Afghanistan

Reduce Military Spending - Rebuild America

11:45am - Volunteers arrive & set up signs/banners along road side, on sidewalks, public spaces. Ample parking is available in strip malls on northwest and northeast corners of 41st & Yale. Pls do not use bank lot.

12:00 noon - Peace Vigil / Antiwar Rally begins, in solidarity with the One Nation Working Together rally in D.C., and the One Nation Working Together for Peace civic actions across the country

2:00 pm - Peace vigil in Tulsa wraps up

2:00 pm to 3pm - Participants change venues to meet up with the Oklahoma Progressive Coalition, at the Pipeliner's Union Hall, 4823 S. 83rd E. Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma

3:00pm CST - Head out to volunteer on a progressive campaign!

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010
lead story

Gangs in the military pose problem for civilian police, Killeen detective says

Thursday, Sep. 09, 2010

By Chris Vaughn, *Dallas Star-Telegram*

cvaughn@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH -- It's not particularly palatable to think about, but there are gang members in the military, serving overseas and gaining valuable weapons and tactical training.

Not only does Killeen gang detective John Bowman know that firsthand, but he also said it shouldn't be that surprising.

Bowman, an Army veteran and 20-year police officer in the city adjoining Fort Hood in Central Texas, said the presence of gangs in the armed forces is not just a problem for people like him. He said it affects many of the nation's cities and counties, while the troops are in service and certainly when they get out.

"Don't let the fact that you don't have a base near you blind you to the problem," he said. "The gang members at Fort Hood get their dope from Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston. The Gangster Disciples at Fort Hood are directly linked to the Gangster Disciples in Houston."

That kind of message from city police has led to sharp disagreements with officials on military installations, who argue that gangs are not a significant problem.

Bowman acknowledges that gang members constitute a fraction of the military's active, National Guard and reserve troops, but even 1 percent would be more than 10,000, he said. It's hard, if not impossible, to know exactly how many there are because gang members don't broadcast that information, nor, Bowman said, does the Army have an incentive to accurately report gang activity in its ranks.

In 2007, a report from the National Gang Intelligence Center for the FBI concluded that it was an "increasing" problem and "poses a threat to law enforcement officials and national security."

That report provided anecdotal evidence that gangs have committed serious crimes -- robbery, burglary, drug and gun running, extortion and identity theft -- at Fort Hood; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Bliss; Fort Carson, Colo.; and other Army installations, most often against other soldiers.

Bowman's presentation included photographs of gang graffiti on barricades and tanks in Iraq, and the Internet is rife with pictures of troops proudly flashing gang signs. Bowman displayed a newspaper photograph of soldiers gleefully returning home. In the middle of the photo was a soldier flashing a gang sign. Tattoos are often another giveaway, he said.

Many street gang members join the military to get out of their neighborhoods, he said, but are drawn back into the lifestyle once they encounter gang members in the military. Others, including white supremacists, often join the military for weapons and tactics training, he said.

The danger to police officers, Bowman said, is that these troops are combat-hardened and proficient in urban combat. They also have access to better quality body armor than many police.

Read more: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/09/09/2456950/gangs-in-the-military-pose-problem.html>

Army confronts escalating drug abuse as soldiers return from Iraq

By Nancy A. Youssef
McClatchy Newspapers
September 17, 2010

WASHINGTON — When Lt. Col. Dave Wilson took command of a battalion of the 4th Brigade of the 1st Armored Division, the unit had just returned to Texas from 14 months in Iraq.

Nearly 70 soldiers in his 1,163-member battalion had tested positive for drugs: methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana. Others were abusing prescription drugs. Troops were passing around a tape of a female lieutenant having sex with five soldiers from the unit. Seven soldiers in the brigade died from drug overdoses and traffic accidents when they returned to Fort Bliss, near El Paso, after their first deployment.

"The inmates were running the prison," Wilson said.

With the U.S. drawdown in Iraq, the Army is finally confronting an epidemic of drug abuse and criminal behavior that many commanders acknowledge has been made worse because they'd largely ignored it during nearly a decade of wars on two fronts.

The Army concedes that it faces a mammoth problem.

The increase in drug abuse and bad behavior came at the same time that the Army enlisted thousands of recruits who in previous years would have been ruled ineligible because of drug or other criminal convictions. According to the report, nearly 20 percent of the soldiers who've enlisted in the Army since 2004 — perhaps as many as 10,000 — would "not have been eligible for entry into the Army before."

"I think we've got to understand that the force we have today is different from the force we had 10 years ago," said Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the vice chief of staff of the Army, who oversaw the study and is heading up the Army's response to it. "We've got kids that are going to have some behavioral health issues."

Wilson said he found a failure of leadership to be a major factor in the deterioration of his unit.

When the brigade returned from Iraq in December 2007, many commanders were moved to other units, and new soldiers were rushed through the system to get them to the battlefield quickly, without the proper guidance.

As a result, 37 of the 69 drug abusers in Wilson's battalion belonged to one company of 200, he said. When he was a company commander a decade ago, having five soldiers test positive would have been considered a lot, he added.

"We found that we had leaders that were dealing with combat stress issues as well. So when you have sick leaders, that leader can't care for the soldiers properly," said Wilson, who commanded 1,163 of the brigade's 3,800 soldiers. "The drug problem was just a symptom of the disease."

The brigade also kicked 200 soldiers out of the Army.

<http://www.stripes.com/news/army-confronts-escalating-drug-abuse-as-soldiers-return-from-iraq-1.118603>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010
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Lied To, Shot At, Shell Shocked

Aaron Glantz on American GIs

Interviewed by Scott Horton, for antiwar radio
September 03, 2010

[Aaron Glantz](#), author of *The War Comes Home: Washington's Battle against America's Veterans*, discusses the U.S. media's eager participation in selling the Iraq War and hyping Colin Powell's infamous U.N. presentation, how Obama made good on troop reductions but is too quick to claim credit for the war's end, increased funding for the VA that has improved care somewhat, the betrayal of soldiers who have killed and died for a war based on lies and how service dogs are used to reduce the epidemic of suicides among veterans.

[MP3 here](#). (20:13)

Aaron Glantz is an independent journalist who specializes on the impact of war on those who have experienced it directly: soldiers and civilians, aid workers and journalists. Aaron reported extensively from inside Iraq from 2003 to 2005 and has been covering veterans' issues since his return to the United States.

<http://antiwar.com/radio/2010/09/03/aaron-glantz-7/>

featured op/ed

Dicen no a "Dream" Act

Argumentan que militarizaría a jóvenes. Otros la apoyan ante la falta de una reforma migratoria

Por Jaime J. Reyes, 312.527.8449/CHICAGO

August 23, 2010

Jesús Palafox dice que no apoya la propuesta Dream Act porque no resuelve el problema de 12 millones de indocumentados, y porque la propuesta militarizaría a los jóvenes latinos.

Palafox, quien cursa el año sénior de la Universidad Northeastern, fue parte de un grupo de

organizaciones que el lunes hicieron pública su oposición a la propuesta Dream Act, que de ser aprobada otorgaría un estatus legal a estudiantes indocumentados que se gradúan de secundaria.

Según la organización College Board, unos 65,000 estudiantes indocumentados (hispanos y no hispanos) se gradúan anualmente de secundaria.

Para Ramiro Borja, del Frente Unido de Inmigrantes, "la propuesta tiene varias fallas. La peor es que va a militarizar a nuestra comunidad y, más que nada, dividir familias".

"Dream Act sólo ayuda a quienes son parte (elegibles) de esto, pero no ayuda a los padres, ni a los hermanos menores o aquellos mayores (de 35 años) que ya no pueden entrar en Dream Act", dijo Borja.

Pero la Coalición de Illinois pro Derechos de Inmigrantes y Refugiados (ICIRR), que apoya Dream Act y la reforma migratoria, indicó en un comunicado que mientras no haya una solución integral, seguirán apoyando ese proyecto de ley.

"Varios jóvenes quieren servir en el Ejército y Dream Act les daría la oportunidad de servir al país de esta manera. Esta propuesta también les daría la opción de ir a la escuela. Dream Act les daría status legal inmediatamente y serían elegibles para una 'Green Card' en seis años", según la declaración.

Laura Paz, del Comité Antimilitarización, dijo que Dream Act tiene un componente militar que se conoce poco y que debido a que una mayoría de jóvenes latinos no asisten a la Universidad, lo más probable es que tendrían que enlistarse en las fuerzas armadas.

Paz agregó que era una mentira que sean dos años para obtener la legalización a través de Dream Act, ya que los contratos con el Ejército son por ocho años y, si quieren salirse antes, no serán dados de baja con honores y podrían ser deportables.

Según la sección 5 de la propuesta Dream Act, el solicitante puede obtener la ciudadanía condicional permanente si cumple con uno de dos requisitos: haber obtenido un diploma de educación superior en Estados Unidos o terminado dos años en un programa de educación superior, o haber servido en las fuerzas armadas al menos dos años y, si fue dado de baja, debió haberlo sido de forma honorable.

Nadia Unzueta, de la Alianza de Jóvenes Inmigrantes por la Justicia (IYJL), grupo que trabaja en pro de Dream Act, dijo que la propuesta es un paso para iniciar la reforma migratoria y describió la posición del grupo opositor como "errónea".

"Decir que no queremos algo que puede legalizar a las personas porque tiene un componente de militarización y vamos a echarlo todo a la basura, no tiene sentido. Tiene más sentido pelear para ampliar eso para que la gente tenga más opciones y no se vean forzados a entrar las fuerzas militares", dijo Unzueta.

Según un reporte del Pew Hispanic Center de 2009, 29 por ciento de latinos inmigrantes indicaron que no planeaban ir a un colegio o universidad.

El reporte "Hispanos en las Fuerzas Militares" del Pew, indica que en 2001 había en las fuerzas armadas 109,487 miembros de origen latino, o el 9.49 por ciento de los más de 1,150,000 miembros de las fuerzas armadas.

En comparación, los latinos eran el 13.35 por ciento de la fuerza laboral entre los 18 a 44 años, el rango de edad típico de reclutamiento en el servicio militar, según el reporte.

Palafox concluyó diciendo supongamos que "yo me legalizo, pero si mis padres son deportados, ¿quién me va a ayudar económica y moralmente si mi padres son deportados?".

jreyes@tribune.com

<http://www.vivelohoy.com/noticias/localidades/chicago/hy-ch-inmigracion0824-20100823,0,7501966.story>

The link above includes video feeds from the event.

related group:

¡Raza Sí; Guerra No! Unión del Barrio

San Diego - On Thursday, August 26, 2010, Unión del Barrio organized a forum in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the historic "Chicano Moratorium Anti-War March of August 29th, 1970".

40 years ago (August 29, 1970) close to 30,000 Raza and supporters, marched through the streets of East Los Angeles protesting the U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam and the oppression of "Chicanos" (Mexicanos) here at home. Thousands of Los Angeles Sheriffs and other police brutally attacked the marchers; killing three, injuring dozens, and arresting hundreds.

<http://uniondelbarrio.org/laverdad/2010/07/29/commemoration-of-the-historic-august-29th-national-chicano-moratorium-march/>

TPF editorial: That event, in 1970, degenerated into reprisals, contrary to the principles of non-violence to which TPF subscribes. See our draft Code of Ethics.

Italian film documents trauma of Iraq war veterans

by Sheri Jennings, AP News

Sep 07, 2010

A new documentary being shown out of competition at the Venice Film Festival explores the trauma of three U.S. war veterans who served in Iraq and how the military handled their cases.

"Ward 54," so named for the psychiatric wing of the U.S. military's Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, also deals with the rise in military suicides following Iraq duty.

The film opens with the case of Army Sgt. Kristofer Goldsmith, whose job was to photograph Iraqi war victims to identify them. Goldsmith recounts how serving his country had always been his life's dream, but it turned into a nightmare when told he would be deployed again to Iraq.

"For over a year I knew something inside me wasn't right. I was drinking close to a gallon of vodka every weekend and starting fights," Goldsmith recalled Tuesday in Venice, where "Ward 54" had been screened the previous night.

When told he had to go back to Iraq for duty, Goldsmith recalled: "I said I can't go back to Iraq. I wasn't afraid of Iraq, but knew I couldn't return."

He said his colonel gave him three choices: "One, you can suck it up and go back. Two, you can go AWOL and live your life as a felon and three, you can kill yourself."

He attempted suicide on Memorial Day 2007.

"I was absolutely disgusted with the treatment from the military when I was trying to get help," he said from Venice's Excelsior Hotel, where he was doing media interviews alongside Italian director Monica Maggioni.

Last month, a Congressionally-ordered report found historically high rates of suicides in the U.S. military, saying more than 1,100 members of the armed forces had killed themselves from 2005 to 2009 and that suicides are rising again this year.

The sharpest increases were in the Army and Marine Corps.

Director Maggioni, a foreign correspondent for Italy's state-run RAI television, said her own combat coverage during the Iraq invasion informed her sympathies for soldiers suffering from PTSD.

"I understand perfectly what they go through," she said, noting that she was the only Italian reporter embedded with the U.S. military during the 2003 invasion.

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/09/07/italian-film-documents-trauma-of-iraq-war-veterans-2/>

Follow up: on TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) from Concussion

Exclusive: One Iraq veteran's harrowing journey from the battlefield to suicide

By James Foley, for *The Raw Story*
Tuesday, September 7th, 2010

"He said three times that he should have just died in Iraq and I would have loved him forever, because

he didn't think we were going to get back together," Krissy Caudill, Sgt. First Class Spencer Kohlheim's fiancée said after his grandmother found him hanging in her garage less than a month after he returned from Iraq.

SFC Kohlheim's his vehicle was hit by an IED in Kirkuk

IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), planted by insurgents targeting American troops, are the one attack all soldiers fear. The bombs reach up from the earth and rip your arms from your shoulders, legs from your torso, or rattle your bones inside your head, for days, months, years afterward. Soldiers will tell you they'd rather get shot at any day than deal with IEDs.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Spencer Kohlheim, 38, was from LaGrange, a town tucked in the Northeast corner of Indiana.

On a sunny April morning in 2008, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Spencer Kohlheim's vehicle led his platoon on convoy from Tikrit North to the volatile city of Kirkuk, Iraq, on a mission guiding Army tractor trailers bearing the new heavily-armored Mine Resistant (MRAP) vehicles to a distant outpost.

"He reminded me a lot of myself," Spade said of Kohlheim. "He was out of control sometimes, opinionated, but a hard worker and a hard trainer."

When Kohlheim went outside the wire, he often put himself as leader of the convoy. That morning it was in the driver's seat of the five-ton truck with rollers on the front that looked like the heads of an old push mower.

But the rollers didn't work if the bomb was "command wired" -- if it had a human waiting and watching for when to detonate it. This was how Kohlheim's lead truck exploded just outside Kirkuk. We felt the blast four vehicles back, and watched the ball of black smoke rise in the sky. Then we saw Kohlheim running towards us carrying his rifle.

A man had given them the middle finger from the roadside just before the IED went off, riddling their five-ton with shrapnel that just missed his gunner's head. Kohlheim seemed to be moving everywhere, gesturing to Iraqi Army and Police, helping to load his vehicle onto the tow trailer.

By the time he got in our Humvee, Kohlheim's hand was shaking just to lift the water bottle to his lips. He spent the night being evaluated in the base hospital for concussion symptoms.

"I think we all got our melons scrambled a little bit," he said the next day. "This morning I woke up and I remembered everything. Last night I couldn't remember too much."

By the end of the summer I was in Baghdad and got an email message from Kohlheim's ex-wife, Beth. She said one of the Indiana Guard's family liaisons had called to tell her Spencer had been hit by another IED. "He says it was another concussion, but I'm not supposed to even know that much," she wrote.

For Kohlheim, a second concussion meant confinement to the base. "The second hit, I said he's done," CSM Spade later told me over the phone.

Spencer never told his Command Sergeant Major that he was suffering any effects from the blasts. But

by the end of summer there wasn't that much time left. Roughly four months later, the 76th Brigade's 3,500 soldiers started re-deploying back to Indiana.

"Leaving Iraq he wasn't flagged for risk," CSM Spade said.

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2010/09/iraq-veterans-harrowing-journey-battlefield-suicide-part>

TPF editorial: See previous issues of "Truth in Recruiting" to learn more about this harrowing injury, the signature wound of modern day combat

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Highlights from the *NYTimes* Archives on TBI

War Veterans' Concussions Are Often Overlooked

By LIZETTE ALVAREZ

The complications from concussions, a signature injury of the Iraq war, often are not recognized in singular ways.

August 26, 2008

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/26/us/26tbi.html?ref=traumatic_brain_injury

The Sergeant Lost Within

By DANIEL BERGNER

Roadside bombs have caused hundreds of dire brain injuries to soldiers in Iraq. One of the injured is Shurvon Phillip, and a team of specialists has worked avidly trying to reach him.

May 25, 2008

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/25/magazine/25injuries-t.html?ref=traumatic_brain_injury

Screening for Brain Injury Is Set for Illinois Veterans

By LIBBY SANDER

The state's National Guard will be routinely screened for traumatic brain injuries after serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

July 4, 2007

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/04/us/04vets.html?ref=traumatic_brain_injury

book review:

Tom Engelhardt's 'The American Way of War: How Bush's Wars Became Obama's'. (Haymarket Books, Chicago – Illinois, 2010)

By Mamoon Alabbasi – LONDON

2010-09-08

In Tom Engelhardt's *The American Way of War: How Bush's Wars Became Obama's*, you could step back and see all the views that you had taken for granted challenged, as you indulge yourself in a world of ideas that are logical and straightforward but just were not quite visible to you before. All of course are backed by key facts, sound analysis and invaluable context.

Since first appearing in articles at TomDispatch.com, some of these ideas have become accepted as conventional wisdom nowadays, but it's important to remember that when Engelhardt first put them forth they were not met with wide acceptance. However, with time they proved to be true prophecies, over and over again, while the analyses of so called experts, splashed over major newspapers or broadcasted in news television programmes, have become increasingly shameful, if anyone bothers to keep track of their record.

With a focus on US national security, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other linked topics, the book serves as a concise but most-insightful history of post-9/11 America. It penetrates deep into American culture and psychology.

But the book also offers details that provoke much thought: Why is "Ground Zero" called by that name when the site was never hit by anything atomic? ... Who has done more damage to America, the terrorists or US administrations? And who really stands to gain from a perpetual state of fear?

But perhaps the most important question that the book raises is why isn't anyone investing enough time, effort and money in a bid to achieve peace? As all forms of technology, planning and funding have been exhausted to secure an ever illusive "victory" (over an undefined enemy); isn't time to try a new strategy instead of repeating more of the same old failed ones again and again?

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/features/?id=41191>

Brisbane war correspondent alleges U.S. forces committed war crime in Iraq

'My report was too hot to broadcast': Brisbane war correspondent

Kate Dennehy

September 19, 2010

Mr Ware, who covered the Afghanistan war from 2001 and the Iraq war from 2003 for Time magazine and the US television network CNN from 2006, returned to Brisbane in December suffering post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

His harrowing near-decade of war coverages were documented last Monday in the first of a two-part ABC Australian Story series, with the second part to be broadcast tomorrow night.

Mr Ware tells of the alleged incident he says he witnessed and filmed in 2007 when working for US news giant CNN, but claims the network decided the footage was too graphic to go to air.

He alleges that a teenager in a remote Iraqi village run by the militant Islamist group, al-Qaeda was

carrying a weapon to protect himself.

“(The boy) approached the house we were in and the (US) soldiers who were watching our backs, one of them put a bullet right in the back of his head. Unfortunately it didn't kill him,” he tells Australian Story.

“We all spent the next 20 minutes listening to his tortured breath as he died.

He alleges the incident was “technically” a breach of the Geneva Convention or “a small war crime if there's such a thing”.

Mr Ware's friend, journalist John Martinkus who now teaches media studies at the University of Tasmania, returned to Baghdad in 2007 where he had worked previously for the SBS's Dateline program.

“One of the first things he (Ware) showed me was that tape and he was watching it over and over and over again,” Mr Martinkus said.

He said CNN owned the footage and Mr Ware therefore was not free to give it to anyone else.

Mr Martinkus, like Mr Ware, was kidnapped during his time in Iraq.

“People really need to understand what Mick's been through. The footage should be shown so people know how callously US soldiers treat the Iraqis,” he said.

Mr Ware's parents, Gail and Len of the outer-Brisbane suburb of Ferny Grove said their son's PTSD symptoms include nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia and mood swings. His son, Jack, aged 7 is helping his rehabilitation in Brisbane, they said.

He witnessed his first suicide bomb attack in Iraq when Australian ABC cameraman, Paul Moran was killed and reporter, Eric Campbell was wounded in 2003.

Mr Ware said three of his Iraqi staff were kidnapped and tortured by al-Qaeda because of him but he managed to get them back.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/my-report-was-too-hot-to-broadcast-brisbane-war-correspondent-20100918-15gwf.html>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010
page 2

More Stryker Brigade soldiers charged with assault on Afghans

By Hal Bernton | Seattle Times

3 September 2010

Five soldiers from a Western Washington-based infantry brigade have been charged with aggravated assault for firing on three Afghan men, expanding the scope of the alleged crimes committed by a troubled group in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

The newest charges follow charges filed earlier this year that accuse five brigade soldiers of killing three Afghan civilians in January, February and May of this year.

All together, the Army criminal investigation that began in May has resulted in more than 70 criminal charges filed against 12 soldiers.

The charges include allegations of illegal drug use, impeding investigations and of participation in an assault against a fellow soldier viewed as a drug informant.

Among those charged with aggravated assault against the three Afghan men are Staff. Sgt. Calvin Gibbs, of Billings, Mont., and Spc. Michael Wagnon, of Las Vegas. Both are incarcerated and facing court-martials on separate murder charges.

Read more: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/09/03/100147/more-stryker-brigade-soldiers.html#ixzz0yfludsOq>

More coverage:

US troops took body parts, 'kept finger trophies'

9 Sep 2010

Breaking News and Commentary from Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) newswire service from the foreign (UK) press

American soldiers murdered Afghan civilians and took body parts as trophies, it was alleged last night. Shocking documents show five soldiers have been charged with killing innocent Afghans in January, February and May this year after forming a secret "kill team". In charge sheets obtained from the US Army, Staff Sgt Calvin Gibbs, Cpl Jeremy Morlock, Pte First Class Andrew Holmes, Specialist Michael Wagnon and Specialist Adam Winfield are accused of the crimes.

Other soldiers were accused of stabbing an Afghan corpse, taking or possessing photographs of casualties and beating other men in an effort to keep them talking to investigators.

A further seven servicemen are accused of a conspiracy to cover up the events.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/09/10/us-troops-kept-finger-trophies-115875-22550314/>

Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG)
P.O. Box 1142
Bristol, CT 06011-1142
<http://www.legitgov.org>

US soldier admits gruesome killing of Afghan civilians

Sep 27, 2010, 21:54 GMT

Washington - One of five US soldiers charged with premeditated murder described his unit leader as ordering the gruesome death of unarmed Afghan civilians in a military interrogation video obtained by US media on Monday.

Corporal Jeremy Morlock, who faced a pretrial military hearing Monday in Washington state, admitted in the interrogation his role in the slayings of three Afghans. He described how his 'crazy' Staff Sergeant Calvin Gibbs would seek out civilians and order them killed by the military unit.

'We identify a guy. Gibbs makes a comment, like, you know, 'You guys wanna wax this guy or what?'' Morlock told the military interrogators.

Morlock, Gibbs, Specialist Adam Winfield, Specialist Michael Wagnon II and Private First Class Andrew Holmes face the death penalty or life in prison if convicted by a military court.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/southasia/news/article_1587416.php/US-soldier-admits-gruesome-killing-of-Afghan-civilians

op/ed

How To Spot A Whitewash In Army's Death-Squad Inquiry

by Spencer Ackerman, Wired Magazine
September 20, 2010

According to Army investigators at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State, soldiers in the 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment of what's now the 2nd Stryker Brigade hunted and killed Afghan civilians for sport. If this gruesome tale turns out to be true, then it means American soldiers in Afghanistan became something we associate with the worst of all war crimes, something that we'd like to believe simply doesn't exist among our troops: a death squad.

A small group of soldiers in the platoon, report the Washington Post and the Army Times before it, hatched a plot to target Afghan civilians for death. Three alleged murders occurred between January and May in Kandahar at the hands of the self-described "Kill Team" headed by a staff sergeant in the platoon who apparently boasted of getting away with abuse in Iraq. The motives of the "Kill Team" are unknown at this point, but they appear to be indistinguishable from sadism: we only know about the plot because a private came forward to investigators after "Kill Team" members beat him up — ironically, on suspicion that he was a snitch. This is going to get even uglier: apparently there are photographs of some of the team posing with the corpses they created.

Details surrounding the alleged death squad are subject to dispute and counter-accusation as the Army's investigation proceeds. But what little is known so far suggests a path for investigators to determine how these alleged war crimes could have occurred — and how observers can spot a whitewash if they don't follow it. Short answer: look at how their commanders behaved.

1. What did the chain of command know?
2. What was the command environment in the unit?
3. How did the Army's whistleblower system fail?

It bears mentioning that lots of units in Iraq and Afghanistan have, for years, waged violent warfare against insurgents and did not produce anything like the death squads under investigation here. There's a world of legal and moral difference between killing civilians and killing enemy fighters.

Read More <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/09/how-to-spot-a-whitewash-in-armys-death-squad-inquiry/>

Call for 'Gaza style' inquiry into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan

Former UN official demands investigation into coalition link to deaths revealed by WikiLeaks

26 Sep 2010

by Mark Townsend, for *The Observer* (UK)

A United Nations investigation into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan should be launched to identify and prosecute individuals responsible, says a former top-ranking UN official on extrajudicial killings. Philip Alston called for the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the "conduct of the war" in Afghanistan amid rising concern over the level of civilian casualties caused by coalition forces and by the Taliban. It should be modelled, he said, on the inquiry into Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip.

In his first interview since stepping down last month after six years as the UN's special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Alston said the lack of prosecutions concerning alleged war crimes was a major cause of concern because of the large number of Afghan civilians killed in the conflict.

"If states are not carrying out reasonably neutral investigations and prosecutions of what appear to be serious violations, it does leave open the possibility that the international community should be intervening in some way.

"An interesting proposal, but one that would draw disdain, no doubt, would be for some sort of international inquiry into the conduct of the war in Afghanistan, along the lines of Gaza. Otherwise, who is going to do a thorough investigation and track down where the decisions were actually taken?"

Last year's contentious UN investigation into Israel's campaign in the Gaza Strip found evidence that both Israel and Hamas had committed war crimes. Yet the failure of the European Union and the US to endorse the inquiry triggered claims by human rights groups that western powers would pursue war crimes violations only when it suited them.

More than 1,000 Afghan civilians were killed in armed violence and security incidents in the first six months of the year.

Afghanistan is a signatory of the treaty that established the **Hague-based ICC (International Criminal Court)**, which means that any war crime committed on its territory by Afghan nationals or foreigners is relevant to the court.

Alston said the refusal of the US to become an ICC signatory meant that an inquiry by the United Nation's **Human Rights Council** offered a reasonable alternative.

Saman Zia-Zarifi, director of **Amnesty International**'s Asia-Pacific programme, said the Gaza inquiry made sense because Israel was not an ICC signatory. But in relation to Afghanistan public pressure and "legal jurisprudence" could still mean the ICC was the best authority to investigate serious allegations in Afghanistan. He said: "I think the most appropriate forum is the criminal court."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/sep/26/afghanistan-demand-war-crimes-probe>

Iraq war resister marks one year since taking sanctuary in Vancouver church

By: Tamsyn Burgmann, The Canadian Press

Posted: 19/09/2010

VANCOUVER - American Rodney Watson will always remember watching a fellow soldier brutally beat an Iraqi civilian in anger over a divorce letter from his wife.

He'll recall the soldier spitting racist slurs in the faces of the people they were there to help, and then the same man turning to tell him, an African-American, not to worry — he'd never insult Watson like that.

After one year of duty overseas, Watson refused to return to an institution where he knew he'd be called a snitch for reporting such actions and where he felt his country was actually in a war to reap oil.

When ordered back to Iraq, he fled to Canada in 2006 with the draft dodgers of the Vietnam War era top of mind.

But he didn't expect he'd be trading one prison for another.

Last year, the 32-year-old was the first U.S. war resister to take sanctuary in a church after Canadian immigration officials ordered him deported.

Watson marked his one-year anniversary inside the Vancouver United church Saturday with all the hope he could muster, while longing for a day of fresh air in Stanley Park where he could watch his

toddler son run.

"I can't be a part of that and it breaks my heart knowing that I risked my life in war and now I'm being treated like a criminal," Watson said, gazing Sunday around a gathering area in the church that's become his home.

"I can't even be a part of (my son's) life outside of this building. I feel like I'm being punished for having a good spirit."

Watson, from Kansas City, Kan., is among about 40 Americans who've been fighting legal battles, with the help of the War Resisters Support Campaign, to remain in Canada over their views on the Iraq war.

He now lives in a one-bedroom apartment inside the church with his wife and son.

His anniversary comes less than two weeks before MPs debate a private member's bill that would allow like-minded people to apply for permanent resident status in Canada.

Watson joined the military after being laid off from his job in the auto industry. While he had signed up to be a cook in Iraq, he was instead given the task of searching cars for explosives.

A conversation one day with an Iraqi man summed up his objections.

Watson recalls the man asking him "why do white soldiers and white contractors hate us so much?"

Watson replied saying he'd been wondering the same questions for years back in America.

"We clicked on that," he said "We knew we had something in common, even though we came from different worlds."

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/iraq-war-resister-marks-one-year-since-taking-sanctuary-in-vancouver-church-103249774.html>

Liberal MP will negotiate on bill to keep U.S. war resisters in Canada

By Juliet O'Neill, Postmedia News September 27, 2010

Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy says he is willing to "narrow" his private member's bill in hopes of securing parliamentary approval to allow 300-400 U.S. Iraq war resisters to stay in Canada.

Kennedy said in an interview Monday he is open to giving up the broad part of his bill to make Canada a haven for all conscientious war objectors around the world.

He admits the timing may not be right for that and "it's not a requirement for me that that very broad principle now be ensconced in the Immigration and Refugee Act."

Kennedy would instead agree to narrow the bill down to Americans who have left the U.S. military and

come to live in Canada — many of them to avoid a second tour of duty in Iraq forced by a U.S. military "stop-loss" program to deal with personnel shortages.

The bill to stop the deportation of deserters and allow them permanent residence in Canada is scheduled for a House of Commons vote on Wednesday evening upon second reading — or approval in principle — that would then send it to committee where amendments could be made.

About 40 Americans who moved to Canada to avoid military duty in Iraq have applied to stay in Canada on humanitarian grounds. The cause is championed by the United Church of Canada, Amnesty International and a number of other groups.

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 was not sanctioned by the UN Security Council and was not supported by Jean Chretien's then-Liberal government.

Read more:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Liberal+will+negotiate+bill+keep+resisters+Canada/3586787/story.html>

follow up on Tillman case:

Navy, Marine theaters decline to screen Tillman film

file under: 'friendly fire'

By Karen Jowers - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Sep 9, 2010

Theaters on Navy and Marine Corps installations are joining those on Army posts and Air Force bases in declining to show "The Tillman Story," documentary film.

"The Tillman Story," which does not portray the Army and Defense Department in a positive light, is the story of Pat Tillman, who left a lucrative career as a professional football player to join the Army in 2002 and was killed in Afghanistan in 2004.

For more than a month, officials withheld from his family and the public the fact that he was shot by his fellow Rangers. Investigations still have not uncovered exactly who killed Tillman.

"The Tillman Story" was written and directed by Amir Bar-Lev.

"The Tillman Story" was released Aug. 20. "The Tillman Story" opened in additional theaters Sept. 3 in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and nine other cities. On Friday, it will be shown in 14 cities; and in an additional five cities on Sept. 17.

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/09/military-navy-marine-decline-tillman-movie-090910w/>

file under: war profiteering

Md. Judge: Military Contractors Can Be Sued

By the Associated Press
September 13, 2010

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) -- A federal judge says military contractors can be sued by soldiers and others who allege they were harmed by improper waste disposal while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. District Judge Roger W. Titus ruled last week in Maryland that military contractors including Halliburton Co. must face lawsuits alleging the soldiers were exposed to toxic emissions and contaminated water when they burned waste in open pits.

Titus is overseeing 43 lawsuits filed in 42 states on the issue.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/09/13/us/AP-US-Burn-Pits-Lawsuit.html?_r=2&emc=eta1

sidebar:

\$13m Reaper Drone Crashes During Test Flight in California

Staff report, Air Force Times

Posted : Friday Sep 3, 2010 5:46:01 EDT

An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft crashed Tuesday about one mile north of El Mirage Airfield, Calif., the service said Wednesday.

The 36-foot-long plane came down in a "sparsely populated" area and no one was injured on the ground, an Air Force release said. A board of officers is investigating what led the accident.

Since the service began flying MQ-9s in 2004, at least eight of the planes have crashed, according to the Air Force Safety Center. The planes, equipped with sensors, cost about \$13 million each.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/09/nt-uav-crash-090110/>

***Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death*, by Jim Frederick**

--book review by Vietnam veteran and novelist Edward Wilson

--chilling echoes of Vietnam war in a US platoon's Iraq killing spree

The Guardian (UK), Saturday 21 August 2010

This isn't a book for armchair war junkies. It's about what Wilfred Owen called "the pity of war". The centre and the pity of Jim Frederick's account is the murder of the Janabis, an Iraqi family, and the rape of their 14-year-old daughter by four US soldiers. The most chilling aspect of the crime was the casual

manner in which it was carried out. It was almost a jape – something to break the boredom of endless hours at a checkpoint. The soldiers did it because they had the power to do it; they didn't need a reason why – almost the invasion of Iraq in microcosm.

The rapists were from an infantry platoon in the US army's most elite division, the 101st Airborne, which provided "the Band of Brothers". It was the division sent by Eisenhower to enforce civil rights legislation and ensure that nine African-American children could attend Little Rock Central High School. It is associated with honour, not atrocity

There are three basic things to avoid in war: getting killed, being convicted of war crimes and having a commanding officer who thinks you are useless. B Company's ill-fated 1st Platoon avoided none of these. By the end of their deployment, 11 of 1st Platoon's 33 members were dead or in jail for murder. Why? According to their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Kunk, it was all their fault: "You 1st Platoon are fucked up. Fucked up! Every single one of you!" Colonel Kunk was straight out of Catch-22. His officers referred to his control-freak outbursts as "getting Kunked" or being under the "Kunk gun". He seemed to have had every tact and empathy instinct removed: 1st Platoon's seven killed in action "were dead because of their failings", and the survivors were "quitters, crybabies and complainers".

The most toxic of 1st Platoon's leaderless soldiers was Steven Green. His psychosis seemed obvious to all except the army's mental health professionals. On a combat stress report, Green's statement of "interests" as "none other than killing Iraqis" was dismissed as "normal". The alarm bells began to ring only when he killed a puppy by throwing it off a roof. At every step the army failed to protect the Iraqis from Green and Green from himself. His discharge papers, citing a pre-existing personality disorder marked by "indifference to the suffering of others", came too late. He had already committed rape and quadruple homicide.

In retrospect, it was obvious that Green was a troubled youngster whom the army couldn't redeem.

Inevitably, there are echoes of Vietnam, the most chilling of which comes from a 1st Platoon soldier: "You can't think of these people as people." The same dehumanisation that led to My Lai led to the murder of the Janabis. And in both wars, the soldiers who refused to tolerate dehumanisation were the real heroes. To his credit, Colonel Kunk, unlike his Vietnam predecessors, acted quickly and decisively. He may not have handled the matter tactfully – he immediately revealed the names of the whistleblowers, Justin Watt and John Diem, who risked retribution and scorn by reporting the murders – but he did the right thing.

Black Hearts is the best book by far about the Iraq war – a rare combination of cold truth and warm compassion.

- Edward Wilson is a veteran of the Vietnam war. His latest novel, *The Darkling Spy*, is published by Arcadia.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/aug/21/black-hearts-jim-frederick>

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[han-civiliansop/edHow To Spot A Whitewash In Army's Death-Squad Inquiry](#)by Spencer Ackerman, Wired Magazine September 20, 2010

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Read More <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2010/09/how-to-spot-a-whitewash-in-armys-death-squad-inquiry/Call for 'Gaza style' inquiry into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan> Former UN official demands

Investigation into coalition link to deaths revealed by WikiLeaks 26 Sep 2010 by Mark Townsend, for The Observer (UK) *A United Nations investigation into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan should be unchained to identify and prosecute individuals responsible, says a former top-ranking UN official on extrajudicial killings.* Philip Alston called for the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the "conduct of the war" in Afghanistan amid rising concern over the level of civilian casualties caused by coalition forces and by the Taliban. It should be modelled, he said, on the inquiry into Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip. In his first interview since stepping down last month after six years as the UN's special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Alston said the lack of prosecutions concerning alleged war

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arks one year since taking sanctuary

n Vancouver church By: Tamsyn Burgmann, The Cana

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<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/iraq-war-resister-marks-one-year-since-taking-sanctuary-in-vancouver-church-103249774.html>

Liberal MP will negotiate on bill to keep U.S. war resisters in Canada

By Juliet O'Neill, Postmedia News September 27, 2010

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Read more:

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By Karen Jowers - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Sep 9, 2010

Theaters on Navy and Marine Corps installations are joining those on Army posts and Air Force bases in declining to show "The Tillman Story," documentary film.

"The Tillman Story," which does not portray the Army and Defense Department in a positive light, is the story of Pat Tillman, who left a lucrative career as a professional football player to join the Army in 2002 and was killed in Afghanistan in 2004.

For more than a month, officials withheld from his family and the public the fact that he was shot by his fellow Rangers. Investigations still have not uncovered exactly who killed Tillman.

"The Tillman Story" was written and directed by Amir Bar-Lev.

"The Tillman Story" was released Aug. 20. "The Tillman Story" opened in additional theaters Sept. 3 in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and nine other cities. On Friday, it will be shown in 14 cities; and in an additional five cities on Sept. 17.

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/09/military-navy-marine-decline-tillman-movie-090910w/>

file under: war profiteering

Md. Judge: Military Contractors Can Be Sued

By the Associated Press

September 13, 2010

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) -- A federal judge says military contractors can be sued by soldiers and others who allege they were harmed by improper waste disposal while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. District Judge Roger W. Titus ruled last week in Maryland that military contractors including Halliburton Co. must face lawsuits alleging the soldiers were exposed to toxic emissions and contaminated water when they burned waste in open pits.

Titus is overseeing 43 lawsuits filed in 42 states on the issue.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/09/13/us/AP-US-Burn-Pits-Lawsuit.html?_r=2&emc=eta1

sidebar:

\$13m Reaper Drone Crashes During Test Flight in California

Staff report, Air Force Times

Posted : Friday Sep 3, 2010 5:46:01 EDT

An MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft crashed Tuesday about one mile north of El Mirage Airfield, Calif., the service said Wednesday.

The 36-foot-long plane came down in a “sparsely populated” area and no one was injured on the ground, an Air Force release said. A board of officers is investigating what led the accident.

Since the service began flying MQ-9s in 2004, at least eight of the planes have crashed, according to the Air Force Safety Center. The planes, equipped with sensors, cost about \$13 million each.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/09/nt-uav-crash-090110/>

***Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death*, by Jim Frederick**

--book review by Vietnam veteran and novelist Edward Wilson

--chilling echoes of Vietnam war in a US platoon's Iraq killing spree

The Guardian (UK), Saturday 21 August 2010

This isn't a book for armchair war junkies. It's about what Wilfred Owen called "the pity of war". The centre and the pity of Jim Frederick's account is the murder of the Janabis, an Iraqi family, and the rape of their 14-year-old daughter by four US soldiers. The most chilling aspect of the crime was the casual manner in which it was carried out. It was almost a jape – something to break the boredom of endless hours at a checkpoint. The soldiers did it because they had the power to do it; they didn't need a reason why – almost the invasion of Iraq in microcosm.

The rapists were from an infantry platoon in the US army's most elite division, the 101st Airborne, which provided "the Band of Brothers". It was the division sent by Eisenhower to enforce civil rights legislation and ensure that nine African-American children could attend Little Rock Central High School. It is associated with honour, not atrocity

There are three basic things to avoid in war: getting killed, being convicted of war crimes and having a commanding officer who thinks you are useless. B Company's ill-fated 1st Platoon avoided none of these. By the end of their deployment, 11 of 1st Platoon's 33 members were dead or in jail for murder. Why? According to their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Kunk, it was all their fault: "You 1st Platoon are fucked up. Fucked up! Every single one of you!" Colonel Kunk was straight out of Catch-22. His officers referred to his control-freak outbursts as "getting Kunked" or being under the "Kunk gun". He seemed to have had every tact and empathy instinct removed: 1st Platoon's seven killed in action "were dead because of their failings", and the survivors were "quitters, crybabies and complainers".

The most toxic of 1st Platoon's leaderless soldiers was Steven Green. His psychosis seemed obvious to all except the army's mental health professionals. On a combat stress report, Green's statement of

"interests" as "none other than killing Iraqis" was dismissed as "normal". The alarm bells began to ring only when he killed a puppy by throwing it off a roof. At every step the army failed to protect the Iraqis from Green and Green from himself. His discharge papers, citing a pre-existing personality disorder marked by "indifference to the suffering of others", came too late. He had already committed rape and quadruple homicide.

In retrospect, it was obvious that Green was a troubled youngster whom the army couldn't redeem.

Inevitably, there are echoes of Vietnam, the most chilling of which comes from a 1st Platoon soldier: "You can't think of these people as people." The same dehumanisation that led to My Lai led to the murder of the Janabis. And in both wars, the soldiers who refused to tolerate dehumanisation were the real heroes. To his credit, Colonel Kunk, unlike his Vietnam predecessors, acted quickly and decisively. He may not have handled the matter tactfully – he immediately revealed the names of the whistleblowers, Justin Watt and John Diem, who risked retribution and scorn by reporting the murders – but he did the right thing.

Black Hearts is the best book by far about the Iraq war – a rare combination of cold truth and warm compassion.

- Edward Wilson is a veteran of the Vietnam war. His latest novel, *The Darkling Spy*, is published by Arcadia.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/aug/21/black-hearts-jim-frederick>

related:

Pentagon destroyed 10,000 copies of army officer's book

--file under: curioser and curiouser

"The whole premise smacks of retaliation," he told CNN. "Someone buying 10,000 books to suppress a story in this digital age is ludicrous."

The book was cleared for publication by his superiors at the US army reserve command despite being critical of strategy in Afghanistan.

But shortly before it was due to leave the warehouse, the Pentagon's intelligence unit raised concerns.

The author has said he has fallen victim to an increased sensitivity about inside information following the release by the Wikileaks website of thousands of military documents detailing the conduct of the war, and the resignation of Gen Stanley McChrystal as US commander in Afghanistan

Lt Col Shaffer also said that the "Pentagon wanted to shut this off until after the election", because it was "more bad news".

The books were destroyed on Sep 20.

The few copies of the book that managed to evade the Pentagon's dragnet are now being exchanged for up to \$2,000 on the internet.

Lt Col Shaffer has since agreed to a redacted version of the book, which is released this week. He has said that though the Defence Department promised "surgical" censorship the book has been substantially redacted throughout its 300 pages with black marks replacing words or passages deemed unacceptable.

"When you look at what they took out, it's lunacy," he said.

An early line in the book reads: "Here I was in Afghanistan (redaction). My job: to run the Defence Intelligence Agency's operations out of (redaction) the hub for U.S. operations in country."

It comes as the Watergate journalist, Bob Woodward, publishes his book *Obama's Wars*, which shines a light on the in-fighting between top officials that threatened to tear the White House apart.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/8026220/Pentagon-destroyed-10000-copies-of-army-officers-book.html>

file under: U.S. war crimes in Iraq

Two Soldiers Allege U.S. Commander Ordered "360 Rotational Fire" in Iraq

--indiscriminate killing of civilians is a war crime, for which people were hanged at Nuremberg Trials

Sunday 12 September 2010

by: Ralph Lopez, t r u t h o u t | Report

A controversial battalion commander ordered soldiers to open fire on civilians in an indiscriminate pattern of "360 rotational fire," upon being hit by an improvised explosive device (IED).

In an interview with Scott Horton, on *Antiwar.com Radio*, Spc. Josh Stieber said that he witnessed the street massacres, which resulted when the order was carried out "maybe five to ten times."

The first soldier to reveal the order, Spc. Ethan McCord, told *World Socialist Website News* reporter Bill Van Auken last April that the commander, Lt. Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, told his men in different settings and at various times that "If someone in your line gets hit with an IED, 360 rotational fire. You kill every motherf*cker on the street."

McCord said that he had also witnessed the order carried out, saying: "I've seen it many times, where people are just walking down the street and an IED goes off and the troops open fire and kill them."

High-level orders to kill civilians in the context of retaliation for attacks on forces have already been successfully prosecuted as a war crime. In 1944, German SS Obersturmbannführer Herbert Kappler ordered the execution of civilians in the ratio of ten to one for every German soldier killed in a March

1944 attack by Italian partisans. Kappler was sentenced to life in prison. The executions took place in the Caves of Ardeatine in Italy, and were made into the subject of a movie starring Richard Burton. None of the lower-ranking soldiers who actually carried the order out were prosecuted. The attack which spurred the World War II German commander's retaliatory executions, intended as collective punishment for not informing on partisans, was an IED planted in a garbage container. Kappler's rank was the equivalent of a lieutenant colonel.

Stieber, McCord's friend and former unit mate in the 2-16, told Horton:

"In a lot of our opinions the stuff we were doing was creating more hatred against us, and yeah, picking fights, and finding more enemies, and actually the only thing that seemed to change that, and the only thing that seemed to prove worthwhile, was actually sitting down and negotiating with and talking with people we knew had at one time or another attacked us."

Both McCord and Stieber say they saw their mission as a plan to "out-terrorize the terrorists," in order to make the general populace more afraid of the Americans than they were of insurgent groups.

Both Stieber and McCord have said that a number of soldiers in Bravo Company refused to carry out Kauzlarich's order to kill civilians, and agreed among themselves that they would fire into the rooftops of buildings instead. McCord told Van Auken in his April, "you couldn't just disobey orders to shoot, because they could just make your life hell in Iraq." In describing reaction among soldiers to hearing the order, McCord has said, "a lot of soldiers wouldn't do that."

McCord suddenly found himself in the national spotlight last spring as the soldier who could be seen on grainy video rescuing two wounded children after a 2007 Apache helicopter attack in Baghdad. The attack was captured through the Apache's gun camera and leaked to the government watchdog organization WikiLeaks.

Both Stieber and McCord have become outspoken opponents of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In their talks and interviews, both frequently place the largest share of the blame for atrocities and egregious behavior by American troops on the systematic training which teaches soldiers to "dehumanize" an occupied population. Stieber says:

"I learned that the military trains people to hate and dehumanize entire people groups... And sadly, the military tries to rob you of what's inside and the result is people treating killing like a joke and showing little care for human life."

McCord often says of the attacks seen in the 2007 WikiLeaks attack video:

"Instead of people being upset at a few soldiers in a video who were doing what they were trained to do, I think people need to be more upset at the system that trained these soldiers. They are doing exactly what the Army wants them to do."

Stieber and McCord are the authors of the widely-circulated "Open Letter of Reconciliation and Responsibility to the Iraqi People," co-signed by other soldiers as well as civilians, which states in part:

"We did unto you what we would not want done to us. More and more Americans are taking responsibility for what was done in our name. Though we have acted with cold hearts far too many times, we have not forgotten our actions towards you. Our heavy hearts still hold hope that we can

restore inside our country the acknowledgment of your humanity, that we were taught to deny...."



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<http://www.truth-out.org/second-soldier-alleges-former-tillman-commander-ordered-360-rotational-fire-iraq63153>

file under : mercenaries run amuck

Murder trial under way for 2 ex-Blackwater contractors in 2009 deaths of 2 Afghan men

DENA POTTER
AP News

Sep 15, 2010

Two former defense contractors were fueled by alcohol and rage the night they killed two Afghan nationals and injured another on the streets of Kabul, prosecutors claimed during opening statements of the their trial on Wednesday.

Cannon, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Drotleff, of Virginia Beach, face murder, assault and weapons charges that could send them to prison for life. Their trial began Wednesday in U.S. District Court and is expected to last two to three weeks.

The men were in Afghanistan to provide weapons training to the Afghan National Army as "contractors."

Prosecutors claim instead that the victims were headed to their village after a day working in their flower wholesale business followed by dinner, and that they were driving on the shoulder of the road simply as a shortcut — a common occurrence along that road. They say the contractors stopped the car, then told it to go.

As it fled, Cannon and Drotleff fired about 30 rounds — Cannon with an AK47 and Drotleff with a 9mm pistol — hitting both men in the car and a bystander who was walking his dog with a friend. One man in the car and the man on the street died from gunshot wounds.

"They were not soldiers and they were not on a mission," McGovern said. "They were contractors who were making their own rules that night."

"Afghanistan is a dangerous place, there is no dispute as to that," McGovern said. "But that night, the evidence will show, that Justin Cannon and Christopher Drotleff were responsible for that danger."

Prosecutors will continue their case on Thursday, including bringing the bullet-riddled Toyota to the courthouse.

Source: AP News

<http://wire.antiwar.com/2010/09/15/2-ex-blackwater-contractors-on-trial-in-slayings/>

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010
backpage

An Indiana Town Reflects Growing Doubts Among Americans about the Afghan 'War'

By Peter Slevin
Washington Post Staff Writer
September 18, 2010

ELKHART, IND. - The Afghan war began more than half a lifetime ago for the teenagers in Adam Meyers's world history class. Some of his students think the terrorist attack that prompted the war was an airplane accident. To them, al-Qaeda remains a mystery, the Taliban an enigma.

The American battle for Afghanistan? "It doesn't register," Meyers said.

"We should just end it. Bring the troops home," said Ashley Ivory, 17, who thinks the war is doing nothing to stop terrorists. "They're just sneaking in here while we're over there. We don't have enough eyes."

The views of the students and the community around them echo a growing national skepticism about U.S. involvement in a distant war that will soon enter its 10th year and register its 1,270th U.S. casualty. A majority of Americans say the war has not been worth its cost, an opinion voiced frequently in Elkhart, a hard-luck town that sees the conflict through the lens of loss and economic hardship.

Meyers and his students have a particular reason to reflect. Army Spec. Justin B. Shoecraft, 28, who attended Elkhart Memorial High School with Meyers, was killed late last month by a roadside bomb, barely a month after he reached Afghanistan. When his mother in Elkhart heard the news, she screamed, then fainted.

Views in Elkhart tend toward exasperation, a collective throwing-up of hands, rather than the competing emotions of anger and pride over the Iraq war at its combustible peak. Even people who think U.S. troops should keep fighting tend to say so in reluctant tones.

"We're stuck. I just wish we could pull out, but we can't," said Becky Cole, an office manager having a drink recently at the Bulldog, a restaurant in east Elkhart. "The one thing I hate about it is we've been there nine years."

"I never wanted my son to be a little old obituary in the paper," Donna Shoecraft explains, still reeling from the shock. When she learned that Justin was heading to Afghanistan to fight, she tried to talk him out of it, telling him, "You go over there, you're going to be in nothing but dirt, mud and sand."

She and her husband, Carroll, known as "Blue," don't know what inspired Justin to enlist in his mid-20s.

"We're just old factory people," Donna Shoecraft says. Blue wears an enormous gray beard and punches the clock at a local machine shop. On Sundays, he works at the local drag strip. He spends his spare time collecting Schwinn bicycles and fixing up old cars, most recently a '27 Dodge coupe, now a gleaming yellow.

After finishing high school in 2001, Justin Shoecraft showed little interest in the military recruiting pitches that came his way. He spent six years hefting boxes for UPS. "Big heart, do anything for you," said Kevin Doctor, who often gave him a ride to work. "Real mild-mannered, head down. The kind of guy who flew under the radar." He married his girlfriend the day before he left for basic training.

When a pair of soldiers appeared unannounced at the Shoecrafts' front door the other day, Donna Shoecraft screamed so loudly that neighbors four houses away heard her. The war that she had long doubted finally broke her heart.

"Why are we there? Why are we even there?" she asked a few days later, the shock still fresh.

>From the front door of his secondhand shop down the street, Don Fisher watches the comings and goings at the Shoecrafts' home. He was fond of Justin and considers Blue Shoecraft a real friend.

Fisher is an Army veteran who says he always considered the Afghan war unwinnable. The billions in taxpayer dollars should be spent on "people who are sleeping under bridges or living out of food banks," he said.

"We've been there too long, way too long. I just think it's a useless war," said Fisher, a soldier from 1958 to 1967.

The rising casualties and the preoccupation with the economy are contributing to doubts about the U.S. mission, said Elkhart Mayor Dick Moore, a Democrat who won 66 percent of the vote in this Republican town.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/17/AR2010091705767_pf.html

file under: Colorado used as military dump

Army cuts back plan to blow up chemical arms

The Associated Press
Posted : Sep 14, 2010

PUEBLO, Colo. — The Army has cut back on the number of mustard agent shells it wants to destroy in closed chambers at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The Army now wants to use explosions to destroy up to 40,000 shells, down from 125,000 in an earlier plan, the *Pueblo Chieftain* reported Tuesday.

About 780,000 obsolete shells containing mustard agent are awaiting destruction at the Pueblo depot under terms of an international treaty. Most will be neutralized with water and bacteria, but the Army has always planned to use explosions in closed chambers to destroy shells that are leaking or damaged. Previously, officials estimated such shells would be number 400 to 1,000.

An environmental assessment on the plan to destroy 40,000 intact shells with explosives will be completed next year.

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/09/ap-cut-back-on-chemical-arms-detonation-091410/>

Okinawa city elections reveal strengthening anti-U.S. base stance

By David Allen and Chiyomi Sumida

Stars and Stripes

Published: September 13, 2010

GINOWAN, Okinawa — Opposition to a plan to relocate military air operations to Camp Schwab from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is growing stronger and becoming more polarized, according to results of Nago city assembly elections Sunday.

U.S. base opponents in the northern Okinawa city that hosts Camp Schwab won a 60 percent majority in the elections. Of 27 seats, anti-base candidates won 16 seats and 11 went to pro-base candidates.

The Nago vote boosts the power of Mayor Susumu Inamine, who was elected on an anti-base platform last January.

The election could also affect the Okinawa governor's race, where Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima, who reluctantly supported the relocation plan in 2006 but now says he's opposed to it, faces Ginowan Mayor Yoichi Iha, a fervent opponent of the project. That election is scheduled for Nov. 28.

Okinawa's governor can hinder the progress of the relocation plan by refusing to allow dumping tons of landfill into Oura Bay, known as the northernmost feeding ground of the endangered dugong, a saltwater manatee.

<http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/japan/okinawa-city-elections-reveal-strengthening-anti-u-s-base-stance-1.118002>

war crimes

Australian soldiers charged with manslaughter of Afghan children

AP
27 Sept 2010

Australia's top military prosecutor said three former Australian soldiers will be charged with manslaughter in relation to a raid on a compound in Afghanistan that left five children dead.

Brigadier Lyn McDade, the Director of Military Prosecutions, said today that the special forces soldiers face multiple charges including manslaughter, dangerous conduct and failing to comply with a lawful general order.

The charges relate to a February 2009 raid on a compound in southern Uruzgan province that was believed to harbour Taliban insurgents.

Six Afghans, including five children, were killed, and another two children and two adults were wounded.

The soldiers were not identified.

The civilians died after the Special Operations Task Group soldiers used gunfire and hand grenades during the operation, the defence department said at the time.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/australian-soldiers-charged-with-manslaughter-of-afghan-children-2090708.html>

sidebar:

British have withdrawn partially from Afghanistan, having taken 100 fatalities in Sangin district alone

by William Pfaff, syndicated columnist

The British withdrawal of a Royal Marines force from the Sangin district of Helmand Province, where they had taken more than 100 fatal casualties since 2001, [is hardly noticed in the mainstream American news]. U.S. troops have taken their place. Britain still has 9,500 soldiers in the Afghanistan NATO force. Meanwhile, the Dutch have left and the other European allies are disillusioned as to the utility of this war -- other than to the Taliban, who profit from the nationalism and anti-westernism it generates.

The United States' "international missions" are self-elected -- its alone -- and its policy is one of war, in which the Europeans no longer believe.

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<http://www.williampfaff.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=483>

from the archives:

'They don't like it up 'em!': Bayonet fetishization in the British Army during the First World War

Journal of War & Culture Studies, 2008
by Paul Hodges

The bayonet was widely fetishized in the British Army in the First World War era. This had real effects on the battlefields. Supreme confidence was placed in British masculinity, a masculinity that depended on the effective and brutal use of this weapon. Training frequently focused on it. Both this confidence and training focus were misplaced, as in fact the bayonet was not a particularly useful or effective weapon. The combination of this strong fetishization of the weapon and its ineffectiveness had a tendency to encourage atrocity and prisoner killing, in which some soldiers indulged keenly, as the main opponents on whom the bayonet could be used successfully were those who were unarmed or wounded.

It is not often that comedy catchphrase pearls have grown from a piece of grit of historic military culture, let alone one based on wounds and wounding. However, Corporal Jones's stock epithet, 'They don't like it up 'em!' from the popular sitcom *Dad's Army* seems to have done so. The character and his catchphrase had origins in the co-writer's Jimmy Perry's experiences of the Second World War and roots even further back. Jones was based on an elderly, experienced lance-corporal under whom Perry served when aged 15 in the 19th Hertfordshire Battalion, Local Defence Volunteers (the Home Guard's precursor), and his catchphrase came from an instructor in the Royal Artillery, to which Perry was later called up (Webber et al. 2001: 7-8; Perry and Croft 2003: 15). But certainly the catchphrase would not have sounded out of place in the British trenches of the First World War and would not have been laughed at. Confidence in the British infantry's prowess with the bayonet was high and, indeed, compared with many contemporary soldiers' texts, Corporal Jones's love of 'cold steel' is positively anaemic. Such texts are highly revealing, displaying a self-supporting military culture.

British military training at the time of the First World War laid strong emphasis on the usage of the bayonet. This standard piece of infantry equipment was difficult to use in open combat other than against prone opponents. Almost by definition, these prone opponents could have been considered potential prisoners. Despite this and other practical inadequacies, the bayonet retained its elements as a standard-bearer, a shibboleth and, JWCS 1 (2) pp. 123-138 (c) Intellect Ltd 2008 123 indeed, rather a fetish for the British Army. A fetish - defined as 'something regarded with irrational reverence' (Chambers 1988: 526) - is an apt description of the bayonet, for it was held in great esteem within the British Army despite its battlefield inadequacies. Other definitions of a fetish - 'an object believed to procure for its owner the services of a spirit lodged within it' and even 'an inanimate object to which a pathological sexual attachment is formed' (Chambers 1988: 526) - are not that far off the mark in some statements about bayonets made by troops. The latter can be discerned in a letter dated 25 April 1915 written by Lance Corporal W. Francis that described him and his comrades swarming up a hill and the lust to kill is on us, we see red. Into one trench, out of it, and into another. Oh! The bloody gorgeousness of feeling your bayonet go into soft yielding flesh - they run, we after them, no thrust one and parry, in goes the bayonet the handiest way. (Gammage 1974: 96-97) Similarly, the reported sergeant-major's training ground cliché which went along the lines of 'Fix bayonets! Don't look down! You'd soon find the hole if there was a fucking tart on it' (Vansittart 1981: 33), also carries a similar

sexual charge.

A report by the British Small Arms School that investigated their efficiency in 1924 made it clear that during the First World War the utility of the bayonet as a cutlass or dagger proved to be negligible. As a killing shape it makes a very nasty wound, but is of a bad section for penetration and worse for withdrawal. Owing to its great length and the leverage exerted it frequently breaks or bends, even against straw-filled sacks and in spite of being kept properly sharpened. (Anon. 1924) Other criticism in the report makes it clear that British lives were lost due to bayonets' unwieldiness in a fight, their propensity to glint or reflect at night and their deleterious effect on shooting accuracy and ability.

When attacking the chest with a bayonet it risked bouncing off the ribcage without inflicting the necessary debilitating injury, or else the bayonet's tip was broken or shattered completely on a rib. Sticking the enemy's belly risked getting the bayonet stuck fast there.

Did British interest in bayonet charges result in atrocity? Euphemistic hints in this direction were contained in contemporary bayonet training manuals, such as when Captain McLaglen details advice on 'delivering point to the "downed" opponent' (McLaglen 1916: 12-13). "Downed" indicates that the opponent was probably disarmed or wounded but certainly little threat and thus protected under proper application of military law. The British Manual of Military Law was clear-cut on this (War Office 1914: 248). Denis Winter goes as far as to assert that 'no man in the Great War was ever killed by a bayonet unless he had his hands up first' (Winter 1978: 110).

<http://www.britannica.com/bps/additionalcontent/18/37564227/They-dont-like-it-up-em-Bayonet-fetishization-in-the-British-Army-during-the-First-World-War>

epitaph for this edition of "Truth in Recruiting"

War is liberty's greatest enemy, and the deadly foe of economic progress.

~Leonard E. Read, from the Prologue (1981) to "Conscience on the Battlefield" (a dialogue inspired by the Korean War, 1951)

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship's Counter-Recruitment Update/Digest, for Oct 2010
masthead

TPF needs your support.

You can donate online via PINC (pull down menu for US\$ donations)

<http://www.pincgiving.com/donate/organization/1202854>

Or, please mail a check or money order made out to the "Tulsa Peace Fellowship" to :

The Tulsa Peace Fellowship

c/o UU Church of the Restoration,

1314 N. Greenwood Ave, Tulsa Oklahoma. Zip code: 74106-4854

Find on a map: [Google Maps link](#)

Contributions to TPF are not tax deductible.

who we are:

***The Tulsa Peace Fellowship** is the activist wing of the peace movement in Eastern Oklahoma. TPF offers citizens and community groups tools and resources to participate personally in our democracy, to help shape federal budget and policy priorities, and to promote peace, social and economic justice, and human rights. TPF is a registered non-profit organization and a non-partisan civic-sector organization, loosely affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, north side of Tulsa.*

"Waging Peace One Person at a Time".

Through its counter-recruitment task force, TPF is a member of the **National Network in Opposition to the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY)** representing some 188 counter-recruitment groups in cities and towns across the country. On the web: http://www.nnomy.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=216&Itemid=91

Tulsa Peace Fellowship is open to members of third parties, progressives, Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Greens, etc. If you have not already done so, please join the **new social networking tool for TPF on Ning**, in lieu of TPFtalks on yahoogroups, which has fallen into disuse. Thank you! You can check out our new tool here: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com> (new for 2009). Also still going strong: our announcement list on yahoo! tulsapeace@yahoogroups.com (since 2002). Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "tulsapeace".

If you enjoyed this news digest and/or found this update useful, please consider making a donation of time, money, or effort to the Tulsa Peace Fellowship. Details on tax status available.

The next monthly anti-war demo in Tulsa is scheduled for **Saturday Oct 2nd 2010, 12noon to 2pm, with the theme: "U.S. Out of Afghanistan Now!"**
Details online: <http://tulsapeacefellowship.ning.com/events/out-of-afghanistan-1>

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Fellowship will be held **on Thursday, Oct 7th 2010, 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM @ the UU Church of the Restoration, in Tulsa, just north of downtown**

--including members from other local non-partisan groups such as the Tulsa chapter of "Season for Non-Violence," the Tulsa University chapter of Amnesty International, TulsaTruth.org, the Center for Racial Justice in Tulsa, the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, Pax Christi, and the Quakers

Come join us! Especially parents, guardians, and students in the Tulsa Public Schools system who are interested in countering the presence of military recruiters on school grounds.

An archive of TPF counter-recruitment updates and other related TPF material is available to members online:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tulsapeace/>

You must sign in to yahoo! groups to see the archived "message history"

TPF messages have been archived online since 2002

TPF was founded some 30 years ago.

Current membership online: 753 (including 687 subscribers through Yahoogroups, 64 subscribers through Ning, our preferred network since 2009)

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Strength Through Peace: Out of Iraq & Afghanistan

Accountability: Indict, Prosecute & Imprison Bush & Cheney for War Crimes

JROTC: Out of Our Schools

Schools as Military-Free Zones

Alternatives to War: Department of Peace & cabinet-level Secretary of Peace

THE 10 REASONS why you should NOT enlist

Ten excellent reasons not to join the military:

- a.. You May Be Killed, Even By Mistake
- b.. You May Kill Others Who Do Not Deserve to Die
- c.. You May Be Injured
- d.. You May Not Receive Proper Medical Care
- e.. You May Suffer Long-term Health Problems
- f.. You May Be Lied To
- g.. You May Face Discrimination
- h.. You May Be Asked to Do Things Against Your Beliefs
- i.. You May Find It Difficult to Leave the Military
- j.. You Have Other Choices, including the Choice to Learn a Marketable Skill

for more info:

<http://www.10reasonsbook.com/medcare.htm>

further information

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