

GI SPECIAL 2#C24

Sewing The Wind, Reaping The Whirlwind



Scum In Command Launch Attack On 343rd Soldiers: “These guys need some really good legal counsel.”

Reservists could learn this week what their punishments will be in convoy incident.

November 17, 2004 By Jeremy Hudson, Jackson, Miss. Clarion-Ledger

Administrative actions have been initiated against some members of the Army Reserve unit who refused a convoy order in Iraq last month and others could face criminal charges, officials said.

Members of the Rock Hill, S.C.-based 343rd Quartermaster Company who refused a convoy order Oct. 13 could learn this week what their punishments will be, some relatives said. Sgts. Larry McCook and Michael Butler, both of Jackson, were among the 18 reservists who refused the order, citing contaminated fuel, poor leadership and ill-equipped vehicles.

The 300th Area Support Group commander reviewed the initial findings of an investigation and “certain administrative actions have been initiated as a result of this review and more actions, including criminal charges, are possible in the future,” Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, director of the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad, said in an e-mail.

Military administrative actions are not public record, he said. Boylan would not provide the identities or number of soldiers being considered for criminal charges.

Beverly Dobbs, mother of Spc. Joseph Dobbs, 19, of Vandiver, Ala., said her son was told he could face nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. **The criminal charges would be willful disobeying of a superior command officer and insubordinate conduct, she said.**

Under the Military Code of Judicial Conduct, the maximum penalty for the criminal violations would be a dishonorable discharge and up to five years in confinement, said Mark Stevens, a military law expert at North Carolina Wesleyan College. Punishments vary by rank, he said.

“We are hoping for an Article 15,” said Beverly Dobbs. “I’d rather have that than have to even think about prison for my son. I don’t feel like anything should happen to any of them.”

Cook and Butler were among five soldiers assigned to different units after the refusal. Their wives, Patricia McCook and Jackie Butler have been outspoken in support of their husbands. But the wives did not return repeated phone calls Tuesday.

Ricky Shealey of Quinton, Ala., father of Spc. Scott Shealey, 29, said the soldiers appeared before a review board this weekend and were told they needed to seek legal counsel. “We are just on pins and needles right now,” he said.

Boylan said the soldiers continue to have access to legal counsel, but Ricky Shealey said his son has not yet seen an attorney.

The Pentagon has said the soldiers raised some “valid” concerns in their refusal, but they were expressed improperly.

“These guys need some really good legal counsel because a lot of things (including later discharge) need to be considered before they accept the Article 15,” Stevens said.

MORE:

Army Gears Up For Punishment

11/16/2004 ERIC SCHMITT and ARIEL HART, New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 - An Army investigation has recommended that two dozen members of an Army Reserve unit in Iraq be punished for disobeying orders last month to deliver fuel to another base, a Pentagon official and relatives of the soldiers said Monday.

Most of the reservists will probably receive fines, demotions or reprimands, but four or five could face courts-martial on more serious charges, said the Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the inquiry's recommendations had not been announced.

About 18 members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C., were held for nearly two days after refusing orders on Oct. 13 to drive a fuel convoy from Tallil Air Base, near Nasiriya in southern Iraq, to Taji, 15 miles north of Baghdad. The soldiers complained that their vehicles had not been properly outfitted, their fuel was contaminated, and they were not being escorted by armed vehicles.

The inquiry found fault with six other soldiers, the Pentagon official said, **but it was not clear if that included the unit's commander and top noncommissioned officer, who were later reassigned.**

Teresa Hill, mother of one of the reservists, said Monday that the troops were being told of their punishments. Her daughter, Specialist Amber McClenny, whose message on an answering machine was for days the only first-person account of the incident available to reporters, told her mother she feared that the military would make an example of her.

Ms. Hill said in a telephone interview that her daughter called her with an update this weekend. According to Ms. Hill, "She said they've called in five soldiers and said, 'You will have an Article 15.' "

In the military's legal system, an Article 15 is a nonjudicial punishment that can result in penalties including fines, reduction in rank or written reprimand. **A soldier can refuse an Article 15 and request a court-martial proceeding.**

Specialist McClenny was told to report separately to hear her punishment.

"She feels like she's being used as a poster child," Ms. Hill said.

About a dozen reservists who refused to go to Taji remained in the same camp with Specialist McClenny. Beverly Dobbs, the mother of another reservist, said her son Joe had called her on Saturday morning and said he had been called before a review board the day before. He and his fellow soldiers were being called in three at a time.

"He was supposed to go talk to some lawyers and stuff today," Ms. Dobbs said. "He said he wasn't for sure what he was going to do yet," she added in a telephone interview. "He said, 'You might have to get me a lawyer, Mama.' "

"I'll say it over and over, I do not understand why they're having to go through this," she said. "They joined because that was a dream for all of them. It can be ruined because they're not willing to listen to what they're trying to say. To my mind they saved lives by not going out."

Eric Schmitt reported from Washington for this article, and Ariel Hart from Atlanta.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Fighting Continues In Fallujah: “Our Western Flank Is Of Particular Concern”

November 17, 2004 By Edward Harris, Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — When the first bullets snapped by overhead, Iraqi civilians collecting corpses in Fallujah on Wednesday stood confused, rooted to the ground — until Marines opened up on the insurgents with heavy machine guns. That sent the workers dashing for cover.

The U.S. military declared the one-time rebel stronghold completely occupied but not subdued on Saturday after a nearly weeklong battle. [Got that?]

U.S. and Iraqi forces are still fighting — underscored by the Wednesday rebel ambush in Fallujah's northern Jolan neighborhood.

“Even as we start Fallujah’s reconstruction, the fighting is continuing, as you can hear,” Capt. Alex Henegar, a civil affairs officer attached to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, told reporters Wednesday as heavy gunfire and grenade explosions sounded in the distance. [Nice try.]

The fight soon moved closer, with insurgents attacking patrolling Marines in the same neighborhood where the two-dozen Iraqi workers cleared corpses from ruined buildings for an anonymous burial in a dirt lot outside Fallujah.

The Iraqi civilians dived in front of their flatbed truck loaded with bodies and against walls already spattered with bulletholes from an earlier firefight.

Henegar, 30, of Lookout Mountain, Ga., said the insurgents were believed to have sneaked back into the city, crossing the narrow Euphrates River, where thick papyrus reeds line both banks.

Marine officers say that while all roads to Fallujah have been blocked, insurgents may still sneak in via old paths and across Euphrates River channels the American and Iraqi government forces don’t know.

“Our western flank is of particular concern,” said Henegar of the area delineated by the river, oxbows and marshes.

Marines say the heavy house-to-house combat that began Nov. 9 after a night of heavy airstrikes moved quickly east-west across the northern half of the city, but that the wilier rebels hid from the massive tank and troop assault only to emerge days later.

“OK, here’s what’s going on. The insurgents are in this neighborhood,” Henegar told the Iraqis as they scrambled onto their trucks. “We’re killing them now, but let’s get out of here.” [Good idea, all the way back to the U.S.A., every last troop, right now, by any means necessary.]

Soldier Dies In Kirkuk Vehicle Accident

November 17, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1185-04

Spc. Daniel James McConnell, 27, of Duluth, Minn., died Nov. 16 in Kirkuk, Iraq, when he was involved in a vehicle accident. McConnell was assigned to the 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Ft. Bragg PFC Killed In Baghdad Wreck

November 17, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1178-04

Pfc. Isaiah R. Hunt, 20, of Green Bay, Wis., died Nov. 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, when the driver of his military vehicle accidentally struck another vehicle. Hunt was assigned to the 782nd Main Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

“Fierce Fighting” In Beiji; Nine U.S. Troops Wounded

November 17, 2004 The Australian & Associated Press

An attacker drove his bomb-laden car into a U.S. convoy during fierce fighting in the town of Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding 12, including nine American soldiers.

Witnesses said the bomb, which blew up in a market area near the centre of the Sunni Muslim city, damaged a US armoured vehicle, prompting some of the troops to open fire.

Resistance Attacks Occupation Forces In Ramadi

**REAL BAD PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Damage caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to the bullet proof windshield of his Humvee, as the IED blew up in the center of Ramadi (AFP/Patrick Baz 11.2)

November 17, 2004 Associated Press

Insurgents in Ramadi fired rocket-propelled grenades, mortar and Kalashnikov rifles at American forces in the city center, Zayout district and along the main highway in town, said Abdel Karim al-Hiti of Ramadi General Hospital.

Delayed Report Of Mosul IED Death

November 17, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1185-04

Pfc. Jose Ricardo Flores-Mejia, 21, of Santa Clarita, Calif., died Nov. 16 in Mosul, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device hit his convoy. Flores-Mejia was assigned to the 25th Transportation Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. **[Command did not report this attack in Mosul yesterday. Instead, there was nothing but happy talk about how everything there was wonderful. This announcement was pasted onto another about a soldier who died in an accident in Kirkuk.]**

Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded In Mosul; Ham (General) Comes Up With Lame Bullshit; U.S. Military Caught In Really Stupid Lie; Attacks On Anti-Iraqi Forces Up To 130 A Day

November 17, 2004 By The Washington Post & By KATARINA KRATOVAC, The Associated Press

Four U.S. soldiers were wounded by a car bomb that detonated near their convoy on the Mosul's western edge, said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings.

A U.S. Army infantry battalion was recalled from the fighting in Fallujah, 300 Iraqi National Guard soldiers came from garrisons along the borders with Iran and Syria and a special police battalion was sent from Baghdad. [Leaving those areas weaker, and open to more resistance attacks, of course, which is merely one more indication of why this war was lost long ago. Game over. Time to come home.]

Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, the U.S. commander in Mosul, told CNN "There were certainly pockets where we had to re-establish that control, **but there was never any police stations or other government facilities that were controlled for long periods of time,**" he said.

Spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said the biggest challenge remaining for the U.S. military was to shore up the police force of the city, 220 miles north of Baghdad.

“The police did not perform as we hoped they would,” he said.

Loud explosions and gunfire could be heard as U.S. warplanes and helicopters circled over Mosul, Iraq’s third-largest city with more than 1 million residents.

Mortar shells hit two areas near the main government building in the city center.

Nineveh province’s deputy governor said militants blew up the Zuhour police station ahead of the U.S. advance, **but the U.S. military denied any stations were destroyed.** [If you want a sign of panic in the command, here it is, as clear as day. Their first instinct now is to lie, lie again, and lie some more, really stupidly. Wire services Monday carried photos of one completely wrecked police station, and one ran in GI Special. Today, ANTHONY SHADID, Los Angeles Times, reported: “...at least *three* were too wrecked to be reoccupied.” T]

The clashes north and west of Baghdad since last week constitute the most intense fighting since the insurgency began in earnest six months ago. The U.S. military has reported 130 to 140 attacks a day, including car bombings, roadside mine blasts and ambushes, along with sabotage and intimidation of Iraqi security forces.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans’ benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it’s in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you’ve read, we hope that you’ll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

British Soldier Injured By IED

18th November 2004 By Nick Allen, PA & icCroydon

A Black Watch soldier was seriously injured today after being hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

He was in a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle about 10km from the British base at Camp Dogwood, 25 miles south west of Baghdad.

The Warrior was hit as it was being driven through the insurgent heartland on the East Bank of the Euphrates River.

Camp Dogwood itself received rocket fire for the first time in five days.

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME;
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



Army operating room nurses walk to the hospital morgue with the body of a U.S. Marine who died from wounds suffered in Fallujah at the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad Nov. 14 (AP Photo/John Moore)

**Polish Sector Of Occupation
Could “Disintegrate”;
Everybody Wants To Get The Hell
Out & Go Home**

Nov 17, 2004 By Natalia Reiter, WARSAW (Reuters)

A Polish-led multinational division in charge of security in south-central Iraq faces disintegration if more countries pull their troops out, Polish officials said on Wednesday.

Hungary's parliament on Monday refused to extend the mission of its 300 troops into the new year and Ukraine is also thinking of bringing home its 1,600 soldiers from the 8,000-strong division.

"A pull-out of Hungarian and Ukrainian troops would be a significant reduction," Poland's deputy foreign minister Boguslaw Zaleski told Reuters.

"A disintegration (of the brigade) is possible if more countries were to pull out because we would not be able to control the zone with just Polish troops," he added.

The pull-outs complicate Poland's own plans to substantially reduce its almost 2,500-strong force, which forms the backbone of the multinational division, after Iraqi elections in January.

Zaleski said one possibility would be to hand over the south central zone to Iraqi forces or to replace coalition troops with U.S. soldiers.

Poland was surprised by fellow east-European nation Hungary's decision to quit Iraq so soon after the U.S. election. Signals that Ukraine might follow suit appear to have rattled the government further.

Viktor Yushchenko, the opposition contender in Ukraine's close presidential election, has promised to withdraw troops as part of his campaign.

His rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, said the country could start pulling troops out after Iraqi elections in January.

Local Soldier Injured At Trailer Door

11-16-2004 By: MIA RHODARMER, The Monroe County Advocate

A Tellico Plains native serving in Iraq was injured Saturday when a missile was launched into his living quarters.

Tony Strickland, 33, is a soldier in the U.S. Army and is recuperating in an Army hospital in Germany. His mother, Christine Fender of Tellico Plains, said he had undergone surgery in Iraq for an injury to his lung and another surgery on his arm on Tuesday in Germany. His arm was broken in several places from his shoulder to his elbow and he also suffered head injuries.

"I cried all night Saturday," said Fender. "I didn't know what to do. It hurts to know your son is in another country, hurt and you can't help him." Fender said

her son had been off duty for the weekend and was looking out the back door of his living quarters when the missile exploded. "It blew him out of the trailer."

"I just thank the Lord he isn't hurt worse than he is and that he is coming home alive," Fender said. "He was luckier than some of the other guys; some of them didn't make it."

Strickland had been in Iraq for almost a year and was scheduled to come home in a couple of months.

Strickland's wife, Melissa, is the former director of the Red Cross chapter in Monroe County. They have a 15-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. The family lives in Greenback.

Local Marine Wounded In Battle Against Insurgents

November 17, 2004 By Linda McCarty, Edition Staff Writer, The Winchester Star

Brent Knowles' excitement over hearing his son's voice on the phone was short-lived.

"I've got good news and bad news," Marine Lance Cpl. Zak Knowles told his dad. "The good news is I might get a Purple Heart, and the bad news is I've got a piece of metal in my arm."

Brent, a Frederick County resident, said his 21-year-old son was wounded Monday during the seventh day of intense ground combat with insurgents in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

"Zak said his Marine squad was involved in a building entry thought to be occupied by about 12 armed insurgents," Brent said.

"While his squad was entering the room, one of Zak's friends was fatally shot in the face and had to be left behind to complete the mission."

While the battle continued, the insurgents dragged the fallen Marine into a room.

"When the battle was over, the Marines went to retrieve their comrade and became engaged in a fire fight," Brent said.

During the fight, a rocket-propelled grenade impacted near Zak and a piece of shrapnel entered his left biceps and flak vest.

"Zak told me his squad was falling back under intense fire when it happened, and while they were crossing a road, he felt like a baseball bat had hit him in his left side," Brent said.

Zak told his dad that he was stunned at first and didn't realize he had been wounded.

"Then he said he tried to push himself onto his feet and couldn't use his left arm," Brent said. "He said his flak-jacket was smoking."

Zak's squad pulled him from the road, and he and his squad continued the recovery of the dead Marine under fire."

"Finally, Zak had lost so much blood that he was unable to continue," Brent said, "and he was evacuated to an aid station out of the battle area."

Zak called his dad 11 hours after he was wounded.

"He told me he didn't have any feeling in his fingers," Brent said. "He said doctors could put pins in his fingers and he couldn't feel them."

Zak called his dad again on Tuesday morning and said another doctor had checked his wound.

Although Zak is concerned that he might have permanent nerve damage, he is more concerned about the death of his friend, who recently became a father.

"Zak told me his friend never got to see his son," Brent said. "Zak said he was going to talk to a chaplain to help him work through this."

Brent said he and his family feel relief, even though he's hurt, that Zak is in a safe place.

"I wish, though, that I was standing beside him right now," Brent said, "but I know he's being taken good care of."

Zak is a fire-team leader, who started his second tour with the India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in September. He had returned home from his first tour with the company a year earlier.

Southside Soldier Hurt In Fallujah

Nov. 16, 2004 By SHERRI CONER Daily Journal staff writer

Friday, when Klint South called his family's southside business, the receptionist at Deco Group was crying. South heard his mother crying in the background.

A representative from the U.S. Marine Corps had just contacted the family with news every military family fears.

South's younger brother, Lance Cpl. Klay South, 28, was injured in Fallujah. Shot in the face.

Information was limited. Apparently, when calls are made to families, military representatives "read from a script," South says. "And that's all they can tell you."

Earlier that day, South's mother, Janet South of White River Township, his grandmother and his younger sister Elizabeth, 19, were wrapping and preparing to mail Christmas gifts, to ensure Klay would receive them on time.

"I had to pull off the side of the road to let it sink in," South says.

Then he returned to the office, "And I just cried with my mom."

Klay South was transported from Iraq to Germany for evaluation. He is now on a ventilator in ICU at Bethesda Medical Hospital in Bethesda, Md.

His parents, Kirby and Janet South, left Sunday for Maryland. They were at the hospital before their son arrived.

Blood is still caked on his brother's hands and fingers, South says. "My dad said he smells like war," South says.

Janet South tearfully told her oldest son that swelling makes his younger brother, normally a strapping 6-foot-2-inch man of 215 pounds, "look like a 400-pound man in the face."

"When the bullet hit, it just dissipated in his mouth," South says. "So they've had to pull shrapnel out of his mouth and lips. That's really been hard on my mom and dad, to watch them pull pieces of metal out of Klay's mouth."

The extent of injury to Lance Cpl. South's right leg and arm are not yet known, South says. Swelling prevents medical staff from knowing yet whether he was actually shot in the leg or whether the injuries are from shrapnel. His arm and shoulder are numb.

A neurological evaluation is scheduled later today. And the first reconstructive surgery on his face is scheduled for Thursday.

"They're going to leave a piece of the bullet back by his throat; it's too dangerous to remove it," South says. " And they'll use bone from his hip to fuse his jaw. It's going to be two years of rehabilitation for his mouth."

Slipping in and out of consciousness and unable to speak, his brother scrawled a question for his parents: Were his buddies OK?

"Mom and Dad can't tell him how all of his friends are dead," South says softly. "Three were killed."

Army Scout Shot Going Door To Door In Fallujah; "They Never Had A Chance"

11.17.04 By ED ERNSTES, WSBT-TV Reporter

NAPPANEE -- A Nappanee soldier seriously injured by insurgents last week in Fallujah is in good spirits, according to his family.

"He's alive. That's all that matters," said Wayne Karnes of his son, U.S. Army Sgt. Andy Karnes.

Sgt. Karnes, 26, is an Army scout. On Thursday, Veterans Day, his squad was going door to door in Fallujah to clear rebels out of the city when the soldiers were ambushed.

They entered a house and were attacked by waiting insurgents.

"It was confirmed six terrorists were in there with automatic weapons. And they opened fire on our troops," the father said. "They never had a chance. And Andy and his first sergeant were the first two in and they were the first ones down."

Sgt. Karnes was shot in the back, his father said. He also reportedly suffered shrapnel wounds all over his body. Sgt. Karnes underwent surgery at an Army hospital in Fallujah.

"We can deal with him being seriously injured because we know he's going to heal and get better and come home," said Denise Karnes, Sgt. Karnes' stepmother.

They are overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support. "We have so many friends and family in this community. They have been wonderful with support for this family and worrying about Andy," Denise Karnes said.

"It is amazing the support from South Bend, Elkhart, Nappanee and the area towns. The people are just amazing," Wayne Karnes added.

Wounded Local Marine Lands In U.S.

November 16, 2004 Marsha Sills, South Louisiana Publishing

LAFAYETTE — Three inches of bone shattered in his arm and a bullet that trailed from his backside to just above his knee is what Lance Cpl. Sam Crist has to recover from in the upcoming months.

Crist, a 19-year-old Lafayette native, was injured Nov. 8 during an attack on Fallujah, Iraq. Crist, who is with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, was shot in his arm and leg.

This weekend, Crist was flown to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where he underwent six hours of surgery on his arm. Today, his family anticipates another surgery on his arm to piece together the shattered bone.

"The bottom line is, he still sounds good," said Bill Crist, the Marine's dad. "He's still got his sense of humor and was joking around. He sounds like he's going to be OK."

Bill Crist said his daughter, Courtney, spent the weekend with her brother in Maryland. Other family members, including Crist's mother, flew to Maryland on Monday.

The father said his family realizes they're fortunate and said he continues to feel for those families who have had different news come home.

"People need to be reminded of the families who won't get to hold their kids again," Bill Crist said. "In a couple of days, I'll hold him in my arms.

Others aren't as lucky."

Marine Injured

November 16, 2004 DWIGHT DANA, Media General News Service

A Florence Marine was seriously injured in the assault on Fallujah, Iraq, and transferred to a military hospital in Germany, where he remains in a medically induced coma.

Wesley Campbell "Camp" Ross, 20, suffered a head wound and an extensive wound to his shoulder in which the bullet exited through his chest, according to his aunt, Margaret Rose Sims. He was placed in the coma because of the head wound. His condition has been upgraded from grave to critical.

Ross' parents, Clyde and Renette Ross, and his half sister, Leigh Freeman, were flown to Germany on Sunday on a military aircraft. The military hopes it will aid in his healing to have loved ones by his side, Sims said.

Ross, a lance corporal, was injured Nov. 11. His parents were notified of his injuries the following day.

Ross, a 2002 graduate of South Florence High School, joined the Marines that fall on the buddy plan with his best friend, Josh Moore of Florence.

Moore is still in Fallujah. **Moore's family had much to do with him joining the Marines because Moore's father and uncle are Marines, Sims said. His father is retired, but his uncle is on active duty in Iraq.**

Ross liked to hunt and fish. He also played some golf and was on the chess team in high school.

Ed Terrio is one of Clyde Ross' co-workers. Both are contract workers with BellSouth. Renette Ross is employed by the Fleet Operations Center at BellSouth.

Terrio said a fund has been set up at Hoffmeyer Road Baptist Church in Camp Ross' name.

He said the fund is to assist Clyde and Renette Ross because they plan to stay with their son until he returns to the United States.

“The fund is to help them continue a stream of income while they are absent from work,” he explained. “They don’t know how long they will be in Germany or when Camp will be transferred to a military hospital in this country.”

Terrio said Ross celebrated his 20th birthday Sept. 6. He left for Iraq on Sept. 11.

The address for Hoffmeyer Road Baptist Church is P.O. Box 3905, Florence, SC 29502. Checks should be made out to the Camp Ross Fund.

“I Prayed For You To Come Back With All Of Your Arms And Legs”

11.17.04 By DARYL K. TABOR, The Ashland City Times

Behind the pomp and circumstance of the Army’s official send-off ceremony here for Tennessee National Guard troops and the once-part-time soldiers from five other states comprising the 278th Regimental Combat Team, were the tears and pride of the families none too eager to say goodbye.

The two-hour ritual brought an estimated 6,000 family members and friends crowded onto the soggy parade grounds, along with military brass and national, state and local leaders.

For the 4,000 soldiers having just crammed 10 years of National Guard training into only five months, the emotion was clouded with impatience to get their yearlong service in Iraq under way.

For one father, whose family in Ashland City was unable to be at last week’s send-off, it was a solemn prayer uttered by his young son that makes him anxious to finish duty in Iraq.

“I saw him praying and asked what he had prayed for,” M Company Sgt. Michael Whorf said of the exchange before returning to Camp Shelby at the end of leave. “He said, ‘I prayed for you to come back with all of your arms and legs.’”

“That’s what gets to me,” Whorf said, clutching his hands to his heart while lying on his bunk in a concrete barrack at Camp Shelby.

Delaware Lawmakers Want Probe Into Dover Anthrax Tests

October 12, 2004 Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — **Delaware's congressional delegation on Monday called on military officials to investigate allegations that the Defense Department illegally tested anthrax vaccinations at Dover Air Force Base in 1999.**

The (Wilmington) News Journal reported Sunday that former base commander Col. Felix Grieder believes that his troops were the subject of illegal experiments at Dover. The troops received anthrax vaccine that may have contained squalene, a fat-like substance that occurs naturally in the body and can boost a vaccine's effect.

Some experts say even trace amounts of squalene can suppress the human immune system, causing arthritis, neurological problems, memory loss and migraine headaches.

Sens. Joe Biden and Tom Carper and Rep. Mike Castle said they will send a letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld asking him to look into the allegations.

Problems began at Dover in May 1999, after some troops in their 20s and 30s began developing illnesses usually seen in much older people.

Grieder, the former base commander, halted the vaccination program, a move he said brought an end to his military career.

Testing by the Food and Drug Administration detected squalene in all the vaccine sent to Dover, but not in vaccine sent to other military installations. The military no longer tests for squalene.

"In my opinion, there was illegal medical experimentation going on," Grieder, who lives in Texas, told The News Journal.

A group of civilian scientists at Tulane University has conducted two studies that found evidence of squalene injections in the blood of troops.

Government officials have acknowledged that the Department of Defense secretly tested squalene on humans in Thailand; Grieder believes similar tests were conducted in Dover. **In a March 1999 report, the GAO accused the Defense Department of a "pattern of deception" and said the military confirmed human tests involving squalene only after investigators found out about them.**

The Defense Department made anthrax inoculations mandatory for all active-duty military personnel in 1998. The immunization order remains in effect, and more than 1.9 million troops have received the inoculations.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Insurgents Blow Up Samarra/Baghdad Pipeline

[Insert any one of 3,592 photos of burning pipeline here.]

November 17 AFP

Iraqi police say insurgent forces have attacked a domestic oil pipeline west of the city of Samarra in the latest strike against Iraq's major industry.

Police spokesman Mohammad Mahmud said the saboteurs used explosives in what was the sixth such attack in as many months.

"At 8:00am, four kilometres west of Samarra, insurgents detonated explosives on a pipeline that links the Baiji refinery with the refinery in Dora [south of Baghdad]," he said.

United States troops and Iraqi national guards were seen arriving at the site of the attack where flames were spewing into the air.

31 Occupation Cops Captured In Rutba

November 17, 2004 Associated Press

Reports surfaced that 31 policemen had been captured in the town of Rutba near the Jordanian border by armed men who stormed a hotel where the officers were staying.

The Karbala police officer who made the report said he escaped a raid Sunday by armed men in the hotel, according to a police spokesman.

The officer said about 20 men attacked the hotel, covering the captives' heads with black bags and tying their hands before dragging them away, the spokesman said. The officer said he was beaten but was not abducted.

Occupation Guards Killed In Iskandariyah

November 17, 2004 By Katarina Kratovac Associated Press

South of Baghdad, a roadside bomb detonated Wednesday near an Iraqi National Guard convoy in the insurgent hotspot of Iskandariyah, killing two guardsmen and wounding three others, police and hospital officials said.

3000 Demonstrate In Baghdad Against Occupation Arrests

November 17, 2004 By Katarina Kratovac Associated Press

In Baghdad, some 3,000 protesters peacefully demanded the release of seven followers of Shiite Ayatollah Mahmoud al-Hassani, who had been detained by U.S. forces in the past week.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Dead Wrong

November 16, 2004 By YOCHI J. DREAZEN and GREG JAFFE Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"The insurgents can strike where we're not strong, and don't have to hold the ground for long to win the headlines and the support of the uncommitted, especially if [they are] ruthless," said one senior military official. "This will be a long fight." [Wrong. Neither the ordinary American public nor the armed forces will stand for much more.]

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Breaking A City In Order To Fix It

November 14th, 2004 by Edward Wong, New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Neutralizing the threat from the green-domed mosque looked almost effortless. Marines in the dusty warrens of Falluja had been taking fire from one of its twin minarets. They called in air support. A 500-pound bomb slammed into a blue-tiled tower, obliterating a signature part of the Khulafa Al Rashid mosque, the city's most celebrated religious building.

As in a fevered dream, that and other scenes of destruction played out last week in Falluja before the eyes of American troops, residents and reporters.

It proved one thing: That the Americans are great at taking things apart. What comes after the battlefield victory has always been the real problem for them during their 19 months in Iraq.

Given the track record of the Americans and their allies, military analysts say, the immediate goals in Falluja seem naïve, if not utterly inconsequential given the surging resistance across the Sunni-dominated regions of Iraq, almost certainly organized by the very leaders who fled Falluja before the offensive.

"Iraq is a complex problem," said Charles Pena, director of defense policy studies at the Cato Institute, a libertarian research group based in Washington. "Our problem is that we keep leading people to believe that there are simple solutions."

"Our military action creates other problems that our military cannot solve," he said. "And we haven't been very good at fixing what we broke in Iraq."

Most of the Iraqi forces have done little actual fighting. They roll in after the Americans have already cleared city blocks of insurgents and are assigned to search buildings.

Some seem disoriented as they stand in the debris-strewn landscape, their brown uniforms spotless from not having done a lick of fighting. Little has changed since last May, when the First Armored Division laid siege to Karbala, and Iraqi security forces merely cleared weapons out of mosques.

Said Anthony H. Cordesman, a Middle East analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, "**It is absurd to believe that destroying Falluja and then rebuilding it will win support for the Americans and the interim government.** The American military said it has put aside \$100 million for reconstructing the devastated city. But that does not solve the much bigger problem of unemployment, now at 60 percent nationwide. That is a motivating factor for young men joining the insurgency."

"How much money and aid effort does it really take," Mr. Cordesman said, "to jump-start an economy rather than provide welfare for Falluja?"

Same Old Same Old

"The people of England have been led in Mesopotamia into a trap from which it will be hard to escape with dignity and honor. They have been tricked into it by a steady withholding of information. The Baghdad communiqués are belated, insincere, incomplete.

"Things have been far worse than we have been told, our administration more bloody and inefficient than the public knows. It is a disgrace to our imperial record and may soon be too inflamed for any ordinary cure.

“We are today not far from a disaster. Our unfortunate troops, Indian and British, under hard conditions of climate and supply are policing an immense area, paying dearly every day in lives for the willfully wrong policy of the civil administration in Baghdad but the responsibility, in this case, is not on the army which has acted only upon the request of the civil authorities.”

T.E. Lawrence, *The Sunday Times*, August 1920, writing from Falluja

MORE:

Fallujah 101; A History Lesson

November 12, 2004 By Rashid Khalidi, In These Times

There is a small **[300,000 isn't exactly "small"]** City on one of the bends of the Euphrates that sticks out into the great Syrian Desert. It's on an ancient trade route linking the oasis towns of the Nejd province of what is today Saudi Arabia with the great cities of Aleppo and Mosul to the north. It also is on the desert highway between Baghdad and Amman. This city is a crossroads.

For millennia people have been going up and down that north-south desert highway. The city is like a seaport on that great desert, a place that binds together people in what are today Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Jordan. People in the city are linked by tribe, family or marriage to people in all these places.

The ideas that came out of the eastern part of Saudi Arabia in the late 18th Century, which today we call Wahhabi ideas—those of a man named Muhammad Ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab—took root in this city more than 200 years ago. In other words, it is a place where what we would call fundamentalist salafi, or Wahhabi ideas, have been well implanted for 10 generations.

This town also is the place where in the spring of 1920, before T. E. Lawrence wrote the above passage, the British discerned civil unrest.

The British sent a renowned explorer and a senior colonial officer who had quelled unrest in the corners of their empire, Lt. Col. Gerald Leachman, to master this unruly corner of Iraq. **Leachman was killed in an altercation with a local leader named Shaykh Dhari. His death sparked a war that ended up costing the lives of 10,000 Iraqis and more than 1,000 British and Indian troops. To restore Iraq to their control, the British used massive air power, bombing indiscriminately. That city is now called Fallujah.**

Shaykh Dhari's grandson, today a prominent Iraqi cleric, helped to broker the end of the U.S. Marine siege of Fallujah in April of this year. Fallujah thus embodies the interrelated tribal, religious and national aspects of Iraq's history.

The Bush administration is not creating the world anew in the Middle East. It is waging a war in a place where history really matters.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

First Flight

[THANKS TO R WHO E-MAILED THIS IN:]

The President, the First Lady and Dick Cheney are flying on Air Force One.

George looks at Laura, chuckles and says, "You know, I could throw a \$1,000.00 bill out the window right now and make somebody very happy."

Laura shrugs her shoulders and says, "Well, I could throw ten \$100.00 bills out the window and make 10 people very happy."

Cheney says, "Of course then, I could throw one-hundred \$10.00 bills out the window and make a hundred people very happy."

The pilot rolls his eyes, looks at all of them and says to his co-pilot, "Such bigshots back there..... hell, I could throw all of them out the window and make 56 million people very happy."

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