

GI SPECIAL 6/19:

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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

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

U.S. Terrorists Attack Iraqi Soldiers On Mission To Help Iowans



Photo: REUTERS/Erik de Castro

An Iraqi soldier of Liberation Company, 4th Infantry Battalion, searches the shopping bags of Americans for evidence of terrorist activity during a patrol in Iowa City, west of Chicago September 23, 2018.

As the patrol left Iowa City, U.S. terrorists from a Special Group connected to the terrorist Patrick Henry terrorist militia attacked the patrol with two roadside bombs, a favorite weapon of local terrorists. Casualty figures have not yet been released by Central Command, Baghdad.

In another incident, Iraqi soldiers killed five Americans, a man, woman, and three children, when their vehicle disobeyed orders to stop at an Iraqi Army checkpoint near Des Moines, Iowa.

Scattered fanatic U.S. terrorist organizations continue a deadly insurgency against the Iraqi Occupation of the United States.

“The terrorists are being defeated,” said outgoing Iraq President Khurr’ub Bushmah.

He again reminded Americans that Iraq had bought the United States from the United States Federal Reserve Bank, when Iraq bailed out the bankrupt U.S. treasury in 2014, after U.S. government bonds fell to a value of .03 of the dollar, and U.S. short term

Treasury notes could find no buyers in the market, leaving the United States government unable to pay its bills.

The bailout package, which bought the United States for \$98 trillion, was financed from the income Iraq has received from oil revenues since 2010, as well as oil sale anticipation bonds.

As part of the bailout deal, the top wealth holders in the United States were guaranteed that their financial, business and real property would retain their value, and they would be welcome to work closely with and solicit business contracts from the new United States government put in place by the Iraqi leadership to manage their investment.

A four year study of possible methods of holding elections in the United States reported last week that political parties free of U.S. militia infiltration have grown strong enough to permit some local areas to experiment with limiting voting.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Texas 1 Sgt. Killed Near Tallil



1st. Sgt. Julio C. Ordonez, 54, of San Antonio died Sept. 18, 2008 when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in went down in the vicinity of Tallil, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, Texas Army National Guard, Grand Prairie, Texas. (AP Photo/Texas National Guard)

Texas Sgt. Killed Near Tallil



Sgt. Anthony L. Mason, 37, of Springtown, Texas, who Sept. 18, 2008 when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in went down in the vicinity of Tallil, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, Texas Army National Guard, Grand Prairie, Texas. (AP Photo/Texas National Guard)

Texas CWO Killed Near Tallil



Texas National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Corry A. Edwards, 38, of Kennedale, Texas, Sept. 18, 2008 when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in went down in the vicinity of Tallil, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation, 36th Combat Aviation

Brigade, Texas Army National Guard, Grand Prairie, Texas. (AP Photo/Texas National Guard)

MND-B Soldier Killed In Attack (Baghdad)

21 September 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20080921-08

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died as a result of a small-arms fire attack on his patrol at approximately 11 a.m. in Baghdad.

MND-C Soldier Killed In Attack (Salman Pak)

23 September 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20080923-02

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – Center Soldier was killed as a result of a small-arms fire attack west of Salman Pak Sept. 23.

U.S. Forces Get Some For The Resistance: Kill Key Collaborator Leader

9.23.08 By KIM GAMEL, AP [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD (AP) — American soldiers accidentally shot and killed the leader of a local U.S.-allied Sunni group Tuesday after coming under attack in a volatile area north of Baghdad, the military said.

The head of the group in Siniyah, Jassim al-Garrou, was killed after he rushed to the site of an ambush against U.S. forces in the area, which lies between the northern oil-hub of Beiji and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, according to witnesses and police.

One of al-Garrou's comrades said the group would demand an apology from the Americans.

“The Awakening Councils have become targets of al-Qaida, the government and sometimes even the U.S. forces. We do not know our fate and we are feeling lost,” Farooq Sami said.

“We are undertaking the task of combating terrorists, yet we are left sometimes unpaid and without money. We have participated in maintaining peace and security in our area, yet we sometimes do not get our salaries.”

In Tuesday’s incident, the U.S. soldiers were hunting for insurgents and weapons after they were hit by a roadside bomb and small-arms fire near Siniyah, 110 miles northwest of Baghdad, according to an e-mailed military statement.

The troops then came under fire while searching a house and “shot a Sons of Iraq leader who was mistaken for the enemy when he entered the house,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. David Russell, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

Medical aid was administered, the military said, but the troops were unable to save al-Garrout.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment near Qara Tappah, about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad in Diyala province July 21, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

“The Security Plan Which Started About Twenty Months Ago Had Failed To End The Roadside Bombs, Mortars, Assassinations And At Least Car Bombs”

“The Iraqi People And Especially Baghdad Is Fed Up With Promises By Officials And Security Commanders Of The Improving Of The Security Situation”

September 23, 2008 By Correspondent Hussein, Inside Iraq

For several months Baghdadi residents had got relief from car bombs which cause death and chaos in our capital. That thing didn't last as we had six car bombs within the last seven days in Baghdad alone.

Thus, the security plan which started about twenty months ago had failed to end the roadside bombs, mortars, assassinations and at least car bombs.

Yesterday we had two car bombs, one in Karrada neighborhood and the other one in Jamiaa neighborhood.

As a result we witnessed today terrible traffic jams in Baghdad check points. For me I was stuck in a terrible long queue of cars on Jadiriya bridge, one of the important bridges in Baghdad that links its west bank with the east one, due to the three check points on it.

There were five lanes of cars on that bridge while the Iraqi police check point allow one lane to pass without checking the cars nor carrying any device to tell that they are searching to prevent car bombs to detonate in Karrada neighborhood or any other place in Baghdad.

All the people were furious as they wasted their time waiting at the check point of no use.

For me, I spent one hour waiting in the taxi to have the car move 500 meters. Time wasn't with me. I phoned my local manager to tell him that I would be a little bit late for the morning meeting. He surprised me that he is on the bridge, too. Also two of our bureau drivers were on the bridge. I decided to leave the taxi and walked to the office. Eventually, I arrived ten minutes late, but I was the first even before the manager and the two drivers who were riding their own cars.

People keep asking of the real benefits of having so many check points all over Baghdad with the violence starts again to show up these days after a period of freezing which didn't last long.

Is this a kind of pressure message to the government? Or is something bigger than that? Is it related to the military operations in Diyala and Mosul?

The Iraqi people and especially Baghdad is fed up with promises by officials and security commanders of the improving of the security situation.

Millions of students in schools and universities started their new studying year this week which will add more traffic in Baghdad and more targets for the car bombs.

If the check points lessen the car bombs, we are happy with them.

Instead, we have soldiers and policemen who wave for the cars to move like traffic policemen who are useless.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Q-C Soldier Killed In Bombing In Afghanistan

09/21/08 By Dustin Lemmon, The Quad-City Times

When Nathan Cox told his mother about Afghanistan, he didn't share details about the fighting, although there was a lot. Instead, he described what interested him most.

He told her about three-story buildings made of cedar and rock, farms terraced out of hillsides and the animals he saw.

"I didn't know there were monkeys," Jane Cox said Sunday.

The 32-year-old Davenport native died Saturday from a roadside bombing in violence-marred Korengal Valley, his mother said. She and Nathan's father, Leslie Cox of Walcott, Iowa, learned of his death from the Army later that day.

"It's been lots and lots of warfare, and that's about all the Army has told us to date," she said.

Cox said her son was an E-6 staff sergeant with Viper Company, First Battalion out of Ft. Hood, Texas, and was deployed to Afghanistan in July.

After attending Davenport Central High School, Cox entered the Army and served three years in Bosnia in the mid-1990s before deciding at 29 to re-enter the Army and make it his career, Jane Cox said. He served a year in Iraq prior to his Afghanistan deployment.

One reason Cox rejoined was so he could explore new places. Jane Cox said that's why he liked describing the countries where he was stationed.

"He's very, very interested in foreign affairs," Cox said. "He said the country was beautiful over there." Cox also wanted to help the people in Iraq and Afghanistan, she said, adding her son was a strong soldier who was advancing quickly through the ranks.

"He had just come into his own and felt comfortable with leadership," she said. "He really worked with his young men. He would listen to their problems."

Cox leaves behind a wife, Annie, and 5-year-old daughter, Sophia, his mother said. They live in Ft. Hood but will likely move back to the Quad-Cities soon, she added.

Cox said she and her husband, who last saw their son in June, will attend a memorial service at Ft. Hood on Friday. She said arrangements still have to be made for his funeral.

"He was very special," she said. "He was an amazing young man who had so much time left."

Three Czech Soldiers Wounded In Logar

9.22.08 ČTK

Logar, Afghanistan/Prague - Three Czech soldiers from the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) were injured in a missile attack against their base in the Logar province in Afghanistan during the night, Czech chief of staff Vlastimil Picek announced today. "Three missiles were shot at the Shank base where the Czech soldiers from the PRT were located," Picek said in a press release.

The attack occurred at about 2:00 local time.

One missile fell into the base where it injured the three soldiers.

Two of them were taken by air to the U.S. field hospital at the Bagram base with medium injuries. Their further transport to the Czech Republic will depend on their health condition.

The third soldier who suffered light injuries is treated at the Shank base.

"The soldiers' families are being informed," Picek added.

Pakistani Troops Fire On U.S. Helicopters Invading From Afghanistan

[Thanks to SSG N [ret'd] who sent this in.]

9.22.08 The Associated Press & BBC

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan: Pakistani troops and tribesmen opened fire on two U.S. helicopters that crossed into the country from neighboring Afghanistan, intelligence officials said Monday.

The helicopters flew into the tribal North Waziristan region from Afghanistan's Khost province at around midnight, the reports say.

The latest confrontation between US and Pakistani forces took place in North Waziristan's sparsely populated Ghulam Khan district, west of the main town in the region, Miranshah, local officials say.

Two intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

They told the BBC that troops at border posts in the mountainous region fired at two US helicopters which crossed into Pakistani territory.

A senior security official based in Islamabad told the AFP news agency that the helicopters had been repelled by both army troops and soldiers from the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC).

"The helicopters were heading towards our border. We were alert and when they were right on the boundary line we started aerial firing. They hovered for a few minutes and went back," the official said.

"About 30 minutes later they made another attempt. We retaliated again, firing in the air and not in their direction, from both the army position and the FC position, and they went back."

The helicopters did not return fire and re-entered Afghan airspace without landing, the officials said.

During a recent speech to Parliament, newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari, who is considered U.S.-friendly, warned that no country would be allowed to violate Pakistan's sovereignty in the name of the war on terror.

A Pakistani military spokesman said last week that troops had orders to open fire in case of another cross-border raid by foreign troops.

Taliban Militants Wearing Colored Dresses Capture Afghan Ambassador In Pakistan

Sept 22 (KUNA)

Suspected Taliban militants Monday kidnapped the Afghan ambassador designated to Pakistan, said interior ministry sources.

Abdul Haliq Farahi was heading back to his house in his private vehicle from his office when unknown militants intercepted his car in Hayatabad posh town of Peshawar, the capital of North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), interior ministry sources told KUNA. Militants opened fire at the driver, killing him on the spot and kidnapped the ambassador at gun point. Majnon Gulab, charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy, talking to media confirmed the kidnapping and said that the kidnappers were wearing grey and green colored dresses.

Abdul Haliq had been serving as the Consulate General of Afghan Consulate in Peshawar before being appointed as the ambassador to Pakistan.

The security in the city has been beefed up and police was strictly checking the entry and exit points.

Afghan Occupation In The Shitter: Growing Concern That Dutch And Canadian Forces In Afghanistan Would “Call It Quits”

09/23/08 By BRIAN ROSS, ABC

Seth Jones, an expert on Afghanistan at the Rand Corporation think tank, called the situation in Afghanistan “dire.”

“We are now at a tipping point, with about half of the country now penetrated by a range of Sunni militant groups including the Taliban and al Qaeda,” Jones said.

Jones said there is growing concern that Dutch and Canadian forces in Afghanistan would “call it quits.” “The US military would then need six, eight, maybe ten brigades but we just don’t have that money,” Jones said.

Afghan Terrorists Free Journalist: After Torture And Beatings That Broke Bones: “I Came From Hell,” He Said. “Now I’m Back”

September 22, 2008 GRAEME SMITH, Globe and Mail

KABUL — In the U.S. military cells where he saw daylight only once a week, where he says they broke his ribs with beatings, his captors gave him a nickname: “the Canadian reporter.”

His formal designation was a detainee number: 3370.

Last night, after almost a year in custody, the 22-year-old settled into a king-sized bed at the best hotel in Kabul with a big smile and started to regain his true names: Javed Yazamy, the name on his business card, or Jawed Ahmad, as he’s known to friends.

Most importantly, he wants to rebuild his career and the working name that made him famous among Canadian journalists: Jojo, a name synonymous with some of the best coverage of breaking stories during his time as cameraman for CTV News in Kandahar.

It’s not clear why U.S. authorities let Mr. Ahmad walk free yesterday.

No explanations are usually given to detainees who are released.

Mr. Ahmad was publicly named an “enemy combatant” by the U.S. military in February, but unlike most such prisoners, his case was watched closely by lawyers, journalists and diplomats.

The campaign for his release started almost immediately after U.S. forces took him into custody in late October of last year, and his fate had recently been publicized by human-rights lawyers using the example of his detention to challenge what they called a “legal black hole” at the sprawling U.S. prison in Bagram.

Mr. Ahmad says his U.S. guards told him many people were lobbying on his behalf, and he credits the pressure with finally winning his freedom. But he still seemed bewildered by his sudden good fortune as he plunged a fork into a moist chunk of chocolate cake and reflected on his recent hardships.

“I came from hell,” he said. “Now I’m back.”

Mr. Ahmad’s bright career as a journalist, and his terrible fall into the darkest part of the foreign military system in Afghanistan, started with a humble beginning. He took a job as a tailor at the age of 12, earning about 75 cents a day to cover the costs of his

schooling. He also became captain of a soccer team, and his excellent language skills and physical fitness made him an ideal candidate when the U.S. Special Forces arrived in southern Afghanistan looking for translators.

Mr. Ahmad spent the years after 2001 roaming the country with elite troops, who gave him the nickname Jojo and a rich network of connections in the new regime. He eventually left the military for better pay as a freelance security consultant, and started working full-time as a media translator in 2006, mostly for CTV. He became known for his dogged reporting, once suffering broken bones in a vehicle accident but returning to work the next day to record footage of a bombing scene in Kandahar city.

But his journalistic endeavours may have contributed to his eventual imprisonment, Mr. Ahmad said, because much later his U.S. interrogators seemed interested in his forays into Taliban territory.

“Those people were not my friends,” he said, referring to the insurgents. “But they knew I was a good, honest reporter, and every media outlet was starving for Taliban video.”

About halfway through 2007, he started having problems getting through the gate at Kandahar Air Field, the main military base in the province.

He was once briefly detained and given a warning to stay away. He avoided the military base for a while, but returned Oct. 2, 2007, to help a 12-year-old boy shot by Canadian troops. After leaving the base hospital, a U.S. Special Forces soldier put a gun to his head and threatened him, telling him to stay away from the military base.

He again obeyed the warning, he says, until late October when he says he received a phone call from a male caller who described himself as a U.S. public-affairs officer who wanted to conduct an opinion survey of Afghan journalists.

Mr. Ahmad agreed to meet the officer at KAF’s main gate. A red pickup truck arrived, he said, and the driver asked him to climb inside.

They drove into the U.S. Special Forces compound at KAF, he said, and soon events started unfolding like a movie. His story from this point becomes impossible to verify.

“I had seen that film, Road to Guantanamo, and the same things were happening to me,” he said.

His hands were bound with plastic ties, and he was hooded with a heavy bag. In the following days, he says, he was questioned, taunted, screamed at, beaten with chairs and slammed into walls.

“I was crying,” he said. “They were laughing, saying ‘You’re a spy,’ “ His captors accused him of spying for Iran, Pakistan or the Taliban.

They said he sold a sniper rifle to the insurgents. Interrogators falsely told him his family had been arrested and confessed. They even concocted wild stories about his Canadian employers, telling him that CTV had arranged for his detention - or, on another occasion, that a CTV reporter was a foreign intelligence agent.

"I knew these were lies," Mr. Ahmad said.

The worst treatment he received at KAF was sleep deprivation, he said.

Placed in a small metal cage, and monitored by soldiers on a boardwalk overhead, he said they refused to let him sleep for nine days, frequently shouting abuse at him during the ordeal.

After the initial questioning he was flown to Bagram airbase north of Kabul, he said.

Still badly sleep-deprived, he was unloaded at the U.S. base and forced to stand for six hours in the snow wearing only a thin jumpsuit - no shoes, no hat - and he fell unconscious twice. Each time the guards forced him to stand up again.

"It felt like I had no skin left on my feet," he said.

He tried to endear himself to his guards, who were amused to find a prisoner who enjoyed reading Shakespeare.

But his situation got abruptly worse in early 2008, he says, when the stories began appearing in the media about his situation. Soon afterward, he was formally declared an enemy combatant. He was placed in a room he describes as the "death cell."

Telling the story, his eyes brim with tears when he thinks about his treatment there, and says he doesn't want to discuss all of it now.

He was deprived of sunlight, he said. "It was like a grave." The interrogations continued at Bagram, he said, and no less violently than in Kandahar.

"They broke two of my ribs during the beatings. Four days I couldn't eat because of this," he said.

He received hints on Friday that he would be released, and yesterday he was abruptly transferred to local Afghan authorities and then onward to the Red Cross.

"It's a wonderful victory for freedom of speech," said Barbara J. Olshansky, a prominent U.S. human-rights lawyer who recently visited Afghanistan to investigate Mr. Ahmad's case. "Jojo's colleagues ... worked really hard to get him out, and it was only their pressure that made it harder for the U.S. to keep him than let him go."

But the fight for detainees' rights at Bagram will continue, she added. Her non-profit organization, the International Justice Network, has its next scheduled court date in Washington on Dec. 18.

For his part, Mr. Ahmad says he has emerged from the ordeal with a new sense of personal strength. "I suffered, but I learned one thing," he said. "Jojo is not made of wood that burns easily."

Resistance Action

09/18/08 AFP & 09-22 AFP & Reuters

Taliban-linked insurgents shot dead an Afghan soldier in the southern province of Helmand, the defense ministry said in a statement.

An Afghan policeman was also killed in a gun attack in the northern province of Baghlan, according to the force led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO.

Meanwhile, two security guards were killed in the central province of Ghazni when Taliban attacked a convoy of trucks supplying foreign forces, said provincial spokesman Ismail Jahangir.

A rebel attacker also shot and wounded a district chief in the eastern province of Paktika before being gunned down by soldiers, the defense ministry said.

Taliban insurgents have abducted more than 140 labourers involved in the construction of a military base in Afghanistan's western province of Farah, the provincial governor said. They were seized by suspected militants on Sunday while travelling in three buses on a road in Bala Boluk district of Farah, Rohul Amin told Reuters. They were all freed in the evening.

Five Afghan guards from a local road construction company were killed in a Taliban attack in southeastern Paktia province on Monday, an official from the region said.

An Uruzgan police commander said three of his policemen were killed and one badly wounded when a bomb hit their patrol Thursday. A Taliban spokesman told journalists his group had planted the mine.

Two more policemen were killed Thursday when Taliban attacked a police post in the town of Sharan near the eastern border with Pakistan.

"Two motorbikes attacked their posts," deputy provincial governor Malik Tanai said.

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

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

TROOP NEWS

Katherine's Birthday/IVAW Benefit



Friday, September 26, 2008 at 9:00pm
Sutra Lounge: 16 First Avenue @ 1st St. (NYC)

Special DJ: Afrika Bambaataa



\$20 (suggested) donation
to Iraq Veterans Against the War.
All proceeds go to IVAW!

Note:

The venue is waiving the cover charge for our guests.
Just tell them at the door that you're there for the IVAW benefit and they will
direct you to our table.

Please RSVP: kgorell@gmail.com

GI Resister Granted Canada Deportation Stay

September 23, 2008 Courage To Resist

The first U.S. Army deserter to seek refugee status in Canada, Jeremy Hinzman, was scheduled for deportation today, however, Crown Justice Richard Mosley granted a stay on the deportation order.

Hinzman's lawyer, Alyssa Manning, had argued that "evidence suggests U.S. soldiers who have spoken out against the 2003 U.S.-led Iraq invasion have been facing more punishment than other deserters." Furthermore, Manning stated that the immigration officer had not properly assessed the hardship Jeremy and his family would endure.

Hinzman, who has worked in the past as a bike courier in Toronto, says he and his wife, Nga Nguyen, and children, Liam, 6, and 2-month-old Meghan, have been living off their savings in recent months. "When our compassionate and humanitarian application was turned down, my work permit was revoked (in August) ... We have a little bit (of money) so we've been okay," he said.

At the Toronto hearing yesterday "the judge said if our family was to be separated, that would be irreparable harm," said Hinzman, as he held his baby at Friends House, a Quaker centre on Lowther Ave. in Toronto.

He said he volunteered to go to war: "I wanted to make a better life for myself and my family."

The Rapid City, S.D., native joined the 82nd Airborne in January 2001. Three years later, he went AWOL and fled to Toronto just before his unit was scheduled to leave for Iraq.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

Cops Vs Protesters At The RNC



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: Cops vs. Protesters at the RNC

Cops vs. Protesters at the RNC

Am-Bush, since 2001.

Flashback...

While the so-called Hippies were dropping drugs in the Sixties, the U.S. Government was dropping napalm on innocent Vietnamese villages all over Vietnam.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
Sept. 18, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

September 23, 1939: Disgusting Imperial Anniversary; Hitler Sells Lithuania, Stalin Buys

Carl Bunin Peace News 9.23 – 9.30

Nazi-led Germany [capitalists pretending to be “National Socialists”] and the Communist Soviet Union [capitalists pretending to be Communists] considered enemies at the time, negotiated an addendum to the Hitler-Stalin Pact ceding Lithuania, the small independent country on the Baltic Sea, to the Soviets’ sphere of influence [translation: to the Russian Empire] in exchange for 7.5 million gold dollars.

Josef Stalin, the Georgian who was General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany, had agreed the previous month to allow Germany free reign [translation: to expand the German Empire] in eastern Europe, leading to Germany’s invasion of Poland.

“There Is More “Decency, Gratitude, Justice And Humanity In A Cage Of

Starving Tigers Than In The Councils Of Imperialism” “Thousands Of Slaves Rose Up, Killing Their White Masters And Setting Fire To The Plantations”



Toussaint L'Ouverture pictured in an engraving made in post-revolutionary France

And at a time when calls are made--from Haiti to Darfur--for more “humanitarian intervention” by rapacious imperial powers, the book also serves as a brilliant argument for the possibility of the struggles of the oppressed themselves for their own liberation.

September 18, 2008 By Brian Kwoba, Socialist Worker. Kwoba reviews The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture And The San Domingo Revolution; C.L.R. James' account of the Haitian revolution, on the 70th anniversary of its publication.

MORE THAN 200 years ago, a revolutionary uprising in the French colony of Saint-Domingue produced the most successful slave revolt in history.

The revolution established Haiti as the first free nation of former slaves and an independent revolutionary Black republic in the heart of the Americas.

Today, most people know Haiti as “the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.”

In January, it was widely reported that many Haitians were literally eating dirt to survive because of rising global food prices. The response--or lack thereof--by the “international community” to the food crisis in Haiti came to a head in April, when a wide-scale revolt broke out in cities across the country. Then, Haiti was devastated--once again--by hurricanes during the late summer and fall.

For Haiti, 2008 has been a lively year, to say the least.

But there is something else significant about this year.

It marks the 70th anniversary of the 1938 publication of C.L.R. James’ groundbreaking account of the Haitian revolution, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*.

A Trinidad-born writer and socialist, James became a leading intellectual and theoretician within the Pan-African milieu. His book on the Haitian revolution is a Marxist classic.

With sweeping literary drama, biting sarcasm and passionate political conviction, *The Black Jacobins* tells the story of a tremendous historical epoch in brilliant colors.

The book begins with Columbus and the European colonizers who took the island of Haiti from its indigenous Taino inhabitants and exterminated them in order to claim its gold. After years of fighting over territory, France cut a deal with Spain in 1697 for the western third of the island--called Saint-Domingue by the French--and soon created a brutal plantation regime.

At the top of society, the white planters lived in privilege and opulence.

The mixed-race or Black property owners were also well-to-do, as many of them owned land and slaves, but they were socially and politically excluded because of racism. In the middle were the “small whites,” and at the bottom of the social hierarchy were the enslaved Africans.

James describes the working conditions of a typical sugar plantation:

“They were about a hundred men and women of different ages, all occupied in digging ditches in a cane field, the majority of them naked or covered with rags. The sun shone down with full force on their heads.

“Sweat rolled from all parts of their bodies. Their limbs, weighed down by the heat, fatigued with the weight of their picks and by the resistance of the clay soil baked hard enough to break their implements, strained themselves to overcome every obstacle...

“The pitiless eye of the Manager patrolled the gang and several foremen armed with long whips moved periodically between them, giving stinging blows to all who, worn out by fatigue, were compelled to take a rest--men or women, young or old.”

There were roughly 30,000 whites on the island, between the big planters, the petty-bourgeois “small whites” and the colonial bureaucracy of the state administration. Mulattos or “free people of color” numbered roughly 28,000, and the slaves nearly half a million.

At the time, Saint-Domingue was not only the most profitable colony of France but of the whole world. Besides being a prized possession, slavery and the trade with the colonies was a major engine of economic development for the rising French bourgeoisie.

But in the colony itself, the white planters were hemmed in by the exclusive trade restrictions imposed by France, the mulattos were irritated at their social and political exclusion based on race, the small whites resented mulatto wealth, and the Black slaves hated the myriad atrocities of slavery.

BY THE time of the French Revolution in 1789, Saint-Domingue was a socio-economic tinderbox waiting to explode.

When the Third Estate in France began to demand greater representation in government, the owning classes in Saint-Domingue followed suit. The big whites wanted more autonomy and political independence in their relations with France, so they formed a Colonial Assembly that was independent of the pre-existing French-controlled bureaucracy.

Free coloreds wanted social and political equality with whites and began agitating and petitioning the legislature for it. The small whites, resentful of the free men of color, attacked and lynched them in a racist fervor.

Shortly after the fall of the Bastille in Paris in 1789 and the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the new National Assembly in France began to debate whether these rights applied to the free coloreds in the colony. The liberal Friends of the Negro abolitionist society in France pushed for equal rights for free coloreds (not slaves).

But when the colonists raised the specter of colonial independence or a slave revolt, the French bourgeoisie quickly chose “slavery, racism and profit” over “liberty, equality and fraternity” for the colonies.

Excluded at home and now rebuffed in France, the free coloreds in the colony launched an insurrection in 1790 under the leadership of Vincent Ogé. The revolt was smashed, and Ogé and his conspirators were tried, tortured and executed--to send a grisly warning to anyone else who might rise up. But this savage repression didn't intimidate those who were used to it--the slaves.

The very next year, a voodoo high priest named Boukman led a well-planned, secretive and coordinated slave insurrection. Thousands of slaves rose up, killing their white masters and setting fire to the plantations. There was so much smoke in the air from the

burning cane that “for nearly three weeks the people Le Cap could barely distinguish day from night,” wrote James.

As many as 100,000 slaves took part in the revolt in the subsequent weeks and months, as the mass movement spread and pulled behind it sections of free Blacks and young mulattos. As in France, splits at the top of society--between whites and free coloreds--had opened the door to mass action from below.

The rebellion brought a new leader onto the scene--a 45-year-old slave named Toussaint L'Ouverture. Recognized early on as unique, his master had allowed him to learn to read. Toussaint had not only learned about the military arts, world economics and politics, but he had also developed leadership skills from managing his owner's property.

When news of the slave insurrection reached France, the Assembly decided that granting rights to the free coloreds was a preferable alternative to civil war and slave insurrection, so they passed a decree doing just that.

They also sent a fresh detachment of French troops to help quell the rebellion in the colony. The whites and free coloreds accepted the decree, as they joined forces against their rebellious slaves.

In 1792, revolutionary France was at war with Austria and facing growing demands from below for price controls on bread. Sensing King Louis XVI's collusion with foreign armies advancing toward Paris, the French masses rose up and overthrew him.

In the revolutionary fervor leading up to the King's execution, ordinary Parisians became ardent abolitionists and antiracists, attacking what they called the “aristocrats of the skin.”

WHAT DID this mean for Saint-Domingue?

It meant the slaves now had real allies, because the workers and peasants of France were roused against oppression of all kinds--including slavery in colonies thousands of miles away.

Before news of the King's execution reached Saint-Domingue, Toussaint's insurrection in the countryside was running out of steam, as the white and colored planters united to crush it. But just as the insurrection was about to be snuffed out, it got a new lease on life--from the working men and women of France.

Neighboring European monarchies, horrified at the sight of revolutionary democracy on their borders, intensified their war with France, including a new bid to seize its colonies. This new threat forced Saint-Domingue's colonial authorities to recall their counterinsurgency forces from the interior to defend the island's coasts from invasion--to the benefit of the slave insurrection.

By advancing their struggle for democracy at home, the French masses had (unbeknownst to them) created new breathing space for the nearly defeated slave resistance in the colony.

This is just one example of the interplay between the French and Haitian revolutions, as told in *The Black Jacobins*.

What began as a revolt against oppression soon developed into a struggle for emancipation. Under the pressure of counterrevolutionary and royalist intrigue, a British invasion, and the strengthening of Toussaint's ex-slave army by Spanish backing, the French were eventually forced to declare abolition.

This eventually pushed Toussaint to leave the Spanish side and join the revolutionary French, who quickly made him a brigadier general as he eventually led his army of ex-slaves, Black and white officers, and French soldiers to rout the British and Spanish forces around him.

By 1796, Toussaint had won the respect of the majority of the island's inhabitants, and consolidated a new regime free of slavery and counterrevolutionary forces. Under the French commissioners, and with a multiracial leadership, Toussaint built a modern ex-slave army and a new economy for the colony based on free labor and commodity export.

Over the next few years, Toussaint led a struggle against a mulatto conspiracy for independence, waged a military campaign to expel the British completely, invaded and conquered Spanish San Domingo, and unified the whole island under his rule.

But as the revolution in France degenerated, its successive colonial deputies grew increasingly hostile and reactionary. Toussaint had to struggle against multiple attempts at weakening his authority. By the time Napoleon came to power in 1799, Toussaint had become de-facto governor and undisputed master of the whole colony.

As soon as France and Britain signed a peace treaty, Bonaparte quickly turned his attention to restoring "order" in the colonies, and in 1801 he sent a massive military expedition to re-impose slavery, racism and the profits of the old days.

That the French ruling class would be "so depraved, so lost to all sense of decency, as to try to restore slavery" demonstrates, as James put it, that there is more "decency, gratitude, justice and humanity in a cage of starving tigers than in the councils of imperialism."

A savage, protracted war followed the landing of Napoleon's forces, which is recounted in James' book with gripping suspense and intensity. Eventually, following the treacherous capture of Toussaint by the French, Jean-Jacques Dessalines leads the struggle for Haitian independence to victory.

Though Haiti would be punished by economic strangulation and repeated military intervention by the "Great Powers" over the next two centuries, the revolution itself was an inspiration for the entire hemisphere.

The Haitian revolution sparked slave rebellions and successful liberation struggles throughout North, Central and South America. It also gave revolutionary impetus from below to the international cause of abolition--first of the slave trade, and ultimately of colonial slavery itself.

As James put it,

“The slaves defeated in turn the local whites and the soldiers of the French monarchy, a Spanish invasion, a British expedition of some 60,000 men, and a French expedition of similar size under Bonaparte’s brother-in-law...

“The transformation of slaves, trembling in hundreds before a single white man, into a people able to organize themselves and defeat the most powerful European nations of their day, is one of the great epics of revolutionary struggle and achievement.”

And at a time when calls are made--from Haiti to Darfur--for more “humanitarian intervention” by rapacious imperial powers, the book also serves as a brilliant argument for the possibility of the struggles of the oppressed themselves for their own liberation.

The Black Jacobins is essential reading for anyone seeking to challenge the forces of world imperialism that have produced horrific oppression in Haiti--then and now.

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Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

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I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

Ronald Reagan

HAH! REAGAN! THANK GOD
HE'S NOT AROUND ANY MORE.



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