

Iraq: The movie

Beyond the Jessica Lynch fiasco, three other orchestrated events take center stage in the *Wag-the-Dog* production of the Iraq War.

The most recent one is the capture of Saddam Hussein December 13, 2003.

CNN.com ran a story the next day whose headline read: “Rumsfeld: In the end, Saddam 'not terribly brave'”

Fox’s story proclaimed: “Saddam Captured ‘Like a Rat’ in Raid.”

Yet other media around the world suggested the capture was nothing other than anticlimactic.

On December 22, 2003, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported:

“Washington's claims that brilliant U.S. intelligence work led to the capture of Saddam Hussein are being challenged by reports sourced in Iraq's Kurdish media claiming that its militia set the circumstances in which the U.S. merely had to go to a farm identified by the Kurds to bag the fugitive former president.”

The Herald story cited a report that appeared in the British *Sunday Express* stating: “Saddam was not captured as a result of any American or British intelligence.”

The Herald story also questioned “why Kurdish forces were allowed to join what the U.S. desperately needed to present as an American intelligence success—unless the Kurds had something vital to contribute to the operation so far south of their usual area of activity.”

The *Al Bawaba* news serviced reported: “In the aftermath of Saddam's arrest and the media hype which followed, many in the Arab world believe that Saddam was not in fact arrested on Saturday, December 13, but at least ten days beforehand, and arguments raised in defense of this notion are surely worth mentioning.”

The report also raises the question whether Saddam was actually in hiding or had been a prisoner since November 16 and deposited in the hole for the purpose of a staged capture.

Taking second place as the second most distorted media event of the Iraq War was the pulling down of Saddam’s statue amid supposed mass jubilation.

Although the mainstream news outlets referred to the gathering as “a crowd,” they were careful not to give the number in attendance. Instead, tight photographs and video footage shot from within “the crowd” gave the impression that a sizable throng of Iraqis were present.

However, a Reuters photograph—a rooftop shot of Firdos Square in which the statue stood—showed the square was nearly empty except for the area adjacent to the statue. The number of people was approximated at 200 to include not just Iraqis but U.S. Marines and members of American and international press.

The third but most dispicable example of our media willfully distorting actual events occurred during Gulf War I.

Do you remember seeing the emotional account of a “refugee” who witnessed Iraqi soldiers removing over 300 newborns from incubators and leaving them to die on the floor of a Kuwait City hospital?

The refugee’s name was Nayirah.

Or was it?

It was later discovered by John R. MacArthur, publisher of *Harper's Magazine*, that the “refugee” was the daughter of Saud al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S.

Further, it was revealed that the public relations firm, Hill and Knowlton, had helped the young woman prepare her testimony in the hope of selling the American people on a military incursion into Iraq.

This *Wag-the-Dog* operation was bolstered by the lie told by the Daddy Bush administration that the Iraqi military was massing on the Kuwait border in the late summer of 1990.

However, the following January, Jean Heller, a reporter for the *St. Petersburg Times*, published a story—supported by satellite photos of the border—that no such build-up had taken place.

What has also been under-reported was the July 1990 meeting between U.S. ambassador April Glaspie and Saddam Hussein. It was then that Glaspie informed Saddam that the U.S. had no interest in Iraq's proposed retaliation against Kuwait for slant drilling into Iraqi oil fields.

Therefore, in August, 1990, Iraq, believing she would not be interfered with, struck Kuwait.

Then, in January 1991, U.S. and coalition forces engaged Iraq and set in motion the circumstances that would bring our military back into the region.

Yet another conflagration—and certainly not the last—that was predicated on disinformation and flat-out untruths.