



SPACE 2003: FANTASY – PART 8 IN OUR SUPERB SERIES OF 16-PAGE COLOUR MAGAZINES – FREE INSIDE

# Saddam's top force targeted

Phillip Coorey and news agencies

COALITION forces continued a relentless multi-pronged air and land assault on Iraq with more than 500 Tomahawk cruise missiles and 700 precision-guided bombs raining on Baghdad and areas in the south and north.

Defence experts said there had been a shift in emphasis in the bombing of Baghdad. Districts in the city's south and west, part of the outer ring of defence by Saddam's Republican Guard division, were being specifically targeted.

As the death toll grew, an RAF warplane with a two-man crew was returning from a combat mission in south Iraq when it was shot down by "friendly fire", a US Patriot missile.

The ground attack surged on with the Third Infantry Division's 7th Cavalry capturing the An Nasiriya bridge across the Euphrates River in one arm of a fast-moving pincer movement, destination Baghdad.

Flanking them and in the lead position was the 2nd Brigade of 3rd Infantry Division known as The Spartans. They travelled night and day stopping with 70 tanks and 60 Bradley armoured vehicles in fighting positions at An Najaf, about 160km from Baghdad.

In the south, coalition forces surrounded Basra, where they met strong resistance.

British commando forces and US Marines virtually secured the main commercial port of Umm Qasr, after intense fighting.

In the north, heavy bombardment continued on the two important oil producing towns of Mosul and Kirkuk. Specific targets included the military intelligence HQ and Saddam Hussein's presidential palace in Kirkuk.

In northeastern Iraq, Paul Moran, an Australian cameraman working for the ABC, was one of five people killed when a taxi stopped alongside them and exploded in the town of Sayed Sadiq. ABC correspondent, Eric Campbell, suffered shrapnel wounds.

"He walked about 50m in front of me... a taxi just screamed up beside him and exploded and we were thrown back and Paul was dead," Campbell said.

The bombing was apparently in

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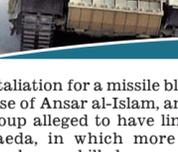
Leahy's view

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Harder battles ahead

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Wall Street bets on fast victory



retaliation for a missile blitz on the base of Ansar al-Islam, an Islamist group alleged to have links to Al-Qaeda, in which more than 50 people were killed.

US President George W. Bush warned in a national radio broadcast that the campaign was likely to be "longer and more difficult

than some have predicted".

"The only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force. This will not be a campaign of half measures," he said.

Reports on Al Jazeera television said 50 Iraqis had been killed and several hundred wounded in the firefight at Basra and four killed at Tikrit. The Red Cross reported more than 100 killed in Baghdad.

Concerns increased yesterday over an announcement by Turkey that it would deploy troops in Kurdistan. The move could start conflict between Kurds and Turkish forces – both US allies – and create conflict within the European Union.

A Pentagon official said dozens of US ships carrying weapons for the army's 4th Infantry Division had been re-directed to the Persian Gulf after the US abandoned hopes of using Turkish bases. Delays in moving US forces into northern Iraq meant the security of the oil fields around Kirkuk could not yet be assured.

Six British commandos and a US soldier were killed on Saturday when two British helicopters collided while landing and taking off on the aircraft carrier, Ark Royal.

Three British journalists were reported missing, believed killed, near Basra.

A procession of anti-war protesters in New York snaked for more than 2km through the heart of Manhattan yesterday as hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated around the world.

In Australia, which has 2000 defence personnel at war, between 30,000 and 50,000 protesters gathered in Sydney to call for an immediate end to the invasion.

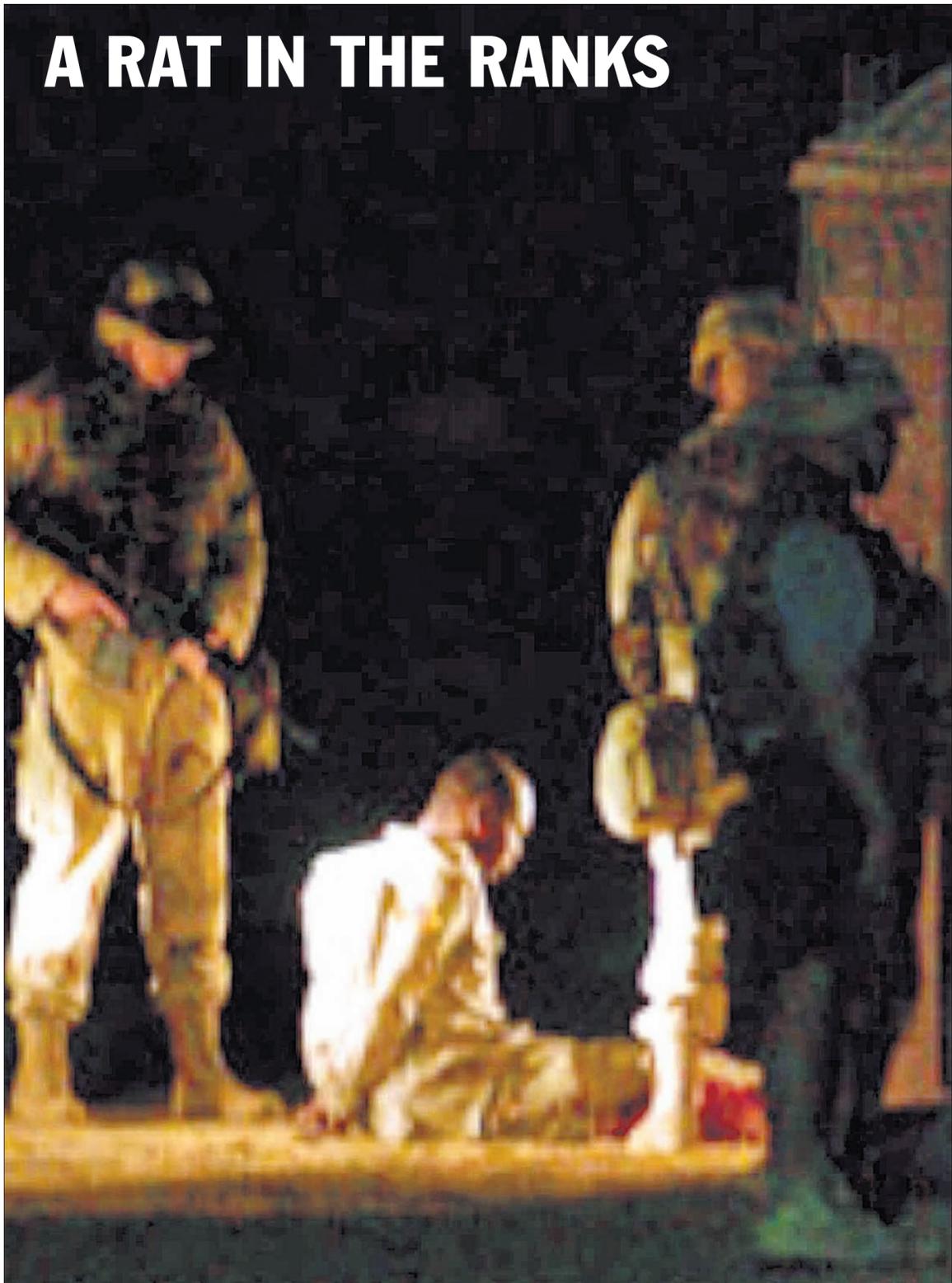
But a poll published last week showed public opinion had begun to shift from overwhelming opposition to a fairly even divide.

Defence Minister Robert Hill said yesterday that all three arms of the Australian defence forces remained in action in Iraq after the SAS's involvement in an intense firefight at the weekend.

He said an RAAF F/A-18 Hornet pilot on a mission defending early warning aircraft pulled out of an attack deep in Iraq at the last minute because he could not "positively identify" the target.

The pilot's decision reflected the Australian Defence Force's commitment to the laws of armed conflict, he said.

## A RAT IN THE RANKS



FLASHPOINT... soldiers guard a suspect in the grenade attack at Camp Pennsylvania

Picture: Ben Lowy-Corbis, Time magazine

Fiona MacDonald and Chris Otton

A US soldier is in custody after a grenade and small arms attack on a US military camp in Kuwait which killed one of his comrades and wounded 13 others.

A brigade commander said the sergeant had lobbed three grenades into the three tents housing commanding officers from the tactical operations centre of the 101st Airborne Division.

One soldier died of his injuries and three were seriously injured. Ten had superficial injuries.

Eleven of the injured soldiers were airlifted to army hospitals.

The soldier was found hiding in a bunker and placed in custody after the early-morning attack at

the heavily guarded Camp Pennsylvania, home of the famous "Screaming Eagles".

Military criminal investigators said the suspect was recently reprimanded for insubordination and was told he would stay behind when his unit left for Iraq, according to Time magazine reporter Jim Lacey.

"Death is a tragic incident regardless of how it comes, but when it comes from a fellow comrade, it does even more to hurt morale," said George Heath, civilian spokesman for Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 101st Airborne Division's home base.

The attack, at first believed to be the work of terrorists, was being investigated by the US Army Criminal Investigation Command. US Army spokesman Max

Blumenfeld said the motive "most likely was resentment".

US broadcaster Fox News said the suspect was a Muslim American and that he had been described as "acting strange" before the attack.

The suspect was an engineer attached to one of the infantry battalions, Colonel Frederick Hodges, the 1st Brigade's commander, said.

"We noticed four hand grenades were missing and that this sergeant was unaccounted for," Colonel Hodges said. "We started looking for him and found him hiding in one of these bunkers."

A photograph shown on CNN portrayed the suspect bare-headed, in his desert fatigues with his hands cuffed behind his back. Colonel Hodges said he had

smelled smoke. "I heard a couple of explosions and then a popping sound which I think was probably a rifle."

One of the grenades exploded in the tactical operations centre which runs 24 hours a day and which is always staffed by officers and senior enlisted personnel.

Time's Jim Lacey told CNN he was about 18m away when the explosions occurred.

"The carnage was pretty severe," he said.

Colonel Chris Holden, head of a battalion of the 101st Airborne Division at nearby Camp New York, stepped up patrols after the attack.

"When you have someone inside your camp throwing a grenade inside a tent, there isn't much you can do," Colonel Holden said.

## Two words that changed history

Phillip Coorey  
IN NEW YORK



IT took US President George W. Bush, pictured, three agonising days to make the decision to invade Iraq.

When he finally gave the order he did so in two words: "Let's go."

But only 12 hours before the war began, General Tommy Franks, in charge of 300,000 allied troops and billions of dollars of equipment, couldn't work a video link machine through which he would receive the President's order.

The revelation provided one of the few moments of

levity for Mr Bush and his staff. "Don't worry, Tommy, I haven't lost faith in you," he told his commander.

The White House has revealed a minute by minute account of the lead-up to the war. During those three days, the President rushed back from the Azores aboard Air Force One to scrutinise every piece of available intelligence on the campaign.

With advisers, he would spend the days in a frenzy of activity and deep in thought. Senior officials said Mr

Bush was reluctant to commit lives to the invasion.

Even after the Americans received information which seemed to pinpoint the location of Saddam Hussein, the President deliberated with senior advisers for almost three hours.

They finally agreed on a strategy and Mr Bush gave the order to proceed.

Thirty minutes later he made a four-minute address from the Oval Office to announce the war had begun.

As the television cameras were switched off he turned to those surrounding him. "Let's pray for the pilots," he said.

Counting down to war, Page 11



VICTIM of vengeance... Australian cameraman Paul Moran appears to have been the target of an Islamic group retaliating for the US bombing. Revenge attack, Page 5

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