



The Old Ironsides Report

Wednesday, May 19, 2004



Dismounted sappers take on Karbala's mean streets

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner, 1AD PAO
KARBALA, Iraq -- The late morning skies were overcast and a breeze blew through the trees. The air was cooler than usual. The order came over the radio for the troops to dismount.

The combat engineers from B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, piled out of their M113 armored personnel carriers and onto the wide Karbala streets.

Following behind M1A1 Abrams tanks, squads took staggered positions on either side of the avenue.

The tanks' engines bathed the combat engineers with blast furnace heat from their exhaust vents. So much for the cool weather.

The Soldier's tactical march up the ruined Karbala street was short in terms of distance, perhaps only two kilometers, but lengthy in time. Tanks, M113s and Soldiers slowly closed on the area where they had encountered resistance in the days before.

"Recon by fire" is the method used here explained Sgt. 1st Class James Flum, a B Company platoon sergeant.

"When the tanks are rolling, if they see something that looks (like an improvised explosive device) they will put a few rounds in it."

Flum said that once the IED has been disabled, then the engineers step in.

"That's when they'll call us forward to place some C-4 (explosives) and blow it in place" he said. "It's an excellent process and it works every time."

The tanks turned off to another area of the vacant neighborhood, but two squads of engineers and three M113s continued their reconnaissance patrol in a forward direction.

As they pushed further into the city, the Soldiers heard the quick cracking report of enemy rifle fire.

As the Soldiers took cover, the walls opposite their position erupted in tiny puffs.

Snipers had been laying in wait.

The dismounted Soldiers and their tracks vehicles turned their weapons to the structures across the street.

The enemy shooters were very close, but did not possess the skill or nerve to hold an aim long enough to hit any of the Soldiers. The large caliber weapons on the tracks pushed out their heavy brass with a roar.

The Soldiers paid close attention to any movement, or suspected sniper perches.

Spc. Angel Ramos, track commander, said he knows what he needs to do in a firefight.

"I started laying some suppressive fire down the alleyway, while (the dismounts) were trying to get into



Staff Sgt. Aaron Owen, B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion squad leader, provides his Soldiers with covering fire while on dismounted patrol in Karbala, Iraq. The engineer company is attached to Task Force 1-37 Armor and are in Karbala in support of Operation Iron Saber.

the vehicle."

Spc. Snowden Neill, a combat engineer, also laid down covering fire for his comrades.

"I carry a (Squad Automatic Weapon)," he said. "I have to put down suppression. I look for something that would be ideal for a sniper's spot."

If the engineers could not kill the sniper, at least they would deny him any advantageous positions to occupy.

Systematically the column assailed windows, balconies and rooftops.

As angry rifles barked, the drapes in one of the suspected windows caught fire, smoke poured from the building.

Backing out of the kill zone, the patrol met with their company's main body and exited the area. No more shots were heard from the area.

Afterwards there were laughs from the Soldiers about their close call.

But they know they were in a serious situation, said Ramos.

"At least everybody came out safe, and there were no injuries, so it was a good day," he said.



NEWS...

9/11 Commission Cites Communication Flaws

NEW YORK (AP) - A new report by the federal commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks found that rescuers were forced to make rapid-fire, life-and-death decisions based on incomplete communications, contributing to the World Trade Center death toll. The report was issued Tuesday at the start of a hearing into the emergency response to the terrorist attacks, setting the stage for two days of dramatic testimony at the New School University, about 1 1/2 miles from ground zero.

Iraq Cleric Urges Groups to Leave Cities

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric on Tuesday demanded that all armed groups withdraw from the embattled holy cities of Najaf and Karbala, where nine militiamen loyal to a rebel cleric were killed in heavy fighting with U.S. forces. The statement by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani came after the U.S. administrator in Iraq vowed to continue the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis as scheduled despite Monday's killing of the head of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

Gandhi Declines Leadership of India

NEW DELHI (AP) - Sonia Gandhi said she would "humbly decline" to be the next prime minister of India, a decision that followed Hindu nationalist outrage over the prospect of a foreign-born woman at the helm of the nation. Gandhi, an Italian native, said she did not say who she would nominate for the post, but the favorite appeared to be Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic liberalization program during the last Congress-led government from 1991 to 1996.

'Odd Couple' Star Tony Randall Dies at 84

NEW YORK (AP) - Tony Randall, the comic actor best-known for playing fastidious photographer Felix Unger on "The Odd Couple," has died. He was 84. Randall, who developed pneumonia after undergoing heart bypass surgery in December, died in his sleep Monday night at NYU Medical Center, according to his publicity firm, Springer Associates.

Thought for the day...

Old Fashioned Loyalty

In many ways, Loyalty is out of fashion these days. Customers not only rapidly switch to suppliers who offer better deals...but also in their personal, social, spiritual, and political lives. Everyone from professional athletes to college professors jump the 'fence' because the 'grass looks greener on the other side.' Loyalty displayed in public and private relationships serves as the 'glue' that binds together social 'fabric'. Without such loyalty, communities would flounder and individuals would lose themselves in a 'dog-eat-dog, unsatisfying life of loneliness and isolation. The following habits encourage Loyalty and develop interpersonal relationships:

*Affirmation: Show appreciation for actions of others.

*Confrontation: Disagree when necessary with tactful honesty.

*Ritual: Create warm memories by making special the moments of life.

*Privacy: Encourage intimacy by establishing a 'zone of privacy' in primary relationship.

Sports...

N.Y. Among Finalists for 2012 Games

By STEPHEN WILSON, AP Sports Writer
LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) -- New York and four European capitals - London, Madrid, Moscow and Paris - were selected as finalists Tuesday in the race to host the 2012 Olympics.

Four cities failed to make the cut: Havana; Istanbul, Turkey; Leipzig, Germany, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The field was trimmed by the International Olympic Committee executive board based on a report assessing the technical capabilities of the nine cities.

The unanimous decision kicks off a 14-month race culminating with the selection of the host city by the full IOC assembly in Singapore in July 2005.

Moscow was the wild card, benefiting from its experience as host of the 1980 Olympics.

Paris came out on top in the IOC report based on an overall weighting of 11 technical criteria, ranging from infrastructure to security. Madrid was a close second, followed by London, New York and Moscow. Then came Leipzig, Rio, Istanbul and Havana.

The IOC report expressed "a high level of confidence" that Paris, New York, London and Madrid can host the games, but said it was "less certain" about Moscow's credentials. The other four, it said, "do not have the requisite level of capability at this time."

Geography favors a European city for 2012 after the 2008 Summer Olympics in Asia (Beijing) and 2010 Winter Games in North America (Vancouver, British Columbia).

New York, which has never held the Olympics, has to contend with anti-American sentiment fueled by the invasion of Iraq, as well as the geographical disadvantage of the 2010 games in Canada. The IOC is often reluctant to award consecutive Olympics to the same continent.

Paris, which hosted the Olympics in 1900 and 1924, is viewed as the front-runner. The French capital successfully hosted soccer's World Cup in 1998 and the world track and field championships in 2003, and is seen by IOC members as having paid its dues after failed bids for the 1992 and 2008 Olympics.

London, which staged the games in 1908 and 1948, is considered a main challenger with a bid featuring several famous sports venues and tourist landmarks - including tennis at Wimbledon and triathlon in Hyde Park.

Madrid is the only major European capital that has never hosted the Olympics, though Barcelona staged the 1992 games.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said the Russian capital is a "risk-free choice for 2012."

There were no major surprises in the elimination of four cities.

Leipzig was at a disadvantage because of its small size and shortage of hotel accommodations. Istanbul, making a fourth straight bid, didn't make much of an impact. Rio has a major crime problem. In addition, Brazil is likely to be awarded soccer's 2014 World Cup.

The nine bidders had been listed as "applicant cities." Those accepted became official candidate cities. Each finalist must pay the IOC \$500,000 to help cover the cost of the remaining judging and selection process.

An IOC evaluation commission will compile a thorough report on the bids before the Singapore meeting. Since the Salt Lake City bid scandal, IOC members are banned from visiting bid cities.

Today in history...

May 19, 1935: LAWRENCE OF ARABIA DIES

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM -- T.E. Lawrence, known to the world as Lawrence of Arabia, dies as a retired Royal Air Force mechanic living under an assumed name. The legendary war hero, author, and archaeological scholar succumbed to injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident six days before.

Thomas Edward Lawrence was born in Tremadoc, Wales, in 1888. In 1896, his family moved to Oxford. Lawrence studied architecture and archaeology, for which he made a trip to Ottoman (Turkish)-controlled Syria and Palestine in 1909. In 1911, he won a fellowship to join an expedition excavating an ancient Hittite settlement on the Euphrates River. He worked there for three years and in his free time traveled and learned Arabic. In 1914, he explored the Sinai, near the frontier of Ottoman-controlled Arabia and British-controlled Egypt. The maps Lawrence and his associates made had immediate strategic value upon the outbreak of war between Britain and the Ottoman Empire in October 1914.

Lawrence enlisted in the war and because of his expertise in Arab affairs was assigned to Cairo as an intelligence officer. He spent more than a year in Egypt, processing intelligence information and in 1916 accompanied a British diplomat to Arabia, where Hussein ibn Ali, the emir of Mecca, had proclaimed a revolt against Turkish rule. Lawrence convinced his superiors to aid Hussein's rebellion, and he was sent to join the Arabian army of Hussein's son Faisal as a liaison officer.

Under Lawrence's guidance, the Arabians launched an effective guerrilla war against the Turkish lines. He proved a gifted military strategist and was greatly admired by the Bedouin people of Arabia. In July 1917, Arabian forces captured Aqaba near the Sinai and joined the British march on Jerusalem. Lawrence was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In November, he was captured by the Turks while reconnoitering behind enemy lines in Arab dress and was tortured and sexually abused before escaping. He rejoined his army, which slowly worked its way north to Damascus, which fell in October 1918.

Arabia was liberated, but Lawrence's hope that the peninsula would be united as a single nation was dashed when Arabian factionalism came to the fore after Damascus. Lawrence, exhausted and disillusioned, left for England. Feeling that Britain had exacerbated the rivalries between the Arabian groups, he appeared before King George V and politely refused the medals offered to him.

After the war, he lobbied hard for independence for Arab countries and appeared at the Paris peace conference in Arab robes. He became something of a legendary figure in his own lifetime, and in 1922 he gave up higher-paying appointments to enlist in the Royal Air Force (RAF) under an assumed name, John Hume Ross. He had just completed writing his monumental war memoir, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, and he hoped to escape his fame and acquire material for a new book. Found out by the press, he was discharged, but in 1923 he managed to enlist as a private in the Royal Tanks Corps under another assumed name, T.E. Shaw, a reference to his friend, Irish writer George Bernard Shaw. In 1925, Lawrence rejoined the RAF and two years later legally changed his last name to Shaw.

In 1927, an abridged version of his memoir was published and generated tremendous publicity, but the press was unable to locate Lawrence (he was posted to a base in India). In 1929, he returned to England and spent the next six years writing and working as an RAF mechanic. In 1932, his English translation of Homer's *Odyssey* was published under the name of T.E. Shaw. *The Mint*, a fictionalized account of Royal Air Force recruit training, was not published until 1955 because of its explicitness.

In February 1935, Lawrence was discharged from the RAF and returned to his simple cottage at Clouds Hill, Dorset. On May 13, he was critically injured while driving his motorcycle through the Dorset countryside. He had swerved to avoid two boys on bicycles. On May 19, he died at the hospital of his former RAF camp. All of Britain mourned his passing.

MWR DANCE CLASSES! 

FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEARN
SALSA, MERENGUE, BACHATA
REGUETON (SPANISH HIP HOP)

WE WILL BEGIN THE CLASSES ON THE "Cinco de Mayo" party!

INSTRUCTOR: "Angel" POC tent #139, SPC Gonzales
Where: The Aerobics Room in the MWR Tent!

Merengue- Two weeks
Bachata- Two weeks
Salsa- 1 1/2 Months

Mixed Sessions on class days!!!
Ex: Bachata, Merengue - Tuesday
Salsa, Regueton- Thursday
"All" - Saturday

We can try to make Saturdays "Just for fun" where anyone can come and dance or watch others dance!!!

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004				As of: Tuesday, May 18, 2004 6:51:23 AM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0:00	THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	ARACHNOPHOBIA	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		0:00
0:30	THE HOT LIST	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	0:30
1:00	AROUND THE HORN			TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	1:00
1:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				1:30
2:00	SPORTSCENTER		CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - ROAD RAGE		HEADLINE NEWS	2:00
2:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	2:30
3:00	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REBEL WITH OUT A TRUNK	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	3:00
3:30	NHL - PLAYOFFS - CONF. FINALS GM 5: PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - MUSCLEBOB BUFFPANTS/ SQUIDWARD THE GHOST		CBS EVENING NEWS	3:30
4:00		NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 6: INDIANA PACERS @ MIAMI HEAT	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE IN CHAINS	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S BACKYARD PARTY BALL GAME	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	4:00
4:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - HOME FOR THE WEEKEND	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		4:30
5:00			ALLY MCBEAL (TV14): - THE PURSUIT OF UNHAPPINESS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	5:00
6:00	NHL 2NIGHT		STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - FRAME OF MIND	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	6:00
6:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS				6:30
7:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE - TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	7:00
7:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	7:30
8:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	WEAPONS AT WAR: - LIFELINE FROM THE SKY	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	8:00
8:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		8:25
8:30	MOTORCYCLE RACING - FIM WORLD SUPERBIKE - RACE 1 (MONZA, ITALY)	HEADLINE NEWS				8:30
9:00		SESAME STREET	THE CABLE GUY		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	9:00
9:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		9:13
9:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					9:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES - BLUE'S BACKYARD PARTY BALL GAME		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - THE LAST CLIFFHANGER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - SOUNDS OF THE SONGSTRESS/CALLING CAPTAIN EXCELLENT!		10:30
11:00	MLB - NY YANKEES @ ANAHEIM ANGELS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REBEL WITH OUT A TRUNK	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 6	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - MUSCLEBOB BUFFPANTS/ SQUIDWARD THE GHOST	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - BOSTONIANS	AFNEWS ON ASSIGNMENT	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE IN CHAINS	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - HOME FOR THE WEEKEND	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	ESPNEWS	60 MINUTES SPECIAL - SALUTE TO DON HEWITT	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				PACIFIC REPORT		13:30
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - FRAME OF MIND	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - THE FIRST THANKSGIVING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - DROOBIE OR NOT DROOBIE		14:30
15:00	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 6: INDIANA PACERS @ MIAMI HEAT	TODAY	AMERICAN EXPERIENCE - TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - CLEAR CHANNEL 1 MILLION DOLLAR EPSIODE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			WEAPONS AT WAR: - LIFELINE FROM THE SKY			16:00
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - THE LAST CLIFFHANGER	THE CABLE GUY	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - SOUNDS OF THE SONGSTRESS/CALLING CAPTAIN EXCELLENT!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - EPISODE 6			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - BOSTONIANS		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - REBEL WITH OUT A TRUNK			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - MUSCLEBOB BUFFPANTS/ SQUIDWARD THE GHOST	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MARGE IN CHAINS	MY DOG SKIP	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	MLB - MINNESOTA TWINS @ TORONTO BLUE JAYS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - HOME FOR THE WEEKEND			20:30
21:00		8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - THE FIRST THANKSGIVING	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES SPECIAL - SALUTE TO DON HEWITT	21:00
21:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - DROOBIE OR NOT DROOBIE				21:30
21:45				GIA		21:45
22:00		FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - CLEAR CHANNEL 1 MILLION DOLLAR EPSIODE	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - FRAME OF MIND		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00			AMERICAN EXPERIENCE - TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	THE HOT LIST				INSIDE POLITICS	23:30