



# The Old Ironsides Report



*Friday, December 26, 2003*

## Iraqi Museum of Natural History museum reopens

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Conrad College,  
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers and Baghdad University staff, faculty and students mingled Dec. 3 at the university's Bab Muadham campus, all apparently realizing, happily, that this was a historic day for the university. The Iraq Museum of Natural History was reopened, a new Internet café was opened and a refurbished child care center for staff and faculty was opened during the ceremonies.

The three projects were a cooperative effort of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Ministry of Higher Education, the University of Baghdad and the U.S. Army. The renovations are part of an ongoing rebuilding of Iraq's educational system, being done by the coalition military, the CPA and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Lt. Col. John Kem, commander of the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, was the officer in charge of the three projects – renovating the museum, building a new Internet café and refurbishing the child care center for staff and faculty. The planning and work took about six months to complete, he said.

A few speeches were made in the opening ceremony at the Museum of Natural History.

"Those of you who work here at the Bab Muadham campus know how badly the looters damaged this museum," Kem said. "Every display, every piece of glass and every fixture was destroyed." Looters even took many of the stuffed animals and displays from the museum. Many of the exhibit cases are still empty.

Kem said Iraqi contractors were hired to repair the museum, to replace all the broken glass and missing fixtures in order to allow the museum to restart its important role in scientific research and public education. The Army provided more than \$10,000 for the museum work.

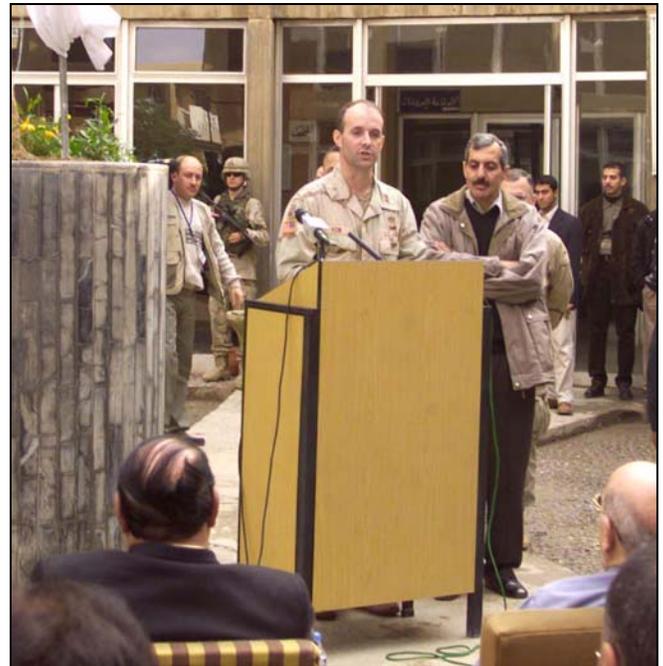
"I know that all the soldiers of the 16th Engineer Battalion were glad to be a part of the restoration," Kem said.

Dr. Hussein Abas Ali is the curator or dean of the Iraq Museum of Natural History and Research Center. As part of the recovery process, the museum has established relations with the American and British natural history museums.

There was no Internet café at Baghdad University before the coalition forces arrived. The CPA and the Ministry of Education provided \$40,000 for the computer equipment and Internet satellite service, while the Army provided \$10,000 to refurbish the building for the Internet café. Local contractors were hired to do the work. There are now 20 new personal computer stations in the café.

"This café will provide a vital link for the students to the rest of the world and support their academic interests," Kem said.

Col. Peter R. Mansoor, commander of the Ready First Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, said, "Education is not only a means for personal growth, but it is also of critical



**Lt. Col. John Kem, commander of the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, speaks to the audience of Baghdad University staff and faculty, with the help of a translator, during the unveiling of the new museum entrance statue, a lion.**

importance to the future of Iraq. The nation of Iraq is being given a great gift – one that comes only once in a lifetime – the complete rebuilding of its educational system, a process that will benefit countless generations to come."

More projects are underway, he said.

"Coalition forces are working with the Ministry of Higher Education to improve schools throughout Baghdad. There are a number of schools that still require repairs and renovations; and there are still books that need to be printed and delivered; but these problems have been identified and solutions are forthcoming," he said.

Dr. Joseph Ghougassian, a former U.S. ambassador to Iraq and presently deputy adviser to the Iraq Ministry of Higher Education, said to the Iraqis present, "America is a nation of nations, a nation of immigrants, a nation made up of people from all nations."

He said the coalition forces "came as liberators to Iraq -- not to oppress the people of Iraq -- but to free them from oppression. And you see this renovated museum, new Internet café and refurbished child care center as evidence of that. This is a great day for Baghdad University and for the future of all of Iraq."

# The Old Ironsides Report

December 26, 2003

## *News...*

### **Pakistani Leader Escapes New Death Plot**

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP) - Two suicide bombs exploded as President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's motorcade passed Thursday, the second attempt to assassinate him in two weeks. Musharraf's car was damaged though he was unhurt, and at least 14 bystanders were killed. The bombing in Rawalpindi, outside the capital, occurred near where a huge bomb exploded on Dec. 14 shortly after a convoy with Musharraf drove by.

### **Dairy Under Quarantine on Mad Cow Report**

MABTON, Wash. (AP) - Residents of this tiny south central Washington town rallied around neighboring dairy owners as news leaked that a local farm was the source of what could be the nation's first case of mad cow disease. There are about eight dairy farms in Mabton - population 2,045 - and dozens more in the surrounding area. A government source familiar with the investigation said the cow came from Sunny Dene Ranch in Mabton.

### **Terror Worries Halt Paris-To-L.A. Flights**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Intelligence warnings of possible terrorist plots to use aircraft against American targets have prompted the cancellation of six Air France flights between Los Angeles and Paris and triggered intense security talks between U.S. officials and their foreign counterparts. The flight cancellations added to Christmas holiday tensions that have been high since President Bush raised the national terror alert level to orange, the second highest level, on Sunday. U.S. security officials have been closely monitoring activity at airports, train stations and public buildings. Police randomly stopped cars near the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.

### **Pope Calls for Peace in Christmas Message**

VATICAN CITY (AP) - A frail Pope John Paul II in his Christmas message asked Christ to save the world from war and terrorism - "the great evils" afflicting mankind at the start of the third millennium. John Paul delivered his traditional Christmas Day blessing, known as his "Urbi et Orbi" message - Latin for "to the city and to the world" - just hours after celebrating a lengthy Midnight Mass inside the poinsettia-decked St. Peter's Basilica.

### **Europeans Await Signals From Mars Lander**

DARMSTADT, Germany (AP) - An initial attempt to contact Europe's first Mars lander failed Thursday, but its companion ship swung into orbit around the Red Planet and flight controllers were still optimistic about finding the tiny probe. European Space Agency scientists had hoped that an American satellite orbiting Mars, the Mars Odyssey, would pick up a signal from the Beagle 2. It registered nothing, but space officials had warned that contact could be delayed if the probe landed at an angle or needed more time to unfold.

## *Weather woes...*

### **Washington's Crossing Replay Threatened**

By LINDA A. JOHNSON, Associated Press Writer  
TRENTON, N.J. (AP) -- This month's heavy rains have put into question whether there will be an annual re-enactment of Gen. George Washington's Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware River.

Officials say the swirling waters aren't safe in 60-foot wooden boats - replicas of the Revolutionary War-era Durham cargo boats.

"I will be amazed if it happens this year," said Robert Gerenser, who portrayed Washington for the 1997 re-enactment and is understudy for the coveted role this year.

Safety, police and fire officials were to decide Thursday morning whether the crossing would be made, said Jane Crawford, spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The commission owns and operates Washington Crossing Historic Park in Upper Makefield, Pa., where about 5,000 spectators were expected to turn out for the 52nd annual re-enactment early Thursday afternoon.

The event commemorates Washington's 1776 crossing to New Jersey, which led to key victories in Trenton and Princeton and reversed the Continental Army's declining fortunes.

Maneuvers by soldiers, artillery salvos and readings from Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" were to be held, and Fallsington, Pa., resident Jim Gibson was to appear as Washington.

However, several longtime re-enactors said they were sitting out of this year's re-enactment, upset that Pennsylvania officials have been taking increasing control over an event started by local history buffs in 1952.

Recent changes include a competition for the role of Washington and requirements for participants including a medical exam, historically accurate costumes and written excuses for missed rehearsals.

Crawford said the park has "plenty of volunteers," with 27 oarsmen and 72 troops signed up to cross the river in three boats. "If someone doesn't want to participate, that's up to them."

## *Chaplain's thought for the day...*

### **Joan of Arc**

Joan of Arc said when she was abandoned by those who should have stood by her, "It is better to be alone with God. His friendship will not fail me or His counsel or His love. In His strength I will dare and dare and dare until I die."

# The Old Ironsides Report

December 26, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2003				As of: Thursday, December 25, 2003 6:15:14 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0		WWE SMACKDOWN!: HOLIDAY IN IRAQ				0
0.01			MARVIN HAMLISCH'S CHRISTMAS SALUTE TO THE TROOPS			0.01
0.021					ARMY NEWSWATCH	0.021
0.042				TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	0.042
0.052			HOME ALONE			0.052
0.083	SPORTS SPECIAL - BEST OF SPORTSCENTER	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ SACRAMENTO KINGS		SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	0.083
0.104					NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	0.104
0.125			RUGRATS : - ADVENTURE SQUAD/ THE WAY MORE THINGS WORK/ TALK OF THE TOWN	TELETUBBIES : - LIVING IN FLATS	HEADLINE NEWS	0.125
0.146	COLLEGE GAMEDAY		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	0.146
0.167	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 HAWAII BOWL: HAWAII VS HOUSTON		THE SIMPSONS : - TALL TALES	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	0.167
0.188		NBA - HOUSTON ROCKETS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A HARDWARE HABIT TO BREAK			0.188
0.208			PRIMETIME SPECIAL EDITION:	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	0.208
0.25			THE X-FILES : - ICE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWS WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS	0.25
0.271				JUDGE JUDY		0.271
0.292		HEADLINE NEWS	SAVAGE EARTH : - HELL'S CRUST	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	0.292
0.309				GUIDING LIGHT		0.309
0.313	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	0.313
0.333		HEADLINE NEWS	THE LIFE OF MAMMALS		LARRY KING LIVE	0.333
0.342				GENERAL HOSPITAL		0.342
0.354	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS				0.354
0.375	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - LISTENING TO FEAR	CALILOU : - I CAN DO IT	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	0.375
0.396				THE WEEKENDERS : - NEW FRIENDS/ THE AWFUL WEEKEND		0.396
0.417	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - LIVING IN FLATS	IRON CHEF : - TURKEY/MICHIBA VS FURUSHYOU HIROSHI	AS TOLD BY GINGER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	0.417
0.438		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		CHALK ZONE : - SNAPMOBILE! RUDY'S DATE! MUMBO JUMBO JUMPI! FUTUREZONE		0.438
0.458	COLLEGE FOOTBALL - 2003 HAWAII BOWL: HAWAII VS HOUSTON	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	RUGRATS : - ADVENTURE SQUAD/ THE WAY MORE THINGS WORK/ TALK OF THE TOWN	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	0.458
0.479			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	0.479
0.49		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				0.49
0.5			THE SIMPSONS : - TALL TALES	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	0.5
0.521			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A HARDWARE HABIT TO BREAK	HEADLINE NEWS		0.521
0.524		GUIDING LIGHT				0.524
0.542			WORLD IDOL	KING OF THE HILL : - RACIST DAWG	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	0.542
0.553		GENERAL HOSPITAL				0.553
0.563				THAT 70'S SHOW : - THE CRUNGE		0.563
0.583		HEADLINE NEWS		STING: SACRED LOVE	48 HOURS	0.583
0.604	SPORTSCENTER	JUDGE JUDY				0.604
0.625		TODAY	SAVAGE EARTH : - HELL'S CRUST		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	0.625
0.646	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ SACRAMENTO KINGS					0.646
0.647				24 : - DAY 2: 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.		0.647
0.667			THE LIFE OF MAMMALS			0.667
0.688				HEADLINE NEWS		0.688
0.703				PACIFIC REPORT		0.703
0.708		CALILOU : - I CAN DO IT	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - LISTENING TO FEAR	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	HEADLINE NEWS	0.708
0.729	SPORTSCENTER	THE WEEKENDERS : - NEW FRIENDS/ THE AWFUL WEEKEND			ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	0.729
0.75		AS TOLD BY GINGER	IRON CHEF : - TURKEY/MICHIBA VS FURUSHYOU HIROSHI	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	THE EARLY SHOW	0.75
0.771	NBA - CLEVELAND CAVALIERS @ ORLANDO MAGIC	CHALK ZONE : - SNAPMOBILE! RUDY'S DATE! MUMBO JUMBO JUMPI! FUTUREZONE				0.771
0.792		JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - ADVENTURE SQUAD/ THE WAY MORE THINGS WORK/ TALK OF THE TOWN	MISSION: MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE		0.792
0.813		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TV-7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES			0.813
0.833		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - TALL TALES		FOX NEWS LIVE	0.833
0.854	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - A HARDWARE HABIT TO BREAK			0.854
0.865						0.865
0.875		KING OF THE HILL : - RACIST DAWG	WORLD IDOL	TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS	48 HOURS	0.875
0.896	INSIDE THE NFL	THAT 70'S SHOW : - THE CRUNGE				0.896
0.917		STING: SACRED LOVE			FOX NEWS LIVE	0.917
0.938	ESPNEWS					0.938
0.958	NBA FASTBREAK		SAVAGE EARTH : - HELL'S CRUST	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	0.958
0.979	ESPNEWS				INSIDE POLITICS	0.979
0.98		24 : - DAY 2: 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.				0.98

**December 26, 1908**

## **JACK JOHNSON WINS HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE:**

Jack Johnson becomes the first African American to win the world heavyweight title when he knocks out Canadian Tommy Burns in the 14th round in a championship bout near Sydney, Australia. Johnson, who held the heavyweight title until 1915, was reviled by whites for his defiance of the "Jim Crow" racial conventions of early 20th-century America.

The boxer that is still remembered as the greatest defensive boxer in heavyweight history was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878. Johnson dropped out of school after fifth grade and worked the docks of Galveston before taking up professional boxing. He proved himself a powerful fighter, but the rarity of champion white boxers agreeing to meet black challengers limited his opportunities and purses.

In 1903, Johnson won the "Colored Heavyweight Championship of the World" and the next year issued a challenge to Jim Jeffries, the white American who held the world title at the time. Jeffries refused to meet him, and it was not until 1908 that Tommy Burns agreed to give Johnson a shot at the more prestigious white heavyweight title.

The boxers met at Rushcutter's Bay on the outskirts of Sydney on December 26, 1908. Few of the 20,000 spectators gathered there cheered Johnson as he dominated Burns and became the heavyweight champion of the world. Johnson's reception upon returning to the United States was equally lukewarm, and racists were appalled by his marriage to a white woman. Johnson refused to keep a low profile in the face of criticism of his color and character, and instead took on an excessively flamboyant lifestyle.

He drove flashy sports cars, flaunted gold teeth that went with his gold-handled walking stick, and engaged in numerous, overlapping romances with women--all of them white. Reporters began calling for a "Great White Hope" to put the heavyweight title back in a white man's hands.

Johnson defeated several U.S. challengers, and in 1910 Jim Jeffries agreed to come out of retirement to try to beat the black boxer. In a fight held at Reno, Nevada, on July 4, 1910, Johnson became the first boxer to knock down Jeffries, and in the 15th round Jeffries' corner threw in the towel. The outcome of the match prompted racial violence and rioting across the United States.

In 1912, Johnson was convicted of transporting an unmarried woman across state lines for "immoral purposes," a law that was drafted primarily to prevent prostitution and the white slavery trade--not to prevent a black boxer and nightclub owner from having an affair with his white secretary. Johnson was sentenced to a year in prison and released on bond pending an appeal. He took the opportunity to flee the United States disguised as a member of a black baseball team.

Johnson lived in exile for the next seven years and continued to defend his title in bouts in Europe and elsewhere. On April 5, 1915, he lost the heavyweight title when he was knocked out by white American Jess Willard in the 20th round of a fight in Havana, Cuba. There were rumors that Johnson threw the championship in order to have the charges against him dropped. The charges were not dropped, however, and when Johnson returned to the United States in 1920 he was arrested by U.S. marshals. He was sent to a federal prison in Kansas to serve his year sentence.

After his release, Johnson boxed occasionally but never regained his former stature. His fortunes steadily diminished, and near the end of his life he worked as a vaudeville and carnival performer. He died in a car accident in 1946.

## ***OIF reenlistment bonuses in effect***

Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers eligible to reenlist may want to consider re-upping now and take advantage of bonus multipliers that can mean some extra cash in their pockets.

All military occupational specialties are eligible. Soldiers must reenlist to complete their current deployment and for 12 months stabilization in their current unit. The minimum reenlist time is three years.

Unlike other bonuses, the current program is based upon the soldier's base pay, years of service and length of the reenlistment.

Some soldiers will get slightly less than \$5,000, but most soldiers will receive more.

For more information, contact your unit career counselors:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, BIAP, Soldier Support Center, DVNT 551-9405
- Division Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield BIAP, Soldier Support Center, DVNT 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, DVNT 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Saddam's Presidential Palace, DVNT 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, BIAP, DVNT 551-6620
- Division Artillery: SFC Hilton, BIAP, DVNT 551-7030
- Division Engineer: MSG Collier BIAP DVNT 551-6131
- Division Support Command: SFC Casnave, BIAP, Soldier Support Center, DVNT 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, BIAP, Soldier Support Center, DVNT 551-9405

