

Nov. 10, 2005

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Bob Heberle <bobheberle@visi.com>
To: Dick Bernard <dick@chez-nous.net>
26 lies by Bush people

Dick, we hosted and entertained Jimmy and his wife for four days. He is admittedly being treated for PTSD. At least he served in Iraq. How many of those listed below did? Why aren't they discredited?

Bob

26 Lies: And if Massey lied, he didn't kill anyone

Tack this to the wall:

How the United States should react if Iraq acquired WMD. The first line of defense ... should be a clear and classical statement of deterrence - if they do acquire WMD, their weapons will be unusable because any attempt to use them will bring national obliteration.

- Condoleeza Rice, 2/1/2000

We are greatly concerned about any possible linkup between terrorists and regimes that have or seek weapons of mass destruction ... In the case of Saddam Hussein, we've got a dictator who is clearly pursuing and already possesses some of these weapons. A regime that hates America and everything we stand for must never be permitted to threaten America with weapons of mass destruction.

- Dick Cheney, 6/20/2002

Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction.

- Dick Cheney, 8/26/2002

There is already a mountain of evidence that Saddam Hussein is gathering weapons for the purpose of using them. And adding additional information is like adding a foot to Mount Everest.

- Ari Fleischer, 9/6/2002

We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud.

- Condoleeza Rice, 9/8/2002

Right now, Iraq is expanding and improving facilities that were used for the production of biological weapons.

- George W. Bush, 9/12/2002

Iraq has stockpiled biological and chemical weapons, and is rebuilding the facilities used to make more of those weapons. We have sources that tell us that Saddam Hussein recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons - the very weapons the dictator tells us he does not have.

- George W. Bush, 10/5/2002

And surveillance photos reveal that the regime is rebuilding facilities that it had used to produce chemical and biological weapons.

- George W. Bush, 10/7/2002

After eleven years during which we have tried containment, sanctions, inspections, even selected military action, the end result is that Saddam Hussein still has chemical and biological weapons and is increasing his capabilities to make more. And he is moving ever closer to developing a nuclear weapon.

- George W. Bush, 10/7/2002

We've also discovered through intelligence that Iraq has a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles that could be used to disperse chemical or biological weapons across broad areas.

- George W. Bush, 10/7/2002

Iraq could decide on any given day to provide biological or chemical weapons to a terrorist group or to individual terrorists ...The war on terror will not be won until Iraq is completely and verifiably deprived of weapons of mass destruction.

- Dick Cheney, 12/1/2002

If he declares he has none, then we will know that Saddam Hussein is once again misleading the world.

- Ari Fleischer, 12/2/2002

We know for a fact that there are weapons there.

- Ari Fleischer, 1/9/2003

The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production.

- George W. Bush, 1/28/2003

Our intelligence officials estimate that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agent.

- George W. Bush, 1/28/2003

We know that Saddam Hussein is determined to keep his weapons of mass destruction, is determined to make more.

- Colin Powell, 2/5/2003

There can be no doubt that Saddam Hussein has biological weapons and the capability to rapidly produce more, many more. And he has the ability to dispense these lethal poisons and diseases in ways that can cause massive death and destruction. If biological weapons seem too terrible to contemplate, chemical weapons are equally chilling.

- Colin Powell, 2/5/2003

If Iraq had disarmed itself, gotten rid of its weapons of mass destruction over the past 12 years, or over the last several months since (UN Resolution) 1441 was enacted, we would not be facing the crisis that we now have before us ... But the suggestion that we are doing this because we want to go to every country in the Middle East and rearrange all of its pieces is not correct.

- Colin Powell, 2/28/2003

Let's talk about the nuclear proposition for a minute. We know that based on intelligence, that has been very, very good at hiding these kinds of efforts. He's had years to get good at it and we know he has been absolutely devoted to trying to acquire nuclear weapons. And we believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons.

- Dick Cheney, 3/16/2003

Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised.

- George W. Bush, 3/17/2003

Well, there is no question that we have evidence and information that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical particularly ... all this will be made clear in the course of the operation, for whatever duration it takes.

- Ari Fleischer, 3/21/2003

We know where they are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat.

- Donald Rumsfeld, 3/30/2003

We are learning more as we interrogate or have discussions with Iraqi scientists and people within the Iraqi structure, that perhaps he destroyed some, perhaps he dispersed some. And so we will find them.

- George W. Bush, 4/24/2003

I'm absolutely sure that there are weapons of mass destruction there and the evidence will be forthcoming. We're just getting it just now.

- Colin Powell, 5/4/2003

It's going to take time to find them, but we know he had them. And whether he destroyed them, moved them or hid them, we're going to find out the truth. One thing is for certain: Saddam Hussein no longer threatens America with weapons of mass destruction.

- George W. Bush, 5/25/2003

But for those who say we haven't found the banned manufacturing devices or banned weapons, they're wrong, we found them.

- George W. Bush, 5/30/2003

No one ever said that we knew precisely where all of these agents were, where they were stored.

- Condoleezza Rice, 6/8/2003

Yes, they lied.

William Rivers Pitt is a New York Times and internationally bestselling author of two books: *War on Iraq: What Team Bush Doesn't Want You to Know* and *The Greatest Sedition Is Silence*.

Last night a friend wrote a brief and rather anguished note, saying that she'd seen the below article in the Minneapolis paper this week, had heard Jimmy Massey speak in Minneapolis last spring, and very much wanted to believe him, he was so inspiring then.

I had publicized his talk here last spring, but for some unremembered reason didn't attend. I've never heard him speak, read anything by or about him, till now, and wouldn't know it was him, if I saw a photo. He is, to me, a completely blank slate.

I have a few brief comments:

If he made up his stories, he made up his stories. No time should be invested in trying to pretend otherwise. His career as an anti-war spokesman may be over.

But the right wing types who are now falling all over themselves braying about 'Massey the Fraud' should take their sweet time casting their stones, when their many heroes from the top on down seem incapable of telling a straight story about anything. The denizens of the radical right have mastered the black art of destructive dishonesty. "Tis a strange pot to be calling the kettle black" is the old saw that comes to mind about them.

I'm reminded of the so-called 'Swift boat veterans for truth', who lied through their teeth to savage John Kerry a year or so ago—and were applauded for their effectiveness and even patriotism. Planned Lying, truth be told, is a main weapon that has been used to build and maintain Karl Rove's political empire. It works (or, rather, worked.) Ask Rush Limbaugh; ask Ann Coulter. Savaging people by insinuations, half-truths, 'whoppers', was all part of the game of hard-ball politics. We the people were viewed as village idiots—and perhaps we were (or still are).

This doesn't excuse Massey, if the stories told about the reality he experienced are true, and if he manufactured stories about things that didn't happen as he suggested.

But, there are tens of thousands of unnecessarily dead and wounded in the Iraq War that make up their own very profound story far in excess of Massey's. As the mantra and its many variations go: "Bush lied, they died".

It is possible that there is some kind of middle ground, something psychologically based going on in Massey's head that created a fantasy life. He was discharged, it was said, for post-traumatic stress disorder. Perhaps that plays significantly into his problem.

But, even so, if he lied about what he and his fellow GIs did in Iraq, he lied, and I don't think we should invest time trying to rehabilitate him as a hero if he did.

Life just has to go on.

And as I said at the beginning, I don't know Massey or his stories—so someone else may have to flesh this one out.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dick Bernard [mailto:dick@chez-nous.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2005 8:15 PM

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Marine's stories of American atrocities in Iraq found to be fabricated

Ron Harris St. Louis Post-dispatch,

WASHINGTON - For more than a year, former Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey has told anybody who will listen about the atrocities that he and other Marines committed in Iraq.

In scores of newspaper, magazine and broadcast stories, at a Canadian immigration hearing and in numerous speeches across the country, including in Minneapolis in April, Massey told how he and other Marines recklessly, sometimes intentionally, killed dozens of innocent Iraqi civilians.

Among his claims:

- * Marines fired on and killed peaceful Iraqi protesters.
- * Americans shot a 4-year-old Iraqi girl in the head.
- * A tractor-trailer was filled with the bodies of civilian men, women and children killed by U.S. artillery.

Massey's claims have gained him celebrity. His book, "Kill, Kill, Kill," was released in France. Earlier this year, he joined the antiwar bus tour of Cindy Sheehan.

Outside of the Marines, almost no one questioned whether Massey, a 12-year veteran who was honorably discharged, was telling the truth. He wasn't.

Each of his claims is either demonstrably false or exaggerated -- according to his fellow Marines, Massey's own admissions, and five journalists who were embedded with Massey's unit, including a reporter and photographer from the Post-Dispatch and reporters from the Associated Press and the Wall Street Journal.

Massey, 34, of Waynesville, N.C., was with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment based at Twentynine Palms, Calif. The unit participated in the

invasion of Iraq in March 2003. He was discharged in December 2003, shortly after returning from Iraq, due to depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Massey said that Marines from his battalion -- some of whom, he told a Minneapolis audience, were "psychopathic killers" -- recklessly shot and killed Iraqi civilians, soometimes, he said, upon orders from their commanders.

From the beginning, Massey misled reporters.

He backtracked from allegations he made in May 2004 that he had seen a tractor-trailer filled with the bodies of Iraqi civilians. He said they had been killed by U.S. artillery. But when Post-Dispatch photographs and witnesses challenged him, he admitted he had never seen the bodies.