

On Our Side

This is probably not the place to give a personal viewpoint on what many now believe to have been the most ill conceived and hopelessly misguided military invasion in our nation's history. Instead, I offer a few anecdotes, and you can judge for yourself.

In summer of 2002, Mary and I spent a week on Le P'tit Train du Nord bike trail in Quebec. In addition to our guide, our only other two companions were Wally and Michele from New York City. This was eight months before the invasion, but it was clear that the Administration had already decided to invade Iraq and was just looking for an excuse to do so. We soon learned that our companions were much involved in the anti-war movement, attending rallies and marches. And of course, being in such close company, no doubt they were anxious to know where we stood.

Just the day before we left home, over the news came the report that one of the 9/11 hijackers was said to have met with an Iraqi official in Prague, which the White House announced to the public as a good reason for going to war. When we told this to our companions, their stunned reaction was: ***“What! We're going to war because of that!”*** We told them that was our reaction too, much to their relief. We got along fine, and have remained in contact ever since.

It was later found that hijacker was in Florida all the time that this meeting was supposed to have taken place, which many now believe was already known by the Administration. In any case, according to a PBS Frontline investigation, the whole war was started by a wild rumor that no one in our government even bothered to substantiate. But after all, why should they have? It was proudly proclaimed that God was on our side!