

The Invasion of Iraq

written around 2000, revised 2021

Just a brief outline of my proposed movie

By some convoluted set of circumstances much too complicated to explain in this brief outline, Major Coffin (played by Hal Holbrook) has been promoted to the rank of General in the United States Army and has been put in charge of our armed forces carrying out the military invasion of Iraq.

As he had suspected would be the case, the Iraqi military has wisely chosen to not put up any opposition as our ground troops storm across the border from Turkey. This of course comes as a bitter disappointment to President Bash, who was hoping for sensational victorious battle scenes to be shown on TV. The Iraqi leaders realize that their best hope is worldwide public opinion, and lacking that, what they hope will be underground opposition by their armed citizenry in the streets of Baghdad in a slow but steady war of nerves and campaign of attrition.

Our troops have been prepared for the likely possibility of biological warfare, and have all received inoculations against the various possible threats as well as highly sophisticated protective equipment and various other measures. Indeed, the threat is taken so seriously that an entire division of the army is now devoted to counter-biological warfare, with huge amounts of supplies and trained personnel, and practically unlimited budget. The reason for this surprising shift in priorities will soon become all too clear.

As our troops enter the city of Baghdad, not only are they unopposed but it is apparent that something is seriously wrong with the entire populace. Most of them are becoming increasingly stricken by some mysterious debilitating illness. It is soon traced to some pathogen in the city's water supply, but not even the experts are able to figure out what it is.

Back in the U.S., a reporter for the Washington Post (played by Julia Roberts of course) starts doing some investigating on her own. As she suspected, her determined sleuthing gradually uncovers a plot hatched up in some obscure underground miscarriage of the CIA to poison the Baghdad water supplies with a diabolical new

pathogen secretly developed by their scientists using gene splicing. When the news breaks, of course our government flatly denies it, right up to the highest levels, but finally they are reluctantly forced to admit the truth. It also turns out that when our troops thought they were receiving only smallpox shots, they were also being secretly inoculated against this pathogen as well.

Well, it is working exactly as expected, only too well. The perpetrators had underestimated its potency in a population that was generally undernourished and poorly equipped to handle such medical emergencies. People are dying by the thousands, especially children and pregnant women. General Coffin then takes matters into his own hands. Defying orders from Washington, clinics are set up all around the city and the people are administered a special antidote from the U.S. Army supplies that quickly restores their health and saves tens of thousands of lives. Just across the border in Turkey, the CIA under Ronald Dumsfeld has set up a secret facility for torturing prisoners, but instead this is converted into a field hospital. There is fostered a general feeling of goodwill between the people of Iraq and the American troops.

Meanwhile, Saddam Hussein and his gang realize that things have gone wrong. They know that the U.S. Army is under orders from the President to hunt them down and execute the entire lot of them on the spot. In one last desperate move, Saddam Hussein unleashes his own secret weapon. Unknown to the Pentagon despite all of the spying and arms inspections, Saddam's laboratories have produced large quantities of a little known infectious disease indigenous to Iraq and the means to disperse it into the atmosphere, which they now proceed to deploy. It incapacitates its victims by making them quite ill. The Iraqis have a certain amount of natural immunity, but the Americans are more severely affected and some start dying.

Now the tables are turned. The Iraqi doctors and nurses start caring for the American troops, using special herbal remedies little known outside their country. Soon health is restored all around. Meanwhile, the U.S. Army is bringing in food supplies by the truckload to feed a population that was already undernourished, with the situation make even worse by all the civil unrest. Soon all of the other neighboring countries are joining in the relief efforts.

Saddam and his gang are soon hunted down by his own people and held in captivity. To prevent their assassination by unruly mobs, General Coffin places them under the protection of the U.S. Army to await trial in accordance with International

Law. President Bash is furious. When General Coffin returns home he is placed in confinement to await trial for court-martial. In his trial, he is convicted of treason and sentenced to prison for life, but that is overturned by the Supreme Court. Soon after being set free, he is assassinated by a right wing extremist gang. Meanwhile a memorial has been erected in his honor in Baghdad, and he is buried there.