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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

September 29, 2001



Terrorism

Give the terrorists their due. They understood asymmetrical warfare. Having seen the Iraq Army, reputed to be the sixth largest in the world, routed in fewer than 48 hours by a modern American Army, the terrorists resorted to a methodology we in America once understood very well.

I am reminded of the old joke by Bill Cosby, where he did a monologue of how the American Revolutionary War would have sounded if it was a professional Football game.

At the coin toss, the Referee intoned: Call the coin in the air. Heads! Heads it is. The Americans win the toss and have elected to dress in woodsmen clothes and attack from behind trees and bridges. The British will wear Red Coats and march in straight lines in the open. (Heh! Heh! Heh!)

I have heard many comments that it would be "unfair" to attack certain places in certain ways. I have heard that we must avoid losing any innocent lives. Apparently those people want us to wear Red Coats and march in straight lines.

In war, innocents are killed. Ask the residents of Nanking, or Coventry, or Dresden, or Hiroshima, or Nagasaki, or billions of other places.

Being a former submariner, I understand the problem. For many years politicians opposed the use of submarines as "unfair." Certainly, submarines do not go into battle with battle flags flying - they



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sneak in, sometimes masking their presence with recorded sounds of schools of shrimp, hit hard, leave their victims in the water, and sneak away if possible.

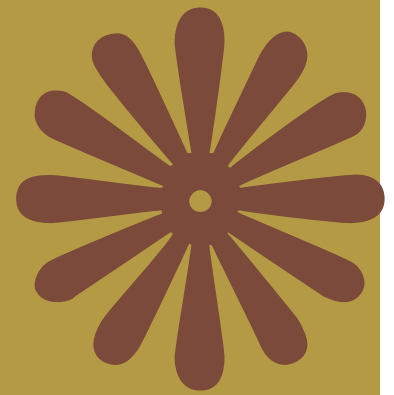
Some of my readers were very much alive in 1929 when then Secretary of State Henry Stimpson opposed the founding of an intelligence service with a sniff, "Gentlemen do not read other gentlemen's mail." Had that attitude prevailed, our common language would now be German or Japanese.

In the end, victory is never assured to those who obey the Marquis of Queensbury Rules when opposed by people who obey the Marquis de Sade's rules. Sade's Rules have an automatic and huge advantage

But terror is a double-edged sword...it can work against both sides. In the Philippines, General "Blackjack" Pershing faced a Muslim uprising. He executed more than 70 captured Muslims with bullets visibly coated in pig fat, then buried their bodies with pig carcasses and entrails in front of three remaining Muslims who were released to carry the message. General Pershing faced no more Muslim problems. The Soviets delivered the private parts of a family member to Middle Eastern terrorists who captured two Russian diplomats - no more diplomats were ever detained. Our attacks on Dresden, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not aimed at military targets but rather were intended to destroy civilian support for a military regime - and that support was so rabid that it took TWO nuclear bombs to finally send the message!

This war on terrorism will be long, it will be bloody, and our Special Forces will be using tactics that you would be better off not knowing about. War ain't bean bag, and Grantland Rice's poem is not appropriate to war - the poem that says, "...and when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He counts not that you won or lost, but how you played the Game."

Horse pucky! In war, the ONLY thing that counts is winning! Right now the war is VERY asymmetrical - they have lost 19 people, we have lost 7,000+.



"You ask, what is our policy? I will say: it is to wage war, by sea, land and air, and with all our might. . . . You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: victory. . . . Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival!"

Sir Winston Churchill

