

technology was there to bring unprecedented coverage. In all three, the potential of the technology was either betrayed, or significantly undermined by the belligerents which denied TV access to the story. In the Falklands War we should remind ourselves that although British ships carried satellite dishes, the reports were censored, but most importantly, delayed by about four days. The burning of the *Sir Galahad* took two weeks to get back to London.

Well folks, we did better in the Boer War with packet-boats; in many cases reports from South Africa reached Britain within nine days by packet-boat at the turn of the century than film of the Falklands. And in fact, after D-Day, Spitfires were carrying film back to London and it was in the theatres the next day, the next afternoon. So you had twenty-four hour coverage of combat troops in the European theatre.

On the Argentinian front, reporters were so tied down in their hotels in Buenos Aires that the first modern satellite war has been aptly named "The Room Service War." The Iran-Iraq war, which lasted eight years and had one million casualties, might as well have occurred on another planet. That got nicknamed the "convoy into hell" war because at best, the correspondent would be driven for sixteen hours into the middle of an artillery barrage, totally disoriented and then driven out a day later to Baghdad. On the Iranian side you were lucky to get a shot of the Fountain of Blood of the Martyrs, and then you were driven back to the airport.

Let me make a parenthetical remark about an event that happened after the Gulf War that got virtually no coverage -- a failure of the satellite age, but not one that can in any way be ascribed to the military. One hundred and forty thousand people died in Bangladesh last spring. Where were the helicopters flying in the great satellite dishes so that the world could share in the scale of this great human tragedy? No one was stopping them. Yet we did not see this great human tragedy as being worth the trouble to bring our technology to bear. We survived on a mere one minute of footage for three days. The death of 140,000 souls compels, I think, a more moral scale of witness than one minute. Not all the failures of the satellite age are caused by the military.