



Search  for



Home | News | Sport | 3am | TV & Film | Dating | Gaming | Money | More >

News > Latest | Showbiz | Brian Reade | Tony Parsons | Paul Routledge | Sue Carroll | Kevin Maguire | More >

4 October 2006

## A WAR CRIME?

### ITN Terry 'killed by U.S.' Boss claims MoD 'cover-up'

By Don Mackay

VETERAN ITN reporter Terry Lloyd may have been killed in Iraq in a "war crime" by American forces, his boss claimed yesterday.

And the Defence Ministry in London covered up what happened until ITN launched its own investigation, alleged former chief executive Stuart Purvis.

Lloyd, 50, was injured in the shoulder when he and his camera team were caught in a battle between US and Iraqi troops near Basra as the invasion began in 2003.

But the ITN probe discovered he was killed when an American helicopter gunship blasted the Iraqi ambulance taking him to hospital.

Mr Purvis told the inquest into Lloyd's death that despite repeated requests to then Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, at first British military officials held back details.

He said: "I came to the conclusion that the British military knew more about what happened at the top level than they were disclosing to us. The simple solution was that two ITN journalists went to Basra to try to find out."

Finally the military started to co-operate. Mr Purvis told the hearing in Oxford: "The situation started to change when the feeling began to grow that this was a war crime."

Mr Purvis said Lloyd and his team were working independently and were not "embedded" with coalition forces.

He said: "When a journalist is embedded the military take away the reporter's freedom of reporting.

"When a journalist is working unilaterally they can choose when to move." However, Mr Purvis believed Lloyd was not ahead of the front line at the time of his death.

Earlier tearful ITN frontman Sir Trevor McDonald told the hearing he learned of Lloyd's plan to cross into Iraq two days earlier.

Sir Trevor said: "He was very anxious to get going. He was a very keen journalist and inactivity did not suit him."

He stressed that Lloyd was an "extraordinarily careful" reporter.

"He held the safety of his team above all else. He was not a risk taker. He was keen to do his job as well as ensure the safety of others."

Lloyd's French cameraman Fred Nerac is still missing. The body of Lebanese translator Hussein Osman was found.

Cameraman Daniel Demoustier, driving another vehicle, crashed into a ditch and hid until rescued.

Sir Trevor - who identified Lloyd's body - said that when Demoustier got back to the ITN base he "was in a state of considerable shock. He looked very dishevelled, like he had been through a pretty horrifying experience.

"It took him some time to collect his thoughts and tell us with as much clarity as he could what had happened."

The inquest is continuing.

don.mackay@mirror.co.uk

Print article Email to a friend

## TOP STORIES

### EXCLUSIVE: GUN GANG KIDNAPS 5 BRITS

GUNMEN kidnapped up to five British oil workers in Nigeria last night after storming the compound where they live.

### HOW PRINCE WILLIAM'S BIN-GOING MAD

THE future King of England has been spotted in a bingo hall with a group of army pals.

### IRA CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE IS OVER SAYS PM

THE IRA's campaign of violence in Northern Ireland is over, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced today.

### AMISH KILLER'S CALL TO WIFE

THE crazed Amish school gunman rang his wife minutes before the massacre to say he had molested two young girls 20 years ago - and was tormented by dreams of doing it again.

### FOUR HELD OVER SOCCER STAR BURGLARIES

FOUR men have been arrested in connection with a string of burglaries at the homes of Liverpool football players.

## MORE HEADLINES

- BATH HORROR OF GIRL, 6
- A WAR CRIME?
- CAM'S 'SAVE NHS' SHAM
- 3MILLION JOBLESS WAS GOOD FOR US
- BORIS: LET PUPILS EAT JUNK FOOD
- HAGUE: TORIES FACE OBLIVION
- THE SNORIES AT BOURNEMOUTH
- EXCLUSIVE: JORDAN: I'M WORTH NEARLY £1 BILLION
- BLAIR TELLS OF SHOCK ON BULLIES
- THE MBE CONMAN IS JAILED
- PRANKSTER MET CHAS FOR A DARE
- HIJACKER'S ASYLUM BID
- TOULOUSE LA CIG
- TESCO BOSS: WE'RE GOOD FOR SMALL HIGH ST STORES
- WOMEN RAP 'DEVIL BOSSES'
- ELEPHANT BRIT WIFE IN TRIBUTE
- 'INTRUDER' AT NO10 IN THE DOCK
- APPALLING
- WIFE AND TWO SONS KILLED AT CROSSING
- FURY AT LESS THAN 5 YRS FOR KILLING A GRANDAD
- SO WHO'S MADE THE X FACTOR FINAL?

## DON'T MISS

**MIRROR.CO.UK BY EMAIL**  
GET the best of the Daily Mirror delivered to your inbox every morning!

- FIND ME A LOAN
- FIND ME A DATE
- FIND ME A JOB
- FIND ME A CAR
- FIND ME A HOLIDAY



**WIN UP TO £1 MILLION!**  
Mirror Bingo Games start from as little as 10p. Play now and win BIG in time.

## 24/7 NEWSWIRE

SUPPLIED BY REUTERS

Peter Pan sequel sends Wendy back to Neverland 5 October 2006

Calif. files felony charges against ex-HP chair 4 October 2006

Drivers think of sex rather than signals 4 October 2006

Which? slams Tesco over "insecure" self-scan tills 4 October 2006

"Pay as you drive" insurance hits roads 4 October 2006

Wendy goes back to Neverland for Peter Pan sequel 4 October 2006

## more latest news

### HAVE YOUR SAY

### READ OUR TOP COLUMNISTS



**Tony Parsons**  
FANATICAL religious firebrand seeks extra wives.



**Kevin Maguire**  
AS a display of shameless self-promotion, the David Cameron seaside show takes some beating.



**Paul Routledge**  
THE ruling class had a high old time in Manchester. You could have filled the Ship Canal with the free booze on offer to the self-styled natural party of government.



**Voice of the Mirror**  
TORY toff David Cameron is a Grade-A hypocrite.



**Sue Carroll**  
AN OAP has this week been forced into hiding after shopping to police a gang of youths who threatened to firebomb her home in Liverpool.



**Fiona**  
WELL, blow me down. There I was on Tuesday night watching BBC's 'Whistleblower', when a familiar face came into view.



**Mirror Investigates**  
IT takes a particularly vile person to take money destined for children's charities - someone such as half-man, half-maggot Nathan Fearon.



**Contact Us**  
Have you got a story, a picture, a question or a complaint? Click here to find out how to tell us.

### RECOMMENDED LINKS

**Low Rate Debt Consolidation Loans**  
Consolidate your credit quickly and easily with a secured loan from Picture. typical 7.9% APR variable. Borrow from £10,000 and £100,000. Apply online today.

Advertisement



## Magic Numbers

get to know each other better



click here for more

- PREGNANT TEENS SMOKE TO HAVE SMALLER BABIES
- FRED'S DEAD...IS HE WED?
- RAP FOR REV'S TASTELESS JOKE
- STOLEN FOR A SPIN
- EXCLUSIVE: SIMON'S FIRST MAN IN FAMILY TO LIVE PAST 50TH BIRTHDAY SINCE 1851
- KILLER USED COMPO TO BUY CRASH CAR
- DYING DAD RAID SHOCK
- TREE OF STRIFE
- KING CON
- WHO ATE ALL THE TWEETY PIES?
- MOL RACE JIBE
- OAF MCCRIRICK
- BINGO WILLS
- GOOGLE NET FIRST HOME
- HAY FEVER HITS TRAINS
- GRAN £12K BILL MIX-UP
- RAUNCHY RACHEL
- CHURCH'S GIRL BAN ON GAVIN
- EXCLUSIVE: PRANGED KERRY IN TOT FEAR
- SUPERJUMBO DELAY COULD HIT THOUSANDS OF JOBS
- ALARM AT N KOREA NUKE TEST
- IRA FIGHT OVER: IT'S OFFICIAL
- TRAGIC HERO'S HOPE
- PEACHES GELDOF IN SHOPLIFT QUIZ
- CAROL: I'LL NOT TAKE DES JOB
- STELLA'S TURN AS LITTLE MISS MACCA

**Fast, Easy Loans**  
Any purpose loans of £5,000 to £100,000 for homeowners only. All credit histories and employment situations considered - we search the market for the right loan for you. Apply today.

**Manage Your Debt Problems - Freeman Jones**  
Write off up to 75% of your debt with Freeman Jones. Prevent against bankruptcy, IVAs, and CCJs.