

(U) IRAQI COMMANDER MEMOIRS ON MISSILES (6)

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(U) SOURCE: AMMAN AL-'ARAB AL-YAWM IN ARABIC 5 NOV 98 P 11 TEXT:

(U) (PART SIX OF BOOK OF MEMOIRS ENTITLED "FORTY-THREE MISSILES ON THE ZIONIST ENTITY," BY STAFF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HAZIM 'ABD-AL-RAZZAQ AL-AYYUBI, COMMANDER OF THE IRAQI SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE CORPS DURING THE GULF WAR)

(U) (FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT) CHAPTER 1V: THE BATTLE OF HOPE AND HONOR
(1)(SUBTITLE) 17 JANUARY 1991 (SUBTITLE) IT IS A QUARTER OF AN HOUR AFTER MIDNIGHT. I LEFT THE CALCULATOR WITH ITS GREEN NUMBERS AND SAT ON A COUCH TO RECOUP WHAT I MISSED IN THE DAILY PAPERS. AFTER A WHILE, HOWEVER, I COULD NOT RESIST SLEEP ANY MORE. SO, I DECIDED TO LAY DOWN ON THE COUCH. MY TWO YOUNG SONS--MUHAMMAD, A FOURTH GRADER; AND AHMAD, WHO WAS STILL AT A BLOSSOMING AGE IN A KINDERGARTEN--WERE ASLEEP IN THE BEDROOM NEXT TO MY OFFICE. I FORGOT TO SEND THEM HOME IN THE MIDST OF MY PREOCCUPATION WITH THE PLANNING AND CALCULATION. THE TIME IS 0230 HOURS. THE CALM IN THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY DISTURBED BY THE SOUND OF AIR RAIDS FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF GROUND DEFENSES ENGAGING HOSTILE AIRCRAFT. I JUMPED TO THE TELEPHONE TO INQUIRE FROM THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND OTHER SOURCES. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE ENEMY LAUNCHED A TREACHEROUS ATTACK ON IRAQ. I IMMEDIATELY ISSUED ORDERS TO FUEL MISSILES, SINCE ANY DELAY WOULD DELAY THE ENTIRE OPERATION. I ALSO ALERTED THE STRATEGIC BRIGADES AND GOT READY TO GO DOWN TO THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER, WHICH WE FURNISHED PARTIALLY. I GATHERED MY PAPERS AND WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN THE TELEPHONE RANG. I RUSHED BACK. HELLO? MY WIFE REPLIED RATHER TENSELY: THERE IS WAR. YOU TOOK THE BOYS AND LEFT ME ALONE WITH THE GIRLS? I TRIED TO BE SARCASTIC TO COOL HER DOWN: YES, I KNEW THE WAR WILL START TONIGHT. HOW? DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT I WAS IN TOUCH WITH BUSH? ALRIGHT SO WHAT MUST I DO? GO DOWN TO THE

CHEMICAL ROOM--I MEANT THE BASEMENT ROOM. SHE HUNG UP. I KNOW FROM THE DAYS OF AL-QADISIYAH BATTLE IN THE 1980S THAT MY WIFE WILL DO WHAT IS BEST FOR HER AND THE KIDS; EITHER GO DOWN TO THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER, OR EVEN OUT IN THE GARDEN. I HAD NO DOUBT ABOUT HER WISDOM, SINCE NEIGHBORS HAVE OFTEN COMMENDED HER STRONG WILLPOWER AND HANDLING OF SITUATIONS, ALTHOUGH SHE NEVER EXPERIENCED WAR BEFORE. I ISSUED ORDERS TO FUEL THE MISSILES AT 0345 HOURS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST PRIORITY, WHICH WAS TO STRIKE AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS INSIDE THE ZIONIST ENTITY. AT 0350 HOURS, SOMEONE CALLED ME ON THE PHONE TO SAY THAT ENEMY AIRCRAFT BOMBED ZONE NO. 4. THIS IS THE FIXED LAUNCHING BASES AREA WEST OF KILOMETER 160 IN THE WESTERN REGION. THE RAID INJURED SIX MEMBERS OF THE FIRST BATTALION OF THE COMMANDO BRIGADE BELONGING TO THE 1V ARMY CORPS WHICH WAS IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING THE AREA. AT 0520 HOURS, THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ CALLED TO CONVEY THE GREETINGS OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE MISSILE CORPS MEN. IT IS TIME FOR MORNING PRAYER. I DID NOT HEAR THE CALL FOR PRAYER FROM THE NEAR MOSQUE. THE ENEMIES APPARENTLY HIT THE POWER STATIONS AND COMMUNICATION CENTERS. BECAUSE CIVILIAN TELEPHONES WERE SILENCED AND ONLY MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS REMAINED ACTIVE. I TURNED TO THE QIBLAH TO PERFORM PRAYER. I SOLEMNLY PRAYED TO GOD TO HELP IRAQ, ITS LEADER, AND PEOPLE TRIUMPH OVER THE FORCES OF EVIL AND TYRANNY. I PRAYED: O GOD, MAKE JUSTICE AND ITS DEFENDERS TRIUMPH OVER FALSEHOOD AND THOSE BEHIND IT. I CONTINUED FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE MISSILES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S ORDER TO DIRECT STRIKE AT ZIONIST ENEMY TARGETS. THE OFFICERS AT THE SITES SAID ENEMY BOMBING CONTINUED, BUT THEY WERE DETERMINED, GOD WILLING, TO CARRY OUT THE ORDERS OF PREPARING THE BASES AND THE MISSILES IN PLACES HIDDEN FROM ENEMY AIRCRAFT. AT 0800 HOURS, THE ENEMY BOMBED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION 1039 WHICH WAS LOCATED IN AL-TAJI CAMP, NORTHERN IRAQ. THE CASUALTIES WERE ONE MARTYR AND TWO WOUNDED. THIS BATTALION'S ROLE UNDER THE PLAN WAS TO PROTECT AL-HUSAYN MISSILE SITES UNDER BRIGADE 224. AT 0845 HOURS, THE COMMANDER OF THE OPERATIONAL MISSILES CONTROL CENTER REPORTED THAT THE THIRD BATTALION OF BRIGADE 225 WHICH WAS EQUIPPED WITH TACTICAL LUNA MISSILES LEFT ITS POSITIONS IN KUWAIT TO NEW POSITIONS, WHERE IT CARRIED OUT THREE EFFECTIVE STRIKES AT US TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN THE AL-KHAFJI HARBOR. AT 1100 HOURS, LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHABIB SULAYMAN, THE PRESIDENT'S AIDE-DE-CAMP, ARRIVED AND HANDED ME AN ENVELOP WHICH I NOTICED CARRIED THE SIGNATURE OF COLONEL 'ABD HAMID MAHMUD, THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY. I ALSO NOTICED THAT THE TIME OF DISPATCH WAS 1030 HOURS AND THE ENVELOPED WAS STAMPED "VERY URGENT." (MORE) 5 NOV [REDACTED] I READ THE MESSAGE EAGERLY AS IF I EXPECTED IT (b)(3) FOR YEARS. THE PRESIDENT'S HANDWRITING WAS CLEAR FROM THE BIG LETTERS. MY EYES RACED THROUGH THE MESSAGE: "IN THE NAME OF GOD THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE "STAFF BRIGADIER GENERAL HAZIM 'ABD-AL-RAZZAQ "PEACE BE ON YOU. "BEGIN, WITH GOD'S BLESSING, STRIKING TARGETS INSIDE THE CRIMINAL ZIONIST ENTITY WITH THE HEAVIEST FIRE POSSIBLE, AND THE NEED TO BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPOSURE. THE STRIKES MUST BE CARRIED OUT WITH "ORDINARY" CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION FOR MISSILES. THE FIRING MUST CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. (MORE) END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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