

IN SPORTS: THE UCONN HUSKIES DEFEAT BYU, 58-53, IN THE FIRST-ROUND OF THE NCAA TOURNAMENT SOUTH REGIONAL

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AMERICA AT WAR

'The days of the Saddam Hussein regime are numbered.'

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

GROUND FORCES ATTACK

DESERTED BAGHDAD IS POUNDED BY MISSILES



RAMZI HAIDAR/Agence France Presse

Smoke and flames billow from the building housing the Iraqi Planning Ministry in Baghdad after it was hit by a missile Thursday. The Iraqi capital came under heavy U.S.-led bombardment on day two of the war, with at least three buildings being destroyed by coalition missiles and bombs.

First allied casualties reported in Kuwait helicopter accident

By PATRICK E. TYLER
New York Times News Service

Kuwait City, Kuwait — Supported by relentless artillery barrages, American and British armed forces pushed from Kuwait into the Iraqi desert on Thursday as cruise missiles struck at the heart of Baghdad.

The missiles struck an area of Iraqi government buildings on the banks of the Tigris River, sending plumes of black smoke into the sky above a deserted city.

As the Pentagon expressed satisfaction with the results of the early stages of the war, the first American and British casualties were reported. Military officials said 16 American marines and British royal commandos were killed when their CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter crashed in Kuwait on return from a mission in southern Iraq. No further details were immediately available.

The American and British advance into southern Iraq followed a raid on Baghdad by stealth fighters and an attack with cruise missiles intended to destabilize the Iraqi government by killing Saddam. American intelligence officials were trying to determine on Thursday night whether any Iraqi leaders were hit by this first strike of the war. The Pentagon suggested that some senior Iraqi officials might have been killed or injured.

See GROUND page A5

Worry Stalks Submariners' Families

By CLAIRE BESSETTE
Day Staff Writer

Jason Rinaldo's mother recalled Thursday how her son stood on the beach at Mitchell College in New London several years ago and watched submarines ply the water at the mouth of the Thames River.

Then a Mitchell College student, Rinaldo admitted to his mother that he was having second thoughts about

accepting a full Army scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut. He wanted to join the Navy instead. "I told him he had to do what he felt was right for him," said Vanessa Rinaldo of Waterbury. "He went to the recruiter, joined the Navy, and he loves it."

Jason Rinaldo is a petty officer third class in the navigation division of the USS Providence, the submarine now deployed in the Red Sea as

part of the U.S. war effort against Iraq.

On Oct. 7, 2001, the Providence fired the first missiles at Kabul, Afghanistan, at the start of Operation Enduring Freedom. It didn't matter that Afghanistan was a landlocked country some 300 miles from the sea; the targets were well within range of the Providence's firepower.

See CONCERN page A3

On This Much, Veterans Agree: 'It Has To Be Done'

Patrons at the Dominick "Joe" Negri Subvets Club in Groton watch television coverage of the attack on Iraq Thursday.



TIM MARTIN
The Day

Saddam must be removed, former servicemen believe

By ANDREW RYAN
Day Staff Writer

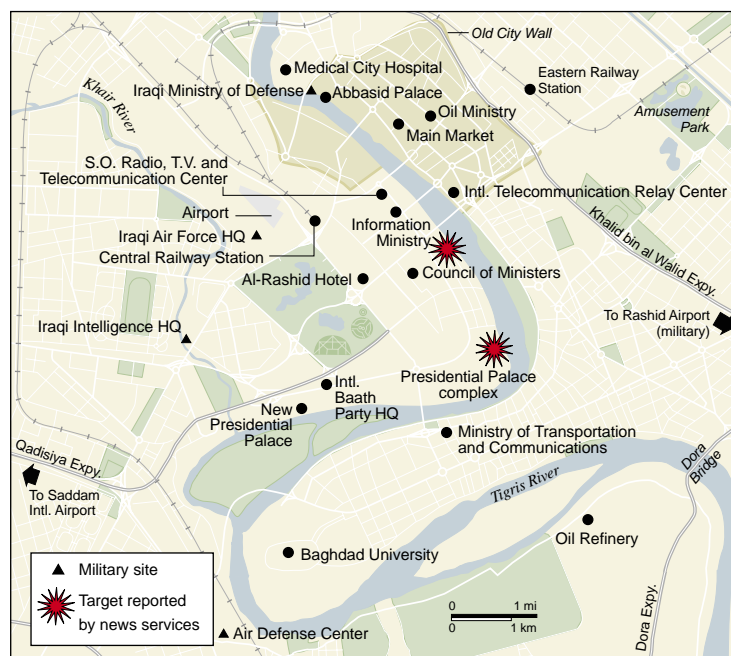
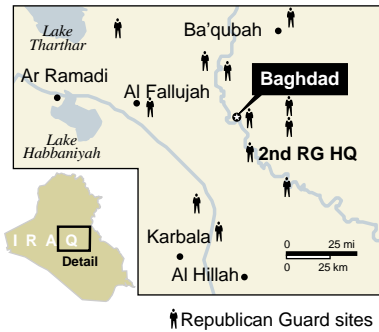
Groton — Veterans' old war stories flow as readily as the tap beer most lunch hours in the wood-paneled barroom of the Dominick "Joe" Negri Subvets Club on School Street.

On Thursday, talk turned to a new war: On televisions perched above the bar, the battle in Iraq unfolded in a greenish glow.

See VETERANS page A3

Strikes hit Baghdad

A second round of missiles were launched Thursday evening. Targets are believed to have included a presidential complex in Baghdad. Unspecified Republican Guard sites outside of the city were also targeted.



SOURCES: National Imagery and Mapping Agency; Omni Resources

Assault on Iraq is condemned around the globe

By JOHN TAGLIABUE
New York Times News Service

Paris — Leaders and protesters around the world condemned the start of war in Iraq Thursday, with President Jacques Chirac warning that it "will be fraught with consequences for the future."

In Russia, President Vladimir V. Putin called for an immediate halt to the American-led assault, saying, "This military action cannot be justified in any way."

Regardless of whether their governments supported or opposed the war, hundreds of thousands massed at protests across Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Britain. In Berlin, an estimated 40,000 demonstrators streamed past the U.S. Embassy and through the Brandenburg Gate, waving banners that read, "Stop the Bush Fire," and "George W. Hitler."

In the United States, the antiwar demonstrations were generally smaller, but thousands descended on mili-

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INSIDE

The intelligence President Bush relied on to launch Tomahawk missiles Wednesday aimed at taking out Iraqi President Saddam Hussein came from an unlikely source — civilian informants in Baghdad the U.S. hadn't spoken to previously. **A4**

Peace-time missions are tough enough to endure for submariners and their families. But how do you explain to your children that you're leaving for war? Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton talks to the crew of the USS Providence. **A6**

The state of Connecticut is taking homeland security seriously during wartime. Thursday, it put state troopers on trains throughout the state and beefed up security at the Millstone Power Station in anticipation of possible terror activity. **A7**

Edward Peck, the former ambassador to Iraq under President Reagan, spoke at Conn College Thursday. Although he said he hoped he was wrong, he said his experience with the region leaves him fearing a catastrophe. **C1**

The first school day after the war began, some students at Robert E. Fitch Senior High School longed to be able to watch the latest news on television during classes or study halls. But the televisions remained off. **C1**

INSIDE TODAY

NEWS

Deadly Twisters
Tornadoes that one official likened to "a big lawnmower" hit southwestern Georgia, killing six people and injuring more than 200. **A2**



Ganim To Step Down
A day after being convicted on 16 federal counts of corruption, Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim agrees to resign his post. **B5**

WEATHER

Feels Like Spring
Today, partly sunny. High 55. Tonight, mostly cloudy, chance of showers. Low 44. Saturday, partly sunny and mild. **D8**

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