

Friendly Fire

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There were occasions during both Gulf Wars when American Airplanes carried out attacks on British Army Forces, inflicting considerable damage. These incidents were given the name acts of friendly fire. The American pilots involved when appearing on television to account for their actions, explained that when they were involved in an action against the Iraqis they were obliged to take certain medications, and this may have contributed to an error of judgement, leading to mistakes.

During the 1939-1945 War against Germany the British and American Air Forces agreed a strategy for the bombing of Germany. The British would bomb at night low and fast. In the Case of bombing the Mohne Dam, they flew at fifty feet over the water before releasing the bomb which destroyed the dam. The Americans using Flying Fortresses would bomb by day, these aircraft usually flew nearly a mile high.

In the Year 1959, fourteen years after the end of The Second World War, The American Government paid Switzerland, a neutral country in that conflict 67 million dollars compensation for being negligent in bombing a Swiss town and destroying most of it. The designated target for the American aircraft involved was a town in Germany 182 miles away from the stricken Swiss town.

The last time British troops came under direct American control was in the Korean War, and it was not a happy experience. The British 27th Brigade consisting of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Middlesex Regiment, and Support Troops was commanded by Brigadier B A Coad. After poor U.S. staff work and inept and contradictory orders from his U.S. superiors, (which included the Napalm Bombing of the Argylls) Brigadier Coad said he hoped he would never again be under the command of the Americans.

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