

Foh 36 V 1 0

Transcript

[0:00] What can the fortress on a hill this is episode 36 today I sit down with Tom Secor Spike oprah.com.

To discuss the National Geographic series The Long Road Home your timing on note it's like I'm discussion on the historical and cultural questions surrounding the massive battle in Cedar City.

Known by Veterans of the battle as black Sunday.

And the military questions I have as a soldier who was fighting against the same money militia in southern Iraq at the same time.

[0:34] Music.

[1:28] Open the fortress on a hill.

[1:31] Thank you for joining us for those new to the show Danny and I are to Progressive veterans who take the military and Veteran stories of the day.

And add some much-needed context thumbsucker welcome back to 4 Sunny Hill thank you for being with me today thanks for having me back it's good to be talking to you again.

[1:52] So the Long Road Home I really really enjoyed your piece on it.

[1:59] I especially enjoyed that you're a civilian who never served in the military looking at military things through a civilian lens I think there are things that you.

Pick out about it that somebody like me or even a we were talking about British military form British military wood.

We are when we met up with that been found a few months ago about his new book and he had written wrote some play Kiara.

[2:31] The long halftime show of Billy Lynn was the name of it and it's about a soldier who goes to halftime show in 2004 in Texas and it's great it really is it did, the key is there is human stories not military stories that dick that's the thing that everybody misses.

[2:50] So so really enjoy your piece can you give everybody just a real quick breakdown of what was in it.

Okay well I mean this is something I wrote I first stumbled across the series The Long Road Home in some Ami entertainment liaison office reports that I got.

[3:08] Oh I don't know maybe 6 months ago and I thought this is something that's coming up every weekend he mentioned it filmed on Fort Hood in Texas and I feel.

This seems to be an important one you know there's a lot of different projects of the new tree works on the summer more important than other is quite frankly, at least when it seemed they were giving out of logs or to it over a very long. Of time, so I put in a foil with the Army asking them for internal documents on that support the show and that Liaisons with the filmmakers and got back.

[3:39] I want to know what was it about 300 Pages or so of motion, Chinese emails going for months and months and months some of them are from public affairs at Fort Hood Summer from the entertainment liaison office Summer from you know different parts of the army that were involved in this whole process and basically they. Layouts will be it with some weird actions as a ways. This relationship and it was a very close relationship it was one that went on for a very long. That mean they they started building this act on the full hood and I think it was. I would have been January 2017 and, this was before that even signed a production assistants agreement which is actually a violation of DOD directives concerning Liaisons with the entertainment industry that don't supposed to do that, supposed to actually stop providing any kind of material support until a full contract is in place with estimated cost things and all the rest of it. So they will keep pushing the boat out they were bending the rules on this one and I found out that.

[4:43] I-40 General they tried to minimize the costs this was one of the big things. Bugs me about the whole process of supporting this production is not only did they you know they let them stop building in January to filming from March through July or something this was a big big project. Involve months and months of people working at Fort Hood to support this thing. And yet they only cost less than half a million dollars when the initial estimate came in because it was about half a million dollars and it produces skybolt Toot It and said that seems a bit higher that seems a bit more than we want to spend, so the elomi set about finding imaginative ways to reduce those costs is the producer is supposed to pay the Army for everything every last, hour of someone working on it every last you know Millie trufuel that's used in moving these vehicles around for filming absolutely everything so that it doesn't cost the taxpayer. Eibach yet yummy. Regency pinky they did something I've never heard them do before but they sent it. Find a lot of the moving vehicles around as training, they were all doing that's alright if we say that the Convoy out set what a movie theater close out every day filming if we trained it and we don't have to charge the production company.

[6:07] How can you driving in a straight line out for the set really be considered training come on. Though they were effectively subsidizing in an economic sense. They was subsidizing this production legally supposed to do or even are allowed to do so I thought this was a pretty. You know pretty big Discovery you know I mean yeah I know the. Moving Cowboys Vehicles takes hours and hours and hours it something I did a lot when I was still in the service and.

[6:46] It it it's one of the first things I think people toss away when they look at military films and especially for this film given the size of the set, and of course that you know we as soldiers we have to return any secure any sensitive equipment, why companies like Bradley's are in what they were using back to the motor pool everyday and so it's a it's a great point that the cost in in fuel to cost at least a Personnel costs there's an innumerable ways that,

the production would have been charged and yet they were not and then that that really really says something about who wanted to push this film is Seth I'm serious.

So suddenly I'm in this thing Boston, conceived by the Pentagon exactly but as soon as the request for assistance came in they were like oh yeah this is you know this is definitely something we want to be involved in the production of the military loves to support. And it's even a bit in in one of the emails weather, not just joking about this thing about the Convoy out to set this whole so some line about you know and anything else that could have imagined it to avoid inventive accountants could come up with, presumably they were other things that they cut off the bill and you have to wonder I mean that couldn't say tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, are you supposed to be no dependents go in at more money than God but they're not supposed to be spending it on this song.

[8:15] No no annnd it's, it creates that that that great nebulous environment that lots of elements of the military kind of operating you know that that oh I didn't really see that and that's the first guy you talk to when you talked to the guy involved he's like well I didn't either and okay well I guess nothing happened is it is it is a very minimalist perspective on studying history and, understanding understanding the military and that's one of the big big things that I notice Washington, so what else what else about the the Pentagon said the email struck Utah.

[8:54] Just as she acts or closeness between the production company in the in the military.

[9:02] I mean the relationship they couldn't have made the show without the military know I couldn't have made it in the way that they did, the military not only save them a lot of money yet save them a lot of time and hassle if you can imagine trying to run these vehicles privately and the whole Iraqi Village set. Yo self Rob them being able to have that one I mean that was something I found. 2. disturbing I mean I need that various military bases have these kind of Middle East in Iraqi training Village sets, cuz I guess you going to send people out to fight in those kinds of conditions and circumstances it makes sense to train them on something approximating that.

[9:42] The notion of turning one into a movie set.

In order to tell the story of people who didn't actually trained on that set years ago and then went out to Iraq some of who died and some of them came back to be horribly injured and there should have been turning in that training Village into an actual movie sets, disturbing in Twisted I don't know what you will you make of it having actually been in the Army but. Yeah that that bothers me and it didn't bother me as well as you know reading out of the public Cindy Sheehan whose son died in the events. Portrayed in the Long Road Home you were saying you know.

[10:26] Village that went out to Iraq then years later that story was sort of told using that same training such as a medic.

Yeah it is quite breathtaking I I don't know that I've ever.

[10:42] I don't know that there's a moral blow place in in the connection to history and making that choice.

You know and I know commended you know whoever commissioned the buildings are for trading baby did a great job the buildings are quite accurate from the places that I saw in Iraq and I'm guessing that was probably part of the appeal for them to use that was that instead of having to go to say probably Morocco or some other, third world place that could closely approximate approximate part of Baghdad, they have this really nice set and all we happen to have this huge supply of Vehicles nearby now I think to the places that I trained on at Fort Lewis and some of them were quite well built and we're great for training but they didn't look like a rack they didn't get that feeling and there were parts of watching it where I could look at the camera look for the camera and everything I would see would be something I would have seen there and so I think that that it it it adds to the realism but we have to admit to that also adds to the propaganda value because other guys are going to watch and you know maybe they are listening dialogue much but they the visuals really speak to them and I think that that needs to be pointed out, oh yeah yeah I mean when I was watching it I had.

[12:04] Actually did a fairly good job neon has he said to me you send me some photos and things and said he know this is kind of lots of back pad and possibly right look like, it was just that sort of. Very blocky thing what everything's 90° and everything's already geometric because it's been done in quite a cheap way whether to support so whatever are you just after several episodes ending it took me several episodes but I already kind of China in infamy to notice that but afterwards I couldn't not noticed, yes yes no it's there was one establishing shot and one of the First episodes that they went down a long road but next to it was grass and there were power lines. And I'm like this is supposed to be Iraq know that I've never seen that kind of uniformity and their power set up because you know 19 different people worked on it they don't have power companies there that have regulations and stuff so people put up their own what it whatever they could be but yes in that it was kind of, you know I wonder who the advisors to this were because that's something that I've I have a question about 2 then.

[13:23] Some of these shots is like you can't but can't that wasn't nothing like a rat but it's still stayed so you know who was really giving them given them the advice. And she don't know who was the series technical advisor I assume they I mean it will if I had ate some sort of military veteran is now working in Hollywood as a technical, I know that the one of the emails that where it's that kind of like production notes that part way through filming, military make production notes on how the things going, and it does say that they were working very closely with the technical advisor and anytime the director kind of wanted to go off and do his own thing that got the technical advisor and the military guys that had to sort of you know pushing me in the right direction is it, but it has also show realism.

[14:12] Is the stated reason or one of the stated reasons why the military is involved in Hollywood and yet time after time we see these sponsored Productions to get some things

ready quite right but something's horribly wrong,
and said that anyone who'd actually experienced any of this notice these things which spot
living feel hang on that's that's just not right that's just not how it was why are they done it like
that,
so you got to put to lie to that hole excuse for the dod in Hollywood I think once again that
they're not.
Primarily interested in realism and accuracy and presenting the military in the most clear and
accurate way like they keep saying that's what they're there for its.

[14:54] Primarily about propaganda and often accuracy is kind of an afterthought and that's it
well we'll just so.

Throw accuracy out the window if it gets in the way of what we want to do and that whole
thing about says soundtrack Mitchell.

[15:09] Did you get anywhere with this this is something I found.

One of the characters who is reported dead in the series who died in the Battle of Sadr City,
that was a sergeant Mitchell get one of the email says that he actually died in a laser operation
in the in the same place as possible so the same Lodge battle.
But yet they didn't insist on being accurate did you get anywhere with that did you figure that
one out.

[15:38] No idea why I didn't aside from the obvious change and went into me that's it's very
expensive and very you know to change that in the story,

Matt tells me that the writers don't care about the story at all,

because when and where people die matters it matters to the guys that died with him and
matters of bleeders you know I have a lot of questions guys friends.

Yes it but yeah and and you know to change it you know dates times places

you know what it tells me that there are people making it are looking at it in such a uniform
way that they're there is no chance that showing any Humanity they don't want that to come
through,

at least not on the military side I've noticed several places in the series where leaders made
decisions that showed some kind of humanity,

where that wouldn't actually happen in the Army good example would be when Lieutenant
Acuerdos a squad is surrounded on two sides,
and those two groups of.

[16:48] Insurgents that were using human Shields are moving up to it by the way I'm trying to
figure out if that actually happened or not I haven't found anything that says the insurgents
use human Shields there but there's a point after 1 million stars that start shooting,

where the lieutenant doesn't give the order none of his men Starfire that would not happen in
real life.

[17:10] I'm not saying about the lieutenant pausing or not wanting his men to shoot at a specific
time I'm talking about all those guys pointed at the Beloved is not a question it's not did I get
shot at or where did it come from they can see the bad guy.

Bruce restraining them at that moment that critical moment.

Would be almost impossible one of them would have started shooting and when one of them
started shooting the others would have started as well.

[17:37] The idea like I didn't count the exact amount of time that was from the first AK going off
to them actually firing DLC giving the order but it was probably at least a minute.

A minute is forever in combat,
I really feel like that they were trying to establish that this Lieutenant had more control than he would have had and that the soldiers had more control than they would have had to say specifically you know I'm not said they wanted to defend themselves is a horrifying moment but an SMS you before I don't know if they actually did use human Shields there
I think that's another one of these changes we can put in the bucket because really it really fundamentally shifts how Americans in this Lake would see the enemy and they would see them in a much much harsher way and see how to get the series is peppered with all kinds of little moments like this, and the bad guys worse and so it kind of gingerly pushes people to their quarters your good guys you go in the direction your bad guys you go on the bed Direction but nothing that really pushes them the other way,
I know what you mean this I'm sorry go on what was the exception to that.
The one exception to that I saw was the sergeant that was wounded guarding the family.

[18:59] His fear and the fact that it was pointed at them at that moment so shortly after he had been wounded.

[19:08] I put that that's not on him I don't put that on him the old team made a wise decision, checking his weapon but he did it in front of the family he embarrassed that sergeant in front of all those people he could have taken him outside they could have gotten in a Humvee and quietly done it themselves without embarrassing him,
I think that was done to show BLT acting in front of the family showing the family what he was willing to do to protect them.
I would not see that happening in real life.

[19:40] I don't think I mean it might take somebody's weapon but around the corner and do it quietly and privately and make your point,
that's what I mean about the that the compartmentalization of the military is that you know one team doesn't always do with the other team's doing their busy doing their own shit so it it it it.
But yeah and anyway go ahead I'm sorry.
The showman I mean you're absolutely right the human Shields I've not come across anything that she says that,
really maybe that's what happened I really don't know but you're right the whole series is peppered with moments like that like where the young girl kind of comes out from behind the building and she kind of waves it one of these soldiers,
dad comes out with an AK-47 to start shooting at him using his daughter has a kind of distraction if you like,
and is so designed to show this that the enemy forces just a sort of Ruthless by Eric hateful.

[20:45] Scum who is up to die.
That's the underlying message that comes through in in all of this I mean that that motives on never explain tutorial,
reasons for doing this so that any kind of context or any kind of explanation even if you think it's an explanation that doesn't justify what they did,
you could still offer their offer it you can still present it and say there is at least some kind of reason why this happened rather than,
just presenting this is kind of a so horrible bolt out of the blue for a bunch of guys who were on the sum in a relatively routine Mission guarding some sewage trucks.

Chicken with a human shields in the the pause after the two crowds either end of the alley stop shooting at the soldiers you're right I mean surely your training as a soldier is, if there's a car game that you can see straight for Woodley and they're shooting at you you've got to buy a back because otherwise people might die.

[21:44] Cost of the whole point to Inner being at a team of being a trained on me is that you you simply react according to a training you have to fire at that point because what are the choices that,

yeah and if you don't one of those bullets he's going to hit the guy next to you or you so it's it's kind of a.

Erin Brady decision to be made.

So no I think that you write that that was to try and add to.

[22:21] And it's lights off nice and a slight sense of morality or something.

[22:28] The things when it's a point when it makes no sense to not having some kind of a moral question about this many people shooting at you you can have the moral debate later the important thing is to stay alive.

Exactly it was very strange kind of dramatic High Point to the whole city of.

It's the most of it that that one unit so kind of hidden out in this house and for a lot of the time that you're so cowering behind walls and.

Kaneki x x is covered in what have you.

[23:01] But in terms of actual action that's probably the high point and that's the point at which they try to sleep in this thing about,

oh well you know you've got to see this old is It ultimately you know very very moral people particularly when compared with the Enemy it was so horrible and using in of innocent civilians as human Shields it was so one-sided, and so obsolete simplistic when you know.

[23:29] And given the extent that they went to to show you the kind of backstories of several of these different major characters and they kind of you know in each episode release date each of the first six I think they actually pick one person story and come show you all the way through.

[23:44] None of that is done for any of the people on the other side know they don't just an evil hour pulled out of nowhere you want to kill.

That's it I'm not most fundamentally I mean.

[24:02] As we were discussing some of our emails and things there is a whole kind of backstory to why the Battle of sadr city of Wayzata city which was up until relatively.

Wyatt something to kind of exploded into horrific Viola but there's no attempt in the series to explain that.

It sold some scenes of guys with that wives at home well okay fine I got it but what about the other people.

What wine it is why did they do this jewelry that something that in 8 hours of Television you could devote least expensive time to trying to explore and explain,

absolutely I completely agree I am listening to you talk I am reminded I'm reminded of something about,

propaganda that I forget a lot and that it's we propaganda is designed to work on everybody whether you're a soldier or not so all these family scenes,

mom being mad and something off because brother is going to go back to the war again, you know what I want to say they're all threads to pull out a family on military family members and in and creating those questions in their in their minds because I think that's that's that's the biggest thing is that they want people to have questions they want you because.

[25:26] Eventually their soldier who never had they happened to be in whatever connection they have is going to walk down this path that's kind of the mind-state I'm hearing and so whether or not to re-enlist whether or not to say that the Iraq War was well it was a really messy worn a lot of bad stuff happened but I still think we did the right thing you know that it supports those kind of very vapid history list thoughts that don't properly convey it and, because we're in a period of time now where war is it everywhere that's I think that's what they have to do they have to convince everybody in the family that it's, acceptable, when choices are never that simple. They want to liberate I know I mentioned to you about the linear storylines you know that they really really want to grab on those linear storylines cuz those are easier for people to pick up on especially men it was easier for a man to watch an action movie come out of it and yeah those guys are tough sons of bitches yay but but not have hard questions you know because there were maybe a hard question in that movie will this thing is full of hard questions and nobody answers.

[26:37] Nobody you know what it's like it's like what the fuck is going on here, here's one the the lmtv that was the open back but little tiny semi-truck those guys were having with 16 guys in it, 16 as a truck been hit by an IED you're Talkin at least 10 dead soldiers maybe more, but they're going to let you know I didn't hear anyone talk about that what the fuck is this shit we don't have armor I don't understand that you know and and there's no other one still in the beginning of the Iraq War, aside from our heavy armor we did not have the American Military did not have very many up armored Humvees that's what we would call them we had lots of the soft skin ones and that's mainly what you see in the movie aside from the big Bradley's they are added a bunch of different designations of them all different ones you know this one has this kind of pump this one dozen or some crap but none of them had armor.

[27:38] The colonel did.

Did Martha raddatz book it says the colonel had one of the few up armored Humvees get his troll these guys that were out patrolling in fighting didn't have that Humvee. And see that's that's that's one thing that I consider about leadership and I know Danny does as well is that you always lead from the front and if your soldiers don't have something you don't have it either you know you don't. You don't allow yourself to believe that you're protected because you're not there yet. I sent them out on patrol their fine I'll be back whatever that's very much part and parcel of the US military attitude. So but anyways Don Rumsfeld got asked by reporter about that you know there were letters being sent home for guys that didn't have body armor yes there were some National Guard guys that did deploy with no body armor and along with the armored Humvees his response was will you go to war with the Army you have.

[28:43] And as someone that started the Iraq War and knows how full of shit. Rumsfeld is.

[28:50] What the hell is he talking about they pitch wendigo they tell me yes it was supposed on 11 and they wanted to, whip ass all up and get us going but they did they did they chose win to do it when they thought it was okay why not go with the right Army if we're so above board if we're so caring about our soldiers, why the fuck did not an entire Army of up-armored Humvee is an appropriately armored vehicles, go into this war as opposed to send in the fucking Army you have that's that's a it's a it's a macho male I'm going to drive through it instinct, and it doesn't work and Leadership it doesn't leadership require sacrifice and those factors have no idea about it, you know that the President Bush that just got that Liberty medal back here for work with veterans yeah that's those are the factors that that thought that was a great idea. So so if you don't mind, I was going to go through a little bit of of my list here some all all dropped off some of the stuff that we've already had, Joe, so I want to talk a little bit about satyr City itself it was a real soon we called Revolution City and it was actually built in 1959, and it ended up becoming a stronghold of the Iraqi Communist Party.

[30:14] And they said that the resistance to the Baptist Live Crew saddam's party in 63 was very strong there.

In 1982 the city was the district was renamed Saddam City it became known for poverty. And then it was renamed sadr City again in April 2003.

[30:34] So there's a couple other points to hit about sadr City but this is more about the people that live there she is she a Muslim.

[30:44] They are participation in the iran-iraq war certainly killed thousands of them. I'm with the Army leader of Iraq during the Gulf War do you have all those desk including the ones that rose up a following George Bush senior's. Speeches telling them to rise up against the David fight him I want to say that the deaths there were around 200,000 then there were the sanctions by the Clinton Administration that caused widespread famine in Iraq.

[31:15] None of these were reference whatsoever according to this series as I watched it the War Began on April 4th 2004.

[31:26] And that's also to include Martha raddatz I went through Martha raddatz book I didn't read it cover-to-cover, but there is no mention of any of those things in her book there's also no mention of the closing of the newspaper and radio station that was used by.

[31:44] Looked out of solder and his followers at the time. We are Coalition provisional Authority closed it down in March 10 days later there was this Uprising that was how solder spoke to his followers, who wouldn't rise up at that moment especially with a foreign power sitting outside your front door. When Saddam was in power every newspaper in the country was a government-run one

where criticizing Saddam was illegal following his fall more than 30 newspapers started.

[32:21] But the people knew they were just trading one dictator for another, you know it did it doesn't that they weren't they weren't them about it another thing that happened and again are we we don't spend nearly enough time looking at the religious significance of what happens over there but on the 13th of August in 03 a helicopter knocked down ashea religious Banner.

It caused a ton of outrage and they were told that it was done on purpose to knock the banner down and the pilot would be punished I mean to do research on that I haven't but the, the fact that it wasn't mentioned and given that it was so important another coverage of bread that we we we have no concept of how to.

Peacefully treat Muslim people we just don't you know what I mean.

[33:12] Peacekeeping Mission bunches and bunches of these assholes called it a peacekeeping mission.

I was in Iraq during this time in April 2004 none of us called it a peacekeeping mission none of our commanders call the peacekeeping mission the president of the United States as far as I know.

Didn't call it a peacekeeping mission I was there again in 2007 and 8 and despite the. Province that I was in being very quiet there was huge fighting still going on in Baghdad soldiers we we feel comfortable calling at peacekeeping when all of our when no one's dying anymore.

Different soldiers might just say other soldiers dying but I'm saying nobody so the fact that this this series went so hard to paint a very early in the war spot.

As a peacekeeping mission it's a bunch of bullshit II.

You know I was never told that as a soldier and if I had it would have just seen Beyond disingenuous religious mentions,

Colonel bullshit he says God willing and God will do this. We'll do that a bunch of times in here.

[34:30] I don't know that anyone in the Army would actually fly for that, most most people in the Army are religious but not very closely so, it was it was openly devout in that way exactly how you don't how it in a professional sense How would

he consider bringing the scene we're not talking about a chaplain giving an invocation at the beginning of a ceremony that's kind of typical and boilerplate I understand that but.

You know I didn't think you and I talked about 2 with you for your article God willing these guys will be the last ones to die that,

you know that that movement of Sergeant Mitchell's death allowed them to him this very specific spot,

so the colonel you know that the colonel said nobody else is going to die and then he did it by God you know it must be a fucking great guy.

Or even more than that to this must have somehow been fated from Beyond yes I've noticed increasingly in.

[35:36] Appendicular in The Last Ship ever seen this big big Navy sponsored production TV shows was produced by Michael Bay and in that they kind of openly invoke this idea that they are somehow been somehow been chosen by God to be on this mission.

I need some peace not quite explicit in the in the Long Road Home but they do lay on pretty thick this notion that he's on some kind of almost Divine mission.

Yeah and that's.

[36:06] And I just think that's a nasty way of weaponizing people's metaphysical and religious beliefs in order to sell them something which as far as I'm aware most religions think is morally wrong,

I mean mug at Legion Stone Marie justify Warfare,

I mean regardless of the number of wolves that find shipping 14 the name of religion I mean I get it but you know for the most part when they explicitly state that morality, so the notion that this guy would be.

Lumos TV in Boulder Station off God's will.

[36:43] Yeah I screwed up am sold in the emotive way this Emoji of dramatic way but you're not down in any way encouraged to think about what kind of, what's the implication of this scene.

[36:55] You just supposed to get so caught up in the emotion of it and think oh yeah he's a nice guy and a good Christian and you know God bless him to being out that kind of thing, yeah it's it's it's thoughts and prayers it's it's the you-know-what think that is that very light touch the things because people we've kind of hoping condition that if we notice something's really serious

we are there have to dive in deep or just avoid it because,

it is just a little bit of nervousness but I think it scared us and especially with war war in the military are incredibly touchy subjects so you know that there's so much in here that is nonverbal

it's not even stuff that they did I made a list when you talkin about the the religious part of it I called him a Mythic action scenes the very much the the horse

horse charged in 12 strong,

the colonel while he was briefly out and it going to do you know this was ours and ours is not an examination of the actual fight but in the very brief time in the series the colonel was outside the wire

on a patrol trying to get his men he managed to remove a grenade from a soldier's pouch before it exploded it gotten shot,

and he managed to get it out of his pouch in throat before it exploded.

[38:13] Would never have happened if the grenade had not exploded at that point and it was it is fused go off you wouldn't have had time,

but it's a it's a but it's really easy to to add that into was pile you know add that to things that he's done. Go like that the other one another one was when staff sergeant miltenberger was at that intersection with the bird

like a crow or Raven and,

the colonel the end they tied those two events together they tied the time of those two things that was actually happened at all near each other but we're supposed to to look at that the colonel saw the bird and suddenly hate we be got

we got reinforcements we're going to be okay Suddenly by staff sergeant miltenberger sees the birdie and he knows that's dangerous and it's like.

Every once in awhile in real life that does happen.

But it has nothing to do with each other it's just that you got an inclination of something and went with it but.

Is it does it just it just adds to that stacked while this guy is really short while nobody else died under his command wow he was able to pull that grenade out it just adds to the bullshit.

[39:28] We had showed your butt again that thing with the bird we got miltenberger.

It's like that's it back to the kind of bad Omen and he realized his no no no we're going to start the truck cuz otherwise we're just going to get shot to Pieces here is right of course you know that truck is completely.

It's terribly equipped the kind of Bachelor actually going into you never send me why would you even send in a vehicle like that into that kind of setup, I don't even understand that but like you say a lot of the vehicles just simply weren't equipped for the task at hand.

[40:01] But then again it's like fate must be on the side of the Americans who does the bird flew out to give them the bad when it just the right.

Really so now nature,

and God on the side of your toe in the in the entire.

Grand Rapids I believe the whole thing the family themselves in the family and a few dramatic scenes with them we never really get to know.

Who they are or what they think about any of this.

Even any kind of agency open voice in the show toll everyone.

[40:55] I really hope you're enjoying podcast the truth be told I need your help.

No I don't need you to move a couch or borrow a leaf blower know I need you to hit pause on your podcasting up right now,

and share this episode with somebody you know somebody who you might think might be receptive to it could be up a friend a relative

was considering joining the military or a veteran you know who might be interested in hearing a little more truth in their nudges about military and veterans

we rely on you all to help us reach as many people as possible so please hit that pause button right now and share this episode with somebody.

[41:38] Cheryl Dunn good okay good deal I know Uncle Al will cuss a lot listening to the episode but he'll appreciate it when the cursing stops,

I want to mention something about patreon

we are always in the market for more patreon supporters so if you get the chance please come out and support us you could support us for as little as \$8 a month and what do you get for your doll you ask Will

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this email us your question or comment and will give it the old Henry Danny breakdown on air,

guaranteed to have 60 seconds of our time we may spend more on it that we prefer to do military and Veteran topics but whatever topic you think might be pregnant.

[42:27] And we may spend a whole bunch more time talking about it depending on the topic, and for contributors a bit north of a dollar a month we have sabonis episode some essays of mine and a few other things as well we're still in the process of rebuilding a rewards so if you have any suggestions for patreon Rewards,

please let me know fortress on a hill is expanding we're going to start doing,

chapter series as part of our lineup there are some topics that are simply too big and important to leave to discussing in a single headline,

and what's that in mind I'd like to thank all of our honorary producers who are helping us do just that

we were lying on the support of our patrons through patreon to help keep the podcast success thank you to Matthew Howe will RN's gauge counts

faheem shirazi Henry Zmuda James Higgins and James o'barr

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Back to the podcast.

[43:48] The more that I see moments like this in military films the more that I know that there's nothing nothing that really upsets in Summit for example you mentioned about the family I made a note about that the dad.
Made a comment.

[44:06] Interpreters father said he's grateful to Americans for freedom from my question was is would he really say that I mean I guess it's it's it's plausible and his wife asked him why. And he said he says it's different this time and the wife asked how and the husband says he feels it you know there's the only agency given to these people, is American agency is that when they're going to when they do what they're told when when tjossem you know who does exactly member when he went to help his his father with the pills and everything in that Soldier was right at the cusp of shooting him. But yeah they're tied up on the floor crying they could be anyone in any number of situations and again we don't know how they feel we don't know actually what's happening there. So and amend the mistake with that big the the putting the wounded soldier in charge of guarding the family that could have been. Fodder for a massacre just right there.

[45:14] You know he's having a panic attack, but no it it's I want to say there was a Ricochet or something on his lip it was just me in the face or something yeah yeah but yeah I know it did it terrified the hell out of that again. That's an understandable state of being in a we get that we get where he's at panicking and wanting to get away from this thing but then, he set downstairs to guard the family and I'm like oh my God this is horrible, how many even if you're you're short on people with the lieutenant despite being trapped there wasn't short on people he had manpower to do a few things if he needed to, what temperature should I watch these people protect them make sure they're safe to get up and punched the show. So who is portrayed so well before about some of their kind of.

[46:26] Almost Certain Magical things that people do at times in this series, let me know what's wrong with him just after the Ambush is taking place when they when they start going down the side alley to find out house to Hole up and you know a total building weather so they can have some kind of observation Point Arkansas. He's walking straight down the middle of the alley which makes no sense if you just been ambushed cuz you don't know what to do you know. And y1 the military saying no he would never in a million years just be walking straight down the middle of the alley in the most exposed possible position he could have chosen. Internet has to be right at the end or I think it's right to the end of the 7th episode where he's chasing the tanks down the street running the brickyard. True buildings as far as what I can send. Just full of gunman shooting at him.

[47:24] Yet when it comes to the light you say making a straight forwards the Tactical decision about you know where am I going to station my personnel with trolls and I going to get through which people. He makes his most appalling blunder has his blunder it's treated as a like it's the soldiers fault

the guy.

The guy who thinks he's been shot in the face when you know anyone who thinks I've taken a bullet to the face he's going to panic.

[47:51] Straight.

[47:55] You know I don't know that's more injury in the leg or something it wouldn't have the same effect on you but you know your face your head is very sensitive thing so. You can totally understand his reaction and like you said it makes no sense to send him down to almost.

The most difficult role in the whole house people he doesn't speak that language your own language when you're suffering a panic attack.

[48:25] It's absurd and like you say the lieutenant Aguero I think his name is comes out the whole thing.

He's supposed to be one of the heroes in all of this it seems bizarre if it is what it is.

No it is it's,

that there's quite a few things here that I had I had questions about stuff that he did example for one thing for him is that,

they keep saying they don't know where they are in the city you know that they don't understand where they're at and,

that that may have happened in the first moments of the Ambush but after a time they know where they are I mean they may be off by 500 or so but.

They can go to their map and look and say okay or close to this where near this this series makes it seem like the other military forces had almost no idea we know that they're in these four blocks or six blocks.

[49:26] I don't think it was like that because that's one of the first things that you do when you get ambushed and stuck somewhere did you figure out exactly where you are and then you might be a little off

but to be so far off that entire through the series is like we still don't know where they are we're going to push through this whole long road to find them because we don't know well they may have had to push through the whole long road but,

yeah they're going to be in this little section that's where they are is what we should have heard somebody say,

and we didn't and we didn't get that at all also the staff sergeant that is second to the lieutenant and then Amber Squad.

He is right on the verge of a mutant are not Mutiny but actually he's passed insubordination.

[50:09] Some of the things that he questioned the LC about yes he does speak the language I think they kind of wanted to make that a one-two punch where you got the key, combat version LT and the experienced surgeon and we're going to listen to The Experience Sergeant who wants more violence for some reason I think that you know that that was definitely purposeful,

this week it's a it's a real common thing in the army,

you have a an inexperienced officer or inexperienced at their particular level with a higher ranking NCO and it's you know it's how people go up the chain of command for every Commander every General there's a command sergeant major that that advises him.

And so I think that they took,

they took that at in Seal thing for a spin this guy had been deployed before he speaks Arabic he suspicious of the family pretty much the whole time despite the fact that he speaks Arabic and

could have sat there and listened to him for hours and know what was going on.

[51:13] They made it seem like Joss Stone The Interpreter.

Was loyal to the military pretty much throughout didn't they it just he he he wasn't he didn't spill his guts about whose family was he just, continue doing but he towed the Army line not not the not The Interpreter light at all if that is why but as far as that you know the questions that he was asking to the series I think about questions and.

When he found his friend murdered.

[51:44] It was clear it wasn't it wasn't supposed to be the US military that we're looking at for the murder it was the the damati army guys but the question is is that an award can you do that, can you the Divide down who's going to be violent and who is it who is trustworthy and who isn't yeah and then and then yeah,

yeah and and it gave me the impression that.

They might have considered tjossem to be like a Sauder plant that he was somebody who, would listen in and then inform on the on the US Military and I don't know if that happened I must assume it did with different interpreters it did it did happen time to time usually not in a big way.

[52:35] What's with his meeting with solder which it as I know as far as I know what that particular time he he was on the run from his life so the fact that he was there conveniently before this all began.

To minister to the sky I don't I don't buy that at all no no it doesn't it doesn't add up.

But you got to have some kind of I guess image of the bad guy you got to have some kind of leadership that sort of in some way explains why these, police hundreds of gunman a seemingly endless numbers of gun been doing all of this.

And it's kind of ironic that have enough ironic it in the episode where with finding out about Justin's background.

But that's why we get to see him.

Is he referred to as I recalled anywhere in the series I don't know actually talk about who they saw me is who this you know.

[53:37] She a militia is.

The first time I watch the series cuz I actually watched it twice I didn't notice how this interpreter character he's you know.

I was on patrol in the initial episode easy and he's one of the guys and they're quite friendly towards them and then you get this kind of very simplistic no good Muslim bad Muslim thing going on.

And then as soon as the initial Ambush is over not taking refuge in this house they turn around and accuse him of being some kind of spy or infiltrate to have someone who needs them and you know he's the reason why this is happening.

And I was thinking right so even the one.

Muslim that you're willing to accept is actually kind of a good guy even he's got to be subject to suspicion at least some of the time,

viciously prejudiced in love ways this series I'm sure people will watch it and say oh yeah but you know whatever.

But that's no actually what it's doing.

[54:53] Out of the hundreds and hundreds of Arabs and Muslims that you see in this series the vast majority of them are just violin Savage maniacs.

Which apparently no reason for being so cowardly to include cowardly there was that guy that, got up from the pile of dead women and children and he had been the instigator you remember and then he just ran off you know that these are these little subtle subtle things in there you know and I think the thing with Jotham keeping his family secret is that. Exactly the point you're thinking about is that they're they're all they're trying to show that the disloyalty comes no matter what it may be, right here in our face or maybe a little bit down the road but that the Betrayal is going to happen the question is will you be prepared for, I know from from serving that was kind of the attitude that we had and you know that there we did hear about interpreters is sharing information about us but we're going to wait we've never really shared much, that could be used against us. But yeah I D like you said that they're all bad that they're not a trustworthy son of a bitch in the crowd.

[56:11] You know I think that was really the theme of this you know that they said they wanted to show as much Humanity of the Americans they could and it's little Humanity of the Iraq use as they could.

In the end the whole Sadr city thing the whole strategy of it is that I think the US military was terrified it was going to become another common stronghold. So they they really really looked at it with more suspicion than say this to any extremist that ended up becoming Isis, that's actually something is Scott Horton I've mentioned on the show before Noah's is essentially I don't know that I agree with all of this but essentially you know we were out Kate his buddies when we were in Iraq because we were still, on Happy diplomatic rounds with Saudi Arabia despite the fact that some of those guys were killing Americans. Let alone killing killing other owner Rocky brothers and sisters.

[57:10] But it is what one what you kind of see that you know the D is it I think the reason that right it's his book is so narrow is that's the only way it could be red.

To try to expand at any given point. Invited too many questions and I think that they're like Gods just a just a book about about combat it's just about the fighting, little bit of Home stuffed how much Bull Shed, but no it's no big don't talk about overall strategy they don't talk about I don't I haven't heard any officers worried about their men making it's at the end of the day or I mean the ncos or officers any leaders worried about their men making it through this miltenberger I forgot to mention something about him it showed that he had a dream.

[57:58] While he was deployed when he went to Kosovo remember that part with the other woman that approached the checkpoint. Nothing like that happened as far as I know historically miltenberger hadn't been deployed, before then his bad premonitions came from his experiences with what is uncle or dad that was a Vietnam veteran and so he had very natural normal instincts of being afraid going in the battle having heard it from a relative but, they try to change that around that instead of the premonition being someone who would serve the previous word had been harmed by it we have somebody brand new to combat,

and there was they saw is exactly what we wanted them to see ready so that whole thing about the sort of flashback to Kosovo and woman running onto the minefields.

[58:51] As far as you know never happened which is what this whole series is based on. So I got I worked on that one for quite a while I wanted I wanted to know and also is at Kosovo I don't know how long it's been since we've had active combat operations there be in peace that I knew when I was just a young private, that had served there it was a peacekeeping mission none of them had seen any combat. So it is why I think that that was plucked out because it was it for people that serve around that time memories of deploying Kosovo or battle buddies at Floyd Kosovo would have been very recent.

And it kind of ties in all of those bonds between earlier conflicts in others by saying it's always the bad guy,

Americans are not the bad guys or Americans cannot be the bad guys more likely, lots of people sent me that you know that we don't want to be the bad guys and everything is like well sorry saying the words does it change it show us how you're not, so yeah I plan to spend a whole bunch more time digging into this we learned very very little about Thomas Young about his injuries, about an end and most especially what you pointed out to him about his auntie were beliefs following his injuries and how those were portrayed in the show.

[1:00:18] I have actually been thinking about contacting his mom and then speaking with her I I think that I didn't know that she had mentioned she's mentioned in her interview with the with the.

Was it with you or was that my thinking of sending you things.

[1:00:36] But but no I am.

It's horrifying to me that they would tell the story of someone who in the in that case was changed so radically by the work he was in and not honor that about him in the least you know show these.

[1:00:56] Stupid signs and end,

I think you and I talked about about their they're mentioning that they weren't overly political that was kind of how they wrote it off not overly political Weber had that stupid, politics is it is it it's all politics and end if if people aren't willing to at least listen it is but yes it's horrifying that they they didn't, include some of that stuff.

Episodes focusing on Thomas Young was actually probably the best episode of the whole series for various reasons but from a propaganda point of view is probably cuz he's.

Presented to the young guy who's in a he wanted to get deployed to Afghanistan that was the wall that he he wanted to go and fight but whatever reasons he ends up in Iraq.

And he's he's not exactly about it he's kind of seems like quite so dumb seriously minded young man.

[1:02:04] He's not in any way so the flash about it or in a wants to be out there shooting at people,

yesterday he some somehow cool though whatever and he suffers this horrible injury ends up paralyzed and.

We get to see some of his suffering and we get to see the problems with his girlfriend and we got the same kind of Inna losing it in the car one day and talk about all the things that he can't do anymore,

but that's never really tied back to the war itself,
we kind of get to sympathize with him and his suffering ultimate pools a bitch is never articulated.

[1:02:43] And then we got to see him becoming a peace activist and he goes to camp Casey and you meet Cindy Sheehan and then she told me this you know that's what she meant to him, actually happened but that was one of the most stunning things you need zombie emails is it that produces ask the military's permission,
2/2 people wearing t-shirts with Auntie World Peace slogans on them and have a few dollars out the peace slogans and their names of organizations will have you cuz you say the Army review the last one down the middle,
well since it's actually happened and because they're not overtly political it so fine.

[1:03:22] Like you say I'm thinking we'll have on the is being a peace activist political you're talking about a government policy.

Of war and that you're opposing it how can you oppose government policy on that Nazi political.

Just doesn't make any sense know but you say you just it's kind of the most dumb thing all of these three hundred and some pages of emails me I'm glad that they,

I said yes and they actually included that scene in the series,

I'm not like a wife feel they even needed to ask that question.

And then.

It kind of the big letdown anticlimax in that sea is it that just bring up the swelling music and she told me to Wheeling up the microphone and you know whatever.

He says nothing about this no this is my experience.

This is why I changed this is why I signed up in the first place and how I then became the beach that is a result.

[1:04:34] Could have been enormously powerful and could have put a different complexion on the entire series.

Did you sympathize with he's very much presented in a sympathetic fashion than they actually have to do that you know you like him.

And yet they kind of people that build up and then it's just nothing it's just old some swelling music and light Beach slow motion camera.

[1:05:00] It's just emotion there's no actual.

[1:05:04] Idea is no attempt to articulate or explain or explore anything.

[1:05:12] What you were saying before this almost pathological aversion to actually talking about anything serious in a serious way it's just.

Factoring sentimentality.

[1:05:24] And that's a horrible thing to reduce the life of someone who signed up to go and fight for his country.

Show up at store and someone who.

Change Soma who was chained.

Is stick was so afraid that they you can have.

[1:06:06] Yeah.

[1:06:12] There was one more know what I had here I wanted to mention about Young's betrayal and it was it had to do with when he was shot.

[1:06:21] You see in that in that moment there were several other soldiers had been wounded just before he got shot and.

[1:06:31] The cat camera slow pan to him what he is seeing down the side of his rifle and he's looking at an Insurgent who is looking right back at him down the side. And it's it's a it's a pretty common cliché especially among military movies that. You know you got somebody you're both of your sights and who who fired the first shot you know. The implied that young was looking at the man who crippled him and didn't end didn't fire.

[1:07:03] And therefore that's why he got disabled. I was watching that I felt very strongly that implication because you also had and I don't I don't know what the process of this was but. From the moment the round hit him he just went to the ground he didn't speak, you didn't do anything you just went to the ground again another one of those movie clichés about becoming crippled or disabled you know it each situation would present it in a different way but we've always seen you know that the immediate injury especially if it's one that's not serious on the surface but serious underneath. It shows us that and so I think that that was the implication I think that they wanted. Just say it not have certainly not his words but that he his hesitation was a reason he didn't fire and therefore the reason that he's crippled. Almost like he had it coming to him yet before not for not fighting in the way that they want it.

[1:08:05] No I think you're right telling that probably was what they were trying to at least imply. You know for those who were paying attention until just kind of casually watching this comeback series is a piece of Action Entertainment. Yeah I think I probably was what they were trying to say to that back section of the audience is that. This is the price you pay you for not just firing as soon as you can this is the price you pay for stopping in thinking about. Whether they seize the right thing to do almost like they were posthumously having a dig at him. Almost like they were exploiting the fact that now that he's dead and you know any of this is any of this. They can kind of say what they want about him looks like with the morning. It looks like the thing we saw that Mitchell and moving his death to appoint this more convenient for that narrative they just exploiting the fact that these people are dead than can't do anything about it. In order to tell.

[1:09:10] As far as we can tell fictional stories about them for propaganda purposes and that kind of betrays again just how Tallis.

[1:09:20] I don't know about.

[1:09:22] The Department of Defense is a whole but suddenly how callous the people working in the ER and public affairs and entertainment liaison office Network.

But they don't they don't care about these people they care about what the audience thinks about these people.

That's what matters to them the people themselves which type of like that so we can chat we can say what we like about them and that's.

[1:09:48] You know I mean we expect a certain amount of political spin from any organization orange juice sure but most organizations and institutions Astley.

Don't their employees don't die on the job.

Ya Allah mcclarity and secondly they don't exploit those deaths in order to try and get other people to recruit and sign up or advocate.

Send money or whatever it is they're trying to get them to do and I just think it's almost.

Most inhuman what they doing.

What you were saying before there is to speak with the big fan of overriding emotive Prejudice of the series is Americans of human beings.

[1:10:33] Piano tabs on your a keys home saying you know someone wants to eat that the one guy.

Who caused of what he suffered in this war turned against us turned against the military way of life turned against you and against the wall.

Subjectivity criticism Liberty skepticism character assassination.

[1:10:59] If if no one had heard the name Thomas Young before they watch the series chances are good that they wouldn't Google it or try to find out any more information.

[1:11:10] And also that that runs along the lines of that normal.

The normal name calling an end at homonyms that come from people who discount the military you know it end and that's why I mentioned about the family about that the that the, propaganda machine has to in order to survive now it has to Extended the family I had a.

[1:11:34] Comment on an article III dyed shearling article on the Fortress feet and somebody else also shared it on their Facebook feed and I just seen that and I went and I look to the guys comment and there was a guy down there who is he who is a veteran but not a combat veteran.

[1:11:49] And he has had this I'll find it and send it to you when we're done I can't think where does right now but he had this little comment that he made and it was it was just like it was out of a.

Pentagon Play-Doh propaganda machine it was like okay well yeah I see your you've got some some critical things you want to say about the military here but you need to do instead is you need to take them back you need to say something nice about the military I'm paraphrasing but I'm very close on when I'm paraphrasing, and that's it it really gave the impression that.

[1:12:24] You're all that that was that was the reason the whole reason he mentioned about is that you're putting the troops down,

and they can't handle it you know that the Vietnam guys that the it's for the veterans that we tell them we won Vietnam,

it's for the veterans we tell them that we did Brayden Iraq you know we're somehow

maintaining this promise with them that they know what where we went to we're going to tell them it was better,

you know and that goes in in in each direction we're going to let them take their feelings in an

end and cuddle them a little bit.

But the reality actual reality is completely skipped over and you have all these different people like that guy on Facebook I mentioned that are helping defend them so many different part and parcel people Deep Emotions and we defend.

Against the attacking Force attacking idea and so it is that doesn't value intellectual thought.

[1:13:21] Nearly enough that it works really well,

Audubon Society of people who has the kind of issues with education that Americans do it works fitted ties right into them you know what I haven't watch band of brothers or Saving Private Ryan in years but.

At least those movies.

Did not did not tear apart history it didn't go and rewrite it to be as favorable as possible.

You're there may have been things I haven't gone through Bender Brothers in that way but I chose,

but it was you know that with the questions that are brought up the things that the men did to each other to the enemy you know that it was it was accurate,

and so if you're stung buddy that's already been conditioned for so long to protect the military.

Just no reason to stop now he'd watch The Long Road Home and while those boys sacrificed a lot for our freedom you know that lovely Freedom blanket we like to throw over ourselves.

[1:14:23] What are the interest and I know we're going to wrap up soon but one point I would like to make his just think about how few films and TV series,

I've actually been made about the rewards of the war on terror you know Afghanistan and Iraq I guess not Libya Syria could include a few others you wanted.

I'm not that many intelligence-based you know spying shows and spy films the second night world.

[1:14:51] A significant proportion of weight shipping sponsored by the United CIA FBI whoever else but in terms of like this sort of thing you know a war story there aren't many.

[1:15:03] In fact there aren't that many conventional War films being made at all anymore and this is quite a conventional War film this has.

How's that feel look like the World War II or a film made in the 1960s about World War II something like that.

Inter is a century egg like you say a story about combat that's primarily The Narrative that draws thing for wood and so.

I guess what I'm saying by that is that in terms of trying to disrupt the now.

Sally negative public view of the Iraq War I think this was quite an important show.

I didn't end it starting to try to codify that small sanitize positive history like that you were just describing.

Again I think it's quite important is that you're on that many of them and in terms of mass appreciation of our own policy and mass appreciation of history and I guess now they weren't chorus.

History I'm going to guess it's not enough we could call it that.

Films and TV play a bigger role than in a news articles or books or anything else in times of mass consumption so something like this is like National Geographic as a nation so you know documentaries and.

[1:16:26] It'll stay realistic programming and white almost more intellectual programming National Geographic.

[1:16:36] Answer the kind of audience that they're rainy at so presumably the ones. Do you think a little bit. Do you want to have something to asked a few questions but as you say before it doesn't answer any.

[1:16:50] Almost systemically avoid answering any of them except in the most basic superficial a historical emotive way.

And if that's what they sent out to do then I guess they accomplished it but yeah.

I think we enjoyed watching don't know it it was it was Nails on a chalkboard when it first started and yeah it it was are a little bit harder at each step.

Noam Chomsky has a quote about that if you're trying to control the center thought that.

You want to essentially do what you just mentioned Thomas that you want to simply not ask the questions but another area is.

Allow very very deep debate on questions that we know there's no bodies buried under, and so they can say then there's a way for the detractors for the Jake tapper's of CNN so to speak to,

kind of cover that up the kind of it would win win big questions come in instead of asking the actual

questions like you and I are now hear what about the agency of the people in the film what about the the how how Thomas Young was traded such trash trying to think what would be a good what should ask about that.

[1:18:18] So are so was it hard to train these men was it was a difficult that you work a lot that you have to run a lot you know that I asked those real simple I'm trying to fill HLN hours at a question,

and they call a journal and and and that's how I'm sure you've seen that these days you know that that's that's what we have to view on TV but people trusted people trust that stuff there's that in a we we we all have that.

Automatic wanting to trust things stuff well America just floats it out there.

You know that they're trustworthy in the end that's the thing is that full should be willing to do what you and I are doing right here but that's not the amount we consume we consume a lot more TV and one more,

then we ever could probably go through an analyst look at David's historically-based is it a cure. You know what whatever Allen's were looking through at the moment, you know the DVD in NH,

it allows the people that are the real in the people that use the real the True Believers you know you have your True Believers and then you have your people that kind of pushed them in the right direction that guy that I mention of Facebook he's a True Believer he really believes this stuff.

[1:19:33] And then it proves a little bit above him in the end they know it's different you know you get guys they know we've had some pretty intelligent Generals in the last 20 years they're not dumb they know exactly what they were apart.

And they just don't talk about it

to go to either C-SPAN interviews and go work on their new network TV jobs and they they just don't bring it up they bring up other things that break up the things that make it seem like they're analyzing leadership and that they're keeping tabs on the military when they're not they're just helping him

some ocean show the route from whatever.

[1:20:09] A being a military officer with some kind of public profile into being a all-purpose military analyst for a News Network and you go to think.

[1:20:19] I mean even if you even if you spend 20 30 years in the military that still got me an awful lot of things you don't know about the still going to be home floor things that you've never experienced yourself have no specialized knowledge of have no colleagues that you spoken to about it any legs and yet.

It seems like oh well you're a whatever.

You be reached this level in the hierarchy that for you on the news and ask you any military question we have.

Which would usually be something fairly simplistic and superficial and so I guess that kind of qualified to have some kind of opinion on it.

It's not like they're experts,

but that presented as bad as they are they are they are and it's it's kind of an extension of that idea you mentioned before about,

from the the British military recruiting about the boys seeing the parachutist that,

get out of generals have that to we see generals and everything on TV and their their trusted

and they're hard and they can fight if they have to get up their old and crusty and look like

they're a million that week we could still send them and you know that's the TV General sting

exactly like you said you know NN what's the old saying about wise men know what they don't know knows it's that.

Dave a present this front of being you know I'm the general I know this and I went to Airborne school and and people throw it in their trust pile and say okay he's into 30 years in the military

he must know what he's doing and it's those kind of simplistic thoughts that become,

series like the Long Road Home.

[1:21:48] So it's it's it's kind of it is just propaganda as a keg I can't think of another another way to think of it right now so.

You know I think I think that's accurate I didn't you right I mean in some ways the Long Road Home is just a sort of a towel adult to drama version of the exact same thing.

Pet small emotionally engaging and emotionally persuasive.

It's less relying on that sort of expert stroking head trust the authority element cuz there's nothing to camera in this series but in terms of.

[1:22:25] Floating on your heartstrings and intensive planting little ideas and Lily emotional attitudes in the audience's head I think it's actually.

An extremely well-crafted and cleverly crafted. So it's all good man.

That's probably a great place for us in today so but what.

[1:22:59] I've been one of those memory kind of days I'm sure he could tell thank you so much for coming on the podcast again Tom I really enjoyed discussing this with you like I mentioned before about with with Ben Fountain I think that,

I think that analysts intellectual such as yourself looking at military things to that civilian lens and asking them to help it make sense,

I think that's amazing I think that's really what we need you know I I I

wouldn't have stumbled upon this had you not suggested that we that we work on it but I'm

really grateful for the opportunity on although it pisses me off to no linked it crystallizes,

where people are in normal discourse as far as the military that they can make something like

this and a whole bunch of people don't get up in arms about it it shows you how good they're

getting,

so but thank you for being here Tom and I hope we have you on the podcast again soon yeah I

mean thanks for having me it's always good talk.

[1:24:01] Music.

[1:24:06] We're on Twitter that fortress on a hill and also on facebook.com at fortress on a hill you can find our main Blog Page and are for a full collection of episodes at fortress on a hill. iTunes Stitcher SoundCloud patreon Spotify you name it almost anywhere you listen were already waiting for you.

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[1:24:43] Skepticism is One's best armor never forget that we'll see you next time.