

T.V. to have its own war pool failed. If someone had thought about it then dependency on American filmed material could have been avoided and maybe a lot of money could have been saved.

45 Everything for the readers

PABLO HERRERA

The author of this article was a first-hand witness of the explosion of the last Scud of the Gulf war. At that point of the war nobody bothered going to he shelters. The journalist was talking to his wife on the phone when the alarm sirens went off and the anti-missile Patriot missiles were deployed at the Dahrán base. He even took the phone away from his ear so that his wife could live the resounding moment. Later, when phoning in the news to his paper they reduced his item to a few lines at the end of the article. "We've got to close the paper and can't waste time". "I could have died" thought the journalist. Later, however, he recalled his condition of war correspondent, alongside colleagues from all over the world. "A lucky man", even though he could only write a few lines. The author recalls the taking of Kuwait, which he witnessed, as a personal and professional experience. He relates the episodes of the liberation of the capital of Kuwait city and the advance on Iraq, along with other colleagues from the Spanish media. The journalists could only briefly witness the cruelty of the post war period in which thousands of people have starved, or are still suffering from hunger and deprivation.

53 Top-notch reporters

JOAQUÍN LUNA

The journalist who wrote this article sketches in comments which stem from the final events in the Gulf. Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which were, in his opinion, brief stages albeit full of professional experiences.

He analyses who, in fact were, in general, the journalists sent by Spain to the Middle East. They were not top-notch reporters or famous

93

“pens” but rather “intermediate commandoes” with a low wage and without war insurance. Another story was the case of Anglosaxon journalists who travelled with all guarantees and who were well-paid.

The Gulf experience showed the author the difficulties for reporting with accuracy. With facts like the Gulf War or the revolt of students in Peking, in 1989, (which the journalist lived close to), it is difficult to report, with true authenticity, given the pressure demanded by the media.

59 The war “in the rearguard”

M.^a DOLORS MASANA

The article starts from the outbreak of the war. The journalist's impressions start to appear as soon as she is sent to Cairo due to the war.

According to her, the city was a perfect looking glass in order to take the pulse of the conflict, and to judge the ups and downs of diplomacy. In the Egyptian capital there were Kuwaiti refugees who were the only guests in 5-star hotels. The author's experiences range from meeting sailors from Spanish boats to the trip to Urghada, a tourist area on the Red Sea, from where it was impossible to send information to Barcelona. Knowledge of the Islamic countries, the fundamentalist movements, Hussein's defeat, are all analyzed in this report. The writer was surprised by the end of the war in Egypt. At that time, the question asked by everyone was: “What will happen to Saddam Hussein?”.

94 69 The triumph of radio

JOSEP MORELL

Never before had such a foretold war been as censored as the Gulf War. And never before had journalists been so manipulated and misinformed, asserts the author.

The latter relates his experiences in the morning of January 17, 1991, when he was in a hotel in Jerusalem. The television was on CNN