

CNN's Mission Accomplished

CNN Newsnight, 3:15am BST today, John King reporting:

The new [public-relations] push coincides with a number of difficulties and setbacks. 91 Americans killed in action since Mr Bush visited an aircraft carrier to declare mission accomplished...

Did he really? Read **what the President actually said** on that aircraft carrier:

major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed

The word "mission" occurs twice in the speech, on both occasions referring to the *uncompleted* mission facing the coalition in the War on Terror. He **did say** a month later to troops in Qatar:

I am happy to see you, and so are the long-suffering people of Iraq. America sent you on a mission to remove a grave threat and to liberate an oppressed people, and that mission has been accomplished.

But that's a different issue, and an undeniably true comment.

Incidentally, more US soldiers than that have died of *non-combat* causes in Iraq during the same period.

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