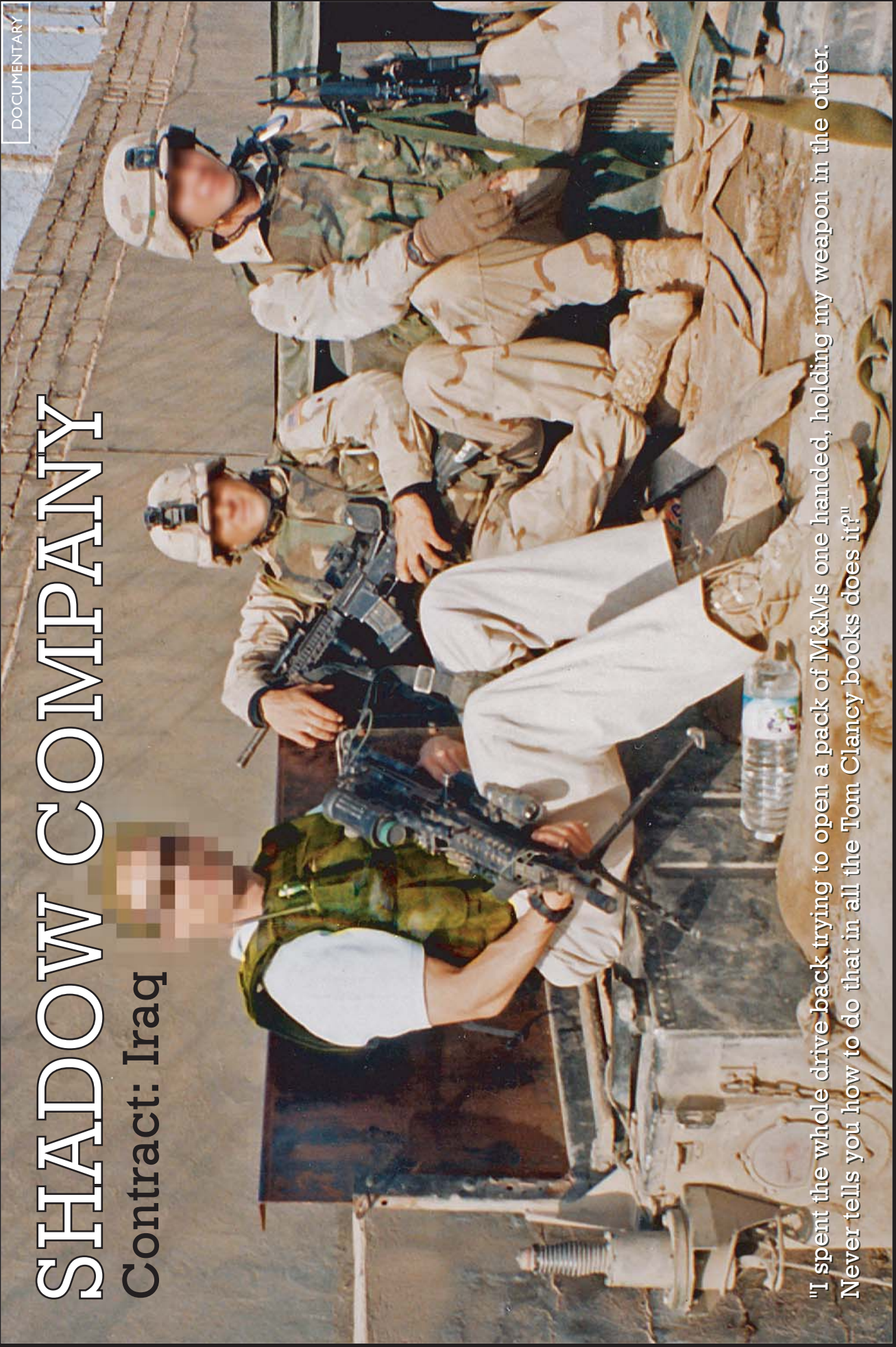


DOCUMENTARY

SHADOW COMPANY

Contract: Iraq



"I spent the whole drive back trying to open a pack of M&Ms one handed, holding my weapon in the other. Never tells you how to do that in all the Tom Clancy books does it?"

purposebuilt

SHADOW COMPANY

Synopsis

James Ashcroft, a 28 year old graduate of Oxford Law, is a member of one of the larger Private Military Companies (PMC) currently under contract in Iraq and is our guide to this world. The choices that he made in his life reflect the changing state of modern warfare and conflict resolution.

This documentary uses photos and videotape of James' day to day life in Iraq to give the viewer an intimate insight into the life of the modern day "soldier for hire".

For the first time in the late 20th Century a significantly blurred line has developed between soldier and mercenary. We highlight similarities and differences in loyalty, honour, code of ethics, chain of command and operational conduct. From the 4 brutally killed PMC staff in Fallujah and the subsequent public reaction it is clear that these "security contractors" are not merely workers in a foreign land. James is doing a job that has little difference from his previous work with the British Army – and even less from soldiers who are fighting alongside him for Coalition forces.

Other interviews contextualise James' personal views by exploring the way PMC's can and do fill a global security that nation states seem unwilling to fill whereas the UN seems unable. We also examine what the greater implications are of profit motivating the security of a nation or a corporation. Interviews include Alan Bell, president of Globe Risk Holdings and a global authority on security related matters, Kim Koffels, former Senior VP of Iraq Telecom with responsibilities for hiring PMC staff to provide security in Iraq and at least one head or official representative of a high profile international PMCs (such as Blackwater, Triple Canopy or Aegis) and soldiers of Western Armed forces. (British Army, Canadian Army, US Army)

To balance the "insider" view of personnel working in or around the industry we have secured the involvement of leading scholars in the field of international affairs including Peter Singer of the Brookings institution, author of "Corporate Warriors", Madelaine Drohan, author of "Making a Killing – How and Why Corporations use Armed Force to do Business" and Robert Young Pelton, author of "World's Most Dangerous Places", adventurer and acquaintance of many a miscreant/warlord/mercenary worldwide.