

FAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND IN OTHER CONFLICTS

- **DEAD BODIES OF SOLDIERS RE-ARRANGED**
- **LIVE SOLDIERS 'STAGED' IN A BATTLEFIELD**

FAKE PHOTOS IN WW1 and in THE 21ST CENTURY

They say that the first casualty of war is the truth. Case in point: Experts believe that the Civil War battlefield photographer Alexander Gardner physically arranged the corpses in this famous photo taken after the 1862 Battle of Antietam for dramatic effect.





One of the first battlefield photographs ever taken is now widely believed to be a sham. Crimean War correspondent Roger Fenton's acclaimed shot, entitled "The Valley of the Shadow of Death," was snapped in 1855 after heavy fighting around Sevastopol. The image, which depicts an unpaved road strewn with spent cannonballs, was heralded at the time as testimony to the withering fire endured by British troops. Yet in 2007, the American documentary filmmaker Errol Morris unearthed another Fenton picture taken on the very same spot in which the rounds appear only in the ditches — not on the road itself.

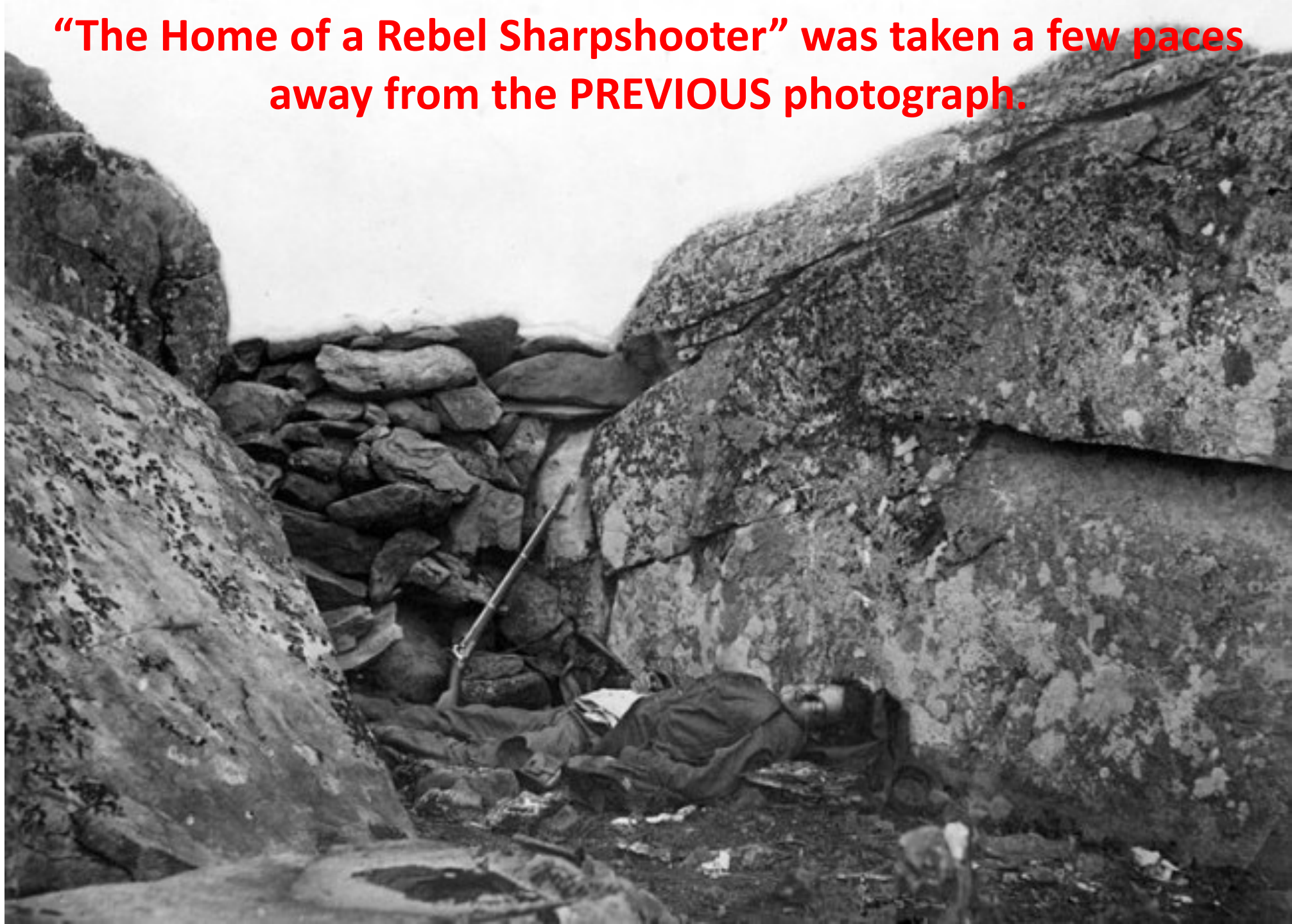
Morris asserts that the photographer scattered nearly two-dozen of the projectiles into the roadway himself to make the visual more memorable.

Alexander Gardner's famous Gettysburg picture "A Sharpshooter's Last Sleep" features a corpse that looks a lot like the body in another photo taken elsewhere on the battlefield. Did Gardner move the corpse?



Alexander Gardner's post-Gettysburg image: "A Sharpshooter's Last Sleep" features a corpse strangely similar to one that appears in another shot taken on the same day entitled: "Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter." Experts maintain that Gardner used the same fallen soldier for both pictures, reportedly dragging the body more than 40 yards between the two locations.

"The Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter" was taken a few paces away from the PREVIOUS photograph.



American general Francis P. Blair (right) was added to Mathew Brady's famous photo of General Sherman's retinue because he was not at the meeting. (Courtesy: Fourandsix.com)



A Historian Noticed The Same Dead Man Was Featured In Several Different Locations In Gettysburg.



Scholar William Frassanito was looking at Gardner's photographs of Confederate sharpshooters from the Battle of Gettysburg when he made a startling observation in 1975. The men in the photos were actually the same person, posed differently in various spots on the battlefield.

In one photo, the corpse was flat on the ground. Another one showed the same dead soldier sitting up in a trench with his rifle by his side. Frassanito concluded that the bodies were one and the same. He also pointed out that the rifle was not the kind a sharpshooter would have possessed. The historian noted that there was no way a body would have remained unburied in that area for four months, and souvenir seekers would never have left the rifle there.



According to Bob Zeller, president and co-founder of the Center for Civil War Photography, Gardner took the majority of Civil War photos that exist today. And while people of the 21st century may be disturbed that he staged photos, things were different in the 19th century. Gardner believed he was an artist. At the time, many thought photography was another way of expressing one's artistic talent. As a result, a photo could be created and manipulated similar to the way a painting was made. And after garnering acclaim for his photographs from Antietam, Gardner was aware that certain images were much more interesting to the viewer – so why not add a touch of the dramatic to the scenes?



Looking at this photo, “Confederate Dead on Matthews Hill, Bull Run,” probably fooled me while studying history in high school. These men were alive, it turns out. Their bodies were staged by the photographer. (See William A. Frassanito: “Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America’s Bloodiest Day”).

These British infantrymen are nowhere near No Man's Land in this iconic First World War still. (EXPLANATION ON THE NEXT PAGE).



One of the most stirring images of British soldiers in action during the First World War wasn't captured anywhere near No Man's Land, **but far behind the lines where it was safe.** The legendary visual, which depicts Tommies advancing through a field of barbed wire into the smoke of battle, was clipped from newsreel footage shot for the 1916 British documentary **The Battle of the Somme.** While much of what appears in rest of the 77-minute film was indeed recorded at the front, the segment in question, which famously shows a number of the soldiers being mowed down as their comrades press the attack, was actually **staged** 65 km from the action two weeks after the battle was already underway.



It took more than 50 years before a series of spectacular pictures of First World War dogfights were revealed to be make-believe. Gladys Cockburn-Lange, the supposed widow of a deceased British photographer and flier, made the eye-popping images of the air war public in 1933. In one of the shots, supposedly taken over the Western Front, a German plane can be seen breaking apart in mid-air, while another photo shows an enemy pilot leaping to certain death from his flaming fighter. It wasn't until the 1980s that an investigator with the Smithsonian Institute concluded that the pictures were faked using models, likely manufactured and photographed by early Hollywood special effects artist Wesley David Archer.

Does the fact that the event portrayed here was a recreation of a flag raising that took place hours earlier diminish the impact of this famous photo? (SEE PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE).





Here's a photo of the original Suribachi flag raising.

A Marine named Louis Lowery snapped the lesser-known photo hours before Rosenthal had even reached the summit. But it was the second (and more dramatic) image that featured prominently in a successful \$26 Billion war bond drive in 1945. The shot also appeared on stamps, magazine covers, recruiting posters and was the basis of the U.S. Marine memorial in Washington D.C. Interestingly, moments after Lowery captured the moment, the Marines had to repel an assault by Japanese troops hiding in a nearby cave.

A photograph of a Red Army soldier waving the Soviet banner from atop the bombed out ruins of Berlin's Reichstag was indeed staged. Military photographer Yevgeny Khaldei wanted to engineer a historic moment reminiscent of the American Iwo Jima picture, which was taken only weeks earlier. The 28-year-old correspondent hastily stitched together an ad hoc Hammer and Sickle using an old tablecloth and scaled the top of the Nazi legislature with some volunteers to set up the shot. Within two weeks, his image was the toast of Russia, but not before being retouched on the orders of the Kremlin. Moscow demanded the flag be enhanced in the darkroom to make it appear a little less improvised and more vivid. More smoke was added to the horizon of the shot, too. Finally, a second wristwatch on the soldier's forearm (presumably looted) was rubbed off the negative, lest it sully the purity of the scene.



EXAMPLE OF THE WHITE HOUSE USING FAKE PHOTOS

While campaigning as a “wartime president” in 2004, George W. Bush appeared in a photo surrounded by legions of U.S. troops. Days after the image was made public, bloggers noted that some of the faces of the soldiers behind the Commander-in-Chief appeared to have been duplicated using a copy and paste Photoshop tool known as “clone stamp.” The White House yanked the image and apologized.



This picture showing Senator John Kerry and Jane Fonda together at an anti-Vietnam War rally emerged during 2004's US election. The meeting never happened. (Courtesy: Fourandsix.com)

Fonda Speaks To Vietnam Veterans At Anti-War Rally



Actress And Anti-War Activist Jane Fonda Speaks to a crowd of Vietnam Veterans as Activist and former Vietnam Vet John Kerry (LEFT) listens and prepares to speak next concerning the war in Vietnam (AP Photo)

**Italian dictator
Benito
Mussolini had
the horse
handler
removed from
this picture in
1942 to make
him appear
more heroic.**

**(Courtesy:
Fourandsix.com)**

