

THE BIG PICTURE

BACKGROUND

A friend had a sleepless night after being bitten by mosquitoes. She put the question to me, "What is the purpose of the Mosquito?"

BEGIN

Jim Morrison when asked about the origin of his band's name stated, "There are things known and things unknown and in between are The Doors."

Who killed President Kennedy, what really happened to Princess Diana, and why are we here? These questions will never be answered definitively. But it is part of the human condition to be curious. We find a degree of comfort believing there are answers to everything. Answers are the security blanket and offer the soothing warmth from a chilly unknown. The truth becomes irrelevant. Presented with plausibility, the vast majority of people will more readily digest what they're fed. The truth is replaced by 'truthiness' and people become "Sheepeople".

In our eternal quest for answers, the truth will be obvious and sometimes not. Sheepeople seldom see the big picture. To see the big picture, one must think independently and be prepared to question the messenger. Because sometimes fiction fits where facts don't and with this in mind, let's discuss the purpose of the much maligned Mosquito.

The existence of Mosquitoes has long been a part of Mother Nature's grand plan for controlling population levels. This was achieved principally through biological warfare. Malaria was the weapon of choice. Before vaccines were available, Malaria wiped out just about everybody that contracted it. And still, today, it kills people that aren't treated quickly. Mother Nature built a transport network through Mosquitoes that delivered the deadly payload with a stealthy efficiency. Hundreds of thousands of people perished as Malaria cleaned out the weakest. This was part of the evolutionary process called natural selection.

Modern warfare engineers and strategists used Mother Nature's model for military offensives. The Middle East deployed biological warfare in a genocide claiming over 5,000 lives. The West used Mosquito fighter bomber planes, the fastest aircraft of World War 2. More recently, the USA have deployed the B2 stealth bomber in offensive air strikes. They also have huge stockpiles of surface to air "Stinger" missiles. The inspiration for all of these war toys was Mother Nature's Mosquito.

Everything on Earth has a purpose. Mosquitoes, Flies, Dung Beetles and even Amoebas all have their place in this world. It's just not always immediately obvious.

aP