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B. van Elk, "Culturele CIMIC specialisten veel gevraagd in het buitenland: EHBO'ers op cultureel gebied," in *Defensiekrant* (the Netherlands), 17 (April 28, 2005): "EHBO'ers" = first-aid assistants; interview by Dutch military magazine with art historian/archaeologist Lieutenant Colonel Joris Kila and anthropologist/conservation expert Major René Teygeler who are "militarized" [not career military, kind of co-opted specifically for this type of work only] cultural experts of the NATO CIMIC Group North (CGN) and were stationed in Iraq; their task is to protect cultural heritage in war and crisis areas as well to provide expert advice to the military in place; contrary to the sometimes attitude in the West, [high] culture in the Middle East is not an insignificant luxury but an integral part of daily life, e.g., people actually read poetry, tell stories; culture is in many ways what creates the national memory; Kila was stationed in Iraq early on and helped to set up a program to have the site of Uruk (near modern Warka) guarded by the local bedouin tribesmen, paid by the German archaeologists who had been active there for decades and by some of the SFIR (Dutch military in Iraq) commanders; as a result, Uruk is one of the few archaeological sites in Iraq that was not plundered [substantially]; Teygeler went to Iraq later on [in 2004; to relieve Kila, I guess? not clear] for 8 months and has become the leading Dutch cultural expert on Iraq; international civilian cultural experts will only return to Iraq when the security situation is OK so in the meantime CIMIC experts are indispensable; their military status gives them leverage with the military command structure to get some things done or understood, e.g., avoid damage by US soldiers to the highly revered and iconic Imam Ali mosque in Najaf among other things by having Iraqi soldiers deal with the actual mosque during the attack; also mediating between the military and organizations like UNESCO and Blue Shield or advising the Iraqi Ministry of Culture; outside the military, Teygeler runs a cultural-heritage research and consulting firm; 350 local people have been hired to guard the archaeological site of Babylon after the military camp was closed down, at a cost of \$5,000/year, trained and armed by the Polish military [see also Maris April 5, 2005] Photos: "Foto's: Joris Kila en René Teygeler" [I'd like to thank René Teygeler for allowing me to post the pictures here; I screen-captured and reduced them from the pdf file]

Photo 1: "Op het opgravingsterrein ligt eeuwenoud puin met spijkerschrift voor het grijpen." [centuries-old remains with cuneiform inscriptions can be found easily on the archaeological site][Babylon, brick]

Photo 2: "Het terrein van Babylon had zwaar te lijden van de vele militaire voertuigen." [the site of Babylon suffered damage from the many military vehicles][tire tracks]

Photo 3: "Dieven plunderden het museum in de dagen pal na de Amerikaanse inval." [thieves looted the museum in the days right after the American invasion][National Museum, Baghdad, April 2003]

Photo 4: " René Teygeler arriveert per helikopter in Babylon." [René Teygeler arrives in Babylon by helicopter]

Photo 5: "Het graafwerk aan de grootste grafheuvel van Oeroek heeft jarenlang stilgelegen." [excavations of the largest burial mound in Uruk were halted for years][sic; it's a ziggurat, i.e., a temple tower/platform, not a burial mound]

Photo 6: "Ook luitenant-kolonel Kila bezocht Bagdad." [Lieutenant Colonel Kila also visited Bagdad]

Photo 7: "Om grotere schade te voorkomen werden betonnen blokkades met een heli verplaatst." [concrete barriers were moved by helicopter to avoid further damage][Babylon]

Photo 8: "Het historische terrein werd door veel gevaren bedreigd zoals een benzinstation." [the historical site was threatened by many hazards such as this gas station][i.e., soil pollution]