IRAQ
1991

THE BLUE FALCONS *STRIKE!!*

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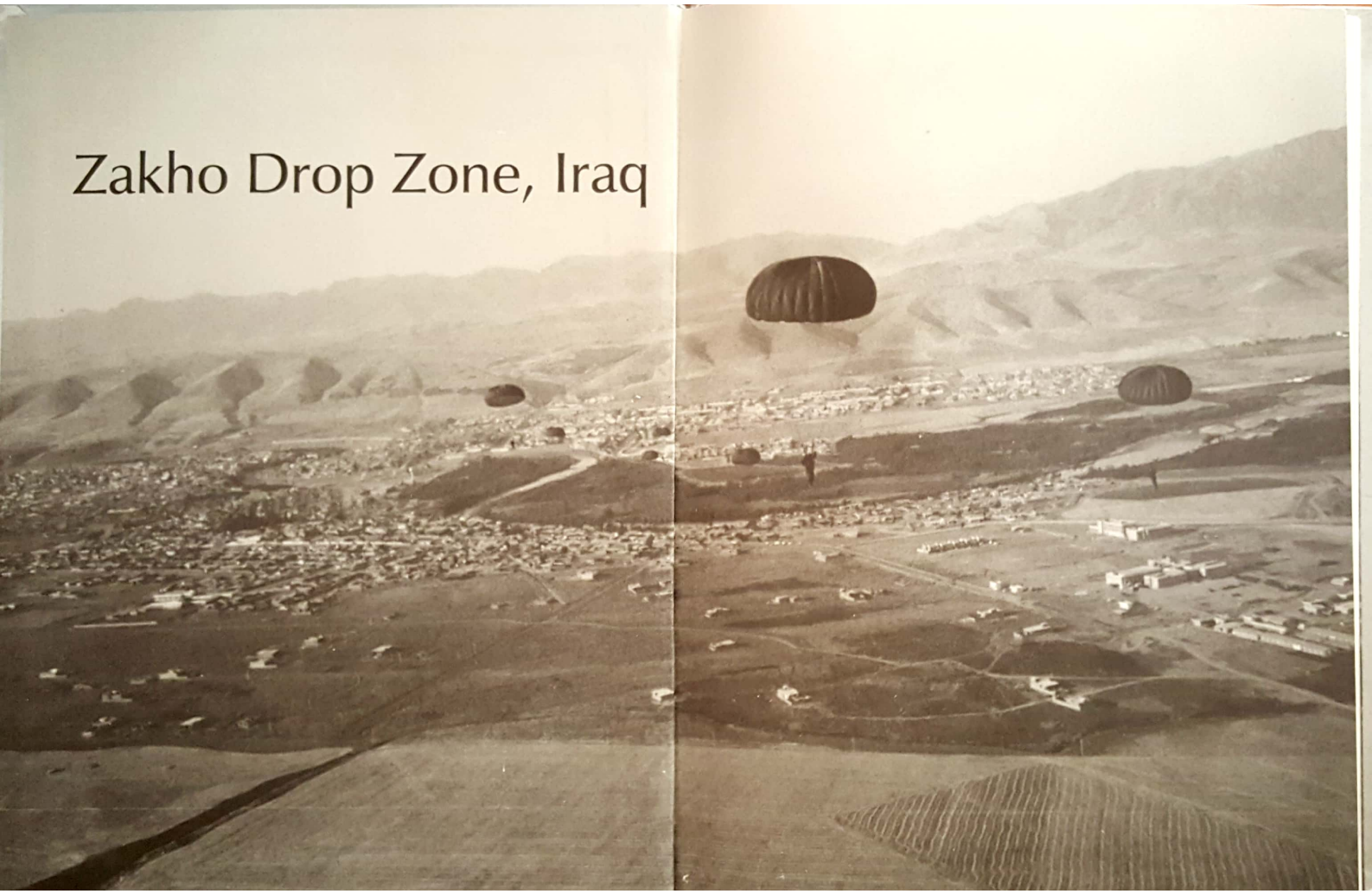

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THE BLUE FALCONS

STRIKE!!

This book was created and composed by soldiers of the 3-325 ABCT

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LEST WE FORGET

We dedicate this book to Private First Class LARS CHEW, who died on 25 May 1991, in the performance of his duties as a Blue Falcon in Operation Provide Comfort.

I talked with PFC CHEW the night before he died. Even though he was severely injured, he could still smile and he had a wonderful sense of humor. He talked about how important his family was to him, and we discussed how much his friends meant to him. He talked about how God was with him after the landmine explosion. He knew the extent of his injuries; but PFC CHEW centered on others and not himself. That is why it was so hard on everyone who knew him. His courage, unselfish attitude, and concern for others set him apart! We in the Airborne Battalion Combat Team will always remember this brave young man. PFC LARS CHEW will be sorely missed.

CHAPLAIN (CPT) SCOTT H. KAMINSKY

We in RECON deeply miss CHEW. He was our friend. We laughed with him, caroused, worked and lived with him. He was one of us, and we miss our own.

- RECON -

(Above) PFC LARS CHEW taking a breather

(Bottom Left) PFC CHEW with Basic Training buddy, PFC McILVENNA, before a training jump in Aviano, Italy.

(Below) The Memorial for PFC CHEW in Iraq

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Saddam's Summer Palace

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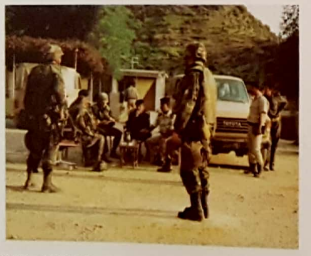
Backbriefs over, Commanders pose in front of the Dohuk terrain model.

JOHN P. ABIZAID
LTC, IN
Commanding



LTC ABIZAID and CPT SNYDER share tea with Iraqi generals after moving into Dohuk on 5 May 91.

LTC ABIZAID confronts Iraqi soldiers.

For ninety days you made history. You deployed to one of the most inhospitable regions of the world, conducted operations against a still dangerous Iraqi foe, pushed him back over 120 km from your start point, assisted in the resettlement of thousands of Kurds to their homeland, and then kept peace in a security zone where no peace had existed in recent memory. You showed guts, discipline, and courage when it mattered, yet were compassionate and generous toward a people who needed help and encouragement to rebuild their lives. You stayed long enough to earn the dubious honor of last coalition forces to leave Iraqi soil.

You worked with the British Royal and US Marines, and also pulled duty with French, Italian, and Spanish paratroopers. You worked in 120° heat and endured discomforts most soldiers thought they left behind in basic training. You worked in areas heavily mined and booby-trapped. You mourned the loss of a fellow trooper and prayed for the recovery of three seriously wounded comrades, yet still remained steadfast in your resolve.

You did all of this with the skill and determination that set Blue Falcon paratroopers apart. It was my great honor to serve with you, and watch you make history.

LTC ABIZAID presents MAJ CARDINAL with a parting gift.

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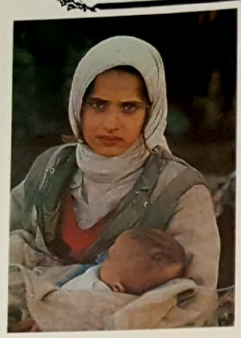
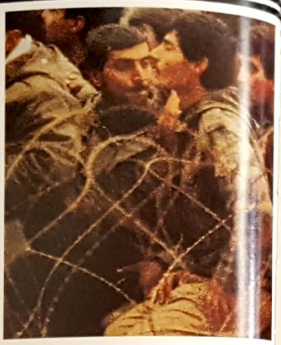




PRELUDE TO PROVIDE COMFORT

The smoke had only just cleared the battlefields of Kuwait and southern Iraq. 100 hours after the US-led coalition had started the ground war, they ended it. Although the Coalition met their battlefield objectives, Iraq still had enough military muscle to deal with internal unrest.

In northern Iraq, the Kurds - long oppressed under Saddam Hussein's rule - seized the opportunity to oust him. Attacks from organized guerrilla forces met with initial success, and spurred more Kurds to revolt. Soon, the entire Kurdish area to the North was in arms.

To meet this threat, Saddam Hussein shifted his forces to the north. The Kurdish freedom fighters fought bravely and achieved surprising victories; however, despite heroic resistance, Iraqi military units devastated Kurdish rebel groups. As more Iraqi soldiers arrived in the north, Kurds began to flee into the mountains to avoid certain death at the hands of the soldiers.

Although the weather was harsh and the going treacherous, the Kurds pressed farther north. When vehicles broke down or ran out of fuel, families abandoned what they couldn't carry, and continued on foot. However, the altitude and cold weather forced many to stop and pitch tents. Soon, these refugees formed makeshift camps containing thousands.

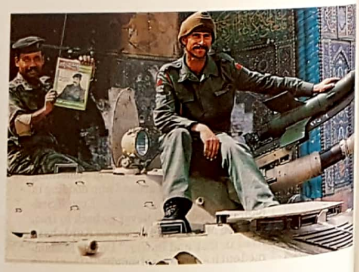
Before food and water ran out, people started dying. The sanitary conditions were atrocious, and the Kurds had used the few trees that grew in the mountains for fuel. More than 600,000 Kurds had fled to the mountains of Turkey and Iraq to escape death; doctors from the Red Cross reported that hundreds of Kurds were dying each day throughout the region. Saddam Hussein was saving bullets, and killing Kurds with hunger.

(Far Left) A victim of Saddam Hussein's wrath in Northern Iraq.

(Middle) A campsite in the mountains near the Turkish border.

(Above) A few of the thousands of Iraqi troops who surrendered.

(Below) Troops who remained loyal to Saddam's Regime.



DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ

(Above) The entire Battalion was transported by C-5 "Starlifters" to Incirlik AFB, Turkey.

(Above Right) Blue Falcons receive maps of Iraq while waiting for departure planes.

(Below) SPC GROVES, CSC, like all Blue Falcons, packed for a long haul in Iraq.

Special Forces soldiers first witnessed the disaster, and reported it. The President realized that a massive humanitarian effort was required to stop the wholesale dying. The JCS ordered "Operation Provide Comfort" to commence. The US European Command formed a Combined Task Force at Incirlik AFB, Turkey. Two Joint Task Forces came under CTF control; JTF-A, responsible for bringing the Kurds out of the mountains; and JTF-B, responsible for resettlement in northern Iraq.

The first Blue Falcons to deploy were Riggers, whose expertise was required to prepare bundles of food and clothing for heavy drop operations, the first phase of the relief effort. On 17 April 1991, 3-325 got the word to start preparations for a possible deployment to Iraq. The battalion dispatched a liaison officer a day later, and began planning. Quietly, while most of the battalion was unaware, the staff pored over photos, maps and intelligence updates in order to paint an accurate picture of the enemy situation. The Blue Falcons began to prepare vehicles and equipment for outload, but the word to deploy did not come.

Finally, on 25 October, at 1600 hours, the N-hour sequence began. Thrown in motion, all systems in the battalion pushed toward Iraq; soldiers conducted final inspections, prayers were spoken, and the Blue Falcons moved to Aviano AFB. The first plane took off in 17½ hours, 30 minutes ahead of schedule.

From Incirlik AFB, the ABCT moved overland to Iraq by bus; vehicles followed on commercial trucks. In Zakho, the Blue Falcons witnessed a ghost town. Empty homes were punctuated by overturned vehicles and the disarray of a hasty departure. From the border to the 3-325's first base, the only signs of life were American and allied troops posted at key locations.

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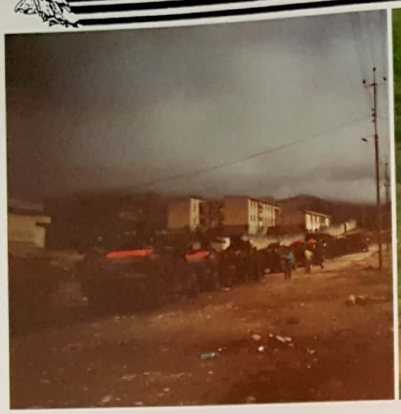

THE PUSH

On 29 April, the Blue Falcons took over local security duties from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, manning all checkpoints around the town of Zakho. By 31 April, the entire battalion was in Iraq, poised and ready to move. Although the area under direct Task Force control was limited, the Blue Falcons went on the offensive with aptly named "flying checkpoints". Instead of manning fixed locations, the ABCT was everywhere, creating checkpoints in a matter of minutes, reporting critical information, and keeping the Iraqi army off balance.

On 1 May, CTF issued the order to expand the "Security Zone", and the 3-325 was tasked to spearhead the movement. The objective was Sirsenk airfield, an airport Saddam Hussein had built to reach his palaces in the hills of northern Iraq. The airfield was critical, because it was the only airfield in the area which could handle a C-130, important for resupply. Preparing for a move of over 100km, light infantry became motorized infantry. Blue Falcons anticipated any eventuality, and task organized every organic vehicle for troop movement.

Early on the morning of 2 May, the ABCT conducted a relief in place with the 24th MEU in a cold, driving rainstorm. The combat team moved to an assembly area, 30 km to the east in Batufa, becoming OPCON to the 3rd Commando Brigade of the British Royal Marines. The ABCT mission was to protect the southern flank of the 3d Commando Brigade as it pushed eastward.

The battalion conducted its movement to contact along two separate axes. Company C pushed past Sirsenk airfield to the strategic mountain pass at Sumaratuka, where they met determined Iraqi resistance. Hoping to outflank the enemy, A Co moved through a second pass to the west; they pushed south, meeting Iraqi soldiers from the same unit that C Co faced. From 2-5 May, the Blue Falcons conducted aggressive patrolling, maintaining contact with the Iraqi army.

(Above Left) Battalion lines up for departure.

(Above Right) Air guards stay alert during the movement.

(Below) CPT STREET and LT JOY make sure everything is secure.

(Above Right) Convoy prepared for anything.

(Below Left) British soldiers bring up the rear.

(Below Right) SGT JACKSON and SPC LEWIS pose with sign outside Suwaratuka.

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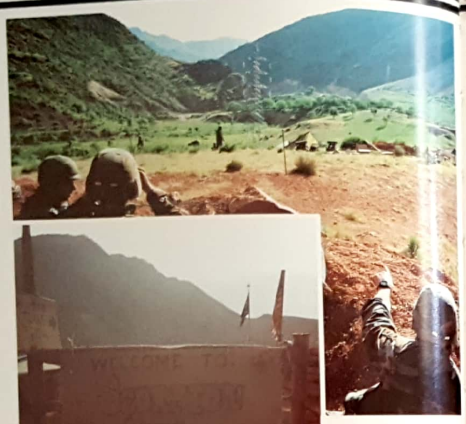
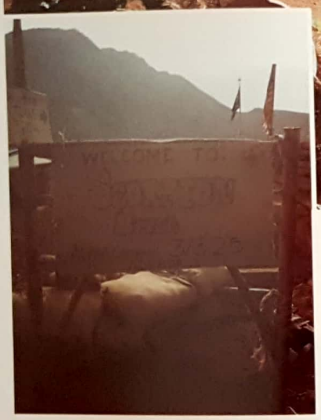




(Clockwise from top) The Airborne Battalion Combat Team moving fast and hard to Suwaratuka.

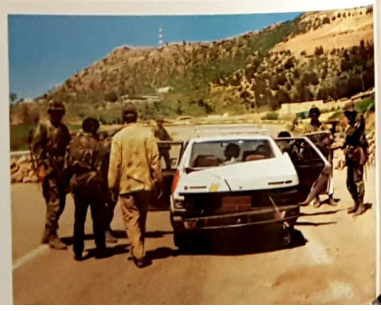
Alpha Company's commander plans defensive and offensive strategies in case of tensions at Scorpion Beach.

The welcome mat to Alpha Company's famous Scorpion Beach.

One of many Alpha Company check points.

THE DRIVE TO DOHUK

On 4 May, the battalion suffered its first casualties when a Recon platoon patrol hit an Iraqi minefield. Quick action by the squad leader, soldiers of the TOC, and soldiers in the Combat Trains saved our soldiers' lives. One day later, on 5 May, the Iraqis began a hasty withdrawal. Our vigilant reconnaissance elements picked up the movement. The commander quickly notified 3d Commando Brigade headquarters, and ordered the Blue Falcons on the offensive, again. Lead elements of CSC passed through C Co and pursued the Iraqis south along the main avenue of approach into Dohuk. One of the antitank platoons entered Dohuk, only to get called back to the limit of advance established by the JTF-B commander, as he surveyed the situation from his Blackhawk. The ABCT took to the ground again, preparing defensive positions overlooking Dohuk from the north. The battalion remained in these positions for over one month while negotiations proceeded to determine the fate of Dohuk, a key, disputed city.



Just a few of the confiscated Kurdish weapons.

One of numerous checkpoints set up by coalition forces.

SPC POREDA and PFC STARR check cars by the Turkey-Iraq border.

Members of the Pesh Merge often maneuvered in our security zones.

TENSIONS IN THE SECURITY ZONE.

The Blue Falcons were always on the edge of the Security Zone. While the Recon platoon had the opportunity to observe deep into the heart of Iraqi territory, the soldiers of the line companies got to face the soldiers of the Iraqi army every day. The allied checkpoint north of Dohuk, manned by Blue Falcons was only 50 meters from an Iraqi checkpoint, with Iraqi soldiers. No one was able to forget that each soldier, on either side had a loaded weapon and the training to use it.

Many times a small incident seemed enough to spark a battle. Once, a taxi with two reporters was unable to get through the Iraqi checkpoint, and appealed to ABCT soldiers to help. The Iraqis wanted the iron will of those soldiers to break, but the superior training of the Blue Falcons would not let that happen. The soldiers held their fire and the incident passed.

The negotiators allowed Iraqi soldiers to remain at Saddam Hussein's "palace". This meant that every other day, Blue Falcons had to escort a supply truck and soldiers from our checkpoint to the palace. Soldiers of the ABCT found themselves in the unusual position of having to protect Iraqi soldiers, not from allied forces, but from the armed Kurdish rebels.

The Pesh Merge were freedom fighters who followed two different leaders. Soldiers in these forces casually sported bandoliers of bullets, live grenades, and antitank weapons. Although aware that only allied soldiers were permitted to establish checkpoints, often Blue Falcons had to disperse illegal Kurdish checkpoints that had grown in only a matter of minutes. Even though the allied soldiers were treated as friends, the freedom fighters obeyed a different leader causing soldiers to remain wary.

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B Co soldiers wait patiently for the Spanish jump exchange.

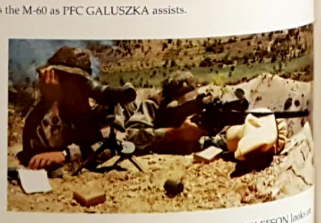
TRAINING IN IRAQ

While the 3-325 received excellent, mission-driven training in many different tasks, there remained many tasks for which the Provide Comfort mission was not providing training. In order to meet those other training requirements, the battalion designed and ran the "Callahan Range Complex". The battalion fired all types of weapons in this valley, and conducted live-fire exercises.

A Blue Falcon is an airborne soldier, and airborne proficiency is an important task. The S3 Air searched long and hard to find an area in Iraq that could serve as a drop zone *and* was free of mines. The ABCT baptized Saddam Drop Zone on 1 June when the first of many jumpers hit Iraqi soil, executing a PLF. 3-325 jumpmasters supervised jumpers from many nations, as Blue Falcons trained airborne soldiers throughout the coalition.

Those same allies provided the ABCT with training opportunities in the form of training exchanges. During the course of the deployment ABCT soldiers served with the Italians, Spanish, French, and British forces. Through these exchanges, the Blue Falcons served in every sector of the security zone and learned valuable skills alongside their allied counterparts.

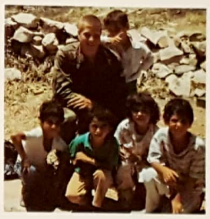
SFC HANEY fires the M-60 as PFC GALUSZKA assists.



SPC GROVES practices with a sniper rifle as SFC EILEFSON looks on

Kurds form long lines back to Iraq.

American troops were always greeted with enthusiasm.



PFC KRETZER with a few of his "buds".

Many luckier Kurds rode home packed in vehicles.

KURDS RETURN

Every Blue Falcon soon saw the effect that his presence had in northern Iraq. Once Kurds realized that their homes were protected by allied soldiers, they returned from the hills. JTF-B initially thought that Kurds would spend a great deal of time in camps built by JTF-B. However, Kurds expressed a desire to return home. Receiving food and fuel from allied way stations, Kurds packed people in anything that could move. No soldier will forget the smiling faces and waves they received from Kurdish children just back from the horror in the mountains.

When the Kurds went home, they meant home. For the first time in years, Kurdish families returned to the homes and villages which had been razed by Saddam Hussein and his army, years earlier. With the once blocked roads now open, Kurds returned to their old villages and began to raise crops without fear of retribution.

Perhaps the greatest sign of returning Kurds were the enterprising children who sold everything from cigarettes to bayonets to homemade Iraqi flags. "Hello mister," was usually the opening line of a bargaining session.

Every day the battalion was deployed, more Kurds returned from the hills. Success was evident: the armed forces from various nations stopped the dying, and then provided a safe haven for returning families. 325 soldiers will long remember their tangible influence on thousands of people.

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The Coalition leaves the Kurdish fate in Kurdish hands.

The Kurds protest for the Coalition to stay in Iraq

PULLOUT

Convinced of the operation's success, the President authorized the gradual pull-out of all US combat forces from Iraq. After six weeks of continuous operations at the front lines, 3-325 moved to Sirsenk airfield where they became the JTF reserve.

The next stop in the movement out of Iraq was Zakho. Moving into the "Spanish Compound" and the "MEU Compound", the ABCT was the only combat force in Zakho. From Zakho, the staff formulated plans for our final deployment from Iraq.

On 13 July the ABCT began to move west, across the border. The Kurdish people staged a major protest at the border to disrupt the exodus of allied protection, and gain world attention. Two rifle companies were required to keep the border opened, and a third was brought back from Silopi to provide reinforcement. After a period of extreme tension, MG Garner, JTF-B commander, spoke to the Kurds, explaining that the soldiers would only be across the border, and would return if needed. This calmed the Kurds, and there were no further protests to the movements from Iraq that ended on 15 July.

Once the battalion closed in Silopi, they established the Allied Ground Combat Force (Coalition Battalion) for Operation Provide Comfort II. After creating this unit, the 3-325 passed control to the Berlin Brigade, and headed for Vicenza.

(Below) SPC YOUNGER loads equipment to be shipped home.
(Bottom) Battalion vehicles await inspection and customs in Turkey.

SPC CHAMPLAIN gives his son a long awaited hug.

The L-1011, one step closer to home.

The US Army rucksack "Don't go home without it."

The soldiers received a warm and delicious welcome.

HOMECOMING

The road from Silopi was long, but soldiers knew what awaited them at the end, and worked hard to get there. Although the distance was great between Silopi and either the port of Iskendrun or Incirlik AFB, the more difficult battle was with Turkish customs. Once a piece of equipment was in their country, it was far easier to abandon it than to get it out of country; however, the Blue Falcons fought the paperwork war and won.

The next step was to move the equipment to the boat. Soldiers moved ahead to meet the equipment and load it on the ship. Only after the equipment was prepared for return could the soldiers board the aircraft for return. Never before had filling out a customs form felt so good! When the wheels left the runway in Turkey, the soldiers knew that the deployment was truly coming to an end.

Every soldier knew the ride from Aviano AFB to Vicenza, and placed bets as to the exact minute of arrival. Italy took on a new beauty, even if - as for some - it was raining. When the buses stopped in front of Davis Hall, the scores of wives and friends who came out to greet them amazed the troops. For a few families, this was the first long separation; for other families this was just another deployment. For every family, the reunion was sweeter knowing that the soldier was returning from a dangerous place, having fulfilled his duty.

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Other Units

The Blue Falcons trained with many other units while deployed on Operation Provide Comfort. Our overall headquarters was the Combined Task Force (center), based at Incirlik AFB, and led by LTG Shalikashvili. When we arrived, and for most of our time in Iraq, we worked for the 24th MEU (top center). For our drive south, we reported to the British 3d Commando Brigade (top left). The Italians brought their El Alamein and Col Moschin battalions (top right) as well as a lot of good food. The French (bottom right) and the Spanish (bottom center) were airborne brothers who provided training opportunities and camaraderie.

UNITS

Combat helicopters fly in formation over Iraq.

An A-10 flies over mountainous Iraqi terrain.

A B Co soldier guards the road to Zakho.

TOW gunners patrol cautiously.

British soldiers pose amicably on one of their vehicles.

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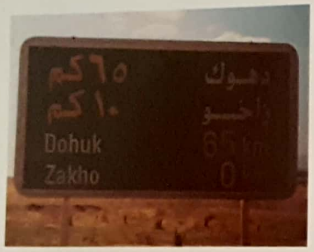
A CO. MEMORIES

This ain't Kansas.



Accidents will happen!

Third platoon roadblock outside Dohuk.

SGT WILLIAMS and SPC SWANK take a break from digging at Scorpion Be

Old Glory and the A Co guidon wave freely at Scorpion Beach.

A Co enjoys a day at the beach.

Fun jump at Saddam DZ.

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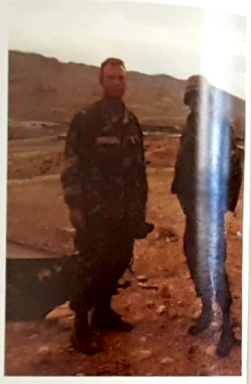
COMPANY COMMAND

"This doesn't look right, I think we are lost" claims 1LT MANNELL.



CPT BROUILLETTE and 1SG McCAIN are caught off guard

WORDS FROM THE COMMANDER AND FIRST SERGEANT.

Operation Provide Comfort sounded like a very humanitarian effort. However, the paratroopers of A Co 3-325 ABCT knew better. Alpha Force was the Battalion Combat Team's lead element into Iraq on 27 Apr 91. We all soon realized that our mission was to provide the might to establish a large security zone for the Kurdish people. Alpha Company played a vital role in doing just that. A Co was the Task Force's lead element and main effort against a larger Iraqi force from 5-28 May 91. Often, we found ourselves outnumbered, surrounded, and outgunned, but due to the professionalism of the men in A Co, we stood prepared to defeat the enemy if needed. A Co pushed the Iraqis back and penetrated farther into Iraq than any other U.S. or coalition force. A Co definitely led the way when it counted. AIRBORNE!!!

GREGORY A. BROUILLETTE
CPT, IN
Commanding

The men did an excellent job. They faced danger, sickness, tough living conditions, and boredom; but each time came through it looking and acting like professionals. Most of the soldiers that came back have a little different way of looking at things now, and whether they realize it or not, most of them have made significant changes in their lives since returning. I think the only place a soldier can find out what he is made of and what he really stands for is in combat. Should we call our mission in Northern Iraq combat? I don't know, but I sure as hell wouldn't call it a field problem.

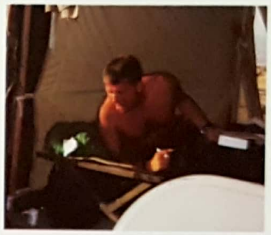
JOCK T. McCAIN
1SG, USA
First Sergeant

HEADQUARTERS PLATOON

SGT BELFORD takes time out for a photo in front of Saddam's summer palace.

(LeFT) PFC ARBOLEDA sits around on a water break while setting up mortar fields of fire outside Dohuk.

(Below) SGT GARNER sits peacefully writing a letter home when an annoying little fly flies into his mouth.



SSG SIMMS, SPC TAMMARO, and SSG MARSH sit around after first arriving in Zakho.

SPC KRAUSE and Headquarters Plt sit around shooting the breeze in the company CP.

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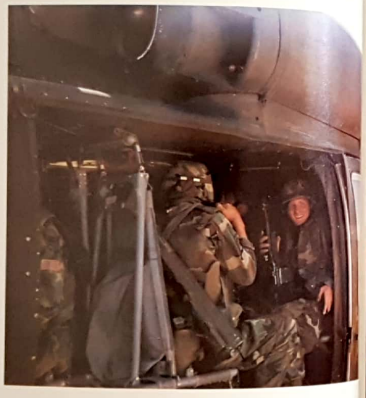
FIRST PLATOON



(Clockwise from top) 1st platoon's 2nd squad strike a pose at Scorpion Beach.

SPC JAMES and company take-off for a mission on "Sparrowhawk" in Zakho.

SPC BAKER jams to the tunes of his walkman while writing a letter home.

SGT GARNER, SPC MEIER, SPC STILLWELL, SPC DESCOMBAZ, and PFC CORRIGAN pose in front of an Iraqi road sign.

SECOND PLATOON

(Clockwise from left) SPC COLUMNA mounts the .50 cal during the battalion movement from Zakho to Suwaratuka.

Shortly after arrival in Zakho, members of Second Plt pose in front of the popular Saddam Hussein painting.

PFC McKAY and PFC DREW enjoy a beer after a jump with the French soldiers.

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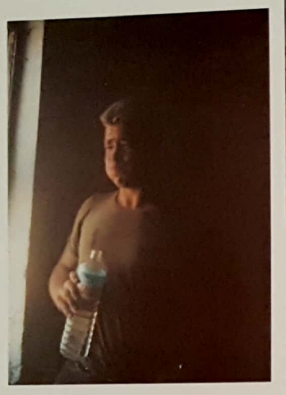
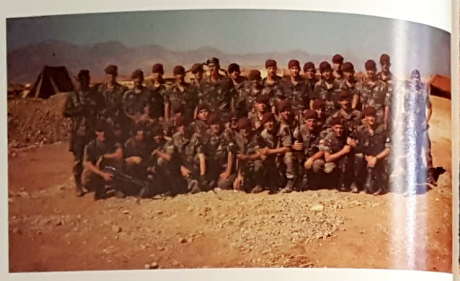
THIRD PLATOON: A CO's LONE WOLF PLT



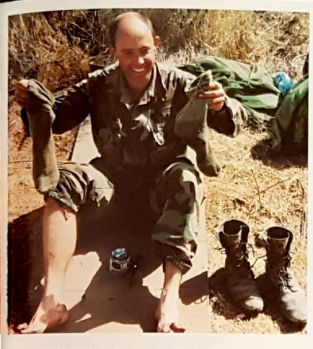


(Clockwise from top) Third platoon takes time out for a platoon photo before forever leaving Silopi.

The Lone Wolf. Third squad gathers for a group picture on the hilltop of OP Nowhere.

SPC POREDA, PFC MANDIGO, PFC LOWE, and PFC STARR are working hard on "Sparrowhawk" in Silopi.

"Hey Kurt, want some food to eat with that hot sauce?"



1SG BUSCH displays a pair of his well-used socks.

Once again, paratroopers answered their nation's call, and were ready

An odyssey through Turkey and into Iraq: Uncertainty, restlessness, excitement

Waiting to execute what we had trained for so hard and for so long.

Zakho, Dohuk, Sirsenk, Suri, and back again to Zakho

Security for the Kurds so they could return to a shattered homeland

And enjoy a freedom they had never known before

Hasty roadblocks to push the Iraqis south, seizing the dam, and "digging in"

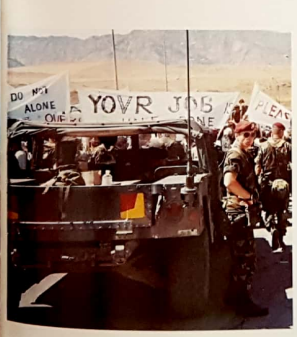
Building ranges, airborne ops, and training with our airborne comrades from France and Spain

The riot at the bridge, because we had made a difference and they didn't want us to leave

Courage, Honor, and Discipline:

The Bravo Company paratrooper did his duty; Quiet pride in a job well done.

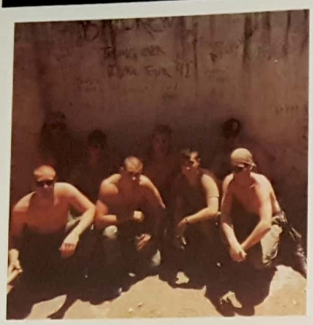
SSG ROBERTS and CPL TAFOYA showing off a hoard of chow.



CPT CALLAHAN ponders for a moment during the protest.

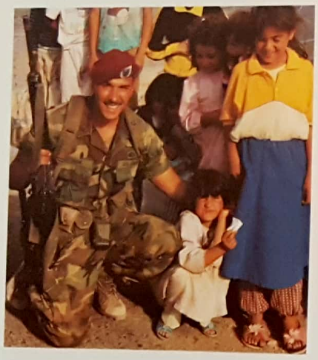
CPT CALLAHAN and 1SG BUSCH escort a HMMV during the pullout.

Scanned by CamScanner



Members of 1st Platoon pose in front of a graffitti covered wall.

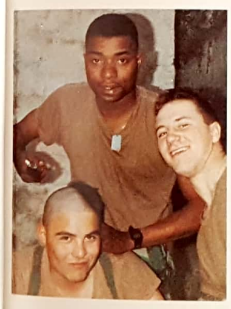
PFC McVANEY shows a bit of wishful thinking.



SPC GARICA poses among victims of Iraqi hate.

(Above) SGT RUIZ gives a little friendship to a few younger Kurds.

(Bottom Right) SPC BAHAM assists PVT CASTILLO with his rappelling.



(Top Left) SGT CUNNINGHAM with an RPG.

(Top Center) PV2 LINDELL being "JUST DEAD".

(Above) SPC DUCKETT gets a chic hairdo from SPC WEAVER as PFC CODY awaits his turn.

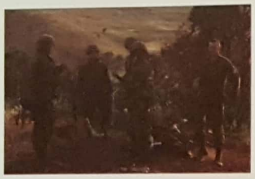
SSG LUCKIE gets a haircut as SGT NIETO and others stand by.

(Top Right) PV2 JACOBSON takes a break in his fighting position.

(Above) Members of 2nd PLT relax during a break in the workday.

Scanned by CamScanner

An inspiring show of patriotism from 3rd platoon.



SGT SENTI and SGT SHEETS take time for a moment of creativity with fellow troops.

2LT THORN and "Doc" FULTON manage a couple of smiles.

3rd platoon and CSC team for a group photo.

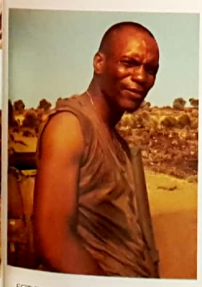
PFC HILL shams happily.

SSG GRUBBS and others "carpool" to work.

PFC CODY, PFC URSITTI, and PFC BECK take another ride to work.

(Left) PFC BOWLING poses by a tough message.

Card-playing and sunbathing make a good break.



SGT RHEA squints into the Iraqi sun.

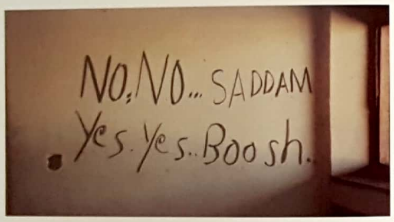
SPC JORDON, PFC BECK, and PFC BERNARD take time to remember home.

PFC BOWLING and SPC JORDON practice a frequent B Co activity.

Scanned by CamScanner

A mounted M-60 looms menacingly over the Iraqi countryside.

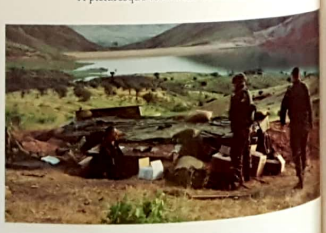
Terrified Iraqi soldiers wait as their truck, loaded with ammunition, is scorched.



A provocative message from an unknown Kurd.

NBC-TV gets a take as CPT CALLAHAN searches a car carrying two Iraqi generals and one Iraqi colonel.

A picturesque view near the dam at Dohuk.



The last guard station in Iraq.

B Co soldiers stand fast against protesting Kurds.

B Co soldiers practice riot control - just in case.

A hard-working soldier receives treatment as SGT BROOKS looks on.

Scanned by CamScanner

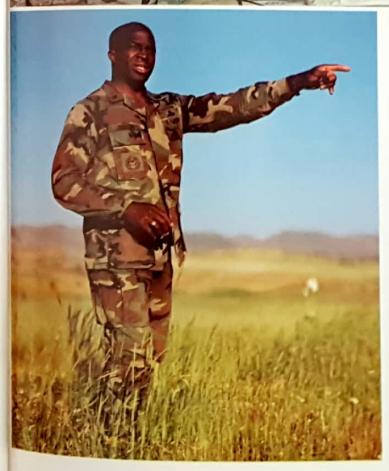
CHARLIE COMPANY gathers for group photo in Incirlik, Turkey.

(Below) The backbone of CHARLIE COMPANY.

The key to military success from World War II to the present 100 hour war in the Gulf has been well trained, disciplined soldiers. During our deployment to northern Iraq, we demonstrated the ability to move farther and faster than our counterparts in Task Force Bravo. On numerous occasions we came face to face with armed Iraqi soldiers. Your discipline, courage, and confidence always sent the message that you were a force to be reckoned with. Because of these demonstrated abilities the Iraqis were pushed 120 kms back in their own country. Consequently thousands of Kurdish refugees returned to their homes. Continue to train hard. Capture lessons learned and remain poised and ready for the next call.

"Charlie leads the way."

ROBERT B. STREET
CPT, IN
Commanding



Going to Iraq was great for the company and the battalion. I believe that the deployment, brought the entire unit much closer together, more than ever before. It was great to see how well everyone worked together to support the needs of one another. I also thought that the deployment to Iraq helped soldiers both young and old love the US Army and the USA even more. After seeing how the Iraqis and the Kurds lived and treated each other, America is a heaven.

JOE S. JOHNSON
1SG, USA
First Sergeant

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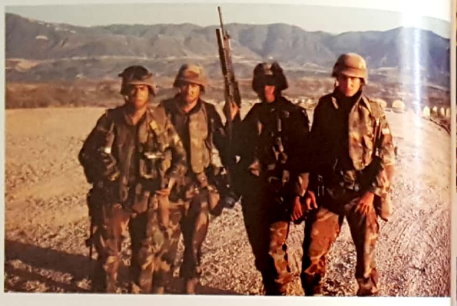
(Left) LT GALLES prepares to get information on the next mission.



SPC ZALAYA, SPC TUCKER, SPC GRAMBLING, and SPC FLACH prepare to go on guard duty.

(Below) PFC NATION and PFC EBIG give us a quick pose during a coffee break.

SSG STANBERY rucks up for another mission.

Weapons squad gets a hands on look at an AH-64 Apache.

Members of Second Platoon make new fans in Silopi.

SSG WOLFE gives his impression of SFC FISHER.

PFC ZAMORA on guard in one of many M-60 positions.

SPC DOOLEY, PFC ZAMORA, PFC LETTIERE, and PVT WALLA prepare to jump on Saddam Drop Zone.

(Right) Second Platoon poses with Spanish infantrymen.

Scanned by CamScanner

Third platoon loads onto a CH-47 Chinook for a mission.

PFC SABALA and PFC JANTZI meet a new friend.

(Right) PFC MUNN shares tea with interpreters.

(Left) Third squad poses with Saddam.

(Left) Headquarters platoon sets up a communications point.

SPC KINNEY and SPC WEBSTER prepare to dig a mortar position.

PVT GREEN clowns around again.

Scanned by CamScanner

CS

(COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE)
First Sergeant Johnson inspects French soldier's parachutes.

PVT FOLK fires Spanish machine gun.

Charlie company cross trains with the Spanish.

PFC BLOOMQUIST pulls a donkey ridden by SPC CARTER.

SPC ESTRELLA poses with a Kurdish Rebel.

Sparrow Hawk "91".

Saddam Hussein.

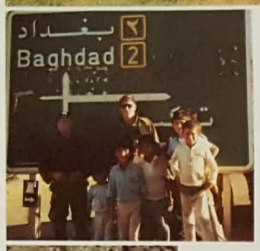
Through 90 days of intensive operations in Northern Iraq, Combat Support Company distinguished itself by setting the standard on countless missions. Regardless of where the danger was, Combat Support Company was there. We were instrumental in the establishment of hasty checkpoints. We marked minefields, we fortified positions, and we built roads, command posts, vehicle and individual fighting positions. CSC led the way on the big push toward Dohuk, and when the main body halted we pushed AT-3 even further into Dohuk. The 81mm Mortars consistently provided indirect fire if needed, and illumination on call. During one evening, Team CS with additional Heavy and Combat Engineers passed through Team A and established two roadblocks in record time on the Northern edge of Dohuk. Most operations in Iraq were conducted under the watchful eye of the Scout platoon, working in dangerous, mined terrain throughout the region. While operations were ongoing in our area-of-responsibility, CSC continuously manned Sparrow Hawk the JTF-B Reserve, always ready to reinforce where needed. Stingers worked both defending the Sirsenk Airfield and the field trains, as well as providing much needed transportation to the line platoons. Our success in Northern Iraq was due to our great soldiers and leaders applying everything learned in training, professionally and courageously in the face of an armed enemy. Our success and accomplishments did not come without cost. On two separate days several CSC Scouts were seriously wounded, and one, PFC LARS PETR CHEW died while serving his country. It was a great honor to command such fine soldiers during Operation Provide Comfort. CSC puts the Combat in the AIRBORNE BATTALION! All the way!

CHAD A. SNYDER
CPT, IN
Commanding

During Operation Provide Comfort, I feel that every soldier, regardless of rank, received one of the most valuable lessons learned in a lifetime. He experienced fatigue, fear, loneliness, and the thought that life could end at any moment. All soldiers will one day look back and remember Operation Provide Comfort. CSC, 3-325 was definitely a key part, as were all soldiers of the 3-325.

CARL A. PEVIA
1SG, USA
First Sergeant

Scanned by CamScanner



(Top left) Back row SPC CLARK, PFC HARRIS, PFC HAYES, PFC HUNTER, SGT HARRIS, PFC BRAUN, PFC WEBB, Bottom row PFC CHASSE, PVT THORTON, SSG WALLICE, SFC PIEVE, LT JOHNSON, PFC BOX, PFC DORMAN, and CPL RODENHISER

(Top right) PFC DORMAN overlooking Dohuk

(Middle left) SPC CLARK and PFC HAYES

(Middle center) SPC CLARK and SGT ADDISON out taking a swim.

(Middle right) CPL CONLEY and PFC WOODCOCK with CSC first hang fire.

(Bottom left) SFC FERNANDEZ

(Bottom right) PFC CUNNINGHAM, PFC PARKER, PFC WOODCOCK, CPL DELEON, CPL CONLEY, and PFC HASPER

(Clockwise from below) CPL GALLOWAY, PFC BAKKE, PFC MARTINEZ, PFC THOMAS, SPC SAILS, PFC TAYLOR, PFC HURTAL, SPC DILMORE, on top PFC ALLEN, and SPC GILLETTE.

AT-3 on a sling load.

SGT CORDOVA and SPC SAILS being all they can be.

PFC TAYLOR on a smoke break.

PFC HASPER, PFC WOODCOCK, CPL DELEON, PFC CUNNINGHAM, CPL CONLEY, and SPC IRELAND.

Top row PFC AMMONS, PFC WOODCOCK, SPC CARMICHAL, SPC IRELAND, CPL CONLEY, SSG CRUM, CPL DELEON, PFC CUNNINGHAM, PFC HASPER, PFC PARKER, PFC BROWN, Bottom row LT EDEL, and SFC FERNANDEZ.

(Middle photo) CPL GALLOWAY

Scanned by CamScanner

CS

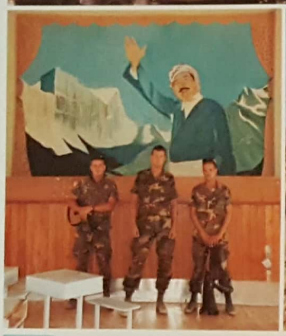
(Top left) PFC ANDREWS on the gun and CPL PHILLIPS giving him his left and right limits and his TRP's.

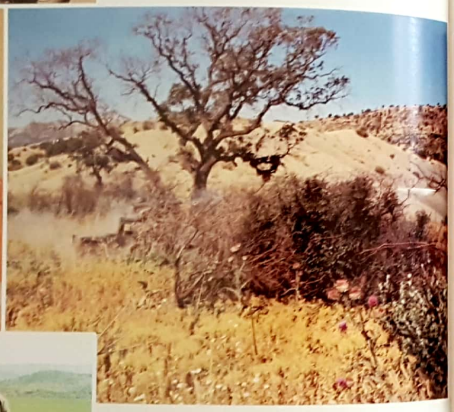
(Middle left) PFC LAWHORNE, PFC BLAIR, and SSG HILL

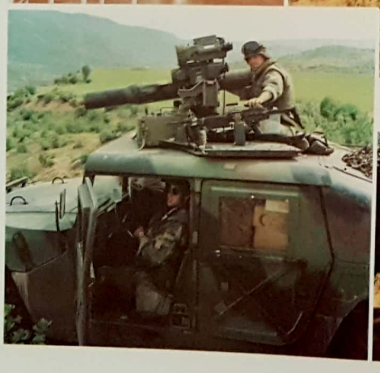
(Middle right) AT's on a life fire.

(Bottom right) Back row PFC BENITEZ, PFC FURGESON, PFC BLAIR, CPL YOST, LT HAGAN, SGT MILLER, SGT FOX, PFC SARKISSIAN, Front row PV2 BILLS, PV2 ROBERSON, SSG HILL, SSG PETERSON, PFC LAWHORNE, PFC SUTTLES, and PFC MOORE.

(Bottom left) PFC BENITEZ and PFC SUTTLES Getting ready to move to their overwatch position.







CS

(Above) 81mm Top row PFC FORBIS, SPC CALVELAGE, SPC TOTH, PFC FELSHIME, LT MALLIN, Bottom row SPC MUELLER, SPC SWARTZ, SSG O'LEARY, and PV2 GRIGGS.

(Below) SPC CALVELAGE and PFC FELSHEIM Not tonight, I have a headache!!

(Below) After checking his map, SPC SWARTZ decides he's not in Kansas anymore.

(Left) 81mm At the Turkish-Iraqi border near Zahko.

Scanned by CamScanner

RECON

THE GANG: (Right) EILEFSON, JACKSON, KOONS, DYER, WAELTY, HARRES, CIAIZZO, TOAL, YEAGER, HAMPTON, ELIAS, BROWN, FULKS, GROVE, SANTIAGO, GROVES, FEIGE, WADE, UNDERWOOD, McCLURE

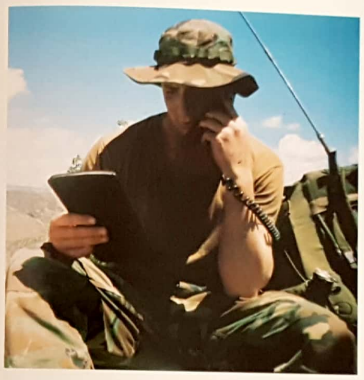
(Below) Another Saturday bath near Zakho.

(Below Right) SNIPER'S VIEW - Iraqi roadblock NE of Dohuk, by Scorpion Beach.

(Below Left) Another night at the movies in Blue Falcon Land. (Below Center) "YOUNG GUNS 3"?!

(Below Right) "Sergeant, I think I have some room left; want to take any food?"

ABOVE AND BEYOND .....



PFC POTTER

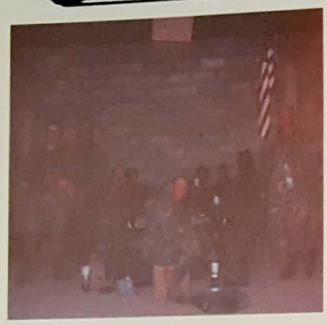
CPL YEAGER and SPC HUMPHRIES

This page is dedicated to those soldiers who gave more than their time and effort while in Iraq. We take this opportunity to salute their courage and sacrifice. These are our wounded brothers: CPL LOREN YEAGER, SPC JAY HUMPHRIES, and PFC MARK POTTER.

SPC HUMPHRIES

Scanned by CamScanner

CS COMBAT



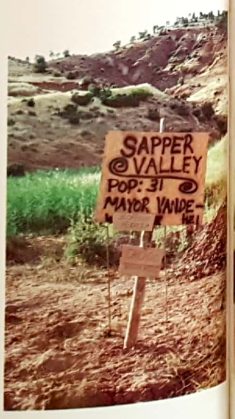
Just ANOTHER game of Spades!

The new gun crew catches some Z's.

Sunning Sumo's?!

Combat Engineers were very busy in Iraq, although these pictures show them at rest. Combat was busy sweeping for mines, marking them, installing road blocks, and stringing concertina.

Garden spot of Iraq.



NCO's - Ready to go!

CS STINGER/GSR

(Clockwise from Above right:) "... uh ... ours or theirs? ... hmmnn ... eeney, meeney, miney ..."

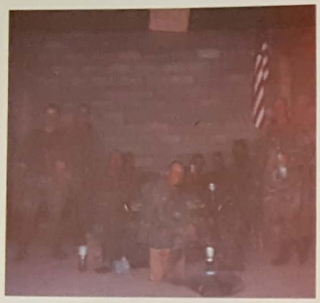
Damn! Dropped the soap again!!

KURDISH RECRUITING POSTER.

Lazy Raiders from Hell!

Scanned by CamScanner

COMBAT



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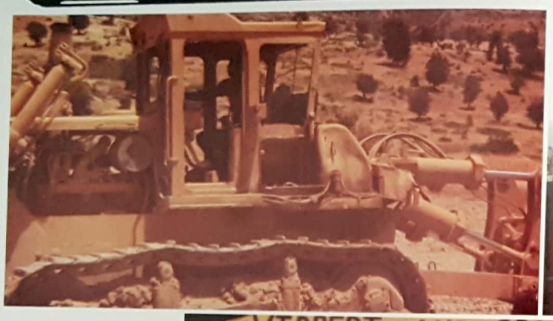


(Clockwise from below) PFC MACIAS On the road again.

CPT SNYDER and LT PISKATOR CSC CO and XO.

Back row CPT SNYDER, SGT CUYLER, SGT FUGATE, SGT DAVIS, SGT CARR, PFC HOWARD, PFC FARRINGTON, SFC HANEY, PFC GALUSZKA, LT BARKER, SPC CAVINS, Front row SGT COSTA, PFC URQUIDI, and 1SG FAISON.

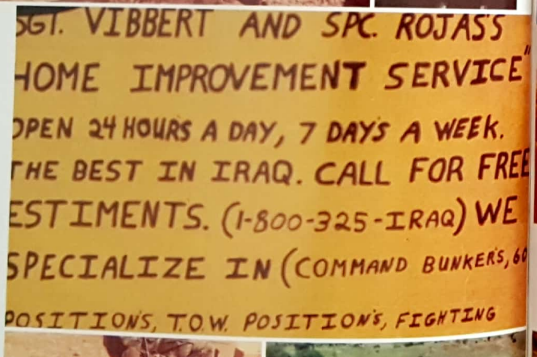
CPT SNYDER and LT HAMPTON

PFC URQUIDI and CPL BOLDING

Left to right SPC DERN, SFC HANEY, SPC BANNER, and PFC NOBLE.

PFC GALUSZKA Hey mom do you know where I am?

(Jump photo) 0630 jump into Saddam DZ.



(Top left) SSG WILLIAMS Loves to play with his giant Tonka toy.

(Top right) SPC ROJAS On the job again.

(Bottom left) SGT KROHN Hooa as you want to be.

(Bottom right) S.E.E. (Small Emplacement Excavator)

Scanned by CamScanner

Doghouse Reflections ...

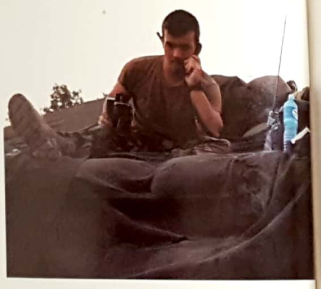
(Above Left) SPC DEATHRAGE, SPC BROWN, and SGT K[illegible]AVEN, a[illegible]

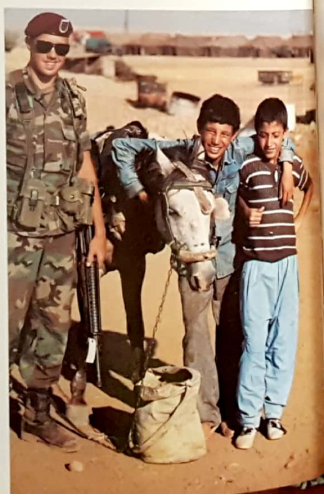
(Left) SPC M.D. PAYNE, aka "The Doctor."

(Bottom Left) SPC BRIAN GERMAIN, "Oh, look, Sir! I got [illegible]"

(Below) SPC ROBERT CANTOR, aka "Short Round."

(Bottom Right) PVT INGWERSON, Battery Supply Chogie Boy





The Guns of the Blue Falcons

Delta Battery's Fire Support Element and teams deployed among the Blue Falcons' lead elements in late April. These teams capably coordinated the employment of mortars, a Marine Corps artillery battery, attack helicopters and close air support and assisted the advance toward Dohuk.

The Firing Battery joined the Battalion in late May, deploying from exercise Ardent Ground 1991 in Portugal directly to Turkey. By May 25th, the battery occupied and built a firebase northeast of Dohuk providing indirect fire support to the battalion sector. At all times a two-gun platoon was ready to provide illumination fires.

Highlights Doghouse paratroopers will remember fondly are the harrowing C-5 flight to Turkey, the "Mountain Man" sickness, landmines, T-Ration chicken breasts, 9000 firebase sandbags, Kurdish children yelling, "Pepsi, Mister!", two-gun raids, mosquitoes, flies, steaks and beer on the Fourth of July, Spades, and rumors.

All members of the Doghouse will always remember the camaraderie and the teamwork of the battery, and wounded and injured friends.

ROBERT D. GRYMES
CPT, FA
Commanding

(Top Left) 1st Howitzer Section.

(Bottom Left) Left the coffee pot on, eh?

(Right) SPC CARREON, aka "Heavy Drop".

(Bottom Right) SSG BURRELL and MG Musselma

Scanned by CamScanner

... and the Redlegs dug in

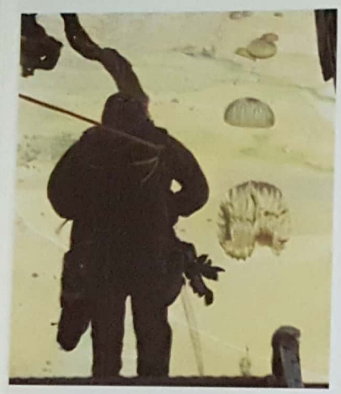
(Right) WHITMORE has rounds strung up, over, on, and ever-what.

(Left) Doghouse does Dohuk DZ.

(Below) 2nd Howitzer Section being more than they can be.

(Bottom Left) SMOKE smiles and says, "Would you mind taking your silly-ass problem to the 1SG, Bubba?"

(Bottom Right) Zakho DZ.

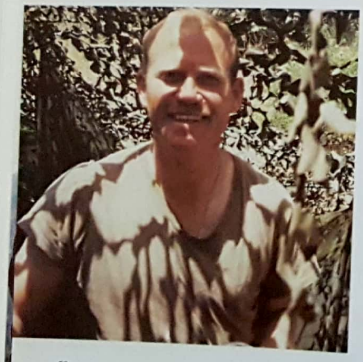


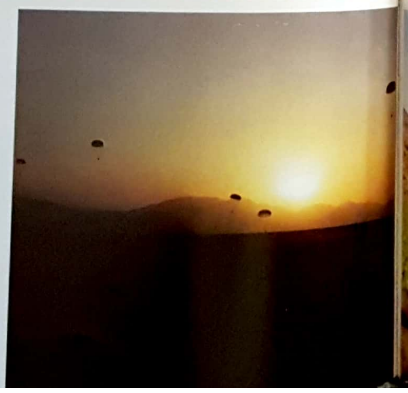
(Above) "SGT ALSTON, I'm not your son, so stop calling me Junior!"

(Left) SERJENTO GARCIA partaking in gourmet cooking that may or may not have been responsible for the "Blue Falcon Blues."

(Bottom Left) The big bullet goes in the big hole, class.

(Below) To SGT PLATA's dismay, this hole was filled only minutes after completion by sufferers of "The Blue Falcon Blues."





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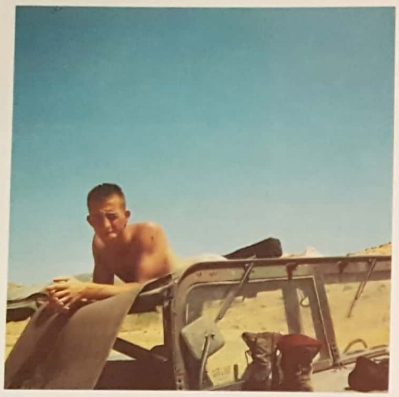
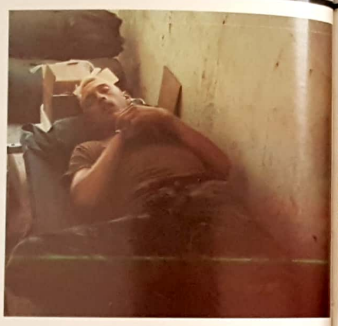


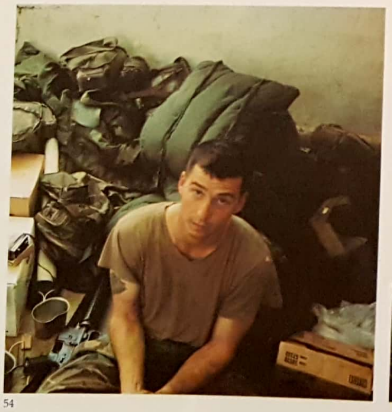


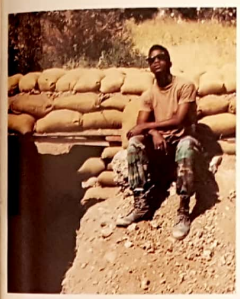
(Above) SPC GERMAIN studies night missions.

(Top Left) SPC TESCHENDORF. "Got any sunblock, Dude?"

(Bottom Left) SFC HENSON. "Payne? You drank ALL that coffee?"

(Below) SPC AGUILLON. "Now he wants a damn sunroof. What next?"





(Above) MG MUSSELMAN with the Fire Direction Center.

(Top Left) PFC SMITH. "All right, no Stevie Wonder jokes!"

(Bottom Left) SPC TESCHENDORF modeling the latest in military casual-wear.

(Below) SGT MOORE. "If you can hit Gunney, you get a maple-nut cake, kid!"

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(Middle Left) Kurdish children asking for food from 1SG ASHMORE and SFC HOLZWORTH.

(Bottom Left) SFC MEDINA and SGT DEJESUS start forming the line for CPL JARVIS's barber shop.

(Middle Right) SFC HOULE, CPT HOSHCHILD and SPC LUTZ.

(Bottom Right) Medics with Kurdish children.

(Above) Support and Transportation platoon in ZAHKO, Iraq.

(Right) Maintenance platoon leaving Goregavan, Iraq.

(Bottom) CPT JAY CHAMBERS.

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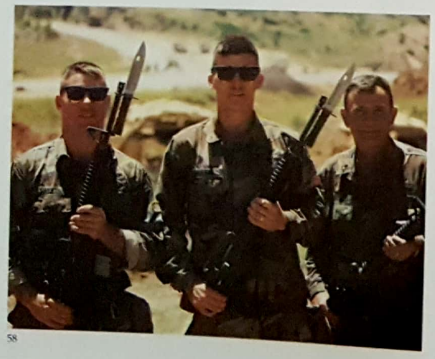
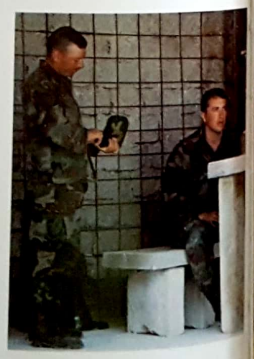
(Above Left) PFC LEEHY, PFC McCLELLAN, SPC SMITH, SPC PORTER, and SPC HOOKER.

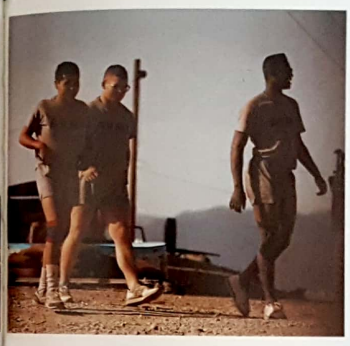
(Above Right) SGT ITZUN hands out parachutes for a jump.

(Bottom Right) PFC SWEET, PFC MARTIN and SFC SANTELLA.

(Bottom Right) SPC STANSEL, and SGT WILDS on radio watch.







(Above Left) Medics do P.T. in Silopi, Turkey.

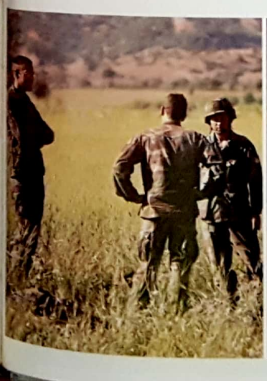
(Above Middle) SPC FULTON getting ready for Special Forces training.

(Above Right) SGT FLETCHER.

(Bottom Right) CPT HOSHCHILD and CW2 LINDSEY.

(Bottom Middle) SSG MARTINEZ.

(Bottom Right) SGT BROOKS enjoys a day at the river in Zahko, Iraq.



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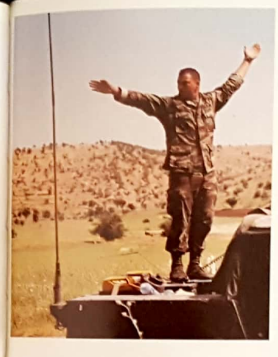
PFC PENDER, PFC CORBIN, and SPC LYNN
(Below) PFC LEHMAN, PFC McCAULY, and SPC LUTZ



(Top) L to R: SSG PA'U, MSG KILGORE, SGT SNYDER, SFC FERNANDO, SFC AZAN, and PFC LEHMAN

(Below) CAPT LEFFLER, TSGT WATERSON, and LT CAVOLI

(Lower left) SPC CHASE escorting VIP's.

(Upper Left) SSG PA'U getting better radio reception.

(Center Top) PFC BARTLEY collecting souvenirs.

(Upper Right) SPC WASHINGTON and SPC LUTZ.

(Lower Left) L to R: SPC MANCINONE, SPC CAROLL, SPC COOK, and PFC BARTLEY.

(Below) Sirsenk Airfield.

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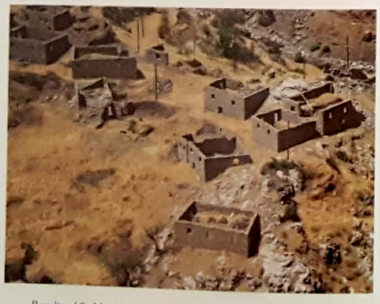

Results of Saddam Hussein's brutal treatment of Kurdish families.

THE BLUE FALCONS STRIKE!!
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PFC Steele	Cover Design
Soldiers of the 3-325	Photos

Thanks go to CPT Callahan and 1LT Webber for the extensive use of their photos.

Colophon

THE BLUE FALCONS STRIKE!!! deployment book of the 3-325 ABCT in Vicenza, Italy was printed via offset lithography by Walsworth Publishing Company of Marceline, MO. Karen Burbach represented the publisher, and MAJ Kim Kadesch advised the staff. Press run was 600 copies with 64 full color pages in a 7½ x 10½ format. The deployment book had a budget of $14,400 from which all photos and printing costs were taken. The cover consisted of binders board in Metallic Silver #819. Black and blue silkscreen inks (4700 and 4504) were used to create the Preying Falcon effect. The book was printed in grade A black ink on white 70# glossy enamel stock #1. Optima and Palatino were the type styles used throughout the book. This book was smyth sewn in four 16-page signatures.

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END NOTE

The Blue Falcons carried the banner of democracy and good will to a foreign nation. We performed our job without complaint, and insured that our mission was a success. We've taken memories from Iraq and the quiet satisfaction of our accomplishments. We discharged our duty, and stand prepared to do it again. Let the flag of freedom fly ...

Old Glory flies at Camp Blue Falcon, Zakho, Iraq.

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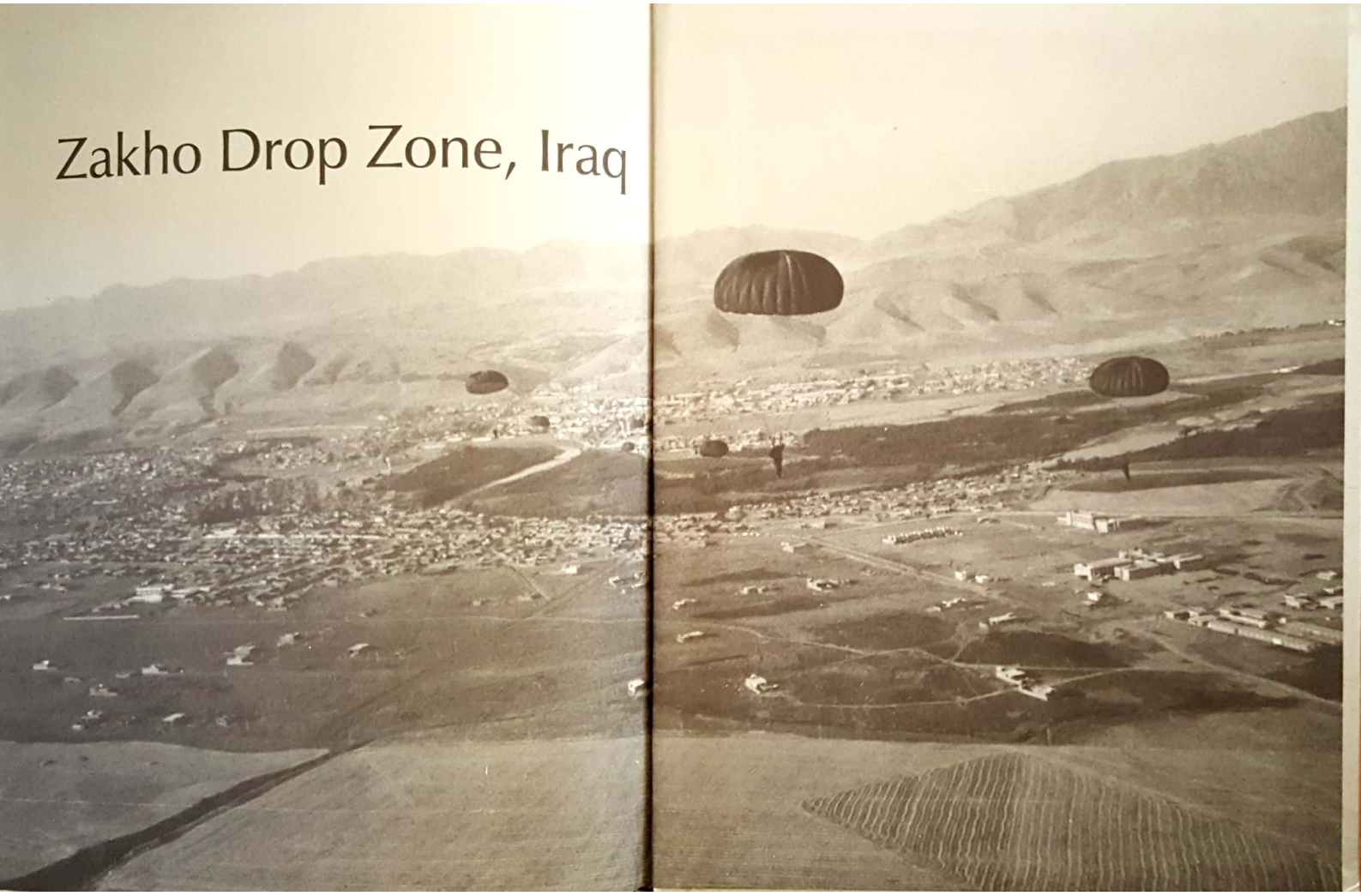

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