A Storm In The Desert — **OPERATION: DESERT STORM**

As war rages in the Middle East

Local Guard unit continues to make ready

By William Million
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - "Our job is to make the Guard ready to go to war," Sergeant First Class Gary Stone said, "and hope they never have to."

That quote was the opening paragraph of a story in the Thursday, August 16, 1990 THE CARLISLE MERCURY.

The August story explained, The Carlisle unit is a combat engineering unit.

The engineers perform such tasks as building roads, air strips and bridges.The unit has heavy equipment which includes bulldozers, troop carrying trucks, dump trucks, jeeps and tractor trailers.

There are also all of the weapons and necessary tools to maintain equipment.

Now, the 201st Combat Engineering Unit of the Kentucky Army National Guard, located in Carlisle, is facing the possibility of joining the forces engaged in war in the Persian Gulf and the Iraqi desert.

However, there has been no official word released that members of the Carlisle Unit will be activated.

Certainly with Iraqi scud missiles on the minds of many, members of this local unit have to plan for and expect the worst as the war continues — and the potential of their unit going into the active fighting.

The Iraqi conflict has heightened awareness of national security, and the local unit of the National Guard is bound by the same restrictions as the larger military operations.

In an interview Tuesday, January 22, Sergeant Stone was restricted in what he could discuss with the media, at least as long as the conflict rages.

Stone is operating under restrictions handed down by his superiors.

"I have to abide by the restrictions I was given by my commanders in Frankfort."

The headquarters of the Kentucky National Guard is located in Frankfort, which ultimately answers to Washington's military command.

Although no one with the local unit could expound on the unit's role, if and when it is called up, the August 16 story gave description of what the training direction of the unit is.

"The National Guard is not what people think," Stone said in August. "We're no longer just weekend warriors."

One reason for the shift in the focus of the National Guard has been a shift in the focus of training across the Army.

Stone, who schedules and coordinates training for the unit said the Army has switched to a "battle focus" idea.

The "battle focus" idea has forced the National Guard and Reserve units' to train more realistically for war, Stone said.

The Guard, and all other Army units, must now train with goals and concepts in mind.

As far as the Middle East war is concerned, Stone went on to add that everyone probably knows as much about the situation as he does.

"Most of what I know comes from television reports."

Stone was able to say that the morale is very high at the Carlisle Armory.

National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representative Staff Sergeant Ron Roser echoed the statement.

"The morale is high because everyone is looking forward to doing their part if we are called to do so."

He went on to add that the guardsmen feel they are well trained, and they feel they have the best equipment possible to work with."

Stone said, "We support the President's decision to uphold the U.N. resolutions and his decision to take action against Iraq."

Sergeant Jim Galbrath added that he hopes the people of Nicholas County will support the troops in the Gulf.

"I hope they take the time to use the addresses that THE CARLISLE MERCURY provides every week."

Roser said he is certain that support from Nicholas Countians is appreciated.

Stone went on to add that in the event of the unit's call-up, the Armory would remain open.

"The Armory would be used as a focal point for dealing with the problems of family members of the guardsmen."

Recruiting Staff Sergeant Wells said that the number of volunteers has not dropped off significantly since the war started.

Wells is the recruiter for Bath and Nicholas Counties.

Approximately one-third of the guardsmen, who regularly attending meetings at the Carlisle assembly, are from Nicholas County.

Members of the unit also come from Bath, Robertson, Menifee, Montgomery, Fleming, Powell, Fayette, and Clark counties.

Some Stories From The Homefront Next Week in THE CARLISLE MERCURY

WAR

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den hero of the allied arsenal in the war against Iraq, may be working even better than the Pentagon is letting on.

The ground-to-air missile-killing system was said to score nine hits late Sunday and early Monday on Iraqi Scud-type missiles fired into Saudi Arabia. It made a successful combat debut Friday by destroying a solo Scud that was approaching a huge airbase in Dhahran.

In addition, the United States placed the ground to air compterized missiles in Isreal to hord off Iraqi scuds.

In Nicholas County, relatives and friends of those involved in the Middle East war wait anxiously for any word from the front.

Letters are taking as much as a month to reach the Carlisle Post Office, while some reports show letters and mail are reaching service personnel at a little quicker pace.

Here is a brief look at some of the events put in summary compiled by The Associated Press.

Day One, Jan. 16:

Less than 19 hours after time ran out on a U.N.-mandated deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, wave after wave of warplanes, in hundreds of sorties on a moonless night, streaked north from Saudi Arabian bases to punish Iraq for its five-month defiance of the rest of the world.

About 90 minutes later the heavens over Baghdad were alive with the flashes of anti-aircraft fire as Iraqi gunners tried to ward off the allied air attack that ended five months of suspense.

At 7:06 p.m. EST (3:06 a.m. Thursday, Persian Gulf time), White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater walked grimly into a frenzied press room and announced in President Bush's words, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun."

In a 9 p.m. EST Oval Office address, President Bush described the marshalling of American and allied forces into Operation Desert Storm against Iraq. Bush said no ground assault was launched immediately against the dug-in Iraqi army in Kuwait.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in a speech broadcast by Iraq state radio, vowed to crush "the satanic intentions of the White House."

Day Two, Jan. 17:

Things are going well," President Bush told a White House reporter before dawn. Allied warplanes hammered Iraq again and again Thursday in what one American commander vowed would be war "24 hours a day' to expel the Iraqis from Kuwait.

Crude oil prices had their biggest one-day fall in history. New York's stock market swept to its second-largest point gain ever, with the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials jumping 114.60 points to 2,623.51.

Iraq retaliated, as promised, by hitting Israel with at least eight Scud missiles. None of the missiles were armed with chemical warheads and casualties were limited. Israel reacted with the threat of retaliation.

Day Three, Jan. 18:

Allied tanks rumbled north toward the Kuwait border. U.S. warplanes struck at Iraqi missile launchers, acting in the stead of an Israeli government that was still considering vengeance for the rocket attack on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

President Bush extended reservists' tours to up to two years. Bush signed an order late Friday extending the maximum length of the reserve callup — now 180 days. There are 450,000 U.S. forces in the gulf region, up 25,000 from when the war began.

Bush expressed cautious optimism, saying that it "will take some time" liberate Kuwait. He said he appreciated Israel's restraint in not retaliating for Iraqi missile attacks overnight.

Israeli air raid sirens Friday evening provoked fears of a second wave of Iraqi missiles, but an Israeli army spokesman said it had been a false alarm. Later, officials said it was a Soviet satellite burning in the sky above Israel that caused sirens once again to wail.

CNN reported that an Iraqi official claimed that American pilots had been captured.

Four American aircraft — carrying a total of seven crewmen — were lost in the first 48 hours of the war, the U.S. military command said. No American prisoners of war were reported. Four other allied aircraft were said to be lost.

The Pentagon told Congress that just 11 of an estimated 700 Iraqi warplanes could be confirmed. Lawmakers also said they were told that Iraq has about 30 mobile missile launchers left.

The Mauritanian government denied rumors that the wife and children of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took refuge in the North African country.

Anti-war protests directed against the United States continued worldwide.

Day Four: Jan. 19

Israel's anti-missile force was boosted by additional Patriot missile batteries and their U.S. crews. The sophisticated Patriots, dispatched from Europe, were "fully operational," the Pentagon said Saturday. A senior military man said Israel would "wait and see" whether the Patriots were the shield it needed before retaliating against Iraqi attacks.

Israeli nerves were frayed by another false alarm. Air raid sirens sounded briefly again in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv late Saturday, but no attack was reported. The alert came about 14 hours after a second Iraqi missile attack, with conventional warheads, caused a few slight injuries and damage in Tel Aviv residential areas.

The first Iraqi prisoners of war were captured. The military said the 12 POWS were taken in an operation against Iraqi anti-aircraft units on nine Kuwaiti oil platforms in the northern Persian Gulf. Five Iraqis were reported killed. No U.S. casualties were reported.

Allied pilots faced more vigorous defenses but better bombing weather. They blasted Iraqi missile sites and Baghdad, devastating its telephones and cutting off electricity and water. Ten Iraqi aircraft were confirmed destroyed in air-to-air combat, the military said Saturday.

Coalition forces destroyed 10 Iraqi aircraft in air-to-air combat, and six U.S. aircraft were lost — five to enemy fire. Nine Americans were reported missing.

Iraq and the United States made their first wartime diplomatic contact. The deputy chief of mission from the Iraq Embassy in Washington was summoned to the State Department and told the United States expected "humane treatment" of any prisoners of war.

Coalition bombers — including B-52s — pounded elite Iraqi ground troops, the Pentagon said. Lt. Gen Thomas Kelly confirmed the bombardment of Iraq's Republican Guard making up about one-fifth of the 545,000 Iraqi troops in and around Kuwait.

Anti-war rallies evoked images of the '60s from Washington to San Francisco, while supporters of the U.S.-led military offensive also took to the streets. About 1,800 protesters have been arrested since the start of war. Beatles music played for an estimated 15,000 chanting protesters gathered Saturday across from the White House. President Bush was at Camp David, where he spoke by phone twice with the Israeli premier.

Many Americans strongly supported the U.S.-led attack on Iraq. Eighty-three percent of 543 respondents to an ABC News Poll conducted Friday night backed the war effort; 71 percent disapproved of anti-war protests. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

War news brought some surprises to Wall Street. The Dow Jones average ended the week at 2,646.78, up a record 145.29 from the previous Friday. Oil prices took a beating.

Nicholas Reactions

Nicholas County residents were polled at random by The Carlisle Mercury staff. These were some of the responses.

Eugene Neal — **Chestnut Street**
He had just come home from work when he heard the war had started. "I was stunned. I don't think we should be there in the first place, but as long as we're there, we need to make the best of it."

Mark Hughes — **Upper Jackstown Rd.**
"I think we did what we had to do. I'm glad President Bush stood behind what he said. I'm all for it."

Kay Booth — **Moorefield Road**
She was at work when she heard about the war. "I'm shocked. I really don't know what to think."

Roxiane Kelley — **Kennedy Heights**
She was working at the store when she heard about the war beginning.
"I think it's a necessity. It's the only solution. My husband's in the service and he may go to the Gulf (Middle East). I pray for him everyday."

Mrs. Harry Galbraith — **W. Main St.**
She was watching t.v. when she heard:
"I'm afraid the worst is yet to come. We had no other choice but to hold Hussein off."

Alice Buckler — **Mockingbird Lane**
She, too, was at work when she heard.
"I just pray to God the men get back home. It's really a sad time. Someone had to do it."

Lisa Hobbs — **Bald Hill**
At work when she heard about the war beginning, she said, "In a way I think it's right because we can get the economy straightened out. I have two family members there and it has me a little scared. I just pray for them everyday."

George Joseph — **West Main St.**
"I think it's right and I agree with it. I think it's because of freedom and not oil. If we hadn't done anything, he'd (Hussein) be another Hitler.

Louisa Hamm — **Abner's Mill Rd.**
"I disagree (to the war). I'm opposed to war all together. There should be a better way to solve things than fighting."

Bill Guthrie — **North Elm**
He was watching CNN when the war started.
"I agree wholeheartedly, If we're every going to have peace in the world, we have to make a stand. I believe Hussein over - stepped his bounds, and we have to put him in his place."

Pam Hicks — **Hickory Ridge Road**
She had just come home from a Girl Scouts meeting when hearing war had begun.
"I believe the President is doing what he has to do. I think we should stand behind out troops. We need to pray for their return every day."

Ememmy Manley — **Whetstone Road**
She was at home when she heard the war began and said, "I think we're doing the right thing."

Lorna Wells — **Headquarters**
At home when she heard, she said, "I support the war, but I believe we're being a little easy on him. I think we should just go over there and blow Hussein away."

(Comments reflect the respondents' opinions.)

Program goes to city and back

By Susan L. Roling
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Carolyn Kessler of Louisville, came to Carlisle this past week as part of Lt. Governor Brereton Jones' Scholarship Program.

Her hostess for the 10 day visit was Jill Hardin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hardin. Jill had already visited with Carolyn and her family at Holy Cross High School in Louisville.

Local sponsor Sue Kirby, of Nicholas County High School, received a packet last March with a letter advising the administration of the program and its requirements for participation.

The information was presented at a Student Council meeting.

According to a spokesman in Lt. Governor Jones' office, the student participant "must be a junior during the school year of 90-91; earned at least a'C' average; and must have demonstrated good citizenship throughout his or her school years".

The student's family must agree to provide free room and board for the visiting student for the 10 day period. There is no entry fee and participation is "guaranteed by the Lt. Governor's office despite inability to pay transportation or personal expenses," the spokesperson said.

"Lt. Governor Jones began the program," according to Helen Morris, administrative assistant, "in the 89-90 school year.

"He saw the differences among the regions and pledged to find a way to bring all Kentuckians together to solve those problems."

The exchange program was devised to give young Kentuckians the opportunity to see, learn about, and appreciate other regions of Kentucky,"according to the history of the exchange program.

With this idea, students are matched according to urban and rural backgrounds.

Funds are pledged from the Lt. Governor's acting governor's additional salary he is required by law to accept.

With support of eight public universities and independent colleges in Kentucky, who pledge to match the funds, students may compete for over $20,000 in scholarships. And the competition is no easy task.

Students participate by collecting research on the community they visit. They give three presentations of their own community in the host community to civic and governmental groups.

When the student returns home, three presentations of the host community are given in the home community. An essay is written prior to the student's departure. 500 to 1000 words must be written on the topic "Where has the community been", focusing on social, economic and biographical histories of the host community.

After the visit, the student has 60 days to write another essay on the topic, "Where are they going", describing current conditions, a "unique" feature and what the future may bring, with specific recommendations for change.

Community presentations must be outlined and sent to the Lt. Governor's office within 60 days of the visit. A video tape of the home presentation, along with an outline and information about each presentation, including supplemental material must be submitted to the Lt. Governor's office as well, within 60 days.

When the essays, outlines, and tapes from all of the participating (88) schools are received, a task force, made up of civic and education representatives, judge the entries.

Seven finalists are then selected to make their presentations in Frankfort before the selection committee. From this group, the scholarship recipients are selected.

Jill and Carolyn shared that the basics of school life were not that different.

However, "Dress Codes" (uniforms) were one visible difference: Carolyn thought jeans were okay to wear to school; Jill felt different without a uniform (when she was in Louisville).

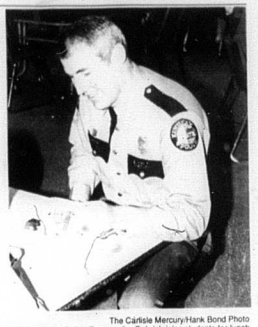
Parochial school has a less relaxed atmosphere and discipline is strict.

"If you're late for class, you go to the principal's office (to get back into class)", Carolyn emphasized. Both said each school was friendly and they felt welcomed.

Subjects were harder at both, depending upon the course.

College History, We Fall."

The Carlisle Mercury/Susan L. Roling Photo
Jill Hardin — Carolyn Kessler



The Carlisle Mercury/Hark Bond Photo
Kentucky State Police Trooper Jim Dolwick joins students for lunch at Nicholas County Elementary School. This is the third year Trooper Dolwick has participated in the system's DARE program as the instructor.

MERCURY MEMORIES

5 Years Ago

Thursday, January 23, 1986

Sgt. Maj. Sam Reynolds of Carlisle has been appointed command sergeant major of the 206th Engineer Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard, headquartered at Richmond.

Allen K. "Petie" Day became director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Division of Shows and Fairs effective January 1, according to Agriculture Commissioner David E. Boswell.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Hartman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Hartman Jr. of Route 1, Sharpsburg, has been named outstanding non-commissioned officer of the quarter for the 1st Engineer Battalion.

BORN: Mr. and Mrs. Allie Wayne Trussell announce the birth of a son, January 8, 1986; Gary Eugene Staggs, January 15, 1986; Christina Brooke Allen, January 15, 1986; Samuel Bernard Reid, January 13, 1986; Clinton Austin Riggs, January 10, 1986.

DIED: Mrs. Bonnie Lou Thornsburg, January 18, 1986; Mrs. Opal Clavell Capps, January 16, 1986.

10 Years Ago

Thursday, January 22, 1981

Black Shank, a tobacco disease that many growers have forgotten about since blue mold hit the scene, is spreading rapidly in Kentucky, according to an Extension plant pathologist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

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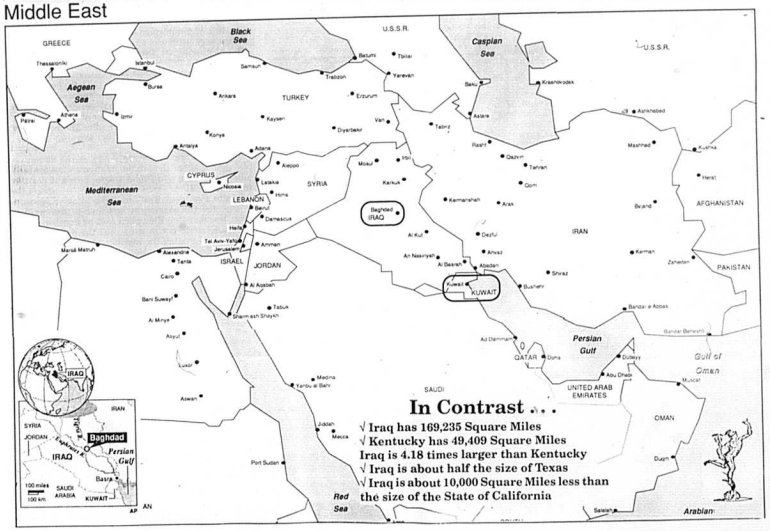
A Storm In The Desert — **OPERATION: DESERT STORM**

Middle East



In Contrast . . .

√ Iraq has 169,235 Square Miles
√ Kentucky has 49,409 Square Miles
Iraq is 4.18 times larger than Kentucky
√ Iraq is about half the size of Texas
√ Iraq is about 10,000 Square Miles less than the size of the State of California