



Gulf War Shocks America

It was only five months and 14 days after Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi armies invaded Kuwait, that Operation Desert Shield turned to Operation Desert Storm. On January 16, starting at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Allied Forces started bombing strategic military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. Two and a half hours later, President George Bush informed the general public of his actions and reassured Americans by saying, "We will not fail."

The next evening war spread, and Iraq fired three conventional scud missiles into Israel and Haifa. The missiles caused minimal damage and no casualties. There were major concerns if the missiles contained chemical warheads.

As bombing continued, the United States utilized their new Patriot missiles when Iraq attacked. The Patriot missiles would seek the scud missiles in

flight and destroy them before hitting the ground. To spite the Allied powers, Hussein opened the oil wells and let approximately five to ten million barrels of oil escape into the Persian Gulf. The spill, which was finally stopped on January 28, was thought to be the largest spill in history, stretching 35 miles long, and 10 miles wide. The effects of the spill were irreversible, bringing most of the damage to sea birds, turtles, and fish, which ate the organisms that were killed by the oil.

After weeks of continuous bombing, the Allied powers began the ground war with the largest amphibious attack ever. Almost immediately, thousands of Iraqi soldiers surrendered and were taken as POW's. Late February 25 and early on the 26, Iraq announced that troops were withdrawing from Kuwait. On February 27, a formal cease fire was proclaimed, and the war was ended.

by Julie Noiman

S . H . A . P . E .

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Thousands of loved ones and friends, such as these soldiers, were sent to Saudi Arabia in reaction to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

