

Postcards from Iraq

A trip to an ancient city

By Becky Wingfield

This was the opportunity of a lifetime to walk the streets that our biblical Abraham walked.

The area probably does not look at all like it would have in Abraham's time. The Euphrates river was nearby and would have made the area a green pasture land. There would have been date palms and water and other green and growing things in the area around here. Abram as he was called then was still a shepherd with large flocks of sheep to feed and water, so he would have been moving around the area so his father Terah's sheep would have been fat and healthy.

Bedouin shepherds today still do the same things but with smaller flocks and over much bigger territories of land as with the dry conditions food is scarce. You can see that there is little to no green in the background of the picture.

It is very hot in the desert in the daytime. I would say that the temperature was somewhere around 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit on the 21st of June. It is very easy to get dehydrated in this environment especially if you are not careful or out of shape.

I am always drinking water so I have been fortunate not to have that problem. It is really tough to exercise here as well during the heat of the day. We have a gym but I have a hard time going during working hours and after work I am usually too tired.

This trip that I took to Tallil Air Base where UR was hard on my knees as the class practical test was outside and I had to help carry a litter with a person on it. My knees are better now and I am glad that I persevered through the Combat Life Saving Class, but it was tough on me.

I have definitely got to learn my limitations better.



Becky takes in the view from the top of the stairs of the Ziggurat at the city of UR in southern Iraq. She is a civil engineer working as a project engineer in the Adder Area Office of the Gulf Region South district. She is the wife of Roy Wingfield who works for NW division, Kansas City District, USACE.

The trip to the top of the Ziggurat was long but easy. All the steps were a regular distance apart and so I didn't have much trouble going up. Going down was a little different as I'm afraid of heights, but I got down ok and I was glad I did it!

I have really enjoyed being back at work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and I've been proud to be a part of the rebuilding effort for the people of Iraq! Blessings!!!!