

Postcards from Iraq

Past, present and future...

Some time in the future I would like to bring my wife Trudy to see Baghdad. Thanks to her encouragement, I am able to be here.

We have Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. We have Soldiers from North Dakota. We have Engineers – Iraqi and American. We have GIs, Ghurkas and Iraqis who provide security. We have Peruvians and Ugandans. We hear the Iraq National Anthem played along with the American National Anthem.

Our Government and Contractor Civilians and U. S. Military do things every day to change peoples' lives. We hear heavy equipment rumble down the street. We hear aircraft going to and from the hospital.

We have Vietnam Veterans. We have Army Corps of Engineers military and civilians from Districts all over the U. S., Europe, Japan and Korea. We have SeaBees. We have soldiers on their first enlistments. By the time our youngest military leave they will know stories that have been told since the beginning of America. Meanwhile, they are creating new and better stories.

Two unforgettable moments:

When asked the whereabouts of Ralph Allen, returning late from a trip to the south, CPT Rocky Perez replied "Can you describe what he looks like?"

When talking about the Embassy December 5K Run, my buddy-from-Kosovo, John Taylor, asked "How far is that, Merlin?"

It will be sad to say good-bye to my family here, and good to return to my wife and family at home.



Merlin Simonson

Gulf Region Division

Baghdad, Iraq

(Left) My wife Trudy in 1964.

(Below) Celia Cockburn visiting with a Soldier at the hospital across the street.



(Above) Frank Trent, Chief of Safety, COL Rex Conners, Chief of Contracting, and I, self-appointed "mastodons" of the Gulf Region Division. Co-worker Celia Cockburn (now returned to Galveston) is still breakin' our hearts. (Right) Rescued from a bombed palace, this bronze adorns the Headquarters in the Baghdad International Zone.



