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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2D SQUADRON, 2D ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT  
APO 09759

AETSAC-CT

3 MARCH 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL NARRATIVE OF 2D SQUADRON, 2D ARMORED CAVALRY  
REGIMENT'S ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN TO LIBERATE KUWAIT, 23-28 FEBRUARY 1991.

1. This memorandum addresses the major events that constituted the Squadron's campaign in Southern Iraq and Kuwait. For simplicity, events are examined within a daily framework beginning on 23 Feb and ending on 28 Feb. Documents kept in the Squadron tactical operations center and in the Squadron's forward command post provided the basis for this outline history of the Squadron's campaign. This memorandum is not designed to be either a complete or final analysis of what happened in the course of 100 hours of periodic contact.

2. 23 February 1991: The Squadron was organized for battle with an engineer platoon and an Armored Combat Earthmover from A, 82nd Engineer Battalion attached to each of the cavalry troops to assist in breaching the berm that ran the length of the Iraqi border. Remaining under Engineer control were two smoke platoons, one from the Regimental Chemical Company, and one attached from the 4th ID. The Squadron's Howitzer Battery was under the operational control of 6-41 Field Artillery, in direct support to the Squadron. In addition, two Psychological Operations Teams and an EPW team were with Ghost and Fox troops so the Squadron could use their Kuwaiti nationals to broadcast surrender appeals and interrogate prisoners.

At precisely 1330 hours, Regiment initiated a 500+ round artillery preparation of suspected enemy sites on the Iraqi side of the Saudi-Iraqi border. At the end of the nine minute prep, elements of the three line troops moved forward and their attached engineers established breaches through two 10-15 foot high sand berms along the border. By 1350, Eagle troop tanks had crossed into Iraq. At 1405, Fox troop had crossed through its breach, and by 1425 all three line troops had moved north of the border. At 1530, the entire Squadron battle group had crossed into Iraq and assumed hasty defensive positions south of PL BUD, 10 kilometers into Iraq.

The Engineer platoons returned to Alpha company control at approximately 1530 hrs after handing off control of their breach sites to D Co., 82nd Eng. Bn. At 1630, the Squadron received orders to advance no further that day. No enemy contact was encountered nor was there any evidence of enemy activity in the area in the 7 days prior to the Squadron's attack.

3. 24 February 1991: At 0700 hours, the Squadron initiated a deliberate zone reconnaissance 15 kms forward to PL BUSCH. The Squadron reached PL BUSCH and established hasty defensive positions quickly because there was no enemy contact in the Squadron's zone. At 1000 hours, Regiment confirmed that there would be no further movement until 25 Feb. However, due to the significant, unanticipated success of ground attacks into Southern Kuwait by elements of two Marine Divisions, the Squadron was ordered to attack in zone to the North, orienting on Objective MERRELL. At 1430, the Squadron attacked in diamond formation across PL BUSCH with Fox leading, Eagle on the left, Ghost on the right and Hawk Company in reserve. The Howitzer Battery moved in the center of the diamond, about 2 kilometers forward of Hawk Company in order to provide immediate fire forward. The three firing batteries of 6-41 FA were on line with Hawk Company.

At roughly 1530 hours, Fox's lead scout platoon, 8-12 kilometers in front of the main body, reported contact with dismounts who were later identified as elements of a Company size security echelon. After a brief exchange of fire, in which one enemy was killed, CPT Sprowls, the Fox troop commander forward with his lead scout platoon, accepted the surrender of an enemy platoon sized element that was disposed in a dug in configuration forward of larger battalion sized positions to the North along the Southern and Northern edge of objective MERRELL. Thanks to excellent intelligence and incessant attacks by A-10's on objective MERRELL between 1300 and 1600 hours, subsequent intermittent fire fights between scouts from Ghost and Fox and enemy infantry produced mass surrenders in the Squadron zone.

On orders from Regiment to refuel, and due to the lingering presence of small groups of enemy infantry, the Squadron halted and consolidated along PL DIXIE, approximately 60 kilometers North of PL BUSCH. At 1730 hours, the Squadron received orders to halt along PL DIXIE until the next day. Enemy resistance was now broken and non-existent on MERRELL. Between 1730 and 2400 hrs, Fox Scouts cleared objective MERRELL and between Fox and Ghost, over 240 EPW's were taken. Troops from the Squadron's Headquarters troop immediately moved forward to take over responsibility for the EPW's and transport them to the Regimental Support Squadron. This would become the standard EPW procedure for the Squadron in order to facilitate freeing the line troops of an EPW burden. Simultaneously, Eagle troop engaged and killed 30 dismounted infantry who persisted in firing small arms to Eagle's front between 2300 and 2400 hrs.

4. 25 February 1991: At 0630, Regiment initiated a 10 minute artillery prep on objective MERRELL and the Squadron resumed its attack in zone at 0640. As the Squadron moved across objective MERRELL in diamond formation, an additional 30 EPW's surrendered to Alpha Company, 82nd Engineers, moving in the rear of the diamond. After moving another 25 kilometers to PL LITE, Fox and Ghost troops were subjected to enemy artillery fire and engaged a company(+) of dug-in infantry, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Despite difficult terrain in the Southern portion of the zone, the Squadron seized objective GATES by 1230 hrs and

over 200 EPW's were taken. At 1400 hours, Ghost troop engaged and destroyed a MTLB equipped Republican Guards reconnaissance company. 1LT Mecca, Ghost troop XO, later brought six captured MTLB's to the Squadron's forward command post. Regiment ordered the Squadron to halt along PL BLACKTOP, 70 kilometers from PL DIXIE, at roughly 1500 hrs despite the Squadron having no enemy contact in zone at the time other than the processing of an additional 90-100 EPW's. At 2100 hrs, Regiment issued orders for 26 Feb, established a three sided defense in sector forward of and along PL BLACKTOP. This would disperse the Squadron over a considerable distance (40 kilometers) and left an entire troop (Fox) in the rear in a blocking position along PL BLACKTOP. In addition, 6-41 FA received an order at 1600 hours switching their unit to provide direct support for 1st Squadron. The order was rescinded at 2100 hours, but 6-41 spent most of the night moving between the Squadrons.

5. 26 February 1991: At 0620 hrs, the Squadron moved east to its guard sectors in a box formation with Eagle in the North, Ghost in the South, Hawk in reserve, and Fox guarding in the Squadron rear oriented North and Northwest. At 0800, Ghost engaged and destroyed the remainder of the MTLB-equipped reconnaissance force they had engaged on the 25th. The Iraqi Commander of this force was later identified as an infantry officer trained at Ft. Benning. Regiment halted the Squadron along the PU50 Easting, 10 km short of the assigned guard sector, at approximately 0830. Within the next two hours, Regiment relieved the Squadron of Fox troop's mission in the rear and Fox fell in behind Eagle in the north while Hawk shifted South to stay behind Ghost. 3d Squadron was also attacking directly East on the Squadron's southern boundary, and Ghost was tied in tightly with Iron troop, 3d Squadron, on its flank. Between 1000 and 1200, the Squadron received intermittent orders to move East in zone with limits of advance being first the 52, then the 55, then the 57 Eastings. At approximately 1200 hours, the Squadron received a warning order detailing the Regiment's new mission as the VII Corps reserve and shifting the Squadron's zone South in order to pass 3AD through to the East on the Squadron's Northern flank. This left the Squadron with a zone only 9 kilometers wide and Eagle and Hawk were subsequently shifted South, leaving Ghost leading Fox in the North. Squadron established contact points on its Northern flank and Fox was given the mission to make initial contact and coordination with 3AD.

At 1520, the Squadron abruptly received the order to continue the attack in zone to the East with an initial limit of advance of the 65 Easting. Squadron attack East at 1525. After experiencing no contact between the 60 and the 65 Easting, Squadron asked for and received permission to continue to the 70 Easting. In the Southern portion of the zone, at approximately the 68 Easting, Eagle encountered prepared defenses in zone with dug-in infantry in bunkers and tanks in revetted positions. Small and sporadically placed anti-personnel and anti-tank minefields were identified and bypassed in both the Eagle and Ghost zone. Eagle punched through the enemy defenses quickly with its tanks leading and destroyed over 20 tanks and other armored vehicles, as well as several bunkers and supporting infantry. This was later identified as a

security echelon of the Tawalkana Republican Guards Division. Eagle then moved up on line with Ghost along the 70 Easting after this brief action, but was still located in the midst of the enemy defenses.

During this attack, visibility was 800-1000m due to the sandstorm and the mist, but thermal sights could easily identify enemy out to 3000 meters. This provided the Squadron with an incredible advantage throughout the fighting. While halted along the 70 Easting, the Squadron received an ineffective artillery barrage and requested and received permission to move forward to the 73 Easting. 3d Squadron also received artillery and withdrew to the 68 Easting, forcing Eagle to move scouts back in order to refuse the Squadron's right flank by keeping contact with Iron troop.

Upon moving forward to the 73 Easting, both Eagle and Ghost acquired numerous armored targets moving in their zones. The majority of these targets were elements of the Tawalkana and 12th Armored Division continuing to defend or fleeing North in zone. The Squadron's Howitzer Battery and 6-41 Field Artillery engaged numerous enemy armor targets forward of the 73 Easting with over 2000 rounds of cannon fire. One fire mission of particular importance was an immediate suppression mission initiated by the Ghost FIST that prevented enemy T-72's from overrunning Ghost's 3d Platoon. Another mission initiated by the Eagle FIST fired 128 DPICM rounds and 12 MLRS rockets on armored vehicles moving beyond direct fire range. Numerous secondary explosions were sighted and it is suspected, based upon interviews with EPW's, that this mission destroyed up to a battalion of enemy armor and support vehicles.

Concurrently, Eagle and Ghost were engaged in a heated direct fire battle with elements defending in the Eagle sector and elements moving north into the Ghost sector. TOW missiles, 120mm main gun, 25mm and machine gun fire destroyed over 75 tanks and other armored vehicles, as well as supporting trucks and infantry. 1 Bradley from Ghost was damaged by enemy fire and the gunner was killed, while two troops were wounded.

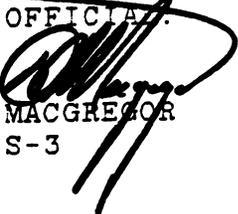
At approximately 1800 hrs, Ghost reported that it was in a "black" status on TOW missiles and Hawk was mobilized to move up and relieve Ghost in its sector. By the time the relief was affected, the sector was quiet and clear of targets. At approximately 2000 hrs, the Psyops team was brought forward and broadcast surrender appeals in the Eagle sector. Over 100 EPW's were apprehended at that time.

Concurrently, coordination to assist the forward passage of lines was established. Alpha Co., 82nd Engineer Bn. was running the dual mission of marking the minefields in the Squadron zone and marking the lanes for the passage of lines. Confusion, however, existed concerning the method of passage. Squadron planned to assist passage of the 1st ID lead Brigade, Cavalry Squadron, and 6-41 FA. The lead Brigade S-3, however, stated that the Brigade and follow on units were positioned 10 kms south of the six lanes that Squadron was instructed to create. The IID concept was simply to pass through the 2ACR FLOT where it was convenient for their units. No units of IID used the Squadron sector to pass through initially, but 1/4 Cavalry did pass through the northern portion of the Squadron sector at 0300 the following morning. 6-41 FA was detached from direct support to the Squadron and followed IID East.

6. 27 February 1991: Squadron remained along the 73 Easting until approximately 0800 hrs when friendly fire from 3AD units passing to the North necessitated pulling back to the 70 Easting. The friendly fire was apparently aimed at enemy to the Squadron's front, but rounds impacted in the Eagle sector. Squadron remained in these positions for the rest of the day and processed 139 EPW's from that had surrendered on the 26th as well as an additional 80 that surrendered on the 27th. A Corps cease fire order was received at 0730.

7. 28 February 1991: The Squadron moved East at 1000 hours in order to follow the Corps movement and was halted at the 85 Easting for the remainder of the day. An additional 105 EPW's were taken and processed and Alpha Co., 82 Engineer Bn began to systematically destroy enemy equipment and bunkers left in the Squadron zone.

8. All told, and by rough estimate, the SQDN moved almost 200 kilometers through Southern Iraq in less than 80 hours of periodic contact between the afternoon of 23 Feb and the evening of 26 Feb. The Squadron destroyed over 120 tanks and other armored vehicles, an equal number of trucks, hundreds of infantry, and captured approximately 865 prisoners.

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