

THESE ARE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, A NEUTRAL NEWS AGENCY. WE HOPE OUR GUESTS WILL PROTECT THE CONTENTS OF THE OFFICE BECAUSE THEY ARE A TRUST IN THEIR HANDS, THANK YOU.

In October 1975, AP's Beirut staff left this note behind when fierce street fighting forced them to abandon the bureau.

THE COSTS OF WAR

The Costs of War AP Journalists in Beirut, Kabul and Baghdad, 1975–2010



AP Associated Press

BEIRUT, 1987

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, THE FLOW OF AP COPY WAS NEVER INTERRUPTED. ALTHOUGH THUNDEROUS BLASTS SHOOK THE OFFICE, NASSAR AND SALAM CLUNG TO THE CRT'S, HANDLING THE DAY AND NIGHT LEADS AS MISS SALAMEH AND MISS KENAAN WORKED ROUND THE CLOCK TELEPHONING AND MONITORING LOCAL RADIOS. SAADE DID TRIPLE DUTY AS PHOTOGRAPHER, DARKROOM MAN AND FILER THROUGH THE SIEGE, RADIO MONITOR MAIA LAWAND WAS TRAPPED IN THE BASEMENT OF HER FAMILY APARTMENT FOR SIX DAYS AND NIGHTS. ALTHOUGH THEIR BUILDING WAS ABLAZE, SHE KEPT FEEDING THE OFFICE WITH A VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE PLIGHT OF THE TRAPPED TENANTS BY TELEPHONE....

WITH REQUEST. IM STAYING HERE TO FILE PICTURES

OKY PLS

GAP

AP Associated Press

ZUHAIR THIS NICK. I JUST NOTICED 5:13

43713LE

8

ZUHAIR THIS NICK. JUST NOTICED THE EXCHANGE. YOU DOING FINE.
DO NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE ANY RSKS TO GET PICTURES IF FIRES UNLESS
YOU CAN POKE A LENS OUT A WINDOW SAFELY OR SOMETHING. OK?

GA

HABIBI I DIDI NOT SEE ANY FIRE NEAR BY TO MAKE ANY PICTURES
SECOND ALL STRINGER ARE AWAY AND VERY DIFUCALT FOR THEM TO
CA COME TO THE OFFICE. MOST OF THEM SHIITE AND THE AREA CONTROLLED
BY ENEMY FOR THEM NOW HAVE ONLY ONE RUNNING AROUND AND HE
HAD TOO 1 TRUBLES WE DO THE BEST WE CAN. YESTERDAY HARRY CALLED
HERE AROUND 2 IN THE MORNING ASKING FOR PICTURE PLS HE SHOULD KNOW
THAT IM STAYING HERE THREE DAYS AND DID MI BEST. CANT STAY

The Costs of War

AP Journalists in Beirut, Kabul and Baghdad, 1975-2010

PREFACE

The risks of covering war have always been high, both for Western reporters and for local staff in the danger zones. This exhibit testifies to the perils faced by AP journalists as they covered the Lebanese Civil War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the recent transfer of the Beirut and Cairo bureau records to the AP Corporate Archives, we are able to preserve the exceptional work of AP's Beirut staff during the war in Lebanon. An accompanying oral history project has captured their recollections. The war (1975–90) exacted great suffering from the Lebanese, killing up to 250,000 and wounding a third of the population. Journalists who covered the war were subjected to the same random violence. Throughout, AP relied heavily on its Lebanese staff to help navigate the thicket of militias, political parties, and resistance groups on the ground. For those who lived through the war, memories remain vivid. “The shells were like rain. You would not find a cat on the street,” recalled Charles Bishara, who joined AP in 1965, survived a kidnapping, performed all manner of miracles to sustain the bureau and his colleagues, and remains with the bureau to this day.

Perhaps nowhere else has concern for the security of AP staff had greater influence on newsgathering decisions than in Baghdad during the bloody days of 2004–08, when Shiia and Sunni reprisals were rampant. By August 2007, five AP employees had died. Although ethnic and sectarian fighting has decreased, Iraq is still a very dangerous place.

In 2009, the field of conflict returned to Afghanistan. The cohesiveness of the Kabul bureau under veteran foreign correspondent Robert H. Reid, formerly bureau chief in Baghdad, and Amir Shah, dean of the Kabul press corps, has made covering the war a truly collective endeavor. We have drawn from the AP Text Archive and AP Images photo library to feature a sampling of the remarkable work of AP staff throughout Afghanistan, including those embedded with American forces.

VALERIE S. KOMOR

Director, AP Corporate Archives

March 11, 2010

BEIRUT

AP BEIRUT: A BUREAU OF SURVIVORS, 1975–90

As the AP's Saigon bureau was witnessing the fall of that city to the North Vietnamese, another civil war was beginning in Beirut and another bureau was mobilizing to cover it. On the morning of April 13, 1975, unidentified gunmen fired on a church in a Christian East Beirut suburb. Phalange party leader Pierre Gemayel was present. Later that day, Phalangists ambushed a bus carrying Palestinians, killing 27. This marked the onset of the Lebanon Civil War that resulted in an estimated 130,000 to 250,000 civilian fatalities. Another one million people were wounded.

The stories and images assembled here document the commitment of the AP Beirut staff to covering this war, a conflict that affected them and their families in complex ways. Reporters take huge risks to cover any war, but in Beirut, the war came into the bureau, damaging or destroying it twice. Journalists, drivers and translators were endangered because of their ethnic or religious backgrounds: Persian, Christian, Muslim, Palestinian, Armenian. Moments of reckoning occurred at the random checkpoints set up by rival militias. Kidnappings became frequent, especially in the war's last decade. Following the abduction of

AP's Chief Middle East Correspondent Terry Anderson in 1986, most Western journalists withdrew to Nicosia, Cyprus. From then on, Nicosia directed coverage, and Beirut was staffed exclusively by Lebanese. Those staffers kept the office functioning under the direst of conditions (often without electricity or water), a classic example of the commitment that AP has come to expect from local staffers in its bureaus abroad.

After the Rue Clemenceau bureau was wrecked by fighting in October 1975, AP abandoned the office but left a note behind for whomever might take it over. In part, it read: *Welcome to our guests. These are offices of the Associated Press, a neutral news agency. We hope our guests will protect the contents of the office because they are a trust in their hands. Thank you.* Days later, a returning staffer found this reply: *We saw your message. We are deeply sorry but we damaged the building because there was a sniper. Thank you, we too[k] some pictures. Please forgive us.*

It is possible AP's message prevented the bureau's complete destruction, but it would be another 34 years before a bureau chief was returned to Beirut.

Oct. 1975

1. BEIRUT BUREAU,
121 RUE CLEMENCEAU,
AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING.

From 1971 until October 1975, the AP office was located near the Holiday Inn and the Phoenicia and St. George hotels. During the "Battle of the Hotels," the area changed hands between rival militias and Palestinian guerillas; it eventually fell to the Muslim side.



Oct. 1975

2. "BEIRUT BUREAU OVERRUN
BY FIERCE STREET WAR,"
BY NICK LUDINGTON.

After a Muslim militia raided the Rue
Clemenceau office, AP began operating
out of the King's Hotel on the seafront in
Raouche. Staff left behind the message
described in Ludington's copy.

IN FIRST TAKE ABOVE PLEASE FIX HEADLINE TO READ HOTEL STEAD CTEL

✚
ASSOPSS 62368UW
RECD WELL TKS
INGA HAVE MORE FOR U
VAHZDFDF

362066

AP OFFICE (WITH LEBANON)

BEIRUT, LEBANON (AP) -- WHEN THE LAST GROUP OF STAFFERS
ABANDONED THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OFFICE OVERRUN BY BEIRUT'S FIERCE
STREET WAR, THEY LOCKED UP BUT LEFT A NOTE ON THE WALL INSIDE.

+WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS,+ IT READ. +THESE ARE OFFICES OF THE
ASSOCIATED PRESS, A NEUTRAL NEWS AGENCY. WE HOPE OUR GUESTS WILL
PROTECT THE CONTENTS OF THE OFFICE BECAUSE THEY ARE A TRUST IN
THEIR HANDS, THANK YOU.+

AS SNIPER FIRE DIMINISHED IN THE AREA MONDAY, A STAFFER
WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO THE OFFICE. THE DOOR HAD BEEN SHOT OPEN.

KWRITTEN UNDER THE SIGN LEFT BY THE AP WAS THE FOLLOWING
ANSWER:

+WE SAW YOUR MESSAGE. WE ARE DEEPLY SORRTY BUT WE DAMAGED
THE BUILDING BECAUSE THERE WAS A SNIPER. THANK YOU, WE TOOM SOME
PICTURES. PLEASE FORGIVE US.+

A STACK OF FEATURE PHOTOS INCLUDING PINUP-TYPE SHOPTS
HAD BEEN STREWN ABOUT. NOTHING ELSE IN THE OFFICE WAS TOUCHED.
THE VISITORS IDENTITY WAS NOT KNOWN BUT LEFTIST MOSLEM GUNMEN
HAD BEEN USING THE 10-STORY BUILDING AS A SHOOTING POSITION.

OFFICE WINDOWS WERE PIERCED WITH AT LEAST FOUR BULLETS.
(END/LUDINGTON)

1976

3. BEIRUT BUREAU STAFF,
KING'S HOTEL.

The bureau had offices in the King's Hotel
from October 1975 to June 1977.

Front and left to right:

Farouk Nassar (correspondent)

Richard Pyle (correspondent)

Nick Ludington (bureau chief)

Harry Koundakjian (director of photos)

Back:

Zouhair Saade (photographer)

Mohammed Salam (correspondent)

Yahya Yahani (photographer)

Ahmed Kurdi (darkroom technician)

Zaven Vartan (photographer)



May 3, 1980

4. MIDDLE EAST NEWS EDITOR
STEVE HINDY TO PHOTO
EDITOR HORST FAAS.

Hindy explains to Faas, with breathtaking understatement, his recent ambush and kidnapping near Tibnine, Lebanon, which resulted in "the loss of some photo equipment." Hindy survived the ordeal, but two of his drivers were killed and one was wounded.

VIA AIR MAIL

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOU ARRAJ BLDG. RUE SPEARS, KANTARI

P. O. BOX 3780

BEIRUT - LEBANON

CABLE ADDRESS "ASSOCIATED" BEIRUT

TEL. NO. 246003 - 248445 - 238813

TELEX 20636 LE

May 3, 1980

Horst Faas
Photo Editor, Europe and Middle East
The Associated Press
London Bureau

Dear Horst:

I am writing in reply to your request for an explanation of how we lost some photo equipment recently.

AP Photographer Zaven Vartan and I drove to the Irish headquarters of the nine-nation United Nations peacekeeping force in Tibnine, Lebanon, April 18, planning to get black-and-white pictures for a spot feature story and color for the files.

While riding in a three-vehicle convoy of U.N. Truce Supervision officers in an area controlled by Israeli-supported Lebanese militias, we were ambushed and kidnapped.

The gunmen demanded Zaven's camera bag, and they stole it and the contents: one Nikon F body, two Nikkormat bodies, one Nikon motor-drive, one Sumpak flash, and Nikon lenses MM28, 35, 80-200, 100, 300. We were released near the southern Lebanese capital of Bint Jbail, but two of our drivers were shot dead and one was wounded by the gunmen.

We have tried to retrieve the cameras through the U.N. and through the Tel Aviv Bureau, but we have gotten nowhere, probably due to the strained relations between the U.N. and the Israeli-supported militias.

That's it. Hope to see you in Beirut sometime.

April 6, 1982

5. BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT
SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI,
ON THE GREEN LINE
SEPARATING EAST FROM
WEST BEIRUT.

Scheherezade Faramarzi joined AP in Beirut on Sept. 24, 1980, two days before Iraq attacked Iran. A native Farsi speaker with fluency in Arabic and English, Faramarzi quickly established a network of Iranian telephone contacts that allowed her to cover the Iran-Iraq War from Lebanon, while also covering the civil war around her.

She refrained from using her byline for almost a year for fear of repercussions against her family, who still lived in Iran. At the end of September 1981, a story she wrote about the execution of Iranian schoolchildren so angered authorities in Tehran that the Foreign Ministry and the official news agency denounced her as a “counterrevolutionary.” Even today, her security in Iran cannot be guaranteed.



April 24, 1981

6. "DESPITE SHELL FIRE
AND SNIPER'S BULLETS,
LIFE GOES ON," BY
SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI.

When Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, Faramarzi switched to covering Lebanon; Iran coverage was transferred to Nicosia, where AP relied on IRNA (Islamic Republic News Agency) and BBC radio monitors. This is an example of her early reporting from Beirut.

¶ BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)--Fatima Hassan, her husband and seven children live in a battlefield on the Green Line border between Moslem West Beirut and the Christian East. In more than six years of on-again-off-again warfare, they have learned to live with the boom of heavy guns and the lethal threat of snipers.

¶ "We know exactly where the shots are being fired from," said the 37-year-old Lebanese Moslem housewife. "We are used to it. In the early days, many people were killed because they did not know how to hide from bullets and shells. Now we know."

¶ I spent Wednesday night with the Hassans in their apartment in Chiyah, a Shiite Moslem neighborhood on the southern fringe of the capital. The deserted, dirt-littered streets are lined by buildings scarred and broken by years of fighting.

¶ People do not walk on the streets of Chiyah. They run.

¶ Like the Hassans, most residents of Chiyah are refugees from another war in southern Lebanon. But there is little difference between them and the Christian families living east of the Green Line frontier. Together, they make up the 100,000 people who are caught in a battlefield with no where to go.

¶ As I sat with the Hassans in their parlor, sipping sweet tea and talking about the war, the stutter of sniper fire was picking up outside. Soon Christian artillery fire started crashing into the neighborhood, and Syrian gun batteries nearby began firing back across the line.

¶ The house shook with the concussion of incoming and out-going fire. But the Hassans rushed to their balcony to see what was going on.

¶ Surprisingly, everyone in the neighborhood seemed to be on their balconies. I saw an old man calmly eating fatoush, a spicy Lebanese salad, and another puffed on a water pipe. Both seemed oblivious to the battle.

¶ The shelling and machine gun fire became more intense. I saw one

Summer 1982

7. ISRAELI INVASION OF
LEBANON AND SIEGE OF
MUSLIM SECTOR OF BEIRUT.

François Ghattas, Chief of Communications for the AP bureau, strides across a damaged Beirut street carrying a plastic bag as journalists swarm about the crossing near the Green Line demarcation separating Christian and Muslim sectors. Note the presence of an Israeli gun turret (right rear).

Regular bombardment of the Muslim sector wreaked havoc in the bureau, as electricity, water, and phone lines were cut off. Ghattas was instrumental in keeping the AP bureau operating despite the communications breakdown. He was able to feed power through the leased line to the post office in order to activate the AP telex.



Sept. 27, 1982

8. A PALESTINIAN WOMAN BRANDISHES HELMETS DURING A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN BEIRUT FOR VICTIMS OF LEBANON'S SABRA REFUGEE CAMP MASSACRE.

For his photographs of victims and survivors of the Sabra massacre, AP's Bill Foley received the 1983 Pulitzer Prize.



Oct. 25, 1984

9. AFTER THEIR RELEASE
BY KIDNAPPERS, FOUR
AP EMPLOYEES HOLD
A NEWS CONFERENCE.

On Oct. 24, 1984, four Lebanese employees of the AP's Beirut bureau were kidnapped on their way to work and held more than 30 hours. Bureau Chief Terry Anderson, at right, would be taken five months later. Charles Bishara, at far left, still works at the Beirut bureau. The others are, from left, Moheddine Habbal, Khazen Abboud, and Nicola Chaftari.



March 25, 1985

10. AP LOG.

AP's announcement of the kidnapping of Chief Middle East Correspondent Terry Anderson appeared in its news department newsletter. Anderson was held almost seven years as the hostage of Islamic Jihad in Lebanon and released on Dec. 4, 1991.

AP Log

The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020

March 25, 1985

Beirut Bureau Chief Is Abducted

Terry Anderson, AP's chief Middle East correspondent, was abducted by three men on a Beirut street March 16 while talking with AP photographer Donald Mell in front of Mell's home.

The next day, an anonymous telephone caller said the shadowy Islamic Holy War group kidnapped the 37-year-old Anderson as well as two Britons abducted in Beirut earlier in the week. At the AP Log's press time, none had been released and there had been no word on their whereabouts.

After reading a statement, the caller added: "We

have delayed releasing this statement until the three were taken outside Beirut."

In New York, Foreign Editor Nate Polowitzky said, "Terry Anderson is a longtime newsman for The Associated Press whose job in Beirut and wherever else he has been assigned is to report events objectively and fairly. This he has done wherever he has been stationed. He stands for the principles of free access to news and free dissemination of that news."

Before going to Beirut, Anderson had worked in Tokyo, Johannesburg, New York, Louisville and Detroit.

There was no way to determine the validity of the anonymous call, similar to those that have followed past kidnappings of other Americans in Beirut as well as anti-American bombings and other violent activities.



ANDERSON

The missing Britons are Brian Levick, 59, managing director of the Coral Oil Co. in Lebanon, and Geoffrey Nash, 60, a metallurgist who works for the Lebanese government.

All were seized in west Beirut, the Moslem sector of the capital which, for the past 13 months, has been under control of Shiite Moslem and Druse militias.

Four other Americans also are missing after dis-

Photographer Watches Kidnap Frozen in Terror, Disbelief

By **DONALD MELL**
Photographer, Beirut

The morning started like any other "normal" morning in Beirut.

Terry Anderson and I had just finished a game of tennis and he was dropping me off. Suddenly three gunmen emerged from a green Mercedes, dragged Terry into the car and sped away as I stood by helplessly.

Feb. 19, 1987

11. TELEX BETWEEN CHIEF
OF MIDDLE EAST SERVICES
NICK LUDINGTON
(NICOSIA) AND AP BEIRUT
PHOTOGRAPHER ZOUHAIR
SAADE, DURING INTENSE
FIGHTING BETWEEN
SHIITE AND DRUSE
MILITIAS FOR CONTROL
OF WEST BEIRUT.

LUDINGTON:

Do not repeat not take any risks to get
pictures if fires unless you can poke a lens
out a window safely or something. OK?

SAADE:

Habibi I did not see any fire near by to make
any pictures second all stringer are away
and very difficult for them to come to the
office.... I'm staying here three days and did
my best. Can't stay if nothing to file.

W AND MORE PICTURES

IN HAND. PLS TELE

HIM IF I HAVE ANY GOOD PICTURE ALL GAVE HIM
WITH REQUEST. IM STAYING HERE TO FILE PICTURES
OKY PLS
GAP

ZUHAIR THIS NICK. I JUST NOTICED 5:03
43713LE 8

ZUHAIR THIS NICK. JUST NOTICED THE EXCHANGE. YOU DOING FINE.
DO NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE ANY RISKS TO GET PICTURES IF FIRES UNLESS
YOU CAN POKE A LENS OUT A WINDOW SAFELY OR SOMETHING. OK?
GA

HABIBI I DID NOT SEE ANY FIRE NEAR BY TO MAKE ANY PICTURES
SECOND ALL STRINGER ARE AWAY AND VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO
COME TO THE OFFICE. MOST OF THEM SHIITE AND THE AREA CONTROLLED
BY ENEMY FOR THEM NOW HAVE ONLY ONE RUNNING AROUND AND HE
HAD TOO MANY TROUBLES WE DO THE BEST WE CAN. YESTERDAY HARRY CALLED
HERE AROUND 2 IN THE MORNING ASKING FOR PICTURE PLS HE SHOULD KNOW
THAT IM STAYING HERE THREE DAYS AND DID MY BEST. CANT STAY
IF NOTHING TO FILE.
ALL SEE IF CAN DO SOMETHING TOMOROW. BUT NO FIRE PICTURES
GAP

OKAY ZUHAIR THATS RIGHT IF CAN GET SMOKE IN MORNING OR STG FINE.
DONT WORRY ABOUT HARRY. I KNOW YOU DOING YOUR BEST AND IT
IS VERY GOOD.

MEANWHILE CAN YOU CHECK FOR NBC AND CBC AND TELL ME THE STATUS
OF THEIR OFFICES. THEY ASKING HERE?

Feb. 23, 1987

12. TELEX FROM BEIRUT
CORRESPONDENT FAROUK
NASSAR TO THE NEW YORK
FOREIGN DESK.

During the fighting between Shiite and Druse gunmen that erupted on Feb. 15, 1987, the AP bureau was engulfed in battle. François Ghattas, the bureau's technician, managed to start a generator on the office balcony that saved the news and photo operations, which were manned by photographer Zouhair Saade and reporter Mohammed Salam. International staff had been ordered to Nicosia in 1986.

Beirut news

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MSG&& NYFDRN FOR LOG-MONZELLA

AP BUREAUS IN TURBULENT BEIRUT HAVE TWICE BEEN DESTROYED AND FREQUENTLY CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF LEBANON'S 12-YEAR-OLD CIVIL WAR INCLUDING RECURRENT INTER-MILITIA POWER STRUGGLES, AND ISRAEL'S 1982 INVASION. THE HORRORS OF THE FEB. 15-22 WEEK OF BATTLING BETWEEN SHIITE AND DRUSE GUNMEN FOR CONTROL OF WEST BEIRUT WERE THE WORST SO FAR, ACCORDING TO CORRESPONDENT FAROUK NASSAR, THE ONLY AP NEWS STAFFER WHO HAS BEEN IN BEIRUT SINCE THE CIVIL WAR STARTED IN 1975.

THE FIGHTING ERUPTED THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY FEB. 15. NASSAR AND REPORTER RUDY KENAN COVERED THE EARLY HOURS OF THE BATTLES THAT QUICKLY SPREAD TO ENGULF THE COMMODORE HOTEL AREA ACROSS A SIDE STREET FROM THE BUREAU. MIDDLE EAST PHOTO EDITOR ZOUHEIR SADE, WHO HAS ALSO WORKED THROUGHOUT THE 12-YEAR VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT, HANDLED THE OUTFLOW OF WIREPHOTOS SINGLE-HANDED ALL NIGHT.

A BRIEF LULL THE NEXT MORNING GAVE MISS KENAN AND DRIVERS HUSSEIN MALLA AND MOHIEDDIN HABIBAL BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO BUY STOCKS OF FOOD AND DRINKING WATER. AS EACH OF THEM RACED BACK TO THE OFFICE FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, A NEW WAVE OF HEAVY FIGHTING BROKE LOOSE ACROSS THE CITY'S MOSLEM SECTOR. REPORTER RINA SALAMEH MANAGED TO DASH TO THE OFFICE FROM HER HOUSE WITH BULLETS WHIZZING AROUND HER TINY CAR.

ca. 1987

13. BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT FAROUK NASSAR RECEIVING A HAIR CUT IN THE BUREAU, AS DRIVER MUHIEDDINE HABBAL PULLS WIRE COPY OFF THE PRINTER.

Farouk Nassar, a colorful individual who knew everybody who was anybody in Lebanon, had an encyclopedic knowledge of the Middle East and was one of AP's fastest lead writers. Of Lebanese and Palestinian origin, he was born in Haifa in 1926 and fled with his family to Damascus in 1948. There, he joined AP in 1954, covering the 1958 overthrow of the monarchy in Iraq by monitoring shortwave radio.

After imprisonment by Syrian authorities, Nassar and his family moved to Beirut in 1970. He became the main lead writer during Lebanon's 1975–90 civil war and was named Beirut correspondent after Chief Middle East Correspondent Terry Anderson was kidnapped. Nassar, who maintained his shock of thinning white hair, was the backbone of the office and a mentor to local staff. His guiding principle is still remembered: "The AP is your university. It will tell you all you need to know."



14. SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI, BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, MAY 29, 2009.

“We were staying in the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. I called my father and said, ‘I just want to let you know before you hear the news, I’m OK.’ He just broke down. ‘That’s enough. Get out. I can’t take it anymore.’ And I stopped telling him I’m going to Baghdad. I thought it’s not fair.”

15. ROBERT H. REID, KABUL BUREAU CHIEF, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, MAY 1, 2009.

“If there is no acceptable risk, why are we there? There is an implied risk and an inherent risk. So all these things have to be balanced off. There are no dispassionate observers in this business. If you turn to a journalist, they’ll think like a journalist, and they’ll push the envelope.”

16. HAMZA HENDAWI, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, BAGHDAD, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, MARCH 3, 2009.

“We’ve had some very, some very bad days in Baghdad. And I think throughout all this time we all held it together and the bond, the bond does exist and I can’t, I can’t do it justice by describing it. It’s working together and it is living together, definitely. This might sound a little bizarre, but Baghdad is something of a second home.”

KABUL AND BAGHDAD

THE AP IN KABUL AND BAGHDAD: THE STRUGGLE TO TELL THE STORY, 2001–10

Since 2001, AP has confronted unprecedented risk to report two wars simultaneously from bureaus in Kabul and Baghdad.

AP journalists have been covering Afghanistan since the late 19th century, but they were typically based in Istanbul, Cairo or London, going into this physically treacherous terrain only for major stories. During the Russian occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s, AP covered the country from Islamabad. Robert H. Reid, now Kabul bureau chief, went to Afghanistan in December 1979, right after the Soviets invaded. In 1986, Kathy Gannon, one of AP's most intrepid reporters, began traveling secretly into Afghanistan from Pakistan with carefully chosen mujahideen groups. Sharon Herbaugh, bureau chief in Islamabad, was killed on April 16, 1993, in a helicopter crash in the mountains of Afghanistan, 100 miles north of Kabul. She was 39 and the first AP newswoman and bureau chief to die on assignment.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Reid was sent to Islamabad to direct the story. Gannon was in Kabul on the day of the attacks, operating out of an office established in 1992 in the Wazir Akbar Khan district. She was immediately expelled with all other

foreigners by the Taliban but returned on Oct. 23, the only Western reporter allowed back in by the Taliban, who knew her well. Gannon was aided in crossing the Afghan-Pakistan border by correspondent Amir Shah, who joined AP in the early 1990s. Shah taught himself everything from photography to video to reporting and quickly became adept at working around Taliban restrictions on photographs and video. The practice of embedding, which is being used more often to cover the 2010 surge of U.S. troops, provides no protection from ambushes or firefights. Improvised explosive devices are without doubt the greatest threat. If anything, Afghanistan is much more dangerous now than it was after the initial American invasion. According to photographer David Guttenfelder, "There is no 'rear' position any longer in Afghanistan; you are at some risk wherever you are in the country, whether you are embedded or working independently."

AP's recent presence in Baghdad dates to 1983, when Mohammed Salam went there from Beirut as a correspondent. Neither he nor his successor in Baghdad, Samir Ghattas, could function under the press restrictions imposed by the

ministry of information. Salah Nasrawi, a Baghdad native, replaced Ghattas in 1986 and covered the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf War. Years of harassment by the regime of Saddam Hussein culminated in March 1991 when the regime revoked Nasrawi's credentials. He was eventually allowed to leave Iraq and has never returned.

When an American invasion of Iraq seemed likely in the summer of 2002, AP set up an office under Reid in Doha, Qatar, where the military's central command had its headquarters. As invasion forces arrived, reporters like Chris Tomlinson embedded with front line infantry. AP's first bureau in Baghdad was on the 10th floor of the Hamra Hotel. Its second home was the Palestine Hotel, which was hit by a multiple car and truck bomb blast in October 2005. Since then, AP has moved twice to new locations, each with heightened security apparatus. From 2004 to 2008, when the bloodshed was at its worst, traveling outside Baghdad was particularly dangerous. Decisions about what to cover were always influenced by safety considerations, which limited journalists' movements and often frustrated them.

For Iraqi photographers and reporters, the risks have been high. There was a time when just coming to work could be a question of life and death. Some thought it too dangerous to carry a notebook and simply memorized their stories. Many of these staffers could have fled to Jordan and Syria like hundreds of thousands of others, but they chose to stay and sacrifice not only because they wanted to earn their living but also because they believed in AP's mission. They wanted to tell the truth.

Jan. 16, 1991

17. SALAH NASRAWI,
BAGHDAD CORRESPONDENT,
TELEPHONES AP'S
MIDDLE EAST BUREAU
IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS,
JUST BEFORE THE
GULF WAR BEGINS.

Salah Nasrawi, now at the AP Cairo bureau, was born in Baghdad and worked there as a translator, teacher, writer and journalist before joining AP in 1986. After a March 1991 story about the failed Shia uprisings in the south, the Saddam Hussein regime revoked Nasrawi's credentials, forbidding him to continue as a journalist. However, they did not immediately let him leave the country. Only after rallying support among journalist colleagues was he able to leave Iraq for Nicosia. Among the stories he covered during his early exile was the plight of Somali refugees who washed ashore in wooden boats at Aden, Yemen, most of them unable to swim.



March 16, 1991

18. "TRANSPORTATION,
COMMUNICATIONS CHAOS
HOBBLES EVERYDAY LIFE,"
BY SALAH NASRAWI.

This is the last story written by Nasrawi
from Baghdad before he and his family left
for Nicosia. He settled in Cairo in 1994.

¶ BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) _ Twice a day, Zakiya Hamid checks
futilely to see if there's a dial tone on her telephone. Civil
servant Adnan Abdul-Kabir rides his son's bike to work. Bus
fares have skyrocketed 25-fold.

¶ All show the continuing chaos in communications and
transportation wrecked by the intensive allied bombing campaign
against Iraq in the Gulf War.

¶ Highways, bridges, communications centers and refineries
were hit in the allies' effort to cripple the infrastructure
underpinning President Saddam Hussein's war effort.

¶ "I can't understand what our telephones had to do with the
liberation of Kuwait. They could have done the job without
wrecking these centers," said Ms. Hamid, a retired teacher.

¶ The allies bombed 10 of the 21 telephone exchange centers in
Baghdad during the war, including two that served as the
nation's main communications centers. They also reduced to
rubble scores of provincial telephone exchange systems,
eventually putting the national network out of business.

¶ "It was the only means which connected me with the outside
world," Ms. Hamid said. "Now I am entirely cut off."

¶ Restoring telephone service to the entire nation is expected
to take years. The breakdown of the municipal and intercity
transportation systems, coupled with the shortage of gasoline,
also heightens Iraqis' sense of isolation.

¶ "I have not been able to see my family in Mosul or reach
them by telephone for weeks," said Talid Ali, a government
employee who lives in Baghdad.

¶ Bus drivers who buy scarce gasoline on the black market for
up to \$96 a gallon charge \$150 to \$180 for the trip to Mosul,
270 miles north of Baghdad.

Oct. 2001

19. DIMITRI MESSINIS
SANDBAGGING THE KABUL
BUREAU AGAINST THE
BLAST EFFECTS OF U.S.
BOMBING.

Dimitri Messinis, a photographer for AP in Athens, was brought to Afghanistan soon after the United States began bombing on Oct. 7, 2001. He and Islamabad Bureau Chief Kathy Gannon were able to get visas from the Taliban embassy in Islamabad.



Oct. 23, 2001

20. ISLAMABAD BUREAU
CHIEF KATHY GANNON
NEGOTIATING WITH
THE TALIBAN SECURITY
CHIEF AT TORKHAM,
AFGHANISTAN, NEAR THE
BORDER WITH PAKISTAN.

Kathy Gannon had driven from Islamabad through the Khyber Pass to Torkham, left the car behind, and walked to the Afghan side of the border. Once there, she found she had to negotiate with the Taliban security chief, as he had not yet received word that she had permission to go onward to Kabul — another eight-hour drive. At that time, there were 200 journalists in northern Afghanistan with the Northern Alliance, but no foreign journalists in Kabul. Gannon was the only reporter allowed to enter.



Oct. 23, 2001

21. KABUL CORRESPONDENT AMIR SHAH (LEFT) WITH TALIBAN BORDER GUARD AND ISLAMABAD BUREAU CHIEF KATHY GANNON (HOODEDED, RIGHT) ON THE AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN BORDER.

AP's Kabul correspondent Amir Shah managed to clear Islamabad Bureau Chief Kathy Gannon through the border after getting in touch with the Taliban prime minister on the satellite phone. A man of great ingenuity and drive, Shah was the AP's eyes and ears after the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan began on Oct. 7. Even after Oct. 24 when Gannon and Athens-based photographer Dimitri Messinis returned, Shah was the only one filing video for APTN from Kabul. "I remembered sometimes being so tired during the attacks," says Shah, "but we had our duty to do and we did it."



Oct. 2001

22. ISLAMABAD BUREAU
CHIEF KATHY GANNON,
AP BUREAU, KABUL.

Kathy Gannon has been covering Pakistan and Afghanistan for AP since 1988. This photograph was taken in the basement of the AP house in Wazir Akbar Khan in Kabul after the United States began bombing Afghanistan. The Taliban cut the generators and the lights to Kabul at 9 p.m. every night, thinking that darkness would prevent U.S. fighter jets from finding their targets. Gannon and Messinis sought the safety of the basement because they did not wish their lantern light to attract the attention of the Taliban vice and virtue minister who lived across the street.



March 24, 2003

23. AP CORRESPONDENT CHRIS TOMLINSON (AT RIGHT, SEATED), EMBEDDED WITH ATTACK COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, COMMANDED BY CAPT. CHRIS CARTER, NEAR KARBALAH, IRAQ.

As a reporter embedded with a front line infantry, Chris Tomlinson shared the risk of combat with his unit as it made its way from Kuwait to Baghdad. Tomlinson spent six months with Capt. Chris Carter and his 120-man company, following him “like a puppy dog” and sending a running account of the fighting back to New York.



April 20, 2003

24. "CAPTAIN CARTER'S WAR,"
BY CHRIS TOMLINSON.

When he wrote this story, Tomlinson had been with his unit for six weeks. The fluency and immediacy of his writing derive partly from his seven years in Army Military Intelligence.

¶ BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) _ Toward sundown, on a patch of Kuwaiti desert 10 miles south of the Iraqi border, the first sergeant of Attack Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment called the men to attention.

¶ Their commander, Army Capt. Chris Carter, a 31-year-old soldier from Watkinsville, Ga., strode up to the formation in full battle dress _ desert camouflage, flak jacket, Kevlar helmet.

¶ "At ease!" he barked. "Bring it in."

¶ His 120 men, most several inches taller than their commander, gathered around him.

¶ "Sometime tomorrow," he said, "we'll roll into attack position."

¶ Carter knew many of his soldiers had been clinging to the hope that somehow war could still be averted. Now, as they nodded their heads or stared at the ground, he could see the hope leaking out of them.

¶ For miles around, a vast army sprawled over the desert: 200,000 American and British troops, Bradley fighting vehicles, M1A1 Abrams tanks, Apache attack helicopters, artillery pieces, cargo and fuel trucks, green tents bristling with antennas.

¶ It was March 18, and all through this army, hundreds of other commanders were addressing their troops, each in his own way. Carter's way held no trace of machismo. He tucked a pinch of tobacco in his cheek and spoke simply from the heart.

¶ In the days ahead, he said in a slow Georgia drawl, thousands of life-and-death decisions would be made by thousands of soldiers, many of them little more than boys. But they were well-prepared, he said. Their training, equipment and spirit would carry them through.

Oct. 24, 2005

25. BAGHDAD BUREAU CHIEF
ROBERT H. REID, MOMENTS
AFTER A SUICIDE BOMB
BLAST SHOOK THE PALESTINE
HOTEL, WHERE AP STAFF AND
OTHER FOREIGN JOURNALISTS
LIVED AND WORKED.

Bob Reid has been a foreign correspondent and bureau chief since 1977. He directed coverage of the lead-up to the Iraq War from Doha, Qatar, beginning in August 2002. After several years of rotating between Baghdad and Amman, he became Baghdad bureau chief in 2008. When AP sought to build up its operations in Afghanistan in 2006, it looked to Reid. Now news director in Kabul, Reid has returned to a story he has followed intently since 1979 when he was one of the first American reporters to reach Kabul, arriving with the Soviet tanks.



Dec. 14, 2007

26. BAGHDAD'S MUTANABI STREET BOOK MARKET.

Middle East Correspondent Hamza Hendawi, a native of Cairo, first reported from Baghdad in 1996 when sanctions were in full force. He returned in 2003 for the invasion and has worked there frequently ever since. It was very dangerous to roam the streets of Baghdad for much of 2006, 2007 and early 2008, but Hendawi was intent on telling the Iraqi side of the story.



Jan. 2, 2008

27. "BOOK MARKET REFLECTS
MOOD, SCARS AND
RESILIENCE OF BAGHDAD,"
BY HAMZA HENDAWI.

Hamza Hendawi returned numerous times to the famous Baghdad book market. His stories about the tribulation and bloodshed endured by the booksellers demonstrate his persistent, sensitive reporting.

¶ BAGHDAD (AP) _ Dusty books lie on flattened cardboard boxes on a sidewalk buried in litter and building debris. Their vendors hunch their shoulders and sip hot black tea to fend off the cold. What matters is that they're here.

¶ The revival of the Mutanabi Street book market is a microcosm of today's Baghdad.

¶ The titles on display reflect a live-and-let-live mentality shared by Sunni and Shiite vendors. The wreckage, the deserted buildings and devastated Shahbandar coffee house are the scars from years of violence.

¶ The ambitious facelift now under way on Mutanabi Street attests to a hope for better things now that violence in Baghdad is noticeably down.

¶ Through Saddam Hussein's oppression, the bite of Western sanctions, the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 and the bombings and shootings that followed, the Mutanabi market, named after a 10th century Baghdad poet, never ceased to be a favorite Friday hangout for intellectuals, artists and students _ a cultural wellspring deftly adapting to each change of fortune.

¶ On March 5, many thought its days were finally over. A car bomb blamed on al-Qaida militants ripped the market apart, killing at least 38 people and wounding more than 100.

¶ The bombing wiped out dozens of bookstores, stationery shops and presses. The stench of burned paper and human flesh hung in the air for days. But it did not stop Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish vendors from continuing to work here in harmony.

¶ "The bomb did not change the way we feel about each other in the market," said Atta Zeidan, who runs a secondhand book store. "What it did is make us all afraid for our lives."

¶ In response, authorities banned vehicular traffic from

March 6, 2008

28. BAGHDAD'S MUTANABI STREET BOOK MARKET, AFTER IT WAS DESTROYED IN A CAR BOMBING.

Two months after Hendawi's January 2008 story, another explosion devastated the book market.



Aug. 14, 2009

29. AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY SOLDIERS, ON PATROL WITH THE U.S. MARINES FROM GOLF COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, APPROACHING AN INTERSECTION WHERE TALIBAN FIGHTERS LIE IN WAIT, DAHANEH, HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN.

This photograph, part of the “Death of a Marine” series, was taken by AP photographer Julie Jacobson while embedded with the Marines in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The company came under ambush moments later, and Lance Cpl. Joshua M. Bernard was fatally wounded. Another photograph showing Bernard injured and dying and attended to by his fellow Marines sparked great controversy, as the family had asked that it not be published. AP respected the family’s wishes, but felt that it was important to show the realities of war.



Feb. 15, 2010

30. U.S. MARINES FROM 3RD BATTALION, 6TH MARINE REGIMENT TAKE COVER IN AN OPEN POPPY FIELD DURING A FIREFIGHT AS TALIBAN FIGHTERS FIRE ON THEM IN THE TOWN OF MARJAH IN AFGHANISTAN'S HELMAND PROVINCE.

The Marines use colored smoke for various tactical reasons, in this case to conceal movements. Asia Chief Photographer David Guttenfelder, who is based in Tokyo, has made eight trips to Afghanistan since 2001. During his career with AP, he has worked in other conflict zones, including parts of Africa, Iraq and Palestine. In January 1991 in Sierra Leone, he was injured by flying glass when gunmen opened fire on the vehicle in which he was riding. Myles Tierney, a producer for APTN, was killed in the attack.



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COVER IMAGE

An Afghan child looks on as the 5th Stryker Brigade drives past his village on the outskirts of Spin Boldak, about 63 miles southeast of Kandahar, Afghanistan, Aug. 6, 2009. Thousands of U.S. troops were deployed in southern Afghanistan as part of an effort to prevent the Taliban from disrupting the country's Aug. 20 presidential election. Five days after he took this picture, photographer Emilio Morenatti was wounded when the U.S. military vehicle in which he was traveling ran over a bomb planted in open desert terrain, resulting in the amputation of his lower left leg. Cameraman Andi Jatmiko of Jakarta was also injured. Morenatti has years of experience in the war zones of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. In 2006, he was kidnapped in Gaza City and freed unharmed after 15 hours. The following year, while he covered a West Bank protest, his leg was broken by a stun grenade fragment.

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