

REGION: Westerly Man Burned In The Station Nightclub Fire Out Of The Hospital SPORTS: The UConn Men Beat Stanford 85-74 To Advance To Sweet 16

The Day

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AMERICA AT WAR

GROUND WAR INTENSIFIES



SIMON WALKER / Associated Press

■ U.S. Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit move in along the waterfront Saturday in the strategic southern Iraq city of Umm Qasr.

ALLIED FORCES MEET RESISTANCE IN DESERT; U.S. SOLDIER HELD IN GRENADE ATTACK THAT KILLED 1, INJURED 13

By PATRICK E. TYLER
New York Times News Service

Kuwait City — As air forces struck Baghdad at dawn and again on Saturday night with fusillades of cruise missiles, American and British ground forces reached the outskirts of Basra, Iraq's largest southern city, and sought to enter it not with a fight but by promising aid.

Allied armies met some resistance as they swept past population centers and continued to close on the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The 3rd Infantry Division had pushed halfway toward that objective by reaching Samawa, where heavy fighting and mortar exchanges were under way late Saturday.

Earlier, the division's 3rd Brigade captured the bridge across the Euphrates River at Nasiriya after seizing the Tallil air base, opening a southern approach that would allow invading forces to rush up a highway network to Baghdad. But in Nasiriya, as at Basra, allied forces avoided the city centers, apparently in an effort to reduce casualties.

In Kuwait, at least one American soldier was killed and 13 others were wounded in a grenade attack Saturday morning at a rear base camp of the 101st Airborne Division, military officials said.

Journalists traveling with Army units said that Iraqi troops fired rocket-propelled grenades that tore apart two American Humvees. There were four American soldiers in the vehicles, on a reconnaissance patrol.

Several reports that the soldiers had been killed were not immediately confirmed by the Army.

Another American soldier was wounded by sniper fire in the battle, officials said.

Seven soldiers died — six Britons and one American — when two British helicopters collided over the Persian Gulf, the second helicopter accident in two days.

One journalist covering the war was killed and three were missing. The three journalists, working for a British television station, ITN, were in a vehicle on the outskirts of Basra when it was apparently hit by a shell, witnesses said. An Australian journalist was killed when a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint in the Kurdish-controlled northern part of Iraq.

The commander of forces in the region, Gen. Tommy R. Franks, said special operations forces were active in and around Baghdad, where Saddam Hussein appeared still in control of the city and its formidable defenses, despite the heavy bombardment of the capital.

Franks asserted that there were "ongoing dialogues with a number of senior Iraqi officials and those discussions," he continued, "both with people in and out of uniform, will continue in the hours and days ahead."

His remarks implied that there were intense behind-the-scenes efforts to foment a mutiny to eliminate Saddam and spare a climactic and potentially costly battle for Baghdad.

Intermittent and at times intense fighting was reported from the port of Umm Qasr in the south, which has been in allied

INSIDE

Many Christians and Jews in the region object to the idea that the war in Iraq is a religious war. But for many Muslims, for whom faith is an all-encompassing obligation, religion and politics cannot be put into discrete spheres. **B1**

In the swirl of confusing facts, the first scenes of the invasion of Iraq were astonishingly clear. Television did more than bring viewers closer to the front lines of battle than ever before, however. It looked at warfare through an entirely new prism. **A4**

Anti-war activists marched again Saturday in dozens of U.S. cities, marshaling well over 100,000 in Manhattan and sometimes trading insults with backers of the U.S.-led war on Iraq. **A6**

Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in cities around the world and outside U.S. military bases Saturday, but their rallies for an immediate end to war in Iraq were far smaller than recent protests. **A6**

Iraq has long been a religious, ethnic and ideological mosaic difficult to rule as a united entity, and Saddam Hussein's removal wouldn't do much to change that. **A7**

Half A World Away, Lyme Store Offers The News

By GEORGINA GUSTIN
Day Staff Writer

IT'S THE SECOND DAY OF SPRING and the world from the window of the H.L. Reynolds Co. General Store, Est. 1859, looks like this: a two-lane road, a white church, a black-shuttered farmhouse, some people walking by, pushing baby carriages in the sun.

The picture of the world from this perch also contains a rack of newspapers

with these headlines: BLITZ; BAGHDAD SHATTERED; BATTERING IRAQ; U.S. BOMBS RAVAGE TARGETS IN BAGHDAD, WAVES OF TROOPS SWEEPING SOUTHERN IRAQ. The photographs under them show enormous, fluorescent bomb clouds and consuming plumes of smoke.

This is the piece of the world that brought people to the old store on Saturday, as laser-guided missiles struck targets on the other side of the globe, as soldiers

surrendered and some people watched the big show on television. This is where people in Lyme, population 2,020, get their news.

Jane Reynolds DeWolf has worked in the store, started by her great grandfather, almost every day since 1953, when her father died of a heart attack just outside the shop. "Then I came home from Hartford," she said, remembering her days in the capital working for an insurance compa-

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"Are we doing the right thing? That's a question that's puzzling a lot of Americans, not just me."

Tom Cathcart, a resident of Lyme

Through A Night Of Launches, It's 'Wake Up Time For Freedom'

DISPATCHES AT SEA

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON
Day Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook are aboard a Navy sub in the Red Sea covering the war.

Aboard the USS Providence — The Providence fired three waves of missiles into Iraq on Friday night, its second night of combat operations from the Red Sea, as it took part in a major offensive by ships at sea.

"Man battle stations, strike!" boomed over the ship's public address system just before dark, followed by the captain's announcement that the submarine had received orders to fire a multi-missile salvo.

"All the jitters were gone, because of last night. So everything went very smoothly," said the captain, Cmdr. Jonathan H. Kan.

The intensity of the attack, aired on TV around the world and called a campaign of "shock and awe," seemed to surprise even the officers on the Providence.

The officers were in the wardroom discussing how long it might take to reload the tubes that had already been used for firings when the weapons officer, Lt. Eric Svensson, stuck his head in the door, a

See PROVIDENCE page A10



TIM COOK / The Day

■ Cmdr. Jonathan Kan, right, and Lt. Cmdr. Thad Nisbett watch the monitors during Tomahawk launches from the USS Providence Friday.

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A way with wood
Customers seem to respect one local cabinetmaker as much for his integrity as for his skills. Daybreak



Region: Students practice law at mock trial in New London

Perspective: Scandals swirl around Gov. John Rowland

State: Rally in Waterbury to support troops in the Gulf

Travel: A Mexican escape with a fishing-village feel

Marketplace: A guide to boating and waterfront living

MIXED OUTLOOK

Temps in the mid-50s with a mix of sun and clouds today. High of 53 Monday, then warming into the high 50s and low 60s Tuesday and Wednesday. Cloudy with rain possible

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