

# **The Untold Story of the Heroic Actions of The 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry In The 1991 Persian Gulf War**

In the history of military operations, there are always stories of immense bravery and sacrifice that often go untold. One such story is that of the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. This article aims to shed light on the heroic actions of this squadron during the conflict and honor the soldiers who fought for their country.

## **The Persian Gulf War**

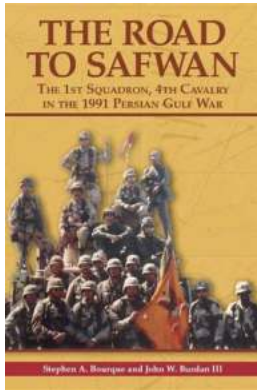
The Persian Gulf War, also known as Operation Desert Storm, was a major conflict that took place between January and February of 1991. The primary objective of this war was to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. The coalition forces, led by the United States, consisted of troops from various countries, each with their own assigned roles and responsibilities.

## **The 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry**

The 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry, also known as the Quarterhorse, was an armored reconnaissance squadron deployed to the Persian Gulf to support the coalition forces' operations. As a cavalry unit, their primary mission was to gather information on enemy movements and provide valuable intelligence to the allied troops.

## **The Road to Safwan: The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War**

by Stephen A. Bourque (Kindle Edition)



★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 8663 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 336 pages



## **Their Role in the Conflict**

During the Persian Gulf War, the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry played a crucial role in gathering essential information about Iraqi forces' positions and movements. They operated in the front lines, often facing direct contact with the enemy.

## **Reconnaissance Missions**

The squadron conducted numerous reconnaissance missions, venturing deep into enemy territory to gather critical intelligence. Their knowledge of the terrain and their ability to navigate through hostile areas proved to be invaluable to the allied forces. They provided crucial information on enemy defenses, minefields, and potential routes for allied advances.

## **Protecting the Main Forces**

In addition to their reconnaissance duties, the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry also played a vital role in protecting the main forces from enemy counterattacks. Their armored vehicles and skilled soldiers provided a formidable defense, ensuring the safety of the allied troops during offensive operations.

## **Heroic Actions**

## **Engagement with Iraqi Forces**

On multiple occasions, the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry engaged in intense battles with Iraqi forces. One notable engagement took place when the squadron encountered a large Iraqi armored unit attempting to launch a surprise attack on the coalition forces. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, the Quarterhorse fought fiercely, holding their ground until reinforcements arrived. Their heroic actions prevented the enemy from gaining a significant advantage and allowed the main forces to regroup and repel the attack.

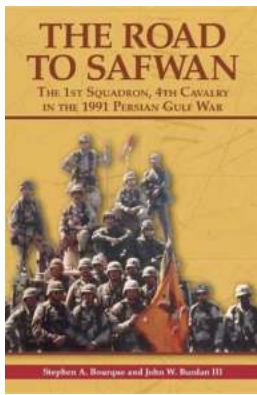
## **Rescue Operations**

The squadron also participated in daring rescue operations during the conflict. They successfully rescued injured soldiers trapped behind enemy lines, displaying exceptional bravery under fire. These operations highlighted the dedication and selflessness of the Quarterhorse soldiers, who risked their lives to save their comrades.

## **Legacy of The 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry**

The heroic actions of the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War will forever be remembered as a testament to the courage and sacrifices made by these brave soldiers. Their contributions to the coalition forces' victory were crucial and played a significant role in liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

The story of the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War is a compelling tale of bravery, sacrifice, and heroism. Their unwavering dedication to their mission and their fellow soldiers deserves to be recognized and celebrated. Their actions serve as an inspiration for future generations of soldiers, reminding us of the profound impact that individuals can have in times of conflict.



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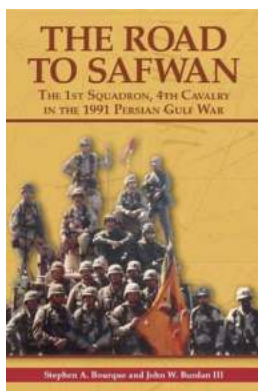
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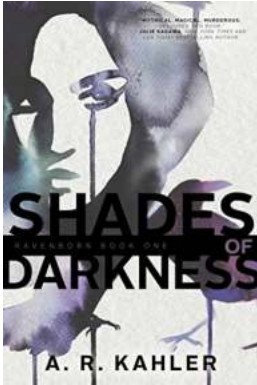
The Road to Safwan is a complete history of the 1st Infantry Divisions cavalry unit fighting in Operation Desert Storm. Stephen A. Bourque and John W. Burdan III served in the 1st Infantry--Bourque in Division Headquarters, Burdan as the Operations Officer of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry. Based on extensive interviews and primary sources, Bourque and Burdan provide the most in-depth coverage to date of a battalion-level unit in the 1991 war, showing how the unit deployed, went into combat, and adapted to changing circumstances. The authors describe how the officers and men moved from the routine of cold war training to leading the Big Red One in battle through the Iraqi defenses and against the Iraqi Republican Guard. The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry participated in the 1st Brigade attack on G-Day, the large tank battle for Objective Norfolk, the cutting of Basra Road, and the capture of Safwan Airfield, the site where General H. Norman Schwarzkopf conducted cease-fire negotiations with the Iraqis. The squadrons activities are placed squarely within the context of both division and corps activities, which illustrates the fog of war, the chain of command, and the uncertainty of information affecting command decisions. The Road to Safwan challenges the myth that technology won the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Contrary to

popular view, it was a soldiers war not much different from previous conflicts in its general nature. What was different was the quality and intensity of the units training, which resulted, repeatedly, in successful engagements and objectives secured. It is the story of the people, not the machines, which ultimately led this squadron to the small town of Safwan. "The Road to Safwan is a magnificent story about one of the oldest and most decorated Cavalry Squadrons in the US Army. It is a most accurate description of the American soldier during the Desert Storm Operation of 1991. This work is about leadership and human emotions. One can feel the responsibility and pride of the leaders and their soldiers as the author walks you through their deployment and hard-fought battles in Iraq and Kuwait. The men of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry were asked to accomplish a lot; they never disappointed their superiors or themselves. This group of professional soldiers lived their motto Prepared and Loyal every day. This work is a must read for both military professionals and land warfare historians."--LTG (ret) Thomas G. Rhame, Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division 1989-1991



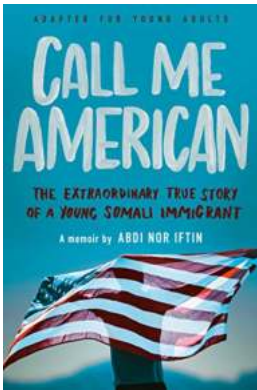
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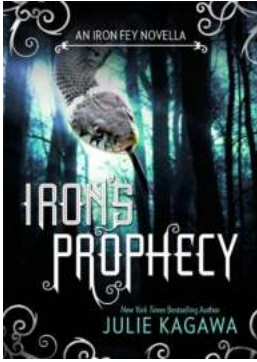
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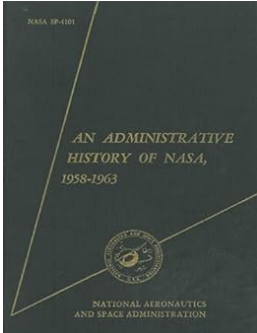
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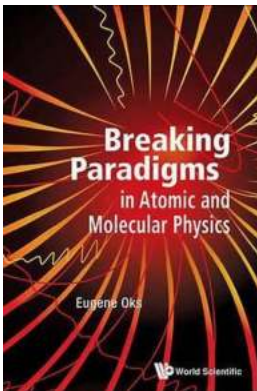
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