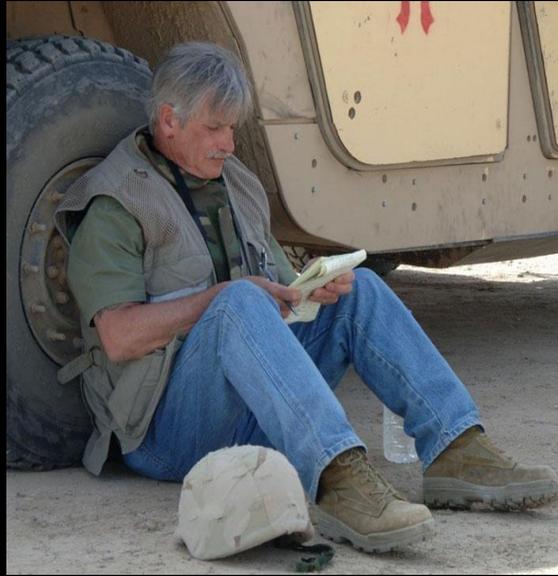


Assignment Iraq: Dispatch 7



I'm miles behind on this journal, and I apologize for that...

It's been a lot more difficult than we ever anticipated, keeping up with things on this end. A lot of hours were spent on back-to-back missions - going out in the very wee hours of the morning - followed by afternoon or evening patrols.

Then of course, there's been the challenge of trying to get the stuff back once it's managed to be written. Just being able to sit down and compose any of it has been tough - especially for someone like me. To state that I'm keyboard-challenged is putting it mildly. Typing isn't a skill that's ever been acquired and any document produced by yours truly is done vis-a-vis the "hunt and peck" method of typing.

There hasn't been an abundance of office equipment to choose from; I've had to use whatever has been available. What has been available hasn't exactly been primo. And don't even get me started about the availability or dependability of the internet over here!

Now, my fingers don't exactly dance across a keyboard to start with, and when confronted with aforementioned apparatus - either lacking actual letter keys, or offering a host of other keys with the letters rubbed away - well, let's just say it ain't been easy to deliver the written word back home.

Plagued and puzzled by all of that, many words simply became acronyms and sentences codified to a large degree. I owe a lot to the many patient people on the other end of this project who were able to decipher and clean-up the copy sent to them.

So again, I offer my apologies to all of you for the lapse in entries to this journal. There are many stories that will be on the way. I hope you find some value in them, because they are about the best of the best--the men and women serving in the U.S. military who serve us every day.

