

# American escapee reveals horrors of Kuwaiti occupation

by ANNE WAINSCOTT  
POST staff writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Torture and rampant looting by soldiers are commonplace since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait two months ago, an American woman who recently escaped Kuwait told journalists Saturday.

"While we wait for sanctions to work, Kuwaitis are being annihilated," Deborah Hadi said at a press conference during the Society of Professional Journalists' National Convention in Louisville.

Hadi was one of nine witnesses who testified before the U.S. Congressional Human Rights Caucus last Wednesday. Congress is planning to send copies of their statements to U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, Hadi added.

Before she reached the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, Hadi had to disguise herself as an Arab and ride in the back of a garbage truck for 12 miles through checkpoints set up by Iraqi soldiers.

Once in the embassy and under protection of the U.S. State Department, she and other Americans traveled to an Iraqi airport by bus and were permitted to return to the United States, said Hadi, who married a Kuwaiti and moved to the country 12 years ago.

In 1983, she was working for the U.S. embassy in Kuwait and was held hostage when Iran briefly seized part of the embassy. But her experience during that crisis did not prepare her for the brutality of Iraqi forces after the invasion of Kuwait, she said.

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Deborah Hadi

wipe a country off the map — and its people," she said.

Near a school located across from her house, Hadi said she witnessed the rape of a Kuwaiti woman and young girl. The woman's husband was forced to watch and was shot afterwards, she said.

She also saw young men who were believed to be part of the Kuwaiti resistance rounded up by Iraqi troops and taken to the same school building, she said.

In a press release, Amnesty International verified that Iraq has turned all

public buildings and schools into detention and interrogation centers and that an unspecified number of Kuwaitis have been rounded up, tortured and, in some cases, killed.

Since the invasion, looting by the Iraqi military has been widespread, Hadi said. Soldiers have stolen hospital beds, incubators, the contents of grocery stores and cars along the road. Now they are going from house to house, she added.

"After they completely wipe out a store, they burn it down," she said. "Even street lights have been taken to Baghdad."

Food shortages that hit within two weeks of the invasion prompted rationing, Hadi said. Many adults in her family went without food so the children could eat.

Although Hadi could have left when the U.S. embassy began evacuating Americans, she chose to stay with her husband and his family. When she was diagnosed with having an ovarian cyst, she decided to return to the United States for treatment.

Hadi said she hid in a closet — sometimes for hours — when soldiers came to their house for water. Iraq has stated publicly that harboring Americans is punishable by death.

She added that her husband, an engineer for a Kuwaiti airline, insisted she tell the press of what is happening even though the publicity could endanger him.

"I fear for my husband, but if I don't speak out and get help, I fear for him more," she said, adding that Iraqis hoped "with threats over our families that none of us would talk once we got out."

## War kills OU grad

### Marine pilot dies in helicopter crash

by ANNE WAINSCOTT  
POST staff writer

A 1980 OU graduate killed while serving in Operation Desert Storm will be the first serviceman in the Gulf War to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C.

Marine Capt. Jonathon "Jack" Edwards was killed Feb. 2 when his AH-1 Cobra helicopter crashed in Saudi Arabia during a medical evacuation, according to a University News Services' press release. His co-pilot, Maj. Eugene McCarthy of Brooklyn, N.Y., also was killed.

The College of Communication graduate is expected to be buried Friday at Arlington. About 220,000 soldiers and their families are buried at the national cemetery.

The 34-year-old Marine is survived by his wife Gayle and their three children, who reside in Grand Rapids, Mich. His mother and stepfather, Sally and Gerry Fitzgerald, live in Terrace Park, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb.

Following his graduation from OU, Edwards was commissioned into the Marines and went through flight school training in Pensacola, Fla., his mother said by phone Wednesday.

"He loved to fly," Mrs. Fitzgerald said. "He believed in what he was doing and he died doing what he loved."

"He was loved and will be sorely missed."

About 130 people attended a memorial service for Edwards Tuesday at St. Thomas Episcopal Community Church in Terrace Park.

## Navy reports OU alumnus missing

by ANNE WAINSCOTT  
POST staff writer

An OU alumnus was reported missing in action early last week after his plane crashed over the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Robert Dwyer, a 1983 OU graduate, was returning from a bombing mission in Kuwait last Tuesday when his single-seater F-18 crashed into the water, said a close friend of Dwyer's by telephone from Cleveland Monday night.

"It wasn't the result of Iraqi fire or friendly fire," said former Athens resident Tim Miracle. "They (Navy officials) haven't released the cause at this point."

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Cecil Field Chapel in Jacksonville, Fla. While the Navy maintains Dwyer's MIA status, "I don't think there would be a memorial service without proof he was down," Miracle said.

Dwyer's wife, Lisa, a 1984 OU Art History graduate, and his four-year-old daughter, Lauren, live in Jacksonville.

After graduating from OU with a degree in computer science, Dwyer joined the Navy.

"He just wanted to fly — his father was a pilot in the Air Force," Miracle said.

After six years of Navy service, Dwyer re-enlisted in 1989. The 32-year-old was working as a flight instructor at Nas Cecil Field, an air base in Jacksonville, when he was called to the Gulf after war broke out on Jan. 16.

Dwyer was one of three pilots selected for the bombing mission over Tripoli, Libya, in 1986. For his performance, Dwyer received "Pilot of the Year on the East Coast," his friend said.

"He was a damn good pilot," said Miracle, who attended OU with Dwyer. Both men played on the OU rugby team.

Dwyer was the scrum half, or quarterback, Miracle said. "I remember him getting knocked out three times in one game and he still played," Miracle recalled. "He was not a quitter."

The OU graduate worked as a bartender at the CI 32 N. Court St., where he met his future wife, Lisa Blike, who also was a bartender, said CI Manager Don Pepper.

"Bobby was a good guy. He will be missed a lot," Pepper said.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting contributions for Dwyer's daughter. They can be sent to: Lauren Dwyer Educational Trust, c/o COMLATWING ONE, Nas Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Fla. 32215.