

A miracle in progress

Months later, Iraqi girl ready for final step in healing process

2ND LT. LIZ LOPEZ
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI)

YUSUFIYAH — Miracles don't happen every day, but for one Iraqi girl and father, they seem to happen often enough.

It has been more than two months since Sgt. William Ludlow, a combat medic with Company C, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), out of Fort Drum, N.Y., was first introduced to Tebarek, an Iraqi girl wounded in a mortar attack near the city of Yusufiyah.

The whirlwind of events that followed changed both of their lives. Late in the day on July 21, at Patrol Base Yusufiyah, the aid station's nor-

mal routine was thrown into chaos by the arrival of eight victims of a nearby mortar attack. Among the wounded were seven Iraqi children ranging in age from 3 to 12.

One of the victims, a 6-year-old girl named Tebarek, was placed under Ludlow's care.

Initial triage showed Tebarek's left leg and abdominal injuries were so severe that she needed immediate evacuation to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad's International Zone.

In response to Tebarek's story of healing and love, the 31st Regiment Association, made up of retirees and former members of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment,

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A helping hand



Sgt. Marcus Butler

Staff Sgt. Jason Poe, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division helps an Iraqi child up a hill Sept. 17 during a reconnaissance mission in the Chaka IV region of Iraq.

Ramadan thoughts from an Army religious leader

RENANAH MILES
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — The chapel is an integral part of the Army's structure. It provides a place for Soldiers of myriad religious backgrounds to gather, much as the Army chaplain corps provides spiritual leadership for different faiths.

As Ramadan unfolds, Muslim Sol-

diers turn to their version of chaplains, what the Army calls Distinguished Faith Group Leaders.

One such leader is Maj. Nadim Islam, MD, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, stationed on Camp Stryker.

Islam is a Medical Corps flight surgeon. He is also a resourceful leader, who has worked hard to provide spiri-

tual guidance to fellow Muslims.

"When I deployed I found out that there were no (Muslim) services occurring," Islam said.

Islam went through Multi-National Corps-Iraq to become a DFGL for Muslim services.

His efforts, and the services he can

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RAMADAN: Muslim Soldiers can turn to DFGLs for spiritual guidance, leadership

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now provide, have particular significance during the month of Ramadan.

“Right now we’re meeting twice a week at nights for the night prayer — the Tarawih — as well as coordinating the end of Ramadan, which is Eid el-Fitr,” he said.

Islam offered insight into the meaning of Ramadan and the practice of fasting.

“It’s a time of heightened awareness as you’re fasting during the day. You’re giving up food, and you’re giving up water, and just trying to reflect on the inner self, and really trying to purify the inner self, so that you kind of get back that sensitivity that you often lose as you’re out and about,” he said.

Like their peers of other faiths, Muslim Soldiers find it difficult to be away from family during holidays, he said.

“Ramadan, just like most religious activities, there is also a family component to it, and there is a community component to it, and as we try to build a community here, you definitely still miss what you are normally used to as far as family,” Islam said.

As a faith leader, Islam has an additional perspective on the spectrum of faiths throughout the Army.

“As we make all our decisions, it’s important to understand the unique backgrounds that all of our different Soldiers come from,” he said. “It’s from addressing those and making concessions without

affecting the mission that you can truly win over the people that you work for.”

During Ramadan, he said, “trying to make whatever concessions are possible within the realms of the mission, I think will go a long way in winning the respect from your Muslim Soldiers. And if possible, during Eid, just acknowledging the fact that it’s a holy day ... will be important for them.”

When it comes to Soldiers in the field, Islam acknowledged the security problems that Ramadan continues to pose in Iraq.

“Unfortunately, Ramadan — even though it’s a very religious activity for us — has become synonymous in theater with increased mortar attacks and really almost become a bad word,” Islam admitted.

For a Muslim Soldier, that reality can be difficult to absorb.

“It’s really sad sometimes for something that’s of such religious significance to us to now become synonymous with more fighting and more killing,” he said.

Amidst security concerns, there is still room to build bridges. That point must not be lost sight of, Islam said.

“Ramadan is an opportunity,” Islam said. “It is a time where, you know, one fifth of the world’s population is observing, and it’s important as leaders in the Army to understand how we can use it to help build bridges with the people we are constantly interacting with, whether it’s our own Soldiers that are observing it, or others in the villages that we are providing security to.”

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TEBAREK: Iraqi girl healing fast

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2nd BCT, the unit to which Ludlow is attached, raised \$2,510 for her to receive a surgery to reverse the colostomy that had once saved her life.

With the cast now off of her leg and her health improving, she and her family are ready to get back to a normal life.

Reversing the colostomy will be a step in the right direction by returning her normal intestinal function.

“Basically, this surgery is the last step in her being healed,” Ludlow explained.

On Sept. 1, Ludlow presented the money to the little girl and her father.

It would be the last time Ludlow would ever get to see this young patient who has inspired him to focus his future medical aspirations in pediatrics. Yet initially, he was not expecting to go.

“I had already said my goodbyes,” Ludlow said. “But I changed my mind at the last moment.”

It was a short and simple ceremony, during which the medic presented Tebarek’s father with \$1,000, enough money to cover the surgery. The unit is saving the rest of the money for another Iraqi child who needs heart surgery to correct a congenital defect.

Because of combat operations that coincided with the presentation, the availability of Arabic translators was limited, but words were not really necessary.

When Ludlow presented the money to Tebarek’s father he already knew what it was for. His gratitude was immea-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. William Ludlow holds Tebarek after her final treatment in the Yusufiyah Aid Station in August.

asurable.

Although he has no way of knowing, Ludlow assumes Tebarek has already had her surgery. Her dad seemed anxious to get it done even before he received the financial help.

“You don’t see many fathers react to their kids the way he reacted to her,” Ludlow said.

Though he admits to missing his sessions with the little girl, Ludlow agreed that it was time for them both to move on.

Tebarek will be starting school in a couple of months, and with her latest surgery, she will be just another normal child.

AED: a simple tool to help you save a life

3RD INF DIV. SURGEON OFFICE

One day you are walking through the building when suddenly the person in front of you collapses. You give them a gentle shake and try to elicit a response, but there isn’t one. They are not breathing and you’ve attempted to locate a pulse, but the person doesn’t have one. You are alone with no medical personnel to assist you. What do you do?

You remember seeing a device located near the litters hung on the wall in the building with a sign above it reading “Defibrillator (AED).”

You recall hearing stories about AEDs being used on heart attack victims in airports, so you run and take

the machine off the wall. What do you do now?

First, begin CPR and have someone contact Emergency Medical Personnel at the number listed on the wall above the device.

AED is short for Automated External Defibrillator, a machine which delivers an electrical shock that stuns the heart momentarily, thereby stopping all activity. This gives the heart an opportunity to restart normal electrical activity and resume effective beating.

The machine will only shock if it recognizes a rhythm which will benefit from an electrical shock. Once you open it, verbal commands assist you thru the rest of the process.

Although the machine is extremely

simple to use, you must be aware of the following provisions. The device should not be used on a patient with a pulse. Never use the machine if the person is lying in water. Remove the individual as well as their soaked clothing from the liquid substance and transport them to a dry area. If the person is located on a metal surface, simply move them to an area that will not act as an electrical conduit. Do not use this device on individuals with pace-makers. Lastly, absolutely no physical contact with the patient while the machine is attempting to deliver an electrical shock.

If you have any questions or concerns about the use of AEDs, please feel free to contact any one of the 3ID STB Medical Providers.

Safety Thought of the Day

Knife Safety

- Be in control.
- Always cut away from yourself.
- When passing a knife to another, pass it handle first.
- DO NOT use a locking folding knife if the blade does not lock open.
- Keep your knife folded/sheathed when carrying or not using.

Headline Highlights

Headless corpses; swastika-embroidered bags

Headless corpses raise ritual killing fear

LOME (Reuters) — Six grisly murders in Togo in which the victims were decapitated and drained of their blood have raised fears of a resurgence of ritual killings ahead of parliamentary elections in the West African state next month.

The serial killings occurred last weekend in the southern Vo and Lacs prefectures, east of the capital Lome. The victims included a 12-year-old boy and a 63-year-old woman and their severed heads were carried off by the killers.

The discovery of the headless corpses has shocked Togolese and triggered a wave of speculation that the killings were ritual murders.

This is a practice still found in parts of Africa in which people kill to obtain body parts and blood in the belief they will bring social success and political power.

Police announced the arrest of four suspects, including one from neighboring Benin, the West African home of the ancient Voodoo religion, who confessed to killing the 12-year-old boy.

Togo holds legislative elections on October 14, and international observers hope they will strengthen the weak grip of democracy in the small former French colony, which like Benin is wedged between Nigeria and Ghana on the Gulf of Guinea.

In a society where traditional beliefs still have influence, some Togolese saw

a link between the killings and the ambitions of aspiring candidates for next month's polls.

"Some of these deputies are ready to do anything to keep their seats and you hear that they're carrying out sacrifices," said Joel Attigan, a geography student.

Others saw the murders as linked to a desire for social advancement.

"There are too many young rich people in Togo these days. These crimes are linked to these kind of people, who sometimes use human sacrifices to obtain their goals," said Da Mensa, the manager of a bar and restaurant in Lome.

Togo's media have joined the feverish debate, blaming shadowy religious sects in Togo and Benin.

"We are in Africa, and spilled human blood can reveal many things," the newspaper Le Magnan Libere said, referring to the witchcraft practice of using blood or body parts for divining or influencing the future.

The police have been cautious about confirming the ritual killing hypothesis.

But they said the arrested Benin citizen, Roger Kodjo Hounguiya, had confessed that he was working for a fellow countryman, Jean Goudjo, wanted in Benin for grisly murders involving mutilation.

Fashion chain Zara withdraws swastika handbag

MADRID (Reuters) — Spanish fash-

ion chain Zara has withdrawn a handbag from its stores after a customer in Britain complained swastikas were embroidered on it.

Zara, owned by the world's second largest fashion retailer Inditex, said it did not know the 39 pound (\$78) handbag had green swastikas on its corners.

The bags were made by a supplier in India and inspired by commonly used Hindu symbols, which include the swastika. The original design approved by Zara did not have swastikas on it, Inditex said.

"After the return of one bag we decided to withdraw the whole range," said a spokesman for Inditex, which has more than 3,330 stores in 66 countries.

Zara pulled the bags after 19-year-old Rachel Hatton told Britain's Daily Mail she asked for a refund when she spotted swastikas on her bag.

"The shop assistants were quite shocked as well to find out this symbol was on there," she told BBC radio.

A British anti-fascism group said the bags were an attempt to legitimize fascism and the Daily Star tabloid newspaper ran a picture of Adolf Hitler next to its story headlined, "Fury over Nazi Fashion Bags."

The swastika is an ancient religious symbol for Hindus and Buddhists, and has represented the sun, strength and good luck to many groups around the world. Since its adoption by the Nazi Party in 1920, people in the West have associated the swastika with Nazi dictator Hitler.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

2	9	6	8	7	5	3	4	1
3	1	7	9	2	4	8	6	5
5	4	8	3	1	6	9	7	2
6	3	1	4	5	9	2	8	7
9	8	2	7	6	1	5	3	4
7	5	4	2	8	3	6	1	9
1	2	3	6	9	7	4	5	8
4	7	9	5	3	8	1	2	6
8	6	5	1	4	2	7	9	3

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

I don't understand

med-dah ef-tih-him