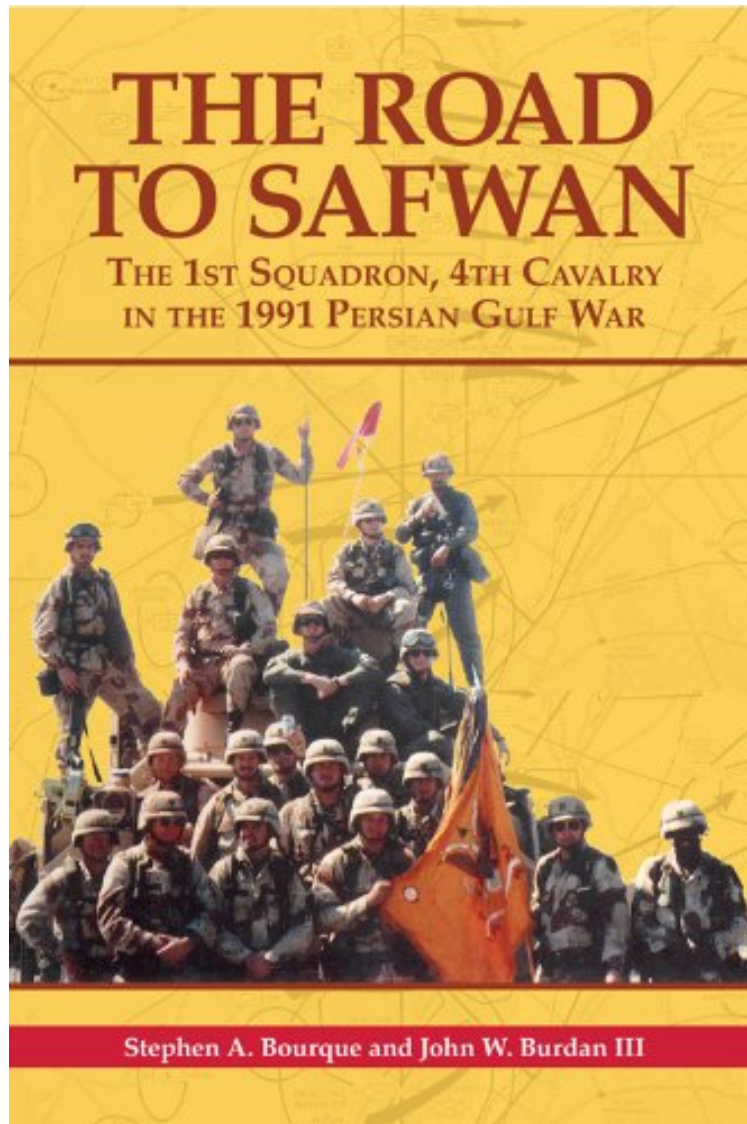


The Road to Safwan: The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War

Von Stephen A. Bourque, John Burdan III
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Von Stephen A. Bourque, John Burdan III : The Road to Safwan: The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Safwan: The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry in the 1991 Persian Gulf War:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Sachlicher, etwas trockener Bericht Von Bernd Pfeuffer Im Kern ist dieses Buch eine klassische Bataillons-Geschichte,

geschrieben von ehemaligen Mitgliedern dessen Führung. In diesem Fall beschränkt auf den 1. Golfkrieg unter General Schwarzkopf. Nach dem unvermeidlichen patriotischen Vorspann wird sachlich eingegangen auf praktische Probleme, wie: fehlende Karten- Abhängigkeit von (zu wenigen) GPS-Empfängern- nicht explodierten Bomblets der berechtigten Streumunition- schlechten Funkverbindungen- friendly fire. Insgesamt ist die Darstellung sehr trocken geraten, was aber nicht wirklich zu bemängeln ist. Einziger echter Kritikpunkt: Auch wenn am Schluss eingeräumt wird, dass die Iraker mangels adäquater Ausrüstung, Ausbildung und Führung kein gleichrangiger, eher ein allzu leichter Gegner waren, ergehen sich die Autoren in Lobeshymnen über die Performance ihrer Soldaten. Bei einem ernsthaften Gegner wäre die Bilanz wahrscheinlich weniger euphorisch ausgefallen. Der letzte ernsthafte Gegner der US Army war nun mal die deutsche Wehrmacht, deshalb beschäftigt man sich ja auch an den amerikanischen Militärakademien auch heute noch mit den Feldzügen derselben.

Kurzbeschreibung 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

Pressestimmen "The Road to Safwan illustrates problems that assailed every unit deployed in Desert Storm. It is a storehouse of 'lessons learned.'" "To my knowledge, this is the first scholarly book focused upon the all-important battalion and squadron level. The documentation is superb."

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