

March 20, 2003

As the second Iraq War began, President George W. Bush vowed, “We will accept no outcome but victory.”
Iraq’s Saddam Hussein vowed, “It’s an inferno that awaits them.”

WEATHER

Higher temperatures with showers and thunderstorms today
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THE TIMES

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BUSH: 'WE WILL ACCEPT NO OUTCOME BUT VICTORY'

SADDAM: 'IT'S AN INFERNO THAT AWAITS THEM'

HUNTING OSAMA: 1,000 U.S. TROOPS RAID AFGHANISTAN

WAR!

SIX SOLDIERS WITH THE U.S. ARMY 3RD BRIGADE

AP Photo/Chris Wedel

U.S. STRIKES 'TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY' IN IRAQ

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As promised, and on time, the United States on Wednesday launched the opening salvo of a war to topple Saddam Hussein.

Scatter and sensors, President Bush addressed the nation at 9:15 p.m., not long after the expiration of the 5 p.m. deadline for Saddam to flee Iraq.

"Now that conflict has come, the only way to limit its duration is to apply decisive force," Bush said. "We will accept no outcome but victory."

Bush spoke after the U.S. military fired cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs on a city near Baghdad where Saddam, his sons and other Iraqi leaders were thought to be, U.S. government officials said.

There was no indication whether the attack was successful. The strikes used Tomahawk cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs dropped from F-117 Nighthawks, the Air Force's stealth fighter-bombers.

After the first heavy strike, Saddam defiantly addressed the United States on Iraqi television evening. "It was inferior that awaits them. Let them try their faltering luck and they shall find what awaits them."

By Wednesday afternoon, about 30,000 U.S. troops closed in on Iraq, backed by more than 1,000 warships. The first 17 Iraqi soldiers surrendered hours before the United States launched any missiles.

WAR WITH IRAQ

MORE INSIDE

■ MIXED FEELINGS: As the president calls for support, Iraqis are divided on how to respond to the U.S. strike, some cheering and others mourning.

■ U.S. TROOPS GET READY: Troops in the Iraq desert are preparing for a long mission before the war begins.

■ LOCAL MARINE KEEPS THOUGHTS OF HOME: Christopher Peterson, 21, is a Marine in the 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Airborne Task Force, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Division.

■ FAMILY WORRIES: Thoughts of Jeanette Winters, 21, who was killed in the 1991 Gulf War, are on the minds of many Americans.

■ THE TIMES' OPINION: Victory may be the outcome, but a stalemate or prolonged peace is also a possibility.

■ PRESSING PROBLEMS: One of the most pressing problems is the U.S. budget deficit, which is a major concern.

■ MARKETS HOLD: Stocks are generally steady, but there is some volatility.

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