

Finding Aid:

Title: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Iraqi Baseball Team- 2004

Description: This collection is made up of 1 box and are donated by Deron R. Haught of Ritchie County, West Virginia. Major (Retired) Haught was a Captain in United States Army in the 25th Infantry Division and served as a Company Commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kirkuk Province, Iraq from January 2004 until March of 2005. Artifacts found in this collection are specific to the development of a youth Iraqi baseball team in Altun Kurpi. The collection includes a disc of digital pictures and videos that were taken from June through September of 2004 by various Soldiers during the practices for the Iraqi baseball team and by an AP reporter, Jim Krane, during the playing of the first game on September 15, 2004. Additional artifacts include a letter from supporters in the United States that was sent with the baseball equipment, a hat and t-shirt that were worn by the team, newspaper articles written after the game, and a booklet used by the Soldiers to track player attendance during practices leading up to the game.

Source: GSC Archives

Inclusive Dates: June-September 2004

Bulk Dates: 1995-2009

Size: 1 boxes, 48 in.

A & M Box# GSC20231115

Index Names:

Captain Deron Haught, Hikmat Sardon, First Lieutenant Robert Elzer, Jim Krane, Zides Sports Shop

Index Terms:

United States Army, Altun Kupri, Kirkuk, 2-11 Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom

Biographical Information: -

Donor: This collection was donated by Deron Ray Haught (Major- U.S. Army Retired) and a 2023 Glenville State University graduate with B.A. Degree in Appalachian Studies.

Organizational & Processing Note: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Iraqi Baseball Team- 2004

This collection was part of a larger collection of military artifacts that was maintained and then donated by Deron Haught during his last semester at Glenville State University in the Fall of 2023.

Biographical Note: Deron R. Haught

Deron R. Haught was born in Parkersburg, WV in 1967 and was raised in Ritchie County, WV where he attended Smithville Elementary School and Harrisville High School. After graduation in 1985, Deron attended Fairmont State College and then joined the United States Army in 1990 as Artilleryman. As an enlisted Soldier Haught was stationed at Fort Sill, OK, Fort Lewis, WA and Fort Polk, LA. It was during his assignment to the 3rd Squadron of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Polk, LA that the unit was deployed in support of Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti which officially ended on March 31st, 1995 when it was transitioned to a United Nations Mission. After he assignment to the 2nd ACR he was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, KS. In 1999 Haught was accepted into the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, GA and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2000 and then stationed at Schofield Barracks, HI as part of the 25th Infantry Division. During his time in Hawaii, he was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq from January 2004 to February of 2005. After this assignment Haught was assigned to Fort Sill, OK and was again deployed to Iraq in January of 2008 to March of 2009. Haught retired from the Army in 2010 and moved to Allentown, PA where he taught military science at Lehigh University, served as a Division Chief in Tobyhanna Army Depot, and finally served as a Division Chief at New Cumberland, PA for the Defense Logistics Agency. Haught hold a bachelor's degree in human services from Upper Iowa University, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma, a certificate in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Vermont, a certificate in Bluegrass music from Glenville State University and is scheduled to graduate from GSU with a degree in Appalachian Studies in December of 2023.

Historical Note: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Iraqi Baseball Team- 2004

The genesis for the Iraqi Baseball team was a result of baseball equipment that was sent to Haught and his Soldiers while they were stationed in Altun Kurpi, Iraq. During their downtime the Soldiers played a modified game of baseball by using balls of duct tape as the ball and the end of a sleeping cot for the bat. When Haught's family members saw pictures of the Soldiers using their primitive baseball equipment they gathered bats, ball, and gloves and sent it to the unit. The confines of the Forward Operations Base were such that using a baseball and ball was impractical as the base was too small. As the local children of the community would gather to watch the Soldiers play their modified game of baseball, Haught came up with the idea to form two ethnically divided teams and teach them the game of baseball. Over a three-month period, the members of Haught's unit formed the two teams and held weekly practices at a nearby soccer field. On the 15th of September the two teams played what is believed to be the first baseball game in Altun Kurpi and perhaps all of Iraq. Numerous newspaper articles were published back in the United States following the game and pictures from the game, taken by AP reporter Jim Krane, published throughout the world.

Box Contents: -

Box # GSC20231115

File Folder 1- Baseball T-Shirt

Description: This T-Shirt was one of over twenty sent to Iraqi children to wear on game day on the 15th of September 2004

File Folder 2- Baseball Hat

Description: This hat was one of over twenty sent to Iraqi children to wear on game day on the 15th of September 2004

File Folder 3- Baseball Roster/Notebook

Description: The notebook served as the attendance roster for the weekly practices prior to the game. The writing in most of the book was by one of the units interpreters, Hikmat Sardon.

File Folder 4- Digital Photos

Description: The digital photos and videos on this disk were taken over a period on 3 months and include photos taken by Associated Press reporter, Jim Krane during the day of the game.

File Folder 5- New Paper Articles and Letter Sent with Baseball Equipment

Description: This folder includes various newspaper articles written about the baseball game on 15th of September 2004. It also includes a letter that was included in the shipment of baseball equipment that was sent my Haught's sister in West Virginia, Lori Harper, and his cousin Deanna McDuffie from Florida.

File Folder 6- Video posted on YouTube following the game

Description: This video was made by Haught after the game which was then burned to a DVD and sent via mail to Deanna McDuffie, who then posted it on YouTube. Because of limited bandwidth and connectivity issues Haught could not publish the video and thus sent the DVD to his cousin in Florida who subsequently posted it.