

## Gulf War



### 1990-1991

**Introduction**  
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### Defining the Gulf War

The following is an excerpt from *The Oxford Interactive Encyclopedia*:\*

Gulf War (1991), an international conflict in the Gulf region of Kuwait and Iraq. On 2 August 1990, Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein demanding control of its large and valuable oilfields and declaring Kuwait the nineteenth province of Iraq.

By 24 January Allied forces had established air supremacy, 'carpet bombing' Iraqi forces which could not shelter in the deserts of southern Iraq. The land war, named by Hussein as 'the mother of all battles', and by the UN forces under their Commander-in-Chief, General Norman Schwarzkopf, as 'Operation Desert Sabre' lasted from 24 to 28 February, during which time the Iraqi forces were routed by a massive Allied tank advance. The Allied offensive by air was called 'Operation Desert Storm'. On the Allied side the war was fought with sophisticated electronic equipment and weapons systems, notably the F-117 Stealth Fighter, laser-guided bombs, and depleted uranium shells for penetrating armour. Iraq's defence system, which included chemical and biological warheads intended for delivery by Soviet SCUD ballistic missiles, had been rendered ineffective by Allied bombing. By the end of February 1991, Hussein, having set fire to over 700 Kuwaiti oil wells, accepted the UN cease-fire terms, but had openly flouted these by early 1993. Final casualties of the war numbered some 33,000 Kuwaitis killed or captured, 234 Allied dead, and between 85,000 and 100,000 Iraqi soldiers killed.

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### Australian Involvement

 as quoted by the [Australian War Memorial](#)

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq on 2 August 1990 paved the way for the formation of a United Nations multinational force comprising 40,000 troops from thirty countries.

1,865 Australian Defence personnel were deployed in the Gulf War from August 1990 to September 1991. The force comprised units from the Army (48 personnel), Navy (1,572 personnel) and RAAF (170 personnel) in addition Army (72) and RAAF (3) provided personnel to Operation Habitat.

The Australian contribution was two Oliver Hazard Class frigates, the replenishment ship HMAS Success (relieved by HMAS Westralia in January 1991), HMAS Sydney (IV), HMAS Adelaide, HMAS Brisbane and HMAS Darwin. A detachment from the Army's 16th Air Defence Regiment, a RAN Clearance Diving Team, RAAF photo-interpreters, Defence Intelligence Organisation personnel, and 4

medical teams.

No deaths occurred among Australian personnel.

Operations were named Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Farewell.

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For an indepth overview, of Australia's involvement in the Gulf War [Click Here](#)

Alternatively you may like to click on one of the following headings:

[Detailed Account of the Persian Gulf War](#)  
[The Gulf War](#)



The Federal Government will take blood tests from thousands of veterans amid fears that Australian soldiers were exposed to uranium weapons. [Read More](#)



### Medal Information

[Australian Service Medals \[post WWII\] - images and Facts](#)  
[Medal Mounting: Australian Medals & Frames \[mounting & framing service\]](#)

### Forums: Gulf War & Military

[American Gulf War Veterans Association Message Forums](#)

## Book and Publications

### Historical Records and Official Publications

[Australian War Memorial Database](#)

[International War Crimes Tribunal- United States War Crimes Against Iraq](#)

### On-line Publications

[Experimental vaccines may be the cause of 'Gulf War Syndrome' by M. Ran](#)

[US Bombing: The Myth of Surgical Bombing in the Gulf War by Paul Walker](#)

## Sound, Video and/or Moving Image

### AWM : Film Database

*USNS Comfort (Hospital Ship) Persian Gulf War Jan-Mar 1991*, 27 Feb 1991 - 04 Mar 1991, 60 min.

Cinematographer: Col. Robert Atkinson RAAMC [[Accession Number: F04620](#)]

Summary: This video consists of a tour of the hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH-20 ) showing the medical facilities and crew living conditions. Also shown is a casualty drill with the casualties having simulated wounds.

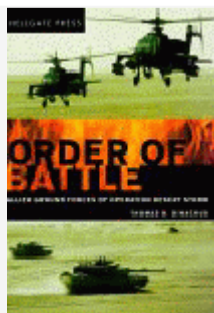
### AWM : Sound Database

*Major Ralph Sadler, Liaison Officer "Operation Habitat", interviewed by Darlene Cox about his service in Northern Iraq in 1991*, 06 May 1994, 3 min [[Accession Number: S01632](#)]

Summary: Medical services; TAPE 1: Unit named 1 Logistic Support Unit; total strength of 75 personnel; purpose was to provide medical aid to Kurdish people in Northern Iraq following uprising of Kurds against Iraqi Government after Gulf War; unit under operational command of British forces; communications problems; landmine fatalities; operational experience and skills gained; Iraqi secret police; success of mission; withdrawal of humanitarian relief operation; dealings with local Kurds; model for concept of contributing quick response units to multi-national operations; length of operation; reason that Major Ralph Sadler was chosen as unit liaison officer. END OF INTERVIEW

*Commodore Graeme Sloper, address to AWM Voluntary Guides about logistic support provided by the RAN to United Nations ships participating in the blockade of Iraq during the Gulf War in 1991, 27 Nov 1991, 1 hour 4 min* [Accession Number : S01576]

## Paperback and Hardcover



### *Order of Battle : Allied Ground Forces of Operation Desert Storm*

by Thomas D. Dinackus

This is a detailed study of the Allied ground combat units that served in Operation Desert Storm. It lists the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, British, French and Arab units that served in the Gulf and depicts the command relationships between the units before and during Desert Storm. Anyone interested in military history or war games, as well as those stationed in the Gulf during Operation Desert Storm, will be interested in this thoroughly researched and most authoritative listing of forces available.

Review courtesy of **Amazon.com**

## Further Reading

Anderson, David. *The Australian Response to the Gulf Crisis*. [Sydney] Pacific Security Research Institute, [1991?]

Bellamy, Christopher. *Expert Witness: a Defence Correspondent's Gulf War 1990-91*. Brassey's, London, 1993

Bennis, Phyllis and Moushabeck, Michel. *Beyond the Storm: Gulf Crisis Reader*. Edinburgh, Canongate P., 1992

Bickerton, Ian J. *43 Days: the Gulf War*. East Melbourne, Text Publishing, in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 1991

Billiere, Peter de la. *Storm Command: a personal account of the Gulf War*. London, Harper Collins, 1992

Freedman, Lawrence and Karsh, Efraim. *Gulf Conflict 1990-1991: Diplomacy and War in the New World Order*. London, Faber, 1993

Goot, Murray and Tiffen, Rodney. *Australia's Gulf War*. Carlton, Vic., Melbourne University Press, 1992

Hilo, Dilip. *Desert Shield to Desert Storm: the second Gulf War*. London, Harper Collins, 1992

*Operation Damask: being a record of Australia's participation prior to, during and after the Gulf War, Iraq-Kuwait 1990-1991*, edited by Frederick Kirkland. Cremorne, N.S.W., Plaza Historical Service, 1991