

Iraq bombing details released

Further details have been released about the attack which injured Galva resident Luke Siemers and three other members of the Galva National Guard unit in Iraq on Sept. 21.

According to Major Mike Kessel, commander of the Galva unit, the attack occurred about 3:35 p.m. Baghdad time. Siemers' unit was patrolling near the Green Zone when they stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle.

"While they were stopped, they had all civilian traffic stopped," Kessel explained. "A military convoy was passing and a civilian car pulled in right behind them and detonated."

Siemers suffered shrapnel wounds and a dislocated elbow, Kessel said.

Pvt. Dustin Hill of Wyandot was seriously injured. Hill, who was the gunner in the vehicle, lost one eye and suffered third-degree burns over one third of his body, Kessel said.

Hill was transported to Germany and then perhaps to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas — the best burn center in the military and one of the best facilities in the world, Kessel said.

Also injured were:

- Staff Sgt. Daniel Quimby of Henry, who sustained minor burns while working on another soldier

- Staff Sgt. David Jensen of Albany, who suffered a shrapnel wound to the thigh.

"He stayed at the scene to evacuate the others and secure the scene," Kessel said of Jensen.

Kessel said Jensen had to be ordered to the hospital.

Siemers, Quimby and Jensen have all returned to duty.

The Green Zone is a heavily-guarded area of closed-off streets in central Baghdad where U.S. occupation authorities live and work. It includes the main palaces of former President Saddam Hussein.

The car bombing was the third of four suffered around Baghdad in four days by the 202nd Air Defense

Artillery unit (Siemers' crew was the only one which had Galva-based Guardsmen involved), Kessel said. A bombing on Sept. 18 killed two U.S. soldiers and seriously injured nine others, Kessel said. An attack about a half hour earlier that day injured four American soldiers, one seriously, Kessel said.

The three bombings killed three Iraqis and injured about 15 more, according to Kessel.

"All were innocent bystanders," he said.

The bombers in all three cases were also killed.

"All of the soldiers have seen a great deal of tragedy over the past week," Kessel said by email Thursday. "Your continued thoughts and prayers are appreciated, especially for the wounded but also for the rest of the battery."

Kids to help mailing efforts

The Galva High School branch of the National Honor Society will be sponsoring a coin drive at both Galva Junior-Senior High School and Galva Elementary School from Monday, Oct. 4 through Friday, Oct. 15.

The funds generated will be placed in the National Guard Armory's "Postage Due" Account, which will go toward paying the postage for shipments to area Guardsmen in Iraq.

The idea for the coin drive originated with the students in the organization after reading in the *Galva News* about a shipment of school supplies to Iraqi children via Guardsmen that had been languishing in the Galva Post Office for lack of postage.

Since then, that shipment has been sent out, but there continues to be a need for these funds as shipments will still be sent.

The National Honor Society is led by sponsors Tom Thompson, a high school science teacher, and Susan Raley, a high school Spanish teacher.