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How we covered the story

By Star Courier staff

With the possible exception of the downtown Kewanee fire in 1942, the Star Courier has never had as many people working on one news story in our 107-year history than we did for Saturday's return from Iraq of Battery F, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, from Galva.

The team of seven was stretched strategically along the route.

Star Courier Editor Mike Berry was embedded with Henry County Sheriff Gib Cady in the lead squad car from the airport in Moline to the armory in Galva to get a "soldier's-eye" view of what the troops saw from their buses along the route as they returned.

Next, photographer Wendy Wyffels-Wilson was positioned in Annawan to capture the reception there, including the "Wall of Carharts," as one of the soldiers called it, when those attending the Hatzer & Nordstrom farm sale stopped and lined up along the road to wave.

Star Courier Publisher Sue Griffith was waiting at the north edge of Kewanee and was invited on board the Kewanee Fire Department's aerial ladder truck by Fire Chief Tom Weston as he passed by, allowing her to shoot pictures from the truck through Kewanee and into Galva. Star Courier Creative Director Janel Smith was positioned at Tenney and South streets to get shots as the buses passed under the huge flag suspended from Ratliff Brothers crane in Sullivan's parking lot.

Reporter Tammy Wilkinson and Regional Coordinator Dave Clarke were waiting with the anxious crowd at the National Guard Armory in Galva and, joined by Berry,

photographed the emotional homecoming ceremony and the reunion of the soldiers with their loved ones.

It was also the first time the newspaper has used a combination of cell phones, scanners and digital cameras to cover a major, multiple site event.

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