

Today's Issue...

- ▶ [Page One](#)
- ▶ [City](#)
- ▶ [Regional](#)
- ▶ [Sports](#)
- ▶ [Weather](#)
- ▶ [Obituaries](#)
- ▶ [World News](#)
- ▶ [Entertainment](#)
- ▶ [Town Hall](#)
- ▶ [Stock Quotes](#)
- ▶ [Health News](#)
- ▶ [Shopper](#)
- ▶ [Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [About Us](#)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Illinois Lottery](#)
- ▶ [e-mail](#)



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Web**

[Web Directory](#)
[Yellow Pages](#)
[White Pages](#)
[Meet Someone](#)
[My Page](#)
[City Guide](#)
[Lottery Results](#)
[Weather](#)
[Movie Listings](#)
[Maps/Directions](#)
[Horoscope](#)
[Greeting Cards](#)



Galva soldier in platoon pictured in this week's "People" magazine

By DAVE CLARKE Regional Coordinator

CAMP WAR EAGLE, Sadr City, Iraq -- His wife was the first to spot 1st Lt. Chris Doherty, one of two dozen members of a 1st Cavalry platoon lined up in front of their Bradleys in an article on one of the members in this week's (July 12) issue of "People" magazine.

Amanda Doherty, wife of the Galva native, picked up the magazine last weekend when she saw there was a story from Baghdad on the 1st Cavalry, her husband's outfit. "If you look closely at the group photo on page 67 you can see Chris," said Mrs. Doherty in a posting on the Galva/Kewanee Armed Services Page. "He is the fifth one on the bottom row from the left, holding a big gun. This is pretty exciting. I teared up and started screaming."

The magazine's "Up Front" section features a five-page story with photos, entitled "One Soldier's War," and includes entries from a web log being kept by Sgt. Levi Lohnes, 25, of Onarga, Ill., located about 25 miles southwest of Kankakee.

Lohnes, the article states, began to chronicle his life in wartime on a weblog which can be found at <http://leviraq.blogspot.com>. His accounts of everyday life in Iraq provide a "rare insight into the experiences of thousands of soldiers like him."

Log entries included in the article begin with March 15, when Lohnes was in a plane headed for Kuwait, and concludes with how he was dealing with lack of electricity on June 5.

The platoon photo including Lohnes, Doherty and the others is captioned with the sergeant's entry for June 28, "Happy Handover," for the day the world woke up to hear Iraq was a free nation. Other selected entries reveal the loss of friends and others in combat and his disgust with the soldiers who abused prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

1st Lt. Doherty is the son of Jim and Pam Doherty and a 1997 graduate of Galva High School. He and wife Amanda live in Carbondale. He is currently a field artillery officer with the 1st Cavalry's 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment stationed at Camp War Eagle. The U.S. base is at the edge of Sadr City, a sprawling Shiite slum with a population of 2 million in northern Baghdad.

The Galva native was in the thick of the Shiite uprising when it began in early April. The stronghold of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is still one of the most dangerous areas of the city, even after the transfer of power.

Doherty's Bradley fighting vehicle was shot 19 times while leading a procession to the rescue of a patrol which had been ambushed on April 4, now referred to as "Bloody Sunday," the first day of the month-long uprising. Eight soldiers were killed and 49 wounded in the ambush and subsequent rescue that day.

On the day of the handover, Monday, June 28, the unit was accompanied by CBS News anchorman Dan Rather as it patrolled the hostile streets.

[[Home Page](#)] [[City News](#)] [[Regional News](#)] [[Sports](#)] [[Obituaries](#)] [[Weather](#)] [[Editorial](#)] [[Photo Gallery](#)] [[Classifieds](#)] [[Calendar](#)] [[Archives](#)] [[Shopper](#)] [[Illinois Lottery](#)] [[About Us](#)] [[Email Us](#)] [[Health](#)] [[Entertainment](#)] [[Town Hall](#)] [[World News](#)] [[Stocks/Market](#)]
