

Ambush Site – 21 July 2003



HMMVV at 0630



After being struck by the RPG round, the HMMWV veered to the right, off the road, and then back to the left, stopping as it faced the east. The vehicle stopped two feet in front of the 1st Improved Explosive Device (IED) – a 105mm round wired to an electric battery.



This is the entry point for the RPG, fired from in front of the vehicle. The RPG partially exploded as it entered the vehicle, and continued through the rear of the vehicle, exiting out the right rear side of the tailgate.



Shrapnel from the RPG flew back through the driver's side and out the frame. The exit hole was elevated above the entry, indicating the RPG was fired from the road level, by an individual most likely at the crouch.





1st IED

Side View



Top View



Note: Wires attached to nose running away from device.



2nd IED

Wire leading up berm

Rock Pile and Wire

Rock Pile





Wires from both IEDs

Wire Spool



Battery



Observation Post

2nd IED



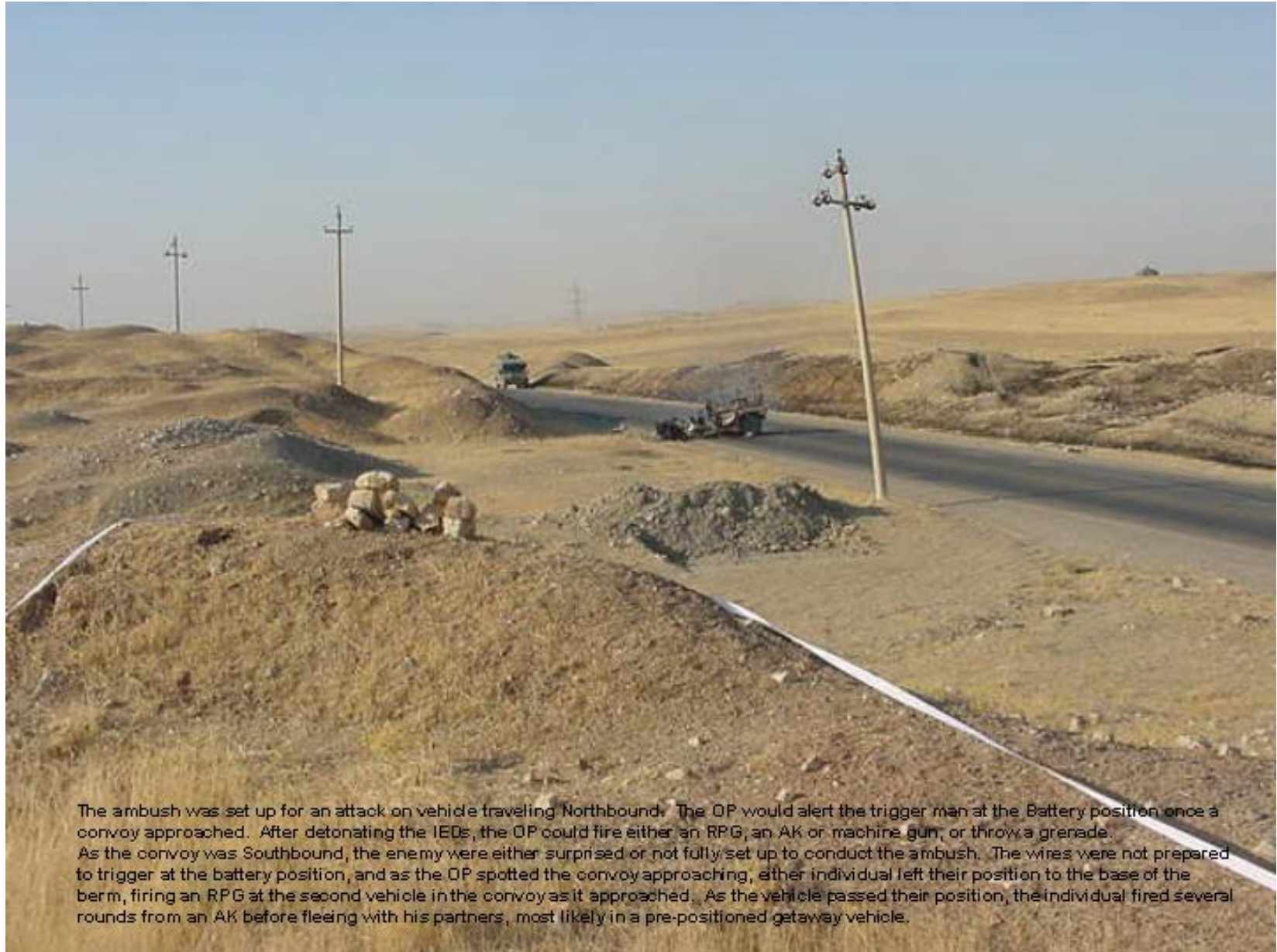
1st IED

Observation Post



RPG Satchel Bag
&
Elements





The ambush was set up for an attack on vehicle traveling Northbound. The OP would alert the trigger man at the Battery position once a convoy approached. After detonating the IEDs, the OP could fire either an RPG, an AK or machine gun, or throw a grenade. As the convoy was Southbound, the enemy were either surprised or not fully set up to conduct the ambush. The wires were not prepared to trigger at the battery position, and as the OP spotted the convoy approaching, either individual left their position to the base of the berm, firing an RPG at the second vehicle in the convoy as it approached. As the vehicle passed their position, the individual fired several rounds from an AK before fleeing with his partners, most likely in a pre-positioned getaway vehicle.

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