

spacecraftprojects

we are all astronauts

transmissions
angela peacock

Packing list:

I could only see the lights near the runway

we sat for hours, waiting

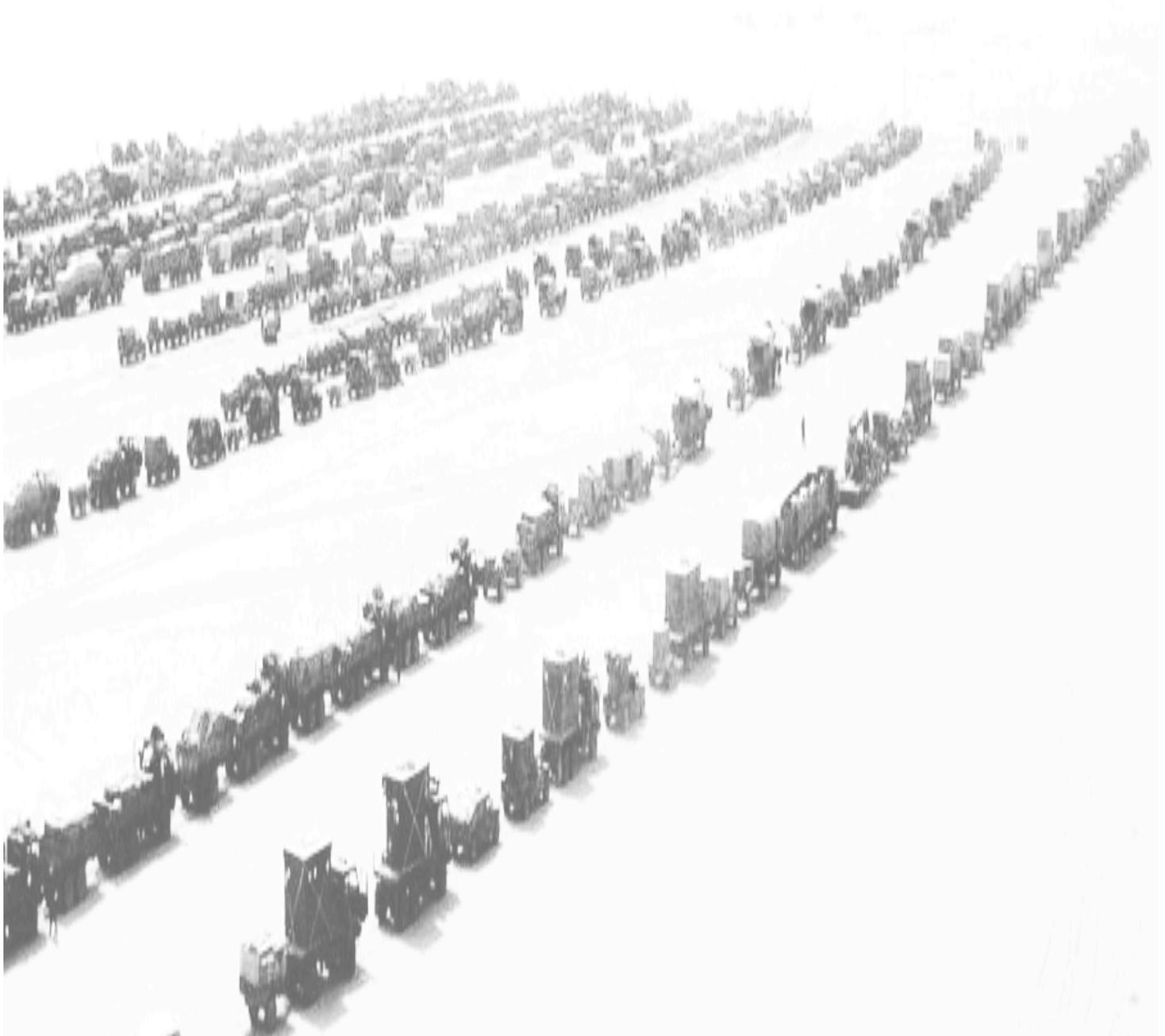
a green light needed for Kuwait

'shock and awe' had just happened

Baghdad bright with fire

your family watches on CNN from an American couch

you told them you have an office job you told them you won't be seeing any combat



Practice scenarios:

patch the wounded
carry the wounded
load the wounded
act as wounded
act as medic
prevent more wounded
your muscle will remember
lay suppressive fire
patch the wounded
carry the wounded
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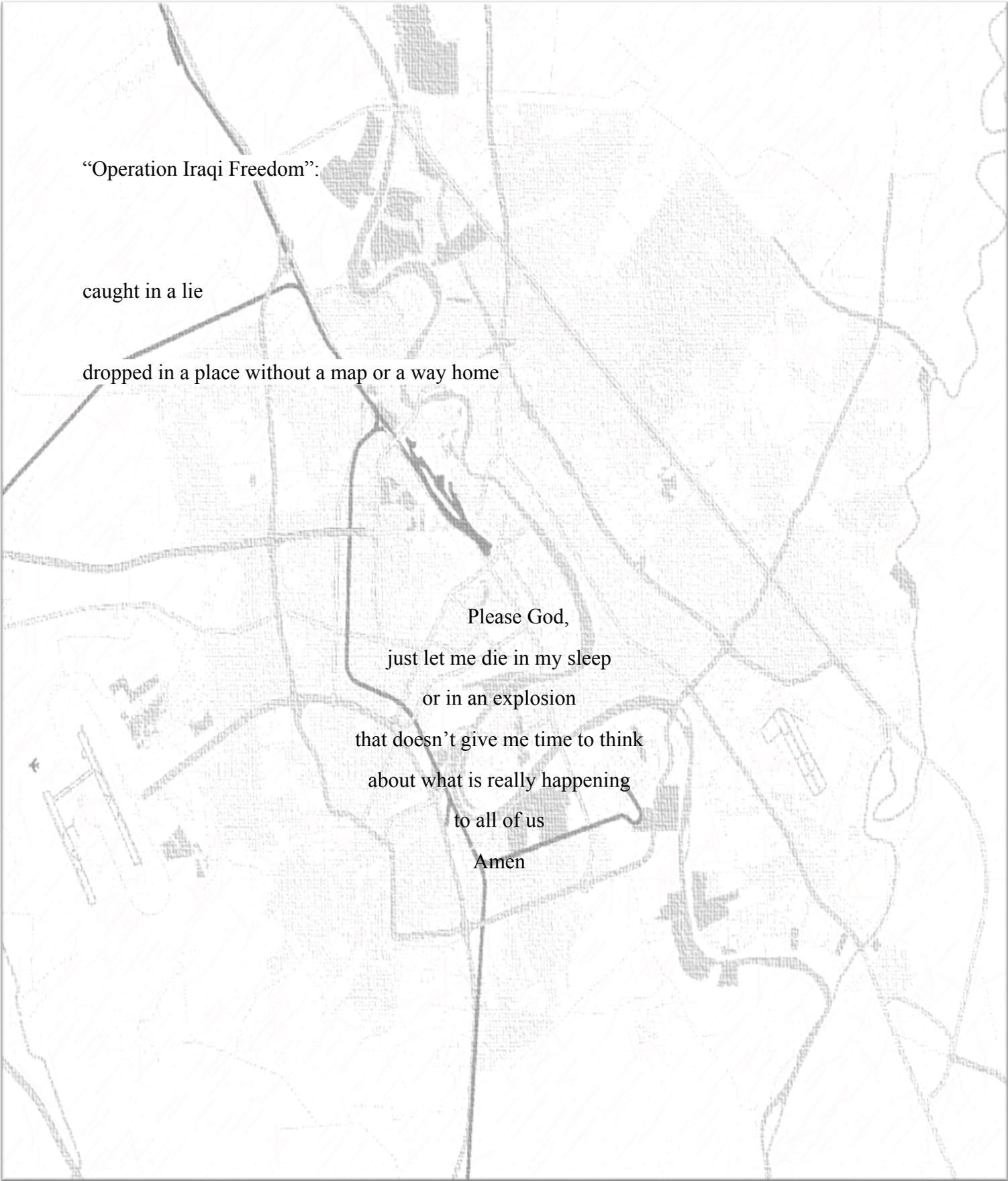
Scenario 2: How to interact with Iraqi children

An Iraqi child walks up to you,
“dolla dolla mistah,”
while trying to put a coke or a pack of cigarettes in your hand.

You are told to kick his little body away from you.

The cigarette carton and his cooler might have bombs inside.

Child as bomb.



“Operation Iraqi Freedom”:

caught in a lie

dropped in a place without a map or a way home

Please God,
just let me die in my sleep
or in an explosion
that doesn't give me time to think
about what is really happening
to all of us
Amen

You watch

your exhaled cigarette smoke

roll across your barrel.

To your right

and out

the open humvee window.

What would you think about

when watching a man move

through your M16 sights?

Your family back home?

Your first kiss?

The way a cold water splash feels when waking from a nightmare?

Saving your own ass first?

Foxhole prayers:

All the soldiers wrote letters

Scribbled on lined notebook paper

Hidden in their helmets or a pocket

of their flak jackets

in plastic sandwich bags

to shield the ink from sweat

or blood

They told me

one by one

where their letters were hidden

on their bodies

in case I was the one to find their bodies

I could retrieve the letter

to give to their mothers

Now I lay me down to sleep

I pray

the Lord my soul to

keep

The day I learned of your suicide

learn: verb, "to get knowledge, to think about"

screaming—dropped the phone

scream: verb, "to scare, to cry, to shriek"

I spoke to your ghost that whole week

ghost: noun, "one who secretly does work for another"

a year has passed

I have learned what you must have felt like in your final minutes

final: noun, "that which comes last"

This toxic body:

under periwinkle and peach sky

as I lie

on the blades looking up

where we all wish to be

where we all came from

before

I'm waiting for this all to make sense
but I am always distracted by
the contour of clouds

I tried to turn desert
sand into glass
so I could see through it