Some Propaganda Leaflets of the First Gulf War against Iraq

FRONT: COLOR. Copy of front Iraq 25 Dinar note. There are a number of versions of this piece. The Saudi’s were afraid that if the reproduction of the note was too good Iraq would retaliate by counterfeiting Saudi currency, so the propaganda leaflets were made slightly larger or slightly smaller than the actual Iraq note, but close enough that an Iraqi seeing it on the ground would be sure to pick it up as at the time the note was worth over $75.

BACK: B&W. “There is no difference between your money and this piece of paper. Worthless money is plentiful in the land and deprivation is spreading. No remedy is present. The suffering is growing. There is no nourishment, but there is filth. There is no soap or water to be found. The darkness has settled. The electricity is cut. You are in distress. You have needs, but your wife is not with you. You are afraid of Saddam, but you do not disobey. You are in eminent danger of death, but have no plans to change it. Oh people of Iraq, you still have the right to do something, yet you are sitting in your house. Oh soldiers, oh civilians, oh elders, oh youth, oh women, oh men. The time has come for you to respond to the call of duty. Rise up and flood the streets and alleys for the overthrow of Saddam and his supporters.” 19 lines.

FRONT: COLOR. Joint Forces seal and flags of 27 Joint Forces nations.
BACK: COLOR. Iraqi thinks of Coalition tanks and aircraft, thinks of wife and children "Brother Iraqi soldiers, our great tragedy is to want you to come back to Iraq dead or crippled." The message does not seem to make sense. Something got lost in the translation from English to Arabic. This is one of the few leaflets that has color on both sides.

FRONT: COLOR. Saddam walking away from splattered Iraq flag.
"Saddam is the only reason for the bombing of Iraq."
BACK: B&W. "It is the actions of Saddam Hussein which have forced the world to war with Iraq. The Joint Air Forces are making a great effort to avoid injuring innocent civilians. If Saddam puts Iraqi civilians in military headquarters to die instead of his thugs, then by this he shows he is ready to sacrifice all of you, the holy places, and the history of Iraq for his survival."

FRONT: B&W. Military equipment in civilian neighborhood.
"Innocent civilians are Saddam's first line of defense."
BACK: B&W. (same as above leaflet) "It is the actions of Saddam Hussein which have forced the world to war with Iraq. The Joint Air Forces are making a great effort to avoid injuring innocent civilians. If Saddam puts Iraqi civilians in military headquarters to die instead of his thugs, then by this he shows he is ready to sacrifice all of you, the holy places, and the history of Iraq for his survival."
FRONT: B&W. Bomb. "Warning! This is only the beginning. This could have been a real bomb. We have no desire to harm innocent people, but Saddam is leading you to certain death and destruction. We want you to know the truth! Saddam is the cause. Yes, the Multi-national forces have the ability to strike anywhere, and at any time. Warning!"

BACK: B&W. "Iraqi military forces: Saddam Hussein's policy of aggression is the only reason for the bombing of Iraq. The bombing is for military targets only. The Multi-national air forces have overwhelming air superiority. Resistance is useless. The outcome is inevitable. Save yourselves. Leave your weapons and immediately go to a safe area. Saddam is to blame!"

There are a number of other versions of this leaflet with different messages on the back.

FRONT: B&W. Saddam swings sword, cuts own head off. "Oops" and "Thud" in English.

BACK: B&W. "30 February 1991. Saddam's prediction: Be assured that I will solve the problem of Kuwait by the 30th of February..."

The drawing was prepared to be used as an editorial cartoon in a U.S. military publication. It was turned into a propaganda leaflet without the artist’s knowledge, which is why it is probably the only propaganda leaflet that bears the signature of its creator. It was probably an ineffective leaflet. Most Iraqis would not be able to read the English, nor would most understand the joke about solving the Kuwait problem by February 30. Iraq uses the Islamic calendar so they would not know that there is no date “February 30”

FRONT: B&W. Face of Saddam. "The cold face of death and war."

BACK: B&W. "Oh sons of Iraq! In death you lengthen the life of Saddam, but you shorten the life of your homeland, Iraq."