

# BAGHDAD DIARIES

## E-MAILS HOME FROM MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT ROSEMARIE WEBER

IN PREVIOUS WARS, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY RELIED ON SNAIL MAIL AND RARE PHONE CALLS TO KEEP IN TOUCH. IN THE WAR ON TERROR, INTERNET, E-MAIL AND ACCESSIBLE TELEPHONE SERVICE IMPROVED THE SPEED AND FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATION WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR MANY SERVICEWOMEN. MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT ROSEMARIE WEBER USED E-MAIL TO TELL FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT HER DAILY LIFE DURING HER TOUR OF DUTY IN BAGHDAD IN 2003.

WHILE THE HAT DOES NOTHING FOR ME, IT IS SERVICEABLE. IF YOU DESIRE A LITTLE EXTRA FLAIR, THERE ARE HANDY CUT-A-WAYS WHERE ONE CAN INSERT SMALL SHRUBBERIES AND OTHER NATIVE FAUNA. THE ACCESSORIES ARE FABULOUS, AND A GIRL SHOULDN'T BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITHOUT THEM. THE MATCHING PANTS AND OUTER BLOUSE ARE SHADES OF DESERT TAN, WHICH IS COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE FOR WEAR BEFORE AND AFTER MAY, AND THE SHOES ARE EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE. NOTE THE T-SHIRT AND VEST ARE COLOR COORDINATED IN A SUBTLE CAMOUFLAGE GREEN FOR A SMART LAYERED LOOK. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, DIGITAL IS VERY SLIMMING!

THE GRIMACE STEMS FROM A VERY SERIOUS, INDEED CRITICAL, LACK OF CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS!



*Master Gunnery Sergeant Rosemarie Weber*

FROM: WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
SENT: MONDAY, JULY 28, 2003 10:45 AM  
SUBJECT: ITEMS IN THE NEWS...

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE BEEN WATCHING CNN FOLLOWING THE DEATHS OF SADDAM'S SONS, UDAY AND QUSAY, EARLIER IN THE WEEK. A CNN COMMENTATOR IN BAGHDAD STATED, "IT IS CUSTOMARY THAT WHEN CELEBRATING, THE IRAQI'S WILL FIRE WEAPONS INTO THE AIR, I HAVE SEEN NONE OF THAT CELEBRATORY FIRE OCCURRING." IS CNN IN THE SAME CITY THE REST OF US ARE? LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE NIGHT AFTER THE DEATHS OF THE BROTHERS GRIM...

I LIVE IN THE FIRST ROW OF TRAILERS DIRECTLY BEHIND THE PALACE, BUT WITHIN THE COMPOUND. DIRECTLY BEHIND THE TRAILERS, IS THE CPA PROPERTY WAREHOUSE, BEHIND THAT A ROAD THAT RUNS ALONG THE TIGRIS AND THEN OF COURSE, THE RIVER ITSELF. ALL TOLD, WE ARE ABOUT 500 YARDS FROM THE RIVER, PERHAPS 700 FROM THE PART OF BAGHDAD THAT IS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE RIVER BEHIND US. AT ABOUT 1030 ON THE WEDNESDAY THE 23RD MY ROOMMATE AND I WERE JUST GOING TO SLEEP WHEN WE HEARD GUNFIRE; NOTHING SO VERY UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT SO WE ACKNOWLEDGED IT AND THEN PROMPTLY IGNORED IT. WE IGNORED IT THAT IS UNTIL IT BECAME RAPID AND SUSTAINED. WE TOOK REAL NOTICE WHEN WE HEARD THE US TROOPS RETURN FIRE IN EQUALLY RAPID AND SUSTAINED BURSTS. "WHEN OUT ON THE RIVER THERE AROSE SUCH A CLATTER, WE SPRANG FROM OUR BEDS TO SEE WHAT WAS THE MATTER, AWAY TO THE WINDOW WE FLEW LIKE A FLASH, TORE OPEN THE SHUTTERS AND THREW UP THE SASH; THEN WE GOT OUR GUNS!" THE SKY WAS ALIGHT WITH RED TRACER FIRE. AS DID MOST OTHERS IN THE COMPOUND, WE THOUGHT FOR SURE THE IRAQI'S WERE ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THROUGH THE PERIMETER. WE WENT OUTSIDE, GUNFIRE AND TRACER ROUNDS ARCED THROUGH THE SKY ON ALL SIDES OF THE COMPOUND. IT WAS CLOSE, VERY, VERY CLOSE. ABOUT THAT TIME THE CALL CAME TO EVACUATE THE TRAILERS. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN, JUST EVACUATE TO THE PALACE.

MY ROOMMATE AND I OPTED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE MASSES THAT WERE HEADED INTO THE PALACE, FIGURING OUR CHANCES WERE BETTER IF THE IRAQIS ANTICIPATED THAT AND WERE WAITING TO MOW EVERYONE DOWN. WE WENT TO THE POOL...IT PUT US IN AN ENCLOSED AREA, EASIER TO DEFEND AND PROTECTED FROM STRAY FIRE AND IN A SMALLER MORE MANAGEABLE GROUP. NOW NOT EVERYONE GOT THE CALL OR HEARD THE FIRE, BASED ON WHAT THEY WERE DOING AT THE TIME. A FRIEND TWO TRAILERS DOWN FROM MINE WAS READING WITH THE HEADPHONES ON. HE THOUGHT HE HEARD AN EXTERNAL NOISE, LOOKED UP, SAW A NASTY HOLE (PHOTO ATTACHED, KEEP IN MIND, THIS IS NOT MUZZLE VELOCITY, THIS IS JUST FROM THE ROUND FALLING) IN THE CEILING, THREE DENTS ON THE WALLS AND THEN LOOKED DOWN TO SEE A ROUND ON THE BED NEXT TO HIM!

WE DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL LATER IT WAS CELEBRATORY FIRE, NEVER MADE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GUNPLAY AND THE DEATHS OF UDAY AND QUASAY. IT MADE SENSE THE NEXT MORNING, BUT TRUTH BE TOLD, THERE WAS HOSTILE FIRE INTERMIXED WITH THE OTHER AND THE SOLDIERS ON THE PERIMETER DID HAVE TO RETURN FIRE IN A DECIDEDLY NON- CELEBRATORY FASHION. ...TWO OF OUR PERIMETER SOLDIERS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED BY FALLING ROUNDS. SO, I AM UNSURE JUST WHERE THAT CNN BAGHDAD CORRESPONDENT WAS, PERHAPS HE HAD HIS HEADPHONES ON, OR MAYBE HE'S JUST OBLIVIOUS, BUT HE CERTAINLY WASN'T AROUND HERE!"



*Views of the palace*



*Trailers. . . our homes*



*Bullet holes in the trailer*

FROM: WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
DATE: FRI, 1 AUG 2003 07:31:30 -0400  
SUBJECT: CONTRADICTIONS

LIFE HERE IS A SERIES OF CONTRADICTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS PAST WHATEVER DAY IT WAS, 27TH I THINK, THE IRAQI NATIONAL SYMPHONY PLAYED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR. THE PERFORMANCE WAS BY INVITATION ONLY AND THEN EACH UNIT GOT X NUMBER OF TICKETS ALSO. ...THE PERFORMANCE WAS HELD AT THE CONVENTION CENTER ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE PALACE; IT'S GOT SOME WAR DAMAGE, BUT IS FUNCTIONAL. SO, WE GET AS DRESSED UP AS ONE CAN GET IN CLOTHES THAT CAME OUT OF A SEA BAG (DUFFLE BAG FOR YOU AIR FORCE TYPES) AND OFF WE GO TO THE CONVENTION CENTER.

WE PARK IN A LOT STREWN WITH RUBBLE AND OTHER WAR DEBRIS AND GO INTO A CONCERT HALL THAT IS IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE. THE MUSIC STANDS AND CHAIRS ARE ALL SET UP ON STAGE, EVERYTHING LOOKS PRETTY NORMAL EXCEPT THE CHAIRS ARE WHITE PLASTIC LAWN CHAIRS AND THE AUDIENCE IS A RATHER ECLECTIC MIX OF IRAQI'S IN WESTERN AND TRADITIONAL GARB, US & COALITION MEMBERS IN EVERY STYLE OF DRESS FROM DC CASUAL TO FULL BATTLE DRESS, WITH HELMETS, BODY ARMOR AND WEAPONS...AND OF THE FOLKS THAT ARE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, MANY OF THOSE HAVE WEAPONS STRAPPED ON. THERE'S SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT ABOUT A GAL IN A SIMPLE BLACK COCKTAIL DRESS WITH AN M-4 STRAPPED TO HER BACK (NO, IT WASN'T ME)!

THE PERFORMANCE WAS GREAT; OF NOTE WAS THE FACT THAT THEY PLAYED THE TRADITIONAL IRAQI NATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE END...FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1958 WHEN THE BAATH PARTY DECIDED IT WAS A NO-GO. THE IRAQI'S IN THE AUDIENCE WENT NUTS, SOME JUST BROKE DOWN IN TEARS, OTHERS WERE CLAPPING, IT WAS A VERY MOVING AND SPECIAL THING TO WITNESS/BE A PART OF.

...I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME BUILDING OFFICES, MOVING FURNITURE AND DOING "HIRED GUN" MISSIONS. THESE DUTIES INCLUDE DRIVING IN THE CONVOY THAT GOES TO THE AIRPORT (GOT SHOT AT THE OTHER DAY WHEN MY VEHICLE GOT STUCK IN A TANK TRACK,) AND GOING ON SITE RECONS TO PLACES LIKE AMMO DUMPS, WEAPONS FACTORIES, BARRACKS AND OTHER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BUILDINGS. WE OFTEN ENCOUNTER RESISTANCE ON THESE TRIPS AS SQUATTERS DON'T WANT TO BE DISPLACED AND ROUGE MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN GUARD ARE OFTEN ON SITE OR IN THE AREA. OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE SHOTS FIRED, BUT NO INJURIES TO DATE, THEM OR US. THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION ON THE ROAD TWO WEEKS AGO THAT KILLED A FEW IRAQI'S, ONE A SMALL CHILD OF ABOUT 7 WHO WAS STANDING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. WE WERE FAR ENOUGH BEHIND TO AVOID ANY DANGER OF SHRAPNEL OR ANYTHING, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE, GET OUT AND BE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY. THE TWO OR THREE FROM THE TRUCK DIED INSTANTLY, WE COULDN'T EVEN ACCURATELY SAY IF THERE WERE TWO OR THREE. IT WAS A NASTY MESS. THE MOST TRAGIC PART OF IT WAS WONDERING HOW ... I WOULD LOCATE THAT KID'S FAMILY, DID THEY EVEN KNOW HE WAS GONE, HOW DO FIND THE FAMILY OF AN UNIDENTIFIED KID WHO MAY OR MAY NOT EVEN HAVE A PERMANENT RESIDENCE?

WATER IS BACK ON (HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A PORT-A-POTTY WHEN IT'S 125 DEGREES?), AND THE AIR IS FINALLY ON IN SOME PARTS OF THE PALACE, NOT, OF COURSE, OUR PART. I NOW HAVE MY OWN DESK AND COMPUTER AND THE ICE MACHINE WORKS SO TWICE A DAY WE GET ICE AND ACTUALLY DRINK SOMETHING, ANYTHING, COLD. MY BEST TO ALL,



*Street scenes in Baghdad*



FROM: WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
DATE: FRI, 1 AUG 2003 07:34:18 -0400  
SUBJECT: THOUGHTS/OBSERVATIONS

I WAS WALKING ABOUT THE PALACE A FEW EVENINGS AGO AND OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION THAT I THOUGHT WAS WORTHY OF SHARING.

IT IS SO HOT INSIDE THIS MARBLE STAIR MASTER THAT I TEND TO WALK MUCH SLOWER THAN I DO IN THE PENTAGON, SO I ACTUALLY HEARD A GOOD BIT OF THE DISCUSSION I AM ABOUT TO RELAY. THE HALL IS LONG; THE DOORS THAT LINE IT ARE USUALLY OPEN IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE ANY SLIGHT BREEZE. AS I CAME UPON A SMALL ROOM I HEARD A GROUP OF ABOUT 5-6 MALE VOICES LAMENTING THE CONDITIONS HERE. LIFE HERE IS PRETTY GOOD COMPARED TO SOME DEPLOYMENTS SO I FIGURED THE BOYS WERE MOST LIKELY YOUNG WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE BY WAY OF DEPLOYMENTS.

THE MOST POPULAR GRIPES WERE THE LACK OF AIR CONDITIONING, THE LACK OF LAUNDRY ACCOUNTABILITY, THE REPETITIVE NATURE OF THE MEALS IN THE CHOW HALL AND THE LACK OF WOMEN. MY INITIAL REACTION WAS TO BE SLIGHTLY OFFENDED; I THEN THOUGHT I WOULD POKE MY HEAD IN AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE "HEY, I RESENT/RESEMBLE THAT REMARK!" THEN I PULLED UP SHORT AND GAVE THE REMARK A MOMENT TO SETTLE AND I DECIDED IT WAS A GREAT COMMENT ABOUT WOMEN IN COMBAT SUPPORT ROLES.

THESE YOUNG MEN ACTUALLY DID NOT CONSIDER THE GALS IN THEIR UNIT/UNIFORMED FEMALE MEMBERS IN THE PALACE TO BE WOMEN, THEY WERE SIMPLY FELLOW SOLDIERS. AND, BEHAVIORALLY SPEAKING, THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE OBSERVED IN THE ACTIONS OF EVERYONE IN UNIFORM HERE. THE HEADS ARE CO-ED, THE SHOWERS ARE ALMOST CO-ED, MALE/FEMALE HOURS ARE POSTED, BUT THEY TEND TO BLEED INTO EACH OTHER, WHEN YOU HAVE TO SHOWER, YOU HAVE TO SHOWER. THE BIG GYPSY CAMPS AROUND THE PALACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE ARE CO-ED AND NOT UNIT SPECIFIC, I THINK THAT SAYS A LOT.

IT WAS NEVER THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE TOGETHER THAT SAID IT WOULDN'T WORK; IT WAS THE POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC. I THINK WE HAVE PROVEN AGAIN THAT OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM DO PUT THE MISSION FIRST. IT'S WHEN FOLKS ARE "IN THE REAR" THAT TROUBLE STARTS, MOSTLY BECAUSE WE DON'T KEEP OUR YOUNG TROOPS BUSY ENOUGH IN GARRISON. ANYWAY, JUST THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE MY THOUGHTS. FOR THE RECORD, HOWEVER, I STILL DISAGREE WITH WOMEN ON SUBS, I MEAN, JEEZ, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A SUB? GROSS!



*Soldiers together*

FROM: WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
DATE: FRI, 1 AUG 2003 07:37:41 -0400  
SUBJECT: DAILY LIFE IN THE PALACE

AND THE GOOD NEWS IS WE NOW HAVE AIR IN OUR PART OF THE PALACE!!! WONDER OF WONDERS, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES...IT'S LIKE WE'VE BEEN REBORN, ENERGY LEVELS ARE UP, PAPERS ARE COHERENT, WE HAVE STOPPED HAVING PHYSICAL ALTERCATIONS IN THE HALL TO MAKE ALL OUR DECISIONS AND MOST OF US CAN STAY AWAKE PAST 1400. THE BAD NEWS IS NOW THAT IT'S NOT 130 DEGREES AND WE ARE ALL NOT SWEATING WAY BEYOND PROFUSELY, WE ALL HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM DURING THE DAY AGAIN. YOU GUESSED IT, NO WATER IN OUR PART OF THE PALACE SO A SEEMINGLY SIMPLE TASK BECOMES AN ORDEAL. TO GO TO THE AIR CONDITIONED, CO-ED HEAD/LATRINE/BATHROOM, WE HAVE TO GO DOWN A TWO FLIGHT GIANT MARBLE STAIRCASE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE STAIR MASTER OR ASS MASTER, TRAVERSE A MAZE OF HALLWAYS TO THE SOUTH END OF THE PALACE, GO OUT THE BACK DOOR AND DOWN THE BACK ALLEY. SO, WHILE TEMPERS ARE SMOOTHING OUT, WE ARE STILL A BIT CRANKY. THANKFULLY, THE USMC HAS TAUGHT ME SOME SELF DISCIPLINE AND I CAN WAIT TILL MEAL HOURS WHEN I HAVE TO RUN THE OBSTACLE COURSE ANYWAY TO GO TO CHOW...OR MAYBE I'M JUST AFRAID OF THE STAIR MASTER!!

WE HAVE CONTRACTED LAUNDRY SERVICE AND DRY CLEANING. THE LAUNDRY IS BOSNIAN RUN AND THEY DO A FAIR JOB EXCEPT THAT CLOTHES ARE OFTEN LOST, WELL, NOT LOST, THEY JUST END UP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BAG. AS THERE IS NO WAY TO TRACE BACK AND FIND OUT WHERE YOUR STUFF ENDED UP YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT TILL YOU SPOT SOMEONE WEARING YOUR CLOTHES AND TRADE BACK. IT'S FAIRLY COMMON PRACTICE AS YOU END UP HAVING TO WEAR THE OTHER GUYS CLOTHES BECAUSE ALL YOURS ARE IN YET ANOTHER BAG SOMEWHERE. EVERYONE LAUGHED WHEN I PACKED 179 PAIRS OF SKIVVY DRAWERS...WELL, THEY'RE NOT LAUGHING HERE. THEY ALL HAVE SKIVVY ENVY AND WHEN THEY ARE DOWN TO ZERO PAIRS THEY COME CRYING TO THE TOP LOOKING FOR HANDOUTS...THEY ALL OWE ME. POWER IS GOOD!!



*Inside the palace*

FROM: WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
SENT: SUNDAY, AUGUST 03, 2003 11:46 PM  
SUBJECT: A DAY AT THE MARKET

THE TEMPO OF OPERATIONS HAS NOW PICKED UP TO THE POINT WHERE I ACTUALLY HAVE SOME ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES. ALONG WITH MY BUNKIE, I HAVE BUILT OUR OFFICE SPACES, TO INCLUDE WALLS, FURNISHINGS, PLUMBING AND ELECTRICITY. NEW ARRIVALS APPEAR DAILY AND SO WE HAVE BEGUN TO ATTACK OUR ACTUAL MISSION WHICH IS TO BUILD A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE IRAQI'S TO EMULATE. MOST OF OUR SUPPORT FUNCTIONS HERE ARE CONTRACTED OUT [TO CIVILIAN COMPANIES]. THEY DO EVERYTHING FROM FEED US, TO WASH OUR SKIVVIES TO BUILDING OUR WALLS TO PROVIDING OUR BILLETING. THEY ALSO SUB-CONTRACT THE HIRING OF LOCAL IRAQI'S FOR VARIOUS JOBS SUCH AS CLEANING AND TRANSLATING.

LAST WEEK I WENT DOWN TO SUPPLY AND CHECKED OUT A PERSON! UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IF EVER THERE WAS ONE. WE NEEDED A RECEPTIONIST THAT HAD DUAL LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, ENGLISH AND ARABIC, SO I FIGURE IT'S SOME HUGE ORDEAL THAT WILL TAKE WEEKS. SO I GO TO CHECK IT OUT AND THEY HAVE ME FILL OUT A HAND RECEIPT AND VWALA, I CHECKED OUT A RECEPTIONIST. SHE IS 25 AND HAS BEEN EDUCATED AT A UNIVERSITY, SHE SPEAKS VERY GOOD ENGLISH, IS VERY SWEET AND LISTENS TO BAD DISCO MUSIC. AT ANY RATE, SHE TOOK ME AND ONE OF THE OTHER GALS OUT TO THE MARKET TODAY.

THE PLACE IS A MAZE OF WINDING ALLEYS; LEVELS AND DIRECTION CHANGE WITHOUT WARNING, PEOPLE AND PATHETIC DONKEYS ARE EVERYWHERE. UP, DOWN, NORTH, SOUTH, DODGE A CART, BUMP INTO AN OLD LADY...IN A MATTER OF MINUTES YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU CAME IN OR HOW TO GET OUT.

AS YOU HEAD DOWN AN ALLEY INTO THE HEART OF THE MARKET YOU ARE OVERWHELMED! COMPLETE SENSORY OVERLOAD. IT IS A MARKET OF METAL SMITHS, SILVER SMITHS, TEXTILES, FOOD, PRODUCE, HARDWARE AND ANTIQUITIES. YOU SMELL PROPANE, MEAT GRILLING, DUST, AND GARBAGE AND THE SWEAT OF A THOUSAND HUMANS WHO DON'T SHOWER REGULARLY AS THEY COME TOGETHER IN A SMALL SPACE WHERE NO AIR CIRCULATES.

YOU HEAR THE HAMMERING OF CRAFTSMEN, THE CHATTER OF MERCHANTS LURING CUSTOMERS INTO THEIR STALLS, THE AGGRESSIVE CHATTER OF CUSTOMERS BARTERING WITH SHOP KEEPS, THE POUNDING OF CARTS ON UNEVEN DIRT ROADS, THE CART PUSHERS HOLLERING AT THE PEOPLE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY AND THE CRACKLE OF THE MEAT YOU SMELL GRILLING. EVERYTHING IS VIEWED THROUGH A VEIL OF DUST AND SMOKE; SILVER, BRASS, COPPER, TIN; TEXTILES IN EVERY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW (ALTHOUGH VERY FEW PEOPLE SEEM TO WEAR ANYTHING BUT BLACK AND SHADES OF TAN); OLD MEN AND OLD WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL GARB, YOUNG CITIZENS IN B MOVIE VERSIONS OF WESTERN ATTIRE; THE HOLLOW HAUNTED FACES OF THE OLD, WHO HAVE BEEN IN THIS MARKET FOR DECADES SCRATCHING OUT A LIVING; THE YOUNG EXPECTANT FACES OF THEIR GRANDCHILDREN WHO WILL INHERIT THOSE SAME STALLS.

YOU TOUCH EVERYTHING YOU SEE, BECAUSE YOU ARE COMPELLED TO. THE CRAFTSMANSHIP IS FINE AND THE CRAFTSMEN ARE PROUD. THE METAL IS DETAILED, THE TEXTILES ARE WOVEN TIGHTLY, THE CARPETS ARE PURE SILK, AND SOFT AGAINST YOUR FINGERS, AND THE ANTIQUES ARE ANCIENT. YOU CAN TASTE THE DUST, THE SMOKE, THE WAFTING AROMAS OF KEBABS GRILLING. THE MERCHANTS ARE AS EXCITED TO HAVE YOU THERE AS YOU ARE TO BE THERE. THEY ARE PROUD AND EAGER TO PLEASE, YOU ARE RESPECTFUL AND EAGER TO BE PLEASED; A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP AND A WONDERFUL DAY. I SPENT VERY LITTLE MONEY ON VERY MANY USELESS TRINKETS THAT I WILL, OF COURSE, BE PASSING ON TO SOME OF YOU! AND WHILE THE TRINKETS WILL FADE FROM MY MIND QUICKLY, THE EXPERIENCE OF PURCHASING THEM WILL BE WITH ME FOREVER. MY LOVE TO ALL, I DO SO WISH I COULD SHARE THIS WITH YOU, BUT ALAS, THESE BRIEF E-MAILS WILL HAVE TO DO.



*Scenes from the Sook*

SUBJECT: UP ON THE [PALACE] ROOF  
FROM: "WEBER, ROSEMARIE  
DATE: FRI, 8 AUG 2003 00:32:32 -0400

IT'S QUITE A VIEW...LOOKING OUT TO THE BACK OF THE PALACE TOWARD THE TIGRIS AND BAGHDAD. OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T SEE THE RIVER FOR THE TREES, WHICH ARE DATE PALMS BY THE WAY. SECOND PHOTO IS ME ON THE ROOF; IT'S SO BRIGHT WHEN THE SUN IS OUT THAT IT HURTS TO OPEN YOUR EYES. THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN AT ABOUT 0900 AS IT'S TOO HOT TO BE UP THERE MUCH LATER THAN THAT.

