



Iranian freelance photographer Fereydoun Ganjour (R), Major Ebrahim Mer'aati (C) and IRNA photojournalist Kazem Akhavan pose for a photo near Hamidiyeh, southwestern Iran, 1981.

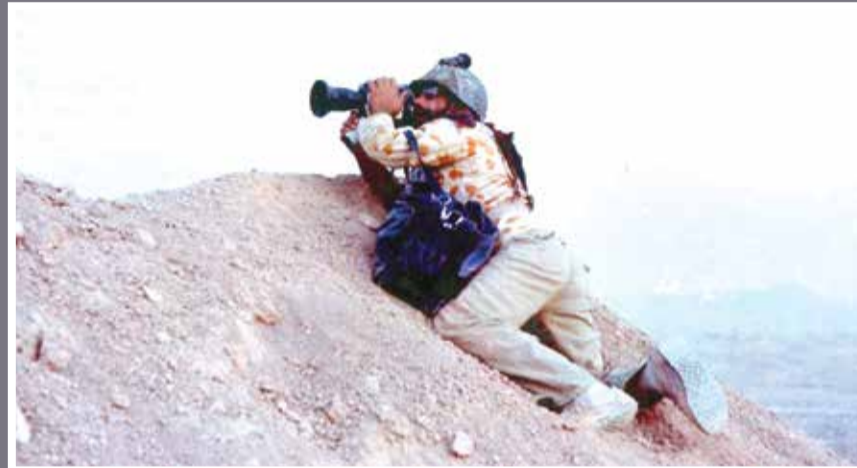


HOSSEIN NAQIZADEH/IRAN DAILY

Fereydoun Ganjour:

War photographer

“When you go to the fronts, you will become a soldier, that’s the long and short of it. A war photographer should be a soldier first.”



Iranian photojournalist Fereydoun Ganjour aims his camera from a frontline trench somewhere in Khuzestan, Iran, 1981, during the first year of Iraq’s invasion of Iran.



The photo taken by Iranian freelance photographer Fereydoun Ganjour shows the last moments of legendary commander Mostafa Chamran in an ambulance on Dehlavieh-Susangerd road in Khuzestan, Iran, on June 21, 1981.

This photo, along with other photos appearing on these two pages, depicting Iranian forces on the battlefields during the first year of the 1980s Iraq-Iran war, has been taken by Iranian photographer Fereydoun Ganjour.

“I threw my bag into the car and then pulled myself up. I was hanging from the car for quite a while.” Ganjour started filming and taking pictures of Chamran as soon as he regained his breath.
“I filmed it all. Since he was on the stretcher to the surgery room. The wound he had was not deep, and Dr. Chamran had no trouble breathing in the ambulance or the clinic,” recalls Ganjour.
“The wound on his head was minor, as it was apparent from a spoonful of blood on the bandage. The first mistake the medical staff made was they opened the bandage on his head.” Then, as Ganjour recalls, they made another mistake and clumsily put a tube in the Chamran’s mouth, “a pointless act as he had no trouble breathing.”

As they inserted the tube, Chamran got up and sat on the stretcher, with no one minding him from the back.
“Then Dr. Chamran fell and the wound on his head was cut open, and he was martyred due to the bleeding as he was being taken away.” Ganjour stopped filming and turned to the young medical staff.
“I asked him ‘Are you a doctor,’ to which he replied after a pause, ‘No, I’m an operating theater technician.’
After Chamran’s martyrdom, Ganjour returned to Ahvaz for his funeral, and there met Chamran’s younger brother and Kazem Akhavan – a fearless Iranian photojournalist – for the first time.
“The sadness we all felt was insurmountable. The loss of Dr. Chamran fell incredibly heavy on our hearts.”

