

B.F. Raid Releases New Album Combat Zone

Massachusetts heavy metal band transforms the streets, memories, and overlooked lives of Greater Boston into a ten-song musical documentary



Boston, Massachusetts Jul 30, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Massachusetts heavy metal band B.F. Raid has released its second full-length album, *Combat Zone*, a ten-song collection inspired by the changing streets of Boston and the people whose stories are rarely included in the city's polished public image.

Recorded at The Record Co. in Boston with engineer Jamie Rowe, *Combat Zone* is less a conventional

heavy metal album than an audio documentary about growing up and living in and around Boston. The record connects memories of the city's former Combat Zone with the present-day area surrounding Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, examining how neighborhoods may change while many of the underlying human struggles remain.

The album explores isolation, memory, desire, damaged relationships, survival, and the lasting consequences of personal choices. Despite its title and heavy musical presentation, Combat Zone is not built around violent themes. Its intensity comes from emotional tension, difficult circumstances, and the realities faced by people living outside the version of Boston commonly presented to visitors.

B.F. Raid consists of vocalist Bill Kotowski, guitarist Bruce Owens, bassist Matt "Moose" Howard, and drummer Jamie Forbes. Kotowski, Owens, and Forbes are originally from Malden, Massachusetts, while Howard is from Dallas, Texas. Their different musical backgrounds come together in a sound grounded in traditional heavy metal while incorporating progressive structures, punk directness, unconventional harmony, atmospheric passages, and a powerful rhythmic foundation.

Every composition on Combat Zone was shaped by the complete band. A song may have begun with a lyric, riff, vocal idea, bass line, keyboard texture, rhythm, or basic concept, but it continued to evolve as each member contributed to its structure and direction. Vocal phrasing could redirect a section, a bass line could redefine the harmony, a drum pattern could transform the movement of a song, and a guitar or keyboard part could introduce tension, atmosphere, or space.

Owens brings an atonal approach to guitar and composition, using dissonance, unexpected intervals, unresolved movement, and unconventional textures as part of the band's larger musical language. Howard's bass frequently provides the tonal center of the arrangements, grounding the compositions while also stepping forward at key moments as a solo or featured instrument. Kotowski's vocals give the songs their emotional and narrative focus, while Forbes' drumming supplies the weight, dynamics, and movement that connect the band's contrasting musical ideas.

The result is an ensemble in which no instrument is limited to a single role. The center of an arrangement can shift between the vocals, bass, drums, guitar, and keyboards, giving each member an equal part in determining the identity of the finished composition.

"No song reached the finish line exactly the way it started," Owens said. "Once all four of us began working on it, the structure, mood, and direction could change completely. Every member helped shape what the listener ultimately hears."

Combat Zone follows B.F. Raid's 2024 album, *Raided Again*, which introduced the current lineup to a wider audience. Songs including "Becky," "Hollywood With Snakes," and "Angel" received independent radio airplay and helped bring the band to the attention of listeners, broadcasters, and music publications in the United States and abroad.

While *Raided Again* established the chemistry of the current lineup, Combat Zone expands the band's musical and lyrical ambitions. The new album is rooted in the members' experiences and memories of Greater Boston, but it is not an exercise in nostalgia. It examines what happens when familiar neighborhoods disappear, people are displaced, and the struggles associated with one part of a city resurface somewhere else.

The album's ten tracks are "Bullets From the Board," "Divebar Allstars," "Down But Not Out," "The Greatest Show in Town," "On Causeway," "Pillow Princess," "Punchdrunk," "The Day I Killed Brian

Scott,” “Three Days Under,” and “What You Crave.”

“The Greatest Show in Town” establishes the album’s central theme by connecting the former Combat Zone with the present-day reality of Mass and Cass. “Divebar Allstars” turns its attention toward the musicians, workers, regulars, and familiar faces who form the backbone of neighborhood bars and local music communities. Across the full album, each track adds another character, memory, location, or perspective to a larger portrait of Boston and the surrounding communities.

Some of the stories on Combat Zone are raw, uncomfortable, and deeply personal. B.F. Raid does not attempt to romanticize the former Combat Zone, pass judgment on the people living around Mass and Cass, or offer simple answers to complicated circumstances. The band observes, remembers, and allows the people within the songs to remain fully human.

B.F. Raid approached the recording with the belief that heavy music should retain the personality of musicians playing and responding to one another. The performances preserve the movement, tension, and natural interaction of the band rather than removing every rough edge through excessive editing.

With Combat Zone, B.F. Raid has created a record that is unmistakably heavy metal and unmistakably connected to Greater Boston. It is the collective work of four musicians using their individual strengths to document a city, its changing neighborhoods, and the stories that remain after familiar landmarks have disappeared.

Combat Zone is available now through major streaming services. Additional music, videos, interviews, and album information can be found through B.F. Raid’s official website and social media pages.

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