



The Stand Alone Battalion

...a newsletter for the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahees)

ISSUE #3

Remembering a time and place as Currahees

December 2003

SECTION I

OUR LEGACY

- Currahee Patches
- The French Legionnaires & LZ BETTY
- Associations News
- 101st
- 506thbr
- 3-506th
- Battalion Newsletter
- Currahees' First Mascot
- Camp Toccoa And Twilight Zone
- 3/506th Holds World Record
- 3/506th Currahee First To Jump Into France in WW II
- "I Am Infantry"

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT

- Platoon Unity
- Currahee Physical Enhancement
- Operation NIGHT EAGLE
- To the 101st Airborne
- Almost A Marine - Part I

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

- The Last Roll Call
- Where Where We Then - Vietnam Decembers
- Battleship New Jersey [Update]
- Newspaper Articles
- Ape Call In Supply Schedule
- Awards & Decorations
- Moans of Wounded Enemy Echo at Night

SECTION IV

POST VIETNAM

- Knight Jumpers
- Trails, Careers & Families
- A Horse Named Currahee

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

- For Your Information
- Military Records
- Reunion 2004
- The "Currahee" PX
- Bookstore

OUR LEGACY

CURRAHEE PATCHES



I continue to find that some of our Currahees do not recognize the pair-of-dice patch as being the original (unauthorized) patch for the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR). The patch appeared early in 1942 and the 506th paratroopers wore the insignia from July 1942 until November 1945. The patch was also worn by the 506th Airborne Infantry battalions during the early part of the Vietnam War (April 1967 - May 1971).

The 506th PIR unit was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. The patch--A pair of dice, showing a five and a six, ringed by a black "O," all superimposed on a parachute represent the unit designation (506th Parachute Infantry Regiment). It was on Currahee Mountain that the men of the 506th were hardened sufficiently to enable the regiment to break the world march record held by the Japanese army. The 506th gained nationwide attention for this feat.

The 506th PIR was the first unit formed from the pool of paratrooper volunteers undergoing screening at the Camp Toombs (Toccoa). It was an experimental organization--the first parachute infantry regiment in which the men would take basic training and their jump school training together as a unit.

Most Currahees recognize the Currahee patch shown on the right, which is also an unauthorized insignia. It too is unauthorized. This 506th PIR patch appeared late in 1951. It is basically an embroidered replica of the distinctive insignia of the unit. The blue background represent the infantry. The thunderbolt indicates the regiment's threat and particular technique of attack: striking with speed, power, and surprise from the sky. The six parachutes designates the 506th as the sixth parachute regiment activated in the United States Army. The green silhouette represents Currahee Mountain, the site of the regiment's activation (Toccoa, Georgia). "Currahee" is the Cherokee equivalent for "stands alone," a trait for which the paratrooper is renowned. "Currahee!" was the cry of the 506th paratroopers as they cleared the door on their first jump, and it will continue to be their cry when in combat.



The Stephens County Historical Society maintains a museum in Toccoa off Georgia Highway 123 near the center of town at 313 Pond Street. Inside the

- PX News
- First Aid-Station
- Gravesite Program
- Taps
- Newsletter Information
- Subscriptions

museum, visitors can view an outstanding exhibit of memorabilia from the airborne training conducted at Camp Toombs during World War II. The museum is only open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

-----#####-----

OUR BATTALION NEWSLETTER

The "Stand Alone Battalion" publishes a monthly newsletter intended to keep our members informed on 3-506th happenings, to provide information, and to open windows into our military service with the battalion--Remembering a time and place as Currahees! Members will have an opportunity to see photos and read articles about their battalion, some never seen before or seen again since their tour of duty in Vietnam. For those Currahees that lost all their personal belongings or never had the means to collect and save these things during their tour, this newsletter will fill the void left by that time in their lives.

Our first edition of 'The Stand Alone Battalion' newsletter (October issue) provided readers with the format they can expect in subsequent editions--six sections: **Section I** - Editorial & Ramblings. **Section II** - Predeployment--Stories and information related to the days and months leading up to the deployment of the battalion to Vietnam. **Section III** - Vietnam Diary-- Stories and information related to battalion combat operations in the Vietnam War. **Section IV** - Post Vietnam--Stories and information related to Currahees after returning from Vietnam. **Section V** - Real Time--Stories and information related to news of today. **Section VI** - Publication & Assistance Information.

This newsletter will be published monthly and a subscription fee charged (see Section VI). Members are reminded to submit their recollections, photos, and articles for inclusion in the newsletter. *Be sure to click on any **thumbnail photo** to view it in a larger mode or **blue text**, which is a link to another document.*

THE FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES & LZ BETTY



Most of us who stayed at LZ BETTY near Phan Thiet at one time or other probably wondered who built the buildings, the bunkers, airstrip at LZ BETTY, as well as the paved highways

(QL 1 & 8).

Soldiers of the French Foreign Legion fought the Communist Viet Minh at Phan Thiet. Most Legionnaires that served in Indochina were not French, but Germans, Latin (Italian, Spanish or Portuguese), Western European, Scandinavian, British and "other".

When WW II began there were only four European regiments' in all of Indochina, of which the 5th Foreign Infantry Regiment (Regiment Etranger d'Infanterie, or 5th REI) was the sole Legion element (1940-46). The French Foreign Legion Regiments consisted of three battalions--1st, 2nd, and 3rd. As a result of heavy losses fighting the Japanese, the 5th REI was disbanded at Saigon in 1946.

and escort troops near Phan Thiet in February 1948, Legion engineers were called upon to fashion several armored trains. In October 1948, the first of two armored trains, manned by 100 Legionnaires, began operations.

Among the Legionnaires manning the armored train at Phan Thiet was Sgt. Ernie Klimonda, **2ème R.E.I.** Sgt. Ernie is pictured here in downtown Phan Thiet.



Each armored train consisted of two armored locomotives, 14 cars (including eight combat cars), one command post car, one aid station car and two lead flatcars loaded

with ties, rails and construction materials. The cars could communicate with each other by radio and telephone, and each was topped by turret-mounted machine guns. *"The Viet Minh was removing the rails with the help of some elephants and villagers," says Sgt. Ernie. "We put them back in place and a few days later*

In 1946, the 2nd REI arrived in Saigon. While the 3rd Bn. moved out to pacify Thu Duc near Bien Hoa, the 1st and 2nd battalions moved by ship to Nha Trang. They arrived there in February 1946 with a mission to clear and secure a 1,2000-square-kilometer stretch of coast between Cape Varella, north of Nha Trang, and Phan Thiet to the south. Regimental headquarters and the 2nd Battalion moved into Nha Trang; the 1st Battalion garrisoned Phan Rang, and the 3rd Battalion was stationed at Phan Thiet. Colonial Route 1 (RCI), known to us Currahees as simply Highway 1, and the Hanoi-Saigon railroad passed through this sector, and their security became the top priority of the 2nd REI.

The response of the Regiment was imaginative. At Phan Rang, Lieutenant Robert Cailaud formed a horse-mounted platoon to function as the 1st Battalion immediate reaction force. The regiment also eventually fielded several armored trains.

Armored Train, 2nd REI - Phan Thiet



With the 2nd REI security mission oriented to lines of communications, the Legionnaires placed high priority on the railroad running from Saigon to Hanoi. Following a number of ambushes and attacks

on the train in 1947, and the massacre of passengers

they were gone again. Cat and mouse play." Sgt. Ernie is pictured on the far right front in the above photo.



In addition to the normal armament, the train had eight twin Reibel machine guns, one turret-mounted 40mm Bofors gun, one turret-mounted 20mm anti-aircraft gun with infrared sights, grenade launchers, two 81mm mortars and two 60mm mortars. By 1952 two such armored trains were in operation, covering routes as far as Da Nang and Hue, and also to Dalat. In July 1954, the armored trains were turned over to the Vietnamese national Railroad Company.

After Indochina, Sgt. Ernie spent the remaining year or so in Algeria, Sidi-Bel-Abbes. In 1950, he entered civilian life and settled in Casablanca, Morocco. He did not want to return to his native Czechoslovakia, which was under communist rule at that time. He emigrated to the US in 1958, worked in a travel agency, and eventually made his career at the "IMF" (World Bank), and retired in 1987. Sgt. Ernie now lives in Fairfax, Virginia. If you wish to e-mail him, his address is: eklimonda@aol.net.

ASSOCIATIONS NEWS

101st Airborne Division Association

Want to join the 101st Airborne Division Association? Here's the information.

101st AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 929
2703 Michigan Ave.
Fort Campbell, KY 42223
Phone: (270) 439-0445
Fax: (270) 439-6645
Email: Assn101Abn@aol.com
Website: www.screamingeagle.org

Click on the above website link, print a membership form, fill it out, and send it in to National Headquarters via US mail. You may send in a check, or include your credit card number. Please note that you can become a

- Full Membership -- \$25.00. This package includes everything in the Basic Membership PLUS a complete Association Roster. The additional \$10.00 is to cover the printing and mailing costs of the full roster. Add \$5.00 if your mailing address is outside the U.S.

The membership year corresponds with the calendar year, so all Association memberships expire on December 31. They ask that members try to renew their membership by January 31 of each year. That gives them time to process the information on the Membership Forms in time for the March 31 cutoff date for getting new/updated information into the annual Association Roster, which is published in May, and mailed to dues-paying members along with new Membership Cards.

Donations over and above the dues are gladly accepted. Annual dues, donations, and net proceeds from sales of Association Decals, Polo Shirts, and other similar items

life member based upon your age;
Ages 18 to 40 = \$400.00 Ages 41 to 50 =\$350.00
Ages 51 to 60 =\$300.00
Ages 61 to 70 =\$250.00 Ages 71 to 80 =\$200.00
Ages over 80 = \$101.00

The 101st Airborne Division Association has a new on-line mail-list network called **101VetNet**. Larry Frazier (C/158th AVN VN 69-70) frazierlg@ctos.com writes: "On a trial basis, we want to try this network being provided to us free of charge by Steve Vaitl. We'd like to see if this feature can be useful to add value to our membership and a method to encourage others to join. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.screamingeagle.org/vetnet.htm>.

506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association

Organization and Membership - Membership is open to all those who have served or are serving in the 506th. Individuals who have served or are serving in units attached to or supporting the 506th. Spouses or other family members of any individual who served in the 506th. Individuals who have a special connection or association with the 506th. The 506th Assoc. has several Membership Levels:

- Basic Membership -- \$15.00. This package includes a 1 year membership; 3 issues of The Currahee newsletter; your Company Listing from the Association Roster; and your E-mail address listed in the Currahee E-mailRoom.

-----#####-----

OUR BATTALION NEWSLETTER

The "Stand Alone Battalion" publishes a monthly newsletter intended to keep our members informed on 3-506th happenings, to provide information, and to open windows into our military service with the battalion--Remembering a time and place as Currahees! Members will have an opportunity to see photos and read articles about their battalion, some never seen before or seen again since their tour of duty in Vietnam. For those Currahees that lost all their personal belongings or never had the means to collect and save these things during their tour, this newsletter will fill the void left by that time in their lives.

Our first edition of 'The Stand Alone Battalion' newsletter (October issue) provided readers with the format they can expect in subsequent editions--six sections: **Section I** - Editorial & Ramblings. **Section II** - Predeployment--Stories and information related to the days and months leading up to the deployment of the battalion to Vietnam. **Section III** - Vietnam Diary-- Stories and information related to battalion combat operations in the Vietnam War. **Section IV** - Post Vietnam--Stories and information related to Currahees after returning from Vietnam. **Section V** - Real Time--Stories and information related to news of today. **Section VI** - Publication & Assistance Information.

This newsletter will be published monthly and a subscription fee charged (see Section VI). Members are reminded to submit their recollections, photos, and articles for inclusion in the newsletter. *Be sure to click on any **thumbnail photo***

provide the financial support the Association needs to maintain a Currahee database; print and mail over 2,500 copies of The Currahee newsletter; update, print, and mail the Association Rosters; and pay for a non-commercial web site. For additional information, please visit:

<http://currahee.hispeed.com/>

3-506th Airborne Infantry Battalion Association (Unincorporated)

We are a 'rag-tag' stand alone, bastard battalion, the former 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahee), 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (1 April 1967 - 15 May 1971). Our association is committed to a four-phase goal. Phase I - Search & Gather Former Members & KIA Families. Phase II - Rendezvous Annually. Phase III - Maintain An Organization Website, Collect & Share Information. Phase IV - Integrate The 3-506th Organization Eventually Into The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association & 101st Airborne Division Association.

There are no membership fees to belong to the 3-506th at present time. Membership is open to all those who served in the 3-506th or attached to or supported the 3-506th. Spouses or other family members of any individual who served in the 506th are welcomed as honorary members.

to view it in a larger mode or [blue text](#), which is a link to another document.

-----#####-----

CURRAHEES' FIRST MASCOT

During the 506th training at Camp Toccoa, a small dog from a local farm had always run out to greet them as they marched by. When the unit had completed its training at Camp Toccoa in December of 1942, the men asked the dog's owner if they might take the dog along as their mascot. The farmer eventually agreed, and the little dog not only went on the record-setting march to Atlanta, but it went all the way with the men to Europe. [Donna, rewrite].

-----#####-----

WHAT CONNECTION DOES CAMP TOCCOA AND THE TWILIGHT ZONE HAVE IN COMMON?

Rod Sterling, creator of the popular television series "The Twilight Zone", was sent to Camp Toccoa in 1943 to be screened for his fitness as a paratrooper. Though initially rejected because of his size (5'5"), Sterling persuaded the Camp commander to overlook this requirement and allow him to train with the 511th PIR. He completed the rigorous training at Camp Toccoa and went on to become a member of the 511th PIR of the 11th Abn. Div. He served honorably in combat in the Philippines and was wounded by shrapnel.

-----#####-----

The 3/506th Holds World Record For A Force March By A Military Unit

While at Camp Toccoa, Colonel Sink read in *Readers Digest* magazine about a Japanese battalion that had set a record by marching 100 miles down the Malay Peninsula in 72 hours. Colonel Sink was certain one of his battalions could better that mark. Since his regiment was moving to Fort Benning anyway, he decided to send his 2nd Battalion on a 118-mile march to Atlanta to challenge the record.

In late November 1942, the 506th was alerted to move to Fort Benning Georgia for parachute training. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment traveled by train from Toccoa to Fort Benning. The 2nd Battalion marched by foot from Camp Toccoa to Atlanta, Georgia, approximately 140 miles. The 3rd Battalion rode the train to Atlanta and forced

marched 162 miles in 72 hours to Fort Benning, Georgia, setting a new world record for a forced march by a military unit by surpassing the record formerly held by the Japanese Army.

On December 1, 1943, the 2nd battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment began a 118-mile march to Atlanta, Georgia. They were challenging a record set by a Japanese battalion which reportedly had marched 100 miles in 72 hours down the Malay Peninsula. The 2nd battalion arrived at Five Points in Atlanta in 33 hours and 3 minutes of actual marching time, shattering the Japanese record. The 506th gained nationwide attention for this feat, but the 3-506th holds the world record for a forced march by a military unit.

-----#####-----

3/506TH CURRAHEE FIRST U.S. SOLDIER TO PARACHUTE INTO EUROPE DURING WW II



The 3/506th arrived in Liverpool, England on September 17, 1943, one year after 3/506th paratrooper Joseph Beyrle (Co. I, 3/506th PIR) had entered the United States Army. The next nine months were spent on further training for the Currahees. In January 1944, paratrooper Beyrle was picked to attend British jump school. After three jumps from a barrage balloon, two from an aircraft, he received his British Wings. In April and May, he volunteered for a secret and dangerous mission to take gold into occupied France. He was one of three picked from the 506th Regiment. They were moved to an airfield at Middle Wallop for training and briefing, from there to an airfield north of Bournemouth where they were briefed on a mission, not told where they would jump and issued heavy waist bandoliers with gold coins. He never was told who the other paratroopers were. The group flew into France, jumped at night, and were picked up by members

of the French Underground. After turning over his bandolier of gold coins, Beyrle was taken to a safe house, where he ate and rested. For the next 7-10 days they moved continuously and eventually were picked up by plane at night and returned to England. In early May, the group performed another similar mission.

Be sure to read Joe's book--*The Simple Sounds of Freedom*--the true story of paratrooper Joseph Beyrle (Co. I, 3/506th PIR), the first American paratrooper to land in Normandy and the only soldier to fight for both America and the Soviet Union during World War II. It is a story of battle, captures, escapes, recaptures, and re-escapes, then battle once more, in the final months of fighting on the Eastern Front. You can order a copy of Joe's book from the link on our Gift Shop.

I AM INFANTRY

I am the Infantry--Queen of Battle! For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the suppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there am I. ..I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glinted from the sword and I, begrimed and battered. ..saw a Nation born. Hardship. ..and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, showed the fury of my long rifle. ..and cam~ of age. I am the Infantry! Westward I pushed with wagon trains. ..moved an empire across the plains. ..extended freedom's borders and tamed the wild frontier. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I was with Scott at Vera Cruz ...hunted the guerrilla in the mountain passes. ..and scaled the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march many miles from the old Alamo.

From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Grey were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong. .. proved that this nation could right a wrong. ..and long endure. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I led the charge up San Juan Hill ...scaled the walls of old Tientsin ... and stalked the Moro in the steaming jungle still. ..always the vanguard. I am the Infantry!

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg Line. ..in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine. ..and didn't come back till it was "over, over there." I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

A generation older at Bataan, I briefly bled, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore. ..learned my lesson the hard way in the desert sands. ..pressed my buttons into the beach at Anzio ... and bounced into Rome with determination and resolve. I am the Infantry!

The English channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerows could not hold me. ..I broke out at St Lo, unbent the Bulge. ..vaulted the Rhine ...and swarmed the Heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead.

In the Pacific, from island to island I hopped... hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle...I set the Rising Sun. I am the Infantry!

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan ...swept across the frozen Han ...outflanked the Reds at Inchon ...and marched to the Yalu. FOLLOW ME!

Around the world, I stand. ..ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed... and calm returned. At Berlin's gate, I scorned the Wall of Shame. I am the Infantry!

My bayonet...on the wings of power...keeps the peace worldwide. And despots, falsely garbed in freedom's mantle, falter...hide. My ally in the paddies and the forest. ..I teach, I aid, I lead. FOLLOW ME!

Where brave men fight...there fight I. In freedom's cause...I live, I die. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong ...the Queen of Battle !

Always ready. ..then, now and forever. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!



SECTION II

...a newsletter for the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahees)

ISSUE #3

Remembering a time and place as Currahees

December 2003

SECTION I

OUR LEGACY

- Currahee Patches
- The French Legionnaires & LZ BETTY
- Associations News
- 101st
- 506thbr
- 3-506th
- Battalion Newsletter
- Currahees' First Mascot
- Camp Toccoa And Twilight Zone
- 3/506th Holds World Record
- 3/506th Currahee First To Jump Into France in WW II
- "I Am Infantry"

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT

- Platoon Unity
- Currahee Physical Enhancement
- Operation NIGHT EAGLE
- To the 101st Airborne
- Almost A Marine - Part I

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

- The Last Roll Call
- Where Where We Then - Vietnam Decembers
- Battleship New Jersey [Update]
- Newspaper Articles
- Ape Call In Supply Schedule
- Awards & Decorations
- Moans of Wounded Enemy Echo at Night

SECTION IV

POST VIETNAM

- Knight Jumpers
- Trails, Careers & Families
- - A Horse Named Currahee

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

- For Your Information
- Military Records
- Reunion 2004
- The "Currahee" PX
- Bookstore
- PX News
- First Aid-Station
- Gravesite Program
- Taps
- Newsletter Information
- Subscriptions

PREDEPLOYMENT & PRE VIETNAM STORIES

1. PLATOON UNITY

by Michael "El Can" Mullican (4/A 3-506th 1967/68)

"We use to work 1/2 day on Saturdays and would finish the day with an inspection? Well, when Norman Rockwell who was the leader of the American Nazi Party was killed, Pfc. Lewis Oswald, who we called "Harper" broke out with a black arm band in his memory. PSG John Gfeller (4/A 1967/68 - KIA 2/19/68) would go down each file in formation and review each troop. When he got to Harper and discovered the arm band, he knew he had Harper dead to rights as Harper was always 'different'. PSG Gfeller thought this would be an opportune time to teach Harper a lesson by using his own friends against Harper, since we could not be dismissed to go on pass until this issue was settled.

PSG Gfeller told the whole platoon to go back in the barrack and either all come back with arm bands or all come back without them. He figured we would jump Harper and set him on the right path. Well, we all came back to formation 15 minutes later and you guessed it, we all had black armbands on as a symbol of platoon unity. This is really what Sgt. 'G' wanted out of us, anyways. To PSG Gfeller's credit he dismissed us without further ado."

2. CURRAHEE PHYSICAL ENHANCEMENT

by Terona Chivers (B/C 3-506th 1967/68)

"It was during Operation NIGHT EAGLE when we were in the Mountains in Tennessee and had just setup for the night, when one of our black Currahee, SP4 William Harvin, who at that time was one of my Fire Team leaders stumbled into a bunch of yellow jackets. Within a year or so of the 3-506th being reactivated, the National Geographic magazine had done an article of tribes in Africa that disfigure themselves and considered it beautiful. Some of the pictures showed them stretching their bottom lip to a size as big as a plate. You might remember this article. In any case Harvin was stung on his bottom lip and it was swollen harmoniously, it made him look just like one of the Africans in the pictures that the magazine had done. I don't remember whether or not they Medevac Harvin out of there, but man it was rough on everybody trying to keep from laughing."

-----#####-----

Operation NIGHT EAGLE

During the their five-month training for combat in Vietnam, the "Bastard Battalion" participated in or conducted three large war game exercises--Operation GOBLIN HUNT I, Operation CROCIGATOR, and Operation **NIGHT EAGLE**. This was to be our third and last major training operation prior to deployment to Vietnam.



During the month of August, the 3-506 entered the final stages of its intensive training in preparation for combat in Vietnam. The entire Battalion went to the rugged mountain terrain of the Appalachian Mountains in the Cherokee National Forest of Tennessee to learn counter-guerrilla tactics and mountain training. The Appalachian

Mountains gave the Currahees the perfect opportunity to conduct realistic combat training on a landscape very similar to the terrain they would encounter in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. The 3-506 joined with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry during the first part of August to conduct counter-guerrilla tactics. These were based on lessons learned from ongoing 1st Brigade operations in Vietnam.

Captain R. M. Williams and his Alpha Knights (1-506) assumed the role of the aggressor force against LTC Geraci's paratroopers, who would attempt to out-maneuver them under quite realistic combat conditions. The Alpha Knights set up ambushes against the 3-506, attacked their defensive positions, set up booby-traps, and constantly harassed the 3-506 troop movements. They even arranged a few "human wave" attacks against the paratroopers of the 3-506, but the Alpha Knights often found themselves to be no match for the "Bastard Battalion".

From August 15 to August 22, the Battalion was still in the mountains of the Cherokee National Forest of Tennessee conducting mountain training. The purpose of the mountain training exercise was to

instruct the leaders and troops of the battalion in the art of small unit tactics within mountainous terrain. All of the training during the weeklong exercise was conducted at night, using ambushes, counter-ambushes, and combat patrols from the squad to company level designed to "steal the night away" from the enemy.

August also brought "Warning Orders" for the two remaining brigades of the 101st Airborne Division--the 2nd and 3rd Brigades--to prepare for deployment to Vietnam. The 3-506 was now scheduled for deployment in early October, and the remainder of the Division would ultimately be deployed to South Vietnam in December. The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division had been in South Vietnam since July of 1965.

After successfully completing the last phases of the Battalion ATT, as well as the Battalion Readiness Test, the 3-506 had proved to the satisfaction of LTC Geraci that after four months of intensive training they were now fully prepared for combat in South Vietnam.

On August 24, the Battalion began the process for overseas movement of the battalion. This was divided into three phases--Post Clearance; POM (Preparation For Overseas Movement) Check, and a Final POM Records Check. It would take an entire month to complete the process. The advanced party would be processed first, followed by the rest of the battalion in company groups.

Paratroopers of the 3-506 were granted their final leaves in groups before deployment overseas.

-----#####-----

TO THE 101ST AIRBORNE

Through steaming jungles they march each day, With only
God to guide their way.

They know their job, with training and sill,
Keep them alive, and sheer force of will.

Their constant companion, an M-16,
Mortars, grenades, and sight so keen.
Each mission a challenge, to man and gun,
In teaming rain, and too much sun.

In towns and villages, like Nha Trang,
Then back to base camp at Phan Rang.
These men are part of the famous "Strike Force",
Of the First Brigade, 101st, of course!

Yes, these are the men of the 101st,
Always fighting hunger and thirst,
From Normandy in forty-four,
In Asia now, another war.

From jungles, to paddies, to mountain trails,
They search out VC, and must not fall,
To free this country, so war-torn,
America's finest, the 101st Airborne!

"Screaming Eagles" they're known by all,
Braver men, we can't recall.
In battles past, they've had their fame,
Of the First Brigade, 101st, of course!
Now Vietnam, they've won acclaim.

On each man's chest, are silver wings,
These are his pride, above all things.
These men are soldiers, paratroopers sworn,
To the First Brigade, 101st Airborne!

By Mary martin

ALMOST A MARINE

"I wanna to be an airborne marine"
"I wanna live a life of danger...WHOA!
Something isn't right here! I'll let Grimaldo tell his story.

In SP4 Grimaldo Urich-Vivar's Own Words....

PART I



As far as I can remember since 1960, I always wanted to be in the military. In Perú, my homeland, summer vacation is from December 20 to March 31. In Callao, the harbor city where I was born, there is an old Spanish

fortress named Real Felipe. When I was 14 years old, I would always go there during the summer for two reasons--it had a museum and there was a Peruvian army airborne battalion (39th Abn. Bn.) stationed there. I would never miss a Second World War movie, especially about the Marine landings and the combat jumps of the 101st Abn Div and 82nd Abn Div. After each movie, I would go to the Real Felipe to talk to the paratroopers. Sometimes my friends would go with me to this fortress, but usually I would go alone. According to my friends, it was stupid to go continuously to that fortress and see the same things over and over again.

Beginning with the 1963 school season (school in Perú begins in April and ends on mid December), I began attending a Catholic school of the Maryknoll order. The distance from my home in Callao to Lima, where the school was located, was about 16 to 18 miles, so I had to

uncles. My uncle Hans' wife offered to pay my one-way trip to Miami. So around 27 December 1966, I traveled to Miami with 25-cent in my pocket and an address and phone number of the family of a high school friend (his mother was a US citizen). I called them, and they took me to their home.

The next day, I went to the marine recruiting office. The gunny Sgt. told me to come back the following week. He needed to check if I could enlist because of some immigration papers. When I returned, he said that I needed a green card to join the Marines and that the only way to do it was to return to Perú and apply for an immigrant visa, not the tourist visa that I presently had. He gave me a letter addressed to the military attaché in Peru, which mentioned my situation as a potential volunteer to the Marines. I told him that I did not have money for the return trip to Peru. The recruiter apologized, but there was nothing else he could do.

To make a long story short, I worked for about three months as a dishwasher at a restaurant to save money for a round-trip plane ticket (Miami-Lima-Miami). I returned to Lima around the

take the bus every day. It is a school run by American priests and nuns. Believe it or not, most of the priests were soldiers or marine veterans of World War II. Some of them told me that this conflict had a great influence on them becoming Catholic priests.



So there I was, passing by the US Embassy going to the school and also going back home, five days a week. That is how I began noticing the Marines on guard duty in front of the embassy

building. It was an informal guard, not like the British. At the school, I was always trying to convince the priests to talk about their WW II service. From time to time, I would drop from the bus when returning home, just to talk to the Marines. On the weekends, I would talk to my friends about the Marines. My parents assumed that it was just something like a juvenile fantasy world. After all, you could see on the news (1965, my last year of high school) the heavy casualties from the Ia Drang battle and two Marine combat operations.

When my parents and the priests at the school realized that I was serious about going to the US and joining the Marines, they tried to persuade me not to. The priests would try to tell me about the horrors of armed conflicts and my parents would not give me a penny to travel.

Right after I graduated, I remember going to see the US military attaché (US Army Colonel) and telling him that I wanted to volunteer for the Marines, but he told me that for political reasons he could not recruit me in Lima. I had to be physically in the USA and go on my own to a recruiting office to join the Marines. It took me about a year to fund my travel expenses and fix my travel papers. I must have bothered the military attaché and the Marine guards so much that I must have been a nuisance. I even went to father La Salle, one of the school priests, to see if he could convince the Army attaché to recruit me in the embassy so that they could give me the travel expenses.

About six months prior to graduating from High School, one of my uncles passed away (Hans Hilburg) with lung cancer. He left some insurance money to my aunt. Of course, at that time I did not know about the money or exactly how much he left to my aunt. But by November 1966, I decided to talk to all my aunts and

end of March 1967. My parents were happy, thinking that I had changed my mind about becoming a Marine. I told them about the necessity of obtaining a green card to join the Marines. I went back to see the Military Attaché, who was surprised to see me again. He told me that he was under the impression that I just wanted to go to the USA just to work. Up to that point, he did not realize how much I wanted to join the Marines. After some consultation, he convinced the American Consul to give me the immigrant visa.

Around the 24 or 25 of May 1967, I traveled to Miami for the second time. I arrived at about 1700 hrs on a Thursday. This time I was planning to stay overnight at the airport and go to the Marine recruiting office the next morning. At about 2300 hrs, a policeman approached me and asked me if I was waiting for somebody. I explained to him that I had just arrived from Perú to join the Marines. I was so proud when I said that to him. His reply kind of threw me off. "Don't be a fool," he said. "Get an education and work, but do not join the services; you will end up in Viet Nam as cannon fodder." For the next hour, he tried to explain why I should not join the military.

Do not forget--I was raised with the WW II movies. I could not understand why a US policeman would not have anything nice to say about his country's military. He was not rude, but I just could not understand. When he realized that he could not change my mind, he gave me a ten dollar bill and told me to go and get something to eat inside the airport and that when his relief showed up, he would tell him to show me what bus to take to go downtown to the recruiting office.

Picture Caption: The day I left Perú for Miami full of illusions in December 1966, for the first time. From left to right second row - María, a friend of my sister; my sister, Zorka; my grandmother; my mother; my brother, Mirko; and myself. In the front row are my three nephews.

TO BE CONTINUED



SECTION III

...a newsletter for the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahees)

ISSUE #3

Remembering a time and place as Currahees

December 2003

SECTION I

OUR LEGACY

- Currahee Patches
- The French Legionnaires & LZ BETTY
- Associations News
 - 101st
 - 506thbr
 - 3-506th
 - Battalion Newsletter
- Currahees' First Mascot
- Camp Toccoa And Twilight Zone
- 3/506th Holds World Record
- 3/506th Currahee First To Jump Into France in WW II
- "I Am Infantry"

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT

- Platoon Unity
- Currahee Physical Enhancement
- Operation NIGHT EAGLE
- To the 101st Airborne
- Almost A Marine - Part I

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

- The Last Roll Call
- Where Where We Then - Vietnam Decembers
- Battleship New Jersey [Update]
- Newspaper Articles
 - Ape Call In Supply Schedule
 - Awards & Decorations
- Moans of Wounded Enemy Echo at Night

SECTION IV

POST VIETNAM

- Knight Jumpers
- Trails, Careers & Families
- - A Horse Named Currahee

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

- For Your Information
- Military Records
- Reunion 2004
- The "Currahee" PX
- Bookstore
- PX News
- First Aid-Station
- Gravesite Program

VIETNAM DIARY

Remember to click on **thumbnail** or **blue text**

THE LAST ROLL CALL

This is a follow up on an articles in the January-February 1969 Screaming Eagle Magazine on Sgt. Mike Munson (2/C/3-506th 1967/68). The article read:

"SGT MICHAEL L. MUNSON (C/506) wrote us from Fitzsimons Gen. Hosp., Ward 606, Denver, Colo. He hopes to be home by New Year's and was expecting a medical discharge."

In the next issue of the Screaming Eagle Magazine, the March-April 1969 Edition, this entry appeared:



"MRS. BARBARA MUNSON sent us the news of the passing of SGT. MICHAEL L. MUNSON who served two tours with the 101 in Vietnam, first with the 3/506 and then with Co. E, "Recon," of the 2/327. Mike passed away at Fitzsimmons Gen. Hosp. on Jan. 8 "He loved the service and the 101." Mrs. Munson asked that his friends be notified. Her address is 4827 Showden Ave., Lakewood, Calif."

Mike Munson [then Pfc.] was a member of Lt. Newton's 2nd Platoon (1st Squad) the day of "The Battle At The Knoll". You can read about that battle in this year's Veterans Day Story--"A true story of war heroism".

In the same edition was this: "We also pause in memory of PFC Daniel E. Goldsmith, Co. B, 3/506, and PFC Donald F. Landers, Co. B, 3/506, lost in Vietnam. May these soldiers of America Rest in Peace. We salute them."

Note: Pfc. Daniel E. Goldsmith was one of the Currahees transferred up north to the 2/327th after Tet 1968. He was killed in action on May 25, 1968 in Thua Thien Province. Dan was from Farmersville, CA. Pfc. Richard Ray Landers had originally been in Bravo Co., but had volunteered for the LRRPs. He was killed in action on May 2, 1968, during an enemy assault on LZ BETTY at Phan Thiet.

-----#####-----

Also included in the March-April 1969 Edition were these messages:

"CPT. FREEMAN B. DALLAS is 101 Jump Club Member No. 458, having 172 military and 285 skydiving jumps. He is now stationed at Ft. Campbell, after serving with the 101 in VN. He was recently awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device and a cluster to same for action in VN in a presentation at Ft. Campbell."

Note: You can read about Cpt. Dallas' roll with the 3-506th in our book--The

- Taps
- Newsletter Information
- Subscriptions

Stand Alone Battalion, page 7. Here's a hint...who was the first person assigned to the battalion before it was activated?

LAWRENCE J. BOWMAN (3/506) returned home to 3810 Cooper Lane, Hyattsville, Md., after discharge, "knowing I had served with the best unit in VN--the 101."

Note: Larry was among a group of Currahees transferred from 3/C/1-506th to the 3/C/3-506th after Tet 1968. Larry was wounded June 14, 1968 and completed his tour of duty. Paratrooper Bowman is now living in St. Leonard, MD, where he works for the Baltimore Gas Electric Corp.

MRS. JOHN COLONE, JR, informed us that husband, Sgt. John Colone (A, 3/506) is a patient in Fitzsimmons Gen. Hosp. Write him at 1632 Galena, Aurora, Colo. 80010, or Ward 505, Denver, Colo.

Note: Read how John was wounded in one of our Veterans Day Stories--"*Reunion Brings Back Memories For a True War Hero John Colone*".

-----#####-----

WHERE WERE WE THEN

If you have wondered where the "Stand Alone Battalion" was in the month of December and especially at Christmas during your Vietnam tour of duty, here are some answers.

December 1967 - If your tour of duty included December 1967, our battalion had just completed Operation ROSE (11-30 Nov.) and was about to enter Operation KLAMATH FALLS alongside the rest of the 1st Brigade units--1-327th, 2-327th, 2-502nd, and the 3-506th, with its attachments: D/2-320th Airborne Artillery, 4/A-326th Airborne Engineers, Scout Dog/42nd Infantry Platoon, TF A/2-17 Cavalry, US Navy Gunfire Team, and the 3/45th ARVN Reconnaissance Unit..

Our rear area was location at Phan Rang--"The Eagle's Roost". We had already made our first cherry CAs and were feeling confident that we could handle most anything that would come our way. If you were a member of Bravo Company, you were mourning your first company KIA on the very first CA of Operation KLAMATH FALLS on December 3, 1967--SP4 Winston Hamilton, 23, Charleston, SC (page 22 in our book--The Stand Alone Battalion. Alpha Co. would experience its first KIA--Pfc. Edgar Allen Campbell, 19, Ponca City, OK (page 22 in our TSAB book). We stooddown for Christmas in the mountains south of Bao Loc.

The 3-506 Forward Tactical Operation Center moved by truck convoy on December 2 to an old French outpost located at Song Mao, which lies between Phan Rang and Phan Thiet. The following day, December 3, the 3-506 joined the 1st Brigade in Operation KLAMATH FALLS.

Shortly after being inserted into a hot LZ in their assigned AO, 2Lt. Donald Love's 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company conducted cloverleaf patrols in search of the enemy. Pfc. Winston Clinton Hamilton, a 23-year-old paratrooper from Charleston, South Carolina, became the Battalion's first man killed in action when the enemy followed the patrol back to the platoon perimeter and ambushed the Currahees. Two other Currahees are wounded in the engagement.

During the pre-dawn hours of December 8, the Montagnard hamlet of Tahine, located in the Highlands southwest of Song Mao was overrun and many of the villagers and defenders were massacred by the 186th Main Force Viet Cong Battalion. Four U. S. advisors who had accompanied a relief force were ambushed and killed. Captain Landgraf's Bravo Company and Cpt. Pearson's Shock Force combat assaulted into the vicinity to aid the besieged Montagnard hamlet and hunt the enemy.

By mid-December, the 3-506 had moved its Forward TOC to Bao Loc in Lam Dong province, alongside the rest of the 1st Brigade forward TOC elements.

On December 19, an unknown-sized Viet Cong element entered the killing zone of an ambush that had been

established during the pre-dawn hours by Lt. Harrison's 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company. The Currahees opened fire on the enemy, and the Viet Cong returned fire with automatic weapons. RTO Pfc. Edgar Allen Campbell, a 19-year-old Currahee from Ponca City, Oklahoma was killed during the firefight. His squad leader, SSG Jearl D. Keefer was wounded. Pfc. Campbell became the first paratrooper killed in action from Alpha Company and the second paratrooper from the Currahee Battalion killed in action. Captain Nahas' Company C was ordered to cease their current mission on December 21 and investigate an enemy element that was stopping and robbing civilians at roadblocks they had set up on Route 20 (See this year's Veterans Day Article - Medic Skaggs). In their mission to hunt down and kill the Viet Cong element, Company C pursued the enemy onto the Di Linh Plateau that led to the "Battle at the Knoll". 2Lt. Wylie Cox's 3rd Platoon, Company C made the first contact with the enemy, killing two Viet Cong and wounding several others.

Elsewhere in II Corps, President Lyndon B. Johnson made a visit to South Vietnam to address the military at Cam Ranh Bay on December 23. LTC Geraci sent a 3-506 Honor Guard and PIO Berry to participate in the ceremony for President Johnson's visit.



The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division made available to all its troopers a special Christmas Card to send home to family and friends. Thus, at 6:00 p.m. on December 24, all battalions of the 1st Brigade ceased all offensive operations and commenced the observance of the Christmas Cease Fire Agreement throughout Vietnam. The 3-506 would spend its first Christmas holiday overseas, as the Battalion remained in place and continued to conduct minimal security and patrolling activities in the immediate area around Bao Loc.



On Christmas Day, Luther Shultz from Battalion S-1 donned a Santa Claus suit to make a Christmas visit to all the men in the field. Accompanied by a USO girl dressed as Mrs. Claus, Shultz visited each of the field units in his "Warlord" chopper "sleigh" and delivered mail from home, Christmas packages, and a hot meal to the paratroopers. The Santa Claus team made visits to the TAC CP, as well as to each of the rifle companies. Christmas festivities ended effective at 6:00 p.m., and all Battalions terminated observance of the Christmas Cease Fire Agreement, resuming normal search and destroy operations.



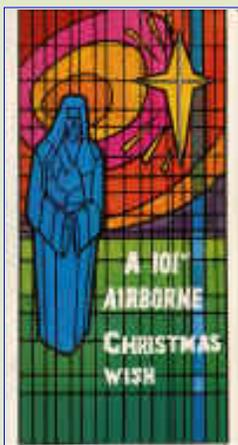
Christmas in Vietnam was unlike any Christmas before or afterward. We were a family and experienced a brotherhood that only those of us there can explain. Yet, we were homesick, lonely, and wanted very much to be home with family and loved ones. We even received a Christmas Card from the Viet Cong!



After Christmas, Company C continued its pursuit of the elusive enemy that they had encountered prior to the Christmas Cease Fire. On December 30, Lt. Moore's 4th Platoon, Company C killed four Viet Cong after springing an ambush during the night. Several more Viet Cong were wounded and escaped.

A combat tracker was brought in to help the Currahees track the wounded enemy that had escaped the ambush. The paratroopers eventually caught up with the fleeing enemy. A brief firefight ensued, wounding one paratrooper--Pfc. Kenneth Lipps (deceased). Company C was unable to continue further tracking of the enemy because of the upcoming stand down for the New Years Cease Fire Agreement. On December 31, the 1st Brigade elements once again ceased all offensive operations in observance of the New Years Cease Fire Agreement.

December 1968 - If you were with the battalion in December 1968, you were operating out of LZ BETTY at Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan Province, II Corps. This was your Christmas Card issued by the 101st.



The second combined operation in the DOUBLE EAGLES series commenced on December 5, 1968 northeast of Song Mao. A combined command post for the 3-506 and the 44th ARVN Regiment, as well as a fire support base, named BA THINH, was located within the area of operations. Operation DOUBLE EAGLES II ended on December 12. On December 17, 1968, the 3-506th said goodbye to LTC Walter E. Price and passed the command of the battalion to LTC Manuel A. Alves (Blackhawk) in a change-of-command ceremony at LZ BETTY. The new commander assumed leadership of the tactical situation immediately and launched the Currahees into Phase I of their third DOUBLE EAGLES operation.

Operation DOUBLE EAGLES III (Phase I) commenced on December 17 in an area of operation northwest of Song Mao. Fire Support Base DANIEL, located near the center of the AO, provided artillery support for all operations. Task Force 3-506 worked closely with ARVN forces in conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations throughout the AO. Pvt. Wade Thomas Shaw, 21, of Henning, Tennessee was killed on December 19, when his platoon engaged a squad of Viet Cong northwest of Song Mao. Phase I of Operation DOUBLE EAGLES III ended on December 23, 1968.



December 1969 - As December began, TF 3-506 was wrapping up its search and destroy operations in the Southern Free Strike Zone south of Phan Thiet in preparation for a move to Ban Me Thuot in Darlac Province. Your Christmas Card is pictured on the left.

During the month of December 1969, TF 3-506 continued to operate from Fire Support Base CHU KUK, as the Currahees conducted road clearing and security operations along Highway QL-21 in the Ban Me Thuot area.

After spending forty-five days keeping Highway QL-21 open, the “Bastard Battalion” received orders on December 20 to move operations farther north into Binh Dinh Province for a new mission. Beginning in late November, enemy activity had accelerated in Binh Dinh province, and the 22nd NVA Regiment had moved into the An Lao Valley. NVA presence in the area threatened to disrupt pacification efforts within two districts of the province, which fell under the protection of the 4th Infantry Division and its attached units.

On December 21, the Currahees deployed to An Khe, the provincial capital of Binh Dinh province, to support the 173rd Airborne Brigade.



On December 23, TF 3-506 was released from OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and became OPCON to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Some Currahees spent Christmas 1969 back in the rear at LZ BETTY, others at FSB ABBY and some on FSB UPLIFT. The picture on the left is members from 2nd Platoon, Bravo Co. (L-R): Bud Wilson, Bruce Dancesia, Crandell Simpson, and Lee Richards (front), celebrating Christmas 1969 on LZ UPLIFT in Binh Dinh Province.

The “Bastard Battalion’s” new mission was to conduct combat operations in support of Operation WASHINGTON GREEN, a pacification operation in the An Lao Valley of Binh Dinh Province in northern II Corps. The mission required the movement of all 3-506 troops to LZ NORTH ENGLISH along Highway QL-1, a short distance from the 173rd Airborne Brigade combat base at LZ ENGLISH. The Battalion forward TOC was established at Fire Support Base, while the rear remained at LZ BETTY outside Phan Thiet. The rifle companies moved into Fire Support Base Uplift in Combat Alley to the west of NORTH ENGLISH and into the An Lo Valley. It was at the mouth of Combat Alley that the “Stand Alone Battalion” would fight the battle at Hill 474 the following month.

During the remainder of December, the rifle companies and recon teams conducted reconnaissance-in-force operations in the southern Vinh Thanh mountains from Fire Support Base UPLIFT, making small contacts with the enemy and finding numerous weapons and food caches. At the time, the 2nd, 18th, and 22nd Regiments of the 3rd NVA Division were the main force enemy elements opposing the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The 3rd NVA Division Headquarters and the 2nd NVA Regiment had deployed to Binh Dinh Province in late September and late October respectively. The 22nd NVA Regiment was located later in December along the northern boundary of AO LEE - the

Brigade's Area of Operation - in the vicinity of the Binh Dinh-Quang Ngai Province border and the upper An Lao Valley. The 18th and 2nd NVA Regiments currently occupied locations in the Vinh Thanh Mountains, and numerous local force units operated in the mountainous areas adjacent to the populated areas. The 3rd NVA Division had an estimated strength of 6,000 personnel and was well armed.

Operation WASHINGTON GREEN continued into January 1970, as the primary operational effort of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to provide regular force support to the South Vietnamese Government agencies and territorial elements as they carried out the pacification program within the Brigade Area of Operations, AO LEE. The 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 22nd ARVN Infantry Division shared the responsibility of AO LEE, which consisted of the northeastern four districts (Tam Quan, Hoai Nhon, Hoai An, and Phu My) of Binh Dinh Province. During the operation, the 173rd Airborne Brigade continued to conduct operations in cooperation with ARVN and Free World Military Armed Forces, as well as South Vietnamese Government authorities, in order to accelerate the pacification program and maintain the security of lines of communication.

December 1970 - As December 1970 arrived, the Battalion was on the move again. The Currahees departed Phu Bai Combat Base and moved to Fire Support Base BRICK to relieve the troopers of the 3-501. Action was light during the month, and the 3-506 spent the remainder of the year conducting ambushes, patrolling, and searching for enemy caches, mortar sites, and fighting positions.

The first incident with the enemy occurred on December 13, when 1st Platoon, Company C was searching for enemy caches. Sergeant James William Grey, 26, of Los Angeles, California was killed as a lone NVA soldier engaged the Currahees with automatic weapon fire.

Another tragic incident occurred on December 14, when five Currahees were killed in a helicopter crash while in route from a stand down at Eagle Beach. Sgt. Steve Freddie Johnson, 23, of Kallua Kona, Hawaii; SP4 Jeffery David Kuersten, 19, from San Jose, California; SP4 John William Murphy, 20, of Pendleton, Oregon; Pfc. Richard Lee Maynard, Jr., 21, of Athens, Pennsylvania; and SP4 Kenneth Harlen Love, 19, from Baltimore, Maryland were killed in the crash, along with the pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft.

On December 16, the Currahees said farewell to LTC John E. Martling and welcomed their eighth Battalion Commander, LTC Othar J. Shalikashvili. Later that same day, the Battalion lost two more Currahees in an enemy contact. Captain John Joseph Wilson, 24, from Davenport, Iowa and Sgt. Val Clark Robinson, 23 of Ogden, Utah from Company D were killed in the incident.

An enemy booby-trap took the life of another Currahee on December 17. SP4 Andrew Castro Guerrero, 19, of Midland Texas was killed as 2nd Platoon, Company D made a sweep of the contact area. After several days of artillery, air strikes, and flame drops pounding the area, Company D made another sweep and encountered numerous booby-traps that were covered by fire from the enemy. Several more Currahees were killed and wounded.

The final Currahee killed in action during December was Pfc. Robert D. Arnall, 20, of Bell, California, who was killed during an enemy contact on December 28. The year ended for the Currahees of the 3-506, with Company D in pursuit of a platoon-sized NVA element into the valley northeast of Fire Support Base BRICK.

December 1971 - The 3-506th had stooddown before December 1971. If you were still in Vietnam, you would have been assigned to another unit.

-----#####-----

BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY [UPDATE]

The New Jersey article continues to get a lot of attention. Some Currahees that were stationed at Phan Thiet in 1968 are convinced that the battleship New Jersey supported the 3-506th. I have tried to confirm this fact and the NJ website and other sources can't answer this question for me. However, I received this letter and a follow-up phone call from [then] Captain William Knowlton (B Co. Cmdr. 1968/69) informing me that he is almost certain that we were supported by the NJ as early as September/October of 1968. Here is what he relayed to me:

"Enclosed please find the insignia and the picture. As you asked, here are some thoughts concerning the New

Jersey



It was sometime in Sep-Nov of 1968, and I was still the Bravo Company commander when we received the mission to conduct a BOA for the New Jersey. If I remember correctly, the unit prepared for the CA as I joined the Battalion Commander, S2 and S3 for a flight to the New Jersey. The ship was about 4-5 miles off the coast of LZ Betty. It was a short flight, and in route we noted the significance of being supported by the Battleship New Jersey of WW II fame. As we drew closer, the conversation quickly turned to the proper etiquette for embarking a ship. I still don't believe we got it right, but they didn't throw us overboard. We were escorted to a briefing room; and after the captain gave his welcoming remarks, our S2 and S3 respectively gave their briefing on the operation and the suspected VC positions. The New Jersey staff then gave their briefing as to how the battleship would support the operation. After the formalities, we were all given pictures of the New Jersey. We also received an embroidered patch depicting the crest of the ship and stating "USS New Jersey BB-62 Firepower For Freedom". Things that I remember about that day are like slides.

- We landed on the aft of the ship, and it was like entering another world.
- You immediately noticed that the Navy personnel were all neatly dressed and "clean" and even "smelled good", Unlike us grunts who knew smells could get you hurt or worse. Since I was ready for the insertion, the uniform was dusty jungle boots, sterile uniform and LBE. Left the claymore bag/magazines and my weapon in the chopper.
- Indeed, a professional unit and proud of their capabilities, I don't think that it was with disdain that we were judged but they certainly were not impressed by our dress.
- It was not hard to imagine a shell the size of VW hurling down range as you looked at the massive turrets on the ship.
- At LZ Betty, we prepared for departure as they fired the first of the rounds. The sound was as you might have expected, not only loud but it seemed to come at you in a wave.
- When we took off, we had the Marine FO's attached (A two-man team which was standard for any company working near enough to the coast for Naval support.)
- The plan called for the Jersey to fire on the suspected base and for us to arrive at or close to the final salvo.
- It was a good CA with no problems, and we headed into the target area. It was not difficult to find. The area was marked by numerous craters and extensive barriers of felled trees. The cordite from the explosives was still in the air. Even the Marine team was surprised at the effectiveness and extent of damage done by a battleship.
- While I don't recall finding concrete evidence of a VC site, with the extensive damage and abatisse formed by the trees, it was difficult to determine.
- Adding to the problem, however, we were all but routed by large red "VC" ants that had nested in the trees and who were now highly disturbed. We were assaulted from the ground as they crawled up our legs, from above as they dropped from the few remaining trees, or from the scattered vegetation where they crawled onto the uniform or our ruck. Quite aggressive buggers, those bitten sported welts the size of a dime.



I hope this gives you some insight as to the support by the New Jersey in 1968. The Navy may not consider this a an assigned support mission. especially if the New Jersey accomplished this inroute to the North. This might explain why the Navy would not have it listed in their documentation.

Bill Knowlton

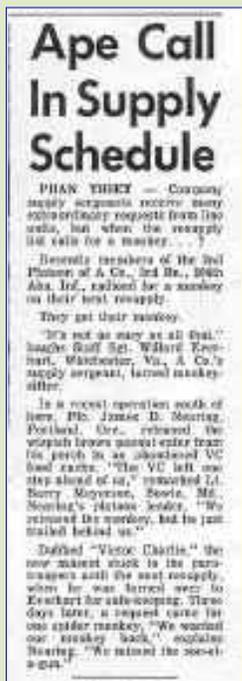
Profile: William F. X. Knowlton, sixty-three, commanded Echo Company at Phan Thiet (4/68-5/68); Bravo Company Commander (5/68-10/68), wounded during the Battle at Whiskey Mountain on 7/17/68. Retired a colonel in 1990 after thirty year's service. He enlisted in July 1960, basic at Ft. Dix, NJ, AIT at Ft. Benning, GA (9/60), Jump School at Ft. Campbell, KY (1/61), OCS at Ft. Benning, GA (4/63), Special Forces at Ft. Bragg, NC (7-10/65). Bill and his wife, Terry, live in Hendersonville, NC and have five grown children.

-----#####-----

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

APE CALL IN SUPPLY SCHEDULE

This article and Awards & Decorations notice appeared in the October 14, 1968 edition of the Screaming Eagle Newspaper.



Most newspaper articles will list Currahee names and hometowns back then. If you see a Currahee's name and hometown in your state or close to you, please try to find him and inform him of our reunions, website, books, etc. Help us find more of our former members. If you do make contact, please ask them to contact Jerry Berry.

These Currahees were listed in the Awards & Decorations Section of this same edition. The two A&D Sections below appeared in the October 28, 1968 and March 31, 1969 editions of the Screaming Eagle.



October 28, 1968 Edition: Awarded the Bronze Star With "V" are: Cpt. Freeman B. Dallas, Jr (S4 67/68), Lt. Josef Choc (Co. B 68/69), SP5 John F. Wendelschaefer (Medic/A 67/68), and Pfc. James D. Nearing (A 68/69).



March 31, 1969 Edition (left): SSG Jerry Ochse (CSF/LRRP 67/68) awarded the Silver Star.

This article (right) from the Stars & Stripes Newspaper



(circa summer 1970) was provided by Doug Mullens (C 69/70) who now lives in Reno, NV.



SECTION IV

...a newsletter for the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahees)

ISSUE #3 Remembering a time and place as Currahees **December 2003**

SECTION I
OUR LEGACY

- Currahee Patches
- The French Legionnaires & LZ BETTY
- Associations News
- 101st
- 506thbr
- 3-506th
- Battalion Newsletter
- Currahees' First Mascot
- Camp Toccoa And Twilight Zone
- 3/506th Holds World Record
- 3/506th Currahee First To Jump Into France in WW II
- "I Am Infantry"

POST VIETNAM KNIGHT JUMPERS



Did you know that two former "Stand Alone Battalion" Currahees were members of the elite U. S. Army "Golden Knights" and that one of these was a founding member, the other a "leg"? It is true! Major Robert "Bob" E. Bates, former Battalion S2 Officer and Co. A Commander (1968) is one of the founding members of the "Golden Knights" and 101st Abn. Assoc. Life Member #40. Bates, a "mustang" officer can trace his association with the Golden Knights back to 1959, when Brig. Gen. Joseph Stillwell, then Chief of Staff of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, formed the Strategic Army Corps Parachute Team. It was on June 1, 1961 that the Army officially recognized, redesigned and activated the team as the United States Army Parachute Team. One year later, the Team officially adopted the nickname

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT

- Platoon Unity
- Currahee Physical Enhancement
- Operation NIGHT EAGLE
- To the 101st Airborne
- *Almost A Marine - Part I*

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

- *The Last Roll Call*
- *Where Where We Then - Vietnam Decembers*
- *Battleship New Jersey [Update]*
- *Newspaper Articles*
 - *Ape Call In Supply Schedule*
 - *Awards & Decorations*
- *Moans of Wounded Enemy Echo at Night*

SECTION IV

POST VIETNAM

- *Knight Jumpers*
- *Trails, Careers & Families*
- *- A Horse Named Currahee*

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

- *For Your Information*
- *Military Records*
- *Reunion 2004*
- *The "Currahee" PX*
- *Bookstore*
- *PX News*
- *First Aid-Station*
- *Gravesite Program*
- *Taps*
- *Newsletter Information*
- *Subscriptions*

"Golden Knights" because of their winning record of gold medals and conquest of the skies. Bob's impressive military career spanned twenty-six years of

service with the U.S. Army. He enlisted in November of 1955 and completed Basic Training, AIT, and Jump School in 1956. Specialized training continued with Ranger School and Special Forces Training in 1958, followed by Underwater Demolition Training in 1959 and Pathfinder School in 1963. His service with the

3-506th began in 1968, when he joined the Task Force as Battalion S2-Intelligence Officer with the rank of Captain. Bob also served as the Company Commander of Alpha Company from March 1968 through December 1968. Bob retired as a major from the military in 1981, then assumed the civilian duties of Chief security officer for ARCO Oil in Alaska. He has been fully retired since 1991 and still lives in the remote "wilds" of Alaska. Bob will also be featured in next month's 3-506th Newsletter-- "Mustang Officers". **Horace Benjamin**

"Ben" Currin (2/B/3-506th 1969/70) - A Currahee who desperately wanted to be airborne, but fate found him in Vietnam before becoming jump qualified. Luck did favor Ben, however, when he was assigned to an airborne unit--the 3-506th. Ben entered active duty with the military in

November 1968 and took Basic Training at Ft. Bragg, NC, AIT at Fort Polk, LA. He signed up for airborne training, but orders sent him to Vietnam in August 1969 before he could attend Jump School. When he arrived at Ben Hoa, South Vietnam, Ben was

immediately assigned to the 101st Replacement Detachment. After completing the usual week of "P-training", he was ordered to Phan Thiet and assigned to 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Company B, 3-506th. According to Ben, his tour in Vietnam

consisted of listening to the "older" guys and assuming their duties as they derosed. He served as a grenadier, RTO, point & Slackman, and even roamed around inside the caves of Hill 474. After his tour of duty in Vietnam, Ben

was sent to Ft. Carson, Colorado, where he volunteered for Drill Sgt. School. He was a Drill Sgt. at Ft. Carson from 1971-1975, then left the army as a SSG. Two

years later, he returned to the military in February 1977 as a SP4 in the Army Reserves. Ben finally got his chance to attend Jump School and was assigned to 1/325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, eventually becoming a jumpmaster. Ben attended Golden Knight tryouts in September 1984 and was selected for the

teams. He was on the Gold Demonstration Team and served as Assistant Team Leader during his second and third year with the Golden Knights and was team leader for the remainder of his military service. He retired from the Army in November 1991. According to Ben, being a member of the US Army

Parachute Team was the ultimate tour and was an excellent way to end his service to Uncle Sam. He continued to jump for another five years after retiring, accumulating approximately 5,000 jumps. Ben jumped in every state and into most of the major sports stadiums for sporting events. His last jump was a Santa

Claus jump into a mall parking lot in 1996. "Some of my most rememberable jumps," says Ben, "were the Arch at St. Louis, the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, the Yankee Stadium, Denver Bronco's Mile High Stadium, Coney Island, NY, jumping for Lee Greenwood several times as he sang, "God Bless the USA", jumping over the "Golden Gate" Bridge, hot air balloon jumps at Balloon Festivals, and jumping on the beach at Daytona, during "SPRING BREAK!"



Elite Parachute Team

The United States Army Parachute Team known as the "Golden Knights", are famous for performing precision aerial maneuvers while falling to earth at speeds up to 120 miles per hour, then landing with pinpoint accuracy on a specific target. They are considered to be the world's best parachute team.

Since their activation in June 1, 1961, the ranks of the Golden Knights have been filled with soldiers from diverse background who have been trained in various occupational specialties within the U.S. Army. During the the 43 years since its inception, the team's mission has remained steadfast. Their goals are to (1) perform live aerial demonstrations for the public in promotion of the Army's public relations and recruitment efforts; (2) compete in national and international parachuting competition; and (3) test and evaluate new parachuting equipment and techniques for improved operation and safety.

The ninety soldiers that make up the Golden Knights are stationed at the "Home of the Airborne" in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Their competition and demonstration skills have amazed the parachuting world with their record of 408 national champions, 65 world champions, 14 national titles in skydiving, and six world team skydiving titles. These impressive records have made them not only the most "winning" U. S. Department of Defense sports team, but also the most "winning" parachute team in the world.

For 43 years, their superior performances, winning record, and exemplary conduct rekindle and sustain a distinct feeling of pride for many Americans. The faces of the soldiers may have changed through the years, but the dedication of every Golden Knight to the Army and the American public will continue and remain steadfast for generations to come.

TRAILS, CAREERS & FAMILIES

There are soldiers that came out of the Vietnam experience devastated, and that is very unfortunate. However, there are those who were basically solid individuals, were stable and had the wherewithal to cope with their tour of duty, as well as physical wounds sustained in battle. They came out of the Vietnam War even better individuals and went on to build successful careers and raise wonderful families.

A Horse Name Currahee

The influences that former Currahees have on our society have no boundaries. Our proud members having served their country honorably have gone on to be successful in just about every profession there is--medicine, law enforcement, the legal field, business, merchandising, military, politics, electronics--the list is endless.

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that there is a thoroughbred race horse named "Currahee Bravo Six". And yes, it belongs to a 3-506th'er, former lieutenant and platoon leader, Terry Weaver (2/B 3-506th 1968).

"Currahee Bravo Six" is one of three thoroughbred race horses--Currahee Bravo Six, Famous Flash, and Elk Mountain--owned by Terry. "Currahee Bravo Six" is named for [then] Lt. Weaver's company commander, Cpt. William F.X. Knowlton (Co. B Cmdr. 1968). In a recent interview with Cpt. Knowlton, he told me this. *"Terry was one of my platoon leaders. He lost the use of both his legs during one of the battles--The Battle of Dai Hoa-Xuan Phon (25 August 1968). He is one super trooper and I am so honored and touched by his decision to name one of his race horses after me. Thanks to him, we will have a race horse in the New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado circuit called "Currahee Bravo Six. If it has the heart of a Currahee, it's a winner."*

Currahee's dad (Sire) is a horse named Bustopher Jones, who is a son of the great Storm Cat who has a \$500,000 stud fee. Storm Cat, who stands in Kentucky, is one of the greatest stud horses standing. Currahee's mom (Dam) is the daughter of Dynaformer, who also is one of the great sires standing in Kentucky. Currahee is the second foal out of the dam.

"Can he run is the big question?" asks Terry. "Owning race horse, is nothing but a gamble. Half of them never make it to the track, and then only half of them win one race in their lifetime. Only 10 percent of all the horses at the track even pay their bills and break even. So only fools own race horses--but I still love it. How else am I going to spend my pension?"

Profile: Terry Weaver, fifty-nine, commanded 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company at Phan Thiet; Bravo Company Commander (7/68-8/68), wounded during the Battle of Dai Hoa-Xuan Phon (25 August 1968). He was drafted on August 30, 1966, took basic at Ft. Gordon, GA, AIT at Ft. McClellan, AL, Jump School at Ft. Campbell, KY (6/68),



SECTION V

...a newsletter for the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry (Currahees)

ISSUE #3

Remembering a time and place as Currahees

December 2003

SECTION I

OUR LEGACY

- Currahee Patches
- The French Legionnaires & LZ
- BETTY
- Associations News
- 101st
- 506thbr
- 3-506th
- Battalion Newsletter
- Currahees' First Mascot
- Camp Toccoa And Twilight Zone
- 3/506th Holds World Record
- 3/506th Currahee First To Jump Into France in WW II
- "I Am Infantry"

SECTION II

PREDEPLOYMENT

- Platoon Unity
- Currahee Physical Enhancement
- Operation NIGHT EAGLE
- To the 101st Airborne
- Almost A Marine - Part I

SECTION III

VIETNAM DIARY

- The Last Roll Call
- Where Where We Then - Vietnam Decembers
- Battleship New Jersey [Update]
- Newspaper Articles
 - Ape Call In Supply Schedule
 - Awards & Decorations
- Moans of Wounded Enemy Echo at Night

SECTION IV

POST VIETNAM

- Knight Jumpers
- Trails, Careers & Families
- A Horse Named Currahee

SECTION V

POST SCRIPT

- For Your Information
- Military Records
- Reunion 2004

POST SCRIPT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MILITARY RECORDS

Subject: DD 214

Here is a web site: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> many of you may find beneficial if you need a copy of your DD Form 21, Discharge from the military. If you do not need it now, you may want to book mark it for future reference. It is a good idea to make several copies and put them in various locations, just in case.

Subject: Access DD-214 online

You can now access your DD-214 on-line. FYI. The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment or other purposes. Please see the details below. Point of contact is: linda.krout@us.army.mil - (410) 306-1755.

NPRC initiates online records request procedures

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the **Standard Form 180** which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time.

Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. Veterans and next of kin may access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

- *The "Currahee" PX*
 - *Bookstore*
 - *PX News*
 - *First Aid-Station*
 - *Gravesite Program*
 - *Taps*
 - *Newsletter Information*
 - *Subscriptions*
-

2004 - 8TH ANNUAL 3-506TH REUNION

The dates and location for the 2004 8th Annual 3-506th Reunion have now been established. It is 15-19 June 2004 at Fort Campbell, KY (Clarksville, TN). The rationale used to select the dates and location were poll votes, to avoid a conflict with the 506th Assoc. and 101st Assoc. reunions, and the attempt to rendezvous at the same time should there be a "Week of the Eagles" and LRRP/Ranger Reunion at Ft. Campbell. The urgency to pick the reunion dates by November 30 was necessary to enable attending members to submit their vacation requests in early December.

There continues to be a substantial interest to return to Fort Campbell, KY every other year, during the 101st Airborne Division's 'Week of the Eagles'. The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky conducts 'Week of the Eagles' every other year during the month of June, to display the Division's capabilities, pay tribute to all Division veterans, and foster the competitive spirit through soldier stakes and sporting events. Many 3-506th members feel that this provides an opportunity to rendezvous with veterans and former teammates from other 101st Airborne Division units. It is still unclear if the Division will be back at Ft. Campbell in June 2004

to have a 'Week of the Eagles' ceremony. Every attempt has been made to confirm the fact that the Division will be back at Ft. Campbell, but the active Division spokesperson cannot assure us that it will.

Selecting the reunion site and dates were made through the following process. Two or more proposed locations were recommended by members at the previous year's reunion. A poll was posted on the Currahee Website for members planning to attend the 2004 reunion to cast their vote. Fort Campbell was chosen by almost a 2:1 vote. Once the location was chosen, a second poll was put up to decide on the dates for the reunion. The second poll was very important to help meet vacation schedules, spouse's work, and family needs.

Holding our reunion later in the summer would conflict with the 506th Assoc. Reunion on 20 -24 July in Des Moines, Iowa, as well as the 101st Airborne Association 59th Annual Reunion to be held on 4-8 Aug 2004 at Hampton, VA, for those wishing to attend either or both of these reunions.

-----#####-----

THE CURRAHEE PX

Tell your family about our Gift Shop and maybe..., just maybe they will have Santa bring you a "Currahee" Gift! The 3-506th PX or Gift Shop continues to have a large selection of items that are related to Currahees, the 101st Abn. Div., Vietnam, etc. New items added to the Currahee PX are:

- "The Stand Alone Battalion" book on CD-ROM
- The 506th Jacket Patch with choice of 1st, 2nd or 3rd Battalion symbol (spade, clubs, diamonds)
- The Decorations, Medals, Ribbons, Badges and Insignia of The United States Army--World War II to Present--Book

- A Complete Guide to All United States Military Medals 1939 to Present--Book
- Posters of Army Medals, Military Rank, Insignia
- Authentic 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" Ties
- Authentic 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment "Currahees" Ties
- The USNS Gen. Weigel Image for embroidered items (hats, polos, tee-shirts, etc.)
- A new cap design with the 2003 Reunion "Red, White & Blue" Patriotic eagle

Many of the PX items can be personalized with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Battalion information, as well as with the 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagle) crest/patch. Contact Jerry Berry: jerryberry@currahee.org, if you have questions or wish to order over the phone or by E-mail. You can order directly off the website as well. The proceeds from PX sales maintain the website, offset expenses for office supplies, and support the search for former Currahees and family members of our KIAs.

-----#####-----

THE 'CURRAHEE' BOOKSTORE

The 3-506th PX currently lists seven publications authored by or about Currahees. Six of which are by or about 3rd Battalion members - both WW II and Vietnam.

1. VIETNAM DIARY - Dr. Andrew Lovy, former 3-506 battalion surgeon (1967/68) will soon have a revised version of his 'Vietnam Diary' available in very near future.
2. THE STAND ALONE BATTALION (3-506) - by Jerald W. Berry & Joe R. Alexander
3. GOD'S SQUAD - by James L. Burnham (3-506).
4. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE LEAFLETS OF THE VIETNAM WAR - by Jerald W. Berry (3-506) & Donna Berry.
5. THE STORY OF A SOLDIER - by Ivan Paul Mehosky & Edward S. Mehosky (H/506 PIR).
6. THE SIMPLE SOUNDS OF FREEDMAN - by Thomas H. Taylor & Joe Beyrle (I/506 PIR).
7. THE COW SPOKE FRENCH - by William True (E/506 PIR) and Deryck Tufts True

-----#####-----

BATTALION AID-STATION

The Battalion Aid-Station is closed, due to lack of business!

-----#####-----

ADOPT-A-GRAVESITE PROGRAM

The "Adopt-A-Gravesite" Program was initiated shortly after our 7th Annual 3-506th reunion in Reno, Nevada. This important project provides a cost effective means of placing flowers on the gravesites of our fellow 3-506th Currahees who were killed in action in Vietnam. By adopting a KIA gravesite, the sponsor makes a commitment to cover the cost of annual flower placement on the grave of a specific KIA each Memorial Day. The following have agreed to participate in the "Adopt-A-Gravesite" Program.

James Oliver Ellsworth (KIA 6/5/68) - Sterling Chapman (3/B 3-506th 1967/68)
Douglas Allen Henning (KIA 7/17/68) - Lee Bradford (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Edward Joseph Zewert (KIA 4/26/68) - Lee Bradford (CSF/LRRP 1967/68)
Guy Brooks (KIA 2/2/68) - James Schlax (Plt. Ldr. 1/A 3-506th 1967/68)
Keith Rowell (KIA 8/25/68) - James Schlax (Plt. Ldr. 1/A 3-506th 1967/68)
John Daniel Vandiver (KIA 4/25/70) - Paul Cauley (Medic - HHC/C 70/71)
Carl Rattee (KIA 2/19/68) - Jose' Ramos (Medic - HHC/A 3-506th 1967/68)

John Gfeller (KIA 2/19/68) - Jose' Ramos (Medic - HHC/A 3-506th 1967/68)

Robert Vinscotski (KIA 1/2/68) - Dean Morrison (4/C 3-506th 1967/68) **James Webster** (KIA 2/19/68) - Louis Oswald (4/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Walter Patterson** (KIA 2/19/68) - Gary Purcell (4/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Don Marshall** (KIA 2/19/68) - John Colone (4/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Marshall Nelson** (KIA 3/10/68) - Ed Bassista (3/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Thomas Vaughn** (KIA 2/19/68) - Ed Bassista (3/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Robert Griffis** (KIA 2/19/68) - Mike Mullican (4/A 3-506th 1967/68) **Frank Dodge Madrid** (KIA 1/28/70) - Jane Fulkerson (Currahee Researcher) **Robert Earl Baldwin** (KIA 2/6/68) - Richard Pittman (4/C 3-506th 1967/68) **Wade Shaw** (KIA 12/19/68) - David Dalton (Plt. Ldr./D 3-506th 1968/69) **Gerald Wrazen** (KIA 2/22/69) - Henry Parker (FO 5/27th Arty. 1968/69) **Patrick John Graham** (KIA 4/25/68) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68) **Thomas Gregory Noble** (KIA 10/29/70) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68) **Vincent Bertram Parkhurst** (KIA 2/20/68) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68) **Eric R. Koeppen** (KIA 7/11/68 - TF Member) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68) **Mark Andrew Wenzel** (KIA 6/18/68 - TF Member) - Dan Gaworecki (CSF/LRRP 1967/68) If you are interested in participating in this important project, contact John and Anne Colone at: acolone@pcs.k12.mi.us **Message from Anne:**

"We just received a check for \$250 along with a nice letter from Commander Eugene Broderick from the AMVETS Post #1, P.O. Box 24, Searchlight, Nevada 89046-0024. There was also a letter enclosed from Mrs. Burns saying that the check is in memory of their son Cpl. Richard A. Burns. The letter from the Commander indicated that the money was to go to the flower fund and the check was made out to the fund. But the letter from Mrs. Burns was addressed to Jane and in it she said that she "hoped the money will help a little in your search". Because the AMVETS Post indicated the flower fund and Mrs. Burns indicated the search, I'm going to send Jane half of the \$250. Wasn't that great of the AMVETS Post? Very generous. And I know it was done because of Mr. and Mrs. Burns. What a nice couple and what courage it must have taken for them to come to the reunion. Looking forward to the Dec. newsletter. Still wondering about that surprise...did I win the lottery?!" Anne

-----#####-----

TAPS

There are no reports of any Currahee deaths. Let's hope this section remains void of names in the months to come.

-----#####-----

The "Stand Alone Battalion" Newsletter is published monthly by: Jerry Berry 438 Manor Dr Libby, MT 59923 Editor: Jerry Berry Assistant Editor: Donna Berry Layout/graphics: Jerry Berry & Stephanie Berry

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscription costs for twelve (12) issues: \$40.00 per year: Internet subscription \$50.00 per year: Snail Mail (B&W) subscription \$60.00 per year: Internet & Snail Mail subscriptions

Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is prohibited without prior permission. Articles and advertisements imply no opinion or endorsement by the editor.

The "Stand Alone Battalion" Newsletter is written for 3-506th members, Task Force unit members, KIA families. We solicit your suggestions and articles. Photos may be sent hard copy or e-mail, preferably in JPEG files. If you have questions, contact Jerry Berry (406) 293-7678 (Phone & FAX) or by e-mail: jerryberry@currahee.org.