



RIPCORD REPORT

For Friends and Survivors of the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord
Republic of Vietnam • 12 March – 23 July, 1970



Number 62

Winter, 2004

FOX To Air Ripcord Story

**Firebase Ripcord on
WAR STORIES with Oliver North
FOX NEWS CHANNEL
8:00 PM (EST), MARCH 7, 2004**

by Lee Widjeskog

The one hour "documentary" about the 1970 battle for Firebase Ripcord, March – July 1970 is to be aired on the Fox News Channel (FNC) found on cable and direct TV. It will be 8PM (EST), Sunday, March 7, 2004.

Oliver North and the Fox News people interviewed a number of Ripcord participants over the past few months. The 30 plus hours of taping will be edited down to the 40+ minutes of actual air-time for pictures, video and interviewees.

Bob Smoker (C 2/5060 and I (Lee Widjeskog A 2/506), along with our wives were invited (all expenses paid for a day and night) to the New York City studios of Fox News for interviews in November. My wife and I arrived at the studio at 9:30 AM. I got an application of non-camo makeup applied by the makeup artist and a brief tour of the editing room

while they scanned the few photos I had available for possible use in the show. I met Col. North who was very relaxed and easy to talk with. My interview started around 10 AM and was over by about 1 PM. Bob and his wife came while I was still interviewing. To keep them entertained, they and my wife were given a full tour of the studios on the other floors.

During the interview there were numerous stops to change tapes. At these breaks the producer and Col. North would make sure he had covered all the questions they had planned to ask.

Besides myself and Bob Smoker I know Gen. Harrison was also interviewed. I would assume they interviewed 10 to 15 people and will cut and paste from those interviews to tell the story of Ripcord in an understandable fashion. Try to catch the show or wait for the videos at the next reunion.

WAR STORIES W: OLIVER NORTH



The Firebase Ripcord Story

by Ben Harrison

The one hour special about the 1970 battle for Firebase Ripcord, Mar-July 1970, is scheduled to air on Fox News Channel at 8 PM on 7 Mar. The producer interviewed me for over two hours. Several other battle participants were also interviewed. I have no idea what the show will contain.

For those interested in the full story of the last major battle fought by US ground forces in the Vietnam War, I recommend you read Keith Nolan's book, *RIPTCORD, Screaming Eagles Under Siege 1970*, available in paperback. Many great, dedicated soldiers served and sacrificed for their country in that battle. Two hundred and forty-seven men gave their lives, three others were killed and their bodies not recovered.

The Army refused to allow news media or even military reporters and photographers in the area of the 3rd Brigade's operation – the same Brigade that fought in the same area, the battle of Hamburger Hill just one year earlier. Keith Nolan interviewed over 400 hundred veterans to put the story together 30 years after the battle.

FROM THE EDITOR

From the great response from many of you, the new newsletter team has done a fantastic job. I would like to thank Lee Widjeskog for editing and writing some of the stories, Dennis Bloomingdale for layout and publishing, Patty Radford for stamping and mailing and all of you that contribute the articles.

We sent out 600 newsletters last November issue with Postcards. Only 227 replied. (I apologize to those that filled out the website survey and have to send the postcard in, but due to technical difficulties, the website survey did not work right)

Our mailing list had grown over the years to 600, a lot of the names on the mailing list have moved without giving us a new address, or they are just not interested in receiving the newsletter. To keep costs down, we are sorting out the list and want to send the newsletter to everyone that wants to receive it.

The newsletter will have important information about The Battle of Ripcord, the veterans that were part of the battle and updates on the possible upcoming movie.

DONATIONS

Donations are very important! It's how the newsletter gets printed and mailed. Checks should be made payable to: "Ripcord Association". Please send all donations to:

Fred Spaulding
7702 White Dove Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46256-1750

ARTICLES

Please send all articles, photos, incoming mail, and interesting reading to:

DEADLINE April 15, 2004
Frank Marshall
224 Derry Hill Ct
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054-3709

e-mail: frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com

RIPCORD BIOGRAPHIES...THEN AND NOW

Please send us a brief bio on yourself to be included in the newsletter. Include which company you served with, the dates you were in the service, the dates you were in Vietnam, your rank, any interesting facts about your involvement with FSB Ripcord, what you did after Vietnam, career, family, and some comments of your choice. You may include a picture if desired. Send all information to:

Lee Widjeskog
493 Stillman Ave
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
e-mail: leewidjeskog@ripcordassociation.com

The Red Circle

Everyone is reminded that we need input from all whom wish to remain on the mailing list for this newsletter. If you have a red sticker on your newsletter that means we have no record of a response card from you and you will be dropped from the mailings in the future. Please send us the post card with your name and address if you want to continue to get the newsletter. Fill out the rest of the questions if you want, but at least fill out your name and address to help us. Thanks!

Association Survey Results

From the many who sent a response to our first request for information it seems that most would like to continue to have the reunions annually and so far it is leaning towards July as the month with October in second place. The area to hold the events is less decided. But Nevada, Missouri, Florida, Tennessee and the Washington DC area seem to be favorites at this time.

If you have not yet sent in your postcard, do so today to help us make informed decisions.

Ripcord Association Website

The Ripcord Association website is on line and very informative. You can check it out now at:

www.ripcordassociation.com

Visit the website often to check out all the latest news and information. Send me photos of past reunions, Vietnam, Ripcord or other interesting photos, stories, articles, retrospectives, anything you would like to see posted on the website.

Send photos to: photos@ripcordassociation.com

Send stories to: writings@ripcordassociation.com

The Ripcord Association History

Read how the Association was started and what it has evolved to today.

Unit History

Read the history of the 2nd Battalion, 101st Airborne in Vietnam 1970.

Photo Gallery

View photos of FSB Ripcord, Ripcord Veterans and Association Reunions.

Newsletter Archives

Read all the newsletters published since 1985.

Writings

This will feature stories from Ripcord veterans about whatever they think is of interest. Go to the website now and read The legendary Lodi, LZ Kent and much more.

2004 REUNION

DES MOINES, IOWA, OCT. 4-7, 2004

As you (all) know by now, the reunion will be in Des Moines, Iowa, October 4-7, 2004. That's Monday through Thursday !! To make reservations call (515) 283-0151 and refer to the group code "RIP". The rate is \$67.00 which includes a full complimentary buffet breakfast. Better take advantage of this, because it is unlikely we see these kind of prices with complimentary breakfast again.

When you arrive at the hotel, ALL PERSONNEL MUST CHECK IN AT THE REUNION REGISTRATION DESK! This is necessary for planning purposes with regards to setting up tours and organizing the banquet etc. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and make life simpler for those trying to make it a smoothly run event.

We have spent \$800 to replace the flag and pole that "mysteriously" disappeared at the last reunion. Also missing were several gallon bottles of liquor and 12 cases of beer. These represent a loss of approximately \$500 which will need replacement at the next event.

Our condolences go out to Bob and Jackie Wallace: Bob's mother passed away during the recent holidays.

Hope to see you all in Des Moines come October!

Fred Spaulding

DONATIONS

A great big THANK YOU!, to the following people who have made donations to the RIPCORD ASSOCIATION, since the reunion. Their continued support keeps the association going. KUDOS to you all!!

Jon Chaffin, In memory of Col. Herb Koenigsbauer, John & Elizabeth Palm, In memory of their son, Lt. Palm, KIA Hill 805, Scott & Melissa Radcliff, In memory of Robert Paul Radcliff, KIA 2 July 1970, Bob Anderson, Richard & Michelle Blythe, Tommy Counts, Sydney & Anne Berry, Fred & Linda Edwards, David H. Dike, Randy Kirby, Otis & Nancy Livingston, Phil & Priscilla Kallas, Bill & Sheila Williams, George & Mary Murphy, Don & Mary Kennett, Charlie & Janet Lieb, Bill D. Payne, Robert c. Lorbeer, Phil & Hermance Michaud, Theodore H. Reeves III, Bob Folinus, Richard & Judith Greenland, Bob & Jackie Wallace, Terry & Mary Hill, Donald Cabrol, Bob & Donna Morgan, Wayne Spruill, Richard & Judith Greenland, Steve & Debbie Davis, Brian Robinson.

And a special thanks to Wayne Spruill who has persuaded many of his friends to donate to our association.

Sick Call

Jim Campbell is presently recovering from heart ailments (received a stint and medication after serious chest pains). We all wish him well with a quick recovery and suggest he probably should heed his wife's advice to "Lodi".

These photos were sent in by Jim Williamson, the 2/506 command sergeant major.



Lt. Doyle and Jim Williamson (L-R)



Herb Koenigsbauer, Andre Lucas, Jim Williamson (L-R)

Disabled Veterans Get Health Care Priority from VA

In early January 2004, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi announced a new directive which provides that all veterans requiring care for a service-connected disability – regardless of the extent of their injury – must be scheduled for a primary care evaluation within 30 days of their request for care. If a VA facility is unable to schedule an appointment within 30 days, it must arrange for care at another VA facility, at a contract facility or through a sharing agreement. This covers hospitalization and outpatient care. While this directive only covers service-connected problems, veterans needing emergency care for any reason will be treated immediately.

(Thanks go out to Terry Stanger for this info.)

A couple of months ago my dear friend Frankie Marshall asked me if I would from time to time write a column for the Ripcord Report. One does not reject the request of a great man.

It is my intention with this column to on occasion follow the advice given me by that true patriot and well known muckraker Bill Williams whose motto is "Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story."

I am quite sure that there are those who will not find my ramblings to be particularly memorable or worthwhile. Perhaps some will find them to be offensive. I am a man who has received a whole lot of criticism in his life from others, all of which criticism has been appropriately noted and then ignored. Therefore, if you are unhappy with my ramblings in this column, please forward your objections on to the editor and he can replace me with someone more talented and less offensive, and I will go gently into the night.

When I was about 12 years of age, an old wise man once advised me while sitting on the front porch of his house in rural East Texas that if you choose a lifetime of drinking whiskey you are likely to make a fool out of yourself on a regular basis and the best thing you can do when drinking heavily is to operate under an alias. It was advice that I chose to follow knowing that the consumption of whiskey and other spirits was a vice that would follow me the rest of my life. Over the years I operated under several aliases, one of which was the name "Lodi Jones". This was an alias given to me by friends during my single years after Vietnam while running women in Texas dance halls. After several years of covering a lot of wood in Texas dance halls with a multitude of female companions, the alias changed to "The Legendary Lodi Jones". Although I later married a wonderful woman who took my boots, cowboy hat, and spurs from me and made me settle down to a lackluster life with no time for visits to Texas dance halls, on those rare occasions when I consume a little too much alcohol, or on those frequent occasions when I am hanging

Travels With The Legendary Lodi Jones and His Most Unforgettable Characters

out with "known fools", I always go back to operating under the alias "The Legendary Lodi Jones". Since this column will probably appear foolish at times, I have chosen to adopt as my pen name my old alias "The Legendary Lodi Jones", as my reputation under this alias could not be more besmirched than it already has been.

The Legendary Lodi has traveled all over the globe during his life and has been blessed with meeting many unforgettable characters. One need only travel about 90 miles east from Shreveport to Northeast Louisiana and you will find one of the most rural areas in the country that is inhabited by true country folk. This is a part of the world where a woman is measured by her love of God and family and her ability to fry chicken and make biscuits from scratch, and a man is measured by his integrity and truthfulness, his love of God and family, and by his hunting dogs. If you travel through this land of milk and honey and stop to ask anyone "Whose the best man in these parts?", you will universally receive one answer. That answer will inevitably be the name of one of my most unforgettable characters, Layne Hammons.

Now most of you know Layne from attending Ripcord reunions. He is the man who will invariably have a Camel cigarette in one hand and a Miller Lite in the other. Those of us in Charlie Company know Layne as the iron man who humped an M-60 machine gun in Sgt. Moyer's squad in the second platoon.

Stories about Layne are legendary and I feel obliged to recall a few. Layne is a man of few words, but when he speaks his words are profound and filled with great wisdom. A two pack a day Camel man since he was 12 years old, Layne is best remembered for his sage like advice on health care given late one evening a couple of years ago around the fire at deer camp when he stated "L. T., it's the filters that are killing everybody."

A couple of years ago Layne, myself, and three other Ripcord veterans were sitting around my back yard doing the best we could to take out a 100 lbs of hot crayfish and see how much beer we could consume with them. After about 6 or 7 hours of eating and drinking, things began to get a little "muddled" for the group and one of the guys says to the rest of the group "What did y'all do your last night in the States before leaving for Vietnam?" The bullshit began as we heard about how Ralph Motta had gotten drunk and partied all night with several women and how Chuck Shannon sadly was forced to end a long time relationship with a male friend. Then it came time for Layne to answer the question. He calmly took a pull on his Camel and says "It was getting close to dark and I told Daddy that I wanted to hear the dogs howl one more time. Right at dark we turned the beagles out and it wasn't long before they jumped a deer and the chase was on with the dogs howling. We chased them all night. It was music to my ears." Chuck Shannon then asked Layne "What did your wife think about you running all over the woods your last night before leaving?" Layne responded "I don't know, I didn't see her til I come in to leave the next morning as it took all night to catch the dogs."

A little later in the evening after more crayfish and beer were consumed things became even more "muddled" and the talk turned to women. Someone foolishly asked the group "What did y'all do on your honeymoon night? I am not at liberty to

(continued on page 6)

INCOMING MAIL

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Just finished Nolan's great book Ripcord. As with most military books, it lacked detailed maps. It would have been very helpful to the reader if the book had included a sketch or plan of the FSB, so one could know where the areas were in relation to each other. I'm acquiring copies to send to some friends, but wanted to include some detail of the FSB layout. I've just spent an hour on the 'net trying to find such a document, without any luck.

Do you guys have such a sketch? If not, may I suggest you ask for input from veterans of the fight, so this can be documented while some of the knowledgeable folks are still around.

Don't Forget To Reenlist!

Hugh Foster
68-69 C/5/12 Inf, 199th LIB
70-71 B/1/5 Cav, 1st Cav Div

INCOMING! INCOMING!

Ripcord veterans will recall that back in garrison latrine waste was disposed of by collecting it in cut-off oil drums, dousing it with diesel fuel and burning it (Oh-h-h, that unforgettable aroma!). Sometimes this procedure was carried out precariously close to the latrine.

One day, while I was working in the Eagle Dustoff maintenance hangar at Camp Eagle, I was jolted by the sound of an explosion in the direction of a nearby latrine. I looked outside just in time to see a mushroom cloud of black smoke billowing above a flattened waste barrel and hunks of burning debris flying through the air. It was immediately obvious to me that someone had dropped some ammunition or an explosive device into the barrel, and it had exploded amid the burning waste.

The lone occupant of the latrine only a few feet from the barrel, had not come to the same conclusion. Mistaking the explosion for an enemy mortar attack, he headed for the nearest bunker.

The last time the GI was seen that day, he was running out of the latrine, pulling up his pants with one hand, holding his hat on his head with the other and yelling frantically: "Incoming! Incoming!"

Our commander was pleased that the soldier was not injured during the incident, for it would have been difficult to write a dignified letter of condolence to the soldier's family back home.

Jerry Rodgers
Dustoff 94
Eagle Dustoff, 326th Medical Battalion, 1970-71

Hi Frank!

Although I joined B-2/506 in September and 'missed' Ripcord, I do remember reading about the battle while I was stationed at Ft Polk during the battle. (I was doing hard-hat Drill Sgt Duty at the time.) When I joined B Co in September '70, I'll never forget the bullet riddled helmet with the label of RIPCORD at the entrance to the orderly room. (The First Sergeant explained what it was and I was both shocked and impressed to have been assigned to the company.) When I was airlifted to the platoon (1st platoon) and assigned as 1st squad leader, I was blessed to have several survivors of the battle as squad members. (Dale Roland was my machine gunner and was one guy who helped show me the ropes. God love him and the rest of the guys!)

Lastly, in one of the last issues, there was a picture on the front that was labeled: Do you know what this is?" It appears to be a go-no go gauge for a .50 cal heavy Machine gun. Don't know if anyone ever identified it.

Good luck on the newsletter and thanks for your hard work on it.

Tom Muskus
1-B-2/506
RVN 70-71

Dear Buddies and Friends:

A part of my past will be aired on Fox Network Heroes with Ollie North and FSB Ripcord. The air date is March 7, 2004, Sunday at 7:00 pm CST.

Dan Jenkins was a 81 mm and 4 duce platoon leader. Joe Jenkins is a retired U.S. Army officer. Mike Dunaway was my "C" Section Staff Sergeant on FSB Ripcord. Infantryman Mike Womack was in "C" Company, 2nd/506th Infantry, 3rd Bde., James Kilgore was my Fire Direction Control Sergeant, FDC Sergeant of 6- 81 mm mortars, Fred Shuttleworth was gun 6 gunner (carried only 81 mm gun tube back to Camp Evans on evacuation 23 July 70).

I expect Mike Womack, James Kilgore and Fred Shuttleworth to be referenced to in some way.

Each of you know a part of me. Each of you understand a part of me. If you choose to watch this special Viet-Nam presentation, you may understand how lucky and thankful I am to be the "Luckiest Individual on Earth".

Frank Marshall was an infantryman in "A" Company, 2nd/506th Infantry, 3rd Bde., 101st Airborne Division. Frank knows the effect on NVA and GI's of the 81 mm mortar platoon on FSB Ripcord.

Sincerely,
John C. "Pop's" Hedrick
C Section - 81 mm mortar Platoon,
E Co., 2nd/506th Inf., 3rd Bde, 101st Airborne Div.
Currahee

Bob Judd, Bravo Co. 2/506

In 1967 Bob graduated from high school in Norton Shores, Michigan. A short attempt at college found Bob dropping out and relaxing in sunny Florida for the winter. After returning to Michigan he received his draft notice in the spring of 1969. Basic training was held in Ft. Knox followed by AIT in Ft. Polk. He then volunteered for NCO school and spent 12 weeks in Ft.

Benning followed by another tour at Ft. Polk working with AIT companies.

In April 1970 Bob flew from California to Alaska to Okinawa to Vietnam. As they neared Asia a Chinese MIG-15 flew just off their wing. He was close enough for Bob to see the red star on his helmet. This was a little spooky to those on board. As they approached the Bienhoa airfield he remembers seeing craters scattered throughout the nearby rice paddies. Hardly a reassuring sight.

Bob met a friend from NCO school on the flight to "Nam" by the name of John Gillespie. John was assigned to C 2/506 while Bob went to B 2/506. Bob noted that John hasn't made it to a re-union as of this time.

He completed SERTS training in Camp Evans and joined his company. Soon after, on the morning of May 1st, Judd was delivered by helicopter into a LZ to join Bravo. He was given an axe to deliver for LZ cutting. As he hustled to get off the chopper he managed to slice his thumb with the axe. Ominously, he was already bleeding as he stepped onto the Ripcord A.O.

Once on the ground he met his Platoon Sergeant Terry Hill, his Squad Leader Mike Deming and his Platoon Leader. His company spent two or three weeks in the jungle before going to Ripcord for a short period.

After the battalion stand down, Bravo Company worked the area around Triple Hill. Judd had been sent to the rear to learn how to establish mechanical ambushes. Once he

got back in the field he was setting them as needed. One such mechanical ambush was set but the company was forced to leave it behind so they could assault Hill 805 on time.

On July 1 Bravo combat assaulted onto Hill 805. After a number of nights of contact and various enemy sightings, the company walked back to Ripcord on July 7. Since Charlie Company was moving into the area of Triple Hill, Bob, Dennis Bloomingdale and Ramon Santiago were attached to a Charlie Three squad to retrieve the mechanical ambush left behind on July 1. They ran into an NVA bunker complex they had not seen before resulting in Dennis Bloomingdale and Bob both being hit. After being rescued and medevaced to Camp Evans, Bob discovered he had received thirteen shrapnel wounds. From there he went to Phu Bai then Pleiku for two weeks intensive care fol-

lowed by two weeks in intensive care at Cam Ranh Bay. He spent a total of 45 days in the bay area on the beach after getting out of intensive care. He finally returned to the company but on a permanent profile due to his injuries. For a while he got a job as RTO at the Third Brigade HQ. However, the mustache he grew made him undesirable at HQ and soon got him assigned as the brigade liaison to the MACV compound near Eagle Beach for the remainder of his tour.

In March 1971 he returned to Michigan and his job at the local factory. By August he had married and during the next five years had a daughter and son and a divorce. Around 1980 he re-met his current wife "Reds" who was also fresh off a divorce. After thinking it over for a time they decided to marry in 1998 on the way to the re-union held in Atlantic City. They have become staples of the Ripcord reunion effort as they assist in the setup and take down each year.



The Legendary Lodi

(continued from page 4)

divulge the responses of the rest of the group, but when it came time for Layne to answer he says "Sandra and I got married in the early evening and after all the hoopla was over at the church, we went home, changed clothes, and went up the road about 3 miles to Lake D'Arbonne to run trot

lines all night. We caught a mess of white perch and catfish and cooked um up for breakfast."

My friends this is true greatness in a man.

The Legendary Lodi

PS: Layne Hammons is a man of few words. He was a soldier's soldier. He never complained and carried out every mission ever given him as a sol-

dier without hesitation. He is revered by his peers in Vietnam for his loyalty and his courage, and he is revered by his neighbors and friends today for his compassion, honesty, and willingness to always help others in time of need. His wife Sandra is a precious jewel. The Legendary Lodi has met a lot of great men in his life, but I don't know that I have ever met a greater man than Layne Hammons.

LZ Kent Island

On April 10, 1970, FSB Ripcord was finally seized by ground assault by Charlie Company (2/506). Those first few days were not easy ones. —Chuck Hawkins

Dirt, dust, windswept mountain top.

Hueys come and go. Chinooks drop heavy loads of ammo, wire, blivets of water, fuel oil for the generators.

We labor under the sun, and wind, stringing barbed wire and concertina, and digging holes in the ground. Holes for our protection.

Something nags at us. Something inhuman floats above our labors and tugs at our souls. This is not a normal place to be.

Denny Heinz digs, and digs, lifting dirt from a place he will call home for the time we are here. Shovel full after shovel full.

He does not know, cannot know that where he digs has been dug before. Metal strikes metal, but he feels it not, and he lifts another shovel full of earth.

The grenade explodes.

Lifted to face level, it blasts Denny Heinz with the force of demons. How could he know it had been there since the last occupants buried it?

Doc Shepherd is there immediately, so is Foret, the sergeant, I am close behind. Heinz is shattered, dying.

Gasping, doc gives CPR. A medevac is called ... anxious moments. The clatter of rotors slaps the air. Heinz will be saved.

I remember this as clearly as if it were yesterday. The medevac hovered over out position; we loaded Heinz on the chopper, fixed to a stretcher. The transfer from one medic to another took place. The medevac huey lifted off, and Doc began to cry, "Give him CPR, give him breath!" But it didn't happen. The chopper medic was too new, a cherry, and was shocked by the sight of his first casualty.

Doc was inconsolable, and for good reason. In a few minutes we knew. Heinz had died in route to the aid station in the rear.

There's a Wall now, in D.C. A place we go to remember heroes like Denny, a place we go to remember all those who died, serving their country in a dirty little war.

The Wall, too, is not a normal place to be. But it is there ... for our protection.

RIPCORDETTE'S CORNER

Hope everyone had a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year. We are already through the first month of the year and I hope everyone is thinking about what goodies they can bring or make for our Women's Auction at the reunion in October. You know it's never too early to get started, I know I have and very much looking forward to seeing everyone again.

I wanted to let everyone know about the book 'Bridges Over Madison County', which is based in Iowa. It is a fictional book but a very good read. If anyone has any suggestions of other books you have read that every-

The History of the Ripcord Commemorative Coin

Fred had asked me to speak at the Mobile reunion. (I think it was Mobile.) I was looking for an idea that would bring together all of the various units and branches that fought the battle. That was simply too busy for a coin and I wanted a coin for all sorts of reasons. It was easy to conclude that the grunt infantryman was the principal fighter and the heart and soul of the battle. I got out my map and in sketching out the four main hills in the battle, there was an opening in the center of the area.

I went to an artist who's work I had seen and it turned out that he was a Marine Gunnery Sergeant who served in Vietnam near our area as a combat artist. I asked him if he could put a trooper in the center of the coin and be sure to maintain the geographic accuracy of the relative positions of the hills. I designed the other side to announce to all, the pride we take in being part of the illustrious history of the Screaming Eagles and to note the dates of the battle. Copies were made of the art work and sent to Korea. I gave Fred a copy and you have seen the great work that he and Micki have done with it.

When Fred and I went to Vietnam in 2001, we gave a coin to each of our former enemies that we interviewed. They were quite impressed and appreciative.

Cheers and Currahee —
Ben Harrison

Coins for Sale

This coin is given to all Veterans of Ripcord that come to the Reunions from Ben Harrison.

They are also available for you to buy if you can not make the reunion.

Send \$15.00 to Fred Spaulding, 7702 White Dove Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46256-1750

one else might be interested in, please let me know so I can include it in the next news letter.

I have a little good news I would like to share with everyone. My son-in-law returned from Iraq on January 27, 2004 with no casualties to his unit. Needless to say everyone in the family has been excited to see him, especially the granddaughters Jana and Carlie.

In closing I would love to hear from you all about any good or interesting news you would like to share with everyone.

Juanita Tipton at cwtip@msn.com or 910-436-4667

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Is There a Red Circle on Your Newsletter?

If there is a Red Circle on the outside of your newsletter, then we have not received your postcard survey back. If you do not send the enclosed postcard back, you will be removed from our mailing list and you will no longer receive the newsletter. You can mail it back in an envelope for privacy reasons, if you prefer.

RIPCORD REPORT

Ripcord Report is a publication of the **Ripcord Association**, and is the authoritative voice of history for the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord.

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