

A Storm In The Desert

The wait seems endless for those at home

By Susan L. Holing
 The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Editor's Note: This article contains personal observations of the writer.

CARLISLE—She sat in an easy chair, but was far from feeling easy. Her little boy demanded attention, as little boys do when they are 2 years old.

The last letter I received was dated January 1 from Saudi Arabia. So begins the story of waiting for Sarah Curran, wife of Marine Capt. Dwaine Curran, of Carlisle. He was activated on November 20 and then went for processing in North Carolina.

He left on December 20 for Saudi Arabia and arrived there on December 22.

She smiled saying, "His spirits were very high. He doesn't complain about anything. He goes with the flow." Also waiting with Sarah and her family are Dwaine's parents, Louise and Howard Curran of Owl Hollow in Nicholas County, a married sister, Dawn Letcher, also of Owl Hollow, and another married sister, Rhonda Fryman of Millersburg.

We give each other a lot of support. We talk about every day. The whole county, it seems, has written or called me."

ON THE HOMEFRONT

After traveling to Ft. Knox to a support group meeting of drive to Ft. Knox every month.

"When I'm alone at night, I start to think, Tyler, 2 and one-half, keeps me busy and with going to Merhead State high; keep writing; and if there are any money problems about allotments or filing income taxes, there are office people from the unit to assist them. The families of the members in the reserve unit are scattered over Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

"Everybody is everywhere."

But we can call each other and know he has to go fight.

Sarah reflected as she told him not to march so loudly. "He misses his Daddy. He knows his Daddy is somewhere in Saudi Arabia; and

knows he has to go fight. "Sometimes he won't be satisfied with anything. He wants his Daddy. But he is still outgoing. I think he misses their big blaglines most. They play Ninja turtles and wrestle around and march saying Marines cadences.

"They have the house turn upside down carrying on."

Dwaine's parents are doing real well. His dad was a big influence on him. He wanted to be a Marine all his life. His Dad was in the Marine Corps before Dwaine was born. All Dwaine talked about was the Marines. My known him six years, since we've been dating.

"It was his life long dream to be a Marine."

Dwaine loves his country very much. I think he's the most patriotic person I've ever met. He'd do anything for it; so he was ready to go August 4."

—Wife Sarah Curran

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Another family proud of young man's service

By Susan L. Holing
 The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE—Sonya and Julian Puckett came to The Carlisle Mercury office to bring a letter to Sonya's brother, Spec. 4 George McIntyre.

George has been in Germany since January 28, 1989, and in Saudi Arabia for just about a month. He called his Mom and Dad, Myrtle and Jim McIntyre of Carlisle, and told them he was going sometime before January, but he got called up earlier.

Julian and Sonya moved back to Carlisle from Florida in October, 1989. Julian was in the recovery stages from major heart surgery, and they wanted to be "near their family."

Julian calls himself the "official housekeeper" while Sonya attends Cosmetology School, in Winchester, full time. Two children, Mike, age 9 and in fourth grade at Nicholas County Elementary School and Kelly, age 15, a sophomore at Nicholas County High School, are at home.

"When we were in Florida, folks were scared about the possibility of terrorists. We are glad to be here," added Julian.

The last letter they received was early January, but George called and talked to Julian on January 12. The morale of his company was very high, the desert storms and blowing sand required adjustment.

"When I talked with George," furthered Julian, "he seemed concerned about doing his job well enough. He has received several promotions and has pretty high clearance. I just told him to do what he's trained to do and watch his buddies back and they will watch his."

"It's winter over there, said Sonya, "the temperature gets down to about 30 degrees at night and 65 degrees during the day is the high. He's on 24 hour alert right now and has a rigid schedule."

At one of the usual family gatherings, the news came from the television that the conflict had started and Desert Shield had turned into

Desert Storm.

One of the family members was quite upset, saying it was unfair to have to fight. Pride and honor look next to the events unfolded.

"It's hard for children to understand and Michael is no different. We rent movies to keep the constant broadcasts away from him."

But one night, Michael stopped me after I had said Good Night to him at bedtime, and asked, "Don't you just get, Mom. Let's say a little prayer for George and all of them over there."

The teachers have tried to explain and give general information. The first day of the attack, they watched TV and talked about what was going on. I am very impressed at how the teachers are handling this situation.

"We are seeing history in the making. It's like a bad dream. History is always something in the past. Not this time."

And so Julian goes for his check ups. Sonya goes to school; Myrtle cares for her mother; the children go to school and work.

Julian summed it all up. "It's easy to give support and another I think how the Viet Nam Vets came back to so little. We will have to remember to give our soldiers some space and time to adjust. Some will talk and some will not. No matter what, we have a good support system waiting for them at home."

THE STORY CONTINUES.
 Dad, Jim McIntyre, came by the office and added the latest news.

They had received a letter from George's commanding officer, Captain Barry R. Hendricks:

"Your son, George, has been selected to participate in Operation Desert Shield with our sister battalion 8-43d Air Defense Artillery, out of Giebelstadt, Germany."

"The selection process was competitive and George was selected based on his exceptional abilities.

"While many of the soldiers were apprehensive about being selected, your son accepted."

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The Carlisle Mercury Staff Photo
 A two vehicle accident, Friday afternoon, sent Raymond Waggoner to Nicholas County Hospital. Mr. Waggoner was operating a 1976 Chevrolet pickup truck, which collided with a 1979 Peterbilt Coal truck, operated by Bobby Franklin of Jellico, Tennessee. Mr. Waggoner was taken to Nicholas County Hospital by Nicholas County Ambulance. The Nicholas County Fire Department responded to the accident scene, which was investigated by Nicholas County Sheriff Charles Ring. Mr. Waggoner passed away Sunday at Nicholas County Hospital. At press time, it was not determined if this was directly related to the accident.



The Carlisle Mercury Staff Photo
 Angela Markland, operating a 1988 Cougar in an icy patch on Myers Station Road, last Friday morning. She apparently lost control of her vehicle, which overturned. Markland was taken to Nicholas County Hospital, by Nicholas County Ambulance. The accident was investigated by Nicholas County Sheriff, Charles Ring.

Mom leads club for son in Saudi others involved

By Susan L. Holing
 The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CPL. Tony Bean has a fan club in Carlisle, Kentucky. His Mom, leading the club, brought in some letters from friends as well as family.

Tony was deployed August 1 straight to Saudi Arabia.

"He writes often and will be glad to come home to go fishing. He sends lots of love and the food is not so tasty," his mother said.

She is glad for the working 800 numbers. "His wife is on the base in North Carolina, so she has the support of the wives and her friends. She is holding up pretty good."

"They talk about two times each week. Everyone here has been so supportive. My husband, Frazer, and our son Greg and Cathy offer their support, and we have a new 6 months old baby, Matthew. The church groups and everyone in town have been so supportive. I'll say that much!"