



THE CURRAHEE

Newsletter of The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association

Airmobile - Air Assault

Association Motto: We Stand Together - Then, Now, and Always

Key Officers / Staff:

Chairman-Michael J. Metzger
(Mike)

President / Editor-Eugene L.
Overton, Jr. (Gene)

Phone: 718 761-6265

E-Mail: Charly35@aol.com

Treasurer- Hoyt B. Moore, III
(Bruce)

Phone: 858 274-4317

E-Mail:
TheMoe_A1506@msn.com

Newsletter Reporters:

1st Bn - Patrick Ludwa (Pat)

Phone: 216 261-4958

E-Mail: Pludwa@hotmail.com

2nd Bn- Christopher D. Garrett
(Chris)

Phone: 218 760-1244

E-Mail: c-garrett@msn.com

3rd Bn- James M. Nemeth (Jim)

Phone: 970 276-3015

E-Mail: JMN@cmn.net

Other Eras -Currently None
Assigned

**Home Page Commit-
tee:Chairman** - Michael C.
Bookser

(Mike) Phone: 412
761-3627

E-Mail: Mbookser@usaor.net

Currahee Home Page Address is

[Http://Currahee.HiSpeed.Com](http://Currahee.HiSpeed.Com)

Vietnam Veteran Reunited with Comrades

by Nan Snider, Northeast Arkansas Town Crier Staff - March 27, 2001

Editor's Note – This article was selected, as the lead for this issue of The Currahee because it exemplifies how our Association web site is enabling Currahees to locate one another.

Larry Rolland, a Vietnam veteran from Monette, has been haunted by his memories of the Vietnam War for over 30 years. Last month he had an emotional and tearful meeting with two of his friends from the war, and his life has been going uphill ever since.

Larry wondered if he would ever be able to find peace in dealing with the horrors of war, the desolation and destruction and the loss of lives. He has had to deal with sleepless nights and flashbacks and has been forced to relive life and death situations, endured during the costly battle for **Fire Support Base Ripcord** during the Vietnam War.

Larry is a strong and determined man, who has tremendous family support and love. Everything that can be done has been done to make his life happy and fulfilled.

A few years ago, with advice from a friend, Larry began seeing a therapist at the community-based Veteran's Administration Clinics in

Jonesboro and Paragould. He began to talk about his ordeal instead of keeping it all bottled up inside.

"Going to see a therapist has been so good for me," Larry said. "He understood where I was coming from and encouraged me to talk it out, regardless of how gruesome or bad it was."

Last month Larry's therapist pulled up a **506th Infantry Regiment** web page, called **CURRAHEE**, which is taken from the American aboriginal Cherokee Indian equivalent for "**Stands Alone**."

"Focusing in on "**B**" **Company, 2nd Battalion, 101st Airborne**, Larry was able to locate 64 names and addresses of men who served at Ripcord.

"I called **Donald Thies**, who lives in Slinger, Wisconsin," Larry said. "He remembered me as Dale (full name Larry Dale Rolland), and he was called "**Milkman**." We all used nicknames and sometimes we didn't even know what each other's real names were. I also talked to my squad leader, **Thomas Muskus**, of Derby, Kansas.

"I went on to talk to **Chris Garrett**, my assistant gunner, from

Vietnam Veteran Reunited with Comrades

by Nan Snider, Northeast Arkansas Town Crier Staff - March 27, 2001

Duluth, Minnesota," Larry said. "Things started coming together like a book. I had lived the first three-quarters of the book and read all the chapters and now I was getting to finish the last chapters of the book and put the pieces together.

"Chris is a trucker and used Interstate 55, and was coming through Blytheville," Larry said. "We arranged to meet at the Blytheville Plaza Truck Stop, for a reunion. My son Justin and his friend J. C. Daniels went with me.

"We were running late, and called Chris from our car to let him know," Larry said. "I know now it was God's plan, that we were to arrive late, but didn't know it at the time.

"When I walked in to the truck stop, I recognized him right away," Larry said. "We hugged and cried, then broke out the albums and pictures and began talking.

"I noticed two truckers next to us, listening to our conversations, more than people normally do," Larry said. "One was a big burley man, named J.C. He apologized for interrupting, and asked me if we were helicopter pilots? We told him, "No, that we had been infantry, or 'grunts.' He encouraged his friend, **Leo**, to come over and talk to us, as he had been in that area also."

"Leo sat down with us and joined the conversation," Larry said. "He said he had been with the **57th Combat Engineers**, as a helicopter pilot, in July of 1970. He knew that the 101st had lost several pilots and helicopters, and was called to fly one of the three remaining helicopters to **Fire Base Ripcord** to pick up the **14 men stranded** there.

"Our company commander, **Captain Ben Peters**, had told us that we might have to try to fight our way out of Ripcord, which we knew to mean we were going to die that day," Larry said. "We formed a circle, back to back, in preparation. Down the valley we heard two helicopters coming in, low. The two helicopters bounced down, and 11 men jumped in and then they were off. That left three of us. Again we stood back to back, preparing for the worst."

"After the two choppers returned, our orders came for the third helicopter to abort the mission, as it was too dangerous," Leo said. "We acted like we couldn't hear what he was saying and continued on in. We could see that the enemy had Ripcord completely surrounded and were already at the perimeter. We

climbed the southern slope, and the three men jumped in. We were hit with 52 rounds, on my side alone."

"Were the three a captain, a lieutenant, and a guy holding a M60 machine gun?" Larry asked, "Leo said "Yes." Well I was the man with the machine gun."

This miracle revelation prompted another round of hugs and tears.

"Only God could have arranged this reunion," Larry said. "We were late, just in time for Leo to come by, our tables were close together, and our conversation reached his ear. What a miracle this has been for all of us."

"I knew that Leo's foot was on the rudder and the throttle, but I have no doubt, that God was flying that helicopter," Larry said.

The men visited for 3 1/2 hours, and J. C. led them in prayer, before going their separate ways. The men vowed to keep in touch, and plan to get together as soon as possible.

"Justin called Gaye (Larry's wife, and his mother) on the way home and told her he had a miracle story to tell her, when they arrived," Larry said. "We have been telling it ever since." **Larry Rolland**, a Vietnam veteran from Monette, has been haunted by his memories of the Vietnam War for over 30 years. Last month he had an emotional and tearful meeting with two of his friends from the war, and his life has been going uphill ever since.

Larry wondered if he would ever be able to find peace in dealing with the horrors of war, the desolation and destruction and the loss of lives. He has had to deal with sleepless nights and flashbacks and has been forced to relive life and death situations, endured during the costly battle for **Fire Support Base Ripcord** during the Vietnam War.

Larry is a strong and determined man, who has tremendous family support and love. Everything that can be done has been done to make his life happy and fulfilled.

A few years ago, with advice from a friend, Larry began seeing a therapist at the community-based Veteran's Administration Clinics in Jonesboro and Paragould. He began to talk about his ordeal instead of keeping it all bottled up inside.

"Going to see a therapist has been so good for me," Larry said. "He understood where I was coming

Vietnam Veteran Reunited with Comrades

by Nan Snider, Northeast Arkansas Town Crier Staff - March 27, 2001

from and encouraged me to talk it out, regardless of how gruesome or bad it was."

Last month Larry's therapist pulled up a **506th Infantry Regiment** webpage, called **CURRAHEE**, which is taken from the American aboriginal Cherokee Indian equivalent for "**Stands Alone**."

Focusing in on "**B**" **Company, 2nd Battalion, 101st Airborne**, Larry was able to locate 64 names and addresses of men who served at Ripcord. "I

called **Donald Thies**, who lives in Slinger, Wisconsin," Larry said. "He remembered me as Dale (full name Larry Dale Rolland), and he was called "**Milkman**." We all used nicknames and sometimes we didn't even know what each other's real names were. I also talked to my squad leader, **Thomas Muskus**, of Derby, Kansas.

"I went on to talk to **Chris Garrett**, my assistant gunner, from Duluth, Minnesota," Larry said. "Things started coming together like a book. I had lived the first three-quarters of the book and read all the chapters and now I was getting to finish the last chapters of the book and put the pieces together.

"Chris is a trucker and used Interstate 55, and was coming through Blytheville," Larry said. "We arranged to meet at the Blytheville Plaza Truck Stop, for a reunion. My son Justin and his friend J. C. Daniels went with me.

"We were running late, and called Chris from our car to let him know," Larry said. "I know now it was God's plan, that we were to arrive late, but didn't know it at the time.

"When I walked in to the truck stop, I recognized him right away," Larry said. "We hugged and cried, then broke out the albums and pictures and began talking.

"I noticed two truckers next to us, listening to our conversations, more than people normally do," Larry said. "One was a big burley man, named J.C. He apologized for interrupting, and asked me if we were helicopter pilots? We told him, "No, that we had been infantry, or 'grunts.' He encouraged his friend, **Leo**, to come over and talk to us, as he had been in that area also."

"Leo sat down with us and joined the conversation," Larry said. "He said he had been with the **57th Combat Engineers**, as a helicopter pilot, in July of 1970. He knew that the 101st had lost several pilots and helicopters, and was called to fly one of the three

remaining helicopters to **Fire Base Ripcord** to pick up the **14 men stranded** there.

"Our company commander, **Captain Ben Peters**, had told us that we might have to try to fight our way out of Ripcord, which we knew to mean we were going to die that day," Larry said. "We formed a circle, back to back, in preparation. Down the valley we heard two helicopters coming in, low. The two helicopters bounced down, and 11 men jumped in and then they were off. That left three of us. Again we stood back to back, preparing for the worst."

"After the two choppers returned, our orders came for the third helicopter to abort the mission, as it was too dangerous," Leo said. "We acted like we couldn't hear what he was saying and continued on in. We could see that the enemy had Ripcord completely surrounded and were already at the perimeter. We climbed the southern slope, and the three men jumped in. We were hit with 52 rounds, on my side alone."

"Were the three a captain, a lieutenant, and a guy holding a M60 machine gun?" Larry asked, "Leo said "Yes." Well I was the man with the machine gun."

This miracle revelation prompted another round of hugs and tears.

"Only God could have arranged this reunion," Larry said. "We were late, just in time for Leo to come by, our tables were close together, and our conversation reached his ear. What a miracle this has been for all of us."

"I knew that Leo's foot was on the rudder and the throttle, but I have no doubt, that God was flying that helicopter," Larry said.

The men visited for 3 1/2 hours, and J. C. led them in prayer, before going their separate ways. The men vowed to keep in touch, and plan to get together as soon as possible.

"Justin called Gaye (Larry's wife, and his mother) on the way home and told her he had a miracle story to tell her, when they arrived," Larry said. "We have been telling it ever since. "

"This miracle is ongoing," Gaye said, "as I had a chance to tell it to a beauty supply representative, who came in my shop. She told me a friend of hers had a husband who needed help, and I was able to refer her to the clinic. Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome is very common among Vietnam Veterans, I have found."

Vietnam Veteran Reunited with Comrades

by Nan Snider, Northeast Arkansas Town Crier Staff - March 27, 2001

Larry had three other brothers who served in Vietnam, Fred, Benny and Jerry. He related how his mother (Alice Rolland Estes) spent a lot of time on her knees during that time, praying for them.

Larry's son, Justin, was born while Larry was in Vietnam. He had carried a box of cigars around for a month, awaiting the big event, and they were beat up pretty bad before he got the news on December 2, 1970, that he had a son. He shared a cigar with his friend "Buff" in celebration.

"After I heard about Justin being born, it changed me forever," Larry said. "I wanted to live so bad, worse than ever before. I didn't take the chances I had before. All I could think about was coming home. The men really needed to go somewhere and unwind, to rest up, to get healthy again, but I arrived home in Monette just 72 hours after I left Vietnam, with Vietnam mud still on my trousers. I was not prepared for

reentry into my new world. It has taken me a long time to get to this point, and for that I am very thankful.

"I'm no hero, but I believed in what I was doing," Larry said. "The Vietnam War was a misunderstood war, but a war never-the-less.

Larry and Gaye have a daughter, Tina Matheny, and two grandchildren, Kayla Rolland and Alex Matheny.

He was awarded the Silver Star, but to his regret, he was never given his Combat Infantry Badge or his Purple Heart.

Larry viewed the traveling Vietnam Memorial, in Heber Springs, in 1996, but like most Vietnam Veterans, has come to know that the memories of time spent in Vietnam, is engraved, not so much in stone, but in the hearts of the men who served there to be remembered in some form, forever.

Article reprinted with permission from the Town Crier

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

IMPORTANT NEWS— On May 14, 2001, The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined that the Association is exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(a). This together with being recognized as a War Veterans Organization under section 501(c)(19), donors making contributions to the Association can deduct such donations on their personal or corporate tax filings.

Treasurer's Report (as of April 30, 2001):

Net Operating Income for the year is \$4,299.84 with total funds in Bank Accounts of \$11,245.14. **It should be noted that currently (as of April 30th) the Association has only 249 Dues Paying Members. This is way short of our projected Dues Paying Members of 400 - 450 needed to revert back to issuing / publishing four (4) newsletters a year.**

This being the case we are moving forward with the Cost Reduction Plan approved by the Board back in August 2000. This newsletter is only being sent out to current (year 2001) Dues Paying Members. The next newsletter will be sent out in September 2001. Let's get back on track with issuing four newsletters a year. Remember the newsletter is a major means of communicating to all what is happening in our Association. So let's help out the Membership Committee and get Currahees to hook-up and join the Association.

Membership and Dues:

January 2001 marks the beginning of a new year and once again Membership Dues becomes payable. In order to revert back to issuing and mail to all Currahees listed on the Association roster four newsletter a year, and cover the other Association expenses, between 400 and 450 Currahees need to financial support this organization by becoming Dues Paying Members. Some may say "Gee, I just paid my dues in July or

October 2000. Why should I be expected to pay Dues again some soon." True, but your Dues Payment made in the year 2000 only enabled us to meet our year 2000 expenses and now the Association needs funding to

Membership and Dues (Continued):

cover year 2001 expenses. **The Currahee Newsletter is the Association's only means of communicating to all Currahees, currently over 1,700.** But without adequate support, from you, the Association is left no choice but to cut service and provide information to only Dues Paying Members. I can't believe that there are only 249 Currahees that are willing to help support your Association.

Roster Statistics- Our current Roster / Mailing List consists of Currahees from the following Eras:

	<u>April 30, 2001</u>	<u>Dec. 10, 2000</u>
World War II	87	64
Fort Jackson (1948 / 1956)	7	7
Fort Campbell (1956 / 1964)	138	134
Fort Campbell (1964 / 1967)	107	79
Vietnam (1967 / 1972)	1,174	1,106
Fort Campbell (1972 / 1984)	30	30
Camp Greaves, Korea (1987 +)	48	48
Lost Currahees (Current Address Unknown)	150	139
Associate Members	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	1,761	1,587

Association Flags:

In our last newsletter, we commenced a Flag Fund Raising Drive to enable the Association to purchase two flags. One being an Association flag 3'x 4' at a cost of \$1,226.00 and the other being a Regimental flag 3'x 4' at a cost of \$825.00 will cost a total of \$2,051.00 excluding the cost of flag stands, poles and tops with total cost estimated to be approximately \$2,500. Well, I'm happy to report that to date forty-one Currahees have stepped forward and donated \$1,695 or 68% of the cost. It should be noted that these flags are two sided, meaning that they are viewed correctly on both sides, and all lettering, crest, and wings are individually sewn on. Hopefully, more Currahees step forward with donations enabling us to proudly display our Flags at Association functions. Remember, donations to our Association are now tax deductible for the donors. A separate Flag Fund Donation form has been enclosed.

Sale Items:

Currently, all 1999 and 2000 T-Shirts have been sold out. Only a small number of 1996, 1997 and 1998 T-Shirts are left and can still be ordered.

After five years of T-Shirt, it was decided to offer something different. So an Association Static Window Decal was designed. The decal will consist of the name of the Association and beneath that the Unit Crest with by a set of Jump Wings on the left and Air Assault Badge on the right and beneath that the Association Motto. This peel on / off decal can be proudly displayed on your car, truck or SUV or moved from one vehicle to the other at any time. And best of all, cost only \$5.00; a separate Decal Order Form has been provided in this newsletter.

Currahee Home Page:

The Currahee Home Page Committee has been very busy maintaining our web site and updating it with information, photos and stories submitted by Currahees. For the twelve months ending December 2000 our web site was visited a total of 390,548 times or an average of 32,545 times each month. But it appears that the year 2001 is going to be quite different. During the four months ending April 2001 our web site was visited a total of 291,355 times or a new average of 72,839 times. That is a huge increase of over 224% a month; so I must again say that we are doing something right that people find our web site interesting to visit. In March alone

Currahee Home Page (Continued):

the web site was visited 78,905 times and from such places (Countries) as: Canada; Belgium; The Netherlands; France; UK; Australia; Sweden; New Zealand; Italy; Japan; Austria; Demark; Germany; Spain; Singapore; Thailand and others. Visits to our web site from within the USA include 1,207 with US Military web addresses as well as 1,022 from Educational institutions. Remember our web site is only as interesting and exciting as you make it.

506th Association's Man of the Year Award for 2001, presented by Static Line, has been awarded to Michael C. Bookser (B 1st Bn - 12/1969 to 5/1970).

For the past 24 years, in April, Don Lassen of The Static Line hosts a Airborne Awards Festival with representatives present from all Airborne Units and Organizations. This year's event occurred April 4th — 7th with an Airborne Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening the 7th. Don ask each Unit or Organization to

Currahee Reunion — 2002

Location: North Baltimore, Maryland.

Dates: Thursday, August 15th to Saturday, August 17th, 2002.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Select - Baltimore North [2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093 Phone # 410 252-7373] located thirteen miles north of Downtown / Inner Harbor area of Baltimore. Room rate for our Reunion would be \$84 plus 13% tax or \$94.92. Hotel has a total of 243 rooms, five of which are wheelchair accessible. Hotel Lobby has a large airy Atrium and a separate Setting Area which will work well for our Welcome Table. Hotel web site - Holiday Inn Select Baltimore

-- above room rate is good from Tuesday, August

The 506th Today in South Korea:

Editor's Note - No article this issue about the Troops in Korea. It seem that they have been in the field the last few months training. The word is that they have been honing up on their Company and Platoon tactical skills including numerous Live Fire Exercises. Just in from the field and now busy focusing on qualifying for their Expert Infantryman's Badge.

On a different topic, the Battalion is in the process of re-establishing the Positions of Honorary Colonel and Honorary Command Sergeant Major.

designate an individual to be decorated for their outstanding contributions for the past year. In our case, the Board of Directors unanimously voted that Michael Bookser be named our Association's Man of the Year for his efforts with The Currahee Home Page (web site), which continues to improve and attract attention to our Association. We think that Mike's dedication deserved this token of appreciation and recognition for promoting the Currahee spirit.

13th for early birds until Sundays, August 18th. Normal room rate at this hotel is \$149 before taxes.

Mark your calendars and start making plans to attend this Reunion. We'll be giving away free night stays, plenty of things to do in the surrounding area including plans in the works for a Association Ceremony at the 101st Airborne Division Monument and Vietnam Wall. Not to mention our Hospitality Rooms and Memorial Dinner. Details are being worked out with more information coming in the next newsletter.

So I'm looking for more information shortly from Korea for our next issue of the newsletter in September.

Medical Alert to All Vietnam Currahees:

A recent decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs has put Type 2 Diabetes on the list of presumptive service-connected conditions for Vietnam veterans. In other words, if you are a Vietnam Vet and have Type 2 Diabetes check with the VA you may have a service-connected condition for which you maybe entitled to service-connected disability compensation.

Words From Our Friends In Europe:

The **French Government** is issuing a certificate to recognize the participation of all American and allied service members who took part in the Normandy landing and contributed to the liberation of France.

Eligible veterans must have participated in the Normandy landing and liberation of France, on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace,

In addition, any Vietnam Vet with a Thyroid Condition, please contact Jerry Walden (HHC / A 2nd Bn—12/1967 to 11/1968), 231 West Main Street, Chester, CT 06412 phone # 860 526-2277. He has been trying to get the VA to admit since 1992, that Agent Orange (Dioxin) is connected to Thyroid disease. Jerry would appreciate any help or information for follow Currahees in his ongoing battle with the VA.

between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945. The certificate will not be issued posthumously.

To apply, eligible veterans must submit an application form with a copy of documented proof of their service in France between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945. Be sure to send a **copy**, the documentation will **not** be returned. The application form can be obtained and sent back to the nearest Consulate General of France here in the United States.

From The Currahee Home Page (Web Site) -

Sunday 04/22/2001 4:18:53am

Name: Patrick Elie

E-Mail: patelie@wanadoo.fr

Homepage Title: D-Day : Etat des Lieux

Homepage URL: <http://www.6juin1944.com>

Location: Normandy, France

Comments: I am the webmaster of a French Web site dedicated to d-day and to all the men who have landed on our beaches on June 6, 1944. Your website is also a good thing to maintain the memory of the men who are in the 506th PIR.

Thanks.

Saturday 02/03/2001 12:36:00am

Name: michel janssen

E-Mail: dalbers@hetnet.nl

Homepage Title: The liberation of Eindhoven

Homepage URL: <http://www.geocities.com/floor1945/liberation.html>

Location: The Netherlands

Comments: My name is Floor Loen. My dad has fought with many other soldiers in Eindhoven (in the Netherlands)at september 1944. Who can help me to find my American father?

Editor's Note — These are messages posted on our web site from various location in Europe. If you have a computer with internet function you may want to check out the two web sites that these individuals in europe have created.

Looking For (Messages posted on our Currahee Home Page):

Friday 04/27/2001 4:36:05pm

Name: David L. "Goody" Goodman

E-Mail: DLGOODMANEA@AOL.COM

Comments: LOOKING FOR 3RD PLT CHARLIE CO 3/506 @ PHAN THIET 1/70 3/71. BOONIE RATS ANYONE KNOW WHAT HAPPEN TO: SGT SANDERS ???

Thursday 03/22/2001 1:22:07pm

Name: Laris Sutton

E-Mail: lanea13@hotmail.com

Location: Rocky Mount, N.C. 27804

Comments: trying to locate personal that were in A 3rd BN 506 infantry from 10-30 67 to March of 68, also A 1st BN 327th infantry from 3-19-68 to 9-68 . Will accept phone calls at 252-443-3802

Friday 01/26/2001 5:36:25pm

Name: Nicholas C Di Pette

E-Mail: top/crash101@webtv

Comments:

I was in A/1/506 Sep 68 to Sep 69. Looking for someone who remembers me and to hook up with.

Monday 01/22/2001 8:19:51pm

Name: Ted Feight

E-Mail: feight.ted@acd.net

Location: Lansing, Michigan

Comments: I was in the 1st of the 506th Company D, from November 1967 to December 1968. I have been trying to find our medic Kenneth Wendel for years. I have talked to over 50 or 60 Kenneth Wendels around the country. Ken was from Wichita, KS. Any one know where he is?

General Messages Posted on the Currahee Home Page:

Monday 05/14/2001 9:22:10am

Name: glenn rodman

E-Mail: hindere@hotmail.com

Comments: Thanks for this site. I was a soldier from age 17 to age 33,(1976-1992), and of all the units I was assigned to during those years, being a currahee was my favorite. C Company of the 1st Battalion was the best time I ever spent in the army, bar none. Thanks again.

Monday 04/02/2001 12:03:10am

Name: Thomas(Heavy) Villanueva

E-Mail:thomasv5@prodigy.net

Location: Arlington, Texas 76016

Comments: I was in Co.C 2/327th 101st. Reading Don Thies narrative brought back alot of memories. The best one was being releived by the 506th. This is a great site to read and study history.

General Messages Posted on the Currahee Home Page (continued):

Saturday 03/31/2001 0:11:16am

Name: Mike "Spoon" Whitaker

E-Mail: Mpw1506@cs.com

Comments: Just touching base after a brief awol. Had to scrap the old PC and now have a new E address. Hope to hear from anyone from the 506th. I served with HHC 1/506 from Nov 69 to Nov 70.

Saturday 03/24/2001 10:17:21pm

Name: Tom & Dan Shepherd

E-Mail: tshepw4@excite.com

Comments: Currahees, Well another year has passed since dad was killed in Vietnam. This year was different from the previous twenty-nine however, because in this year we learned that our family was not alone in remembering him and his sacrifice. Thank you all for opening up your hearts and sharing those difficult times with us. We are forever grateful.

Proud Sons of...

SSG Thomas C. Shepherd Sr.

Panel W4 Row 74

Monday 03/19/2001 2:02:20pm

Name: kauther

E-Mail: kahter2499@yahoo.com

Location: ft lewis wa

Comments: i was stationed in korea with the 506th, 2000-2001, A co, and i have to say with out a doubt it is the best unit I have yet been in, and reading the history of the unit only proves that fact more and more. i am currently assigned to 5/20 inf, were many other men who also served over there, are assigned, and they to agree that is there no better unit to have been a part of as it gave us something that few men in todays army do not get to experience, comradery. those of us here that were currahees have a bond that no others around here have. and you can notice every day as we still great each other with the motto currahee- or stands alone. its a bond that noothers have even if they came from the same unit. i just want to end with thanks for history that the veterans have given us, and the pride established by that history.

Tuesday 03/06/2001 0:10:54am

Name: chatlos, frederick louis

E-Mail: williamsnchatlos@aol.com

Location: kansas city, missouri

Comments: I'm a new member of the great plains society reenactment group portraying "I" company 506 PIR. I strive to represent with honor the veterans of the 101st airborne. their sacrifices are held dear to my heart.

I hope to keep their courage & pride alive through our living history organisation.
may god bless those who proudly displayed the "Screaming Eagle".

frederick chatlos

kansas city, mo

Chris Garrett – 2nd Bn Reporter (B Company, 2nd Bn – September 1970 / October 1971

Another newsletter deadline is here. Ron Nelson sent me an email last month and told me he was interested in reuniting with his old army buddies. Ron was with Sgt Shepherd the day he was killed and Jack Gottman was shot in the shoulder trying to save him. I just happened to be up in the CT area the next week so we got together at the truck stop for a cup of java. Ron was still the tall skinny kid with the reddish hair that I remembered him as so it was easy to pick him out as he got out of his car. It always amazes me at the instant acceptance one feels after a 30 year parting of company. Ron told me that for a while there he thinks he was the only one left on the other side of the river where the caves were. I got the following email from Sam Knipmeyer today and thought that I should add it in here. Sam can be reached at larak@accutek.com

Hello everyone, This Evening I called Tom Shepard Jr. He and family are fine. They really appreciate all of the information we have given them about Sgt Shepard. It is hard to believe that as of tomorrow it will be 30 years since we had the contact at the cave. I hope as many people as possible can go to the reunions that are coming up. My wife and I are planning on attending the Ripcord Reunion in October and I will be going to the B Company gathering in Florida in November.

I got this email from Don Thies today. Hi everyone, just an update to all of you. I believe that I had mentioned in an earlier email to you all that I had success in finding information about Gary Fiedler who fell off the Ice Cream Cone on April 5, 1971. With the use of the Internet and the information the Wisconsin State Historical Society sent me I was able to find the memorial park where Gary was laid to rest. This afternoon, after lunch I called the memorial park and they were kind enough to place a map outside on their door showing me where he was located. I picked up a wreath on the way down and not knowing which of 3 exits to Racine I should take I decided that the second one looked like it was closer. Anyway, it was the correct exit and brought me right to the park. The map was there on the door and highlighted in yellow right to his site. Guys, I placed the wreath on his gravesite, and paused for a while. I did this for all of us. I'll keep the map so if anyone else needs to visit I can help. I also noticed that I believe Gary's dad passed away in late 1986, but his mom is still living. He also

had a brother and sister so I'm in the process of trying to get in contact with one of them if they want to. You know, all these years until Carl gave me what he thought was Gary's last name the only thing I could remember was he was one of us guys from Wisconsin. He was the guy who fell off that hill. If everyone remembers how we all felt after getting together last year, I hope we continue to do so in the future. If you would like any information from what I've just been able to gather please let me know. I will keep you all informed if anyone contacts me. Don Thies at jmmdthies@nconnect.net.

Out of the blue, Larry (Dale) Rolland called Don Thies and as I was in the area the next week I was able to stop in and visit with him and his son down in AR. We only knew him as Dale so that is why we could not find him even though he still lived in the same town that I had him listed in the diary that Joe Anter had kept. Dale had quit drinking, why does that sound familiar, six years ago and was in therapy for the bad dreams he was having and his therapist recommended the internet in a search for old army buddies to help him sort out the memories he had. I had been trying to find Dale for 10 years, as he was the M60 gunner that I was an ammo bearer for and Dale was such a story teller that I knew he would be quite an addition to our little group. Dale can now be reached at ldlgrolland@yahoo.com. Speaking of our little group, we are having a reunion of B/Co-2/506, 1970-1971 in Panama City Beach, FL this Nov 16-18, 2001. You can make reservations at the Tradewinds Resort by calling 1-800-222-7108 or on the web at www.tradewindsmotel.net. Room rates are from \$42.50-\$69.50 depending on what you need. Ben Peters is our contact person and can be reached at 850-265-3169 or you can contact me. Chris Garrett

Jim Nemth—3rd Bn Reporter (B Company, 3rd Bn—1970)

Hello Third Battalion. It has been a while. I hope all you who get this newsletter are enjoying its benefits. The contacts I have made are putting me in touch with the past; answering questions and filling voids. It can only get better.

There are two new opportunities to connect with those you shared your foxhole with. Rick Clanton, B Co. 2nd Platoon, 1969-70 has started a little site for those of 2nd Platoon or anyone of the 3rd who would like to contribute or view, so far he has lots of great pictures and the first chapters of a novel by someone who was there with him. Rick sends me posts on the site so I am not familiar with its navigation but Rick at rjclanton@yahoo.com or 704 866 7863 would help you if you need questions answered. Also Rick would you send out a general email with a small introductory explanation on your site? It would help us all.

The other possibility to expand on old friendships is the 3rd Battalions unofficial reunion in Olathe, Kansas near Kansas City this summer. Started by the original members of the battalion, the first to land in country, and headed up by Jerry Berry (real name) email: currahee@lclink.com, they offer up a real friendly gung-ho bunch of reunioners and are encouraging the ever widening circle of members of the battalion from all tours of duty to join them. For those of

you who missed the 3rd's entertainment at the 101st reunion last June this would be a good time to catch their program. Dates are Jul 31 thru Aug 4 info is on the 3rd's web site www.currahee.org or call Jerry direct at 406 293 7678. A Banquet, a slide show most evenings (and Jerry has got some great pictures from resources most of couldn't get close to at the time) and a awards ceremony. Oh and no 3 can limit on the beer.

There is also a plan in the works to do a parachute jump at that reunion, that is headed up by Mike Krawczyk, krawczyk@netnitco.net or 219 464 3051. If you feel like you are getting old a jump with your fellow veterans will put an end to that. Did I say that right? Anyway it is a great experience.

I would encourage all Currahees to join in these reunions and add to the websites. You will probably find an old friend or open a door for someone who is just outside the perimeter looking to get in. We need to remember that those new guys in country for a short time before they were wounded have that aching feeling they were part of something yet are often disconnected.

I am looking for stories regarding your experience in 506th for this column. Contact me thru information provided in this newsletter.

Join the Association. Support it. It needs you and offers you something in return.

Currahee, Jim

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CURRAHEES

This year (2001) is a year in which The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association does not hold / host a Reunion. However, below is a list of things happening and places where Currahees can still have an opportunity to gather and rekindle old friendships:

"Band of Brothers"
E Company, 2nd BN, 506th PIR
HBO World Premiere
Wednesday, June 6, 2001
Utah Beach, Normandy, FRANCE

Wednesday (June 6th):

St. Lazare Station, Paris -- private train to **Carentan**

Buses to **Utah Beach**:

- **Lunch Buffet**
- **Ceremony at the Utah Beach Memorial**
- **HBO "Band of Brothers" World Premiere**
- **Dinner Buffet**

Carentan Station -- private train to **St. Lazare Station, Paris**

Hotel Ambassador -- Hospitality

1st Platoon, A Company, 1st Bn – 1970 / 1971 will be holding a Platoon Reunion June 22 – 24, 2001 at the Ramada Inn, 520 East Thompson Road Indianapolis, IN. Reunion Host will be Pat Hyman (Old Man). Schedule events include a Welcome Buffet Dinner on Friday, a BBQ on Saturday night at the Old Man's house and a Farewell Buffet Brunch on Sunday. Contact: Hoyt Bruce Moore (The Moe) at 858 274-4317 or email him at TheMoe_A1506@msn.com.

3rd Battalion Currahees are gathering for a Reunion July 29 – August 4, 2001 at the Holiday Inn in Olathe, Kansas (just outside of Kansas City). An excellent reunion is being planned with a Hospitality Room open the whole time, scheduled Viet Nam slide presentation as well as tours sightseeing, casino action and a Banquet Dinner on Saturday, August 4th. Contacts: Joe Alexander at 265 693-2653 or email him at Joe@offroadeq.com; Mike Krawczyk at 219 464-3051 or email him at krawczyk@netnitco.net; or Jerry Berry at 406 293-7678 or email him at Currahee@clink.com.

101st Airborne Division Association will be holding their Annual Reunion August 9 – 11, 2001 at the Four Points – Sheraton Hotel, 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX. Reunion will include Hospitality Room, Association PX, tours, Memorial Dinner on Friday evening August 10th and a Awards Dinner on Saturday evening August 11th. Contact: Jim Patton at 937 549-4326 or email him at 101assn@bright.net.

FSB Ripcord Association (primarily 2nd Bn, 506th) will be holding their Annual Reunion October 10 – 14, 2001 in Harrisburg, PA. Events are being planned including a Memorial Service. Contact: Chuck Hawkins at 703 791-5005 or email him at HERO_Library@msn.com.

B Company, 2nd Bn (1970 / 1971) will be gathering November 16 – 18, 2001 at the Tradewinds Resort in Panama City Beach, FL. Contact: Ben Peters at 850 265-3169.