

May, 2003



THE CURRAHEE

Newsletter of

The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association Airmobile - Air Assault

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

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When War Veteran's Cry

By

Arthur "Art" Wiknik, Jr.—A Company, 2nd Bn – 1969 / 1970

[Editor's Note – I thought this article was fitting this being the month in which we celebrate Memorial Day. Art served as a Squad Leader back in 1969 / 1970 and is currently a Manufacturing Engineer who also writes freelance articles.]

During a Veterans ceremony I attended as a youngster, I noticed an old soldier proudly dressed in his uniform, standing alert and erect, as if he were still on active duty. Not making eye contact with anyone, he stared into the distance, as if for that moment he was in a different time and place. As the roll call of the war dead was announced, the old soldier's emotions overpowered him. His lips trembled as several tears slowly ran down his cheek, but the old soldier never called attention to himself by wiping them away. Instead, he regained his composure and continued to stand tall as if nothing had occurred.

I had no idea of what had affected him. I always believed that war veterans were the most courageous men in the world but now that image was doubtful, for I had witnessed a sign of weakness. Or had I?

Years later, while serving as an infantryman in the Vietnam War, I had the unpleasant experience of watching young men horribly die in combat.

When I came home and began attending parades as a war veteran, I understood how that old soldier felt. The solemn drumbeat, the lonely sound of a waving flag and the rifle fire from the honor guard had stirred my emotions as well. Without realizing it, I had become one of those veterans who are sometimes haunted by the memories of the most intense period of my life.

The general population, who were unaffected by military service, often expect returning veterans to resume civilian life as if nothing significant has occurred. But it is naïve to think that anyone exposed to war would not be changed in some way. After all, a lifetime of extreme ordeals had been crammed into a relatively short period of time, stealing our innocence and psychologically scarring us in the process.

During my initial years home again, I tried to forget about the war and focus on a long-lasting peace to spare future generations from the same hardships that I was exposed to. But as armed conflicts continue to flare up around the world, the painful memories slowly creep back, like a gnawing wound that never

When War Veteran's Cry (continued)

completely heals. Old battlefield scenes become vivid as the war dead are remembered as forever-young comrades who will never again hug their parents, experience getting married, owning a home or growing old. The sad tear that a veteran eventually sheds is not a sign of weakness but instead represents the soul of our youth and the confronting of the ghosts of our past. For it is we as a nation, we as a community, and we as family and friends that sends men and women into battle, fully aware of what the consequences could be.

The most unfortunate but undeniable result of war is death, but when a fellow soldier is killed in battle, there is no wake or funeral and no time to grieve. Instead, emotions are suppressed under the cold thought; "I'm glad it wasn't me." That's because in combat there are more important things to think about, like keeping oneself alive. To cope with the selfish contradiction of humanity, veterans try not to take death too seriously, either joking about it or bushing it off as routine. However, the relief of escaping death, when others did not often carries with it the burden of survivor's guilt from the absence of a proper farewell.

In addition to the threat of being killed or wounded, soldiers endured miserable living conditions such as extreme heat or cold, a frequent lack of supplies, an absence of creature comforts and the deterioration of values. We also suffered through the loneliness of missing events at home such as weddings picnics and holiday family gatherings because the social activities taken for granted as a civilian simply had no place in the war zone.

To keep morale high in the midst of so much turmoil, public support of our involvement was absolutely essential. However, a soldier's most powerful motivation was to have a sweetheart faithfully waiting for his return. Unfortunately, some men lost their loves, usually through cowardly "Dear John" letters. That anguish of being abandoned while in a life-and-death situation thousands of miles from home was one of the cruelest obstacles a serviceman ever had to face.

As bad as these difficulties may seem, serving in the military during wartime was not pure hell from start to finish. Most servicemen fought proudly and demonstrated courage, principle, kindness and friendship; almost none cared about heroism or glory. War veterans also developed a unique bond and perspective

on life that is best reflected in a soldier's quote made famous during the Vietnam War, "You have never lived, until you almost died. For those who fought for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know."

In the aftermath of war, the country looks for ways to ease the pain and guilt for the miseries we inflicted upon ourselves. As a part of the healing process, cities, towns and villages build war monuments to publicly honor those that served. These monuments are not intended to glorify war but are instead necessary reminders that the true cost of protecting our freedom, or the freedom of the oppressed, is the highest cost, life itself. For without proper remembrance, the sacrifices and disruption of lives would be meaningless. That is why this war veterans cries.



Photo taken of Art in February 1970 at the 93rd Evac Hospital in Da Nang .

Editor's Note - Art has submitted several articles to be shared with his fellow Currahees; so you'll be see more of his writing in future Newsletters and on The Currahee Home Page.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Remember the American Soldiers’ Sacrifices for Liberty and Freedom

As we celebrate Memorial Day this year, I ask you to remember America’s soldiers who answer our nations call to duty and the ultimate sacrifices they made to insure your liberty and freedom as well as the liberty and freedom of others around the world.

The American Soldier first answered the call to fight for liberty and freedom during the Revolutionary War that established our great nation, then again and again throughout history they helped to insure liberty and freedom around the world in such places as France; Bosnia and most recently Iraq.

So this Memorial Day take time to reflect and pay tribute to the American Soldier who has sacrificed so much to insure your liberty and freedom. As you know, it is more than a day of store sales.

• Currahee Roster Statistics:

<u>Era</u>	<u>04/2003</u>	<u>12/2002</u>
World War II	194	194
Fort Jackson (1948 / 1956)	11	11
Fort Campbell (1956 / 1964)	192	186
Fort Campbell (1964 / 1967)	192	183
Vietnam (1967 / 1972)	1,595	1,541
Fort Campbell (1972 / 1984)	56	54
Camp Greaves, Korea (1987 +)	106	105
Current Address Unknown	181	166
Associate Members	75	63
Total	2,604	2,503

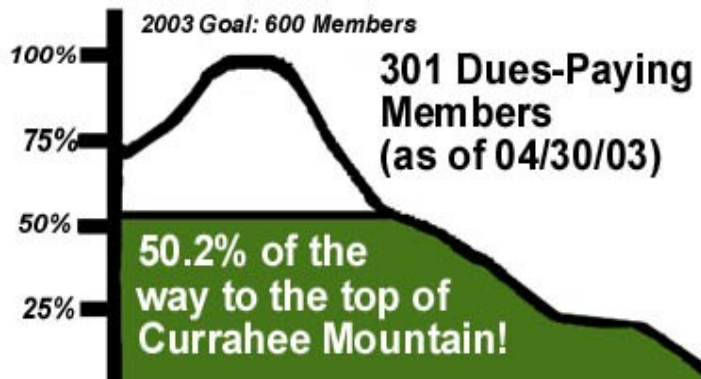
Note: The Currahee Roster has increased by 101 or 4% since the end of last year.

• Membership:

I would first like to thank all those Currahees, Associates and Friends who responded not only with their membership dues payments but also with a number of useful comments and suggestions as well as several of you submitting stories and / or articles for inclusion in our Newsletter and Home Page.

Currently, as of April 30th, the Association has a total of 301 Dues Paying Members as compared to 374 for all of last year (2002). If we can keep this momentum going we will surely reach our Member Goal

of 600. So I’m asking each of you to reach out and contact just one other Currahee and get them to join the Association. This will then enable us to resume issuing four Newsletters a year to all Currahees (2,604) listed on our Roster as opposed to just three issues a year with only the January issue going to all Currahees.



• Currahee Home Page (Web Site):

Between January 1st and April 30th of this year your web site has been visited a total of 2,275,384 times; that’s an average 568,846 times a month or 18,962 times a day. The only word that I can find to describe this is **AWESOME**. This is all the result of those Currahees and Currahee family members who have been gracious enough to provide us with information, stories and photos for inclusion. So if you want to find out information about the 506th this web site is the place to go.

Just recently Thomas D. Potter, son of George L. Potter, Jr. – E Company, 2nd Bn –February 1943 / November 1945, sent us a 15 page article with photos titled “**Brave Men of World War II;**” which has been posted on our Home Page. This story details some of the experiences of an Airborne Pathfinder Richard Wright from E-company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne and of a number of Troop Carrier men with a focus on the importance of the re-supply of Bastogne. Troop Carrier Pilot Joe Antrim took four incredible color pictures of the [re-supply of Bastogne on December 23, 1944](#).

Lt. General Harry W.O. Kinnard, General McAuliffe's Assistant Chief of Staff G-3 during the siege of Bastogne, has recently written the following insightful letter to Tom Potter about his personal reflections regarding Joe Antrim's two color pictures of the troop carrier re-supply missions of December 23,

Currahee Home Page (Web Site):

1944. General Kinnard wrote:

*Lt. General Harry W. O. Kinnard
January 16, 2003*

*Dear Tom,
As I opened your package and saw the two remarkable photos of our aerial re-supply, a flood of memories danced through my head.*

In my mind's eye I recalled a soldier who saw his shadow on the snow. He began an Indian war dance whooping, hollering, jumping and stomping. He fully realized the importance to us of a break in the weather, which would permit air operations. Then I saw all the retrieval teams running for the precious bundles, which they correctly interpreted as assurance that we could, and would, hold Bastogne. It was a once-in-a-lifetime occasion, which all who were there will never forget.

Until I received your initial phone call, I had no idea that color pictures of that drop existed. How great that they were made and how miraculous that they were resurrected from the shoebox.

I am most grateful, Tom, for the pictures which I will treasure for the memories which they evoke.

*Many thanks and all the best,
Harry Kinnard*

I'm really proud of our Home Page and all those who have contributed information, articles and photos should be very proud as well.

With this type of information available Currahees' can better understand their individual time served in the 506th as well as help to preserve the legacy of our Regiment.

• **Planning Committee:**

Our Planning Committee is Chaired by Jim Nemeth (B 3rd Bn – 1970) and includes the following other Members: Tom Duckett (B 1st Bn – 1971); Robert Gilbert (D 1st ABG – 1956 / 1963); Ron Helwig (B 1st ABG – 1960 / 1962); Andrew Lovy (HHC 3rd Bn – 1967 / 1968); Clancy Lyall (E 2nd Bn – 1942 / 1945); Mike Mullican (A 3rd Bn – 1967); George Palmer (E (Recon) 1st Bn – 1968 / 1969); Don

Thies (B 2nd Bn – 1970 / 1971).

The Committee has concluded its review / study of possible 2004 Reunion sites and has come up with not only a site for the 2004 Reunion (Des Moines, Iowa) but for the 2006 Reunion (Colorado Springs, Colorado) as well. Both of which have been approved by the Association's Board of Directors by a 73% majority vote. See new Newsletter Section "2004 Currahee Reunion Planning" for more information.

• **Fund Raising:**

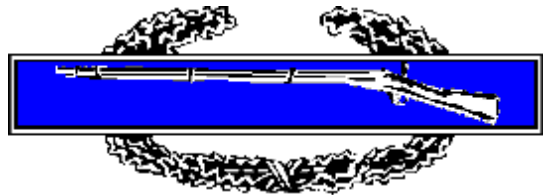
As mentioned in the last issue of The Currahee, I thought it would be appropriate this year to start taking full advantage of the Association's IRS tax exempt status as a Section 501(c)(19) War Veterans organization by soliciting individual and corporate donations. In order to accomplish this I asked for anyone with experience in fund raising to contact me and Master Sergeant (retired) Clarence (Clancy) Lyall - E Company, 2nd Bn (1944 / 1945) and E Company, 1st Airborne Battle Group (1956 / 1958) has volunteered to help in this effort.

Hopefully, such donations will provide funds for the Association to resume publishing four Newsletters a year , not just to Due Paying Members but to all Currahees on our Roster. In addition, funding for us to offer additional sale items, not just our current Currahee Decals and Polo Shirts.

So long for now. Currahee!

Gene Overton [C Company, 1st Bn (Airborne – Airmobile) - 1967 / 1968]

President / Cofounder



Treasurer's Report (as of March 31, 2003) Hoyt Bruce Moore, III [A Company, 1st Bn - 1970 / 1971]:

Net Income for the first quarter ending March 31, 2003 is \$3,788.61 with total funds in Bank Accounts of \$14,260.98. It should be noted that Membership Dues collected in just the first three months have increased dramatically as compared to total dues collected for all of last year. A special THANKS to all those Currahees and Associate Members out there for your support with timely dues payments and donations.

Air Assault Badge Project:

While attending the 101st Association's Snow Bird Reunion in Florida on February 8th, I had an opportunity to speech [in person] with Major General David H. Petraeus - the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) - about the status of his ability to issue orders to former 101st veterans for the wearing of the current Air Assault Badge. I'm sad to say that he informed me that after reviewing this matter he finds that he alone has no such authority. He personally feels that the 101st Vietnam War veterans should be given the proper recognition and honor they so well deserve but he has limits to his authority. So it looks like an up hill battle, but we Currahees are use to that; NO is not an acceptable answer. We'll just have to kick it up a notch; we're working on Plan "B."

Will keep you posted.
Gene Overton

West Point Project:

Contact has been re-established with the U. S. Military Academy - West Point to aid West Point Cadets in their individual history papers. This Project is intended to assist the Cadets in obtaining information / history on the 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment (WW II and Vietnam) as well as the Korean War thru the Cadets interviews with 506th veterans. While at the same time enabling the Association to obtain and preserve Regimental history.

Colonel Lance Betro, who heads the Department of History at West Point, believes that this Project has a lot of potential. What better way for the

Cadets to obtain an understanding of these military conflicts than through actually talking with veterans of those eras; and at the same time the Association also will be able to obtain first hand historical information about the Regiment.

A small list of Currahees who have volunteered to participate in this Project was supplied to the Colonel as well as me informing him of our new Association contact person (John T. Duckett (Tom) - B 1st Bn, 1971) who is committed to ensuring that the Project moves forward.

Now that the Academy's History and Military Science Departments have made the Cadets aware of our Association's Project to assist them, we must wait for a response from the Cadets themselves.

So don't be surprised if Tom Duckett or I reach out and contact you for participation in this Project by either aiding a Cadet with their history paper or even speaking to Military Science Cadets about various aspects of small unit leadership.

Those wanting to be added to our list of participants can contact either Tom Duckett at 574 935-3292 or via email at Duckett@Culver.Org or myself - Gene Overton at 718 761-6265 or via email at Charly35@Aol.Com.

The Battle Cry - CURRAHEE! Has Been Sounded.

As reported in our last newsletter, the Association Members in attendance at the General Membership Meeting on August 16, 2002 voted unanimously to support an afford to upgrade Major (retired) Richard Winters' Distinguished Service Cross to the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for valor.

Update - Recent follow-up discussions with Sergeant Major (retired) Herman W. Clemens (initiator of this effort) disclosed that the proposed upgrading has now passed two review panels at the Pentagon. The Secretary of the Army and Congress are the next to review it. Things are looking good! Even though the process for this upgrade is moving along, until a final decision is made, continue contacting your Senators concerning this issue. Will kept you posted as information becomes available.

Thanks and Currahee!

Now on with Other News (continued).

The 506th Today in South Korea (Reported by Major Albert C. Stahl—1st Bn Executive Officer)

Much has happened in the world since the last report from the DMZ: Our Army brothers have been victorious in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan grows more secure everyday, North Korea has admitted to having nuclear weapons and a repositioning of US Army forces in Korea somewhere south of Seoul is being addressed by senior uniformed and political leadership. The one constant remains the outstanding training conducted by the 1-506th Bn (AASLT) near the DMZ along the famed Imjin River.

The first two weeks of December found the entire Currahee Task Force in the field conducting and supporting rifle platoon ARTEPs. In common Currahee fashion the absolute coldest weather and deepest snow of the entire winter occurred those two-weeks. For five days running the temperature never got above 5 degrees and wind chill at times was -25 degrees. All nine rifle platoons in the battalion conducted an intense 96 hour situational training exercise that culminated with a platoon live fire ambush.

The first two weeks of January we conducted a range density, firing all the weapons assigned to the battalion. The battalion (-) then deployed back into the field in February and conducted Anti-Armor Platoon ARTEPs. Gator and Baker Companies were Opconned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, for the conduct of the Iron BDE's ARTEP. Both companies were heralded for their ability to move over almost impossible terrain, seizing chokepoints and annihilating Mechanize /Armor attacks using their organic javelin AT systems.

In March the battalion Opconned Hard rock company to the 28th Republic of Korea Infantry Division for the conduct of a FTX. Much like Gator and Baker companies, Hard Rock Company achieved acclaim from the ROK Army leadership for their ability to rapidly reposition during engagements and envelope attacking forces. Finally Gator Company was once again Opconned to another ROK unit as part of a Force on Force FTX the last week of March and first week of April. They once again acquitted themselves magnificently and all past and present Currahees should be proud of all the battalions training from January through March.

April was devoted to earning the coveted Expert

Infantryman's Badge. Two weeks of intense train-up occurred on [Stahl, Albert C. MAJ] Camp Greaves followed by two weeks spent in field conditions; training and then finally testing on the actual EIB testing site. 264 soldiers met all the pre-requisites and 101 Currahees earned the coveted badge; a job well done. The last week of April found the battalion conducting the first semi-annual 26.2 mile Currahee tactical foot march. 537 Currahees begin the event and 26.2 miles later 464 finished. The route marched paralleled the DMZ for most of its route and we undoubtedly marched over ground that soldiers have fought over for thousands of years.

In conclusion the Currahees stand ready at the tip of the spear along the DMZ to repel ANY advance by the Korean Peoples Army and we strive daily to uphold the prestige, honor and esprit de corps that has been earned and willed to us by all past Currahees. We salute all who read these words.

STANDS ALONE SIR! " CURRAHEE "

Last Roll Call:

Below is a list of Currahee that have died in 2003 or died in 2002 but were not listed in our last Newsletter:

O'Keefe, Patrick S.- E 506th PIR WW II, Feb. 7, 2003
Steele, Gary A. - C 2/506th VN, Jan. 26, 2003
Wilmes, Mike [Moose] - A 1/506th VN, Apr. 21, 2003

Not Included in Last Newsletter:

Cepek, George F. - B 506th WW II, Nov. 22, 2002
Kirk, Michael - LRRP 3/506th VN, Nov. 1, 2002
McCauley, Joe - HQ 2/506th PIR WW II, Dec 4, 2002
Russel, Wendell-HQ 2/506th PIR WW II, Sept 1, 2002
Shoemaker, Charles-A 506th PIR WW II, Dec 5, 2002
Stokes, Milton—B 506th PIR WW II, Nov. 29, 2002

2003 EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CURRAHEES:

Below is a list of such other events that we have received information about:

- **April 28 - May 2, 2003 - Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 1970** held their "Annual Hunting Club Reunion" at the **Howard Johnsons Motel, Iowa, LA.**
- **May 9 - 11, 2003 - Bravo Company, 3rd Bn (Airmobile)** will be having a reunion to go to the Vietnam Wall. All Currahee veterans are welcome to attend. The Reunion Headquarters will be at the **Tysons Corner Marriott, Vienna, VA.** Contact: **Rick Clanton** at rjclanton@yahoo.com or (web site : Bravo CO, 3rd/506th Infantry (Airmobile), 101 ABN DIV.
- **August 12-16, 2003 - The 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry** will be holding their 7th annual "Stand Alone Battalion" reunion along side the 101st Airborne Division Association "Gathering of the Eagles" in **Reno, NV.** The 3-506th Reunion Headquarters/Hospitality Room will be at the **Sands Regency Hotel and Casino.** Contacts: **Reunion Organizers** at currahee@lclink.com; or joe@offroadeq.com
- **August 13-16, 2003 - The 101st Airborne Division Association** will be holding their 58th Annual "Gathering of the Eagles" in **Reno, NV.** The Reunion Headquarters will be at the **Reno Hilton Hotel.** Contacts: **Reunion Committee Chairman** at **916-688-3003**; and **Jim Patton** at **270-439-0445** or Assn101Abn@aol.com
- **August 22-23, 2003 - Company B, 2nd Battalion, 506th, 101st Airborne (Airmobile)** will be holding their 2003 reunion in **Milwaukee, WI.** The Reunion Headquarters will be at **The Country Inn**

Words From Our Friends In Europe:

I've been emailing message back and forth with a seventeen year old student in Belgium by the name of Gregory Bontez. He claims to have come into possession of a Jump Helmet found on a farm in Normandy, France. The helmet has a Spade marking on the side which has turned yellow from age and inside it is marked in white paint " Walker, James, SN #20831700, 1st Bn 506th - Wyoming. Greg would very much like to locate and meet James Walker or a

Hotel, Waukesha, WI. Please make your reservations on line at: www.countryinnhotel.com. Contact: Host **Don & Joyce Thies** for additional information at **262-644-6159** or email at jmmdthies@nconnect.net

- **September 25-28, 2003 - 2003 Camp Toccoa Reunion:** Toccoa, GA is inviting all Paratroopers who trained at Camp Toccoa and Currahee Mountain in the **501st PIR, 506th PIR, 511th PIR and 517th PIR** to come to this reunion. For many of these veterans, 2003 will be the 60th anniversary of their training at Currahee Mountain, and the Toccoa - Stephens County Chamber of Commerce would like to honor them on this very special occasion

Events will include opportunities for visiting **Camp Toccoa and Currahee Mountain**, the dedication of a new monument recognizing all four Regiments and a flag pole; World War II Re-enactment; a **Currahee Challenge Road Race** (3 miles up and 3 miles down); plus food, fun and fellowship. The **Stephens County Historical Museum**, with its collection of World War II memorabilia, will be open for your enjoyment. A complete agenda will be included when it becomes available. For more information contact the **Toccoa - Stephen County Chamber of Commerce** at **706 886-2132**, toccoaga@alltel.net or www.toccoagachamber.com

- **October 8—12, 2003 - FSB Ripcord Association (primarily 2nd Bn, 506th)** will be holding their annual Reunion in Charleston, SC. Further Information can be obtained by contacting **Chuck Hawkins** – email him at Hero_Library@msn.com or Fred Spaulding at 317 849-3969.

member of his family in order to return the Jump Helmet. Greg can be reach by email at GBontez@hotmail.com. If anyone have any information on this James Walker—1st Bn please feel free to contact me or Greg directly. I'm sure Jim would very much like to have his helmet back after all these year as a memento of his D-Day Jump.

Can anyone out there help us locate James Walker? Let's get this helmet back to its original owner. Contact Gene Overton with any information.

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(Mike)

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E-Mail: Mbookser@usaor.net

Currahee Home Page Address
is

Http://Currahee.HiSpeed.Com

2004 Currahee Reunion Planning:

As mentioned earlier the 2004 Currahee Reunion will be held in Des Moines, Iowa at the Holiday Inn Downtown, in mid-July. Details are being worked out with the hotel.

The criteria's used by the Committee are as follows:

- The city must be in the central or western part of the U.S.
- Affordable hotel with 150 + rooms, meeting rooms for us to have Hospitality Room(s) as well as room to hold our General Membership Meeting plus easy access to Airport.
- Reasonably accessible by air with complimentary airport shuttle service and free parking for those who chose to drive.
- Things to do; not only for us veterans but also for the family and kids (or grandkids).
- An USPA accredited Drop Zone within reasonable driving time from the hotel (30 – 45 minutes).

With these things in mind a total of seven cities were looked at (Branson, Mo; Chicago, IL; Colorado Springs, CO; Dallas, TX; Des Moines, IA; Fort Bliss, TX and Indianapolis, IN) with two cities coming out on top. It was the committee's recommendation that the 2004 Currahee Reunion be held in Des Moines, Iowa, which the Board of Directors approved.

The Reunion Hotel (Holiday Inn Downtown) looks to fit our needs and at a reasonable cost of \$67.00 plus 12% tax or \$75.04 per night. The nightly hotel rate also includes daily two free buffet breakfasts.

Attractions in the area include: the Iowa Wall; Amish Village; Dinner Theatre; Adventureland for the kids; horse racing and gambling; golf; Gold Star Museum and a Wild life Refuge. The Drop Zone is only a half hour away from the hotel and can handle over 1,000 people in case we get a large

community turnout like at our last Currahee Memorial Jump. In addition, we have already received indications of participation by the Governor, National Guard and local television.

It looks like the Planning Committee is putting together a Reunion that will be even better than our last one. In fact we are working on having Re-enactors staging a famous Currahee battle or two. We will put an effort in making this an event / reunion that will be long remembered.

There will be time scheduled not only for our general meeting but individual unit meetings as well, if you care to put a unit meeting together get in touch with Jim Nemeth. Doc Lovy has promised a seminar on PTSD for veterans and there families. We would like to encourage those of you with children to make them a part of this complete Reunion experience, which will include many interests for families, you would be very surprised what Des Moines has to offer in vacation opportunities.

We are looking for help in organizing activities as well as ideas from all Currahees, tell us what you expect a reunion to be. We will guarantee free beer if you will be there having fun with your old friends, just drag a couple of them along with you. Contact : Jim Nemeth, jmn15@earthlink.net , 970 276 3015.

More detailed information will be posted on our Currahee Home Page and the next issue of the Newsletter.

Chris Garrett—2nd Bn Reporter (B Company, 2nd Bn—1970 / 1971):

My son's National Guard unit (Combat Engineers) has been called up and he will be involved with the rebuilding phase. As I get set to see my son Michael off to Iraq I find myself thinking back to when I went off to war. Times certainly have changed a lot

**Chris Garrett—2nd Bn Reporter
(B Company, 2nd Bn—1970 / 1971):**

the Vietnam experience has been well learned. My son's National Guard unit (Combat Engineers) has been called up and he will be involved with the re-building phase.

Michael put me in charge of all his personal business and I have been amazed at how willing people are to take care of his concerns. I just mention activated and all the red tape and barriers are gone. Just the other day I was checking on a fine that he had not taken care of before he was called up and the clerk of court said not to worry, that there would be no legal action taken from this court as long as he was activated. The Soldiers and Sailors Act also mandates that all creditors must reduce all interest rates to 6%. I have been having some mix emotions about all this war stuff. I went to a family of the troops support group and they were talking about the parade they and the city were working on it for the troops when they return and they haven't even left yet. I remember when I came home I got out of my uniform as quick as I could and forgot that I had even been anywhere until 15 years later. Don't get me wrong here, I am very glad that I can be apart of this family and will do what ever I can to support this bunch of fine people. I will just have to find a way to control my negative feelings that I haven't had much control over since my return except to crawl in to a hole somewhere. Tonight I will attend an open Veteran's for Peace meeting and I will voice my thoughts about supporting the troops. There has been some, albeit small and scattered, anti-troops sentiment around and I am quite sure that I will find my voice whenever I encounter any such nonsense.

On a different note Don Thies has been working hard at putting together this year's reunion of B/2-506. This year it will be open to any year or era. The dates: August 22nd & 23rd, 2003. We've got 30 rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday night and another 10 for Thursday night incase anyone wanted to come in early. Make your reservation now as the motel is booked solid except our block. Make sure you mention you are with Bravo Company.

The reunion will be held at: Country Inn Hotel, 2810 Golf Road, Waukesha, WI 53187-2269 Website: www.countryinnhotel.com or Phone: 262-547-0201 or 800-247-6640. For detail information contact: Don at 262-644-6159 or Chris at 218-349-2986.

Jim Nemeth - 3rd Bn Reporter (B Company, 3rd Bn—1970):

I will be attending a very special reunion in Washington D.C. May 9th and 10th this is a reunion of the men of the 2nd Platoon, B Company, 3/506th 1969-1971, the very men I walked the jungles with so darkly long ago. Like most of the rest of you I have always considered that time the most significant moments of my life and spent many years putting it behind me anyway; it is *good* to be embracing the honor of serving and doing my job alongside so many great men. When I return I will write in this column of what it means to those men to be together again for the first time.

You will see some changes in this newsletter and on the web site because of the input from the members. Stories submitted will be part of the newsletter. If you have a tale to tell please pass it on to me, contact information is at the end of this column, I will see to it getting published. Who knows you may embark on a new career. Let's write of the glory of the 3rd Battalion. When you tell a story you are connecting with veterans out there have been silent for a long time often opening a door inside them if just to let a ray of a knowing smile cross their face. That is what this is about: letting your brother know you are here and understand him, let him hear from you.

The 3/506th will hold its annual reunion in Reno alongside the 101st Airborne Reunion, details are published in this newsletter. Jerry Berry has done a lot of work for his fellow veterans and they appreciate it, maybe they will join with the 506th Association for a reunion in Des Moines, Iowa in 2004.

If you haven't sent in your membership dues try to do it now or very soon. The newsletter is getting bigger and better and can you believe this, people are actually requiring money for paper and printing costs. What an angle if only I could get in on this money making thing. You could help the 506th with their money thing by sending in as little as 15 dollars not much more then a cheap pizza. Make the 3rd Battalion the strongest in the Association.

Two Reunions for the Price of One

The 3/506 will hold its reunion along side the 101st Airborne in Reno this summer although you will find them in a different hotel.

Jim Nemeth - 3rd Bn Reporter (B Company, 3rd Bn - 1970 (continued):

The 7th Annual 3/506th Reunion, 2003 will be at the Sands Regency in Reno, Nevada, 1 800 648 3553, August 12-17 for \$29 during the week and \$59 on the weekend. No registration fee required. Contact Jerry Berry 406 293 7678 currahee@lclink.com or through his web site <http://www.currahee.org/>.

The 58th Annual 101st Reunion 2003 will be held in Reno, Nevada from August 13-16. The reunion will be held at the Reno Hilton. The registration cost will be \$89.00. The Reno Hilton will be \$79.00 per evening plus tax (double occupancy). The reunion is being hosted by the Northern California Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Assn. See details in the Screaming Eagle Magazine, the 101st web site <http://www.screamingeagle.org/> or contact Resty Habon, Jr. the Reunion Chairman at 916 688 3003, cell phone 916 804 7756, or Lloyd Rahlf at 775 359 2975.

Something else I would like to do in this column is answer questions. Do you have any on obtaining records or getting corrections to your records or receiving awards that were never issued? Want to know how? All you have to do is ask, challenge me, I will find the answer for you.

Currahee!

Jim Nemeth, 3/506 VN 1970 jmn15@earthlink.net or 970 276 3015.

Regimental Flag Presented to Richard Winters:

Noon on Tuesday, January 21st at VFW Post 3502 in Hershey, Pennsylvania Richard (Dick) Winters was presented with a 506th Regimental Flag with all WW II Battle Streamers at his 85th birthday gathering organized by Clancy Lyall. The group gathered to present Dick with the Regimental Flag and Streamers purchased from funds collected by the Association. What Clancy said would be a small gathering of about thirty-five people (family and a few close friends) turned out to be a total of 80+. Gene Overton and Joe Foster- Association Secretary attended along with a number of other 506th Association Members and Associate Members - Othar Shalikashvili; Ron Helwig; Sterling Chapman and his sister Joan Miller; and Dwayne Gregory 9506th Re-Enactor) and his son

Colby. Following the presentation a great lunch was provided by the VFW Post after which Dick signed autographs and chatted with all. Dick was very proud to have received the Regimental Flag and Streamers and stated that he had just the right place for it in his office at home (see Photo Page Section of this issue).

Member's Articles:

[Editor's Note: This new section to the Newsletter will be for Member's to share with us stories about their time in the Regiment or a current event in their life today.]

THE UNAWARDED MEDAL submitted by Terrence J. Plank (HHC / A / C / D Companies (Medic) - April 1967 / October 1968):

Even with six hard months of combat training each and every trooper without combat experience was just as green and naïve as any other soldier suddenly finding himself in a hostile environment.

As a platoon medic I was part of the platoon command post that was made up of the Platoon Leader, the Platoon Sergeant, the RTO or radio-telephone operator, and me. When a site was selected to dig in for the night it was normal for the Platoon Leader and RTO to dig out maps and make reports by radio to the company commander or whoever was in charge of the mission. The Platoon Sergeant's responsibility was to deploy the men in the best possible positions for the night and to be sure that they dug in properly. My responsibility, I very quickly learned, was to make coffee. I was not allowed to check on the men until this little task was completed.

So, I soon found myself carrying a lot of extra water canteens and experimenting with the best way to make the instant coffee palatable. Mocha Java was popular with the CP and it was made simply by adding powdered chocolate to the hot water along with the instant coffee. That was easy compared to making a really good cup of coffee.

When I had succeeded one evening in making a really good batch the Platoon Sergeant turned to me and said, "Doc, this is the best coffee I've ever had. I'm putting you in for the Folgers Medal."

Hell, I thought he said the Soldier's Medal and, after thirty-five years, I'm still waiting.

Editor's Note - Terry submitted several other stories which we will be sharing with you in the future.

From The Currahee Home Page (Web Site):

Wednesday 01/08/2003 8:04:17pm

Norrine Murphy - Maryville, Tn.

hotelclosed@aol.com

Just wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year!!! Also to thank all you Vets. for all you have done. Husband was with A Company, 1st/506 69-70 Wade Murphy is his name please feel free to e-mail us. Love to you all.

Sunday 01/12/2003 10:09:03am

michael hyde - chorley lancashire England

mcfcmike@aol.com

I have watched band of brothers ,then i went to make bread with my daughter ,when i thought if i had not been for the Americans who fought would i be here today doing this ? the answers is no .

I wish to say thankyou to you all .

My children have watched the series and they where shocked at what went on ,but they understand now and why i observe remembrance day each year,thankyou again for the life i have and every remembrance day i will think of you all for what you did

Wednesday 02/12/2003 0:50:09am

James Lander - Clackamas, Oregon, USA

JALANDER53@myra.com

Served in Bravo Company 1/506th August 1972 to January 1974. Mighty glad to have found this page.

Wednesday 02/12/2003 0:44:05am

Tim M. Beets - Northridge,CA USA

parthree.tmb@verison.net

Have been looking for so many old friends for so long, it's great to find this site. Would like to hear from anyone who knows how to get in touch with William "Bill" Buck or Capt Medina (Freight Train) VN 67-68. Highest regards to all Currahee's past, present and future.

Tim M. Beets

("17 Mike")

Saturday 04/05/2003 8:11:34pm

Charles Lamb - Clarkston, Michigan

milamb@juno.net

Served March 68 to March 69 in 3rd Platoon C Company, 1st of 506 **[Editor's Note - What do you know, I finally locate my RTO!]**

Friday 04/11/2003 1:25:05pm

Kristi Clouser-Miller - Clarksville TN/Ft Campbell KY

ahbkristi@aol.com

Daughter of: SGM(Ret)Wilbur C. Clouser C Co. 1/506 PIR WWII

Love to read about "Currahee" history!! Am fortunate to work among the great soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division of today.

Sunday 04/20/2003 3:56:41pm

andy harding - swindon,england

daegaz3@aol.com

mM late grandad Paul Flachbart served in `A` Company in WW2. Just been to Aldbourne for afternoon, had a pint in the crown. Hello to all you Currahee descendants everywhere. Love the site, keep digging stuff up!

Sunday 04/27/2003 7:25:12pm

Bill Crusan (A Company 506 WWII) - Black Lick, PA

billcrusan@yourinter.net

Nice job, keep it up.

Friday 05/02/2003 8:29:01pm

Barry Smyth - London, England

insides1@hotmail.com

Just thinking about what to say to the men of the 506th who fought in WWII chokes me up, words cannot sum up what needs to be said so all I can muster up is a big thank you, we here in Europe are too quick to forget what these men did for us in 1944. The stories of these guys and of their fighting comrades changed my life.

Sunday 05/04/2003 4:06:22pm

Rob Cobby - Bristol,England

hitmanleon0@blueyonder.co.uk

A fantastic site Thank You !

I had the great honor of finding out My Wife's Uncle Jack Luther served with Baker Company,506th PIR as a sargent during WW 2 from Toccoa thru to Berch garden. Thank You to all the personnel of the 101st Airborne past and present for their service/sacrifice to the cause of freedom, you will never be forgotten.



Dick Winters sent in this photo proudly showing how he's displaying the Regimental Flag with all WW II Battle Streamers presented to him on his birthday.



Photo by Gene Overton

l to r : Ben Infuso - A , 1st ABG 1962 / 1964 and A, 1st Bn (Abn) 1964 / 1965
 John Keene - E, 1st Bn (Abn / Ambl) 1967 / 1969 at 101st Snowbird Reunion in Feb. 2003

**THE 506TH AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
(Airmobile - Air Assault)**

131 Gaudy Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314-7240

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CURRAHEE - STANDS ALONE

ASSOCIATION MOTTO: WE STAND TOGETHER – THEN, NOW, and ALWAYS



**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CURRAHEES
Membership Dues for 2003 are Payable January 31st
HELP SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION BY
GETTING ONE OTHER CURRAHEE TO JOIN**

