



**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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**1st Battalion of the 506th Has Deployed to Iraq**

**By**

**Gene Overton [C Company, 1st Bn—1967 / 1968]**  
**Association President / Editor**

A new chapter or should I say "Era" in our Regiment's history is in the process of being written; after seventeen (17) years of being stationed in the Republic of South Korea, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Air Assault) has left and joined other US Forces participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Charlie (Hard Rock) Company, 1<sup>st</sup> /506<sup>th</sup> Infantry (AASLT), having been issued Desert BDU's and Boots just prior to leaving Camp Greaves.

Photos provided by SPC Nathan J. Fealko – 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt.

***Important Notice***

***Membership Dues for 2005 was due and Payable January 31st ; if you have already paid your Dues please do not pay twice, this is just a Dues Notice.***

## 1st Battalion of the 506th Has Deployed to Iraq (continued):



Currahees of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry (AASLT) wait as they are about to board buses that will take them on the

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of August at 4am, Colonel David L. Clarke, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry and his Currahees began arriving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait on the first leg of their journey to Iraq, after a 20-hour flight from South Korea. Then after several weeks, at which time the unit received the latest equipment the Army has to offer (including some up armored Humvees) it was time to move on. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on August 27<sup>th</sup> arrived at Habbaniyah Airbase in Iraq and immediately moved out to their new home at Camp Manhattan, from where they will operate in and around the city of Ar Ramadi, which lies within the infamous Sunni Triangle and is about 100 miles to the west of Baghdad. Then on September 11<sup>th</sup> the Currahees official took over operational control of the base from the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. Under Colonel Clarke's command is **Task Force Currahee**, made up of not only HHC, A, B, C and D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry but also A Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion - 72<sup>nd</sup> Armor (Tanks), C Company, 44<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and B Battery, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion - 5<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery (equipped with M2A2 Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicles or easier said 155 Howitzers on tracks.)

In support of **Task Force Currahee** during its deployment in Iraq, the Association has embarked on two initiatives:

**Currahee Package Program** – To date 1,480 pounds of snacks, magazines and personal products have been sent to the men of the Task Force. The Currahee Package Committee has been able to do this as a result of approximately \$9,000 in donations, of which only about \$3,000 has been spent so far. The current plan is to con-

tinue this support until our Currahees leave Iraq in September 2005 and head to their new stateside home at Fort Carson, Colorado. **Note:** This Committee is Chaired by Alfred (Fred) May (A 1/506 – 1970 / 1971), who was appointed by me to also serve as the Association's Active Duty / Veterans Liaison.

**Currahee Hospital Visitation Teams** – To date the Battalion has had nine (9) KIA's and a number of WIA's; to support our wounded Currahees three hospital visitation teams have so far been established; with a fourth in the works. The purpose of these teams is to visit with our wounded Currahees and provide what ever assistance we can. Right now the 506th Association has no funding to help purchase calling cards or clothes for these Currahees but we can at less visit with them and possible help with such things as write letters, help make a phone call, to possible simply chatting with them or taking them for a walk and buy a Big Mac.

Currently we have Teams in place at:

**Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC** – headed up by Major (R) George Malleck (Artillery Forward Observer with B & D 1/506 -1969 / 1970).

**Evans US Army Medical Center, Fort Carson, CO** – headed up by MSG (R) Richard (Rick) Clayton (HHC 1/506 & HHC 3/506 – 1967 / 1968).

**James A. Haley VA Hospital, Tampa, FL** – headed up by SGM (R) John A. Keene (E 1/506 – 1967 / 1969).

And we are looking to put together another team in San Antonio, Texas to cover **Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston** where Currahees are also hospitalized and recovering.

## 1st Battalion of the 506th Has Deployed to Iraq (continued):

If anyone knows of someone in the San Antonio area who would be interested in heading up a team of Currahees to visit our wounded, let me know. I've tried to contact sev-

eral Currahees that I personally know in San Antonio but have not been able to reach them; they may possible have been away for the holidays.

### President's Message:

#### Fellow Currahees:

First, I would like to wish all of you and your families a belated Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the last one and look forward to the opportunities that 2005 offers us. A lot has happened and our Association is beginning to move forward; not as fast as I would like but moving forward never the less. For the Association to continue to move forward, we must not only stride to improve our current operations but also find news ways of expanding and growing even further.

The slate of Officers and Directors elected at the 2004 Reunion in Des Moines, Iowa during the General Membership Meeting on Friday, July 23, 2004 are as follows:

#### 2004 – 2006 Officers

[Michael J. Metzger](#) - Chairman of the Board of Directors  
[Eugene L. Overton, Jr.](#) - President  
[Hoyt Bruce Moore, III](#) – Treasurer / Senior Vice-President  
[SGM\(R\) Kyle L. Worrell](#) – Secretary

#### 2004 - 2006 Board of Directors

[Michael C. Bookser](#) - Vice-President / Webmaster  
[MAJ\(R\) John Thomas Duckett, III](#) - Vice-President / Chairman of Reunion & Events Planning Committee  
[Christopher D. Garrett](#) - 2nd BN Newsletter Reporter  
[Ronald L. Helwig](#) -- Vice-President / Quartermaster (Sales)  
[Andrew "Doc" Lovy, D.O.](#) - Vice President / Medical Support Web Site Section  
[Carl P. Rebele](#)  
[Donald E. Thies](#)  
[Hoyt Bruce Moore, III](#) – Treasurer / Senior Vice-President / Membership Processing/Order Processing / Assistant Webmaster  
[SGM\(R\) Kyle L. Worrell](#) - Secretary  
[Eugene L. Overton, Jr.](#) – Co-Founder / President / Newsletter Editor / Order Processing  
[Michael J. Metzger](#) - Chairman of the Board of Directors

The term of office is two years, which is the time until the next reunion in 2006.

You may have noticed that this January 2005 Newsletter is being issued in February and that there was no September 2004 Newsletter at all. The reason for this is that your Newsletter Editor (me) had been up to his neck (no, over his head) with a very unusual workload on his job as well as having to deal with some difficult elder care issues regarding his mother. With these matters now behind me, I will do my utmost to see the next issue of the Currahee Newsletter gets out on time in May as well as those in the future. It would be very helpful if I had someone in the New York City Metro area that has a computer and is experienced with Microsoft Publisher that could assist me in putting together and finalizing the Newsletter. Do I have a volunteer out there, who is willing and able to help?

I closing, I would like to **THANKS** all those who aided the Association in its continued growth last year through your submission of articles / information, donations, purchase of sale items, and Memberships.

So long for now.

#### Currahee! Airborne – Airmobile – Air Assault

Gene Overton [C 1<sup>st</sup> Bn (Airborne – Airmobile) – 1967 / 1968]

Co-Founder / President / Editor



**Treasurer's Report (as of December 31, 2004) - Hoyt Bruce Moore, III [A 1<sup>st</sup> Bn – 1970 / 1971]:**

For fiscal year 2004, operating expenses of \$26,813.84 exceeded operating income of \$23,979.94 for a net operating LOSS of \$2,833.90.

Total funds in Association Bank Accounts included the following:

Net Operating Funds	\$6,970.00
Currahee Packages Fund Balance	5,926.76
Scholarship Fund Balance*	3,000.00
Flags Fund Balance	137.80
TOTAL in Bank Accounts	16,034.56
To be transferred from PayPal	485.20

There were 493 dues-paying members in 2004.

This included 1 Full and 60 Basic funded Complimentary Memberships awarded to Currahee veterans who might not be able to pay their own dues. 493 dues-paying members is a 13% increase from 438 dues-paying members in 2003, but it is still short of our goal of 600 dues-paying members for each year.

**Note:** \* = The 506th Association wishes to thank Joseph F. Foster, Jr. for his generous \$2,000 donation to establish The 506<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile-Air Assault) Scholarship in his name and that of his friend SSG Melissa D. Snock. Melissa is currently serving with the Company "C" Medical 250 FWF at Seagirt, NJ. Joe (also known as "Mustang from Neshaminy") was assigned to HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, 506<sup>th</sup>, Sep 69-Sep 70 in Vietnam and later retired from the US Army as a SFC. Also, thanks go to 506th Association President Gene Overton for his \$1,000 donation to the Scholarship Fund. This results in a current balance of \$3,000 in the fund.

**Membership vs. Roster Statistics:**

<u>Era</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>Memberships</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>Roster</u>
World War II	33	212
Fort Jackson (1948 / 1956)	3	11
Fort Campbell (1956 / 1964)	56	208
Fort Campbell (1964 / 1967)	10	227
Vietnam (1967 / 1972)	290	1,771
Fort Campbell (1972 / 1984)	18	67
Camp Greaves, Korea (1987 +)	50	148
Lost Currahees (Current Address Unknown)	-	215
Associate Members	33	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>2,971</b>

[**Note:** Hey! If we have these many Currahees on our Roster, surely we can come up with 600 Due Paying Members. How about some ideas on increasing our Membership? Also, keep in mind that Otto Painter (H Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn / Regimental HQ – 1942 / 1945) paid / funded 60 Complimentary Memberships last year.]

A picture of a much younger Otto; to day he is in his mid-nineties and while not in the best of health his is still as sharp as nails. With many fond memories and tales of his days as a Currahee.



**Currahee Home Page (Web Site) Committee - Michael C. Bookser (Mike) - Web Master [ B & E, 1st Bn -1969 - 1970]:**

In 1998 we moved our web pages from the Currahee webmaster Jay Schrom's, A 1/506, personal site to our first organization site. It doesn't seem that long ago. At that time we had 6 megabytes of images and text with a great vision for the future. Since those days we have added a history section for each era since World War II. Our newest era just began with the 506<sup>th</sup> deployment to Iraq. Today our site contains 425 megabytes of images, text and official documents and we still have a vision.

We have 796 pages of photo's and unit personal history and 1,422 pages of official documents. Our pages have been used by fellow Currahees to find friends, by authors writing books, and veterans service officers helping veterans with claims.

We asked for help in capturing our history and our pages show your response. We received help from many of you and we are pleased that so many of you gave of your time, knowledge and information. Special thanks must go to Hoyt Bruce Moore, A 1/506, who stepped up to the plate and created the era history section. His daily maintenance of the site is invaluable. From the World War II era to today Currahees are participating in the Association web site development. In addition to Currahee's we have received information from other military units who had information about the 506<sup>th</sup> and wanted to help improve a fantastic site. We continue to receive information from people

**Update Information:**

**. 2004 Currahee Reunion - Des Moines, Iowa (July 20 - 24):**

The 2004 Reunion drew ninety-one (91) attendees and Currahees from all Eras of the Regiment, from honored Currahee guest Carl Dalke (Regimental HQ – 1944 / 1945) to Jeremy Paul (B Company, 1st Bn – 2000 / 2001) who headed up the Color Guard Detail from the 194th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance). While all had a great time, the Reunion attendance was much less than the 145 that attended to 2002 Reunion and resulted in a LOSS of \$2,616. While the Reunion may not have been a financial success as in the past, where we generated funds for the Association or just broke even, it was not for trying. The Reunion Committee planned for a larger number of Currahees attending, it just that the number of attendees declined for the first time. But then again those who chose to attend had FUN. For a number of them this was their first Currahee Reunion and they said that they definitely will be attending other Reunions in the future. The largest groups at the Reunion were nine Currahees from E, 1<sup>st</sup> Bat-

in Holland, France and England who hold history in their hands and some who take care of grave sites of Currahee's.

We will be continuing to pursue our vision and still need your help. If you have a talent, a record or a photo that should be a part of our site let us know. While we work on the past let us all look to the Currahee's of today. The Currahees of the past must stand with those on the front lines in the War on Terror. Support them and their families with our understanding and when they return embrace them as our returning brothers. As the Currahees of today share the inherited honor and valor of the past, we share in the honor and valor of the history that they are writing. Watch the 506<sup>th</sup> Association web site for Currahee action in Iraq.

**[Editor's Comments -** It appears that the Home Page Committee must be doing something right because last year our web site was visited 6,895,382 times; with between 811,000 and 957,000 visits logged in during the months of June, July and December. What seems to make our web site interesting to visitors is the depth and breath of the material Currahees have been willing to share. So I continue to encourage, and hope you will too, all to share information, photos and stories as a way for us to preserve the history / legacy of the 506<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, I almost failed to mention that in the fall, the ability for visitors to our web site to make online donations has been added. This could not have been timed better and has been used by donors to make contributions to the Association in general as well as to the Currahee Package Program.]

talion (Airborne / Airmobile) with six of them that served together in 1967 / 1968; next was six from C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne / Airmobile) with five having served together during that same time frame; and then five from D, 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group who served together in 1958 / 1960. A breakdown of the veterans in attendance is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Bn – Vietnam	28
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn – Vietnam	7
1 <sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn – Vietnam	4
World War II	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn – Pre-Vietnam	1
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn – Korea	<u>1</u>
Total	47

As planned the Reunion Hospitality Room opened up on **Wednesday** and stayed opened for the length of the Reunion thanks to Mike Labbee (B 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn – 1970 / 1971) who managed the room for us; making sure it was clean and well stocked with beer, soda and snack food; and Bruce

## 2004 Currahee Reunion - Des Moines, Iowa (July 20 - 24) continued:

Moore providing transportation during the beer / food runs. In addition, Thomas (Tom) Clegg (82<sup>nd</sup> / 101<sup>st</sup> Re-enactor) and his Group of Re-enactors helped by providing security on the room for the equipment and weapons display the he and his group of re-enactors provided us with as well as all the 506<sup>th</sup> Association memorabilia and books on display.

**Thursday** morning we traveled to the Iowa State Capitol Grounds and placed wreaths at the World War II memorial Plaza, the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam War Monument there in the city. That left the rest of the day free to hang out in the Hospitality Room, check-out the displays, meet with old friends and to make new ones.

**Friday** was pretty much an open morning and early afternoon for all to explore Des Monies and the surrounding area. Andrew (Doc) Lovy (HHC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn Surgeon – 1967 / 1698) provided a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Workshop for both veterans and family members. Comments from those who attended was that the workshop was very helpful and informative and said “THANKS, Doc.” Then in the afternoon we held our General Membership Meeting as required by our corporate by-laws.

The General Membership Meeting, held at the 2004 Association Reunion was called to order at 3:15 PM, July 23, 2004 by Gene Overton, President.

Andrew Lovy, D.O. led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the August 16, 2002 General Membership meeting were read by Kyle L. Worrell. A motion was made by John Jackson to accept the minutes as read. Motion seconded by Mike Labbee. The minutes were approved by the membership by a show of hands.

A history of the organization prepared by Michael J. Metzger, Chairman, was read by Ken Parr. The prepared statement urged the membership to get involved in the business of the association. Tell the Officers and Directors what to improve. All need to step up and be involved

### OLD BUSINESS:

Gene Overton, President, reported the following:

Contact continues with the 101<sup>st</sup> Division at Fort Campbell and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Korea.

Progress is being made on securing the Air Assault Badge. The next step is to get congressional action initiated. Work continues on that effort.

The Medal of Honor for Major Dick Winters is on the desk of Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary of the Army, pending his final approval before going to Congress.

We continue to keep an open dialog with the 101<sup>st</sup> Division. We were all 101<sup>st</sup> members as well as 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

### Committee Reports:

Bruce Moore, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, was made by John Jackson. The motion was seconded by Mike Labbee. The report was accepted by the membership through a unanimous show of hands. A recommendation was made from the floor to remove anyone who has not paid dues during the past 3 years from the Newsletter mailing list. Bruce Moore responded that it was agreed at the founding of the Association that one newsletter each year would be furnished to all members on the Association Roster with dues-paying members receiving three newsletters each year.

The Website Committee Report submitted by Michael C. Bookser, Web Master was read by Bruce Moore.

The cost of printing and mailing was asked from the floor. Gene Overton answered that is cost 54.6 cents per newsletter. It was asked from the floor if we could send a smaller, less expensive newsletter to those who do not pay dues.

Greg McGinn proposed that the issue be studied. Perhaps the newsletter could be sent via internet to members with email addresses. Gene Overton agreed that the Association Officers would look into the feasibility. There are issues associated with maintaining addresses, both email and US Postal Service. Ideally, we should have someone at a regional level to make and maintain personal contact with the membership.

Jim Nemeth nominated John Starr as the Committee Chairperson to study this issue. Sam Knipmeyer, Greg McGinn and Chris Garrett volunteered to be committee members.

Gene Overton reported that the Historical Committee chaired by Terry Van Meter has been inactive for some time. Terry [Director of Army Museums] had very little time for researching the history of the 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Gene asked for volunteers to join the committee.

The Currahee Memorial Jump Committee report was presented by Jim Nemeth. The jump is still scheduled for Sunday, July 25, 2004. The members were encouraged to buy the tee shirts commemorating the jump. Funds realized from donated t-shirts will help to raise funds to support this year's reunion.

Gene Overton, Newsletter Editor, solicited articles from the members for the Newsletters. Currently Jim Nemeth is the 3d Battalion reporter and Chris Garrett is 2d Battalion reporter.

There was no report for the Membership Committee. Mike Krawczyk, Chair, was absent.

## 2004 Currahee Reunion - Des Moines, Iowa (July 20 - 24) continued:

### NEW BUSINESS:

Gene Overton reported on the status of the 506<sup>th</sup> Regiment being assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry is still currently assigned to the 2d Division in Korea. They expect to deploy to Iraq in the near future. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 101st will be activated shortly. As yet, unit assigned to the Brigade are not known, although the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division continues to advocate that the infantry battalions assigned to the brigade be the 506<sup>th</sup>.

The Reunion Committee had selected Colorado Springs, CO for the 2006 Reunion and approved by the Members in 2002. The idea of having the reunion at Fort Campbell to coincide with the 2006 Week of the Eagles **if the 506<sup>th</sup> returns to the 101st Airborne Division** when the combat tour is completed was discussed at length. A motion to move the reunion to Fort Campbell, KY was made by John Jackson and seconded by Mike Labbee. The motion was unanimously approved by the 34 members in attendance.

Gene Overton reported that a Scholarship Program is being studied. Gene asked if the Members present want to continue with developing a scholarship program. The Membership responded favorably to the establishment of such a program. Andrew Lovy volunteered to be on the committee, saying he believed it to be a good idea. Further information will be provided via the newsletter.

Jim Nemeth asked for volunteers to help with soliciting donations from corporate sponsors for the next reunion.

Election of Officers and Board was conducted. The slate of candidates was presented to the members in attendance and votes cast. The proxies were also provided to the group tabulating the votes. Results of the election were:

Chairman: Michael (Mike) J. Metzger  
President: Eugene "Gene" L. Overton  
Treasurer: Hoyt B. "Bruce" Moore  
Secretary: Kyle L. Worrell  
Directors: Michael (Mike) C. Bookser  
Major John Thomas Duckett, III  
Christopher (Chris) Garrett  
Ronald (Ron) Helwig  
Andrew (Doc) Lovy, D.O.  
Carl Rebele  
Donald (Don) Thies

Gene Overton proposed that Peggy Moore be made an Honorary Associate Member in recognition of her

tireless effort and service to the Association. This was unanimously approved by the members present.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Labbee and seconded by Greg McGinn. A show of hands approved adjourning.

The 2004 Membership meeting of The 506<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile– Air Assault) was adjourned at 5:15 PM..

In the evening, we held our Currahee Memorial Dinner. The dinner was called to order at 7pm at which time Gene Overton, on behalf of the Directors and Officers of the Association, welcomed all to the 2004 Currahee Memorial Dinner. He next asked all to stand and requested that the colors be posted; the American flag, the 506th Regimental flag and the 506th Association flag. A Color Guard Detail was provided us by the 194th Infantry (Long Range Surveillance), 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division (Iowa National Guard) which was headed up by Jeremy Paul (ROTC Cadet and Currahee (B, 1st Bn - 2000 / 2001).

Once the colors were posted our Memorial Ceremony was held in which we remembered and honored the memory of all those Currahees who are no longer with us today. In doing so three candles representing the Battalions that comprise the Regiment were lit; their colors Red, White and Blue not only represent the colors of the American flag but also the colors of the Spades worn on helmets and equipment used to designate each of the Regiment Battalions. Each candle were lit by a Currahee from the respective Battalion; Dana Armstrong (HHC / E (Recon), 1st Bn - 1967 / 1968), Jim Stinebaker (HHC / C, 2nd Bn - 1967 / 1968) and David Kitner (C, 3rd Bn - 1970 / 1971). Once each man had lit his candle, together they moved back and give a hand salute which was followed by a moment of silence and the playing of Taps. That concluded our ceremony at which time dinner was served.

As dessert was being served two speaker were spoke. First, our Honored Guest Carl D. Dalke (Regimental HQ - 1944 / 1945) spoke for a few minutes about his time spent in the 506th and how proud he was of being one of Colonel Sink's men. Then we heard from Patrick Palmershein, Executive Director of Veterans Affairs - State of Iowa, who on behalf of Governor Thomas Vilsack, welcomed the 506th Association and its veterans to Iowa and spoke about how his state honors and supports its veterans.

We next acknowledged a very important group of supporter, our Currahee Ladies, by asking each Currahee with a Lady at the dinner to come forward and collect a terra cotta color rose (a very different and rare color) for their Lady and give it to her with a kiss for being so special

### Key Officers / Staff:

**Chairman**-Michael J. Metzger  
(Mike) eMail: mmetzger@  
capitalbuildersinc.com

**President / Editor** - Eugene L.  
Overton, Jr. (Gene)  
Phone: 718 761-6265  
eMail: Charly35@aol.com

**Treasurer**- Hoyt B. Moore, III  
(Bruce) Phone: 858 274-4317  
eMail: TheMoe\_A1506@msn.  
com

**Secretary** - Kyle L. Worrell  
Phone: 858 780-0673  
eMail: KyleWorrell@aol.com

**Home Page Committee (Web  
Site): Chairman**-Michael C.  
Bookser (Mike)  
Phone: 412 761-3627  
eMail:mbookser@earthlink.net

### **QuarterMaster:**

Ronald Helwig (Ron)  
Phone: 717 944-0564  
eMail:RLHelwig@comcast.  
com

### **Newsletter Reporters:**

**1st Bn**-Patrick L. Skinner (Pat)  
Phone: 706 635-2198  
eMail:parick.l.skinner@us.army  
.mil

**2nd Bn**-Christopher D. Garrett  
(Chris) Phone: 218 349-2986  
eMail:c-garrett@msn.com

**3rd Bn**-James M. Nemeth  
(Jim) Phone: 970 407-9617  
eMail: JMN15@earthlink.net

### **Active Duty/Veteran Liaison:**

Alfred May (Fred)  
Phone: 973 728-1458  
eMail: AlfredMay@aol.com

### **2004 Currahee Reunion - Des Moines, Iowa (July 20 - 24) contin- ued:**

so special themselves. We then announced the unanimous approval given by the Members at the General Membership Meeting that Peggy Moore was made an Honorary Associate Member in recognition of her tireless effort and service to the Association. Next we recognized the Reunion Planning Committee - Jim Nemeth (B, 3rd Bn - 1970), Tom Duckett (B, 1st Bn - 1971) and Ron Helwig (B, 1st ABG - 1960 / 1962) for the work they did in putting this Reunion together. In addition, we recognized Jeremy Paul (B, 1st Bn - 2000 / 2001) and his Color Guard Detail from the 194th Infantry (LRS) for the fine job that they did as well as the two groups of Re-enactors that supported us during this years Reunion - 82nd / 101st Re-enactors: Tom Clegg; Justin Aliss; Bob Herbert; Darrek Orwig and Dave Ruffcorn; and WW II Demonstration Team Members—George Bruckert; Bryan Abbott and Don Whitson. We also introduced Andrew (Andy) Suby and his two sons who attended our Reunion and dinner on behalf of his wife Julie Suby, who is the great-niece of PFC Donald Eckles (HQ, 2nd Bn - WW II) who was KIA on June 6th, 1944 - D-Day. Julie is looking to learn more about her great uncle and the circumstances of his death.

We next held our Reunion Raffles:

The first prize was a 34.5" x 24" gallery print titled "We Were a Band Of Brothers" by John D. Shaw and donated to the Association by Adam Makos, Publisher of Ghost Wings Magazine, won by Tom Clegg. The next prize was a 8"x11" Currahee Slate which was won by Charles Lamb (C, 1st Bn - 1968 / 1969). And the final prize was actually two rebates of one hotel night each which were won by Ron Harrelson (D, 1st ABG - 1958 / 1961) and Jim O'Laughlin (HHC / A, 1st Bn - 1969 / 1970). This then ending the dinner portion of the evening; many stayed and danced to taped music while other went over to the Hospital Room to finish off the evening.

**Saturday**, The Currahee Picnic was held at the Des Moines Water Works Park. Where we had plenty of food and refreshments; an excellent display of WW

II and Vietnam War era weapons and equipment was provided by the Re-enactors who supported us throughout the Reunion. And two surprises, the first was from a young Fort Campbell soldier who served in Iraq with the 502nd, where he received his Purple Heart, who was home on leave before reporting into the newly formed 4th Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. His orders clearly read that he would be reporting the 506th Infantry of the 4th Brigade. The second surprise was that Saturday was also Mike Labee's birthday, so we had a surprise birthday cake for him, which caught him totally off guard. After the Picnic we all returned to the hotel and relaxed hanging out in the Hospitality Room.

**Sunday**, many of the Reunion attendees said their goodbyes and started the journey home. But there was a group who were determined not to leave this Reunion before making a Jump. That right, a group of sixteen jumpers and myself (unable to jump due to hurting my back just two weeks earlier) went out to the Winterset Municipal Airport to Des Moines Skydivers from the 2004 Currahee Memorial Jump. The Jump headed up by Jim Nemeth (B, 3rd Bn - 1970 and Tom Duckett (B, 1st Bn - 1971) included:

Carl Dalke - Regimental HQ - 1944 / 1945  
Ron Helwig - B, 1st ABG - 1960 / 1962  
Doc Lovy - HHC, 3rd Bn - 1967 / 1968  
Robert Aubrey - E, 1st Bn - 1967 / 1968  
Paul Larson - HHC / B, 2nd Bn - 1967/1968  
Dave Sas - E, 1st Bn - 1967 / 1968  
Ed Scott - E, 1st Bn - 1967/ 1968  
Denton Vaughn - B, 3rd Bn - 1970  
Chris Garrett - B, 2nd Bn - 1970 / 1971  
Mike Labee - B, 2nd Bn - 1970 / 1971  
Cathy Stark - Guest of Jim Nemeth  
Jayne Vaughn - Wife of Denton Vaughn  
Tom Clegg - 101st Re-enactor  
Darrek Orwig - 101st Re-enactor

After the jump we all said our goodbyes and headed home. Only for me to be definitely committed to making the next Currahee Memorial Jump myself.

## Update Information (continued):

- **Upgrading of Major (R) Winters' DSC to the Congressional Medal of Honor - The Battle Cry, CURRAHEE! Has Been Sounded:**

As reported in prior newsletters, the Association Members in 2002 voted unanimously to support an effort to upgrade the Major's DSC to the CMH, our nation's highest award for valor. **Update Info:** on November 18, 2004, then Acting Secretary of the Army R. Lee Brownlee issued a letter the Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum in which he stated **"After careful consideration of all the input, my review concludes that Major (Ret.) Winters earned the correct award for his valor. There is no evidence of material error or impropriety in the original processing of Major (Ret.) Winters' award. It is my determination that the previously approved award of the Distinguished Service Cross remains the appropriate award to recognize the heroic acts of Major (Ret.) Winters."**

This Currahee (Editor) along with many others totally disagree. So the Battle continues; an effort is being mounted for the introduction of a Congressional Bill that if passed would only require the President's signature for the upgrading of Major Winters' award to the CMH.

So we encourage all to contact their Congressmen

### New Developments:

- **Quartermaster (Sales) -** Ronald (Ron) L. Helwig (B, 1st ABG—1960 / 1962) has agreed to take on the sales function, which we call Quartermaster, of the Association with the goal of locating sale items of interest to Currahee at a reasonable price. You will see in later pages of this issue a number of new items being offered to you. He so far has design a Currahee Flag; come up with a Association Hat in two colors (one black and the other white) and a new personalized Currahee Polo Shirt as well as currently working on finding a source of Currahee Crest and Para-Dice patches. So if there is a Currahee item that your looking for and you think would be of interest to other Currahees, please let him know. He can be contacted by phone at 717 944-0564 or by eMail at [RLHelwig@comcast.net](mailto:RLHelwig@comcast.net).

- **Mandatory Restructuring of the 101st Airborne Division:** The Division has been reconfigured into Brigade Combat Teams or Units of Actions as follows:

### Trying to Locate:

#### **Betty Stewart-Gannon of South Charleston, WV**

My brother **Byron Duncan Stewart served in B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> - 506<sup>th</sup>**, was KIA in the Ashau Valley (Hill 996) on July 11, 1969. I would like to talk to someone from his unit; my e-mail is [scweva@msn.com](mailto:scweva@msn.com). Thank you very much.

and also to submit an entry to the online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/Winters/petition.html>. While this petition is addressed and going to the current Secretary of the Army, Francis J. Harvey, it is being monitored by Pennsylvania Congressman Curt Weldon, who is working on the bill.

Currahee never quit and always accomplish their missions; something I guess they must not know about in Washington these days.

- **Save the Stables Project:** I were informed that the Director of Army Museums had been contacted in the fall by the 172nd Airlift Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard and asked if the Aldbourne Stables (the WW II home of the 2nd Battalion in England) were of any historic significance. The Director - Captain (Ret.) Terry Van Meter (HHC / B / C, 2nd Bn - 1966 / 1968) responded by saying **YES, they are**. So I'm happy to report that the Stables have been transported to the States via a C-17 Globemaster III, have been moved to Toccoa, Georgia and will be reassembled sometime later this year on the grounds of the Stephen's County Historical Society's home at the Toccoa Train Station. The same train station that 506th recruits arrived at to report for training back in 1942.

1st Brigade Combat Team includes the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalions of the 327th Infantry.

2nd Brigade Combat Team includes the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalions of the 502nd Infantry.

3rd Brigade Combat Team includes the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalions of the 187th Infantry.

4th Brigade Combat Team includes the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalion that to date have not been designated. So we will continue to maintain contact with the 4th Brigade Commander - Colonel Thomas D. Vail and Command Sergeant Major Larry L. Chapman in order to know as soon as possible if any of the Infantry Battalions are going to be designated as the 506th Infantry so we can pass that information on to you Currahees. As I have already expressed to Colonel Vail, myself and a lot of other Currahees would like to be present when the 506th Colors are uncased and once again flying at Fort Campbell as part of the 101st Airborne Division.

#### **Ken Gleason (D 1<sup>st</sup> Bn – 1970 / 1971) of Lowell, MA**

I am looking for a friend named **Marvin Harcourt, who I served with in D Company**. Last I heard he lived somewhere in Ohio. If anyone knows him, please e-mail me and let me know. My e-mail is [kgleason1@verizon.net](mailto:kgleason1@verizon.net)

## Trying to Locate (continued):

### June McGrew of Osceola, IA

I'm searching for information or anyone that might have known my brother **John Wilbur Sams, Jr.** He served in **C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn** from October 1969 until he was KIA on March 22, 1970 while on a patrol near Fire Base Granite. My e-mail is [junemoon54@yahoo.com](mailto:junemoon54@yahoo.com).

### Larry Sossamon of Gaffney, SC

My brother **Sgt Ed Sossamon served in E Company (Recon) 1<sup>st</sup> – 506<sup>th</sup> (Airmobile)**, was KIA April 16, 1970. I hope to find someone that knew him and maybe was with him so that we could know how he was before his death, and find out the circumstances of his death. My e-mail is [larrysossamon@bellsouth.net](mailto:larrysossamon@bellsouth.net).

### Philip E. Shope (D 1<sup>st</sup> Bn – 1969 / 1970) of Jeffersonville, IN

I would like to establish contact with the following list of

## Notes from Currahees in Iraq or their Family:

### SPC Ryan Boller (Medic, HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bn), Camp Manhattan in Habbaniyah

It's really nice to see some folks supporting us on our mission here. I was in Korea for a year already before we got the orders to come here. I along with a few other brothers in arms haven't seen our families in a VERY long time. The last time I saw my daughter she was 2, just had her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday in September 2004. Knowing that people support us and believe in what we are doing makes us being here a lot easier. I'm proud to be a Medic and I'm proud to be a Currahee! Thank You!

## Notes from Our Friends in Europe [Notes posted on our web site.]:

### Ivan Grojean of Thimister, Belgium

I'm searching for some piece of information about a GI that I adopted the grave at the American Cemetery in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium. His name is **Albert C. Gray (G Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 506<sup>th</sup> PIR)** from Fulton County, Georgia. He was KIA on January 2, 1945. I'll be very happy if someone could help me in my investigation. E-mail address is [ivangrojean@skynet.be](mailto:ivangrojean@skynet.be)

Thanks.

Currahees that I served with: James Borley; James R. Eades; Charles D. Henaman; Ron Matthews; Dennis Milliman; Jack Pendergraf; Keith W. Shelton; and Dale Von Stein. My e-mail is [peshope@lycos.com](mailto:peshope@lycos.com).

### Paul Howard Bouchard, Jr.

I'm the great nephew of **1LT Howard Little - 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn HQ, 506<sup>th</sup> PIR** who was KIA in Normandy. I would really like to find out more about him. His wife has remarried and had relocated. My family is unable to contact her. If any of his Currahee brothers can help me out, this former submarine sailor would greatly appreciate it. My e-mail is [phb647@aol.com](mailto:phb647@aol.com).

### Betty Stewart - Gannon of South Charleston, WV

My brother Bryon Duncan Stewart was KIA July 11, 1969 in the Ashau Valley on Hill 996. I would like to talk to someone from his unit, B Co. 1-506th. My e-mail is [scweva@msn.com](mailto:scweva@msn.com). Thank You very much. Betty

### Carla White of Fort Benning, GA

My husband is currently deployed with the 506<sup>th</sup>. THANKS for the website!

### Jeffrey Paulding of Columbia, MD

THANKS for providing a link to news about my son's unit.

### Tara Thureau of Sterling Heights, MI

Hello. My husband is in Iraq with HHC, 506<sup>th</sup> currently. THANK you for the site and the updates. I think it'll be nice to have some pictures of them in Iraq, though.

### Kristen Sabat of Fort Benning, NC

THANKS for all your support. I know these back-to-back tours are very hard. Looking forward to seeing all our 506ers again soon.

### Claire Rensonnet of Jalhay, Belgium

I'm looking for information about **Pvt Claire M. Paterson (506<sup>th</sup> PIR)** from Washington. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1944, maybe around Bastogne? He's buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium. Because I've adopted his grave to offer him flowers for helping us to be free I'd like to know more about him. Could you help me? Thanks a lot and sorry for my English.

Friendly yours, Claire [e-mail address is [claire.rensonnet@publilink.be](mailto:claire.rensonnet@publilink.be)

## Notes from Our Friends in Europe (Continued):

### N. Damien of France

I just want to thank all of the veterans that were in the 506<sup>th</sup> PIR. Last week, I went to the American Cemetery at Saint Avold, France and I found the tombs of two KIA of the 506<sup>th</sup> PIR: Pfc James Castro, Jr. and Sgt William Green. [e-mail address is [bmt@tiscali.fr](mailto:bmt@tiscali.fr) THANKS.

### Notes from The Currahee Home Page (Web Site):

#### MSG Jerome Vargo of Fort Polk, LA

Fellow Currahee assigned to HHC 1<sup>st</sup> Bn S-4 from 2001 – 2002. Just spent 15 months in Iraq, seen fellow Currahees in Iraq (GREAT FEELING). My e-mail is [Jerome.Vargo@us.army.mil](mailto:Jerome.Vargo@us.army.mil).

#### Sgt Scott Stanton of Redmond, WA

Served in 1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, C Company, 1/506<sup>th</sup>, Camp Greaves, Korea – June 1996 thru August 1997. Wanted to say HELLO to all the Currahee brothers. My e-mail is [rsstanton@msn.com](mailto:rsstanton@msn.com).

#### Karen Gergen-Cook of Austin, TX

My father was CSM (R) Theron V. (Bull) Gergen. I need to change my e-mail address, the below is correct. I am so grateful for all the kind words about my father. THANK you for this web site. My e-mail is [asa-cook@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asa-cook@sbcglobal.net).

#### Bruce McGlasson (E Company (Recon), 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn - 1967 / 1968) of Union. MO

1]. 37 years ago this coming Friday, 3 December 1967, the men of this Regiment departed for Vietnam. 36 years ago some of us came home. To the ones who did not make it I remember you and may GOD hold you in his arms. To those that made it home WELCOME HOME and may each day, each year we remember that we made it and live the rest of the days that were given to us the fullest. My e-mail is [bmcglasson47@hotmail.com](mailto:bmcglasson47@hotmail.com).

2]. Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2005 was one great day. I talked to 4 members of my Platoon from Nam. In one day we crossed 36 years of time. Each one telling their stories, making the contact once again. Once again becoming a Band of Brothers, E Co. 2/506<sup>th</sup>. A few said they had felt alone over the years, but not now. We know where each are and the contact will be kept. More members will be found. It was one hellva day. The start of all this was from this web site. THANKS.

#### Jimmy Snow (E Company (Recon), 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn - 1967 / 1968) of Brasstown, NC

Thanks to this web site and Bruce McGlasson our great Recon Platoon, E Company, 2/506<sup>th</sup> 1967 / 1968 is coming together. Currahee Brothers. Now all we have to do is get us all together at one time. I am so proud and honored to have served with this great group of men. Thanks for everything; maybe we will all be at the reunion this year. It would be great after 37 years. My e-mail is [snowbil-lies@yahoo.com](mailto:snowbil-lies@yahoo.com).

Jimmy Snow – 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad.

#### Richard S. Rios (B Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn – 1969 to 1970)

Really like your website...I was with the 3/506<sup>th</sup>, Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, October 1969 – October 1970. Keep up the fine work!

## Last Roll Call:

Erskine “Leon” Wideman - B Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, VN - died 06/23/2004

Richard “Red” Wright - E Co. (Pathfinder), 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, WWII - died 09/05/2004

Woodrow H. Smith - G Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, WWII – died 09/17/2004

Robert E. Vogel - F Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, WWII - died 11/03/2004

Joseph R. Beyrle, Sr. - I Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, WWII - died 12/11/2004

MG(R) Salve H. Matheson (Iron Duke) – HQ 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, WW II (1942 – 1945)

HHC, 1<sup>st</sup> ABG – Deputy Commander (1958 – 1959)

1<sup>st</sup> Bde (Sep) – Commander, VN (1967 – 1968)

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division – Commander (1969 – 1970) – died 01/08/2005

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

**Airborne!** Well, I finally did it. I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. I was one of six first time jumpers in the group of 17 that partook in our 2004 Currahee Memorial jump at the Des Moines reunion this year. Paul Larson, B-2/506 1968 veteran of some 23 active duty jumps went up in the plane with me to make sure I would not chicken out. Although, with all those airborne guys down below there was no other way to the ground except out the door at 4500'.

Also jumping for the first time was fellow B-co 2/506 Mike Labee who only discovered the Currahee Association five months before. Mike was the life of the party and we are fortunate that he found us. So if you find a fellow Currahee in your midst tell them about our assoc and who knows we might have the next reunion's party animal.

I remember the first time I had an opportunity to jump back in 1970. I had quit school and volunteered for the draft for a two-year hitch, so I was still only 18 when I got out of AIT. I did not know it then but the Army was attempting to follow a policy of not sending anybody over to Vietnam until they were 19. As our graduation from AIT was nearing these airborne types came in and started recruiting and paid three of us younger recruits special attention. They talked of the extra pay and the excitement of the jumping, but I only wanted to go home on leave like everybody else was getting. When I told them I was interested but I wanted to go home first they said "no problem you

## **Fred May - Active Duty / Veterans Liaison (A Company, 1st Bn - 1970 / 1971):**

### **LEAVING KOREA**

The water in the pool is green, weeds are poking thru cracks in the blacktop, The North Of The River Inn is empty, and the place looks like a ghost town as virtually every soldier is on leave. This is what Camp Greaves, Republic of Korea looks like in June of 2004. The 1/506 Infantry is preparing to leave Korea and be deployed; Greaves will no longer be the home of the Currahees. The next stop will be Udari, Kuwait for training and then the unit will move to Iraq.

The sign in front of Camp Greaves still proudly states "In honor of Corporal Clinton Greaves, 'C' Troop, 9th US Cavalry awarded the Medal of Honor for Gallantry on the Western Plains July 1879". Above the sign are sixteen battle streamers, four from WWII and twelve from Vietnam. There is also an Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge, three Unit Citations {one of which has two oak leaf clusters}, and a CIB with one Star.

can go home first then go to Ft Benning". I signed up and of course there was nothing in writing and I received my orders to report straight to Benning. I was not a happy camper but what was I to do. When I got to Benning I stopped to talk to a chaplain to vent my frustrations and he told me I did not have to go through with my training as I could drop out any time I wanted. I dropped out and started packing for going home. Boy, was I in for a lesson on how the Army works. Instead of 3 weeks of training I spent 3 weeks pulling KP for the Rangers up in Dahlonga, GA and 30 days before my 19th B-day I got my orders for Vietnam and went home finally for leave. The ironic thing is that I never would have ended up with 101st if I had gone through with the jump because shortly after I reported to B-2/505 101st all the airborne troops in the unit were rounded up and sent to the 173rd to go home with the colors. I have always regretted missing out on getting my jump wings but also felt so blessed to have served with the best Division of all time.

I believe this Memorial jump is going to get bigger and better with each reunion we have. As a member of the Board I am going to do everything in my power to encourage it's continuation.

For any of you who have thought it out of the question, there are parachute clubs all over the world and they have come along way with the equipment and training techniques. You can be fully qualified to jump anywhere in the world with only 7 Freefall jumps with an instructor. When done properly, the landing is like walking off an escalator. I am sure we will be doing a jump when we go to our next reunion at Ft Campbell in 2006, so get ready to jump.

The Camp is small and compact. Greaves is located on a hill north of the Imjin River and just south of the Korean DMZ. The area is remote as there is no town nearby and the feeling you get about the place is very mixed. There are some very new barracks and some very old ones. Quonset huts from the Korean War era dot the landscape. For the soldiers on duty there is a helicopter pad and a firing range. There are headquarters buildings, arms rooms, mess halls {now known as Dining Facilities} and all the other Army "stuff" one would expect. When they are off duty there is a small PX, a tiny mini-mall, snack bar, pool and club. That is it. Well not exactly. There is the DMZ which has to be guarded and patrolled during hot, humid summer days and long, frigid winter nights.

Be it good, bad or indifferent Camp Greaves was home to the Currahees. They had made it their own. It now joins a long list of places the 506th called home. Normandy and Bastogne come to mind, but so do lesser known places like Camp Evans and Firebase Jack. Nobody knows if they will be back but where ever

## LEAVING KOREA (continued):

they go there will always be a place for them. For these are **The Currahees, the 506th Infantry**. When they do land at their new home the next sign they erect will probably have more battle streamers and a second star for their CIB.

### 2005 Events of Interest to CURRAHEES:

• **May 23 - 27, 2005 - 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division's Week of the Eagle.** More information will be forthcoming. Joe Bossi is recommending that you book your rooms for this years Week of the Eagles celebration at the **Holiday Inn Express, Oak Grove, Ky.** The room rate is \$58.00, and it is next to Ft. Campbell, the telephone number for reservations is (270) 439-0022. The hotel is located off Interstate 24 at Exit 86 on the right hand side of Highway 41A heading toward Fort Campbell.

• **July 15 - 17, 2005 - All Currahees who served in A Company, 1st BN, 506th in Vietnam** are invited to attend the **2005 Alpha Company Reunion** at the [Amerihost Inn & Suites](#), 4120 Lambert Drive, Howell, MI. Reunion events will include a BBQ, Hospitality Room, Buffet Dinner, and Farewell Buffet Brunch. Contact personnel - Reunion host: **Brian Heeg "Pall Mall"**; eMail: [briang-heeg@aol.com](mailto:briang-heeg@aol.com); phone: 517-546-4844 and for Reunion Reservations: **Hoyt Bruce Moore, III "The MOE"**; eMail [TheMOE.A1506@msn.com](mailto:TheMOE.A1506@msn.com); phone: 858-274-4317.

**July 17 - 21, 2005 - FSB Ripcord Association** will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219. Special Room Rate of \$74.00 a night includes a continental breakfast. You have 2 numbers to choose from to call for Hotel reservations. The Central Reservations Number is 1-800-228-9290 or you can call the Hotel direct at 317-322-3716, extension 1101 or extension 1274. **Make sure, regardless of what number you call, to mention RIPCORD, otherwise you will not get the Reunion Rates!** Get your reservations in as early as possible. You'll save money and it is easier for planning purposes.

• **July 22 to August 5, 2005 - The Texas A&M University "Traveling Aggies"** invites everyone to join them and **Easy Company veterans Darrell "Shifty" Powers and Earl McLung** on a **Band of Brothers Tour**. Walk in the footsteps of the men of Easy Company; the tour group will assemble in Atlanta, GA then move out from there to Toccoa before heading to Europe. **Cost per person: \$5,450, double occupancy. Web site:** <http://www.aggienetwork.com/travel>

**Editor's Note** - The writer was able to visit Camp Greaves while visiting his son who is stationed in Korea and assigned to B Co 1/52 AVN REGT as a Blackhawk pilot. In addition, Fred has been able to maintain contact with Colonel Clark (Battalion Commander) and many of

eMail: [TravelingAggies@AggieNetwork.com](mailto:TravelingAggies@AggieNetwork.com) Phone: 979-845-7514. (Note of interest: Texas A&M produced more officers for the US Army in WWII than did the US Military Academy at West Point.)

• **July 26 - 31, 2005 - Annual 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn - 506th Reunion** will be held in Arlington, VA. Headquarters for the reunion will be at the **Double Tree Hotel - Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA. 22202-2891.** Hotel telephone is 703 416-4100. The Reunion Committee is in the final stages of contract negotiations so Reunion cost will be determined until late February. The Reunion Committee is looking at having a Hospitality Suite, a banquet on Friday and a BBQ at the Memorial on Saturday. Everyone is invited, so come join us. Contact person: Joe Alexander at 865 671-2078 or email at [Joe@offroadeg.com](mailto:Joe@offroadeg.com) or visit the 3rd Bn website: [www.currahee.org](http://www.currahee.org).

• **August 10 - 13, 2005 - The 60th Annual Reunion of the 101st Airborne Division Association** will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida at the Double Tree Hotel, 4500 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607 (813) 879-4800. The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter has been busy making arrangements / plans now for you and your family/unit to attend. For additional information, contact Reunion Chairman - Jim Joiner at (813) 645-8777, e-mail: [junglejim101@juno.com](mailto:junglejim101@juno.com).

• **October 6 - 9, 2005 - The Toccoa Stephens County Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce** would like to invite you, or your group, to attend the **Fourth Annual Camp Toccoa Reunion and Reenactments**. Camp Toccoa, was the birthplace of the **506th, 501st, 511th, and 517th Parachute Infantry Regiments**. We usually have a lot of vets from all four regiments attend every year, along with vets of all conflicts since WWII. The **506th** and **501st Vietnam** will also have men attending. This year we are expanding the focus for our reunion and reenactments to include all WWII units, Allied and Axis. We hope to have several hundred reenactors take part, along with several different military vehicle associations. There will also be displays and aircraft from today's military. For more info and agenda of events, contact Bucky Simmons at: [buckyandstephanie@alltel.net](mailto:buckyandstephanie@alltel.net) or 706-282-0507.

## Currahee Packages Hit The Sand

by Fred May, Currahee Package Committee  
Chairman - (A Company, 1st Bn - 1971) :

On October 6, 2004 the first Currahee Package was mailed to A Co. 1-506th and was received by SGT Steven Parshall on November 1, 2004. As of January 3, 2005 the Currahee Package Committee has shipped 37 bushel sized boxes totaling over 1200 pounds of snacks, magazines, personal products and other requested items to the men in all the companies of Task Force Currahee in Iraq.

Task Force Currahee currently consists of four infantry companies (A, B, C, D), a headquarters company and three attached companies. The attached companies are A Co. 2-72 Armor and C Co. 44th Engineers and B Battery, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery. Together, under the command of LTC David Clark, they make up the task force that carries the Currahee name. Each of the eight companies has been sent a Currahee flag by the Package Committee and we have been told that they fly them with great pride.

As of the end of January, 2005 cash donations to the Currahee Package Committee have topped \$9,000 and expenditures have been \$3,000. This project will continue

## Thank You's from Iraq:

03 November 2004

Fred,

Roger on your care package arriving. I talked to CPT Jason Davis the other day and he was thrilled as were his soldiers.

Many thanks as well for the one you sent me. The Currahee flag is wonderful and I had it hung up in the TOC. It gets rave reviews everyday and is posted on the wall right next to the Crest. Your contribution is very much appreciated by us all.

Many thanks . . .

Again, many thanks to you and the 506th Association for thinking of us and for your generous gifts. It is wonderful to be a part of such a great group of Americans . . . both in Iraq and at home.

"CURRAHEE"

VR

COL DAVID L. CLARK

CDR, 1-506th IN REGT

"STANDS ALONE"

December 2004

Mr. May,

Sir, I am the commander of the tank company attached to the Currahees for combat. I cannot tell you how proud I am to serve in such a storied regiment. It means so much to me.

I did my lieutenant time at Ft. Bragg with the 82nd. I

as long as there are Currahees fighting in Iraq. Current plans call for the Currahees of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion to be in Iraq until September 2005, however, that is subject to change. At the present time a Fourth Brigade of the 101st Airborne is being activated **including infantry battalions that may carry** the Currahee colors. The entire 101st Airborne is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in mid to late 2005.

It is possible that the 506th will triple in size and may be in Iraq for a protracted period of time. To plan for this the Currahee Package Committee needs your support. Please make a donation and if you have already given, please consider donating again. The Association web site has a number of pages set aside to tell the whole Currahee Package story at:

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

Further information may be obtained by contacting one of these Currahee Package Committee Members. Ron will be the primary contact from January 15 to March 31, 2005. Beginning April 1, 2005 Fred will be the primary contact.

Alfred [Fred] May

[alfremay@aol.com](mailto:alfremay@aol.com)

973-728-1458

Ron Helwig

[rlhelwig@comcast.net](mailto:rlhelwig@comcast.net)

717-944-0564

know...don't kill me. But it has been great that I have received such widespread training. It is neat to look across the Company Commanders and see all of us as Airborne Rangers and most of us (including me the tanker) as Jumpmasters.

I think that helps us carry on the legend of the Currahees. I have heard that you were the XO of A Co 1/506 back in the day during Vietnam. I can only imagine that you and I share the commonality of trying to make sense of an enemy we cannot see.

I am a man after the things of God and try to inspire my men in the same manner. I have lost two of my tankers and two infantrymen attached to me during this command. That is pretty tough, but God has sustained us.

Just wanted you to know that we received Package Number Ar-1 mailed on November 19, 2004. It arrived at my location on 4 December 2004 in mint condition.

The only other request for future mailings is a Currahee Flag. That would mean a lot to the boys here. Like I said, we are so proud to be a part of the brotherhood. I am connected to you and we are connected to the original Currahees of WWII.

God Bless You and Thank you for all your support.

Everything you sent was perfect, and my boys will truly appreciate it.

In Him,

Chris

Christopher L. F. Plekenpol

Captain, Armor

Commanding

A Co, 2nd BN, 72nd Armor