

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009



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FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

2009 was full of surprises for the Foundation. Most of these were pleasant, but there were set-backs too. "That's life", is what our American friends say on those occasions.

We, the Board of Governors, look back proudly on the highlights: the meeting with General Petraeus; the large interest in the Airborne Memorial Walk; the honorary memberships for our chairperson, which reflect the passion for the 101st Airborne Division on all Members of the Board; the cooperation and friendships caused by Operation Torch.

A New Year is waiting around the corner. A year full of new challenges. Within the Foundation, we are contemplating a new path in the middle of the crossroads. With this in mind, we will be attending the Snowbird reunion in Orlando, Florida from February 18-20 with a delegation of four. We hope to meet you there. You can still register through www.screamingeagle.org

At the end of 2009 I am to remind you, dear reader and sponsor, of your donation for next year. A mere \$ 15,00 ensures you receiving all news with regard to the Foundation. With thanks for your support in the past, this leaves me to wish you, on behalf of the Board of Governors, a healthy and happy 2010 – with many Airborne surprises.

CHANGES BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Due to family circumstances Han, Jolanda and Barry Pulles were forced, unfortunately, to end their administrative function within the Board of Governors of the Foundation as of December 5th. Although we respect and understand their decision, it hurts to lose them from the decision making and activities.

The remaining Governors send them wishes for rest and good health. We will keep in touch and hope that there will be future mutual activities again.

Thank you for your enthusiastic contributions!

Tony, Nelly, François, Nell, Hubert, Joseph, Leoni and Petra

J.M. BOSSI
DMOR 506
INF. RGT.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Currahee memorial on Ft Campbell, the 506th Infantry Regiment inducted a number of Honorary and Distinguished Members of the Regiment on November 12th. Among them this time our member of the board of governors, CSM Joseph M. Bossi (Ret), for his continued activities towards the family members of Currahees who are killed in action.

Congratulations, Joe and CURRAHEE!



CORRECTION

- In the Dutch edition of our last newsletter, a word had dropped off to describe Maurice Coenen for the work he did as webmaster and designer. The word was hidden behind Maurice's picture.

GRAND! That's what you are.

Living History Association
Screaming Ducks
presents
OPERATION LIBERTY FORCE

30 april, 1 en 2 mei 2010
Wijk bij Duurstede

historische voertuigen
antieke waartuigen
origineel veldkamp
bevrijdingsmarch
paradropping
bigband

Voor meer informatie
bezoek onze website
www.screamingducks.com



Screaming Ducks Presents
Operation Liberty Force
April 30th - May 2nd 2010
Wijk bij Duurstede

Make room in your agenda's for the marvellous event organised by our good friends from Living History Association "Screaming Ducks" around the 65th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands (5th May 1945 is our National Liberation Day).

For participation and more information you can check their website: www.screamingducks.com. As information comes available we will publish more details on this special group of friends, with a special mission, in our next newsletter.

MEMORIAL HONORS FALLEN CURRAHEES

by Spc. Luther L. Boothe Jr., 4th Brigade Combat Team - Translation : P.Wenstedt-Pulles
Fort Campbell Courier: Tuesday 24 november 2009

The crowd stood, rendered salute or placed their hands over their hearts, as the National Anthem echoed off the large stone monument.

The 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, held a ceremony dedicating a memorial to honor fallen Currahees of both past and present conflicts Nov. 12.

"This day, we are especially grateful for this Currahee Memorial Dedication event and what it signifies to all present – allowing for remembrance of our fallen Currahees and the full measure of devotion they gave on freedoms frontiers spanning seven decades of faithful service," said 4th Brigade Combat Team Chaplain (Maj.) Randall Robison.

Colonel Sean M. Jenkins, the 18th commander of the Regiment, and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy D. Coop accompanied by the honorary commander of the 506th, Col. Richard Seitz (Ret.) and honorary Command Sgt. Major Robert G. Nichols (Ret.) approached the centerpiece of the memorial and placed a wreath at its base. The group rendered a salute and paused for a moment of silence to honor the fallen heroes of the 506th.

"We had a vision to bring together something that honored the entire lineage of sacrifice for the Currahees," said Col. John P. Johnson, division chief of staff and former commander of the 506th.

The memorial symbolizes the complete combat history and future of the regiment. Standing beneath two flag poles displaying the Division and the regimental flag, are seven granite monuments, each represent important segments of Currahee history.

"This is a perfect memorial because it belongs to all Currahees," said Gary Gilliam, a veteran of Vietnam who served with 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment. "It recognizes the entire Currahee band of brothers, not just from World War II, but all the way to the present."

The memorial centerpiece, a nine-foot stone carved from Georgia granite represents Mount Currahee and the Regiment's activation at Camp Toccoa, Ga. Rising from the mountain is a piece of black granite inscribed with the Warrior's Ethos and topped by a spade etched with the 506th Infantry Regiment's crest.

Six of the stones, each engraved with a parachute, form a semi-circle around the centerpiece signifying the 506th Infantry Regiment's heritage as the Army's sixth Parachute Infantry Regiment. All seven stones have one of the seven Army Values engraved into the parachute's stone base.

"This memorial will provide an opportunity for Currahee Families of every generation to come, pause and reflect on the service of the Currahees and their Families, who have sacrificed so much in service to our Nation," said Jenkins.

Three of the parachute stones have theaters of operations listed on them representing the Currahees involvement in World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the back of each lists the specific campaigns in which the regiment has been involved.

On the back of each will be the names of those Currahees who have sacrificed their lives while honorably serving their country.

"We wanted to place the names of the fallen on the stones, with each conflict, to honor them and to never let the sacrifices made by our family of Currahees fade from memory," said Jenkins. "Half of the stones remain blank, not because we wish for a conflict to be placed on them, but to represent the Currahees' willingness to answer the nation's call and to give hope to those who are oppressed and helpless."



Photo by SPC. Luther L. Boothe Jr. | 4th Bct
Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph M. Bossi, observes the unit citations inscribed on the back of the centerpiece of the Currahee Memorial after the dedication ceremony Nov. 12.

65TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The weekend of 12 and 13 December was reserved for the 65th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle in the history of the American army. In Bastogne we saw many shop windows with mannequins in WWII outfit. In streets and café's one couldn't but notice the authentic WWII vehicles and re-enactors. On McAuliffe square, a central location in Bastogne, several tanks and special vehicles could be admired in a static display.



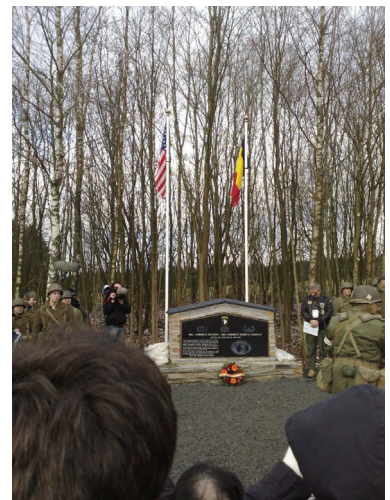
The patch walkers of the Historical Walk earn by participating.

Numerous activities were taking place. On Saturday morning there was the 32nd Bastogne Historic Walk which, this year, was focused on the meeting between the American 101st Airborne Division and Patton's 3rd Army. Despite the cold, between 4000 and 5000 walkers attended!

In the afternoon a parade paid homage to the monuments of Patton and McAuliffe after which the traditional nuts were thrown off the balcony of Bastogne's city hall (NUTS!).

Quite a few WWII veterans attended as well as members of the Patton and McAuliffe families. Mock battles were performed by re-enactors in the Bastogne area and the movie "Bedford", focusing on the US national D-Day monument in Virginia, US, had its premiere.

Saturday night there was a ceremony with lights and sound on the grounds of the monumental Mardasson. On Sunday morning, a monument was dedicated in honor of the 326th Airborne Medical Corps of the 101st Airborne Division near Barrière Hinck. The monument stands near the field where a large number of 326 AMC soldiers were captured by the Germans on December 19th, 1944. A beautiful and worthy initiative honoring these heroes who worked through war's hell, mostly unarmed.



The new monument at Barrière Hinck.



Mr. Segalas and Joseph M. Bossi

It proved impossible to be present at all events. Still, our member of the Board of Governors, Joseph M. Bossi, in his role of Honorary CSM of the 327th Infantry Regiment, was able to present the owner of Le Nut's restaurant (G. Segalas) on McAuliffe's square a certificate of appreciation from the regiment. With this certificate, the regiment intended to thank Mr Segalas for his efforts of keeping history alive.

This time also, Mr Segalas had decorated his restaurant with different Airborne flags. Over the last year he and his team have redecorated the restaurant with the Second World War as a theme. Beautiful displays, decorations and a "Hall of Fame" are the result.

The former McAuliffe's HQ was open to the public all weekend, adorned with beautiful displays and some sales. This historical marker, situated on active Belgian army base Caserne Heintz in Bastogne, is threatened with closure due to budget cuts in the Belgian army.

Word has it that plans are ready to close the base and turn it into a prison. Within that plan there would be no room to maintain the former HQ.

In October the Belgians started a committee, headed by our good friend Reg Jans, to prevent closure. Ever since, Reg has been collecting reactions and signatures on the plan in order to make a democratic fist against the Belgian government. You may still contribute by writing a letter of protest and send it in to us. We'll make sure that Reg gets them as soon as possible.

Apart from attending the different events, we were able to present the Foundation and hold some sales on Saturday. Over a hundred well wishing cards were collected for the Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed hospital. At publication of this newsletter, these cards have been handed over by Joseph Bossi to Dick Winters who will distribute them during his weekly visits to the hospital.

For more news coverage and pictures of this memorial weekend, we would like to refer you to our website www.screamingeagles.nl.

NUTS!

"To the General Commander
NUTS!
The American Commander!"
By the 101st Airborne Division - 1944-2009

A HISTORICAL MARKER
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL HQ

11 DECEMBER 2009
OPEN 13.00 - 18.00 HRS

12 DECEMBER 2009
OPEN 08.00 - 18.00 HRS

13 DECEMBER 2009
OPEN 08.00 - 18.00 HRS

FREE
ENTRANCE

Visited by: Gen. Patton, Julian Ewell, Harry Kinnard, Col. Seeger, Dick Winters, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Crockett, Other Soldiers and many many visitors!

Caserne HEINTZ, Route de La Roche 40, 6600 BASTOGNE

Exceptionnellement ouvert au public !

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY ON ‘THE ISLAND’

A worthy and well performed ceremony took place on October 4th near the 101st Airborne monument in the little town of Heteren, The Netherlands. The ceremony was organised by a Dutch Foundation called “Never Forget Them” (www.never-forget-them.nl). It’s goal is not to forget the many sacrifices made for freedom during the Second World War in the area which the Americans called “The Island” (between the rivers Waal and Rhine).

At the beginning of October 1944, the 101st Airborne Division was called upon to relieve the British units in this (rather wet) area. On October 4th, the Americans are surprised by heavy German attacks, aiming to recapture the bridge near the town of Nijmegen (where the 82nd Airborne Division had jumped during Operation Market Garden). It’s the beginning of two months of heavy artillery fire, cold weather and treacherous days during which many were wounded or killed.

It’s a period in the division’s history which is often forgotten. The members of “Never Forget Them” have pledged to make sure we don’t.

They did a great job: good turn-out and wise words.

Let’s do it again next year!



501 PATCH AND CHALLENGE COIN

On the occasion of the event focussing on the 65th anniversary of the liberation in Eerde, a copy of the WWII version of the 501 patch and a challenge coin were produced.



Both are still available through the Foundation at \$ 15,00 each.



WANTED: ACCOUNTANT

Due to an increase in financial activities, the Foundation is urgently searching for a book-keeper/accountant who, against payment, is willing to support us with his or her professional approach on finances.

If you, reader, know someone with a keen eye on finances AND an affinity for our goals or the Airborne, we would love to hear from you!

SCREAMING EAGLES OF WWII FOUNDATION

Chairperson—Petra Wenstedt-Pulles
Secretary—Leoni Wenstedt

Treasurer—Huub Hover
Director Operations US—Joseph M. Bossi

Visit us on the web:
www.screamingeagles.nl

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DONATIONS

The *Screaming Eagles of WWII* foundation is a non-profit organization. This means, that we don’t charge for information and research.

Our series of booklets are sold at cost price.

All activities of the foundation are sponsored by groups or individuals who have the same goals as the foundation.

For the small amount of \$15,00 a year, you receive our newsletter quarterly with information about the activities.

You also receive a 10% discount on every purchase with us.