



# THE TROOPER



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Issue 2

24 June 2011

Well, the 61st 8th Cavalry Regiment Association Annual Reunion, Fort Benning, Georgia 18-22 May 2011 is now history.

For all you troopers who were unable to attend this year, be it known that you were sorely missed by your fellow troopers. We hope your situation and circumstances will permit your attendance at the 2012 reunion. The reunion, the 62d, will be held at Portland, Oregon 6-10 June 2012. It will be held in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. It's never too early to start making plans. I know whereof I speak. I've already started to put on the search for where wife Polly has newly stashed the "butter'n egg money jar."

For all you troopers who were able to attend but elected not to, please consider and plan for the next reunion. Our numbers keep getting smaller and "tomorrows" can not be guaranteed.

The past reunion was one of the most interesting and most attended reunions to date. Attendance exceeded 180, counting troopers, their ladies and guests. There were more than a few walk-ins and passers-by which precluded an exact count. Highlights of the reunion will be addressed elsewhere in the newsletter. And I'll do my best to relate some of the stories/events that come to mind. I should have made copious notes but I figured I could remember most of them. BIG MISTAKE!! When you're closing in on 80, 'tis best to tote a pad and pencil.

Secretary/Treasurer Carl Moreland is no longer serving in that office. He has been followed by Harry O. "Skip" Taylor who is extremely capable of excellent performance in that office. Carl has filled an office in the association since incorporation in 2002. We might miss him a wee bit but I'm sure he'll be around, somewhere. You know what the say about the "proverbial bad penny"...

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**MINUTES**  
**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Columbus, GA May 21 May 2011**  
**Hospitality Room, Holiday Inn North**  
**21 May 2011**

**Present:**

**Directors:** Larry Hempfling, Chairman of the Board,; Juan Fernandez; Tommy Harris; Manual Silva; and Karl Sharples.

**Officers:** President Juan Fernandez; Secretary/Treasurer (PT) Carl Moreland.

**Appointees:** Chaplain Thomas J. De Young; Quartermaster Larry Hemp fling; Historian Manual Silva; Webmaster Juan Fernandez; Assistant Webmaster E.C. Reese; Sergeant At Arms Leonard Lawrence.

**Not Present:** Vice President Mike McGhie (deceased 20 May 2011)

1) **Open:** President Fernandez opened the meeting at 10:00am 21 May 2011.

2) **Pledge:** President Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) **Invocation:** Chaplain Thomas De Young gave the invocation.

4) **Minutes Last General Membership Meeting:** Secretary/Treasurer Carl Moreland briefly mentioned the minutes from the last general membership held 15 May 2010, Canton, Ohio.

5) **Old Business:** There was no old business to bring forth.

6) **New Business:**

a) President Fernandez called for a moment of silence in memory of Vice President Mike “Mouse” McGhie who passed away the previous day, 20 May 2011.

b) **Election of Directors:** One (1) Director to be elected.

(1) **Director:** Bertyl V. Johnson was elected

c) **Election of Officers:** Two (2) Officers to be elected.

(1) **Vice-President:** Manual “Sonny” Silva was elected.

(2) **Secretary/Treasurer:** Harry O. “Skip” Taylor was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

d) **Saber Scribe:** This office was vacant when the former scribe, Mike “Mouse” McGhie passed away Friday evening, 20 May 2011. Chaplain Thomas J. De Young volunteered to be the new scribe.

e) **Reunion site for the 62d annual reunion in CY2012:** The following sites were considered:

(1) Kentucky

(2) Mini-Reunion in Puerto Rico.

(3) Portland, Oregon in conjunction with the 1CDA reunion.

After sufficient discussion, it was agreed that the 62d annual 8CRA reunion would be held in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with the 1CDA.

(continuation - MINUTES 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting)

Trooper Glenn Sheathelm volunteered to consult with some of the troopers from the “Jumping Mustangs” to see if they would assist in helping to make reunion arrangements at Portland.

f) **Quartermaster:**

Quartermaster Larry Hempfling gave a talk concerning obtaining shirts for sale at the Quartermaster link on our website and at reunions. Larry was recognized for the good work he was doing as the Quartermaster.

There being no further business to be brought before the membership, President Fernandez proceeded to close.

The benediction was given by Chaplain De Young.

President Fernandez closed the meeting at 11:00am.

These minutes of the CY2011 General Membership Meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Carl W. Moreland  
Secretary/Treasurer (Pro Tem)

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### Davis Award

The Davis Award is awarded annually to the trooper/s who have selflessly and significantly performed exceptional supportive service and active productive work contributing to the successes of the Association. With this award program it is hoped that it will also provide some incentive for all current and future members to become actively engaged in the operation to further the Association mission and goals.

This year awardees are John B. “Jack” Burrer for his tenure of service as Chairman, Board of Directors and E.C. “Whitey” Reese for his tenure of office of Webmaster.



**“Capt’n” Jack**



**Whitey Reese**

**Photo Credit: Miss Baylee Kovacsics (Granddaughter of trooper Charlie Freeman)**

## Reminence

61st Annual 8th Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion  
Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia  
18-22 May, 2011

A thousand kudos to our dearly departed “Mouse” McGhie and his side kick “Smiley” Harris for their exemplary efforts in the orchestration of the annual reunion. They considered their efforts to be a “labor of love” for their fellow troopers.

From the viewpoint of this “Lifer”, it was indeed a pleasure to see the increased attendance by our Vietnam War troopers. There were fourteen (14) Korean War; one (1) Bosnia ; and ninety-nine (99) Vietnam War troopers present. Many of the fore mentioned also served in the Vietnam War.

The shuttle bus runs to the downtown areas of Columbus operated right on schedule and nearly all took advantage of that tourist option. The buses were clean, neat and cool. Especially on the days that the temp was +90.

The five (5) hour tour of Fort Benning was conducted by a tour guide from the Fort Benning Public Affairs Office (PAO). First on the schedule was our attendance at a jump school graduation ceremony which culminated in the awarding of the basic parachute badge to the successful jump school candidates . The look on their faces and the pride that they felt was priceless.

A free fall exercise of six (6) jumpers preceded the graduation ceremony. The civilian viewing stands were approximately 100 feet, or less, from the X-marked landing spot. Therefore, we all had a great view of the landing. The jumpers rank consisted of officer, non-commissioned officer and enlisted. All landed within about ten (10) feet of the X-marked landing spot. But the only one to land in the spot was a PFC. [ just thought I’d throw that note in for the hell of it - to remind who “turns the screws” <grin> ]



On to the modern day military “mess hall”. Oops, sorry ‘bout that—Enlisted Dining Facility. It’s a neat building that one would not think would be a dining facility—thank goodness for signs. Upon entering, you pass through a hallway that contains four (4) sinks where you can wash your hands before eating (remember what mother always said?). And there is an electronic “bug killer” to burn up all the lil ole critters before they get into the dining area. No more cook taking count with a hand held “clicker counter”. The facility is contracted to a civilian corp. Therefore, no more old “mess hall” atmosphere.

The troops enter, wash hands, and insert their “number” into an electronic counting device. If they are on separate “rats”, their pay will be less at the end of two (2) weeks. Oh yea, no more once a month pay day. Then pick up tray and tools and proceed to either of two (2) separate directed food lines where you are served the choice of three (3) entrees. Then you’re on your own to “help your self” to what ever you want which includes everything you would find in an upscale civilian restaurant. On the way out, no more cans, ash and garbage, to dump your tray. You place the tray into a wall mounted rack conveyor which moves the trays into the kitchen area, which you never see.

I had just sat down with trooper Jack Burrer with a “loaded” tray when I was approached by the tour guide and said that “Mouse” told him that I was the “check-writer” for the group. I hadn’t a clue what he was talking about but after a few seconds he told me he needed a check to pay for the chow for the group. I told him I’d be glad to cut him a check except I didn’t have the check book with me. We went to the cashiers station and I was informed that the proverbial “THEY” thought that one check would be paying for the meal of the entire group. Bottom line, I was on the hook for \$642.70 and no check book. President Juan Fernandez came to my rescue and advanced me a sufficient loan to get off the hook. Later that evening, I told “Mouse” that he had me hanging for a while today. He laughed and said, “When we were here before for the dedication of the Museum, each person paid for their own meal at the enlisted mess. I thought they had it set up for the same this time”. No big deal, all ended ok and all were well fed.

There were many other interesting events enjoyed on the tour that day. But this scribe failed to take along a pad and pencil and therefore has nothing to report as to specifically what they were.

Trooper Jack Burrer had previously been stationed at Fort Benning and related the following story which I found to be most interesting:

“It was a very cold and snowy Northern Ohio day on December 28, 1946 when yours truly and Jimmie [wife] tied the knot in the small town of Monroeville, OH (actually at the farm of Jimmie's parents about 50 miles west of Cleveland). I was a lowly and financially broke PFC (as in dirt poor) on orders to report to Ft Benning to attend OCS on Jan 2, 1947. We had tickets to fly from Cleveland to Columbus, GA. Unfortunately, the old DC-6 that was to fly us there was grounded with all other flights because of the heavy snow and icy weather. Being a very young and naive soldier and determined to make my reporting date. I traded our airline ticket money for a Greyhound Bus to Columbus, GA. Use your imagination what a Greyhound Bus was like in 1946, in mid winter, and not an interstate highway yet in existence. Today we would say, "no sweat, GI", we were in love, poor, but ready for whatever. What a honeymoon! I think we arrived in Columbus December 30 and checked into the Ralston Hotel, then a very nice hotel. I discovered it had become essentially a "flop house" (sadly) for the less fortunate when I visited it during our Association reunion this past May. The years since 1948 has changed Columbus and Ft Benning a lot, but the jump towers are still there -- and brought back great memories along with the old C-47 I learned to jump from. The Airborne School is still booming turning out new paratroopers for all branches of the service.

I found a cheap two-rooms in an old frame house for my lovely bride. I reported in at Benning, and Jimmie went looking for work. She wound up waiting table in some family restaurant in downtown Columbus. I could only see her when I could finagle an overnight pass while being made an officer and a gentleman.

OCS was followed, by the Basic Infantry Officer course and then Jump School. (That \$100 a month (at that time) for leaping out of an airplane (with a fair amount of male ego and testosterone) beckoned. In the meantime Jimmie had gotten a job at the Infantry School working for the LTC head, of Training Literature and Visual Aids, and living free in the basement maid's quarters of his and his wife's big on-post house for baby sitting their little boy. (Saw that same house during our May reunion.) In the meantime I became a dumb 2nd Lt, proud, and still quite poor.

I think it was in October when I got orders to report to the 82nd Abn Div at Ft Bragg, NC. Now we were really on a roll -- until the sky fell in, in January of 1949. Our first child, a girl, was born severely handicapped and passed away in March. I was constantly away in the field, and not much help to Jimmie. She became very depressed, wanted and needed to get away from Ft Bragg -- anywhere. I volunteered to be assigned over seas and requested Japan. Thus began my assignment to the 8th Cav Regt in Tokyo, by then as a young regular army 1st Lt, assigned as the Asst Regimental S-2. Jimmie joined me there in the spring of 1950.

In July 1950 the regiment landed in South Korea. In late August I could be found in B Company as platoon leader and company exec. In January 1951 I was given the honor and privilege of commanding G Company. The rest is history... John D. "Jack" Burrer (aka Capt'n Jack)

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A trooper told me that he found a "critter" running around in his motel room. He caught it and took it to the main desk and addressed the clerk as follows: "I found this in my room and if my wife had seen it, she would have been highly upset. We'll be leaving the room in about 15 minutes so get somebody down there and get the room sprayed and don't let my wife know". The clerk apologized and said he would have the room sprayed and also that there would be no charge for the room that night. I was impressed as to how cool he handled that situation. Some years ago I read a story that went something like this:

**PARIS**— Years ago, the story goes, when people still traveled in Pullman sleeping cars, a passenger found a bedbug in his berth. He immediately wrote a letter to George M. Pullman, president of the Pullman's Palace Car Company, informing him of this unhappy fact, and in reply he received a very apologetic letter from Pullman himself. The company had never heard of such a thing, Pullman wrote, and as a result of the passenger's experience, all of the sleeping cars were being pulled off the line and fumigated. The Pullman's Palace Car Company was committed to providing its customers with the highest level of service, Pullman went on, and it would spare no expense in meeting that goal. Thank you for writing, he said, and if you ever have a similar problem — or any problem — do not hesitate to write again.

Enclosed with this letter, by accident, was the passenger's original letter to Pullman, across the bottom of which the president had written, "Bill, send this S.O.B. the bedbug letter."

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The 61st annual reunion was a resounding success owing to the orchestration by "Mouse" McGhie and Tommy "Smiley" Harris and the largest number to date of troopers, their ladies and guest. We are all saddened by the death of two of our brothers—Michael "Mouse" McGhie and Larry Summers. We lost "Mouse" Friday evening and Larry sometime either late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. "Mouse" was the greatest of encouragers for troopers to get off their duffs, if they were physical able, and get to a reunion to renew old friendships and to make new friend, because it was never to be know when it was our time to saddle up for the ride to Fiddler's Green.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Larry Hempfling, attended the funeral of Larry Summers in St. Louis, MO on Saturday, 28 May and the funeral of "Mouse" McGhie Wednesday, 1 June at Las Vegas, NV. Nineteen (19) troopers showed up in Vegas which was a great representation of Angry Skipper and The 8th Cavalry Regiment Association.

~~~~~  
**Remember the bad times once—Remember the good times forever.**  
**"Mouse"**

When you have concerns, contact your operating officials.

## Officers

|                |                        |                                                                          |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President      | - Juan Fernandez       | - <a href="mailto:President@8cavalry.Org">President@8cavalry.Org</a>     |
| Vice-President | - Manual "Sonny" Silva | - <a href="mailto:V-President@8Cavalry.Org">V-President@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Secretary      | - Harry "Skip" Taylor  | - <a href="mailto:Secretary11@8Cavalry.Org">Secretary11@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Treasurer      | - Harry "Skip" Taylor  | - <a href="mailto:Treasurer11@8Cavalry.Org">Treasurer11@8Cavalry.Org</a> |

## Directors

|                 |                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Larry Hempfling | - <a href="mailto:Director-LH@8Cavalry.org">Director-LH@8Cavalry.org</a> |
| Juan Fernandez  | - <a href="mailto:Director-JF@8Cavalry.Org">Director-JF@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Tommy Harris    | - <a href="mailto:Director-TH@8Cavalry.Org">Director-TH@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Bertyl Johnson  | - <a href="mailto:Director-BJ@8Cavalry.Org">Director-BJ@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Karl Sharples   | - <a href="mailto:Director-KS@8Cavalry.Org">Director-KS@8Cavalry.Org</a> |

## Appointees

|                           |                       |                                                                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editor <i>The Trooper</i> | - Carl Moreland       | <a href="mailto:Editor@8Cavalry.Org">Editor@8Cavalry.Org</a>           |
| Chaplain                  | - Thomas J. De Young  | <a href="mailto:Chaplain@8Cavalry.Org">Chaplain@8Cavalry.Org</a>       |
| Historian                 | - Manuel Silva        | <a href="mailto:Historian@8Cavalry.Org">Historian@8Cavalry.Org</a>     |
| Quartermaster             | - Larry Hempfling     | <a href="mailto:QM@8Cavalry.Org">QM@8Cavalry.Org</a>                   |
| Sergeant At Arms          | - Leonard L. Lawrence | <a href="mailto:SgtAtArms@8Cavalry.org">SgtAtArms@8Cavalry.org</a>     |
| Webmaster                 | - Juan Fernandez      | <a href="mailto:Webmaster11@8Cavalry.Org">Webmaster11@8Cavalry.Org</a> |
| Webmaster (Assistant)     | - E.C. "Whitey" Reese | <a href="mailto:Webmaster@8Cavalry.Org">Webmaster@8Cavalry.Org</a>     |

## Membership Status

| Year Joined  | No         | Died      | With-Drew | Sus-pended | Regular Members | Associate Members |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2001         | 123        | 45        | 7         | 27         | 44              |                   |
| 2002         | 38         | 9         | 2         | 11         | 16              | 1                 |
| 2003         | 33         | 7         | 2         | 13         | 11              | 2                 |
| 2004         | 27         | 6         |           | 10         | 12              |                   |
| 2005         | 20         | 5         |           | 8          | 7               |                   |
| 2006         | 9          | 1         |           | 2          | 6               | 1                 |
| 2007         | 50         | 4         | 2         | 11         | 33              |                   |
| 2008         | 32         | 1         |           | 8          | 22              | 2                 |
| 2009         | 45         |           |           | 5          | 40              | 4                 |
| 2010         | 30         |           |           |            | 30              |                   |
| 2011         | 12         | 2         |           |            | 1               |                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>419</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>95</b>  | <b>231</b>      | <b>10</b>         |



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### Older Than Dirt Quiz:

**Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about .  
Ratings at the bottom.**

- |                                                                |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Blackjack chewing gum                                       | 13. Howdy Doody                |
| 2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water            | 14. 45 RPM records             |
| 3. Candy cigarettes                                            | 15. S& H green stamps          |
| 4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles              | 16. Hi-fi's                    |
| 5. Coffee shops or diners with table side juke boxes           | 17. Metal ice trays with lever |
| 6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers | 18. Mimeograph paper           |
| 7. Telephone party lines                                       | 19. Blue flashbulb             |
| 8. Newsreels before the movie                                  | 20. Packards                   |
| 9. P.F. Flyers                                                 | 21. Roller skate keys          |
| 10. Butch wax                                                  | 22. Cork popguns               |
| 11. Telephone number with a word prefix (Olive-6933)           |                                |

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young

If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,

If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older

If you remembered 16-22 = You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life. [Editor Carl]