

## AVVBA visits the Currahee Military Museum

On Saturday, April 18, AVVBA members, family and guests visited the [Currahee Military Museum](#) in Toccoa, Ga., where they met Ray Ward, museum historian. This trip, which included a lunch buffet and museum entrance fee for only \$20, was one of several social events of the type that our AVVBA leadership arranges, when the opportunities come up.



AVVBA members and family with museum historian Ray Ward.

For those of you who don't know, Camp Toccoa was a real-world experiment designed to take men directly from civilian life to the battlefields of World War II as paratroopers.

The Stephens County Historical Society now maintains the Currahee Military Museum at the site of the old train depot, where soldiers arrived before they made the five-mile hike to Camp Toccoa. Nothing was too good for our troops and apparently that included buses.

The Museum houses photos, documents and memorabilia of World War II. So when you visit the museum, you will hear the story of trainees who spent time in Toccoa, to become some of the most physically fit soldiers in the Army.

Built in the 1930s under FDR's "Works Projects Administration," the camp originally served the National Guard. Five thousand men arrived at the remote Currahee Mountain training camp five miles outside of Toccoa in 1942 for training as a new type of soldier - paratroopers.

Over the next few years 18,000 soldiers from 501st, 506th, 511th, and 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) trained at Camp Toccoa in preparation to defend the free world from the German offensive that was World War II. The 511th fought in the Pacific, defending against the Japanese.

For you history buffs, you should know that 1600 men from the first 5,000 who came to Camp Toccoa became the 506th Parachute Infantry Division (PID) of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. Nicknamed "Easy Company," their story is told in the award winning HBO series "Band of Brothers" - The story of Easy Company of the US Army 101st Airborne division and their mission in WWII Europe from Operation Overlord through V-J Day. Thanks go out to Max Torrence, Kurt Mueller and others who helped arrange this event.



Max Torrence (left) and Kurt Mueller (right), present a \$125 cash donation to museum historian Ray Ward on behalf of AVVBA.