

The Burman News

Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

June 1984



Reunion Committee Merrill's Marauders Ass'n

27 April 1984

SPECIAL ORDERS:

No. 1001 :

All orders, instructions, prior policies, directions, misdirections and standard operating procedures outlined in the first 1000 Special Orders will be disregarded and are superseded by Special Order 1001.

1. This will alert all personnel to be prepared to cross the I.P. in sufficient time to arrive at the assembly area, Registry Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, not later than 1700 hours, 31 August 1984.

2. Transportation will be dictated by personal preference and will be fully dispersed on a route march so that any individual that may be bombed will in no way influence, jeopardize or stay the progress of other personnel enroute to the assembly area.

3. Headquarters has been receiving distress signals from patrols that have been lost for the last 40 years and are seeking directions to the assembly area. All communications have been expedited so such personnel will be able to reach the rendezvous for further orientation and training.

4. In case of any disorientation, confusion or lack of understanding after reading this communication, do what any sane Marauder would do and that is: Go Over the Hill, Come to the Convention, Relax and Have One Hell of a Good Time.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER

LAWRENCE L. LEW
Reunion Chairman

P. B. Piazza Wins Marauders' Honor

(From a newspaper clipping, Sept. 15, 1947)

The Merrill's Marauders Association, which was organized Saturday night, September 14, 1947, in the Hotel Barnum, during the world-famous Army unit's first reunion since the end of the war, has named Philip B. Piazza, 2559 Main Street, Bridgeport, Ct., its first national chairman.

Mr. Piazza, and a committee which was named to serve until the next reunion in 1948, have been authorized to appoint other association members to represent the organization in sections of the country not covered by those already appointed. The committee also will compile a complete list

(Continued on page 4)

The Registry Resort

General

Since its opening in December, 1977, the 318-room Registry Resort has combined the traditions of a grand hotel with a vibrant world of sporting pleasures. Its reputation for fine food and service is impeccable, and its renowned French restaurant, La Champagne, has earned the prestigious Five-Star rating from the "Phoenix Dining Guide." Two championship 18-hole golf courses surround The Registry. Twenty-one lighted tennis courts, a complete heath club and four swimming pools, including the largest in the Southwest, are all on sites for the guests' enjoyment. A myriad of other sight-seeing, recreational and social activities are listed in a brochure, and can be arranged by the hotel's concierge.

Location

The 76-acre site on Scottsdale Road is near the best of Scottsdale's fabulous shopping, including the beautiful and exclusive Borgata, fashioned in the style of a Renaissance Italian castle, and the famous Fifth Avenue, located in the heart of "Old Scottsdale." Courtesy shuttle service is available October through May. The Registry Resort is only twenty minutes from Sky Harbor International Airport, and a mere five minutes from Scottsdale's Municipal Airport. The Registry is surrounded by the Arizona mountains, including Scottsdale's beloved landmark, Camelback Mountain.

Reservation forms printed on page 3 of this issue.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS REUNITE

In a civilized atmosphere conflicting with the CBI theater of operations, members of the most-feared outfit ever to fight behind Jap lines hold an informal meeting during the Marauders' first national convention in Bridgeport, Ct. In the first contingent to arrive were: L-R: Walter Noblett, Shiloh, N.J., Jack Benfield, York, S.C., Gen. Chrnm Phil Piazza of Bridgeport, Ct., Nick Zakutynski, Perth Amboy, N.J., and Dave Witten of Venton, N.J. An outing was held at Ward's Grove in Nichols Sunday afternoon.



Second Annual Reunion of Merrill's Marauders, September 11-12, 1948, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Visit Rangers in Georgia

A periodic visit with our Rangers of the 1st Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, is one of the most rewarding of my duties as liaison officer for the Association.

Spending two days on base with the officers and men of the 1st Battalion, as the Hurwitts and the Piazzas did on 29 February and 1 March, was an unforgettable experience. Welcomed warmly by C. O. LTC. Wesley B. Taylor, Jr. (our guest speaker at Gettysburg), we were immediately involved in the ongoing Ranger training program. Our activities on base were coordinated through the special efforts of the Colonel's S-5 Officer, Lt. Syd Farrar.

Wednesday was spent observing the Rangers undergoing intensive training in various segments of their program. We then had an opportunity to meet with the participants in a free-ranging exchange of questions and answers — and we learned just how sharp these young Marauders are. But in addition to the wonderful reception we received, the respect and admiration that these Rangers show for us Marauders and our accomplishments in Burma cannot but leave with a very special feeling and warm appreciation for these present-day Marauders. And to see them in action certainly makes clear that the officers and men who now carry our colors are entitled to our admiration and respect.

Later we were treated to a detailed briefing on the Grenada mission. It was a most revealing and educational session, and it left no doubt in our minds that we have every right to be tremendously proud of these Rangers who carry our insignia and colors.

Although we planned to leave on Thursday, we were persuaded to spend another on base in order to be present for "Banner Day." This is a day on which all the companies in the battalion compete against one another in athletic contests such as soccer, touch tackle, tugs-of-war, and many other special events. At the end of this day of tough competitions, the company amassing the most points wins possession of the battalion "banner" and is privileged to carry it on its guidon until the next "Banner Day" competition. Everyone from the C. O. on down participates enthusiastically and spares no effort in seeking to win the "banner." The intense competition and the closeness of the results left no doubt in our minds that no one company will ever retain possession of the "banner" permanently.

On Friday morning we departed from Savannah secure in the knowledge that the Rangers are a credit to our colors and measure up as the finest combat infantry unit in the United States Army. We salute them one and all, and we know that you do too!

From the Executive Secretary

Last year at the Gettysburg general meeting, Herb Clofina said, and I quote: "Remember Jack Benfield." That quote stuck in my mind and promoted this issue's look into the history of the association: 1947 etc. re: pictures. The stalwarts of this association are all there, inclusive of General Merrill. The labors and expenses of maintenance of Merrill's Marauders Association Inc., were borne by Phil, Jack, Dave, Herb and many others. The precepts, goals, etc. evolved over the thirty plus years. My concerns, when taking office, were for the continuance of same. The problems of communication and expenses thereof were, and still are, the main focus of my position. After discussion of the above with Dave, Herb and Phil, the newsletter was born, the nonprofit status was obtained and to that end there was some change. A fund was set aside for that purpose with the support of many people in and out of the organization. We presently have a mailing list of 1,300 people. The computer is making it possible to keep up with the constant changes.

NOTE: This was the purpose stated in our Articles of Incorporation. — To promote and encourage the ties of brotherhood between World War II Veterans of the 5307th Composite Unit a 475th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, known as Merrill's Marauders which operated in the China, Burma, India theaters of war during World War II.

(This is a brief statement of the character of business in which the Corporation is actually engaged in Arizona.)

I expect to have our Permanent Membership cards sometime in August, in time for the reunion.

My last conversation with Dave Quaid assures me that he should have the master tape of the combat film shortly. He is on his way to visit the archives in search of more footage that he is aware of.

I recommend that you pay special particular attention to Special Order 1001 issued by our chairman for the reunion. Lawrence Lew. My last check of the reservation list shows it confirmed. GET TO IT FELLOWS!

The Cline Memorial Fund is still on-going. We have purchased a \$2,400 Universal Life Insurance Policy which will earn 10-11 percent tax deferred interest.

I have selected Republic Airlines as our official airline because they fly to more cities and offer the best deal at this time. We have finally secured a Las Vegas package. (De-regulation strikes, etc., caused the delay in this endeavor.) I need interested members to send in forms to Travel Place promptly so that we can block off the rooms. The time is getting shorter.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion!

On to Las Vegas

In the February issue, we mentioned a companion trip with our visit to Scottsdale. We have put together a "Best of the West" package featuring Las Vegas' Tropicana at \$63.00 per person. Departing on Monday, you will spend two nights, three days at the hotel with the opportunity to attend the Follies Bergere with breast of chicken as your entree. Later you will have the choice of two buffet meals and enjoy their tennis and golf facilities . . . not to mention the casinos. Your travel itinerary has you leaving Las Vegas for your home destination, on Wednesday.

How Travel Place can make your trip more enjoyable

1. Fill out the form in this newsletter and return to Travel Place by July 1.
 2. If you decide to fly Republic, check the city of departure and return, and Travel Place will be happy to coordinate your trip into Scottsdale and onto Las Vegas and your return flight home.
 3. If you elect to drive and wish to take advantage of the motel accommodations cross-country at a discount rate, please indicate such and which cities you would like to stay in. Travel Place, Inc., is negotiating with a major motel chain for commercial rates.
- For reservations, send inquiries to Travel Place, Inc., 3241 E. Shea Blvd., Suite 2, Phoenix, Arizona 85028; phone (602) 953-9797.

Name(s) _____ # Attending: _____

Phone Contact: _____

Home: _____

Address _____ Office: _____

City of Departure _____ Date: _____

Flying _____ Return Date: _____

_____ Scottsdale Only _____ Driving—Cities desired for discounted hotel accommodations

_____ Scottsdale/Las Vegas/Home _____



Amenities at The Registry Resort, Scottsdale, include Arizona's largest pool.

Piazza . . .

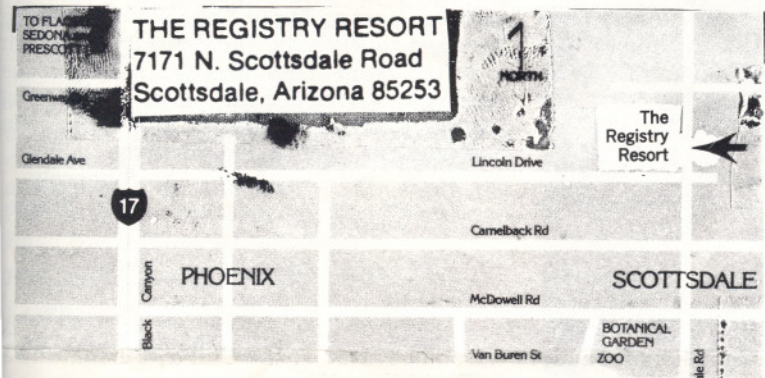
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of former members of the original Marauders.

Attending the reunion were 120 veterans of the Army combat teams, which, under the command of Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, saw action in the China-Burma-India theater and became famous as specialists in infiltrating behind Jap lines in search of military intelligence.

The two-day reunion, which concluded yesterday with an outing and clambake at Webb's grove, Huntington, opened Saturday with a reception and dinner with Senator Raymond E. Baldwin as principal speaker.

Other officers named were Alvin Effron, of Danbury, co-chairman; Michael DiBenedetto, Bridgeport, treasurer; and Albin Sakolnicki, of Ansonia, secretary. Association members to serve as representatives in their respective sections of the nation are Col. Caifson Johnson of Albany, N.Y.; Capt. Abe Weingartner, of Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C., and Maj. Richard Healy, of the University of Maine. Capt. Weingartner and Maj. Healy are still on active duty with the U.S. Army.



travel service

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 2, 1984

Name[s] _____

Accommodation[s] _____

Single Room & Pkg. \$156.65

Double Room & Pkg. \$185.00

Package Rate Includes:

Guestroom for 2 Nights, Friday Dinner, Saturday Dinner and 2 Cocktails, Sunday Brunch, All Taxes and Gratuities.

Please Add 7% Tax to Total

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

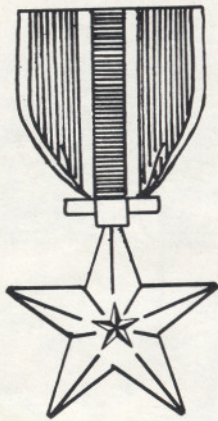
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Deposit nonrefundable if not cancelled 14 days prior to arrival date. (602) 991-3800; (800) 528-3154
Additional room nights available at \$35.00 + 7% tax, per night, single or double occupancy.

Reservations and the first night's deposit must be returned by July 30, 1984



Left to right: Sgt. Anderson; Unknown; Dave Quaid; Unknown; Bernie Martin; Warner Katz; Unknown.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Tony,

The first reunion was held at the Hotel Barnum in Bridgeport. Friday night we just got together and had bull sessions, as it was the first time we had gotten together since Burma, and Saturday night we had our banquet with my friend Governor Baldwin as the guest speaker. On Sunday we had a good old-fashioned New England clam bake out in the country at Webb's Grove. We played ball, pitched horse shoes and just sat around and shot the bull. For the first few years we used to meet at my home in Devon for cook outs and meetings in between the reunion and also at times we got together in New York at Doc Rogoffs. Jack Benfield was working in Philadelphia at the time and used to come up for the get-togethers. One time we went to the Latin Quarter after our meeting. There were ten of us and I had just bought a new 9-passenger station wagon, so we all piled in. At the Club we did it up brown, even ordering a bottle of liquor at N.Y. Latin Quarter prices. Jack had just gotten a raise and said he would pick up the tab, dinners, liquor, cover charge, etc., until the check

MARAUDERS HUDDLE WITH SENATOR BALDWIN

Veterans of Merrill's Marauders who conducted their first reunion since the end of the war Saturday night, September 14, 1947, in the Hotel Barnum, huddle with Senator Raymond E. Baldwin, who was a guest speaker. From left to right are: Major Richard Healey, Orono, Me.; Capt. William Z. Scott, Lansford, Pa.; Sgt. Edward M. Perisky, 6 Wood Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct.; Senator Baldwin and Col. Calfson Johnson, Albany, N.Y. Standing: T-5 Michael R. DiBenedetto, 187 Stillman Street, Bridgeport, Ct.

came and he almost fell through the floor. We really had some swell times in those days. As you can see from the clippings we had 120 Marauders at the first reunion. The only women were Emma, who was my fiancée at that time and my sisters. We didn't have any dues at that time and as I figured the fellows had enough expense with travel, etc., I just charged what the meals cost and picked up the tab for printing, postage, etc., and renting the grove. I was single at the time.

I was in touch with the General and he

was overseas at the time and regretful could not attend but he came to the following ones, and he worked with me trying to compile a mailing list. I am sorry I did not have any more pictures, Tony. Take care and our best to Mary Lou. We are looking forward to Phoenix. Incidentally I just got a letter from Tom Martini asking if I could come visit for four days. He is going to have a cornea transplant next month. He had had one done in the other eye in '81.

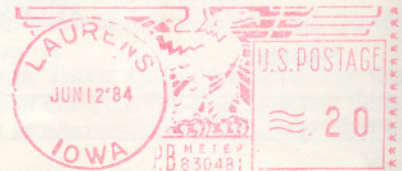
Sincerely,
Phil Piazza



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Anthony Colombo
3814 E. Poinsetta Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Address correction requested



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