



# The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

MAY, 1985

## Cleveland Is the Place, Hilton Is the Hotel, Reunion Labor Day Weekend

Sam Rapisarda, Reunion Chairman, says we will enjoy the facilities at the charming Hilton South. It is only 20 minutes from the Cleveland Hopkins Airport. Map shows the highways leading to the hotel.

The hotel management assures us that there will be ample parking, including those of us who may be arriving in recreational vehicles. No hook-ups, however.

Sam has picked up on a suggestion from Dick Doherty and this year at the Saturday night dinner we will have a toast at 7 p.m., EDT, to all Marauders who are not present. It is suggested that other Marauders who

minute requests, send to Sam Rapisarda, 12937 County Line Rd., Chesterland, Ohio 44026.

**THE CLEVELAND HILTON SOUTH**  
6200 Quarry Lane  
I-77 and Rockside Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44131  
(216) 447-1300

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### FATHER JAMES STUART'S CHRONICLE OF THE MARAUDERS THROUGH THE TAKING OF THE AIRFIELD AT MYITKYINA

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of the notes made by Father Stuart that began in the previous issue of The Burman News. It is published on a space-available basis and will be continued in the next issue.

At 0700 hours, the Second Battalion's left flank, extending along the river, was attacked heavily from the road. Kunai (elephant) grass, six to eight feet high, offered the Japanese excellent cover within which to assemble small groups for a charge. For 15 minutes, heavy mortar fire fell on the Marauder position, slackening as a general assault burst from the elephant grass. At 20 yards, the whole perimeter opened fire. Only a few of the charging Japanese ever reached the defending line; one Japanese was disposed of by a Marauder after a brief wrestling match in his very foxhole; the head of a Japanese lieutenant, blown completely off, rolled into a second foxhold. Before the deadly fire

that poured into it the attack wilted and collapsed.

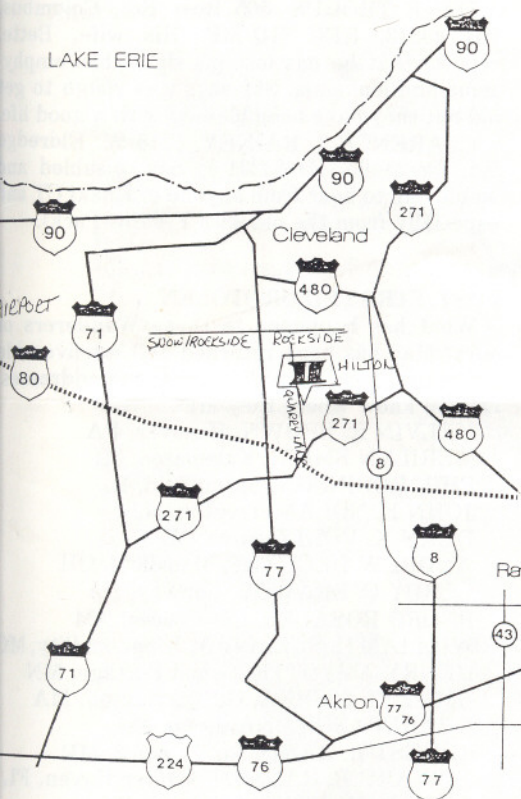
During the next three hours, the Japanese drove in from the north with repeated attacks. Sgt. Norman H. Willey's Pioneer and Demolition Platoon bore the brunt of these attacks, and repulsed them all. In the afternoon the Japanese, slipping in close to the river, attacked from the south, using mortar, machine gun and artillery preparation. The Marauders could distinguish the sound of enemy trucks unloading reinforcements.

McGee's situation was not good. The Second Battalion was running low on ammunition and in danger of being cut off from the rear. A radio from Col. Hunter advised McGee that at least a battalion of Japanese appeared to be moving north from Kamaing. The Chinese 22nd Division was still held up north of Shaduzup and the operations of the First Battalion had been delayed. Under the circumstances, the wisdom of the Second Battalion's maintaining its position north of Inkangahtawng was questionable. At 1630 hours, after hearing that three Japanese battalions were moving northward, Col. Hunter ordered McGee to pull his force back toward Manpin.

Major Briggs' Khaki CT held a bridgehead and kept their mortars hot until the Second Battalion crossed to the east bank of the Mogaung Hka (River), and then the entire force marched to Ngagahtawng where they bivouacked. Four platoons, which McGee had sent in advance of the main force, had blocked all trails to the east and placed booby traps around the circumference of the bivouac. A check-up revealed that two of the Marauders had been killed and 12 wounded. Enemy known dead were over 200. The force had marched 70 miles, fought continuously for 24 hours, and had received 16 separate assaults in four days. (March 20-24) (?)

((March 26th — the Japs occupied positions just south of Warong. Our Kachins operating south of Warong were all cut off. An old woman from Napum reported that a Jap patrol was about 400 yards north of the village of Napum or just to the rear of our headquarters. Another Kachin woman and a little boy who had been with her had been captured (the bodies of this woman and boy with some others were found later). They were killed by the Japs. I informed Gen. Merrill who disbelieved the story at first and later decided that it was either a small Jap patrol fleeing from the Hukawng Valley and not prepared to fight or else a Chinese patrol coming to contact the American troops. How he arrived at these conclusions, I never found out. I said I was sending a Kachin patrol to investigate. He

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might not be able to get to Cleveland should get together locally and join in the toast at the same hour. We were known as a Long Range Penetration Group. So we can also be a Long Range Toasting Group. Here's to you!

Get your registration cards in now. Anyone who has misplaced the cards that were in the last issue of The Burman News can get one from the Executive Secretary. Last



# Officer's Row

**President Piazza:** I would be interested in hearing from members as to how the reunions are being run. Do you like the format? Any suggestions for changes? Let me know before the reunion so that I can bring the proposals up at the board of director's meeting.

**Director Rose:** Action should be taken on officially accepting the 209th and 236th Combat Engineers into the Association since they fought alongside us at Myitkyina.

**Executive Secretary Lyons:** Please do not order any more of the Quaid video tapes from this office until further advised. The black and white, 8 x 10 photos from now on should be ordered from Historian Ralph Kouroyen. We are grateful for the help provided by Tom Martini in digging up many of the new names found in the "Fall In" section. For the information of those who may be interested, the last board of directors meeting set up a committee to review the constitution and by-laws at the next reunion. Phil Piazza to be chairman. Contact him with ideas or complaints.

## Fall In

Here are the latest additions to our assembly. Remember them?

- F. E. HANLON, 1003 Three Mile Creek, Stevensville, MT 59870, 31 QM PK TR
- LEROY B. BEDELL SR., Hillside North #7, Wilmington, MA 01887, 33 QM PK TR
- WALTER B. GIBBS, 24719 Eshelman #5, Lomita, CA 90717, 5307/1/A
- GLENN SIMMS, 7208 Flint Circle, Shawnee, KS 66203, 5307/HQCP, 475th
- WILLIAM G. FIELDS, 214 S. Bunker Hill Rd., Colfax, NC 27235, 5307/1/R
- ALBERT MAZZARELLA, 3805 Oakmount Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, 475/1/B

- JOHN Y. TEAL, 9 Prospect St., Wellsboro, PA 16901, 5307/1/W
- RICHARD DOHERTY, 876 Aspen Dr., Buffalo Grove, IL 60090, 5307/3/K; 475/3/K
- JOHN R. GRAY, 5540 43rd Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55417, 5307/1, 475/1
- JOHN C. HABECKER, 7914 Alta Cuesta, Cucamonga, CA 91730, ALO NCAC HQ
- FRED D. ABBOTT, 4970 East 200th St., Marion, IN 46952, 5307/475/3/HQ
- JOHN L. FULLER, 504 Michigan Ave., Waterville, OH 43568, 5307
- MIKE GAILIUS, 3536 Falling Springs Rd., Cahokia, IL 62206, 5307
- PAUL HARVEY, Rt. #1, Box 100, Paoli, IN 47454, 475;
- CHARLES N. JOHNSON, 1262 Goss Ave., Louisville, KY 40217, 5307
- JAMES E. LUCAS, 2836 Bongart Rd., Winter Point, FL 32792, 5307
- HARRY L. MESSERSCHMIDT, Box 87, Martinsburg, IA 52568, 475
- ROBERT E. MOORE, 508 No. Edison St., Arlington, VA 22203, 5307
- PAUL PETRUS, 2359 Knollwood Ave., Poland, OH 44514, 475
- ALBERT PROFETA, 5544 Indianola, Indianapolis, IN 46220, 5307 & 475/2
- ALBERT J. QUATRO, 21 Cedar St., Cortland, NY 13045, 475/1/A Co.
- HECTOR A. ROCHIN, 821 Ray Andra Dr., Desota, TX 75115, 5307
- LESTER L. SINGLETON, Box 105, Central, IN 47110, 5307 & 475
- JOSEPH W. TOPA, 55 Margaret St., Binghamton, NY 13905, 475
- EDWARD A. ROCK SR., 130 West Oliver Rd., Munhall, PA 15120, 475
- ANTON C. GLAZER, 4468 No. Bartlett Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211, 5307/2/I Co., 475/2/I Co.
- GRAHAM BENNETT, 100 East 13th St., Edmond, OK 73034, 33 QM PK TR, 5307/3
- STANLEY DYER, 515 Louis Dr., Cocoa, FL 32926, 5307
- CHARLES HOLOWELL, RD #1, Cochranton, PA 16314, HQ/MP 502/C

- MILT ZERBE, Selinsgrove, PA 17870, HQ/MP, 502C
- ED MYERS, 703 Newton Ave., Barrington, NJ 08007, HQ/MP 502C
- LOUIS CARDINALI, 12 Effingham Pl., Newport News, VA 23602, 5307/2/B/HW
- DONALD E. O'BRIEN, 509 Lawrence Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227, 124/I Troop
- MAURICE PRITCHETT, P.O. Box 366, Watervliet, MI 49098, 475/1/HQ/CO.
- STANLEY BRAGG, Rt. #2, 4585 Garland Waterville, ME 04901, 475/3
- STEVE P. HRADSKY, 400 Stryker Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441, Mars Task Force
- DANE L. LOVE, 2175 W 79th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260, 5307/2, 475/2
- CHARLES E. MURPHY, 3302 Idaho St., Terre Haute, IN 47803, MARS TF
- RICHARD D. POWELL, 40 Penhurst St., Rochester, NY 14619, 5307, 475
- EVERETT L. SPEER, c/o Larry Level, 815 H St., Bedford, IN 47421, 475th
- JOHN J. TUZYNSKI, P.O. Box 97, Greenfield Center, NY 12833, 5307/2/BCT
- PATSY LUCI, 2014 Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49441, 124/I Tr
- JAMES HASWELL, 60841 Webb Heights Shadyside, OH 43957, 475/2/33 QM PK T

## Hey, Medics!

DR. PAUL JACOBS, 619 King St., Apt. Columbia, SC 29205 has been in bad health some time now. He is now confined to a wheelchair and would like to see visitors from our fit.

DAVE TROGUS, 505 Ross Rd., Columbia, OH 43213, REG HQ/MP. His wife, Betty reports that he has lost his sight, has emema and leukemia. She says it is rough to old but they have been blessed with a good

CLARENCE J. RAINEY, 1245 W. Eldred Rd., Pocatello, ID 83201 is now disabled would like to hear from anyone in Khaki CT especially from the old 98th FA Bn (Pack).

## LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

What has happened to these Wanderers? Mail has been returned as Undelivered in the past year from these men and addresses. Do you know where they are?

- MELVIN R. BROWN, Hanover, PA
- MERILYN SMITH, Kalamazoo, MI
- PHIL ROBINSON, Springfield, IL
- JOHN F. NOLAN, Trenton, NJ
- DEAN K. VOLTZ, Siren, MI
- ANDREW DECHERT, Mansfield, OH
- LEROY C. BRAWDY, Conway, PA
- PEDRO ROSALES, Las Cruces, NM
- WILLIAM H. SULLIVAN, Kingdom City, MO
- HENRY AMYOTTE, Grand Portage, MN
- EMMETT J. SHEA, Gt. Barrington, MA
- GUARINO SCOTINA, Lynn, MA
- ERNEST B. RAND, No. Berwick, ME
- EDWARD B. RANSOM, Winter Haven, FL
- JOHN F. HUNTER, Lombard, IL
- JOSEPH CRAWLEY, Hamlet, NC
- FRANK GRAHAM, Santa Rosa, CA
- JAMES Q. DAUGHERTY, Lady Lake, FL
- JOHN CLESSEEN, Billings, MT
- CHARMAGNE KUBANY, Scottsdale, AZ
- MARVIN SCARBOROUGH, New Haven, CT

Can you help us find them?  
Did you hear about the guy whose wife plastic surgery?

He cut up all her credit cards!

## Pass In Review

### Deaths reported recently

Name and Hometown [Where Known] Organization	When Died
RAYMOND HAWK, Greenbelt, MD, 124th Cavalry Mars Task Force	10/3/84
WALTER HOLSTROM, Canton, OH (Not Known)	1984
STANLEY VRUGGINK, Hudsonville, MI 5307/1/W	5/12/84
CHARLES METCALF, San Diego, CA 5307/1	1984
RUSSELL R. FULLER, Canaan, VT, 5307/1/R	5/19/84
COL. WILLIAM L. OSBORNE, Pebble Beach, CA, 5307/1 Bn; 475th Inf., 124th Cav.	2/20/85
PFC FRANK LISKA, Dupont, PA, 5307/HQ, 502 MP	1973
SGT. BENJAMIN DRAPER, Cooksville, TN, 5307/HQ, 502 MP	1972
PFC WILLIAM MacLINDEN, Fairmont, WV, 5307/HQ, 502 MP	1960's
PFC FRED I. BELL, South Philadelphia, PA, 5307/HQ, 502 MP	1960's
SGT. HAROLD KOHLER, Allentown, PA, 5307/HQ, 502 MP	1945
FREDERICK R. CHESBRO, Daytona Beach, FL	1/26/85
JAMES G. SPROAT, Kentwood, MI, 5307/2 Bn.	7/81

COLONEL WILLIAM LLOYD OSBORNE, Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn, 5307th, 475th Infantry and 124th Cavalry, died on Wednesday, 2/20/85, of a long illness. A memorial service was held on Saturday, 2/23/85. He lived at 1084 Presidio Rd., Pebble Beach, CA 92953. From Caifson Johnson.

EDGAR J. BRYNER, member of the board of directors, died on January 8, 1985. Bryner, S/Sgt., was a Light Machine Gunner with 475th Infantry, Company A and 5307th, 1 Bn, Red Combat Team. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two sons and a daughter. He was buried at Quantico National Cemetery in his WW II uniform and medals. Marauders attending were George Rose, Lloyd Hackenberg, Jim White, Col. Rudolph Maxa, and others also attended. From George Rose.



## FATHER STUART ...

(Continued from page 1)

sent an American officer with them. WO R. R. Rhea, photographer from Det. 101 went along on his own initiative. It was getting dark so he didn't bring his camera — just a rifle. He was the only American present who knew our Kachins didn't exaggerate. He knew that when they said there was trouble ahead, well, there was trouble ahead. A Kachin came back and reported that Japs had bivouacked on a hill top 600 yards north of the village. It was dark and he couldn't say how many. Gen. Merrill said they were probably Chinese and not to attack. I left a Kachin patrol there all night. Next morning, at day break, I aroused all the people in the village because I feared an attack. Only three Americans got up — Bob Rhea, Capt. Jones, public relations officer, and a photographer, Pvt. Andrews. Zinghtung Naw, who had arrived late the previous evening, went along with these three Americans and some Kachins. The patrol which had been left to watch the Japs reported that the Japs moved out at dawn and went down through the jungle to a river on our west. By following the river they could get out to Warong. On hearing they were really Japs, Gen. Merrill recalled one combat team to Napum. During the day, two clashes took place in the river valley west of Napum between small Kachin patrols and Japs. Kachins reported two parties of Japs in the area, one about 300 strong and the other between 60 and 100. Gen. Merrill then recalled the remainder of his two battalions to Napum. He said he was going to put C Bn. at Hsamsingyang to cover the Tania Hka on the east and other trails to the west.

Lt. Pamplin, who was visiting Napum, and I visited Gen. Merrill. He asked to have some of our Kachins allotted to C Bn, as guides. Lt. Pamplin agreed. Lt. Pamplin had come to request my return to Nawbum. I considered I was more needed where I was and remained. (Pamplin was a sergeant under Curl. He got commissioned when Curl left and took over. He was too anxious to cash in on other people's work. Most of his Kachins wanted to come with me, so he tried to keep me with him.)

Carrying the wounded on litters, the force started for Sharaw at dawn on March 25th (?). During the march it rained so intensively that holes were cut in the canvas stretchers to permit water to drain off the injured. That same afternoon they reached Sharaw where, despite inclement weather, liaison planes evacuated the wounded.

With such strong enemy reinforcements pouring up from Kamaing, a Japanese move to trap the Marauders via Manpin seemed probable. Lew's Orange CT, which had been delegated to block the trails south of Aucho, reported that its Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon had been hard hit below Warong and was fighting a delaying action toward Aucho. (1) This platoon believed that they were resisting a reinforced company, possibly a battalion. (Later it was learned that this enemy force was actually two battalions.)

On March 26th, the Second Battalion and Khaki CT left Sharaw and at 1100 hours

reached Manpin where they received a much-needed ration and ammunition drop. OSS also reported that the Japanese were being rushed up from Kamaing toward Warong, coming by truck as far as the unusually wide and solid trail was motorable. The special task force assigned to Col. Hunter was now broken up. The Second Battalion moved about four and one-half miles up the trail toward Aucho, leaving Khaki CT to rejoin the Third Battalion which was blocking all trails to the east and south.

At this point in the operations, air support played an important part. Fighter escorts of the dropping planes went into action, bombing and strafing Japanese columns. These fighters caused many enemy casualties, forced dispersals which helped the Marauders' delaying action considerably. It is noteworthy that, despite confusing terrain and the unusually close proximity of the opposing forces, there are no known instances of American planes accidentally strafing the Marauders during this campaign.

Back at Combat Headquarters, Gen. Stilwell had received information from Gen. Merrill that a captured sketch indicated that a reinforced enemy battalion was moving north in the Tamai Valley with a mission of attacking the Chinese left flank at Shaduzup. Gen. Stilwell now directed Merrill to block this thrust and prevent any Japanese movement north of Nhpum Ga.

A good trail which ran through Nhpum Ga and Janpan to Shaduzup seemed the logical route for the enemy to follow, so Gen. Merrill, then at Nhpum Ga, ordered the Marauders to join him immediately. ((Janpan to Shaduzup was the trail Osborne should have taken had the three battalions remained together to Janpan.))

At 0930 hours on March 27th, the Second Battalion arrived at Aucho. The Third Battalion pushed through them, and Orange CT continued on to Nhpum Ga, (Fr. Barrett was with them. We spent the night together at Nhpum.) while Khaki CT stopped along the trail north of Aucho. Contact with the Japanese from the direction of Warong was expected momentarily, so all the Marauder units set up perimeters and took precautions against possible infiltration.

No action developed during the bivouac, and at 0600 hours on March 28th, Khaki CT started toward Nhpum Ga. Blue CT followed a short distance behind. At 0630 hours, the Second Battalion Headquarters and Green CT pulled out of Aucho, just as two enemy shells landed at the edge of the village. A moment later two more shells

(1) Lt. Col. Beach, commanding the Third Battalion (at this time less Khaki CT, which had been attached to Hunter's special task force), had been instructed to block the trails radiating from Aucho. Although he had made plans and issued instructions for their execution, he changed his dispositions after learning of the action at Inkangahatwong and moved his entire Orange CT down toward Mapin as he knew that if the roadblock was established Gen. Merrill intended to move the entire force in and hold it until the Chinese came down from the North.

When Gen. Merrill got word of the Japanese threat and the withdrawal of Col. Hunter's force, he wired Beach direct: "Did you block Warong-Aucho trail as I ordered?" After receiving this message, Beach ordered Lt. Weston's Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon to cut eastward approximately two miles and place a block on the Warong-Aucho trail. The Platoon reached the trail only 15 minutes ahead of the Japanese.

landed uncomfortably close to them. The third pair found their mark.

The situation was extremely unsatisfactory. Between Aucho and Nhpum Ga the trail followed the crest of a narrow ridge. Its precipitous sides, covered with rank growth, left no place for dispersal, and it soon became evident that the enemy, from the vicinity of Warong, was indulging in observed fire.

## Nhpum Ga

As the tail of the Marauders' column cleared Aucho, a third pair of shells came

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## Letters

To the Editor:

I would like to advise the men from the old 98th Field Arty Bn (Pack) that the commander of "C" Battery, Capt. Herman E. Bedke, passed away in January 1984 at Burley, Idaho. Edward (Pinky) Wade  
112 Reece Ave.  
Nyssa, OR 97913

To the Editor:

In 1944, on the Burma Road, I picked up two pieces of paper, containing a pencil written poem about the Mars Task Force, by Wade E. Hall. The poem contains references to Myitkyina and Tonkwa. If you know anything of this gentleman, please let me know. I would be happy to return the original to him or his family. Dick Doherty  
876 Aspen Rd.  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60090

To the Editor:

Reading The Burman News is not only a great pleasure but also informative. I recently received my China Medal and Bronze Star, thanks to the News on how to proceed in acquiring these awards. (Dave Hurwitz's work). Please include my name in the next issue. I would like to hear from my comrades in arms. I was in 475/3/HQ/Co. Fred Bender  
100 Husted lane  
Greenwich, CT 06830

To the Editor:

"Who Stole My Mule," is a humorous and fascinating story of an American Liaison Veterinary Officer in the Burma Jungles, then with British Forces in India. There are several references to the Marauders in the story. Cost \$11. Check to Bell Enterprises, P.O. Box 251, Maysville, KY 41056. Dr. S. A. Glass  
Maysville, KY

To the Editor:

I am a member of the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors and have a serious interest in the history of the insignia and of the units they represent. I would like to write an article about the Merrill's Marauder Patch. Would any of your members make available to me an original patch made in the CBI? I would like to be able to buy or borrow so that a photo can be made for my article.

Les Hughes  
3617 Larkspur  
Ponca City, OK 74604  
(405) 762-9595



**FATHER STUART . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

whistling over. One man and several animals were hit. The Japanese had found the range. Now a steady stream of artillery fire poured into the area and searched the trail. Nhpum Ga lay four and a half miles ahead, and most of the trail was uphill. Mud was ankle-deep. Frequently the animals fell. They had to be unloaded before they could regain their feet, and then re-packed. Word to "move faster" ran up and down the column which already was moving at an awkward run. Medics were ordered to the rear where they were kept busy. An hour and a half after leaving Auche, the Second Battalion reached Nhpum Ga.

Nhpum Ga is situated on the mountain top, and offered some protection from shelling. McGee was met by Gen. Merrill who instructed him to hold there. ((When Merrill met McGee, he asked him why he had come and not stayed at Auche as or-

(Continued on page 5)

**SPECIAL ORDER #7****Par. 34, 15 January, 1944****5307th Composite Unit [Prov.]****[Continued from last issue]**

34. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Hq & Hq Co, 1st Bn, are announced:

**To Be Staff Sergeant [Temporary]**

Sgt. Edward C. Ammon; Sgt. Thomas R. Henderson.

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Cpl. Cecil R. Hunter; Cpl. Stanley J. Herrick

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. Emile P. Ortego

**To Be Corporal [Temporary]**

Pvt. Cecil L. Wooten; Pfc. Paul C. Loutzenhizer

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Gene L. Bisner; Pvt. Howard F. Schafer; Pfc. Blake (NMI) Williamson; Pvt. John H. Meyers; Pfc. Alfred H. Amyotte; Pvt. Ivan F. Butterfield; Pfc. Angelo A. Consolo; Pfc. Lewis (NMI) Holland;

Pvt. Lewis Perkins; Pvt. Woodrow Young; Pvt. Albert E. King, Jr.; Pfc. Thomas P. Laughlin; Pvt. William H. McCullar; Pfc. William T. Hagans; Pfc. Maurice G. Fortin; Pvt. Homer E. Clements; Pfc. Everett O. Gonyea;

Pfc. Robert (NMI) Kerns; Pvt. Harless B. Boggs; Pfc. Alfred L. Ayers; Pvt. Howard (NMI) Carter; Pfc. Arthur L. Stover; Pfc. Marvin C. Rabe; Pfc. Clarence R. Fegely; Pfc. Howard Boviall; Pfc. Darwin O. Carlile.

35. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. A, 1st Bn are announced:

**To Be Staff Sergeant [Temporary]**

Sgt. Bussoletti, Dorando J.

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Cpl. McNerny, Raymond T.

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Gibson, David V.

**To Be Corporal [Temporary]**

Pfc. Guinn, Frank (NMI)

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. Van Scoy, Dwayne W.; Pvt. Berger, Roy F.; Pvt. Cordeiro, Joseph R.; Pvt. Kurtley, Vester W.; Pvt. Silvey, Gerald T.; Pfc. Sajdak, Leonard A.; Pfc. Cannon, Reynolds, B.; Pfc. Hampton, James M.;

Pfc. Large, Ermil H.; Pvt. Miner, Harry E., Jr.; Pvt. Cunningham, Robert L.; Pfc. Lederer,

Charles E., Jr., Pvt. Hodge, Clarence E.; Pvt. Mullins, Ercil (NMI); Pvt. Bullen, James S.

36. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. B, 1st Bn. are announced:

**To Be Staff Sergeant [Temporary]**

Sgt. Doallas, Clarence H.; Sgt. Block, Bernard (MNI).

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Pvt. Bartko, Andrew (NMI); Cpl. Kroutz, Walter (NMI).

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

T/5 Groves, James B.

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Jones, Roy A.; Pvt. Benner, Clayton E.; Pvt. Asher, Joe V.; Pfc. Fain, Laurence (NMI); Pfc. Strunk, Delmar F.; Pvt. Genest, Rene J.; Pfc. Laurent, Jerold V.; Pfc. Gosline, Austin E.; Pfc. Kaufman, William N.; Pvt. Zabik, Boleslaus (NMI); Pfc. Vaughn, James E.; Pfc. Rosell, Darrell R., Jr.; Pvt. Shelby, George D.; Pfc. Hanson, Koore (NMI); Pfc. Price, Ralph M.;

Pvt. Nelsen, Robert L.; Pfc. Smith, Clyde H.; Pvt. Barrett, Robert (NMI); Pfc. Hosman, Jesse C.; Pvt. O'Neal, Eddie L.; Pvt. Descisciolo, Ignatz (NMI).

37. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. C, 1st Bn, are announced:

**To Be Staff Sergeant [Temporary]**

Sgt. James (NMI) Sergi; Sgt. Edward F. Czebrowski.

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

T/5 Ralph B. Kinnie; Cpl. James L. Lennon; Cpl. Earl Little; Cpl. Oscar E. Olson; Cpl. John D. Lahey; Cpl. Henry Taylor; Cpl. Alfred J. Sheppard; Pvt. Henry I. Brigham; Cpl. Donald O. Cobb; Cpl. Joseph L. Gaulin.

**To Be Corporal [Temporary]**

Pfc. Oral E. Smith, Pfc. Robert J. Dailey, Pfc. James E. Rusk; Pfc. Walter R. Fuller; Pfc. Johnnie J. Sparks; Pvt. Clarence J. Riley.

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. Harry H. Paris; Pvt. Richard S. Murphy; Pvt. Charles E. Dyer; Pvt. Thomas W. Buford; Pfc. Walter Bickford; Pvt. Benjamin J. Sapp; Pvt. Richard Lorton; Pvt. William A. Stitt;

Pfc. Honore Gallant; Pvt. Robert H. Bartell; Pfc. Joe Canonie; Pvt. Harold V. Hamilton; Pvt. Salvador C. Garcia;

Pfc. Forest L. Scarbrough; Pfc. Harrison O. Titsworth; Pvt. Paul M. Glova; Pfc. Eddie B. Smith; Pvt. Horrie L. Hickman; Pfc. Woodrow W. Helmick; Pfc. Anthony G. Bess.

38. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Med. Det., 1st Bn, are announced:

**To Be Technical Sergeant [Temporary]**

T/3 Robert S. McGraw.

**To Be Technician 3rd Grade [Temporary]**

T/4 Richard M. Murch.

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

T/4 John M. Fraser

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

T/5 Bernard (NMI) Teller.

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Dwight D. Emerson; Pfc. Ralph G. Smith; Pvt. J. Anderson.

39. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions are announced:

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Cpl. Joseph B. Becnel; Cpl. Paul J. D'Alessio; Cpl. Matney, Thomas H.; Cpl. Grady, Daniel J. Jr.; Pvt. Gallagher, Frank; Pvt. Robertson, George G.

**To Be Staff Sergeant [Temporary]**

St. McCarty, Thomas F.

**To Be Corporal [Temporary]**

Pvt. Fred H. Gallman; PFC. Town, James E. Jr.; Pfc. Kazee, Clarence M.; Pvt. Ogle, Alvin L.; Pvt. Henderson, Dallas M.; Pfc. Rodysill, Phares

O.; Pfc. Wallace, Rufus O.

40. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Hq & Hq Co., 3rd Bn, are announced:

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Pvt. Thompson, Joe H.; Cpl. Werner, Arthur A. Jr.

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

Cpl. Cox, Edson R.; Col. Szawley, Wilber K. Pfc. Hill, Russell F.; Cpl. Hamelick, Carl F.; Pfc. Midyette, Albert L.; Cpl. Noreka, Victor J.; Pfc. Carr, Robert L.; Pfc. Tucker, Mitchell; Pfc. Fowler, Don G.

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. Benson, Stanley L.; Pfc. Parsons, Ka E.; Pfc. Cook, Henry W.; Pfc. Pettit, Joseph T. Pfc. Lettieri, Charles J.; Pvt. Robinson, Warren Pfc. Campbell, Willie C.; Pfc. Clayton, Murra P.; Pfc. Moriarty, Joseph E.; Pfc. McMillan Russell (NMI); Pfc. Elson, Miles E.; Pfc. Kucer Edward F. Jr.

41. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. I, 3rd Bn, are announced:

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Cpl. Jack D. Grigsby; T/5 Johnnie S. Fist.

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. Thomas W. Lawson; Pvt. Randolph Gisp. Pvt. Stanley A. Pliska; Pvt. Richard H. Popp.

42. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. K, 3rd Bn, are announced:

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pvt. James N. Castaldo; Pvt. Thomas J. Gately; Pvt. Lloyd H. Steele; Pfc. Paul Toney; Pfc. Herbert L. Smith; Pfc. James Williams; Pfc. Adolph A. Wollent; Pfc. Walla H. Kirkland.

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

Cpl. Robert L. Eschenauer; Cpl. Ted Zimmerschied; Cpl. Charles P. Ritto; T/5 Jack Brackett (NMI); T/5 Dean K. Voltz;

Pfc. Russell J. DeMars; Pfc. Edward Gotthardt; Pvt. Elmer J. Kuzor; Pvt. Edw (NMI) Kopec; Pvt. Elva L. Tedford.

43. UP AR 615-5, as amended, the following promotions in Co. L, 3rd Bn, are announced:

**To Be Sergeant [Temporary]**

Cpl. Aloysius Kazalously; Cpl. William Noe; Cpl. James H. Wright.

**To Be Technician 4th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Albert P. Pfeiffer

**To Be Technician 5th Grade [Temporary]**

Pfc. Robert C. Santymire; Pfc. Hayward M. Bride; Pfc. Millard M. Heath; Pfc. Lawrence Wilhelm; Pfc. David M. Waterhouse; Pfc. Dav R. Deak; Pfc. Moye M. Belger; Pfc. Willard Dills; Pfc. Herbert Klein; Pfc. Charlie S. Atkir

Pfc. Arthur Congelton; Pfc. Kenneth Dehurst; Pfc. Louis Graves; Pfc. Maurice A. Dieerich; Pfc. Theodore J. Neuman; Pfc. Richard Scheafer, Jr.; Pfc. Bernard A. Strausbaugh;

Pfc. James L. Edenburn, Jr.; Pfc. Ralph Keller; Pfc. Thomas E. Stage; Pfc. Clyde Sheilds; Pfc. Charles E. Beck; Pfc. Lloyd Kusch; Pfc. John G. Holt; Pfc. Russell W. M. Crea; Pvt. Joseph A. Roll.

44. UP AR 615-5, as amended, Cpl. Howard Barton, Co. C, 1st Bn, is reduced to grade Private (without prejudice).

45. UP AR 615-5, as amended, Pvt. Howard Barton, Co. C, 1st Bn, is promoted to grade Technician 5th Grade.

46. UP AR 615-5, as amended, Cpl. George Fisher, Co. K, 3rd Bn, is reduced to the grade Private for misconduct.

By command of Brig. Gen. MERRILL:

LOUIS J. WILLIAM  
Captain, Infantry  
Adjutant



**FATHER STUART . . .**

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dered. McGee said Merrill had wired him to come to Nhpum Ga. Merrill then asked for the message file, read it, and then said he had made a mistake. Had one battalion held Auche till the other one fortified Nhpum Ga, things could have been easier.) The Third Battalion had moved two and a half miles further on to Hsamshingyang where there was a suitable tract for a dropping field. (The General forbade OSS to make a liaison strip here three days earlier. I wanted a place to evacuate the wounded in case something went wrong.) This battalion would protect the field, send out patrols and station trail blocks to prevent any surprise attack from the north and would reconnoiter and send combat patrols east to the Tanai to prevent the Japanese by-passing Nhpum Ga and continuing on towards Shadzup.

The exertion of the last few days had told heavily on the Marauders. The round-trip from Nhpum Ga to Inkangahtawng was approximately 70 miles. They had crossed rivers and streams 51 times, and the last uphill dash from Auche through mud and bursting shells had been particularly exhausting. Nevertheless, the men of the Second Battalion quickly whipped the Nhpum Ga hilltop into a tenable position and established a perimeter defense.

From Maj. Healy's Blue CT, a patrol went south toward Kauri to fight a delaying action. One had already been left there to establish a secondary trail block. These two detachments gained an hour and a half of valuable time, making it possible for the Second Battalion to dig in on the hill and get fairly well prepared to meet the anticipated Japanese attacks.

Sharp, thin ridges surround Nhpum Ga. To the north, the elevation continues for about a mile, then tapers gradually down to Hsamshingyang. To the east there is an

abrupt decline cut by flanking ravines which lead down to the Tanai Hka, a couple of miles away. About two miles to the west lies the Hkuma Hka, roughly parallel to the Tanai Hka, but flowing in the opposite direction (south).

At the northeast of the Second Battalion's perimeter a rocky point towered above a water hole which was reached by a narrow trail running down the steep incline. The perimeter was established roughly in the shape of a heart in order to take advantage of the terrain and to incline the water source in a small salient jutting eastward. Maj. Healy's Blue CT took over the southern half of the perimeter, and Capt. Bogardus' Green CT occupied the northern half.

It was at this time (March 28th) that General Merrill, who had been under a doctor's care for several days, became ill. The unit surgeon (Maj. Schudmak) recommended that he be evacuated to a hospital along with unit casualties which were even then being flown out from Hsamshingyang. General Merrill refused to go. But his condition grew so serious that Col. Hunter privately reported it to Gen. Stilwell who radioed instruction to evacuate Merrill at the earliest possible moment. (1)

At 1345 hours on March 28th, the Japanese began to concentrate their shells on Kauri where the patrol from Blue CT was engaged in delaying tactics. Security patrols which the Marauders sent out were hit by sizeable bodies of the enemy from all directions. By 1400 hours the patrol at Kauri was compelled by determined Japanese fire to withdraw to the perimeter under cover of their automatic weapons.

At 1605 hours, Japanese artillery and mortar fire searched out the southern tip of

(1) General Merrill refused to leave until the last wounded Marauder had been evacuated. Wounded, however, kept accumulating and by March 31st the General was helpless and was evacuated over his protest by the surgeon.



India-Burma Campaign, 15 April, 1944, Nhpum Ga, Nambu LMG seized by 5307th CU. Left to right: Cpl. Wilbur Thorpe, Co. E; Sgt. Maj. Joe Doyer; 1st Sgt. Recke, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn; S / Sgt. Sam Rapisarda.

the Second Battalion's perimeter, followed a few minutes later by an assault. This attack, which was easily repulsed, evidenced a feeling-out operation, and for that reason the Marauders held their automatic fire order not to disclose their strength. It was apparent that heavy shock attack was imminent, and the Americans utilized every moment to strengthen and improve their defense.

At 1800 hours a radio from Gen. Merrill who had moved his command post to Hsamshingyang — directed McGee to block trails in the Kauri-Nhpum Ga area and to prevent any movement north of the hilltop, paying special attention to the flank where a usable trail ran along Hkuma Hka and informing him that the Second Battalion would take care of any movement up the Tanai on the east flank.

During the night of March 28-29th, occasional mortar and artillery fire fell into the Marauders' perimeter, doubtless intended only to harass the defenders and keep them awake. If this was the purpose of the enemy fire, it failed. The majority of the Second Battalion men were physically exhausted. Nothing short of a direct hit could have aroused those not actually required to man the line. Two-man foxholes had been generally dug; in them one man slept while the other remained alert.

((March 28th — B Battalion and combat team of C Battalion left Auche and Nhpum as ordered by Gen. Merrill. Their troops were left to cover their rear. While the column was strung out along a narrow jungle trail moving north toward Nhpum the Japs began shelling the trail with artillery and mortars. Many Americans were wounded. Because they could not disperse but could only follow the narrow jungle trail on which the Jap artillery was registering, many of the men became demoralized. The Japs were following closely on their rear without hindrance.

Soon all the Americans reported in from Nhpum. The men were in very bad shape. B Bn had marched for twelve hours the previous day to get through Warong before they could be cut off. They had very little food and got no sleep. They had come from Auche to Nhpum on the double and had suffered casualties. Some of the men were shocked and jittery. Some of these who they found I was there sought me out for a few quiet words. It relieved them to have someone to speak to who had time to listen to them. I was as afraid as they were but kept my mouth shut. Weeks later in Assam some of these men, perfectly cured, came and thanked me for giving them confidence that morning.

Shortly after the last American arrived in Nhpum, a messenger arrived from some 15 Kachins who had dug in about a mile south of that village. He said that these Kachins wanted to know what to do. All the Americans had passed through their positions going north. They wanted to know should they also retreat or hold out. I translated this to Gen. Merrill. He was not pleased that Kachins had stayed on when his men passed through at the double. He said he would send his men to take over these positions. Up till then he had always

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been rather friendly with me. After that he was merely polite.

B Bn. was told to hold Nhpum. C Bn. went four miles north to Hsamshingyang. There were paddy fields there and I was asked to arrange with the local Kachins to make an air strip there so that the wounded could be evacuated by liaison plane. Some B Bn. troops fanned out to the south of Nhpum while others dug foxholes around the village. Soon the Japs attacked in force and within two hours the whole battalion was on the defensive in the village itself.)

At daylight on March 29th, the Japanese again opened up with artillery and mortars. A machine gun barrage preceded another attack coming at 0600 hours from the southeast. This thrust accomplished nothing for the enemy; neither did another from the southwest at 1000 hours, nor a third at 1500 hours from almost due south. The procedure was the same in each case, and resulted in nothing but casualties for the enemy.

During the morning, P-51s bombed Ache. All during the day of March 29th there were sounds indicating that the Japanese were moving in close to the western edge of the perimeter and attack from that quarter was momentarily expected.

At 1515 hours, and again at 1750 hours, McGee radioed requests for help to Gen. Merrill. However, no help was then available at Hsamshingyang and all that was possible was to inform him that the Third Battalion would send a platoon combat patrol twice daily from the air strip to Nhpum Ga to keep the trail open. By nightfall, it was evident that the Japanese were also digging in. At 1750 hours, a light artillery preparation commenced, and once more, paving the way with mortars and machine guns, the enemy struck at the perimeter's southwest corner. Again they failed.

Because of Gen. Merrill's illness, Col. Hunter had assumed active command at Hsamshingyang. On the evening of March 29th, Col. Hunter radioed McGee that the enemy was moving up from the southeast in large numbers, and that probably, at least two Japanese battalions were disposed to the south and west of the perimeter. The presence of the new enemy group to the southeast made it inadvisable for the Third Battalion at Hsamshingyang to weaken its defense of the vitally important airstrip to reinforce McGee's men at Nhpum Ga. The absence of the First Battalion, then at Shaduzup, was keenly felt.

That night the Second Battalion improved and extended their dug-in positions. All digging had to be done cautiously, for the Japanese had a habit of worming their way close to the perimeter to hurl grenades at any spot where they heard the sound of a voice or activity.

Meanwhile, back at Hsamshingyang the Third Battalion spent the night of March 29th patrolling all avenues of approach to the airstrip. One group of Japanese that tried to circle northward to the rear of the field was hit hard and turned back.

Throughout the area, Kachin guerrillas were busy scouting and setting up ambushes, frequently accounting for small enemy parties. The Kachins were probably of more assistance than anyone realized, as they doubtless created in the minds of the Japanese an exaggerated idea of the size and general disposition of the American forces.

((March 29th — Gen. Merrill was said to be suffering from a heart attack. Our Kachin leader, Zingtung Naw got word that his own area, the Hpungindung, was in danger of being overrun by Japs. He asked permission to go there to organize the Kachins there to defend the area. Lt. Pamplin sent some of our Kachins with him and some others had already been sent up there. Col. Hunter asked me to remain with the Galahad forces. Some wounded from B Bn. were evacuated by air. Three small planes crashed but nobody was hurt. I put out Kachin patrols on all trails leading to the airstrip. A report from Hefty, Det. 101 Agent at Wailangyang, stated that Japs were coming up a trail from Sama, to our east. He said that the Kachins had been forced to withdraw. This was a dangerous threat in view of our position. There was talk of taking the two American battalions back to the high ground northwards towards Janpan, where they could defend the trails without the danger of being cut off.))

Japanese artillery, machine guns and mortars greeted the dawn of March 30th at Nhpum Ga. This time the eastern side of the perimeter was attacked in greater force than in any previous engagement, and the attack persisted in the face of the Marauders' all-out efforts. Finally, the Japanese cracked, only to close in again a little later from farther north. Again they failed. With the repulse of each attack the spirit of the defenders rose. The trail from the hilltop to Hsamshingyang was still open, and all wounded were transported to the airfield for evacuation. During the day, the Japanese located the position of the Marauders' mortars, and with 77 mm artillery began systematically to blast the hill behind which the mortars were masked. It became necessary for the Second Battalion to move the mortars to another location.

The battalion's aid-station was set up in fox-holes large enough to accommodate litters and permit medical attention to be given the wounded, but the enemy artillery had played complete havoc with the Marauders' animals, killing 75 of them. The bodies of horses and mules, after lying for two days on the ground, began to give off an odor. From beyond the perimeter, the wind brought the stench of Japanese dead which, after 36 hours in this climate, were already starting to decompose. The stink was almost insufferable.

((March 30th — A Kachin patrol of five men ambushed a Jap party of about 60 coming down a river bed about a mile to the southeast of our airstrip. The Japs withdrew. Kachins said that at least four Japs were wounded. Gen. Merrill was evacuated. Col. Hunter took over and said that Col. McGee's battalion was being heavily attacked and that part of C Bn. would have to make flank attacks on the Japs to relieve pressure on Nhpum. I promised to supply

Kachin guides for this move.))

March 31st started off with the usual enemy barrage. However, the attack that followed came from three points at once from the south, the east, and the northwest. The principal effort struck from the east and was directed at isolating the Marauders' water hole. After an hour's hard fighting the Japanese succeeded. The Second Battalion's counter-attack failed. The enemy held a strong position on a ridge commanding the hole, and without weakening his defense at other points, McGee did not now have sufficient men to hold the water hole even if he could have recaptured it. Every available man, even mule skinner and headquarters personnel, was fox-holes defending the perimeter. The water hole was lost.

At 0800 hours on March 31st, the usual morning patrol was dispatched from Hsamshingyang by Orange CT. This patrol had the regular missions of checking the trail to Nhpum Ga and of carrying the wounded from Second Battalion back to Hsamshingyang. The patrol detected considerable signs indicating that the enemy had used the trail through most of its length from Hsamshingyang to Nhpum Ga.

When the patrol reached a point 400 yards from McGee's perimeter, it was fired upon by a strong enemy road block which had been established during the night. The Marauder patrol halted to organize for break-through attempt. During this halt they established communications with the Weapons Platoon leader of Blue CT with the hilltop perimeter. The patrol leader, I Warren Smith, directed Blue CT's mortar fire upon the Japanese road block, and attacked the block with his patrol.

Unable to contact Col. Hunter by radio the patrol sent two messengers to Hsamshingyang to explain the situation and request reinforcements. These messengers were ambushed before they had gone 300 yards. The patrol was cut off from the rear. The return to Hsamshingyang had to be made through the jungle and along stream bed lying due west. Just as the patrol was leaving, they were joined by a section from another of their platoons which had been patrolling that area the day before and had been unable to return to Hsamshingyang.

The two forces retreated along the stream-bed to the west, fighting a delaying action against the Japanese who closed on both sides of pursuit. Twelve enemy were killed, and only one Marauder was wounded.

About 1000 hours on March 31st, McGee was informed of the cutting of the trail to Hsamshingyang. He was told that patrol from the Third Battalion hoped to dislodge the enemy block by noon, but they failed to do so.

For the past three days, unfavorable weather had prevented the Air Force from contributing much support to the Marauders. But now fighter-bombers appeared, and were directed by radio to known Japanese positions.

McGee determined to attempt breaking the Japanese block on the trail to Hsamshingyang from his end. Carefully, he thinned out his entire line and organized

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task force approximating a reinforced platoon in strength. Under mortar and machine gun support, this force struck viciously out, but within 200 yards of the perimeter it encountered enemy positions and was thrown back. Several casualties were suffered.

At 1600 hours, McGee radioed Col. Hunter that his rear was blocked and that he would like "something" to relieve the pressure.

An air-drop furnished the Second Battalion with plenty of food and ammunition, but the water shortage was becoming serious. Rain had accumulated in a hollow where several dead mules lay. The Americans dug a shallow pit to conserve this brackish fluid which tasted of decomposed flesh.

During the day of March 31st, a strong Japanese patrol pressed from the southeast toward the vital air-strip at Hsamshingyang. When this patrol ran into one of the patrols from Orange CT, the sound of their shots quickly brought reinforcements from Maj. Lew, and the enemy group was pushed back after a sharp fight in which several Marauders were killed and 12 wounded. Now Col. Hunter decided to pull men badly needed for the airstrip defense in an effort to clear the trail between Hsamshingyang and Nhpum Ga. He selected Orange CT for the task, and ordered Khaki CT to take over all patrolling and the defenses of Hsamshingyang.

((March 31st — The Japs put in a road

block between Hsamsingyang and Nhpum. Patrols taking wounding from Nhpum to Hsamsingyang could no longer get through. The Japs got quite near the airstrip. Regimental Headquarters moved from the airstrip to the village of Hsamsingyang, one mile north of the strip.))

As April 1st dawned the Second Battalion at Nhpum Ga was treated to a welcome "April Fool." For once, the Japanese artillery salute to daylight was not given. Early in the morning the Marauders laid a mortar concentration on the high ground from which the Japanese commanded the water hole. At 0900 hours they were answered by enemy big guns, this time from positions much closer. Evidently, the Japanese had moved their artillery from Aucho to Kauri, and were now firing at a 1000-yard range.

After a relatively light barrage, the enemy launched attacks from the east and northeast simultaneously. Both of these failed.

Incongruously, McGee received at this time a report that the First Battalion had taken Shaduzup, and the opinion expressed was that the Second Battalion's road block at Inkangahtawng had contributed greatly to the victory at Shaduzup.

More fantastic, however, was the message received by McGee from Hunter: "Nips running like Hell from Shaduzup. Too many dead to be counted. Expect your friends (the Japs) to pull out tonight or tomorrow morning. Mortar hell out of them. Lew will pursue if feasible."

More bodies of animals and dead Japa-

nese now added to the nauseating aroma that hung over the hilltop. The grave water shortage prevented doctors from making plaster casts, and they were forced to give patients sulphadiazine dry. In desperation McGee requested an air-drop of 500 gallons of water in plastic bags.

Meanwhile, Orange CT was making slow progress in its push against the enemy trail block north of Nhpum Ga. Here again, the Marauders ran into the peculiar S-shaped machine gun set-up which the Japanese used to such good advantage.

The Americans had keenly felt the need for artillery since the first day of the action, having nothing with which to reply to the constant pounding of enemy 77 mm and 150 mm fire. The morale of the men was being damaged by having to take such punishment without means of retaliation. Something was needed to supplement the overworked mortars, which were effective within limitations, but inadequate for the task at hand.

Upon being evacuated to Ledo, Gen. Merrill had ordered two 75 mm howitzers dispatched at once to the Third Battalion at Hsamshingyang. Galahad's rear echelon outdid itself in carrying out these instructions with all possible speed. Early on the morning of April 2nd the two field pieces, in bulky chunks dangling from double parachutes, dropped from the sky onto the Hsamshingyang airstrip. The men of the Second Battalion could plainly see this air-drop two miles away, and were cheered by the sight.

Meanwhile, Col. Hunter had assembled two gun crews composed of men who had been with the 98th Pack Artillery in New Guinea. Spurred on by the urgency of the situation, these men did a magnificent job. S/Sgt. John A. Acker acted as Battery commander. He formed the two crews, and ran them through intensive refresher practice so that they were well-drilled when the howitzers came floating down to them.

The plane had begun disgorging artillery from the sky at 0930 hours on April 2nd. Two hours later the crews had completely assembled the guns, and promptly at 1130 hours one gun barked viciously and the first round sailed out over the Second Battalion's perimeter. Shortly both guns were registering on the enemy position.

April 2nd found Lew's Orange CT still battling against the road block south of Hsamshingyang. The Japanese had brought up reinforcements for this block, and refused to be budged. Orange CT called for support from the fighter planes that accompanied the air-dropping transports. These planes bombed and strafed the block until their ammunition was exhausted and, although Orange CT attacked the block again and again, they failed to gain an inch.

Hoping to flank the trail block, Col. Hunter took two platoons to Khaki CT from the airstrip defenses, equipped them with all the light machine guns and mortars that could be spared. These platoons, under Maj. Briggs, proceeded south on the trail to Nhpum Ga, behind Orange CT about two miles, then veered west. They then cut a path along the jungle-covered mountain until directly opposite the Japanese who



India-Burma Campaign, Burma, March, 1944. 5307th CU, 81mm Mortar crew, situated in a crater made by 500 lb. bomb, await orders to fire on an enemy objective.

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faced the west side of the Second Battalion's perimeter on the hilltop at Nhpum Ga. From this point the two platoons tried to crack the Japanese line, but bands of fire from well dug-in enemy positions stopped them. Patrols were sent to feel out the enemy flanks, but strong resistance and the difficulties of the terrain combined to foil the effort. The two platoons bivouacked for the night. Next day, April 3rd, they found themselves threatened in the rear. They escaped by cutting a new trail back to the airstrip at Hsamshingyang.

The situation at the close of April 2nd did not look encouraging. McGee and his Second Battalion were effectually bottled up on the hilltop at Nhpum Ga. His water was cut off, and his wounded could not be evacuated. Two-thirds of the Third Battalion, which originally had been disposed to guard the Hsamshingyang airstrip, was now committed to an attempt to break the encirclement of the Second Battalion. This meant that the airstrip, vital for supply and the evacuation of wounded, was not adequately defended.

((April 2nd — Two artillery pieces, 75 mm. were dropped in by air and the teams to man the guns were selected from the mule-skinner. Jap positions were shelled. Our ground forces attacked under constant air support. The Japs were well dug-in, were well equipped and more numerous than was at first thought. Headquarters was again up at the airstrip. Col. Hunter didn't stay with his Regimental Headquarters, but kept on the front with the attacking troops and later stationed himself by the guns. All night there were long bursts of machine gun fire just north of the strip.))

Day after day, from April 2nd to April 7th, Hunter pushed Lew's Orange CT doggedly at the trail block. Day after day, Khaki CT with all men who could be spared from Hsamshingyang attempted to flank the enemy block, and more and more men

were taken from the pitifully thin reserve guarding the airstrip to bolster this effort. But the Japanese stubbornly refused to be flanked or to yield ground.

On April 3rd, Col. Hunter sent Capt. John B. George of Third Battalion Hq. to go north to Pabum and contact the Chinese Force there. George set forth, accompanied by T/Sgt. Russell Hill, and Sgt. Lum Pun, and Chinese interpreter.

Cautiously they threaded their way through the Tanai Valley to Weilangyang. (14 miles with Chinese troops along most of the way. Kachins patrolled the rest.) There Capt. George talked with the commander of one Chinese battalion who, after some delay, started marching on Hsamshingyang. (Another battalion of the same Chinese regiment arrived at the Hsamshingyang airfield nearly simultaneously with the Marauder First Battalion on the 7th of April.)

On April 3rd, Maj. Briggs and men from Khaki CT attempted another flanking effort around the enemy road block. This time the attack would coordinate artillery barrage with air support. Col. Hunter instructed the beleaguered McGee to make a strong push northward from the Nhpum Ga hill in an all-out effort to make contact with Lew's Orange CT. McGee did this. The artillery barrage and strafing planes supported the effort, but the net result was nothing.

At 1500 hours on 3rd April, Col. Hunter called a staff meeting at Hsamshingyang. The enemy were reported to be moving up the Tanai Valley from the south and east in great strength. This did not improve the outlook. An urgent message asking for support from the First Battalion had been delayed 36 hours because of radio trouble and mistakes made in encoding and decoding the message. No help could be expected from Osborne's First Battalion for at least four days.

After discussing all aspects of the situation, Col. Hunter made his decision in these words: "Gentlemen, in the morning we start an attack that will drive through to

the Second Battalion. It may take two three days, but we will get through. troops except the sick and the m skinner will be withdrawn from airstrip. Large patrols will be called in, Kachins substituted wherever possible. tomorrow, as soon as we can get rea Orange CT will attack due south along trail. Khaki CT will leave their hea equipment here, march due south beh Orange CT until they are 400 yards fr Jap positions, then turn west down mountain and attack the Japs on their w flank. The artillery will be moved up where it can fire point blank into the J bunkers and pill boxes. Every man of gun crews volunteered to do this, this aft noon. The attack will be tentatively set 1200 hours tomorrow. Ruses, feints, a anything else you can do to fool the Japs in order. A fake message will be dropp from a plane so as to fall in the Jap lin This message will be to the Second B talion, and will say that a battalion of par chutists will be dropped between Karui a Aucho at 1700 hours tomorrow (April 4th If possible, we will have a dummy drop that area to fool them."

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