

# The Burman News

Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

NOVEMBER, 1985

## Marauders Hold 39th Reunion

Photos by Caleb Hyden

HEY BUDDY! Haven't seen you in forty years. What kind of trouble have you been into?

That seemed to be the theme of the recent 39th Annual Reunion of the Marauders Association. We had a total of 460 people at the Saturday night dinner-dance. That is the largest number we have ever had. The total includes family members, honorary members, etc. We had eight members of the Canadian Branch of the Burma Star Association and their wives who came down to see how we had survived.

For the early birds, the festivities started on Wednesday, the 28th, with a day at the races. Thistledown Track. The Seventh Race was the Merrill's Marauder Special. The winning entry was given a trophy by the Association. We also donated cash to the other horses throughout the afternoon.

We had early registration and an opportunity to check out the photos and other memorabilia, and to purchase Marauder items on Thursday. By that time we had 200 people on hand.

Friday was a busy time, meeting new and old friends. Dinner on the package that night in the ballroom. Entertainment also.

Saturday we had a barbeque lunch. Both indoors and outdoors. Take your choice. Hotel workers were dressed in G.I. clothing to make us feel at home? They even had a pyramidal tent set up next to the pool.

Then the business meeting for the membership in the afternoon. See report elsewhere. It got pretty hectic for a while. We may have to ask for a Ranger Detachment to keep order.

Then that night we had the dinner-dance. Overflow crowd had to eat in an adjoining room. But they came back to join us for the talk by Major General Suddath. Judging by the attention, we were interested in what he had to say about the present day Army Special Forces.

Sunday A.M. we had the Memorial Mass and Service by Father Glavin. Another overflow crowd. The General liked what Father Glavin had to say. Then to the brunch. Another adequate meal. The food was good throughout the reunion. Then everyone scattered for home. Tired, but happy. See you next year was the call.

Thanks from all to Reunion Chairman Sam Rapisarda and to his committeemen: Bill Nicholson, Albert Tirabasso, Joe Di Orto, Ralph Messina, and Junior O'Malley.

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Minutes of the 39th Annual Reunion business meeting, Grand Ballroom, Hilton



Left to right: Unidentified, Ed Rothschild, Woomer the Boomer



Frances and Lawrence Lew, Guest Speaker Maj. Gen. LeRoy N. Suddath, Jr., Sam Rapisarda and Mrs. Rapisarda.



Left to right: Harvey Brown, Virginia and William Aydt, Dorothy and Johnnie Holmes, Calfson Johnson, Helen Hyden, Shirley Brown (back to camera).



Left to right: George Rose, Tom Martini, Ray Mitchell

South, Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday, 8-31-85. Meeting called to order by President Piazza at 2:35 p.m. The room was jam-packed with members.

Roll Call of Officers: All present.

**Executive Secretary Report:** Total expenses for year: \$3,471.31; Receipts: Donations, \$2222 + Misc. Receipts Sales, \$2027.94; Total Receipts, \$4,249.94. Transferred \$200 to Treasurer, Bank Account Balance, \$578.63.

Our membership has increased to over 1400, including honoraries. We have added 154 men to our rolls since last reunion. We appreciate the help that we have received from many members in attaining this result. Particularly, Tom Martini, Earl Parnell, George Rose have worked hard to help the association grow. One member, Tony Callisto, drove over 700 miles to make contact with Marauders he did not know. Thanks to all for their cooperation. We have run out of Directories. The board of directors has authorized a re-printing. We expect that will be available in the spring and for next year's reunion. Report accepted by membership.

### Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 8-23-84 .....	\$ 342.07
Deposits .....	3066.00

Total .....	3408.07
Withdrawals, Checks & Service Charges .....	2431.34

Balance on 8-27-85 .....	976.73
Funds from former Executive Secretary .....	242.91
Historian Account .....	29.62
Executive Secretary Account ...	578.63

Balance on hand 8-31-85 ..... \$1827.89  
Report accepted by membership.

**Audit Committee:** By Chairman Piazza, records in order.

**President:** Piazza, we have continued to make award of Silver Compasses to each Ranger Graduating Class, one each to Best EM & Officer in each class, with appropriate engraving. We spend about \$1,000 per year on this program.

**Historian:** Kouroyen, spent about \$20 on postage, etc., during year.

**Military Liaison Officer:** Hurwitt, gave talk on the history of the Ranger-Marauder association over the years.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Dick Poppe, advises membership that October 26th will be Na-

tional Mule Appreciation Day. Remember to celebrate. Man from Iowa, how do you establish military credentials? Reply from Tom Ginn, (?)NYC, Discharge papers sometimes recorded in County CH, VA Hosp. records. Dick Poppe, there are National Guard records.

Poppe, Quentin Waite has a film on General Stilwell available. Arrangements were made to show it right after the meeting in the theater room. Should contact him for plans for future reunions.

**Election of Officers:** President, Yazzo expressed approval of President's performance on behalf of group.

**Executive Secretary:** Motion made to re-elect Ray Lyons. Seconded. Nominations closed. Carl Fechko expressed a desire to vote for Lou Croci, his friend. Ruled out of order. Motion to make Lyons election by acclamation.

**Treasurer:** Motion to nominate Lloyd Hackenberg. Seconded. Motion to nominate Herb Clofine. Seconded. Nominations closed. Vote totals Clofine 137, Hackenberg, 27. Clofine re-elected.

**Historian:** Motion to nominate George Robertson by Kouroyen. Seconded by Yazzo. No other nominations. Elected.

**Liaison Officer:** Motion to nominate Dave Hurwitt. Seconded. No other nominations. Elected.

President Piazza stated that there had been a fine job done by the reunion chairman and his committee.

**Selection of next year's reunion site:** Orlando, Florida, by Dave Hurwitt. Radisson Plaza Hotel, 60 South Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando, FL 32804. There will be complimentary transportation to and from airport. The hotel has 342 bedrooms. We have reserved 200. There are also 46 suites available. Package rate for two persons, \$255 for two nights including meals. Package for individual, \$190 for two nights including meals. Children meal package rate, under 12, \$32.50; over 12, \$65. Extra nights room rate, \$55 for two. Children under 17, no room charge. There is a five level parking garage, no charge. Recreation vehicles in next door lot, no charge. There are 16 specially designed rooms for handicapped.

**Louisville, Kentucky** by Tom Martini. Hyatt Regency Hotel. Limousine charge \$3.50 from airport. 388 rooms available. Package rate \$225 for two persons, two nights, four meals. Children meals cost \$30. Extra night room rate \$49 to cover a four day period. Parking charge \$3.75.

**Savannah, Georgia** by Lloyd Hackenberg. Hyatt Regency Hotel. Site of previous reunion, alongside river. 400 bedrooms available. Package rate, for two persons, \$231 including two nights lodging and four meals. Package rate for one person, \$173 for two nights and four meals. Children half price. Under 18, no room charge. Extra night room rate \$58. Friday night supper will be Chinese.

First vote: Orlando 78; Louisville 50; Savannah 42.

Second vote: Orlando 89; Louisville 87. Orlando, Florida, is the next year's reunion site. Hurwitt will be the chairman. Requests committee assistance.

A Mr. Turner made a presentation about publishing a book on the Marauders. \$45 each. Christmas '86 delivery. Motion made.

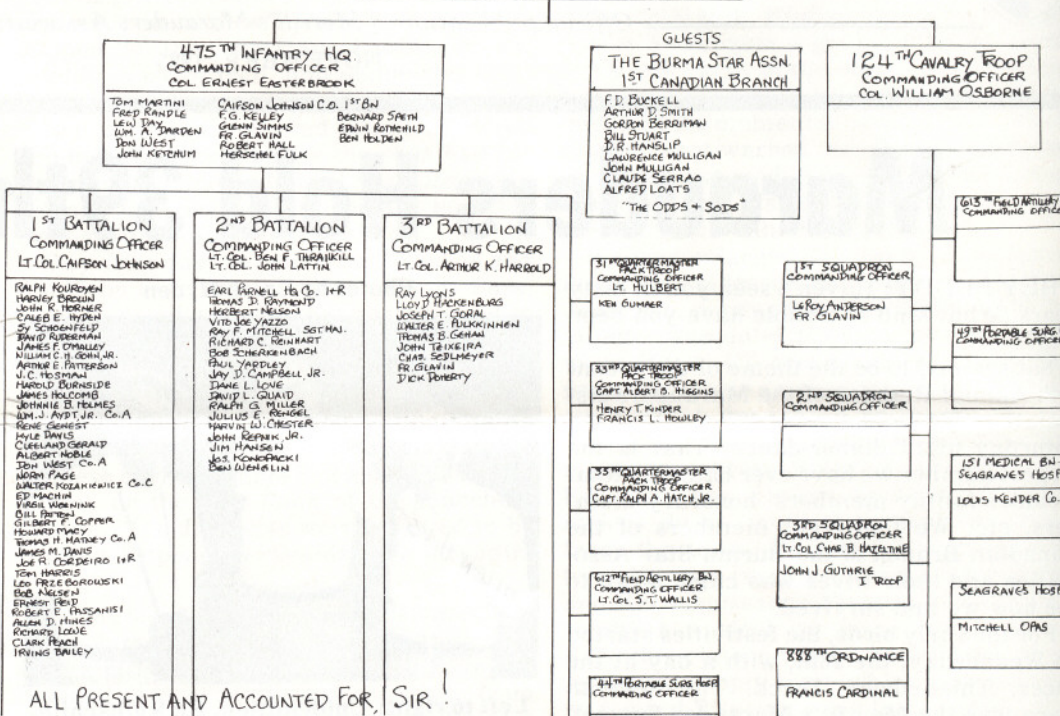
Seconded. Approved to accept his proposal. (?)

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the business meeting. 1622 p.m.

CENTRAL BURMA CAMPAIGN (2ND CAMPAIGN)

MARS TASK FORCE  
5332 BRIGADE HQ.  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS S. ARMS

39TH REUNION  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
AUG. 30 - SEP. 1, 1988

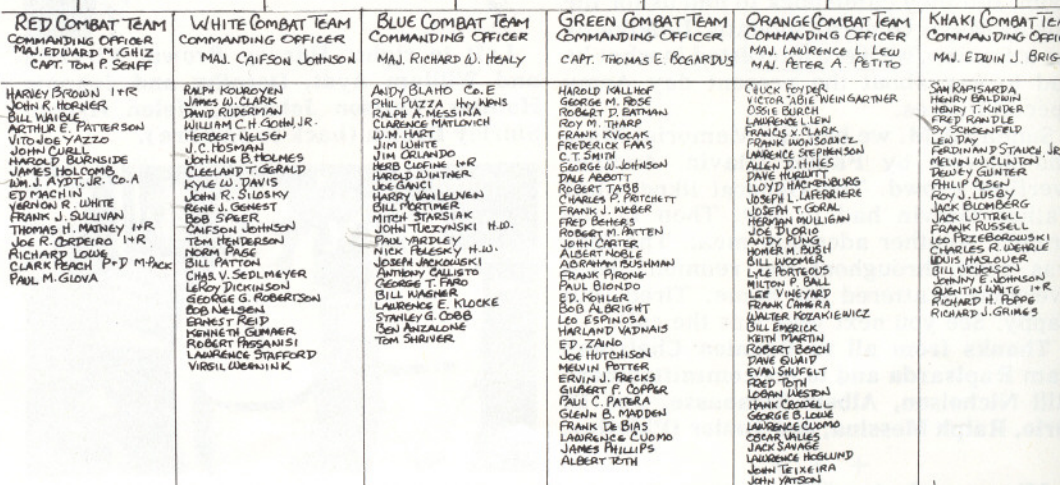
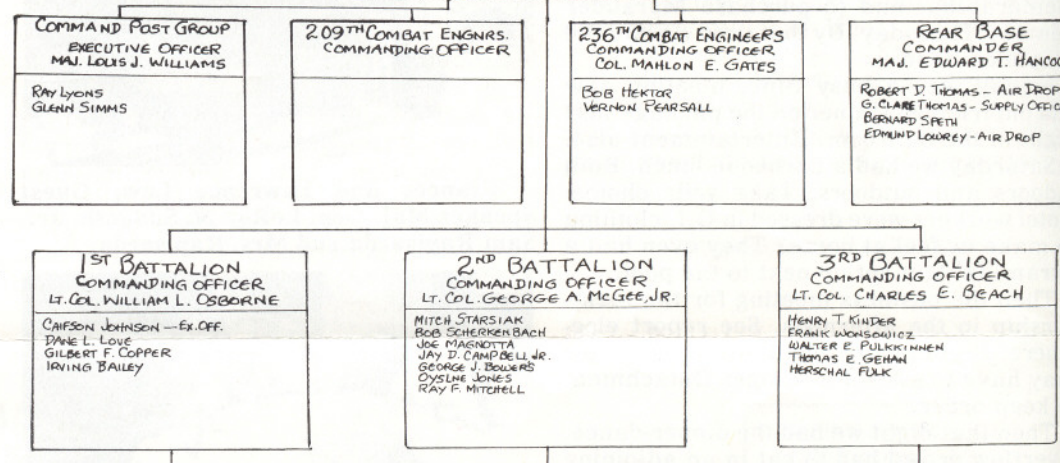


ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!

INDIA-BURMA CAMPAIGN (1ST CAMPAIGN)

5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV.)  
COMMANDING GENERAL  
BRIG. GEN. FRANK D. MERRILL  
SECOND IN COMMAND  
COL. CHARLES N. HUNTER

39TH REUNION  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
AUG. 30 - SEP. 1, 1988



ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!

SALLY LYON

# Officer's Row

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

For information only, the largest group represented at the recent reunion was the 1st Bn, 475th Infantry with 38 men. Second in line was the Orange CT with 37. Next was Green CT with 34. Raise your hand Caifson Johnson.

Please note that the Board of Directors have decided that after doing most of the work for the past eight years, I should also be listed as the Editor. So be it.

We are currently in fair shape financially compared to last year at this time. However, it is appropriate at this time to request that those members who did not have the chance to make a donation at the reunion can do so through the mail. Please send check to Merrill's Marauders Assn, 11244 North 33rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028.

## Letters

Editor:

Received the NEWS today. To my surprise my name was in the promotions. The man next to me was PFC Edward R. Gotthardt. This man saved my life and would like to contact him if at all possible, if he is still living. Dear old Nhpum Ga hill, I suppose it's still there. Russell J. DeMars, 29962 Shacket, Westland, MI 48185.

Editor:

It is real nice to hear from someone about

the Merrill's Marauders Association. I was in the 3rd Bn, Khaki CT. I was a mule skinner and 75mm artilleryman. George E. Harmon, P.O. Box 41, Buffalo, OK 73834.

Editor:

Looking for a copy of the Regimental insignia worn by the members of the 475th Infantry who were stationed in the Kunming, China, area. It looked just like the one used today except that the motto "Marauders" is on a scroll along the bottom of the shield. About 400 of them were made by a man named Unger, of metal and enameled, about 1½ inches high. I will gladly defray any costs involved in locating one for my collection. Robert E. Leard, Col., USA, 903 No. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Editor:

As part of the "Merrill's Marauders" reunion in Cleveland, the TV show "PM Magazine" will produce a TV special on the great fighting unit and its reunion to be shown at a later date. Dan Coughlin, PM Magazine, WJKW-TV, Cleveland, OH 44103.

**STILL GOING STRONG** — We have received several news clippings about Ralph Smith, 5307 /A/ Red CT. As of the 18th of May he has finished his 21st Triathlon. These are a very exhausting long distance endurance test consisting of swimming, biking and running. Ralph doesn't win them all but he does finish them all. He's alone in his class.

### 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.

((April 3rd — Bad reports came in from the east flank. The Japs burned M'Wo Ga village and were reported at Laidang Ga about seven miles northeast of our position and we were in danger of being cut off too. Col. Hunter couldn't order an all-out offensive to relieve the battalion at Nhpum Ga as our rear was unprotected. Some of C Battalion had to block other trails too, but our principal threat was along the Laidang-Mahkyetkawng trail. Just after dark a note arrived for me written in Kachin. Col. Hunter brought it along himself. It had been handed to him by an American soldier who had been on the perimeter. These notes from Kachin patrols were our principal source of enemy information. Hitherto the news had invariably been bad. I translated this one to Col. Hunter. It was from Zingtung Naw's assistant, Kingrin Gam, and stated that he had heard we were in trouble and that he had brought along 54 of our Myihpraphung (Kachin Lightning Force) to help out. Col. Hunter shook my hand and said this is the turning point. The Americans had great confidence in the Kachins as jungle fighters and the arrival of those 54 Kachins gave more hope to the hard-pressed Americans than their numbers warranted. These Kachins took up positions on the Laidang trail that night.))

April 4th dawned with the situation at Nhpum Ga unchanged. It was the eighth day of the battle, and the fifth day of the siege. Some of the wounded, who could not be evacuated, had died. On that morning, six men were buried within the perimeter. A large proportion of the men had dysentery and stomach disorders. Another heavy artillery shower killed three and wounded 12 more.

The Second Battalion's success in repulsing the repeated Japanese assaults was greatly aided by the work of T/4 Roy H. Matsumoto, the man who had tapped the enemy telephone lines at Walabum. Working his way close to the Japanese lines, Matsumoto reported all orders which he overheard. Being able to anticipate enemy attacks enabled the Marauders to prepare for the shock by concentrating their weapons on the threatened point of the perimeter.

Once, when the Japanese attacked at a point located on a nose of the mountain, they met no resistance. Promptly the Japanese jumped into the enemy foxholes — all of which had been booby-trapped. The survivors were mowed down by well placed machine gun fire. The second enemy platoon in this attack was taking cover when Matsumoto shouted in Japanese, "Charge." Many of the Japanese did

## Pass In Review

### DEATHS REPORTED RECENTLY

Name and Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where, When Died	
SOLLIE DIETZ, 35 Belmont Pl, Passaic, NJ 07055	Jan. 7, 1981
JOHN B. DARLING, 9 Newburg St., Catskill, NY 12414, 5307/3/KCT	April, 1985
DOUGLAS C. HILGERSON, 74 Walnut St., Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 5307/1/RCT	Aug. 6, 1982
TOM GARVEY, Danville, PA 5307, 475th Inf.	
KENNETH E. BRADLEY, Mars Task Force	July 13, 1984
JAMES W. JUNKINS, 5362 S. Alice Point, Homosassa, FL 32646, 5307/3/I&R	April 15, 1985
JOHN F. NOLAN, 10 Vicky Ct., Trenton, NJ 08610, 5307/1/WCT	June 1983
LEON J. ADAMS, Rt #1, Page Rd., Morrisville, NC 29560	Aug. 21, 1984
DR. CHARLES F. HART, 21205 Raymond St., Clair Shores, MI 48082	1983
HENRY RICKOWSKI, Bridgeport, CT, 475/2/F Co., KIA Myitkyina	1944
JOHN A. DEEL, 16 New St., Catskill, NY 12414	June 26, 1983
WILLIAM A. NUGENT, 448 Lakewood Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80910	March 1, 1971
JOHN K. EMERSON, Stanford University Hospital, OSS	3/24/84
STUART O. BUCHROEDER, Deceased according to son. No details	
HOWARD ENGLERT, P.O. Box 81, RR3, Eldorado Springs, MO 64744	1980
RAYMOND C. MARTIN, Grayson, KY, KIA Myitkyina, 5307	26 July 1944
WILLIAM L. BROWNING, 701 E. Bethalto Blvd., Bethalto, IL 62010, 5307/1/RCT	May 13, 1985
WILLIAM CARDOZO, 39 Royal St., No. Randolph, MA 02368, 5307/1/WCT	June 16, 1985
FRANCIS JAMES PROPER, VA Hospital, Denver, CO 475/1/HQ/I&R Plat. Ldr.	12 July 1985
JOHN A BRADLEY, 4641 So. Shore Rd., Orlando, FL 32809, 5307/1/RCT; 475/1	August 1984
ALFRED "SLIM" PROUTY, Rt 1, Box 4, Canehill, AR 72717, 475/3/K; 37 QM PK TR	July 10, 1985
JOE COTTON, Wisconsin, 5307/2/GCT/HW/LMG, KIA Nhpum Ga	1944
WILSON DEAN, Arizona, C Company Clerk	
WADE HALL, 475th	1982
JESSE D. HAYNES, Memphis, TN	Jan. 1982
JOE KAPSIK, Buffalo, NY, 475th KIA Burma	1/12/45
ALBERT MELL, 18069 Dolan Lane, Orlando, FL 32820, 5307/3/OCT.	3/20/85
ERNEST P. REED, 525 Altavista Av., Harrisburg, PA 17109, 5307/2/GCT	4/20/85
CHARLIE THOMPSON, Louisville, KY 5307/2/GCT/HW LMG, Nhpum Ga	1944
JACK THORNTON, Mississippi, 5307/2/Mule Skinner, Inkangataung	1944
MICHAEL ZBOROWSKI, Buffalo, NY	7/21/81

(Continued on page 4)

**FATHER STUART . . .**

(Continued from page 3)

charge, and found themselves caught in a band of machine gun fire. In this incident alone, the Marauders killed 54 Japanese, among them two officers.

Matsumoto was indefatigable. He crawled around the perimeter, listening to conversations and orders. At night he inched his way out in front of the American defense lines usually getting information that kept McGee and the combat team commanders ahead of the situation.

The requested air-drop of 500 gallons of water was received, and the most desperate aspect of the Second Battalion's position was relieved. Rations and ammunition were dropped by transports regularly. Some of these drifted over the Japanese lines, but no large amount of supplies was lost in this manner. However, all attempts to break the encirclement still met with failure.

Meanwhile, preparations for another all-out effort to relieve McGee were going on at Hsamshingyang. Because the airstrip was to be left virtually undefended, Col. Hunter moved his command headquarters two miles further north to Mahkyhtkawng, where the Marauders met a platoon of Chinese, the advance element of the battalion which Capt. George had contacted at Weilangyang. These Chinese were directed to dig in, and hold the trail junction at Mahkyethawng.

Col. Hunter himself joined Orange CT for this new push against the trail block, which was scheduled for 1200 hours, April 4th. Overhead, planes were dive-bombing and strafing wherever they could find a target. They were also directed by radio to targets that could not be seen from the air.

When, at 1100 hours, it became evident that the attack could not jump off on time, because of difficulties Khaki CT was having in cutting through the jungle. Col. Hunter rescheduled it for 1600 hours that evening. He was extremely anxious not to attack until he had organized all the strength under his command.

Part of Hunter's plan included a faked battle to be staged by Orange CT's Pioneer and Demolition Platoon at some distance west of the point where the main attack would be made. This diversion was designed to draw Japanese fire from the immediate thrust. Decoy mortar and artillery fire and dummy runs of dive bombers would also play a part in this staged battle. The bombers would accompany the barrage with two live bombing passes, the artillery and mortars would cease as the planes came in for the third time. While the Japanese were still seeking cover from the expected strafing, Orange CT would rush forward.

At 1530 hours the Pioneer and Demolition Platoon began their fake fight. The Japanese obligingly shifted their mortars to throw fire in that direction. American planes appeared at 1545 hours, and at 1605 hours the Marauders' artillery and mortars opened up. The attack of Orange CT followed through exactly as planned, and was successful in gaining considerable ground for the Marauders. The Japanese force blocking the trail was blasted out of

their strong position and pushed back to merge with the enemy line surrounding the Second Battalion on the hill-top. Orange CT was now only 1000 yards from the beleaguered Second Battalion.

While this attack was in progress, the

Japanese made a heavy assault on the hill-top from the west, penetrating the Second Battalion's perimeter a short distance. A few of the enemy actually reached foxholes at one point in the defense line.

(Continued on page 5)

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

PHILIP L. ROBINSON, 214 South Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62708, 475/1/HQ/HW

NUNZIO J D'APICE, 202 Tibbetts Rd., Yonkers, NY 10705, 5307/2/GCT/MED

HAROLD J. WEINBERG, Box #253, Bridgewater, SD 57319, 5307/3/Khaki CT

ARTHUR J. LINNEMEYER, 512 West 1st St., Apt. #2, McCook, NE 69001, 5307/3/Khaki CT, P

**ARTY**

GEORGE E. HARMON, P.O. Box 41, Buffalo, OK 73834, 5307/3/Bn/Khaki CT, PK ARTY

STANLEY POTKAI, 239 Hancock St., Springfield, MA 01108, 475/2/E Co.

LEON PRESS, Rt. #1, Box 420, Chester, MD 21619, 5307/1/White CT/B Co.

ROYAL R. BERSTLER, Rt. #1, Jamestown, ND 58401, 475/2/E/2PLdr

HARRY NEMEROFF, 2815 Nightingale Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154, 5307/2/F/Hq;475/2/F/Hq, F

ARNOLD T. GEISSLER, Rt #6, Menomonie, WI 54751, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1

JACK LUTTRELL, 1905 Drake Dr., Xenia, OH 45385, 5307/3/KCT

JOHN R. MYERS, 1508 Jackson Lane, Apt. #1, Middletown, OH 45044, 5307/3/KCT

MARVIN H (DIZZY) DEAN, Rt. #2, Rockmart, GA 30153, 5307

LOUIS M. QUINN, Rt. #3, Box 132, Reed City, MI 49677, 5307/B Bn/Blue CT/Co. M/81 MM

FRANK FALCON, 9100 Archdale, Detroit, MI 48228, 5307

KEITH M. EDLEFSEN, 7920 Galena Dr., Boise, ID 83709, 236 Engrs/H&amp;S; B Co. C O

JAMES H. PHILLIPS, 2667 West 28 Pl., Cleveland, OH 44113, 5307/2/GCT/I&amp;R

HAROLD F. KALLHOF, 7380 Craigmere Dr., Middleburg Hts, OH 44130, 5307/2/GCT/CO

**G/HW/LMG**

ROBERT WELLS, 933 Ogden Ave., Toledo, OH 43609, 5307/1/RCT

GUY M. ORRS, 49 Miller Dr., Sinking Spring, PA 19608, 5307/3

EDWARD DENZLER, 16103 Barcelona, Friendswood, TX 77546, 475/3/K Co.

RALEIGH E. NAYES, 645 Irvine St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729, 5307/

JAMES HANSEN, 6377 Delores Blvd., Brook Park, OH 44142, 5307/2/G Co.; 475/2/G Co.

EDWARD ALVARADO, 544 Conception Ave., Spring Valley, CA 92070, 475/3/I Co.

JOHN H. HARTWELL, 1753 West First Ave., Columbus, OH 43212

WELSON FAULKNER, 2308 South Ave., Kennett, MO 63857, 475th

HENRY B. REED II, 15 Candite St., Clinton, MA 01510, 5307/1/RCT, MED; 475/1 BN MED

JAMES W. NICHOLS, 648 194th Ave., Rte 1, Box 564A, Buckeye, AZ 85326, 5307/1/RCT/A C

FRANK DUNNE, 15660 Ellen Dr., Livonia, MI 48154, 5307/HQ

CARL FETCHKO, 14200 Uhlin Dr., Middleburgh, OH 44130, 5307/3/OCT

THOMAS C. HARRIS, 34510 Van Dyke, Apt. 4, Sterling Hts, MI 48077, 475

RALPH B. LAWSON, 19515 East 4th St., Tulsa, OK 74108, 5307/3/OCT/I&amp;R

JOHN W. CURLL, 110 S. J. Kellner Blvd., Beverly Hills, FL 32665, 5307/1/RCT

JAMES A. AVERY, 309 Bristol St., Canandaigua, NY 14424, 5307/3/S-1

LAWRENCE A. DILLABOUGH, Box 443, Brushton, NY 12916, 475/3/HQ/I&amp;R

CHARLES R. HART JR., P.O. Box 251, Chincoteague, VA 23336, 475th

SAMUEL J. RAYNER, 6079 Fairway Dr., Ridge Manor, FL 33525, 5307/2/BCT/I&amp;R

PAUL M. GLOVA, 13650 So., Rt. 86, Edinboro, PA 16412, 5307/1/RCT

ARMAND SPINELLI, 1816 Linwood Ave., Erie, PA 16510, 5307/1/RCT; 475/1

WILLIAM T. HILL, Rt. 1, Box 68, Lexington, AL 35648

ABRAHAM BUSHMAN, Rd 1, Hirschfield Rd., Amsterdam, NY 12010, 5307/2/GCT/HW/M

**Sec Ldr**

JOHN G. MC COLLUM, 911 St. Maries Ave., Coeur D'Alene, ID 83814, 3BnHO

MILLER W. RENNER, 1884 Incheliff Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

GERALD E. NICKEL, 2514 West 10th, Hastings, NE 68901

TONY S. DAMIANO, 161 Maple Ave., Irvington, NJ 07111

MELVIN PANTING, RR 1, Box 240, Mulvane, KS 67110-9720, C Co.

CARL PILARSKI, 142 No. First St., Rogers City, MI 49779, 5307/1; 475/1

JOHN E. PECK, P.O. Box 500, Gonzales, TX 78629

RICHARD J. HECHT, 124 No. Bean Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705, 5307/3/KCT

HENRY B. KENNEDY, RD, 2922 Swanns St., Sanford, NC 27330, 5307; 475

EDMOND LITTLE, 516 W 23rd St., Falls City, NE 68355, 475/3/1/4 PL

FERREL R. CARDER, 148 Bucks Bridge Rd., Pikeville, KY 41501

MERLE G. SEEDS, 8088 Monterey Rd., Chesterland, OH 44026, 5307/1; 475/1

JULIO D. MAGHINI, 106 Perry Rd., Forestville, CT 06010, 5307

ROBERT R. ALFORD SR., 208 Joseph Dr, Apt. 1, Troy, IL 62294

THOMAS P. JUBIC, 427 Second St., Troy, NY 12180, 5307/2/G Co; 475/2/E Co.

JACK LUTTRELL, 1905 Drake Dr., Xenia, OH 45385, 5307/3/KCT

CHARLES V. SEDLMAYER, 409 Chapel Circle, Berea, OH 44017, 5307/1/W

DAVID RICHARDSON, 4301 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016, 5307/HQ

**Yank Writer**

BERNARD SPETH, 401 Gilfillam St., Franklin, PA 16323, 5307/HQ; 475/HQ

IRVING BAILEY, 3666 Bainbridge, Cleveland Hts, OH 44118, 5307/1; 475/1

**FATHER STUART . . .**

Continued from page 4)

Two Marauders quickly wiped out the penetration with hand grenades, and the defenders took a new grip on themselves.

((April 4th — Just after daybreak we learned that 50 Chinese troops had arrived at Mahkyetkawng from Woilangyang where a Chinese Battalion had just arrived. They had come during the night but couldn't get past the Kachin outpost till daybreak. Col. Hunter called an officer's meeting. He said now that there were Kachin reinforcements and 50 Chinese to defend the rear he was going to put an all-out effort offensive on the road block to get out the wounded of B Bn.

The airstrip was to be left undefended. All combat troops were to go up front towards Nhpum. All others such as mule skimmers (with their mules) and the MP's attached to regimental headquarters were to go up to Mahkyetkawng and if necessary to help the Kachins and Chinese to defend the village. It was thought the Japs would try to get through this way. Col. Hunter

asked me to take charge of the defense of the village. I had about one hundred Kachins altogether and these were sent out patrolling Mahyketkawng trail across the Tania River. Americans and Chinese took up positions near the village itself but Col. Hunter went up to direct the attack personally on the Nhpum road block.))

On April 5th at 0200 hours and again at 0430 hours enemy assaults were made on the western boundary of McGee's perimeter. Both of these were anticipated, thanks to Matsumoto's eavesdropping, and dispersed.

Throughout the day of April 5th, the enemy made no further attacks, although Japanese artillery fell within the perimeter intermittently. It appeared that the Third Battalion's push had relieved the pressure against Nhpum Ga considerably.

((April 5th — All quiet around Mahkyetkawng but the fighting was heavy in the Nhpum sector. Our two 75's had been moved up close and were shelling the Jap positions from 600 yards range. From Mahkyetkawng the battle area between

Hsamsingyang and Nhpum was visible. During most of the daylight hours, American fighters strafed and bombed Jap positions. When they eased up our howitzers and mortars took over. In addition to this we could hear both light and heavy machine guns nearby all day.

In the evening we got a report that a Chinese company had taken up positions to defend the Tania river valley. This was heartening news. To improve the Kachin-Chinese relations which were never happy. I bought two pigs and sent Kachins to present them to the Chinese at Mahkyetkawng as being from the villagers themselves.))

The Third Battalion repeated the same tactics on the next day, April 6th. McGee was unable to spare any men from the Second Battalion's defenses to assist the efforts of Orange and Khaki CT's. Although the men encircled at Nhpum Ga had a welcome respite from the vicious assaults on their position, there was no assurance that this would last. The trail to Hsamshingyang had been blocked for six days. In that time the Second Battalion had accumulated 17 men dead, 97 wounded, and four missing.

During the 6th of April, Orange CT gained another 200 yards, mostly because of the extraordinary fire direction of Lt. William Woomer, leader of Company K platoon. Lt. Woomer worked his way to within 25 yards of two Japanese machine guns that had held up Orange CT's progress for several hours. With an SCR 300 radio he directed mortar fire until it was landing just over the target. Calmly, he gave the order: "Deflection correct. Bring it in 25 yards, and if you don't hear from me, you'll know you came this way too far. Then shift it back just a little, and you'll be right on it."

The two enemy guns were knocked out in the next rounds, and Woomer was unhurt.

Throughout the day of April 6th, there was but one light enemy attack, and three artillery bombardments: one at 0600 hours, one at 1500 hours, and the last at 1730 hours. Each consisted of ten rounds. Back at Hsamshingyang Chinese patrols were sent out to block trails to the south. These patrols made contact with the Japanese at various points.

((April 6th — Kachins and Chinese were left to defend the Mahkyetawng area and all Americans from there moved down again to the airstrip. There was a big ammunition and food drop at the airstrip. I brought along Kachin villagers to help in collecting this drop. Though the fighting was only two miles from the airstrip most of those who came to help there were women and they didn't seem to mind the nearness of the guns. The attack was progressing favorably and it was said that our men were nearly through to Nhpum. There was hope that the wounded of B Bn might soon be liberated and liaison planes were asked to stand by to evacuate them to the hospital.))

April 7th, Good Friday, found the attack of Orange CT and Khaki CT still in progress. Their tactics remained unchanged, but they had more high-explosive ammunition to use. The total advance for the day

(Continued on page 6)

**HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES  
CHINA-BURMA-INDIA**

APO 885  
3 Oct. 44

SPECIAL ORDERS)

EXTRACT

NUMBER 277 )

8. The VO CG date as indicated, as follows, are confirmed and made a matter of record:

"By direction of the President under authority contained in WD Classified Radio 19 July 1943, to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces in China, Burma and India, the following named enlisted men, 5307th Composite Unit (Prov), are appointed temporary Second Lieutenants, Army of the United States. They are placed on active duty effective the date of VO CG, will rank from that date, assigned serial number as indicated and are assigned to the 5307th Composite Unit (Prov.):

VO CG DATE	GRADE	NAME	ASN	OFF ASN
8 March 44	T/Sgt	Joseph F. Freer	32163703	0889325
10 March 44	M/Sgt	John Keslik	20610727	0889326
17 March 44	T/Sgt	Frank Russell	20507684	0889327
2 April 44	1st Sgt	Linwood C. Clements	20144670	0889328
6 April 44	T/Sgt	Dorando J. Bussolletti	35027338	0889329
10 April 44	T/Sgt	Alfred M. Greer	20106581	0889330
14 April 44	T/Sgt	Clifton R. Clough	31001960	0889331

Having been appointed in the Army of the United States, the above named Second Lieutenants are detailed in the Infantry."

9. The VO CG 10 August 1944, relieving the following named Officers from further asgmt to and duty with the 5307th Composite Unit (Prov) and assigning them to the 475th Infantry and directing them to report to the Commanding Officer thereof, are confirmed and made a matter of record:

2d Lt Joseph F. Freer	0889325
2d Lt John Keslik	0889326
2d Lt Frank Russell	0889327
2d Lt Linwood C. Clements	0889328
2d Lt Dorando J. Bussolletti	0889329
2d Lt Alfred M. Greer	0889330
2d Lt Clifton R. Clough	0889331

No travel involved.

By command of General STILWELL  
VERNON EVANS  
Brig. Gen., G.S.C.  
m Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Frank Milani  
/t/ Frank Milani  
Colonel, A.G.D.  
Adjutant General

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY  
Edwin A. Rothschild  
1st Lt., Infantry  
Adjutant

**FATHER STUART . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

was 300 yards. Twice during the early morning hours the Japanese attacked Nhpum Ga, but without the ferocity and vigor that had characterized their earlier assaults. Khaki CT, boring in from the northwest, run into a good deal of enemy automatic fire. Orange CT held to the ground gained through three days of hard fighting. Only 500 yards separated Orange CT from the encircled Second Battalion, but they could not gain another inch.

Papers taken from the bodies of dead Japanese revealed to the Marauders that the force opposing them consisted of a reinforced battalion of the 114th Japanese Regiment, together with elements of the 55th Japanese Regiment. McGee, deciding to risk a counter-attack opposite Orange CT's pressure point, scraped together two combat patrols which were quickly pinned down by fire from enemy pill boxes.

Late in the afternoon of April 7th, planes dropped 10-in-1 rations to the Second Battalion. Unluckily, most of these rations missed the perimeter, and fell into the Japanese lines. Upon learning of this, the Marauders redoubled their efforts. They were heartily sick of K rations and wanted to get those 10-in-1 containers away from the Japanese. // Some hold that the drop of the 10-in-1 rations to the Japanese was the best morale operation of the whole campaign. The Japs had poor food themselves and when they saw the rations of the besieged they cracked up. //

At 1700 hours, after a forced march of nearly four days, Osborne's First Battalion finally appeared on the scene, weary but very welcome. The exhausted men of the Second and Third Battalions were greatly heartened by the arrival of reinforcements. It was a good Friday, indeed. (I slept with my boots off that night. I felt safe.)

At 1930 hours on April 7th, Col Hunter held another staff meeting at which he set forth the operation for the following day. The Third Battalion would once more attack along the trail to Nhpum Ga. Those men of the First Battalion, capable of continued exertion, would move southwest to the enemy's rear and create a diversion.

Capt. Thomas P. Senff was directed to select from the entire First Battalion 250 men who were capable of still further exertion and be prepared to move out in the morning.

((April 7th — Fighting was still heavy on the hill. A Bn. of Galahad forces turned up in Hsamsingyang and everybody felt relieved. They had put a road block at Shaduzup on the motor road, and were later relieved by the Chinese. The road leading to Hsamsingyang was almost impassable to animals and though the distance was not great, it took days to make it. They had gone without food for three days when they reached the airstrip. Reports from the East flank stated that the Kachins were holding the Japs at Walla Ga on the Samai-Wiolangyang trail. Some Japs who had used another trail were driven off by the Chinese at Kawlun Ga.))

The next day, April 8th, Orange CT made no appreciable gains. Senff's force proceeded to the designated point, meeting occasional resistance from enemy patrols.

Blocking trails as they went along, they bivouacked about 1818 hours on high ground approximately 850 yards from the Second Battalion's perimeter. A small Japanese patrol ran into the bivouac during the night, and another of 12 men disturbed them toward morning of the following day.

((April 8th — One combat team of A Bn. accompanied by some of our Kachin guides went through the jungle and put in a road block south of Nhpum, thus cutting off Jap supplies to their forward troops. There was also heavy fighting north of Nhpum all day.))

On the 9th of April, Senff's force moved southeast until they came under strong fire from the direction of the Nhpum Ga trail. Col. Hunter directed Senff to retrace his steps and contact the enemy to the north. He did so, placing blocks at all usable trails as they went. Sniping and clashes of patrols continued all day.

In the afternoon, Capt. Senff's force approached a draw where some Japanese had established an ambush. They mortared the draw and the action drew enemy fire to the same target. The Japanese gunners laid a heavy barrage upon their own men.

((April 9th — I had Mass at the airstrip this Easter morning. Many Americans attended. There was general rejoicing when word came in that C Bn. had forced their way through to Nhpum. Arrangements were made for the immediate evacuation of the wounded from B Bn. who were reported to be on their way down to the airstrip. Some of these men had been wounded twelve days ago. They were reported to have 115 wounded and 29 killed while they were besieged in Nhpum. All the battalion were tired and emaciated. In addition to wounded, many had dysentery and some were suffering from war neurosis. (This number does not include those of C Bn. who had probably more, nor does it include those evacuated for sickness.))

It was estimated that Jap losses in killed were at least 600. In one sector of the B Bn. perimeter alone 210 Japs' bodies were counted. The bodies of eight Kachins, including two women and one child, were found about one mile south of Nhpum. One body in the uniform of our Myihpraphung (my Kachin boys) was found. The boy had evidently been captured, tied to a tree and bayoneted to death. The bodies of the woman and boy captured outside Nhpum on March 26 were also found. During the next few days, all the sick and wounded were evacuated. The Americans kept up their drive south to Nhpum and Kachins patrolled the flanks.))

Suddenly, the siege ended. The Japanese apparently had become alarmed over the arrival of reinforcements for the Americans which were taking toll of their patrols on all sides. The ring of enemy troops around Nhpum Ga simply dissolved. Abandoned equipment and rice still cooking on small fires attested to the suddenness of the enemy's departure.

Easter Sunday of 1944 will probably be the most memorable one in the life of every surviving member of the Second Battalion.

As the Japanese withdrew towards Kauri, the Third Battalion followed, mopping up and continuing its patrolling. Policing the Nhpum Ga area was a tremendous task.

Hundreds of pounds of lime chloride were air-dropped to be used in disinfecting the place. Dead animals and Japanese corpses were buried as quickly as possible. (Col. Beach wanted me to have the Kachin bury the dead and clean up. Hunter refused.) A camp was established at Hsamshingyang. Here the Marauders were given hot coffee, medical treatment and clean clothes.

In the days that followed, patrolling was actively maintained, being rotated among the battalions. The enemy struck close to his position near Kauri. The Marauder rested until the 20th of April when prompted by indications of slackness among the men, Col. Hunter ordered a hour of close-order drill daily.

((Two informational groups under Skittles and Art who worked for the Knothead (Code name for our unit in the Hukawng sector) group had been cut off when the Japs advanced to Nhpum. Col. Hunter gave orders to all Americans to be on the look out for them and to give them all possible help. Both parties, including many Kachins, made their way through the jungle and arrived at Hsamsingyang on the 15th of April after many adventures. They had been without food for days.))

The total number of Marauder casualties in the Nhpum Ga action was 57 killed and 302 wounded. Those men with wounds not serious enough for hospitalization were treated by unit surgeons. But the wounded evacuated to hospitals by air, plus cases of amoebic dysentery and malaria which were also evacuated, reached a total of 379.

Enemy known dead exceeded 400, excluding any estimate of the number of Japanese buried during the ten days the enemy controlled the area beyond the Second Battalion's perimeter.

The Second Battalion moved a few miles north of Hsamshingyang, and set up Battalion Headquarters at Samlulgahtawng patrolling the area. They were ready to lend a hand to the Chinese in the event that the Japanese grew troublesome. Another battalion of the 112th Chinese Regiment arrived at Hsamshingyang on the 22nd of April. Two days later, on April 24th, the First and Third Battalions of the Galahad Unit started towards Naubum. (This was my original base where we had a good liaison strip and where I first joined the Marauders.)

// A lot of brass came to view the scene of the battle. Hunter ordered all automatic weapons to be tried out at 11:00 a.m. Machine guns, tommy guns, even pistols and carbines opened up on schedule. There was a rush for small planes and the terrified "brass" went off. //

(During the period at Hsamsingyang, a host of citations were written, mostly by Col. Beach's C Bn. There was a lot of talk that the officers were writing each other up. There was a lot of ill feeling among some of the officers that men were being recommended for medals who didn't deserve them.)

Fr. Barrett was one man that all thought should have suitable recognition. B Bn. Chaplain was useless. The A Bn. Chaplain tried hard but a protestant chaplain always seemed lost when men were wounded or

Continued on page 7)

dying.

Before the Marauders came to Naubum on March 15th, I had been laid up. I had spent the previous month trying to get refugees (285 women and children) through to Shingbuiyang through jungle trails. We spent 22 days with only five days rations. Six of our party died from exhaustion and we had been ambushed twice. Then when we should have been safe, the Chinese attacked us. Then an American officer from V force blocked our way at a river crossing with his men covering the river by rifle fire. He had been sent to meet our party but from a distance he thought we were Japs. (Thought Kachin women were Japs!) We had to retrace our steps at Naubum. On the way we picked up three airmen who had bailed out. They did the last seven days with us and got so run down, they were sent back to the states. When I got back to Naubum I wrote Col. Peers (Det. 101) telling him I was finished with his outfit and that I needed medical treatment. He wrote imploring me to stay as Merrills' forces were coming and I could help them. He sent me special rations and I went under treatment by Dr. Shudmak. I entertained some of the boys every night on my rations.)

### The Third Phase of the Campaign

The losses which the Second Battalion had thus far sustained seriously disrupted its two combat team organization, necessitating a complete reshuffling of personnel. Out of 932 men originally in the battalion, but 472 were left. These were formed into two rifle companies, one heavy weapons company, and a battalion headquarters company which included an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, a pioneer and demotition platoon, and a communications platoon. In addition, 300 Kachin guerillas were added, and the group was designated as M Force. Lt. Col. McGee remained in command.

Neither the First nor the Third Battalions had suffered as heavily, consequently they continued to retain their original tactical formation. Nevertheless, they too were depleted from their original strength and, as another mission was in the offing, General Stilwell wanted to build up their number. No American replacements, however, were available in the theater. Up to this time Galahad was the only force of American Combat troops in Asia outside the Air Force.

But there were Chinese troops at hand. The Marauder First Battalion was transformed into H Force by adding the 150th Regiment from the 50th Chinese Division. H Force as a whole was commanded by Col. Hunter, although Lt. Col. Osborne retained leadership of the Marauder element. Similarly, to the Third Battalion was added the 88th Regiment of the Chinese 30th Division, and this group became K Force under Col. Henry L. Kinnison, Jr. (Throughout the subsequent operations these forces may be more easily identified by remembering that each one was called by the initial of its commander.)

Since the 9th of Feb. the Americans had marched 500 miles, much of which had been through heavy and difficult country. They had waded streams on the average of once every three or four miles, and had lived on a monotonous K ration diet. They

had received C and 10-in-1 rations for only eight days out of the 80-day period. Leeches had caused many so-called "Naga sores," and nearly all of the men had suffered to some extent from dysentery and fevers.

On April 27th, Gen. Merrill returned to headquarters at Naubum. Gen. Stilwell flew in for a conference with him, and soon afterward new orders were issued. The Marauders would move in a two-pronged drive on Myitkyina to seize the airfield.

Myitkyina was the principal Japanese base in northern Burma. Situated 150 air miles southeast of Ledo, it was the northernmost point of rail communications from Rangoon as well as the farthest inland point for traffic on the Irrawaddy River. (This is wrong. Bhamo was the most northerly point for river transport. Myitkyina was cut off from Bhamo by rapids.) It lay in the proposed path of the Ledo Road, north of the Burma Road junction at Bhamo.

The surprise thrust deep into enemy-held territory which Gen. Stilwell contemplated would, if successfully, effectually dispose of the principal air base from which Japanese aircraft had menaced American transport planes flying supplies to China. It would also disrupt a stronghold in the enemy's extensive military framework and quickly paralyze all Japanese elements radiating from Myitkyina. It was a bold plan, for the enemy had a firm grip on strategic positions throughout the entire area.

Gen. Merrill's plan for the movement toward Myitkyina was as follows: Both H Force and K Force would move northward to Taikri, then head southeast to Ritpong via the Naura Hkyat Pass. From Ritpong they would turn west and south to Arang where two routes were available over which the Forces could converge on Myitkyina.

M Force (the remnants of McGee's

Second Battalion plus 300 Kachins) was still operating near Samlugahtawng. Merrill instructed them to patrol the Senjo Ga-Hkada Ga area, and to block any attempted advance of the Japanese from that quarter.

((The men of the Galahad unit thought that their campaigning was finished until after the monsoon. Most of the men were worn out with continued marching and poor food. It was a surprise when Col. Hunter mentioned that the next objective was Myitkyina. I got some Kachins who were familiar with the trails to Myitkyina and some who knew the Myitkyina area intimately. I interrogated these men for Col. Hunter and Capt. Laffin, his intelligence officer. They got detailed information on the trails and selected routes. Capt. Quinn, Det. 101, who had a group at Arang, on the road leading to Myitkyina, was brought to Hsamsingyang by air and gave further details. It was announced at an officers meeting that Gen. Merrill was coming in to take charge. Col. Hunter was to be in charge of a Chinese Regiment plus an American battalion and Col. Kinniston in charge of another similarly composed unit.

These two forces were to pass over the Chinglaptu trail north of Naubum and a small force — the remnant of B Bn. which had been besieged at Nhpum, were to pass over the Nsen trail south of Naubum. These trails were already threatened by Japs and Lt. Pamplin sent out Kachin patrols to keep them clear.

Chinese troops took over at Nhpum and the Galahad forces came back to Naubum. There they prepared for the long trek to Myitkyina. Gen. Merrill came back and the two Chinese regiments arrived. Col. Hunter asked me to accompany his regiment but I had already been asked by Maj. Williams, G-2 to Gen. Merrill, to stay with Divisional

(Continued on page 8)



**MYITKYINA STRIP INVASION** — The Airborne Engineers prepare the Myitkyina Air Base in Burma, which was captured by Merrill's Marauders and Chinese troops, for the landing of the 1st Troop Carrier Squadron. The cooperation of these troops with the fighter planes made a strategic base for the capture of the city. Pictured is the newly captured Myitkyina Air Base showing the bomb craters which were inflicted by our bombers during the two years it was in Nipponese hands. Note the glider which landed with Airborne Engineers. Myitkyina, Burma, 17 May 1944.

— US Army Signal Corps Photo

**FATHER STUART . . .**

(Continued from page 7)

Headquarters. Zingtung Naw had been asked to stay to, and Gen. Merrill promised that when Col. Hunter's forces reached Arang we would both be flown over to join him. I interrogated many Kachins who had been up in the hills as to Jap positions along the route to Myitkyina. We gained further details about the trails, water points and dropping fields along the proposed route.

Lt. Martin, Det. 101, had gone ahead with some Kachins. A party of Kachins went with Capt. Laffin to repair the trail and act as an I&R platoon. Two of our Kachins were killed by Japs near Ritpong. A third boy was wounded leading B Bn. across the difficult Nsen trail.)

Capt. William Laffin, who had lived in Burma prior to the War, and was familiar with the countryside, (He lived in Tapan and not Burma. He was brilliant and thorough, but had no previous knowledge of the countryside. He was killed in Myitkyina on the first day after its capture.) together with Lt. Paul A. Dunlap, (both from the Galahad headquarters detachment) started off on the trail to Arang ahead of K Force. With them went 30 Kachin soldiers and 30 coolies who would repair the worst places on the trail. It had not been used in ten years and was, according to reports, impassable. (We had a Jap pilot prisoner carried on a litter across this trail in Oct. '43. I was in the party. No ponies had crossed it.)

On April 28th K Force moved north to Taikri, and H Force followed two days later, on April 30th. The monsoon season had commenced. Deep mud made the poor trail worse, and despite the work of the coolies under Capt. Laffin's advance group, in places no path of any sort existed. (During his stay at Taikri, Hunter made two visits to Naubum to see Merrill. He met him purely on business, but refused his hospitality. He stayed with me on both occasions.)

At Taikri the route turned eastward through the 6100-foot Naura Hkyat Pass,

making a series of sharp rises and descents over smaller mountains. In some places footholds had to be cut for the pack animals; at others, the animals had to be unloaded and their burdens man-handled up precipitous inclines. Progress was extremely difficult. The leading Khaki CT lost 15 of its precious pack animals, loaded with ammunition and weapons. The animals slipped in the uncertain footing of the muddy, narrow trail, and plunged to their deaths.

The units that followed Khaki CT fared somewhat better because the path had become more clearly defined with use; still, Orange CT, next in the column, lost five animals in the same manner.

Day after day the two forces toiled on and up. Upon reaching the Naura Hkyat Pass, they received a report that enemy were in the vicinity. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon from Khaki CT went forward to block the trails at Salawng-Hkayang. No Japanese were encountered, but a patrol from the First Battalion of the Chinese 88th Regiment had a brush with the enemy on the east flank of the marching column. The Japanese were believed to be holding Ritpong in considerable strength.

**Ritpong**

On the 5th of May the leading elements of the column reached a trail junction just over a mile north of Ritpong. Col. Kinnison decided on an envelopment, attacking from the front and rear simultaneously. He sent a strong patrol from Khaki CT to prepare a rear approach to the village. According to information received, there was a trail south of the village. No such trail was found, so the patrol was forced to cut a path through the jungle for a distance of five miles. The balance of Khaki CT took over the task at daybreak of May 6th and, after working all day, emerged on the main trail south of the village with Orange CT following close behind. Meanwhile, the 88th Chinese Regiment had successfully attacked Ritpong from the north.

At 0530 hours on May 7th, Khaki CT moved up on Ritpong from the south. Orange CT remained at the point where

they had bivouacked the previous night. Seventy-five yards toward the village Lt. Ted Hughes, commanding I Company, Khaki CT was close behind the lead scout as he approached a trail fork. A Japanese sentry appeared. He failed to see the Marauders crouching beside the trail and was allowed to go unmolested. Putting a block at the trail fork, Hughes sent a combat patrol to investigate a group of bashas some 300 or 400 yards to the south. These bashas were occupied by a Japanese outpost engaged at the moment in cooking rice. A premature shot warned the enemy of danger and they escaped, leaving not only the breakfast, but also letters and papers containing much valuable information.

Hughes enlarged his block, and dug along the sides of the trail. A squad of Japanese, coming from the direction of the village, was quickly liquidated. However, when Khaki CT attempted to attack Ritpong, it ran into an enemy machine gun position which dominated the trail.

As the Chinese 88th Regiment was making progress north of Ritpong, Col. Kinnison was content to have the Marauders do no more than prevent egress from the town. To prevent any surprise from his own rear, he sent an Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon southward to establish a block at Sana. Northwest of Sana this platoon ran into a well protected Japanese supply train which was moving up toward Ritpong. A hot fight ensued. The platoon scattered the Japanese who dispersed eastward, leaving supplies that were later retrieved by the main K Force when it resumed its march toward Arang.

During the night of May 7th-8th, the Japanese tried to break out of Ritpong and twice attacked Khaki CT from the north. For some reason, they used smoke pot grenades instead of fragmentation bombs. Coming down the trail, the Japanese made good targets for waiting Marauder machine guns and suffered heavily during both attacks.

(Continued in next issue)



**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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