ledo WALAWBUM inkangawtaung nhpum-ga shadazup MYITKYINA

November, 1986

The Burman News



# **40th Annual Reunion Held in Orlando**

Happy, but tired, was the consensus at the end of the 40th Annual Reunion. A visit to Epcot, we found meant, "Every Person Comes Out Tired." And, so it was for those grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, fathers, mothers of those indefatigable kids.

We had an extra Formal Dinner on Friday night because of the last minute change in obtaining the Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., as a guest speaker. He gave us an enlightening talk on the military stance of the United States as it faces up to the rest of the world. He wound up saying, "Thank you for your special service to our country."

At the Saturday night dinner, we had 351 people. The guest speaker was Colonel Stringham, the C.O. of the 75th Ranger Infantry Regiment. After graduating from the USMA, West Point, in 1961, he served in Korea, Vietnam three tours and El Savador, as well as many other career assignments. He talked about the present day Rangers and their readiness skills and attitudes.

See reunion photos on page 2.

+ + +

#### MINUTES OF THE 40th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, AUGUST 31, 1986

Concord-Cherokee Ballroom

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida Meeting called to order by President Piazza at 11 a.m. The President called on Mr. Dave Turner to explain what had happened to the proposed book on the Merrill's Marauders. Mr. Turner said that he had not gotten enough orders to make it worthwhile. He had only received 180 orders. He would send out another brochure in the next mailing of the Burman News. The deadline would be the end of November for orders. It would be published by the first of May. He stressed that men should send in their biographies even though they did not want to order copies of the books. He also answered a few questions from the floor.

**Roll Call of Officers** — Chairman Rapisarda absent; Military Liaison Officer Hurwitt absent - sick.

**Report on Committees:** 

Audit Committee — Members, Piazza, Pulkinnen, Poppe have examined the records and found everything in order.

**Reunion Committee** — In the absence of Dave Hurwitt, Tony Bushur spoke for the



Highly respected, and decorated, Command Sgt. / Maj. Art Cobb of the 75th Rangers attending the 40th reunion of the Merrill's Marauders Association in Orlando. Congratulations, Art.

Photo by Poppe

committee. Honored to have the opportunity to serve the Association. Other members of the committee were Charles Ketcham, Ralph Kouroyen, Frank Russell and for the first time, an Honorary Member of the Association, Natalie Mell. Bob Eatman complained about the food. He was knocking the cooks.

President's Report — There had been formed a Council of Ranger Veterans to

perpetuate history and lineage. Plans	were
being discussed to have a Regimental	

<b>Treasurer's Report</b> Balance 8-27-85 \$ 976.73
Deposits 6450.70
Interest 133.92
TOTAL
Disbursements
Checks \$5389.52
Service Charge 30.20
TOTAL
Balance 8-27-86 \$2141.63
Executive Secretary Account 585.13
TOTAL
Motion made, seconded. Report Ac-
cepted.
Executive Secetary Report —
Donations received at this
year's reunion \$2,969.00 We received 116 mail donations
during year amounting to \$2,435.00
Balance in Southwest Savings & Loan Interest-Check Acct \$ 585.13
Expenses year to date \$3,307.84
Compared to last year \$3,471.31
The three issues of the Burman News cost

\$2,000.00. The next highest expense item is postage. We put out over 600 pieces of mail last year, not including the 4,200 pieces for the News. The printing of the directory cost \$1,400.00, which was paid out of the Treasurer Funds.

(Continued on page 5)

## As Seen Thru the Eyes of a Couple of GIs The Battle of Myitkyina

The 209th and 236th Engineer Combat Battalion fought at Myitkyina as part of the 5307th under command of Colonel Hunter.

Company B of the 209th maintained a running chronological record of events. We will now print portions of it.

\* \* \* \* \* "Thank Gawd for you guys," said the first Marauder who saw them as they piled out of C-47s at Myitkyina strip and he keynoted the attitude of his whole weary neglected regiment. That day, May 24, 1944, marked the end of a fabulous fighting trek for Merrill's men and thrust the 209th Engr. C. Bn. into a probably unprecedented 65 unrelieved days of frontline fighting.

This hitherto untold story is intended to raise from anonymity the 209th Engr. C Bn which, after nearly a year's service on the Road, was abruptly ordered to relieve Merrill's men and to carry on the then beginning siege of Myitkyina. A week after their arrival at Myitkyina strip the 209th Engr. C Bn. had relieved all Marauders except staff personnel, and, until the arrival of the 236th Engr. C Bn. and the first of the socalled New Marauders, their one inexperienced Battalion was the only American force engaged in the actual prosecution of

(Continued on page 2)

#### BATTLE OF MYITKYINA ...

(Continued from page 1) the campaign. Despite their singular position in the portentious battle, the 209th has never known a direct public mention in the news dispatched which employed the Engineer's performance to sustain the publicity of justly touted outfits whose credit account should have been closed with a fitting swan song late in May.

When a good bunch of Engineers is summarily turned into a raw mob of foot slogger recruits, credit is due to more than the guts and willingness of the men or the versatility of their officers. The commendable combat record of Lt. Col. Leslie E. Sandvall's Engineers must be shared with the Headquarters personnel of Merrill's Staff, and especially with the I & R men who weren't relieved with their outfit but staved to continue the nerve shattering patrol work which could not be allocated to inexperienced relief troops. The departing Marauders turned teachers and did their damndest to instill their hard-learned battle sagacity and jungle savvy into their combat-naive relievers. In one easy lesson Merrill's mortarmen, who could lob a shell into a corner pocket, tried to train heavy equipment operators, who could crack a peanut shell with a pile driver and not bruise the kernel, in the intricacies of an 81mm. B. A. R. gunners who had shot their way from Buna and Burma showed jackhammer jockeys where to find the trigger on a Browning, and hard case veterans who knew jungle skirmishing from Guadalcanal to Warazup gave shrewd advice to Engineers (quote from Roundup), "Being shot at a bit by the Japs." Rebuttal from 209th, "Whattyamean a bit," Nips did a hell of a bit in 65 days. A motor pool crew that could make a MC run on buggy wheels, found out the hard way that mules don't move by an ignition key. With all this abandonment of old skills and the adopting of new exotic tools, departure of the meritorious but mauled Marauders, then turned to take over the Battle of Myitkyina.

The chronicling of 65 intimate days with death, disease, and debility can't be compressed into a news article. Description of the horror, fear, and anquish learned in a 9 weeks course in a school for misery and murder is not to be printed anywhere. Suffice to ignore the silent heroism, the homely nobilities, and anonymous deaths and scant the few high spots of a dangerous yet drab episode.

For instance, there is the night of June 1st on which the 209th struck its first blow and knocked down one of the largest single massacres of the Myitkyina campaign. That night, an unsuspecting three-truck Jap convoy drove into a freshly established road block. In the following early morning drizzle, proud delighted bridge builders examined the first enemy, now gruesomely sanctified, they had seen. The count: 2 trucks destroyed, 1 rejuvenated and put into service; extensive assortment of ordnance captured in good order; important materials of value to G-2, and 86 bodies, of the convoy personnel. The cost: 1 Engineer killed. After that, the enemy took the ball and proceeded to even the odds.

(Continued on page 3)

### Orlando Reunion Photos Photos by Hyden



















John Marsh, Secretary of Army

#### BATTLE OF MYITKYINA ... (Continued from page 2)

A reply in kind from the Nippos came on 13 June: This incident ranks in dramatic effect with the ambushing of Merrill's "B" Battalion at Nphung Ga. Companies A and B commanded respectively by Capt. John R. Morrell of New Jersey and Capt. Charles A. Stefl of Connelsville, Pa., while proceeding to a forward position, were bushwacked by an unexpectedly superior force and were obliged to seek protection in hasty defensive entrenchments. The last men to reach Bn. C. P. before communications were cut was so urgent that Companies H and S and C promptly executed several frantic but nearly disastrous attempts inditated that A and B companies must be left to their own resources or to extermination; from then on the position was dramatically tragic, with elements that are delightful only to scenarist.

The conclusion to this situation which has resembled Custer's Stand, and Wake and Bataan was written three days later when



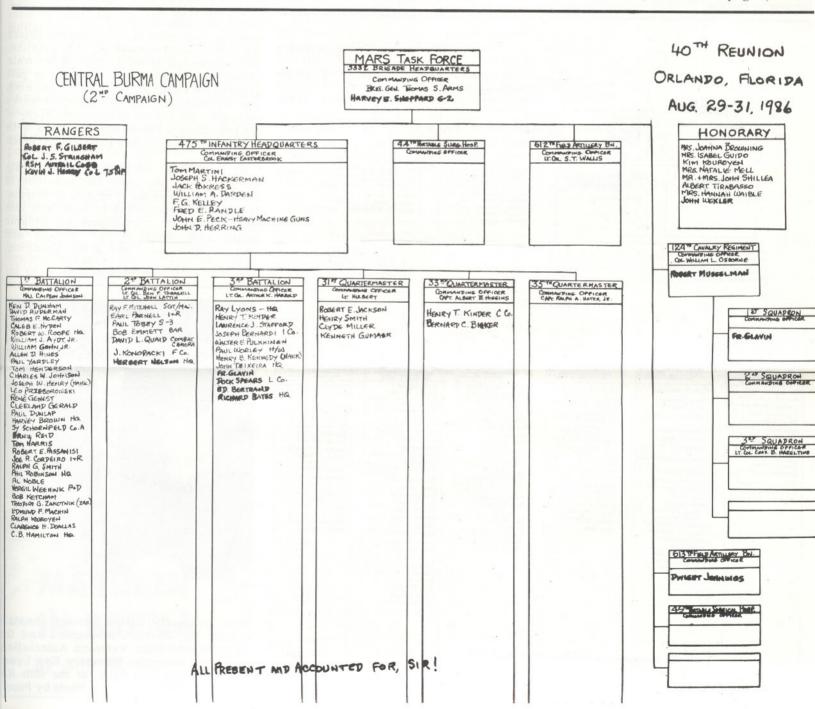
Right to left: Inman Avery and wife, along with granddaughter La Neal Avery and her father, Captain Avery.

- Photo by Poppe

straggling survivors of the ambush came in after a miraculous deliverance thru the Japanese lines, literally back from the dead. Their story was beyond the limits of even a Hollywood scenario denouncement. They told of defending a perimeter of 500 feet in diameter for 60 hours. Glazed from rain and exposure, using M-ls that had to be manually operated, they held against heavy odds of screeching Japs who called out to surrender or die, who fixed knee morters at point-blank range from screening underbrush, and rushed individual foxholes.

Finally when supplies air dropped to their tiny perimeter were easily picked up and used against them by the enemy, when Johnny Maczko the lone medic without medicine could no longer patch up the num erous wounded, with diminished ammunit tion being miserably fired single rounds and, with men sick from seeing buddies fricassed in their own blood and weak from hunger, they resolved a daring plan of retreat. That night, in small groups, they vanished over a route reconnaitered by Sgt. Alvin Miller and, except for those who drowned in deep paddies or crawled in wrong directions, found their own rear lines in the early morning. And, in the early morning, Japs moving in to wipe out the pocket, were furious to find honorable clay

<sup>(</sup>Continued on page 4)



#### BATTLE OF MYITKYINA ... (Continued from page 3)

Page Four

pigeons had disappeared, and that the 150 killed and uncounted wounded Japs could not be avenged.

After this effort the exhausted 209th was awarded a brief respite from the attack and, the deserving but unsung 236th Engrs. took over the offensive. In several more days the 209th returned to share the brunt of the attack with the 236th and by the passing of another gruelling month the combined Engineers under Lt. Col. Harold Greenlee of the new Marauders, the engineers retired to rear positions now as worn and as ill as had been the Marauders. A week later Myitkyina fell. During that final phase of the scrap, Capt. Pierce's C Company came to the fore and made the last outstanding contribution to his Battalion record. Lt. Tommy Ryan with the Platoon of C Company took up watch over Myitkyina's back escape alley, the Irawaddy River. Japs retreating from the city rafted down the river headed for Jap garrisons further in Burma. None of them got there.

Lt. Ryan and his boys, once constructionists, but now adept in cold blooded destruction, killed 150, captured 50, including several women.

The account of the Engineers at Myitkyina is done. The 209th personnel had won a DSC, several Silver Stars, and a half dozen Bronze Stars, and 260 Purple Hearts. But those awards spoke nothing for the unit. It says nothing for the grueling thankless labor of mercy performed by Captain Warren Porter's H and S men who buried dead, often under fire, and carried wounded thru 6 miles of sniper infested swamps to hospitalization, and took their turns in the line; nothing of staff sections, and the 12 medics whose work is never considered heroic or brilliant, but is merely expected. This is the real story of the Engineer outfit who got nothing for a good job except a slurring mention in news dispatched, "American Combat Engineers also participated." It compensated the families of the Engineer's dead, remembers the wounded and diseased in hospitals from Shing to the States, and commends the men

40TH REUNION ORLANDO, FLORIDA 5307 TO COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV.) COMMANDING GENERAL - BRIG GEN FRANK D MERA SECOND IN COMMAND - COL. CHARLES N. HUNTER AUG. 29-31 1986 INDIA-BURMA CAMPAIGN Ray LYDNS Tom MARTINI G CLARE THOMAS S-4 AL GLAVES HERBERT J. CLANN F. G. KELLEY D.O. JENNINGS VIRG. NGENINK FR. GLANIN WILLIAM DARDEN (1 ST CAMPAIGN) 236 TO COMBAT ENGINEERS COMMANDING CEPICER COL MANDING CEPICER COL MANDING CARES JOHF EICHERBARGOR JE, A Co. SEORGE F. DANLY A CO. VERNON PEAPEALL A CO. RUBPIA MESSINA A CO. RUBPIAT HERSINA A CO. 209TH GABAT ENGINEERS COMMAND TOST GROUP REAR BASE MAJ. LOUIS J. WILLIN Constant Ing OFFKER MAJ EDWARD T HANCOCK RAY LYONS JOHN GOODBODY CG DENEY DIGGS JOHN P. YEDRING AIR DROP JOSEAN S. MERERDIAN 2" BATTALION 300 BATTALION COMMANPING OFFICER LT COL CHARLES E. BRAN BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER COMMANDING OFFICER ROC GEORGE A MEGEC, JA ROC BEACH S-2 JOE MAGNOTTA O'SLINE JOHES MRS. HENRY STELLING RAY F. MITCHELL CHARLES W. JOHNSON MILES ELSON (HG) SOT HENRY B. KENNEDY 16. BS WHITE COMBAT TEAM COMMANDING OFFICER MAL CAIFSON JOHNSON REP CONBAT TEAM BLUE COMBAT TEAM CRANGE COMBAT EAM COMMAND INC. OVELCER MAL LARBERT A. PETITO GREE P KHAKI COMBAT TEAM CONNERING OFFICER MAL FROM J. BRIGGS APING OFFICER CAT BM P. SHAPP ANDY BLAND CO. E HERE CLOTHE IT-R ROBERT LINEMALS P-D JIM DELANDO S Co. RULE MATLA HY NMMS. JOE JACTOR JACK JOE JACTORNEN I HAL JOHN TOCZYNSKI HAL LOND CATDINALI HAL HALL YARDINSKI HAL LOND CATDINALI HAL HALL YARDISKI HAL LOND CATDINALI HAL HALL YARDISKI HAL CANGES RET: HE AL SUTTON P-D RALMA A. HESSINA SANJ RANJER HE GOF FARD Contribute & Baranso George / Rege Ross George / Rege Ross A Lewis Southard Robert L. TABB Robert L. TABB Robert L. TABB Robert L. McDre Robert L. McDre Robert C. McConto Frank J. Neore Frank J. Neore Robert C. McConto Frank J. Neore Robert C. Conto Robert C. McConto Robert C. McConto Robert C. McConto Restored Decoro Robert C. McConto Robert C. McCont This indicate betty Davids heading Warder and Diodeloo Warder J Wienschaftnere Laberty J. Staffen Soni Logan Nesstonel 1:+R Allen D Hines Chur Portecous Raymout toanumdo Millton P. Ball K Co. Viarnes Katz 1:-R Laberence Horelow Warnes Katz 1:-R Laberence Horelow Cosise Burket Montecours David De Quing Costenand WORNDON R. WHITE WILLIAM J. AYDT. JR. HARVEY BROWN MR C. B. HAMILTON ITR MOS. BULLIAN BROWN ING MOS. WILLIAM BROWN ING MOS. WILLIAM BROWN ING MOS. WILLIAM BROWN ING MOS. WILLIAM BROWN ING MOS. UN. C. WALGE MALE EDIN J. BRIGGS KANNER (TONY) BUSHUB GUY R. SIDLEY MED RICHARD H. FOME LEO RECE DORNISKI PHILIP OLSEN Rot NUD W. ROSMUSSEN BY SCHOENFELD BODWARD C. BLENER RALPH S. KOLBOYEN KEN D. DUNHAM DATID RUDBARTAN THOMAS F. Mc CARTY B CO. WILLIAM GOHN, JR. MRS. WM. C. MANNELL TY RE JOHN L. TY RE JOE R. CORDENCO IVR RALPH G. SMITH MED DENE BY DIGGS THEODERE G. ZMOSTAIN THEODERE G. ZMOSTAIN GUSTAN D. HOMOHM LAWRENCE J. STAFFORD BERMARD G. BLENGER TOM A. DOTSON HAROLD E. DUBBLE CHARLES R. WEHRLE DICK GRIMES I CO. DONALD P. THEOCY DONALD P. THEOCY DONALD MURICH J.E. JOHNSON JOSEPH H. HANRY (H Revé Genest RENIE GENERT CLEELAND GENALD Joseph Kanay I+R Dob Speer Also Fontama Domine B. Holmes Tom Henderson George G. Robertson George G. Robertson JAND L ULUN CANADAN LANDAUEL L LEIG JOHN J.GARELY 1+R FRANK CANSAR PAT BRARNAE FLAN M. SHUMELT 1+R NATION CANSON GEORGE B. LOUXE 1+R RULH G. LAUBON HR JUNK TELVICIRA ENTLIND F. PMCANN H.J. CANLFIELD C.C. CALES E. HYDEN A C. ANDREW J. TOROLLO BOB ALGRIGHT AL NOBLE MAC MCLOGAN CUYDE MILLGA MILLIAM J. BWITER DONALD P. DAROBY ROUL C. PATERA L.E. JOHNSON FRED F. ANNDLA FRANK HUS I + R HENRY BALDWIN BILL NICHOLSON HE EDWARD BRATEAND FRANK RUSSELL TON HENDERSON GEORGE G. POPERTS ROBERT E. PASSANIS ROBERT E. HADAINA BOB NETCHAM ERNIE REID HERBERT NELSON KOMMETH GUNAGE OMBINGE H. BOALLAS I.R JOHN TELYEIRA HANK OROWELL ITR Hank (Rowell III) Henry Svith Rancis V. Clark Unlace H. Kirki and P-D Undan Awery I+R Bob Mallory Ivan L. Rash .Richard Bates SHURY 101 ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!

who still remain with their Battalions for the 209th and 236th Combat Engineers, gives the lie to — and tells the real story of — "Combat Engineers also participated!

#### October 13, 1943

1:00 P.M. We prepared to disembar from the ship at this time by falling out i the passage way in shipping order formation. As always, the dampness and heawas terrific on our deck of the ship, standing there waiting for that final order to move out, the perspiration poured off ulike rain drops.

It was a short distance to the train static and as we reached there we were not to surprised at the sight which met our eye This might have been an up-to-date troo train for the British, but to us, we wou have considered it an insult to put ou Texas cattle into such a contraption. Th seats were very similar to our par benches, being made of wood and painted dull green in color. There were no gla windows in the doors or anyplace else, on a wooden shutter that slides up and dow rustily. The floor was terribly dirty and th repugnant odor of insect powder was exe cising our sense of smell.

At least an hour of time elapsed before the train started to move out of the statio. The natives ran along the side of the traselling us cocoanuts and bananas or jubegging for cigarettes and money. At each stop we made they would bring their warup to the train and try to sell them. Many the boys bought knives and rings and we later sorry because they had paid too mucfor them.

At 11:00 P.M. we pulled into the tra depot of Nasik and under the directions an English officer we prepared to detrai It was quite interesting to hear him ta and during his instructions he becan angry with some of our officers ar assured them there was a war going o

(Continued on page 7)



Msgr. Edward R. Glavin, national chapla of both the Merrill's Marauders and the China-Burma-India Veterans Associatio pose with Marauder Secretary Ray Lyo and his lovely wife Sally, at the 40th R union in Orlando. — Photo by Pop

#### MINUTES ....

#### (Continued from page 1)

Dave Quaid has been elected to the Board of Directors.

Motion made, seconded. Report accepted.

**Randy Cline Fund** — Clofine reported that the program to use the money from the sale of video tapes had ended last Dec. 31st. Any additional donations should be sent direct to Treasurer.

#### **Old Business**

**G.** Clare Thomas — Motion to provide that if reunions held in Deep South, it should be possible to meet in cooler part of the year, up to October 1st. Not carried.

**Bob Passanisi** — Suggest that we have larger reunion committees. Not agreed to.

George Rose — Motion to spell out that Reunion Chairman should have two or more committee members. Moved, seconded. Approved.

New Business — Amendments to Constitution which were approved by the Board of Directors.

Motion by Dave Hurwitt at Board of Director's meeting, to set up position of Editor.

Proposed addition to Article VI, Section 2.

a) Any official publication (e.g. newspapers, magazine, etc.) of Merrill's Marauders Association published and issued to its membership — as distinguished from official notices, reports, records, etc., required to be issued by the various officers and directors of the Association — shall be published under the supervision of an editor appointed to serve at its pleasure by the Board.

b) Such official publication of the Association shall be subject to the control and review of the Board of Directors or any such officers and / or agents it shall appoint to perform such duties. The Board and its designated agents shall retain the authority to be final arbiter over the published contents of the Association's publication.

Seconded. Discussion ensued. Jackson Pokress identified himself as a publisher and said that it was not desirable nor practicable to put restraints on the judgment of the editor.

The editor, Ray Lyons, said that he did not approve of the motion. Passanisi spoke up in favor of the motion. Schoenfeld stated that what should happen was that if the editor did not perform satisfactorily he should be terminated. Vote taken. Motion carried.

**Martini** — Motion to change various parts of Constitution as follows:

#### Article IV Section 1.

Pertains to equal rights of members, including women. B/D Discussion (1985) indicated that although there was objection to this matter, legally it was a requirement of State Law granting us the non-profit status corporation. Dave Hurwitt stated that he would consult with Ed Rothschild, an Illinois lawyer present at the Reunion ('85), on the matter. No subsequent report received on matter. Therefore it still stands as written. No change.

#### **Article V Section 1**

Pertains to number of Directors. Presently the Constitution states that the Board of Directors shall be not less than three, nor more than 15 members. We have 24 on list at this time. Dave Hurwitt made motion that it be increased to 30.

Motion made, seconded. Approved.

#### **Article V Section 3**

Pertains to Annual Meeting of Membership. Presently the Constitution states that the regular Annual Meeting of the members shall be held on the Sunday before Labor Day. Proposal to have this read, "The regular Annual Meeting shall be held during the Annual Reunion."

Motion made, seconded. Approved.

#### **Article V Section 4**

Pertains to Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Presently it states that the meeting shall be on the Sunday before Labor Day. Motion made to have this section read, "The Annual Meeting of Board of Directors shall be held during the Annual Reunion." Motion made, seconded. Approved.

#### **Article VII Section 4**

Pertains to actions of Audit Committee. Presently it provides that the Audit committee shall make a "Non-opinion" check of books. Proposal is to eliminate the words "Non-opinion." Motion made, seconded. Approved.

**Election of Officers** — Motion made by Dr. Kolodny that all the present slate of officers to be elected. The Reunion chairman to be chairman of Board of Directors. Motion seconded. Approved.

Selection of Site Next Reunion — First, a comment by Herb Clofine that regardless of Reunion arrangements, members should ask Airlines about a Senior Citizen Rate.

Nomination of New Orleans by Phil Piazza in lieu of Roy Dupre, unavoidably absent. Hotel Monteleone in the Heart of the French Quarter is to be the site. Hotel is within walking distance of many interesting and historic places. Easy access from the Airport or from Interstate 10.

A 3-day — 2-night package providing the following: Deluxe accommodations for two nights, one Continental breakfast, one Luncheon Banquet-Buffet Style, two Dinner Banquets with sit down service, one onehour cocktail party with dry snacks, compliments of The Monteleone. Price \$132 per person at double occupancy, (\$264). Single rate package, \$197; all extra nights \$58,

MARSMEN IN BURMA By John Randolph A third printing of this popular book (soft paperback cover) is being considered. If you would be interested in a copy of this book contact: MARSMEN IN BURMA The Laurens House of Print, Ltd. Box 143 Laurens, Iowa 50554 Phone (712) 845-4373

Projected cost is \$12.50 plus mailing Over 300 pages with many pictures! plus 11 percent tax.

Nomination of Charlotte, N.C., by Tom Martini. Hotel will be the Charlotte Marriott Hotel Executive Park. Hotel has over 300 rooms. Hotel is only three years old. Three-day — two-night package will include two nights lodging, Friday evening buffet, Saturday lunch, cocktail hour Saturday evening, followed by banquet featuring prime rib, Sunday morning brunch. Cost for single occupancy \$158; double occupancy \$240. Extra night rate will be \$42 single and \$46 double. All includes taxes. Free limo service to and from the airport. **Vote Results:** 

For New Orleans - 95.

For Charlotte, N.C. - 85.

It was also noteworthy that after some floor discussion and a reading of the applicable Constitution Sections, the women members of the Association were permitted to vote.

President Piazza announced that New Orleans would be the next reunion site and that Roy Dupre would be the reunion chairman.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. No objection. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

RAYMOND V. LYONS Executive Secretary

> SPECIAL ORDER NO. 9 Hq. 5332 Bde. [Prov.] APO 487, 18 Aug. 1944 (Continued from last issue)

- Pvt. Sheldon Silverberg 521, Co. L
- Pvt. J. D. Smith 504, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Joseph J. Smith 745, Co. F
- Pvt. James D. Sweat 745, Co. K
- Pvt. Robert E. Thurston 761, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. James R. Truell 745, Co. F
- Pvt. Charles R. Walker 745, Co. F
- Pvt. Eugene R. Weeks 652, Co. I
- Pvt. James F. Welsh 745, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Fang Y. Wong 657, Med. Det., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. George H. York 651, Co. L
- Pvt. Salvatore Zettola 745, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Russell K. Betz 745, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Morris Bletstein 745, Co. K Pvt. Arthur W. Block — 504, Co. I
- $D \neq C$
- Pvt. George W. Branch 745, Co. E
- Pvt. Raymond T. Cardenas 745, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Roy W. Carlile 861, Med. Det., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. James A. DiGregorio 745, Co. I
- Pvt. William L. Gross 745, Co. K
- Pvt. James F. Hagan 745, Co. L
- Pvt. Clyde L. Horne 745, Co. K
- Pvt. John W. Horn 504, Hq. Co., 3d Bn.
- Pvt. Ralph G. Miller 653, Co. K
- Pvt. Earl R. Mitchell 745, Co. E
- Pvt. Hugo W. Nelson 861, Med. Det., 2d Bn.
- Pvt. Harry Nemeroff 675, Co. G
- Pvt. Perry Provatt 745, Co. E
- Pvt. Leon E. Snyder 745, Co. I
- Pvt. Estill Wethington 745, Co. G
  - By command of Brig. Gen. ARMS:
    - WILLIS J. TACK,
      - Col. Infantry
    - Chief of Staff
- OFFICIAL:

DESSIE A. MAUK Capt., AGO

Asst. Adj. Gen.



#### EDITOR:

My uncle, George Mamula, was a member of the Marauders, for which the family is so proud. However, he died almost 10 years ago. We know little of his heroic deeds except for his picture in the Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Oakland (Pittsburgh) and that he won the Silver Star for bravery in the Korean War and the DSC for his leadership in Burma. Anything you can find out about Uncle "Chappy," as we called him, or any information the Marauders would tell us about would be most appreciated. My son Nick, and I would be very, very grateful. Mim Bizic, 136 Kenney Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143.

#### EDITOR:

I was a member of a group that landed at Myitkyina Airfield in June '44 and remained on the line until the fall of that city. Fainted going into the town and woke up on a stretcher in the back of a jeep. Went to 20th GH. Then to a rest camp. Then returned to HQ duty in New Delhi. In combat was a member of a mortar section and manned a 37 mm anti-tank gun. I was a member of Co. B, 1st Bn., on the line and only can remember that the squad leader was from Washington, D.C., and I saved sugar wrappers on the line to keep busy. Milton Schwartz, 139-55 35th Ave., Apt. 2A, Flushing, NY 11354.

#### EDITOR:

The February issue of the Burman News was a disappointment for me. It contained the last installment of Father Stuart's Chronicle which began in the November 1984 issue. Dave Contess and Al Sokolnicki deserve a big "Thank You" from all of us for their efforts in preserving this small, but vital part of American history. I have never met either of these gentlemen, but if it is at all possible, please convey my thanks to them. I am sure it is shared by many, many other members of the organization. Dick Doherty, 876 Aspen Dr., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

#### EDITOR:

It has been brought to my attention that the 5307th may have been involved in a small scale airborne operation during WWII. It is believed that some of the Marauders were given rudimentary parachute



Richard Poppe, of Loveland, Ohio, and Regimental Commander Colonel Stringham of the 75th Rangers of Ft. Benning, strike a happy pose during the Marauder banquet. — Photo by Ima Prince



Dr. Louis A. Kolodny, 2nd Bn., and his darling wife make it one more for posterity at the 40th Annual Reunion in Orlando, Florida. — Photo by Poppe

training and inserted to reinforce an engaged or isolated unit. Any Marauder who participated in this jump is entitled to be awarded the parachute badge in accordance with AR 672-5-1, par 5-14. I would like to correspond with any individual who has any information on this operation for the purpose of documenting this event and rewarding the participants with the parachute badge they have earned. Major Gregory Phillips, Iowa NG, 2800 Fleur Dr., Bldg. 2, Apt. 302, Des Moines, IA 50321.

#### EDITOR:

After reading your letter, I opened the May '86 Burman News. By a shocking coincidence or by ordained fate, the very first name I read was, 1st Lt. Frank J. O'Brien, Co. B, 475th Infantry. The flood of emotion that overcame me was devastating. As clear as an instant replay, the ambush at Ho-naw, Burma, on Jan. 21st, 1945, came crashing back. Lt. O'Brien, in MY place as Number 2 scout was killed. We walked into that ambush at Ho-naw with Lt. O'Brien in my place just behind the experienced Marauder, Shidell, my foxhole buddy, the No. 1 scout. They were both killed instantly in the first burst of fire.

Shidell, whose first name was William, was a company weapons artificer and a barber! He carried the tools and everyone asked me to cut their hair. After 250 miles, Shidell said, "Gilmore, you cut their hair, so you carry the G.D. tools!" I said, "No way, I've got all I can tote." So he threw them in the boondocks. Our section of the Men of Mars soon had long hair. Shidell was a very close friend of Owens, Squad LDR, 475/1/B/2/2, who is mentioned in "The Marauders," by Ogburn, as BN Hq. Runner. The only part of the Central Burma Campaign that I can think of is the two-day action of B Co. going to the rescue of the whole 2nd Bn., from the end of a bareas-a-birds-ass hill, where they had dug in and covered up for weeks. Japs were shooting up at 'em, down at 'em and from the Burma Road side. They were hurtin'! Couldn't even stand up to take a leak without some Nip lowering a boomstick.

Now get this. They sent **us**, **one** company to take the hilltop town of Namsak and all the high ground that was the 2nd Bn mission to occupy. We were to throw the Japs off and hand it all over to them. We did it with the help of our pack artillery who threw many hundred rounds across the Hosai Valley under our directions. I was committed under fire five times. Twice jus to draw enemy fire. It was our 2n Platoon that broke through to the 2nd Br They raised hell. Claimed we left a lot o live Japs up there. (The Nips moved bac in behind us.) We just did not have enoug men to secure all the high ground that w took.

Our platoon sergeant was standing abov me when we first hit the enemy. He took shell that removed part of his left hand an wrist and a hunk of his carbine. I have thi junk in my leg from that shell burst or par of his gun.

I left the 475th at Kutkai Airstrip via gooney bird full of bloody Chinks from th Lashio front. Glenn C. Gilmore, 1117 No Water St., Uhrichsville, OH 44683.

### **Officer's Row**

**President** — We have been in touch with the new chairman for the New Orleans R union, Roy Dupre. Everything is comin along fine. Phil Piazza.

**Executive Secretary** — At the recent 0 lando Reunion, we had 166 Marauders rejister with us. Of these, 16 were first-timer We had four Rangers and nine Honorarie also.

We will always have the problem of me moving to a new location and we will hav to live with it. But to those of you who was to continue to receive the Burman New please send us a change of address. Eac issue of the News brings a half-dozen r turns from the P.O. claiming that you hav left no forwarding address. The cost printing and mailing you a copy of the ne Membership Directory is at present \$2.0 If you want one, please send us a check cover these costs.

It is also the time of the year to remir one and all that if you did not have th chance to make a donation at the Orland Reunion, you can mail a donation to th secretary at address on cover.

We are pleased to report continued su cess in finding new members. Note the lor list in this issue. We will write to any Ma auder's address you send us. Since takir over the secretary job, we have added 2 members to the rolls. We have a big list names to write to at this time. Keep the coming. Ray Lyons.

**Director** — A film will be made of th 5307th of 40 years ago and end with th modern-day Marauders, the Rangers. Co Stringham invited me to film the Range with full cooperation. I need any man will appears in the old tape for interviews their experiences of forty years ago. I w go to where they live. Please contact me — David L. Quaid, 21 Summer St., P.O. Bo 1617, Duxbury, MA 02331-1617.

The older a man gets, the farther he h to walk as a boy. And the colder t weather was. And the deeper the snow wa

Two elderly women arrived at a baseba game just in time to see the batter hit home run. Twenty minutes later the san batter hit another home run. "Let's go said one woman to the other. "This is when we came in."

#### **BATTLE OF MYITKYINA...**

(Continued from page 4) and that we would have a hot meal waiting for us at the camp. The meal which we later received most of us would hesitate to feed to our hogs.

We stacked our barracks bags on the platform and fell into company formation to march to this camp. After marching around curves, up and down bumpy roads and pushing holy cows out of our path we

reached the edge of the British camp. The forward platoons began checking in their rifles to be cleaned and protected from any roving natives who might try to steal them. We were told that the natives could sell a 45 Colt for as much as 500 rupees and much more for one of our long range rifles. Our sleeping quarters, much to our surprise, were made of brick foundations with clay roofs. These were built in barracks style

(Continued on page 8)

Fall In Here are the latest additions to our assembly. Remember them? JOSEPH R. BERNARDI, 2255 Glen Iris Dr., Milford, MI 48042, 475/3/I CO GEORGE BOMBORIS, Box 25, Short Creek, OH 43989, 475/3/HQ GEORGE C. BROWN, 1 Peppertree, Anderson, SC 29621, 5307/3/OCT/I&R PLAT LOUIS W. BRUNNET, 10410 Tilburg St., Spring Hill, FL 33526, 475 HERBERT J. CLANN, 769 Pirates Rest, No. Ft. Myers, FL 33903, 5307 HQ/COMM JAMES T. COLLINS, P.O. Box 8755, Silver Spring, MD 20907, 5307/1/RCT/I & R HUNT D. CRAWFORD, 1811 S. 3rd St., Apt. 19, Louisville, KY 40208, 5307/1/I&R; 475/HQ/INT SGT NORMAN K. DARLING, Rt. 1, Box 67A, Mauk, GA 31058, 5307/3/KCT/HW/MG GEORGE F. DAVEY, 415 High St., Abington, MA 02351, 5307/236/A ENGR DAVID DAVIS, HCR 70, Box 141, Laporte, MN 56461, 475 FRANK DESANTIS, 2260 East 7th St., Brooklyn, NY 11223, 5307/209/B DEWEY K. DIGGS, 5612 Central Ave. Park, Knoxville, TN 37912, 5307/1/RCT THOMAS A. DOTSON, 8487 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304, 5307/3/KCT PAUL A. DUNLAP, P.O. Box 5544, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938, 5307/1/RCT; 475/1 GILBERT C. EDLER, 607 Milltown Rd., CW4, Wilmington, DE 19808, 5307 FRED FEDENGHI, 64 Valley View Ct., San Mateo, CA 94402, 5307 WILLIAM C. FOIL, Box 425, Mandeville, LA 70448, 5307/3 JED B. FRANKLIN, 233 East Cleveland St., Delphos, OH 45833, 5307/3/M CO GLENN H. GILMORE, 1117 No. Water St., Uhrichsville, OH 44682, 475/1/B/2/2 ALFRED GREER, 15 Smith Ave., Hooksett, NH 03104, 5307/3/0CT/I&R RUSSELL HAMLER, 2810 Queensboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226, 5307/2/BCT KEVIN J. HENRY, 303 Golfview Lane, Advance, NC 27006, Ranger 75/L JOHN D. HERRING, 504 Holiday Ct., Dade City, FL 33525, 5307/HQ/RE-AIR DROP WESLEY A. JAMIESON, 208 Venus Dr., East Grand Forks, MN 56721, 475/HQ/P&D CHARLES W. JOHNSON, N-1 Klamath Dr., La Conner, WA 98257, 5307/1/D CO; 475/1/D CO ERNEST JORDAN, 121 So. 11th Ave., Tawas City, MI 48763, 5307/2/BCT/MED JOSEPH KAMAY, 189 Tarbell Ave., Oakville, CT 06779, 5307/1/WCT/I&R WILLIAM KENNEDY, Rt. #5, Box 332, Philadelphia, MS 39350, 5307/2 JAMES W. MAINPRIZE, 9951 Doris, Livonia, MI 48150, 475 3/L CO ROBERT C. MALLORY, 2593 Countryside Blvd. 7-306, Clearwater, FL 33519, 5307/3/0CT EDWARD H. MELLINGER, 1321 Paseo Maravilloso, Green Valley, AZ 85614, 5307/209 COMDG JULIUS J. MICHINI, Rt. 8, Box 136, Lucedale, MS 39452, 5307/236/A DONALD MUENCH, Rt. 1, Box 220, Converse, LA 71419, 5307/3/KCT/MORTAR ROBERT MUSSELMAN, 796 Mariner Terr., Deltona, FL 32725, 124/HQ ELLIS NELSON, 295 Crystal Ln, No. Ft. Myers, FL 33903, 5307/2 ROBERT L. NIEHAUS, 5100 Collinsville Rd., Fairmont City, IL 62201, 5307/2/BCT/P&D; 475TH GEORGE PATRICK, 1442 Farmer St., Richlands, VA 24641, 475/1/B RALPH W. POLLOCK, Rd. 1, Box 1494, Mount Union, PA 17066, 5307/1/WCT LINUS F. RAHMAN, RR 1, Box 265, Ferdinand, IN 47532, 475/2/F CO LARRY RAISHE, 1210 East State St., Cheboygan, MI 49721, 475/1/C CO MARSHAL H. RICHEY, 195 C. Meador, Port Oliver Rd., Scottsville, KY 42164, 475th VERNON A. RICHMOND, 1080 No. Camino, Las Solanas, Tucson, AZ 85710, 5307/1/RCT; 475/1, T/SGT. WILL E. RIDINGS, 302 Hillcrest Rd., Aberdeen, MS 39730, 475/2/E/HQ/LMG JOHN M. SHARFAL, 20 Arms Blvd., Apt. 5, Niles, OH 44446, 5307/2/BCT HARVEY E. SHEPPARD, 500 Ventris Ct., Maitland, FL 32751, 5332 BDE/HQ HENRY SMITH, Rt. 1, Box 6, Brooks Rd., Iron, MI 49644, 5307/31 QM PK TR DOCK SPEARS, 2343 South Shore Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705, 475/3/L CO WALTER R. STANSFIELD, 4874 Independence Dr., Bradenton, FL 33507, 5307/236/HQ DONALD L. STOCKDALE, 33107 Joy Rd., Westland, MI 48185, 475/1/A CO WALTER C. STOLARSKI, 125 Roseleaf Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220, 475/1/C/2 ALVIN SUTTON, 58 Van Reypen St., Jersey City, NJ 07306, 5307/2/BCT JAMES R. SZYMANSKI, 404 Tuttle St., Alpena, MI 49707, 475/1/HQ/1 PLAT TOMA TASAKI, 2011 Dole St., Honolulu, HI 96822, 5332 BDE/HQ/INT SEC ROBERT O. TAYLOR, 511 Marbury St., Pearl, MS 39208, 5307 JOSEPH TULMAN, 5490 East Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45236, 124/HQ HUGO J. WAGNER, Rt. 2, Box 90, 531 E 23 St., Ferdinand, IN 47532, 5307; 475/2/F CO CHESTER WERTMAN SR., 9094 Williamsport Pike, Chillicothie, OH 45601, 5307/2/GCT/E/2; 475/2/E JOHN L. TYRE, Rt. 2, Dublin, GA 31021, 5307/1/RCT JESSE WHITE, Rd. 1, Box 126, Clearfield, PA 16830, 5307/2

For many years the Merrill's Marauders Association has presented silver compasses to the outstanding officer and enlisted man of each class of the Ranger School on Graduation Day, a total of 10 classes per year. The members of the Association will always continue to do so, but today's costs being what they are we are now raising additional funds outside our own group.

A video tape has been made of combat film shot in 1944 by S/Sgt. David Quaid, and is narrated by him from a first person point-of-view, which documents the arduous march, unique in military history, to the Japanese airstrip at Myitkyina. Scenes from this tape have been part of "Victory at Sea," "World at War," and in "World WAR II - GI Diary," but most of it has never been seen before by the public.

This 27 minute tape, reproduced professionally covers:

Generals Stilwell and Merrill planning the secret assault on Myitkyina as the final supply drop occurs behind them.

The crossing of the 8500 ft. Naura Hkyat Pass of the Kumon Range during the monsoon season, a feat considered militarily impossible.

Rescuing mules that fell from the cliffs. When the "sure-footed mules" could not climb the heights the Marauders had to, carrying the mule's saddles and loads.

Airdrop at a Kachin village.

Combat at Ritpong. Evacuating wounded to a parachute covered aid station miles behind enemy lines.

The battle of Tinkrukawng. Combat footage shot within a few feet of the enemy.

The burial of a comrade. The "walking wounded," no possibility of evacuation.

Arriving at the Japanese controlled road between Mogaung and Myitkyina.

Burning American planes at the Myitkyina airstrip after a Zero strafing attack.

As the attack settled into a siege the 88th Fighter Squadron of P40Fs lends close support to the remnants of the Marauders, the 209th and the 236th Combat Engineers and their replacements.

The camera is mounted in the cockpit of a P40 on a dive-bombing run against an enemy bunker in Myitkyina.

On the ground, with the Infantry, the camera pictorially follows the same bomb into the bunker.

It's truly a case of "You Are There!"

Send \_\_\_\_ video tapes, specify

VHS or BETA.

Name

Address

Zip\_

Enclose check or money order (no credit cards) for Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) each, includes shipping, made out to Merrill's Marauders Association.

Address: Herbert Clofine, Treasurer, Merrill's Marauders Association, 1632 Surrey Lane, Havertown, PA 19083.

The Burman News

Page Eight



Merrill's Marauder Permanent Honorary President Philip Piazza, Seneca, S.C., and Regimental Commander Colonel Stringham of the 75th Rangers at Ft. Benning, Georgia. A great military history of these two fine gentlemen. Photo by Poppe

#### **BATTLE OF MYITKYINA...** (Continued from page 7)

with beds of woven hemp and wood frames comprising the furniture in them.

The hot meal as said in the foregoing paragraphs was terrible but we were getting hardened to this sort of thing so the next move was to make our living quarters as comfortable as possible and relax. We disposed of our equipment in the usual manner and soon found a little time to ourselves. About two o'clock we were again called out to get our B bags which had to be unloaded from the train and sent in trucks to our camp.

#### October 14, 1943

(Thursday) This day we found ourselves in an Indian Rest Camp controlled by the British authorities and Deolali by name. There were no schedules of any type to follow today, the only requirement was that we were to remain in the Company Area until further notice.

The natives began to arrive periodically to sell us cocoanuts, bananas, and oranges. These fruits were delicious to us for the first few days because it had been a long time since we had had this type. The men and ate them that way but luckily there was no sickness from it. The British inspected all of this type of food both for their protection and ours.

#### October 15, 1943

(Friday) A schedule of work was explained to us today and also the preventative measures to take to keep down the numerous diseases. Our mosquito nets were strung over our bunks and our protective ointment and insect powder was used in large quantities. We had pleasant climatic conditions during our entire stay at Deolali. The nights were cool and the days were warm with the sun making things look much brighter. We were allowed to go to the town of Nasik during our

bought bananas and oranges by the dozens ' hours off. It was just like going to an Amer ican carnival, the small shops with jewelry watches and linens, made up the entire town. The streets were narrow with people automobiles and horse drawn carts and carriages moving all the time. Some of the more ambitious of the Hindu race are ex tremely good at handicraft. The making o handmade shoes is one of the seemingly most profitable and characteristic of their trades.

#### (To Be Continued Next Issue)

Protection: "Is this a fire insurance of fice?" "Yes, sir. Can we write you some in surance?" "Perhaps you can. You see, m; boss threatens to fire me next Saturday and I'd like some protection."

### Pass In Review

**DEATHS REPORTED RECENTLY** 

Name & Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where When Deceased			
VINCENT ALBANESE, 122 Azalea Dr., Daytona Beach, FL 32017, 5307/2	Fohruary 10		
EDWARD BAABA, 502 W. Laguna #15, Tucson, AZ 85705, 5307/1/WCT	*		
GEORGE T. CAMPBELL, Bloomfield, IN, 5307.	19		
JOHN H. CARTER, Rt. 1, Shattue, IL 62283, 5307/2/GCT	July 18, 19		
WILLIAM J. EMERICH, 1172 Dayton St., Akron, OH 44310.			
Member of Board of Directors, 5307/3/OCT Co. Cmdr	June 5, 19		
ALBERT O. EHRKE, 134 East 220th St., Euclid, OH 44123, 5307/2/BCT	Aug. 29, 19		
GEORGE T. "CASH" FARO, 622 Scott St., Niles, OH 44446, 5307/2/BCT	Sept. 22, 19		
CHARLES FOYDER, P.O. Box 1055, Wrightstown, NJ 08562, 5307/3/OCT	March 31, 19		
HOWARD S. KEELER, 805 6th Pl., Phenix City, AL 36867, 5307/1			
GEORGE MAMULA, 136 Kenney Dr., Sewickley, PA 475/3/I Co F	ebruary 4, 19		
ADOLPH H. MAUKSCH, 1564 Grimes Ave., Modesto, CA 95351, 5307/2/GCT,			
Yankton, SD	Sept. 10, 19		
VIC MEADE, 5307/2, VA Hospital, Tucson, AZ.	19		
NEAL MEALER, 1025 Elm St., Dallas, TX 75202, 5307/2/GCT	July 2, 19		
WILLIAM G. MEISCHKE, 38045 Tupelo St., Gonzales, LA 70737, 5307/3/KCT	March 27, 19		
FRANK J. O'BRIEN, Plat. Ldr., 475/1/B/2, Ho-naw, Burma	Jan. 21, 19		
JOSEPH "MUSH" PENNA, Delaware, 5307/2; 475/HQ	April, 19		
ALFRED PIERCE, 10854 Royal Bluff, San Antonio, TX 78239, 5307/209 Engrs	July 19		
DR. BERNARD ROGOFF, 3 Sheridan Sq, #17C, New York, NY 10014, 5307/2nd			
Bn/Surgeon, Member of Board of Directors. "A man who stood before God			
and his fellow man as an extremely creative and loving human being."	Aug. 5, 19		
WILLIAM SHIDELL, MD or DE, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1/B/2 Ho-naw	Jan. 21, 19		
KENNETH B. SPEER, Rt. 1, Box 152, Waukee, IA 50263, 5307/1/RCT			
CASPER C. TURIELLO, 142 Uhland St., East Rutherford, NJ 07073, 5307/1	Feb. 18, 19		



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

RAYMOND V. LYONS Editor 11244 N. 33rd St. Phoenix, AZ 85028

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