



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1987

LAISSER LES BONS TEMPS ROULER

[lay-zay-lay bawn tawn roulay] — "Let the good times roll."

The motto of most Louisianians

NEW ORLEANS COMING UP

So it is a good times town. The natives love it and so do the visitors. The home of good food and song and dance. Lots of history, too, for the tourist types.

Some other information that you should know right now before making plans. The tax that will be charged against the extra night's stay amounts to 11 percent. (\$58 + \$3.38 additional.) There will be a \$6.00 per day + 11 percent tax parking fee for your car at the hotel.

On the other hand, if you decide to fly, the airport is about 12 miles from the French Quarter.

The hotel is a beautiful old hotel that has been remodeled and it is in the Heart of the French Quarter, within walking distance of many of the sightseeing places. Only a few blocks also from the wharf where the SSatches docks. The public transit system is reasonably priced and covers the town as well as outlying areas with both trolleys and buses. It is a great treat today to be able to get on the trolley to the Garden district and ride along in the open air atop the old buildings, gardens, etc.

At this hour of printing, we have no news of parking for RVs. The nearest that we know of having stopped in them over the years is: A group of them on Chef Monteur Highway (US 90) way out on the east end of town. It is about 25 miles away. Bus service at the door but you have to get a transfer and change at Canal Street to get down to the French Quarter.

There is another KOA at River Ridge, La., about 12 miles west from downtown. Again bus service to New Orleans but if I remember correctly there is a transfer involved also. This is near the airport.

The famous restaurants are expensive. Fortunately, there are also many inexpensive restaurants within walking distance. The hotel has a very good luncheon buffet for \$6.95.

Come! Join us!

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Fais-do-do (fay-doh-doh) — a type of street dance derived from European religious festivals. Originally "fete de Dieu," festival of God.

As Seen Thru the Eyes of a Couple of GIs

Myitkyina Battle Goes On and On!

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. This is the ending portion which began in the November issue.

June 3, 1944

In the early morning a Jap counterattack was thrown back. We suffered no casualties. That afternoon C-47s began supplying us with food and ammunition. The planes were being fired on by a concentration of snipers. The crew man of the C47 fired back with tommy guns. The Japs were finally quieted down by our mortar fire. This was the first time our mortar crews had fired a mortar. Our patrol returned and brought back news that a seven-man Jap patrol had been wiped out by our mortar fire. Our patrol had to kill one of the Japs who was seriously wounded but was still showing fight. That night our machine gunners changed the position of their guns. This was done in order to let the Japs Zero in on those positions. The Japs highly respect our machine guns.

June 4, 1944

The Japs are now using mortars and small arms fire during the day. Many men of our mortar crews are new, never having operated this weapon, but are making rapid progress. They are shelling Jap positions which are only a couple hundred yards in front of us.

The Japs have been trying to sneak in at night, and a burst of fire from Pvt. Robbins machine gun resulted in our finding seven dead Japs at fifty yards in front of the perimeter.

Regular patrols are being made daily by Pvt. Wm. Morris, Pvt. Frank Perkins, Lt. Mench and Pvt. Clemens Meyers and T/5 Dan Slater.

The men are becoming trigger happy as

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5332d BRIGADE POSTAL SECTION

From left to right, front row: Donald Link, John E. Whiteley, Charles H. Burbank; second row: Howard Link, William B. Gambill, Frederick Sohl, Al Van Cleve, Ralph Pollock; back row: Stanley G. Hanson, Howard L. Dietrick, Michael F. Carlo, Sidney Hopp, C. E. Knight, Frank C. See, John E. Eudenstein.

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

night falls, and the enemy fires short bursts to draw our fire.

June 5, 1944

Around noon mail arrived for the first time in two weeks. Everyone was engrossed in reading, when all hell broke loose from the rice paddy. Four enlisted men were wounded. Lt. Meyers was also hit in the arm.

The food situation is beginning to tell on the men. K and C rations are all we are getting at present. The eating of cold greasy food is the cause of dysentery which is what's happening to many men at this time. Drinking rain water from rice paddies is bad too.

Many of the men are becoming haggard looking. Some have gone two weeks without a bath or shave. Large groups of men are unable to change socks and are getting jungle sores on their legs and other parts of their bodies. We are constantly living in a mud hole, forever being wet, with the constant stink of the dead lying in the bamboo or tall elephant grass in front of the perimeter.

June 7, 1944

While on patrol led by Lt. Hillsmen, Pvt. Clemens J. Meier was instantly killed by machine gun fire.

It seems that Japanese shelling is getting more accurate. This morning four of our boys on the mortar crew were injured by a direct hit in the gun pit. Two of the boys, Pvt. Simmons and Pvt. Calvin Smith, were seriously wounded while the other two, Pvt. Kurt Wolff and T/5 Walter Moyer escaped with minor injuries.

June 9, 1944

The past few days have been trying ones. Our patrols are encountering only light arms fire from the enemy. B Co. men are doing most of the scouting.

June 10, 1944

It poured in early morning and on a wet round from one of our mortars Perkins and Fraunberger were hit.

This morning we tried to move down to the well. After advancing about 400 yards, we encountered the Japs, who let one platoon get in, then all hell broke loose. A Co., who had led the attack, had many casualties. 1st Lt. Henrich was killed and Bucky Morris was listed as missing. On this attack B Co. men were pinned down for an hour by mortars and machine gun fire. Wounded were Slater and Rainwater. Coffill, setting off a booby trap, was injured.

This was our first offensive against the enemy who are very well entrenched. The 1st and 2nd platoons held while the 3rd withdrew to our old perimeter. This marked the first time that so many men had taken to reading their Bibles, for death can claim its next victim in a split second.

June 11, 1944

It rained all morning. About noon we tried again to move down to the well. C. Co. was leading the advance with B Co. right behind them. We were getting plenty of cooperation from our mortars and the planes were bombing and strafing just a few hundred yards ahead of us. We encoun-

tered heavy sniper and small arms fire. Being pinned down most of the afternoon, it finally became apparent we would have to withdraw to our old positions to hold a better field of fire.

June 13, 1944

Another manifestation of Jap accuracy with artillery fire was again experienced this morning. T/5 Bodziak, T/5 Roonan, Pvt. Poobi, the latter being of A Co., were seriously wounded while eating breakfast.

Late that afternoon 1st Lt. Stefl returned with orders for B Co. to move. Our mission was to infiltrate behind the enemy lines and establish a road block in order to split the Jap forces opposing us. The rest of the Battalion was to follow.

As we were to leave in the early hours of the next morning, the men kept busy ridding themselves of all equipment except their weapons, ammunition and one meal of K rations. Machine gunners removed all tracers from the belts, doing this so our position would not be exposed at night.

June 14, 1944

At 4 a.m., our Company moved out under the leadership of Col. Coombs. Under cover of darkness we advanced about half a mile. Our first casualty on this move was T/5 John Nealon who was killed by enemy machine gun fire.

Dawn was breaking as we reached our objective. The first platoon of B Co. crossed the road to form that end of the perimeter. Pfc. Willie Jordan, Bullard and Newfarmer were hit immediately before they could dig in, the enemy opening up with heavy small arms fire and mortars. Meanwhile the rest of the men took whatever cover they could find and proceeded to give supporting fire to the first platoon whose casualties were quickly mounting. Two machine guns were moved to the edge of the road to give cover to the wounded who were trying to re-cross the road. Machine gunners, Korzenowski, McGarey, Tillema were hit almost immediately. Three more men quickly replaced them. On the other

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HEADQUARTERS 5307 COMPOSITE REGIMENT [PROVISIONAL]

A.P.O.
884 c/o PM, New York, N.Y.
1 January 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 2)

Under the provisions of AR 600-20, as amended, the undersigned assumes command of 5307th Composite Regiment (Provisional) effective this date.

CHARLES N. HUNTER
Lt. Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: "C"

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HEADQUARTERS 5307 COMPOSITE UNIT [PROVISIONAL]

A.P.O.
884 c/o PM, New York, N.Y.
4 January 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 3)

Under the provisions of AR 600-20, as

amended, the undersigned assumes command of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) effective this date.

FRANK D. MERRILL
Brigadier General, U.S.
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS

5307 COMPOSITE UNIT [PROVISIONAL]

A.P.O.
884 c/o PM, New York, N.Y.
7 January 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 4)

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in General Order No. 2, Rear Echelon, Headquarters United States Army Forces, China, Burma, India, dated 2 January 1944, the 5307th Composite Regiment (Provisional) is redesignated 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)

By Command of Brig. Gen. MERRILL
LOUIS J. WILLIAMS
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS

5307 COMPOSITE UNIT [PROVISIONAL]

A.P.O.
487 c/o PM, New York, N.Y.
17 February 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 5)

1. The Interior Guard will consist of an Officer of the Day, one (1) Sergeant, Commander of the Guard, three (3) Corporals of the Guard and nine (9) Privates.

- a. Uniform for the guard will be H.B.T., leggings, cartridge belts, canteen and rifles.
- 2. Guard mount will be held at 1630 hours daily in the vicinity of the tent area.

3. The Officer of the Day will:

- 1. Familiarize members of the guard with orders, both General and Special.
- 2. Conduct a minimum of two (2) inspections of the guard, at least one before and one after 2400 hours.

3. Insure that the Sergeant of the guard himself be on duty in the warehouse area from 1700 hours until relieved by Hq personnel the following morning. The Officer of the Day will sleep in the Hq tent.

4. The following posts are established:
a. **Post No. 1.** The area comprising warehouses 2, 3 and 4, and parachute shed, tent, Hq Tent and adjacent supply dumps.

b. **Post No. 2.** The area comprising warehouses 17, 18, 19 and 20.

c. **Post No. 3.** A Roving post comprising the entire tent area and motor pool.

5. Members of the guard for Post No. 1 and 2 will sleep in the guard tent in the warehouse area.

6. Special Orders for all posts:

No. 1. All posts will be manned from 1700 hours to 0800 hours the following day.

No. 2. To allow no unauthorized persons to loiter in the area.

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Laissez les bons temps rouler (lay-zah lay bawn tawn roulay) — "Let the good times roll." The motto of most Louisianians.

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 2)

side of the perimeter Sgt. John McNiff, T/5 Kurowski and Pfc. Marshall spotted a basha filled with Japs. Volunteering, these men grenaded the Japs out of their position. Each man made several trips to get more hand grenades. All three of them were wounded. A few hours later it was decided that the remainder of the first platoon should re-cross the road to straighten our defensive position. S/Sgt. DeShane, T/5 Birrer, Pvt. Avant crossed the road, which was still under heavy fire to help bring back the wounded. Our casualties were

heavy, eight men killed and 15 wounded. Enemy fire slackened, giving our men a chance to dig in. Our medics, Pvt. Literio, who was wounded at the time, and T/5 Maegho were doing a splendid job with the supplies they had. To add to our misery it started to rain. A Japanese officer who spoke English very well, was calling out to us to surrender or die. We promptly told him to go to hell.

Our communications had been cut off. The small radios we had were of no use to us and we had no way of contacting our Bn. C.P. A Co., which had followed us, was cut in two. Only one platoon reached us. The Japs had cut us off so no help could reach us. Light small arms fire continued throughout the day and night.

June 16, 1944

This day brought more rain and misery to our men. The wounded were having a hard time keeping their wounds clean and dry. There was no possible way to evacuate these men, some of whom were seriously wounded. We suffered a few more casualties from sniper fire. S/Sgt. Kumucha was killed and several others wounded. The Japs were again calling to us to surrender. We replied with a hail of lead. We tried to contact the Battalion but to no avail.

The situation is beginning to look quite hopeless, as the Japs are mortaring the daylights out of us at point-blank range. Our casualties are ever increasing as many of the already wounded are again hit by enemy artillery.

Early this morning three Piper Cubs attempted to drop us food and medicine which, above everything else, is what we need. It is still pouring steadily, adding to the ever-increasing misery of our already saddened spirits. One parachute landed in the middle of the road, between Robbins machine gun and the Japs. It would be suicide for whichever side attempted to get to it. One Jap started out, Burkavage exterminated him. The Japs then put a mortar through it blowing everything to bits.

At dusk we all moved out as quickly as we could, taking along all of the wounded. The tension and the desire to make it back was felt among all for this would be our last at-

tempt in getting out of this trap. Rain was falling, with the darkness making it impossible to see five feet ahead of one another, which was one of the best breaks in aiding us to return.

S/Sgt. Shockley, Pfc. Osman, Pfc. M. Miller swam across a small creek several times to bring back men who were exhausted and wounded. Pfc. Bartley who had suffered a leg wound, was the only man that drowned.

It wasn't until midnight that Pvts. James, Pam, Pavone and Sutherland pulled out. Somehow word had not reached them for they were at the end of the perimeter. However, all returned safely.

June 17, 1944

The sight of these men as in the early hours of the morning they came out of the rice fields, exhausted, aiding the wounded, falling upon one another, tears in the eyes of many of them as they gorged C and K rations as if it were the best of food, was very touching. It was indeed a miracle that we were still alive. Brotherly love was established at this point which made the world of difference in this company's future.

Twenty men of B Company alone were killed, and 25 wounded, in three days of the hardest ordeal the men had ever gone thru.

June 19-21, 1944

The devotion of Pvt. Rogers in staying with T/5 Birrer, Marshall and Tillema helping these wounded men to return to safety, shall be remembered by all as one of the outstanding deeds performed in combat.

All of the wounded were now being evacuated as quickly as possible. There being no jeep roads they were hauled out on ox-driven carts to the air field and then flown to the 20th general hospital. Many of these men will go to the States as their

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Officer's Row

President — We have been in touch with the new chairman for the New Orleans reunion. Emma and I will be attending the Korean War Ranger Reunion at Ft. Benning in early June. We would like to suggest that anyone planning to offer a reunion site for next year should make a written presentation to be placed on a bulletin board so that the membership can review it in writing. — Phil Piazza.

Executive Secretary — Remember that we are away from home traveling from mid-June to mid-September. No phone calls possible. First class mail is forwarded to us; so we can reply and answer questions. But it is not possible to handle memorabilia transactions until after the reunion.

Editor — We occasionally receive nice letters about the BURMAN NEWS. We would like everyone to know that our ambition is to make it so good that you will all send us Address Changes when they happen because you would not want to miss a copy. For some post office reason, we have copies of the BURMAN NEWS returned to us marked "Temporarily Away." The post office charges us 22 cents to tell us that. We have given up the practice of re-mailing copies at an additional 22 cents since we do not know when you will be back home. If you miss a copy and want one, write and let us know. We issue the BURMAN NEWS three times a year. On the first of November, February and May. Another problem has recently developed that we could use some help with. When a member has an old photo that he offers to make available, we have been making an 8 x 10 B&W copy to use first in the BURMAN NEWS and then to keep in the albums for use at the reunions. When we started this practice, the local photo shops would make them for us for about \$2.50. Now the cost has gone over \$7.00. Is there a member who could do this work for us as a hobby? The Association would gladly pay costs. — Raymond V. Lyons.

Director — At this point we have mailed 38 Marauder video tapes. As more of our members and subscribers acquire VCR's (VHS), the numbers will increase. The tape is the only one of its kind and the sales and income thereof will continue indefinitely. David Quaid, P.O. Box 1617, Duxbury, MA 02331-1617.

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Joie de vivre (zhwah duh viv-re) — "The joy of living, the attitude of our citizens which permeates our lifestyle."

Fall In

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

- FRED P. BYRNE, 113 Woodland Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610; 475/3/HQ.
 DAVE DAVIS, HCR 70, Box 141, Laporte, MN 56461; 5307/3/L Co.; 475/3/L Co.
 JOSEPH G. DEFILLIPO, Lot #200, 12401 Okeechobee Rd., Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016; 5307/2/BCT/HW.
 JAMES A. HARPS, P.O. Box 879, Hot Springs Nat. Pk., AR 71902; 475/2/HQ/ALO.
 WILLIAM O. HILL, 1387 Davison Rd., Harbor Creek, PA 16421; 5307/475/2/HQ/I&R Platoon.
 THOMAS L. KERLEY, 1600 Bay Breeze Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23454; 5307/H Force; 150 China Regiment.
 JOHN R. LOHR, 20 Chestnut St., Spotswood, NJ 08884; 475/612 FA/B Batt.
 FRANK R. MASTRANGELLO, 7 D Mansion Woods, Agawam, MA 01001; 5307/2/Co G; 475/2/G.
 GLENN M. McCARTY, 1021-F Archibald Ave., Ontario, CA 91764; 5307/2/GCT.
 CLARIS G. OLSON, Rt. 2, Box 3129, Miles City, MT 59301; 5307/2/BCT/E Co./4th Platoon
 JAMES R. SIMPSON, 12116 Brookmeadow, Dallas, TX 75218; 613 FA/C Batt.
 FRANK SMOLENSKI, 203 Jacob St., Bristol, CT 06010; 5307/475.
 GARLAND B. SNEDEGAR, 456 Yarmouth Ln, Columbus, OH 43228; 5307/3/I/3 Plat; 475/3/I Co.
 GEORGE T. STORY, 22 Rosewood Rd., Edison, NJ 08817; 613 FA Bn, C Batt., Sec. 4.
 JAMES K. WILSON, 1101 East Kenner, Apt. 5D, Beeville, TX 78102; 5307/3/KCT.
 GEORGE J. WILTRACK, 5374 South Blvd., Maple Heights, OH 44137; 5307/475.
 DON JOHN, 2329 Mayflower Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53083; 5307/236/H&S

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 3)

wounds could never receive the proper treatment in this damp country.

The Company was then moved to the "Y" where the remainder of the Company dug large foxholes so that the men could get as much rest as possible.

Col. Coombs, who had led us in, was killed, but only after he had killed three of the Japs with his 45. Many of us shall remember this outstanding leader and the coolness with which he handled men under fire. The next few days were spent in discussing the narrow escapes we had encountered. The change to hot meals was a welcome one. Nearly all of the men got a complete change of clothes, and shaved for the first time in two weeks.

June 23, 1944

B Co. again moved down to the front line perimeter. Other than small arms fire during the day and night we did not meet with much opposition.

June 24, 1944

B Co. moved over to the right and due south taking up positions next to the Chinese. Our perimeter was overlooking a large swamp, yet this day was rather a quiet one. Our planes are continually after the Japs, forever strafing the enemy and dropping bombs.

Many more of the men are looking haggard. The lack of clean clothing or dry ones is the cause for the increase in jungle sores upon the bodies of many. We are now down to about 50 men left in B Co. Dysentery is getting very bad, many of the men being evacuated for this reason.

June 25, 1944

Late that afternoon we moved forward about 500 yards. Encountering no enemy fire, we again moved and dug in. Just before dusk, orders came that 16 men would be left behind at a T-shaped part of the road to act as a road block should the Japs force an attack, while the remainder of the Co. returned to the perimeter to engage the Japs from the left flank. The heat was very intense as the men left behind proceeded to dig foxholes and set up for the night. Several of the men were badly in need of water and could be seen crawling at the edge of the road block and getting the muddy water for drinking purposes as this looked like a hot spot. T/5 Slater was busy putting up booby traps, our only outside contact being a phone to battalion. Machine gunners were fixing their holes, while several of the men were filling in single foxholes so that the Japs would not be able to crawl in and have us at point-blank range. Suddenly T/5 Kolander let out a yell to get that dirty so-so for there stood a Jap right over Vandayburg's hole who was so engrossed with his covering that he had not noticed this sneaking Jap. Robbins, at that time, was digging around his machine gun pit while Burkavage, his assistant gunner, had gone for water. Robbins leaped into his hole and opened fire right over the head of

Vandayburg and blowing the daylight out of the Jap who didn't know what hit him. Another Jap, who attempted to crawl away, was also blasted to bits.

The Japs had already cut our phone so that all of us decided the best thing to do would be to try and reach our perimeter which we did, getting there just as darkness was coming on. These men shall remember this day for our narrow escape, being glad that the Japs had not come in with a larger force. They shall remember too, the grind of running back with as much equipment as we could possibly carry.

June 26, 1944

The Japs are increasing their mortar shelling, getting more accurate daily. In the afternoon we moved back about 300 yards while our planes went over and bombed and strafed the enemy. We then advanced. This was taking place in the middle of the afternoon when the heat was unbearable. Small arms fire by the enemy kept us from putting up shelter halves and about 30 of the men were passing out from heat and lack of water. Yet, we continued to hold.

The Chinese are moving from the right to the left flank in an effort to cut off small pockets of remaining Japs. The tall elephant grass is serving both sides with excellent cover, yet sniper fire has increased.

Although we are making progress, our advance is slow. Our perimeter is now in a triangular form with B Co. at the head of the spearhead.

June 28, 1944

During the day telephones were placed in the machine gunners holes so they can direct mortar fire more accurately. Most of the day was quiet, with small bursts of enemy machine gun fire.

Just at dusk, Cpl. Massinari went out to lead in the men that were out on the outpost. Getting a little ahead of the men as they were returning, a sudden burst of enemy machine gun fire resulted in his being killed instantaneously.

June 29-31, 1944

Rain — forever rain — came down in torrents as the monsoon continued. One would think we were aboard ship for sleep was impossible, lying in water day in and day out. The Japs got one of our transports just over

the rice paddy, getting away before our planes could get them.

More of our men are being evacuated. The jungle sores and dysentery are making them so weak that they can't be used on the front lines.

July 2, 1944

The Japs are now beaten, yet they are stubbornly holding out in small groups, making advance very slow. They have now brought up "Whistling Pete," a 155 mm howitzer with which they continue to fire a few rounds and then move, so that we will not be able to get the range, and so that our snipers will not be able to spot this large fire piece.

July 5, 1944

We are continuing to make small gains each day. Our B-25s are starting to come over the city in groups of 16, dropping in clusters of 500-lb. bombs.

To our right flank Galahad, an infantry unit, are making good progress across the rice paddies and are driving the enemy into open country.

July 10, 1944

Gains are slow as we are cleaning up enemy pockets that are holding up our advances. Our planes are daily bombing and strafing. The Chinese are moving forward in an effort to cut off all escape.

July 15, 1944

Our men were pulled for a three-day rest and were placed a few miles from the "Y" in a place called North Shapati. Although this was to have been a rest some officers who had just come in as Replacements started to teach the men how to operate Jap equipment, as well as to operate other weapons. This made a farce out of the rest. We were to get after 50 days of continuous combat.

July 20, 1944

Fighting has slowed up. Many of the Japs are surrendering, as our planes are dropping leaflets, as well as the recording machine calling on them to surrender without harm.

July 23, 1944

The few men that were left of B Co. were now able to go into the trap looking for the remains of some of our lost members. One of the last men to be killed was Private James, who was instantly killed as he

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Pass In Review

DEATHS REPORTED RECENTLY

Name and Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where, When Deceased.

MILTON PICKARD BALL, Rt. 1, Gates, TN 38037; 5307/3/OCT/K Co.	November 18, 1944
JOHN S. BIANCANIELLO, Box 31, Suffolk Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946; 5307/2/31/QM/PK/TR	October 9, 1944
HOWARD J. FORBES, Grove St., Union Springs, NY; 5307	February 13, 1944
WARREN C. FRY, Hometown Unknown; 5307/3/OCT/HW Plat.	June 4, 1944
PAUL M. HENKE, Llano Rt., Box 20, Fredericksburg, TX 78623; 124 Cavalry	January 8, 1944
STANLEY J. HERRICK, 730 W. Roderick Ave., Oxnard, CA 93030; 5307/1/WCT/HQ	October 10, 1944
JAMES W. HOLCOMB, 407 W Van Buren St., Belleville, IL 62220; 5307/1/RCT	February 17, 1944
ARTHUR LINNEMEYER, 512 West 1st St., Apt. 2, McCook, NE 69001; 5307/3/OCT	July 1, 1944
JOHN NAPIORKOWSKI, Camden, NJ; 5307, Myitkyina, Burma	July, 1944
RAYMOND LAWRENCE RIPPEL, 624 No. Robinson St., Baltimore, MD 21205; 5307	July 6, 1944
FRANK J. SULLIVAN SR., 19 Carter St., Concord, NH 03301; 5307/1/RCT; 475/1/	December 25, 1944
RAYMOND F. STARK, JR., 1011 Quince St., Sidney, NE 69162, 475th Infantry	February 27, 1944

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Zydeco (zod-e-coh) — lively variant of a Cajun music, derived from the word haricot, French for string bean.

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 4)

a water bag for one of his buddies.

July 29, 1944

We were to have been pulled out this morning but instead were placed in some foxholes of the Chinese. During the afternoon, American infantry replacements came and the Battalion was finally taken out of combat.

November 30, 1944

The "Presidential Unit Citation" was awarded as a unit to the 209th Engineers for the splendid work performed in combat.

August 20, 1945

The new Colonel for the 209th spoke to the Company, discussing the fine work we had done both on the road and in combat.

Presentation of the awards were made by Capt. Stefl, our former C.O. They were as follows:

Silver Star to Pfc. Harvey Tohet
Silver Star to Sgt. Harvey Rogers
Bronze Star to S/Sgt. Lester Shockley
Bronze Star to S/Sgt. Kenneth DeShane
Bronze Star to Corp. Larry Birrer
Bronze Star to T/5 William Avant
Bronze Star to Pfc. Frank Osman

Purple Hearts to the following:

1st Lt. Robert Kraus
1st Sgt. George Dodson
Sgt. Wilbur Coffill
Sgt. Stephen Fraunberger
Sgt. Thomas Hewlett
Sgt. Paul Wallo
T/4 Russell Litcher
T/4 Walter Moyer
T/4 Glenn Rainwater
T/4 Aries Tellema
Corp. John Fitzgerald
Corp. Dennis McGowan
Corp. Richard Miller
T/5 Walter Bodziak
T/5 Floyd Corder
T/5 Willie Jordon
T/5 Harry Kurowski
T/5 Paul Pershing
T/5 Michal Plinski
Sgt. John McNiff
Pfc. Charles McLaren
Pfc. Frank Slemensek
T/5 Charles Rhodes
T/5 Vernon Rifenburg
T/5 Donald Samler
T/5 Calvin Smith
Pfc. Paul Aldridge
Pfc. Howard Duff
Pfc. Manuel Marshall (2 Oak Leafs)
Pfc. Eugene McCarty
Pfc. Frank Osman
Pfc. Albert Parker
Pfc. Jesse Paulk
Pfc. Robert Shane
Pfc. Homer Turner (1 Oak Leaf)
Pfc. Harvey Tohet
Pfc. Philo Winters
Pfc. Kurt Wolff
Pvt. Joseph Bueche
Pvt. George Sohen

Transferred since combat who received the Purple Heart, are as follows:

1st Lt. Meyers
1st Lt. Arthur Adler
Sgt. Raymond Galus
Sgt. William Langley
Corp. Larry Birrer
Corp. Joseph Korzenowski

Corp. Harry Roonan
Sgt. Frank Perkins
Pfc. Charles Lane
Pfc. Frank Pann

Killed in action citations:

Bronze Star to Sgt. Lloyd Heatton

Twenty-seven men, killed in action, received the Purple Heart, posthumously. They are:

S/Sgt. Joseph B. Kmucha
Sgt. Lloyd G. Heatton
Sgt. Jack O'Connell
Sgt. Maurice Strutz
Sgt. Albert W. Thayer
T/4 Everett R. Shattler
Cpl. Marvel Carlson
T/5 Harold McGarey
T/5 John J. Nealon
Pfc. Lynn Bartley
Pfc. Chester Bowler
Pfc. Wiley A. Bullard
Pfc. Tom P. Dolan
Pfc. Walter Gутtenberger
Pfc. Sheridan R. Holt
Pfc. Robert Kramer
Pfc. Joseph Masneri
Pfc. Raymond Merchlenich
Pfc. Wm. L. Newfarmer
Pvt. Charles R. Covert
Pvt. Peter Curr
Pvt. Melvin C. Deese
Pvt. Percy A. James
Pvt. Clemens J. Meier
Pvt. Wm. R. Morris
Pvt. Oscar L. Myrick
Pvt. Roy R. Wendt

COMPANY B ROSTER**Headquarters Platoon**

JUNGERS, MERLIN
555 English Lane, Dubuque, Iowa
SMITH, IRVIN E.
3105 Main St., Joplin, Mo.
ERICKSON, ROY J.
1518 Elliot Ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn.
PRITCHETT, JAMES I.
716 W. 25th St., Houston, Texas
CANNIFF, GORDON M.
R.F.D. No. 3, Juneau, Wisc.
PLINSKI, MICHAEL, Buchanan, No. Dak.
RACKLEY, WALTER L.
P.O. Box 533, Clinton, No. Car.
SLEASMAN, JOHN J.
330 First St., Albany, N.Y.
BUECHE, JOSEPH A., JR.
3875 Sherwood Drive, Baton Rouge (5) La.
SUTHERLAND, LESLIE C., Manter, No. Car.
CAMERON, GEORGE H.
2623 Sanson, Spokane, Wash.
HEATH, AMOS D.
R.F.D. No. 2, Correctionville, Iowa
SMITH, CALVIN H.
Sexington St., R.D. 4, Box 3, Lamar, Mo.
VECHES, LOREN A., Buffalo, Minn.
ROBBINS, SAUL
3041 Gladstone (209), Detroit (6), Mich.
CARRIERIE, JOHN
18 Cambridge Place, Worcester (4), Mass.
APOSTOLOS, JAMES M.
607 Pilot Butte Ave., Rock Springs, Wyo.
SNIDER, WAYNE
East Main St., Coldwater, Ohio
KOLANDER, GORDON, Rt. No. 1, Vesta, Minn.
ROGERS, HARVEY
705 Walnut St., Kirksville, Mo.
VANDAYBURG, ELMOUS
1020 Fairlawn Ave., Newark, Ohio
LAWSON, ROBERT T.
2113 So. 9th St., St. Joseph, Mo.

(Continued on page 6)

Sharing the Story

THE MARAUDER PATCH

By M / Sgt. Michael Gabbett

On January 1st, 1944, the 5307th came into being. Originally commanded by Col. Charles N. Hunter, command was subsequently taken over by Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill. These events took place in Camp Deogarh, India.

James Shepley, then a writer for Time & Life, was credited with the name "Merrill's Marauders" shortly after the unit left Deogarh for its march into Burma.

Sometime in the Spring of 1944, word went out that since the MM's were the only ground combat unit in the CBI Theater, and had been designated a "Long Range Penetration Group," it seemed only fitting that they should have their own distinctive unit emblem.

As I recall, the incentive for the person(s) submitting the winning design, would be a seven day furlough to Calcutta. This writer submitted three variations of a similar design. Basically, it would (and should) include a reference to the CBI Theater; so that anyone seeing the patch, would immediately recognize the geographical location. Thus, I incorporated the Star of India, the Logo of China (Kuomintang Sun), the Green of the Burma Jungle, the Blue of the Rivers, and most importantly of all the Bolt of Lightning, to signify our "Swift and deadly foray against our Japanese enemies.

The original patch as submitted was the basic design, however as the Marauder's exploits gained more and more publicity, caught the eyes of the reading public, "Merrill's Marauders" became a symbol. Subsequently the name was submitted for approval (By whom unknown) and became a part of the original design.

It is not known for a certainly where the patch was made for the first time. It could have been either in the Margherita - Ledo staging area, or in Calcutta. Many copies have been made since. The original whose stars were made of metal have become "collector's items."

I never did get the seven-day furlough to Calcutta.

After the Battle of Myitkyina, many of the original Marauders were shipped home. The remainder, along with replacements, were re-designated the 475th Infantry. At present the Marauder patch is worn by the 75th Infantry Rangers.

Personal History

US Army, enlisted NYC, 1935
19th Inf, Schofield Barracks HI Dec. 7, 1941
1688A 1st Bn, Pers Sgt. 5307th Pers Sgt Maj

475th Hq Co, 1st Sgt.
1st Sgt H Co, 29th Inf & 18th Inf,
1st Div, Germany
1949-1960 Army C.I.D. Germany
Retired 1 Sep 1960.

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Gumbo — thick, savory soup with chicken, seafood, sausage or wild game.

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .
(Continued from page 5)

DeSHANE, KENNETH G.
9540 7th Ave., N.W., Seattle, Wash.
LONGARIC, STEPHEN
1936 Burnside St., Detroit, Mich.
BRATTON, KELLUS, 506 N. 6th St., Carmi, Ill.
REILEY, CARL F., Rt. No. 1, Frederick, Md.
JEFFRIES, BASIL, JR.
821 Lafayette Ave., Lebanon, Ind.
ROMERO, ROBERT, Dixon, N.M.

GRAYUM, DELBERT E.
Rt. No. 2, Manila, Ark.
SAMPLER, DONALD
3631 Drexel St., Omaha, Nebr.
RICHARDS, THOMAS L.
P.O. Box 503, Crowley, La.
RIGNEY, ALONZA, Rt. No. 3, Oenhook, Va.
MAURO, LOUIS P.
1609 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, N.Y.
DODSON, GEORGE A.
8017 Wilson Rd., Kansas City, Mo.

1st Platoon

PAULK, JESSE L., Rt. No. 1, Rotan, Texas
ADDINGTON, ISRAEL
c/o Floyd Killen, Pond, Va.
JORDAN, WILLIE C.
Rt. No. 1, Box 121, Steeds, No. Car.
ENOS, A. J., 412 "S" St., Sacramento, Calif.
PAVONE, VIC
1442 31st Drive, Astoria, L.I., N.Y.
RAINWATER, GLENN, Morantown, Ind.
SLATER, DANIEL J.
1604 Burns Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
HAYES, HENRY, Rock Hill, So. Car.
PARKER, ALBERT
3805 Marais St., New Orleans, La.
HITE, CHARLES W.
751 Ridgewood Ave., Hamilton, Ohio
TURNER, HOMER C.
Rt. No. 2, Mt. Herman, Ky.
COOLEY, JAMES C.
6014 E. 16th St., Kansas City (3), Mo.
TOHET, HARVEY, Warm Springs, Ore.
FLOYD, CECIL
Rt. No. 5, Box 50-G, Orlando, Fla.
HUME, GEORGE C.
4427 Stewart Ave., Chicago, Ill.
LAUER, VAL. G.
226 Princeton Ave., Jersey City, N.J.
NEWELL, ANTON C.
2003 Garth St., Wausau, Wis.
PERSHING, PAUL S.
710 Race St., Dover, Ohio
MATHESON, LLOYD
6 State St., Montpelier, Vt.
McCARTY, EUGENE V.
215 Clinton Apts., Chillicothe, Ohio
ROZAKIS, PETER
560 W. 184th St., New York City, N.Y.
FRAUNBERGER, STEPHEN J.
150 Harrison St., Passaic, N.J.
McGOWAN, DENNIS J.
121 Woodlawn Ave., Massena, N.Y.
DeSANTIS, FRANK
2057 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn (23) N.Y.
SOHN, GEORGE
603 Gray St., Des Moines, Iowa
BODZIAK, WALTER E.
503 Stoney Creek, Boswell, Pa.
CABALLERO, ANGEL
Rt. No. 3, Box 45, Yuma, Ariz.
WISENER, O. B., Warrior, Ala.
KONDRAT, BEN
5105 Sobieski St., Detroit (12), Mich.
WOLFF, KURT
25 Garden City Blvd., W. Hemstead, L.I., N.Y.
YOUNG, EARL
1227 "6" St., N.E., Minneapolis (13), Minn.
McLAREN, CHARLES E.
805 So. 16th St., Harrisburg, Pa.
WILSON, ANDREW H.
142 Powell St., E. Pittsburgh, Pa.
KOPACZ, JOHN
3898 30th St., Detroit (10), Mich.
JOHNSON, RALPH W.
c/o Mrs. Carrine Totten
1400 N. State St., Apt. 1, Jackson, Miss.

2nd Platoon

MILLIGAN, ONZIE LEA
Rt. No. 1, Tabor City, No. Car.

BAKER, CHARLES
2402 Durhau St., Brownwood, Texas
MURPHY, JOSEPH A., Shoshone, Idaho
SHOCKLEY, LESTER E.
1115 Kansas Ave., Atchison, Kansas
JOHNSON, CLIFTON H.
Rt. No. 1, Beresford, S.D.
RIFENBURGH, VERNON
12 Garden St., Rhinebeck, N.Y.
SILVA, ALFRED
R.F.D. No. 2, Yuba City, Calif.
LANE, CHARLES W.
1329 N. 5th, Fort Dodge, Iowa
GREER, EDDIE M., Box 72, Schell City, Mo.
PURDON, LEONARD PUTMAN
Box 58-N, Fort Bragg, Calif.
WINTERS, PHILO JAMES
23 State St., Hudson, N.Y.
MILLER, GERALD E.
39 Virginia Ave., West Orange, N.J.
WALLO, PAUL W.
Rt. No. 1, Ontonagon, Mich.
DUFF, HOWARD J., Rt. No. 2, Keokee, Va.
ANDERSON, RAY E., Box 22, Walcott, N.D.
SHANE, ROBERT M.
2733 Troost, Kansas City (3), Mo.
ALLEN, CURTIS, Rt. No. 3, Winnsboro, Tex.
WAGNER, GRANT S., Mocksville, N.C.
MOXON, GEORGE W.
1224 4th St., Woodward, Okla.
GRAY, JOE B., 116 Treakle St., Portsmouth, N.H.
CORDER, FLOYD V., Box 717, Delano, Calif.
TRESER, ROBERT E.
5760 Cuburn St., Indianapolis, Ind.
RIEDEL, HOMER F.
5518 Troost St., Kansas City, Mo.
MARSHALL, MANUEL L.
244 Green End Ave., Middletown, R.I.
CORYEA, FRANCIS M.
Rt. No. 1, Plattsburgh, N.Y.
FITZGERALD, JOHN
Box No. 2, Clifton Forge, Va.
SNELL, KENNETH D.
c/o Mr. J. A. Mutchler, Edina, Mo.
TILLEMA, ARIES, Wheatfield, Ind.
WAAK, ROY W.
R.D. No. 3, Box 219, LaPorte, Ind.
OSMAN, FRANK
639 Liberty St., California, Pa.
VAUGHN, WALTER, Hanover, Mich.
SLEMENSEK, FRANK J.
722 N. Haugh St., Indianapolis, Ind.
SLINSKY, ALEX, JR.
507 Smith St., Perth Amboy, N.J.
COOK, OLIVER, JR.
R.F.D. No. 1, Clarklake, Mich.

3rd Platoon

WARMUTH, ROBERT J.
991 E. 76th St., Cleveland, Ohio
ALDRIDGE, PAUL, P.O. Box 119, Tupelo, Miss.
RECTOR, IVAN L.
c/o S. A. Rector, Weeping Water, Nebr.
BROOKS, JAMES K.
Rt. No. 2, Adolphus, Ky.
HAM, JAMES A., Smarrs, Ga.
MOYER, WALTER F., Gilbertsville, Pa.
LaFOLLETTE, LEWIS P.
3234 S.E. 22nd Ave., Portland, Ore.
KUROWSKI, HARRY P.
7552 Hilldale Ave., Detroit (12), Mich.
PATOKA, BERLEY, R.D. No. 1, Lakewood, N.J.
ANDROSIECKO, JOHN
176 Pulaski Ave., Perth Amboy, N.J.

(Continued on page 7)

NOW AVAILABLE

**Merrill's Marauders
Combat Film Video Tape**

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 of 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 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 off a one-inch master 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 on 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 to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclose check or money order (no credit cards) for Thirty Dollars, \$30.00., includes shipping, made out to Merrill's Marauders Association. Address: Herbert Clofine, Treasurer, Merrill's Marauders Association, 1632 Surrey Lane, Havertown, PA 19083.

Louisiana Words and Sayings

Roux (roo) — basic ingredient of many Louisiana recipes. Essentially, seasoned flour browned in a skillet.

BATTLE OF MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 6)

AVANT, WILLIAM H.

Box No. 32, Campbellton, Texas

MCNIFF, JOHN E.

2 Copley Ave., Waltham, Mass.

RHODES, CHARLES T.

18 N. Franklin St., Knightstown, Ind.

HEWLETT, THOMAS J.

333 Baker St., Longmont, Colo.

MASSEY, EARL

4075 Congress Ave., Beaumont, Texas

WYATT, ROBERT C., c/o Mrs. Divi Marion

924 Oakland Ave., Topeka, Kansas

FLOREY, SAM, Clinton, Ark.

JONES, FRANK N.

710 Ash St., Watsonstown, Pa.

ROBERTSON, HONE II

R.D. No. 1, Atwater, Ohio

REID, JOSEPH

632 58th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

MILLER, RICHARD C.

Rt. No. 3, Box 84, McLeansboro, Ill.

CICCONE, VINCENT J.

357 "K" St., S. Boston (27), Mass.

NICHOLAS, BUSTER

233 W. 3rd St., Cambridge City, Ind.

BARTON, HANZEL D., Rosedale, W. Va.

NORWOOD, CHARLES V.

537 Pool Road, Biddleford, Maine

BUDANI, NICHOLAS V., JR.

380 Riverside Drive, Lake George, N.Y.

SLEASMAN, THOMAS J.

330 First St., Albany, N.Y.

DOUGLAS, WILLIAM E.

703 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.

COFFILL, WILBUR A., Litchfield, Conn.

PICHT, BERTS D., Box 162, Lohrville, Iowa

COWAN, WILLIAM E.

307 Thorman Place, San Antonio, Texas

LITSCHER, RUSSELL E., Fox Lake, Wisc.

BOZZO, FRANK A.

320 8th St., Sharpsburg, Pa.

BURKAVAGE, GEORGE E.

240 E. Lloyd St., Shenandoah, Pa.

DAWES, HENRY G.

Rt. No. 1, Box 109, Sharpsburg, N.C.

GREENE, ALBERT D.

1031 E. Market St., Jeffersonville, Ind.

HONEYCUTT, JESSE J.

R.F.D. No. 1, Dobbin, N.C.

Separate List — 1st Platoon

ITTERIO, BENNY J.

4065 S. Richmond St, Chicago, Ill.

LACZKO, JOHN, 1340 W. Erie, St., Chicago, Ill.

LING, BERNARD F.

Rt. No. 1, Bonner's Ferry, Idaho

ROKA, HARRY E.

3157 N. Weil St., Milwaukee, Wisc.

ROOK, O. J., JR., Rt. No. 1, Clarkslake, Mich.

ULLARD, JOHN W.

401 E. Franklin St., Mt. Sterling, Ill.

Separate List — 3rd Platoon

IRREER, LAWRENCE

ALUS, RAYMOND

R.F.D. No. 1, Linwood, Mich.

ORZENOWSKI, JOSEPH F.

613 20th Ave., N.E., Minneapolis, Minn.

ANGLEY, WILLIAM

2338 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada

EGEL, JOHN A.

5901 W. National, Milwaukee, West Allis, Wis.

OONAN, HENRY J.

747 Eastern Ave., Schenectady, N.J.

TEFL, CAPT. CHARLES A.

436 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville, Pa.

HONOR ROLL**Company "B" — 209th Engineers**

Sgt. Joseph B. Kmucha

Sgt. Lloyd G. Heaton

Sgt. Jack J. O'Connell

Sgt. Maurice E. Strutz

Sgt. Albert W. Thayer

T/4 Everett R. Shattler

Cpl. Elmer Smith

Cpl. Marvel L. Carlson

T/5 Harold E. McGarey

T/5 J. C. Hamilton

T/5 John J. Nealon

Pfc. Lynn Bartley

Pfc. Chester Bowler

Pfc. Wiley A. Bullard

Pfc. Tom P. Dolan

Pfc. Walter Guttenberger

Pfc. Sheridan R. Holt

Pfc. Robert E. Kramer

Pfc. Joseph Masneri

Pfc. Raymond Merchlevich

Pfc. William L. Newfarmer

Pvt. Charles R. Covert

Pvt. Peter Curr

Pvt. Melvin C. Deese

Pvt. Percy A. James

Pvt. Clemens J. Meier

Pvt. William R. Morris

Pvt. Oscar L. Myrick

Pvt. Roy R. Wendt

Letters

Editor:

You might want to mention a new book out called, "Burma, the Untold Story," by Won-loy Chan. I found this book most interesting for anyone who was there. Especially during the siege of Myitkyina. Chan was a combat intelligence officer as a Chinese American and a Japanese language specialist. He was attached to the Chinese 1st Army. C. William Johnson, 646 W Rio, San Pedro, Green Valley, AZ 85614; 5307/2/H/HW; 475/2/.

Editor:

Enclosed is an article from the February 22 issue of the Fargo, ND, Forum. It pertains to a group of 40 or so former army men from the CBI whose train was stuck in Fargo during a blizzard on Feb. 5-6, 1946. The troop train was headed for Camp Atterbury, Indiana. They were given the hospitality of the town despite the storm. Martin K. Ness, 612 FA Bn. (If any of our members were on this trip and would like a copy of the newsclipping, write to me for copy — Ray Lyons, Editor.)

Editor:

Here is my story and hope it will have meaning for others. We shipped out April 24, 1944, from Camp Patrick Henry, Va., on the USS General Butner. We stopped in Capetown, South Africa, and at Durban, South Africa. Then on to Bombay, India, landing there about May 25th. We traveled about four or five days on the Indian Railways and ended up at Dinjan, India, at a tent camp. I was there no more than two days.

They asked for Heavy Weapons volunteers (machine guns and mortars). I volunteered to go up to Myitkyina the next day. They took us to an airfield, loaded us

on a C-47, flew over the Taj Mahal at Agra, India. Then flew us to "Mitch." Landed on the strip about 2 - 3 p.m., and got shelled as we stepped off the plane and the pilot told us to "get the hell away from the plane" and he took off as fast as he could. Dug foxhole about 50 yards from strip and settled in for the night with water buffalo at night running into us and our "lines of tin-cans" warning.

Went across railroad line in big hurry after getting to it and was at Radhapur (with the well by the side of the road) and the place where the Jap was buried with his shoes just sticking out where he and his men had marched into ambush.

Names of men that I knew there — Pappy, our C.O., Vince DeMidio, Dominic Picinini, Fiddler (killed), Lt. Friedman, Sgt. Lilly and Ward (Silver Stars), Al Quatro. I can't even remember the name of my foxhole buddy who spent about 20 days with me.

From June 1st or 2nd, I was in continuous combat until the night of August 2, 1944. The night before "Mitch" was captured by us. On that night we were across the big rice paddy from Radhapur when shells came in, and killed two men next to me and caused me a loss of memory and shell splinters in my head and killed another of my men, who was three foxholes on the other side of me.

One of the men I trained with and went over with was a Sgt. Bill Bader from Johnstown, Pa. He was killed in ambush as they came up to the front lines about second week of June. Company F, I believe.

There is one subject that I hesitate to mention for fear of causing misunderstanding. That is the matter of who are Marauders?

At the Gettysburg, Pa. reunion, I and several others who served at "Mitch" came away with the distinct impression that we were not thought of by some of the members of the various combat teams as having credentials to be called Marauders. And in talking with one person who had been to the Florida reunion, he had the same experience.

I am well aware that a certain camaraderie develops between men in the same situation that we encountered in Burma, whether Old Galahad or New Galahad. And it is cemented together not only by the closeness of the men there but now by the memory of the sacrifices made and blood spilled in the efforts of all of us. We can have distinctive headgear and badges for our units, but we are all one group.

So, I would ask your indulgence to bring an end to this separateness that exists in the organization. S/Sgt. William S. Brader, RD 3, Bethlehem, PA 18015; 5307/2/E Co.; 475/2/E Co.

Editor:

We never thought an organization like this existed. But being a Marauder, I can understand why, now. The newsletter brought back many memories.

I originally was intended to be involved in the second campaign. I was flown in to Myitkyina air strip while it was still under artillery and mortar fire from the Japa-

Louisiana Words and Sayings
Il n'y a pas de sauce qui e'gale l'appe'tit.
There is no sauce like appetite.

(Continued on page 8)

nese. From there to the railroad and on to Col. Hunter's CP at Radhapur. Again had a lot of fire power from the Japanese. I was in the 3rd Bn, Company I, 3rd Platoon under 2nd Lt. Jim Applegate. The most realistic training was provided enroute at the Villages of Namkwi, Charpate, Pomate and some others that I can't recall the names. The 3rd Platoon and my squad was a few miles north of Myitkyina prior to the final capture of same. We took up positions west of the Irrawaddy River and east of the Sumprabum Road.

I had shrapnel wounds from a Jap hand grenade. Shrapnel was very small pieces and hot.

The First Aid man wrapped and banded me and returned me to my position. I kept asking myself what is a 19-year-old doing in this place.

Just before the fall of Myitkyina, I contacted the worst enemy, the tropical illnesses of malaria, typhus and dysentery. The wounds were apparently not recorded. I was not evacuated for the wounds but for the illnesses. After about three days, I found myself in the 20th General Hospital, Ledo.

My name was listed in the May 1986 newsletter, page 8, SO No. 15, reporting to the CO 475th for assignment to Co. I, 3rd Bn. Garland B. Snedegar, 456 Yarmouth Ln, Columbus, OH 43228; 5307/3/L/3; 475/3/I Co.

Editor:

Between 8 April '44 and 28 April, the 50th Chinese Division was regrouped and the 150th Chinese Regiment with its American liaison officers were assigned to Task Force H, under the command of Col. Charles N. Hunter. The ALO with the 150th were as follows:

Lt. Col. William H. Combs, Chief, LO 150th Regiment.

Capt. Thomas L. Kerley, 1st Bn, LO 150th.
Major Fred NMI Huffine, 2nd Bn, LO 150th.

Major Frank C. Hodges, 3rd Bn, LO 150th.

All of the above made the march over the Humon Range of mountains as part of H

Force and participated in the capture of the Myitkyina Airfield. Major Hodges was killed during the first few days of combat. On order from Col. Combs, I led the patrol that found Major Hodges between the lines. He was dead; shot in the back. Also on orders from LTC Combs, I led a patrol that found Captain William A. Laffin's body. He had been shot down by Jap planes that had just strafed the airfield and our column. His pilot was alive when we found the L-5 plane but died enroute to Seagraves Hospital. After being transferred from the 150th Chin Regt., LTC Combs was killed in June 1944 while serving with American Combat Engineers troops. I remained with the 150th until the Burma War was over. Col. Thomas L. Kerley, 1600 Bay Breeze Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Editor:

A day with Sgt. Clubb at Myitkyina.

Our platoon was sent to support I Company of MM who were on the flank of the Chinese troops. An infantry sergeant asked for a volunteer to help on a mortar crew. I volunteered and was assigned to a mortar crew commanded by Sgt. Clubb. The sergeant said if it would be necessary to fire the mortar during the night, my job would be to take shells out of the containers and hand them to him.

The night was uneventful and quiet. I had a restful night's sleep. In the morning, Sgt. Clubb instructed me how to aim, load and fire the 60 mm mortar. Sgt. Clubb said he was to be evacuated soon to India for a rest leave. I had Indian money, so I gave him all I had. Clubb gave me his compass, trench knife, ponchos and a spoon. Later that day I was recalled to my platoon, and the platoon was ordered back to the railroad block. Casimir Cytrynowicz, 1122 E. Center St., Mahanoy City, PA 17948; 209/A/3/1.

Editor:

As to my fighting at Myitkyina. You bet your boots I did and I also got wounded by shrapnel while on patrol. It screwed up my knee but not enough to keep me down. So,

after a Rest Camp stay, I went south with the Mars Task Force and got it again. Tonkwa with a Jap 25 in the face that cost me some teeth and face rebuild job later the States. Sammy Fanfalone, Jeep Dine and I got evacuated about the same time. We were all together in the 20 GH in Ledo. Sammy and I went back to the States on the same hospital plane. Later I heard that Jeep died at the 20th. I have often wondered what happened to Sammy, 'cause he was one damn gutsy little guy. Both arms were shot away from machine gun bullets. He had some use of them when we hit the States on the plane, but at Coral Gables Hospital, they split us up. He went to surgical hospital and I went to Thayer General in Nashville, Tenn. There they put me on steel knees that wore out recently. Now they are going to put in new ones after 40 years.

If anyone ever comes out with a video tape of our Burma battles, I would sure love to buy a copy so I can set my grandkids down in front of the TV and tell them "That's what your grandpa did in WW Two. So, shut up and watch it! 'Cause that's the best fighting there ever was in any war."

In that MM's book that you sent me, found another guy I remember serving with. That was Eugene Ryan of Moberly, South Dakota. "Chief" we called him. He was a big, tall guy and always had a tough job digging a fox hole big enough for himself. He and I walked back to back thru a village looking for Japs and all we found was burning cigarette butts that they left when they cleared out. We blasted two of them out of thatched bamboo rice soot hanging on bamboo poles. He was one heck of a swell guy. Just as nuts as I was then. Hope he came out okay before it ended. Dave Davis, HCR 70, Box 141, Laporte, MO 65461; 5307/3/L Co.; 475/3/L/3 Plat.

Louisiana Words and Sayings

La vie est a mottie' finie avant que l'ou sache en quoi elle consiste. Life is half spent before one knows what life is.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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