



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

February, 1988

Major General Mizukami — Defender of Myitkyina

The End in a Bunker

This is what I know about the General that committed Hari-kari at Myitkyina. The General's name was Mizukami.

A book written by Won-loy Chan, "Burma, the Untold Story" tells about the General committing suicide. As far as I know, no one saw him after he committed "Hari-kari" except for four or five men from the 236th Engineers. Mostly from H&S Company. I can remember only one name. He was T/5 Howard P. Horton, 33446390. I think he was from Washington, D.C. The souvenir that he got at that time was a large Japanese flag. Maybe 8' x 10'. Another one of the boys got the knife or dagger that Mizukami used to cut his own belly open from one side to the other. He still held the dagger in his hand when he was found. Another boy got the scabbard for the dagger. The last that I knew, the two boys never did get together to sell or buy the other, so that one of them would have the complete souvenir.

The underground dugout that the General was found in was about as big as a house

and was his headquarters, supply depot and hospital according to the men who went in to it.

Myitkyina had just fallen and we were back at the airstrip where we had been for about a week. We were guarding the airstrip at that time. I was back at Headquarters on sick call. A native man walked across the airstrip and told us where the General's dug-out was located. Horton tried to get me to go with them to see it but I didn't want to go. I am glad that I didn't because the place was booby-trapped with a 400 lb. bomb. The trigger to set it off was under a plank that was across a muddy place near the front door of the bunker. The boys didn't touch the plank going in. Instead they hugged the edge of the doorway and peeped in first to be sure no more Japs were in there. When they came out, they weren't worried about Japs and walked across the plank. The booby-trap had a 10 second delay fuse on it and the boys were maybe 50 ft. away when the bomb exploded. No one was hurt but they

were really scared.

I was about a city block away and we could see the large amount of dirt that it blew into the air.

Lt. Col. Greenlee saw it and he turned to us and said, "God damn it to hell. Go down there and see how many got killed." Before we started, we could see the boys running our way and all were safe. Since that time I have thought that the "Native" was a Jap wearing native clothing and just wanted us to get booby-trapped. They almost succeeded. (From a letter to Clarence Wiegert by Herbert Harris, 5307/236/H&S CO.)

Who was this General Mizukami?

He was a native of Kyushu, Japan. As the commander of the 56th Infantry Division Group he had brought along 1500 men to help defend Myitkyina. He was part of the 33rd Army of General Matsuyama that was responsible for defending the Salween River area (56th Division) against the Chinese, as well as the Hukawng Valley (18th Division) and the Myitkyina Area. There was still another division, the 2nd in reserve around Bhamo. The Japanese 114th Infantry, under Col. Maruyama, was originally responsible for the defense of the town. His instructions from the 33 Headquarters was to defend the Myitkyina area. Not necessarily the town, street by street, house by house.

But when Gen. Mizukami arrived on the scene later, the original orders were modified by a Colonel Tsuji Masanobu. This officer had been on the scene at every major Japanese campaign starting with the China Incident. He was also considered to be a savage. He changed the order on July 10, 1944, to read that "Major General Mizukami will defend Myitkyina to the death." It specifically cited the General by name, not the unit. The General obviously understood it that way. He also received signal orders telling him that he was being promoted two ranks to the rank of full general. Also a signal notifying him that he was to become a "God of the Army." (Looks like they felt the need for a martyr in Burma. Wonder what his family thought of all this honor? Also, did this mean that Col. Tsuji moved up the seniority list?)

Did this order mean that the entire garrison should defend the town until death?

Well, some of the garrison thought that it did and some did not. Mizukami ordered Col. Maruyama to start evacuation of wounded on August 1st and the remainder of the troops on succeeding nights. The Japanese report that about 700 escaped. Gen. Merrill stated to the 1952 MM Reunion that Col. Maruyama told him that when he attempted to re-assemble his regiment, he had only 33 men on hand.

612th Field Artillery Bn. (Pack)

A SHORT HISTORY
Courtesy Capt. M. K. Ness
(Reprinted from Ex-CBI Roundup)

On the morning of 17 November, 1944, under the command of Lt. Colonel Severn T. Wallis, the 612th Field Artillery Battalion marched from Camp Landis near Myitkyina, Burma, on its first combat mission. Attached to the 475th Infantry Regiment, it constituted the artillery element of one of two Combat Teams which together formed the 5332 Brigade, known as the Mars Task Force.

From 17 to 26 November, the march led generally southward to Tali, a distance of 95 miles. At Tali, A Battery was detached from the Battalion and with the 1st Battalion of the 475th Infantry struck out for Swegu to the southwest on a separate combat mission. Following three day's rest during which supplies were received by "air drop" the Battalion again proceeded southward, a distance of 98 miles, arriving December 9th in the vicinity of Tonkwa and the Nansin airstrip. This march was con-

ducted primarily during hours of darkness, the column at one time passing within a few miles of Japanese forces which had escaped during the last days of the siege of Bhamo. No contact was made, however.

At Tonkwa on 10 December, contact was made in force between the 2nd Battalion of the 475th Infantry and a Regiment of the once-famed 18th Japanese Division. The 2nd Battalion deployed into a perimeter extending both north and south of the Tonkwa River. B Battery moved within this perimeter, went into position on the north bank of the river and furnished approximately 40 of its men to man a sector of 300 yards between F and G Companies. The next day its guns were the first of an organic American Artillery Battery to bring its fire upon the enemy in Burma. Meanwhile C Battery, with the 3rd Battalion, established a perimeter approximately 1200 yards to the north near Ma-Hlang. Its fire was used in direct support of the 2nd Battalion perimeter.

Between 12 and 24 December, B and C Batteries gave direct support to patrolling actions undertaken by the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, fired on targets of opportunity, undertook harassing and interdiction missions and conducted counter-battery. In all,

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approximately 2500 rounds were fired by the two Batteries. Observation by the two Battalion Liaison planes and by the forward observers was very successful and considerable casualties, verified by later advances, were inflicted upon the enemy. The Japanese employed four 75MM guns, using numerous single positions, and although they succeeded in placing numerous rounds within the Battalion's gun positions and mule parks, casualties were extremely light. One man died of wounds received and two were less seriously injured.

On 24 December, the 3rd Battalion moved forward and occupied new positions in readiness for attack. C Battery likewise displaced forward. However, contact with the enemy was lost, their forces apparently retreating southward, and the day after Christmas the American forces deployed around Tonkwa were relieved by units of the 50th Chinese Division.

The action at Tonkwa enabled the 22nd Chinese Division to be safely flown from the airstrip at Nansin without fear of harassment by the considerable enemy forces deployed in that vicinity.

On 28th December, A Battery together with the 1st Battalion rejoined the 475th Combat Team, and on 1 January, 1945, the 612th Battalion moved out to embark with the other elements of Mars upon its second combat mission — to cut the Burma road north of Lashio and so isolate the Japanese forces falling back before the 30th and 38th Divisions of the Chinese First Army in the valley near Namkham.

The first leg of the arduous march from Tonkwa to the Burma Road led eastward to Mong-Wi, a distance of approximately 53 miles over rugged mountainous terrain cut by swift-flowing mountain streams. The trail was narrow and generally difficult. On the 3rd and 4th, the Shweli River was successfully crossed, and on 8 January the Battalion reached Mong-Wi. Supply on this march was entirely by "air drop," the only communication with Rear Echelon being by radio. At Mong-Wi, the Battalion rested in bivouac and received by air some replacement of clothing and equipment. The march was continued on 14 January, B Battery being detached and marching in serial with the 2nd Battalion. Proceeding eastward, the terrain became increasingly difficult, the narrow tortuous trails ascending and falling thousands of feet within a distance of a few miles. At several points a height of 6,700 feet was reached. Rain fell intermittently rending the trail almost impassable. Even though steps were cut in the mud, and alternate routes hacked from the jungle, many mules fell with their loads into the deep ravines. In order to arrive at the Line of Departure on D Day, 17 January, the Battalion on 16 and 17 January marched 36 hours with only one two-hour halt. Much of this march was undertaken along the beds of rock-bottomed streams, the men and mules often chest deep in water for several hours.

The immediate objectives of the 475th Infantry Combat Team included three hills grouped around the Hosi Valley and overlooking the Burma Road at approximately the 76 mile marker (mid-way between



Central Burma Campaign, Namkham, Burma, 19 January 1945, 612 FA/A Battery. Firing 75mm pack howitzer at Japs on Burma Road.

Namkham and Lashio). On 17 January, A Battery went into position on Nawhkam Ridge approximately 5,500 yards from the Burma Road and was the first Battery to open fire on Japanese motor traffic on the road. C Battery occupied position near-by and also opened fire on the 17th. Both Batteries, together with Battalion Headquarters, were within the perimeter of the 1st Battalion which had taken its objective, Nawhkam Ridge, during the afternoon, meeting light opposition and sustaining slight casualties.

On the night of the 18th, B Battery made a rapid occupation of position in darkness and under fire in the valley, the 2nd Battalion having met heavy opposition and having failed to take its objective, Loi Kang Ridge in the afternoon. The next morning, B Battery likewise opened fire. Its position was adjacent to the "drop" and liaison fields which were receiving intensive artillery and mortar fire from the enemy. In spite of harassment from this fire and from "free-dropped" grain bags, its guns were able to fire missions successfully.

It may now be revealed that had the 475th Combat Team failed to secure Hosi-Valley on D-Day for use in receiving supplies by air it could not long have sustained itself. Rations were exhausted on the evening of the 17th and ammunition supplies were very limited, there being no ground supply route to the rear.

To the north, the 124th Cavalry Regiment with the 613th Field Artillery Battalion jumped off against similar objectives near the Burma Road and by 20 January all units of the Mars Task Force had been committed; none were held in reserve.

By D plus 3, the 2nd Battalion had secured the northern tip of Loi-Kang ridge, the remainder and highest slopes of the ridge and its three villages still being occupied by strongly entrenched Japanese forces. Nevertheless, in order to fire directly upon the Burma Road, B Battery

was moved from the valley to the ridge and within the 2nd Battalion's perimeter, it being assigned a sector between E and Headquarters Companies. From this position, the road was at one point merely 1,700 yards away and direct fire was possible. The gun position was, however, in plain view of the enemy from the road and from the hills to the west as well as being within 300 yards of their perimeter on the ridge. On the 24th, A Battery moved its position on Nawhkam ridge and B Battery retired from Loi-Kang ridge to occupy the position thus vacated. The Battalion was now concentrated within an area of less than 1,000 yards and for the first time was brought under centralized control.

From 24 January through 5 February, all three firing Batteries and Headquarters received intensive and very accurate fire from well camouflaged and defiladed Japanese artillery in position along the Burma Road to the north. In spite of frequent changes in position, the firing Batteries received again and again direct hits in their gun positions. According to Brigade Intelligence reports, it is believed that three 150mm Howitzers, four 105mm Howitzers, eight 75mm guns and numerous 70mm Field Pieces were employed by the enemy in an effort to neutralize our fire. By 5 February, the 612th and 613th Battalions, assisted by Tenth Air Force P-47s, had forced a cessation of all enemy artillery action. During this period, however, the Battalion took rather heavy casualties; four men were killed and 46 wounded. In all, nine of the Battalions twelve Howitzers were rendered unfit to fire by direct hits or near misses. These were quickly replaced by "air drop" and consequently at no time did the Battalion have fewer than seven guns in action. A and B Batteries received direct hits in their ammunition pits and only through the gallant action of their gun crews in extinguishing the resulting fires

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were very serious casualties averted. During this period of almost three weeks, the Battalion through air, forward and OP observation fired approximately 9,500 rounds. The missions undertaken by the Battalion as a whole and by its Batteries separately included close support of combat patrols deployed from the Battalions of the 475th and accompanied by artillery forward observers, interdiction and harassing fire on the Burma Road (numerous enemy trucks and several tanks were destroyed by direct hits), and direct sup-

port of the infantry in attack. During the final attack on Loi-Kang 3 February by the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Battalion fired in preparation more than 2,000 rounds, laying down a barrage within 75 yards of the advancing infantry. The last enemy fire was received on 5 February and on the 6th, the Battle of Hosi Valley was successfully concluded. On that day, elements of the Chinese First Army including medium and light tanks hove in sight on the Burma Road and the Mars Task Force was considered to have been relieved.

Throughout the battle, the Air Corps lent direct support with strafing and dive bombing while the 5th and 115th Liaison Squadrons evacuated from the valley more than 700 casualties, their planes being subjected to enemy fire both on the "strip" and in the air. Nine of their planes were destroyed by artillery and mortar fire.

A "rest bivouac" was established in the valley on 8 February, the Battalion using parachutes from the "drop field" in the construction of tents. On the 11th, Lt. General Dan I. Sultan arrived by air, commended the 612th F.A. Battalion for its part in the battle and presented decorations. Two days later, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten likewise arrived by plane and spoke informally to the troops, praising highly their part in the reopening of the Ledo-Burma Road to China.

On 5 March, the 612th together with other elements of Mars began the long march southward along the Burma Road to Lashio. The intense heat and humidity of early spring and the hard surface of the road rendered this march grueling and exhausting even though it was conducted for the most part during hours of darkness. Hsai-Hkao was reached on 6 March, camp being made there until the 23rd when the march was resumed, a semi-permanent bivouac was finally established at Ina-Lang, near Lashio, on 25 March, the fall of this city bringing to a close the employment of American troops in Burma. On 3 April, B Battery was flown to Kunming, China, and on the 18th the remainder of the Battalion followed.

Letters

EDITOR:

Regarding the book, "Burma Rifles." I purchased a copy many years ago. I read it and put in on the shelf. It was one of the earliest publications dealing with the role of the Japanese Americans in combat intelligence. I was somewhat disappointed that it had been fictionalized, but it did succeed in recording numerous experiences, events and emotions shared by the Nisei during World War II. The names in the book are for the most part that of "real people," but not necessarily that of members of the MM. There is another book, "Yankee Samurai" about the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service.

My contacts with the Marauder Nisei have been haphazard over the years. We were a "Mixed bag of volunteers." The only things we all had in common were our ancestry and the fact that we had trained at the Military Intelligence Service School at Camp Savage, Minnesota.

Seven of the original 14 were from Hawaii and seven were from California and Washington State. Four had volunteered initially from the internment camps for MIS (Gosho, Matsumoto, Sugeta and Yoshimura); five were transferred from the 100th Infantry Bn, then training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; two had enlisted from college campuses in the Midwest; seven had studied in Japan; while the others had never been out of the U.S. Seven were college graduates in the U.S.; two others had attended Jr. College. There is a Nisei Veterans Association that holds reunions biennially. There is also a Military Intelligence Service Association of which I am a member. My commitment during the early postwar years and until the '70s has been with the Japanese American Citizens League and its attempts to translate the "Blood, Sweat and Tears" of the wartime sacrifices of persons of Japanese ancestry

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Officer's Row

President: We have been in contact with Father Glavin and it has been agreed that we will have the Memorial Service and Mass on Saturday afternoon instead of Sunday morning. We are also seriously considering changing the business meeting to Saturday afternoon instead of Sunday morning. We have always had a problem with people wanting to leave early on Sunday morning and having a conflict with the business meeting schedule. Phil Piazza, Rt. 3, Box 358, Seneca, SC 29678.

Reunion Chairman: The rates are as previously quoted: \$263 for double occupancy, \$171.50 for single occupancy, including all taxes-gratuities. For extra nights, \$45 double, \$41 single. These subject to 8 percent sales tax. Change food rate for children up to age 12. Rate is \$40 instead of \$41. I've been in constant touch with hotel and everything is a-ok at this time. Reservation cards will be ready for the May mailing of the Burman News. Tom Martini, 5680-P Grand Canal Way, Charlotte, NC 28226, phone 704-365-4667.

Executive Secretary: We would like to remind all concerned that in the event of the death of a Marauder, we would like to know the details and if the surviving family members would be interested in continuing on the mailing list to receive the Burman News. Thanks again to all for the help in searching out the names and addresses of former Marauders. You can see that we are still adding to our membership rolls.

We have added to our list of items for sale, "Burma, the Untold Story," by Won Loy Chan, a Chinese-American Intelligence assigned to the NCAC in Burma. Cost \$15.00. This story is notable for the amount of specific data made available. Order by check from me. Ray Lyons.

Historian: We have re-produced a speech made by General Merrill at the Charlotte, N.C. Reunion, 1952. It is in cassette mode and can be ordered from Herb Clofine for \$10.00. Clofine's address is 1632 Surrey Lane, Havertown, PA 19083. It had to do with information that the General obtained from the Japanese officers after the war while he was stationed in Japan. They indicated what they thought about the Marauders. Jack Benfield made a record at that dinner and it has just been made available to us by his widow, Bebe. David Quaid, P.O. Box 1617, Duxbury, MA 02332.

Fall In

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

WILLIAM V. BROWN, 838 North Tennessee Av., Palestine, TX 75801; 5307/2/BCT
 GEORGE F. FIELDS, 818 Birch, Blackwell, OK 74631; 475/31 QM PK TR
 MSG THOMAS GAGE, P.O. Box 1702, Nome, AL 99762; RANGER/75/F CO.
 WALTER A. HOGG, 1053 Owen Av., Jacksonville, FL 32205; 5307/1/A Co.; 475//A
 BERNARD JANSKIVICH, 410 Eighth St. No., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 475th
 JOHN LABOSKY, P.O. Box 296, Overton, TX 75684; 612 FA/HQ
 LAWRENCE LIM, 4532 Willow Brook Av., #101, Los Angeles, CA 90029; 5307/HQ
 FERROL V. MEATS, 2051 Harbor Dr., Springfield, OR 97477; 5307/2/GCT
 SGM HENRY B. MORTON, 85 Scotland Rd., Apt. B-6, Pueblo, CO 81001;
 Ranger/75/D & M CO's

WILLIAM N. MOXLEY, 318 West End Av., Ridgewood, NJ 07450; 5307/236/H&S, A Co's
 WALTER OSMAN, 31 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108; 475/HQ/COMM SEC
 ANTHONY PORZILLI, 341 So. Madison Av., Dunellen, NJ 08812; 613 FA/C Batt
 WALTER ROPITZKY, 4 Church Hill Rd., Waterford, NY 12188; 5307/2/E; 475/2/E
 NICK T. SASSARINI, Box 934, South River, Truckee, CA 95734; 5307/236/A/1
 PHILIP T. SPARN, 641 Evans Av., Kirkwood, MO 63122; 613 FA/C Batt.
 CALVIN WHITE, Rt. 1, Box 270A, Purvis, MS 39475; 5307/3/KCT; 475/1/A Co.
 ANDREW WOLNIAK, 213 Hudson St., Syracuse, NY 13207; 5307/HQ CO; 475/HQ CO.
 EARL R. WRIGHT, 1229 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice, FL 33595; 5307/3/OCT/75 MM PK AR

LETTERS . . .

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into positive gains for us and our nation. In recent years, however, I have devoted more and more time to Rotary, in particular its International Exchange Programs.

Our first year of retirement (probably beginning on April 1) will be busy by all indicators. Akiji Yoshimura, 120 Tenth St., Colusa, CA 95932, 5307-HQ-Intpr. Recently deceased — See Pass in Review.

EDITOR:

The premiere showing of the documentary film by Loni Ding entitled, "The Color of Honor" for Hawaii was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, 11-19-87. A significant part of the film was devoted to the Nisei interpreters who volunteered for hazardous duty with the Merrill's Marauders. There were 14 of us — seven from Hawaii and seven from the West Coast. Among them, four reside in Hawaii (Herbert Miyasaki, Thomas Tsubota, Russell Kono, (myself), four in the Continental U.S.A. (Hank Goshō, Ray Matsumoto, Grant Hirabayashi, Ben Sugeta), three in Japan (Edward Mitsu-

kado, Calvin Kobata, Roy Nakata; and three are deceased (Robert Honda, Jimmy Yamaguchi, Akiji Yoshimura). I did make it to the reunion twice — many years ago. It seems the demands of practice prevent my attendance lately. However, I do look forward to reading about the Association's activities and historical accounts. Perhaps my wife and I will be in a position to get away for some of the reunions when we are both retired a couple of years from now. Dr. Howard Furumoto, 4433 Aukai Av., Honolulu, HI 96816; 5307-3-OCT-INTPR.

EDITOR:

In the November issue, an error has been made by Lt. Col. Holland in his New Galahad article. The commanding officer of the 2nd Bn 475th was Lt. Col. Benjamin Thrailkill until KIA by shell fire during the blockade of the Burma Road near Nampakka. Recognition should be given to a very professional soldier. Lt. Col. Thrailkill, wounded at Tonkwa, returned to his battalion before his wounds had thoroughly healed and led his men until his death in his command dugout by a 150mm delayed

action shell. I was nearby at the time. Lt. Hobart Cavell, whom I knew very well from the siege of Myitkyina, also died a hero's death. The 124th Cavalry had a large role in driving the Japanese further south along the Burma Road. Lt. Jack Knight, CO of F Troop was the only Congressional Medal of Honor Award winner in Burma. Capt. Frederick R. Jones, S-2, 16 Hide-Away Lane W., Winter Haven, FL 33881.

EDITOR:

I flew into Myitkyina in a C-47 on a load of tarpaulin as an infantry rifleman from Ledo. Up to that time, I had trained as a surgical technician in the Medics. I was then attached to the Medical Detachment of the 5307th for a few days at the airstrip. Then was transferred to the 236th Combat Engineers, Company A, on the line as a company aid man. I treated General Wessell's aide, a captain, when he got shot in the shoulder, not far from his neck. General Wessell's said, "I guess you do see someone out there." He was commenting earlier about all the shooting that was going on from our side. Lt. Eichelberger was firing his bazooka off over my head. My ears were ringing for two weeks. William Chandlee, 5307-236-A Co.-Med., 240 Hartford Av., Daytona Beach, FL 32018.

**HEADQUARTERS REAR ECHELON
5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT (PROVISIONAL)**

A.P.O. 487
c/o PM, New York, N.Y.
10 April, 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 8)

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1. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART:

Under the provisions of par 11, AR 600-45, dated 8 August 1932, as amended, the O's and EM indicated below are awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in combat against the Japanese Forces in North Burma:

- PHILIP B. PIAZZA, 01302089, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Hq Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 24 March 1944 at Inkangatawng, Burma. Hometown: Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- KENNETH W. BRATTLÖF, 01308262, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Co. G, wounded 28 March 1944 at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Cloquet, Minnesota.
- ABRAHAM (NMI) BUSHMAN, 12008983, Staff Sergeant, Co. F, wounded 24 March 1944 at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Newark, New Jersey.
- HAROLD (NMI) SHOEMAKER, 20508075, Staff Sergeant, Co. I, wounded 5 March 1944 at Walaw Bum, Burma. Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio.
- MURRAY P. CLAYTON, 14033929, Sergeant, Hq Co., 3rd Bn, wounded 25 March 1944 at Ngagah-tawng, Burma. Hometown: Finger, Tennessee.
- MICHAEL J. HISCAR, 33302805, Sergeant, Co. G, wounded 24 March 1944 at Ngagah-tawng, Burma. Hometown: Clairton, Pennsylvania.
- RAY M. THARP, 36189650, Sergeant, Co. F, wounded 28 March 1944 at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Traverse City, Michigan.
- JAMES L. LENNON, 33099369, Sergeant, Co. C, wounded 18 March 1944 at North Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- GEORGE (NMI) McGEE, 32194638, Sergeant, Co. F, wounded 24 March 1944, at Ngagah-tawng, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, New York.
- WERNER (NMI) KATZ, 32173012, Corporal, Co. K, wounded 25 February 1944, at Lanem Ga, Burma. Hometown: New York, New York.
- WILLIAM P. HENDERSON, 32279882, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. F, wounded 28 March 1944, at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Wyoming, New York.
- JAMES W. BREEDEN, 32171803, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 24 March 1944, at Inkangatawng, Burma. Hometown: Orange, Virginia.
- ANDREW T. BUSH, 35492251, Private First Class, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 28 March 1944, at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Cave City, Kentucky.
- CHAUNCEY E. CHAPMAN, 12056588, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 24 March 1944, at Ngagah-tawng, Burma. Hometown: Buffalo, New York.
- JOSEPH W. HANNAH, 13016716, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 28 March 1944, at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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EDITOR:

My name is Kim Skerven. I know that you don't know me, but you probably know my grandfather, Mr. Bernard Janskvich. His address is 410 Eighth St. No., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. He was one of the original Merrill's Marauders. He fought in Burma, Central Burma and China. He was a scout and was on a Combat Team but I'm not sure exactly what that is. My grandfather gets the DAV magazine and in the last issue, he noticed that there will be a reunion for the Marauders. He wants to go but will not be able to make it. I know that he would be there is he were able to. He doesn't know that I am writing this letter, but I thought it was appropriate. He told me that he remembers you, and I thought that you would probably remember him. I hope your reunion is a huge success. Kim Skerven, 331 8th St. No., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

EDITOR:

How I got to be a Marauder. I was sent to Calcutta via Suez and Bombay, in charge of 18 radio repairmen from Ft. Monmouth. Being trained in electronics, we were naturally put to work guarding GI prisoners in the Kancharapara Stockade. After a couple of weeks, I got travel orders and went by C-47 from Dum-Dum to Chabua.

There we learned that somebody in "Headquarters" had found a scientific way to fill the opening for badly needed replacements for the 209th and 236th by taking the first name on as many lists of replacements as necessary to fill the gaps.

After a pep talk by the chaplain and a veteran of Myitkyina from the 20th GH, we were literally told to "Choose your weapons" and rest up for tomorrow. This, plus an abundance of gruesome rumors, many

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RAYMOND M. REHDER, 37465617, Private First Class, Hq. Co., 1st Bn, wounded 14 March 1944 at Walaw Bum, Burma. Hometown: Grand Island, Nebraska.

ESCOM (NMI) ROBINETTE, 35440717, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 28 March 1944 at Nyagagling, Burma. Hometown: Odds, Kentucky.

WILLARD F. YARDLEY, 37049785, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 28 March 1944 at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Kirksville, Missouri.

JAMES D. YOUNG, 34339952, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 24 March 1944 at Ngagahtawng, Burma. Hometown: Laverne, Alabama.

JESSE L. NORTON, 38120740, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 24 March 1944 near Shaduzup, Burma. Hometown: Midland, Texas.

BERNARD J. O'NEILL, 33335719, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 24 March 1944 at Ngagah-tawng, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LAWTON L. CHASTAIN, 14009708, Private, Co. A, wounded 14 March 1944, at Walaw Bum, Burma. Hometown: Highlands, North Carolina.

ROBERT C. MILLS, 14015679, Private, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 24 March 1944 at Ngagahtawng, Hometown: Coker, Alabama.

KENNETH C. KELLY, 13043330, Private, Co. F, wounded 23 March 1944 in North Burma. Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland.

FELIX A. LOMBARDI, 33302788, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 28 March 1944, at Auche, Burma. Hometown: Clairton, Pennsylvania.

II. AMENDMENTS OF GENERAL ORDERS — AWARDS

1. So much of par. 1, GO T, this Hqs os, dated 14 March 1944 as pertains to award of Purple Heart Medal to JACK V. MAYER, 20508098, Sergeant, Co. I, is hereby revoked.

III. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART CLUSTER:

Under the provisions of par 14a, AR 600-45, dated 8 August 1932, as amended, the following EM are awarded the Purple Heart Cluster to be worn on Purple Heart Medal formerly awarded per General Orders indicated:

JACK V. MAYER, 20508098, Sergeant, Co. I, wounded 4 March 1944 at Walaw Bum, Burma. (Awarded Purple Heart Medal per GO 36, Par 1, HQ XIV Corp dated 15 February 1943). Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio.

By command of Brig. Gen. MERRILL:

T. J. DALTON,
WOJG, U.S.A.
Asst. Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

T. J. DALTON
WOJG, U.S.A.
Asst. Adjutant

LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 4)

of which proved to be true, led to a very busy path to the latrine.

I joined the 236th Engineers, Combat Battalion, at the end of June, 1944. Originally assigned to the 209th, they transferred me to the 236th when I got to the Y Road Junction at Myitkyina.

After Myitkyina, when the 209th and 236th went back to building the road, I did a couple of stints with the Chinese, clearing mines from Kazu to Nalong and Muse to Mong Yu. Got that job because I had been trained in maintaining the SCR-625 mine detector in the Signal Corps. The Chinese threw them away when the batteries went dead. John D. Holmbeck, 1425 Garwood Dr., W. Melbourne, FL 32904, 5307-236-B, C-H&S Companys.

EDITOR:

Really enjoyed the Nov. issue of Burman News and wanted to tell you. Items that caught my attention. Col. Holland's trip to Burma. If this materializes I would like to be on it. Also, Col. Holland's article re: New Galahad. He mentions Major Lattin only, as commander 475-2 Bn. This is tragic to me, because I have carried in memory all these years the picture of LTC Thrailkill, as the ideal battalion commander, and the model I would aspire to if I should find myself holding such a high command. He was killed on Loi Kang Hill. I have often

thought that, had he lived, he would have become a general in Korea, and maybe a senior general in Vietnam. Of course, all the officers of that rank in the Marauders were outstanding soldiers. It was just that I had a chance personally to observe Thrailkill and he was impressive. I have never forgotten him. The Mars TF Artillery Assn (612th and 613th FA) meets in Dayton, Ohio, September 16-19. W. B. Woodruff, Jr., 100 N. Trinity, Decatur, TX 76234, 475-2-HQ; 612 FA.

(Editor's Note: Received this letter from Mrs. Hunter.) 30 December 1986

Dear Colonel Charles N. Hunter,

I was in North Burma around North Shan State and Yunnan of China during WW 2 to fight Chinese Y Force as a platoon leader of 56th Reconnaissance Regiment, 56th Division.

I have an interesting story about the battle history of CBI Theater in especially U.S. Mars Force and Chinese 1st Army which appeared at Nampakka, south of Mongyu, North Shan State, in the end of January, 1945.

I'd like to know that operations of Mars Force from Myitkyina, Bhamo, and Namkham through Nampakka to Lashio and Hsipaw in January to March '45.

Gen. Stilwell reorganized Galahad Unit to 532nd Brigade-Mars Force, Gen. John P. Willey commanding. You, Col. Hunter, was one of the commanders of Merrill's Mar-

auders-The 5307th Composite Unit according to our battle history. Also, Mars Force was consisting of 124th Cavalry Regiment from Texas, 475th Infantry Regiment and reinforced Chinese Unit.

The Mars blocked for short time our 56th Division's withdrawing Wanting and Mongyu to south on Burma Road, prior to Chinese New 1st Army.

We, 56th Division, lost almost 150 men and officers to attack Nampakka west hill however, most of 56th Division could withdraw to Hsenwi and Lashio on Burma Road in February 1945.

My platoon also lost a light tank and two small armoured vehicles at Nampakka on Burma Road in the end of January 1945.

If you have still memory of information about listed above, I'm very happy to hear from you.

Please remain in good health.

Sincerely,

Shinichi MURANO, Retired Colonel
Ground Self Defense Force, Japan.

EDITOR:

Thanks for sending me the Burman News. I'm sorry that I never heard of the Merrill's Marauders Association or about all the conventions in past years. I was with the 43rd Division, 169th Infantry, in the South Pacific. After taking Munda Airfield on New Georgia and other beach landings, I signed up with the 5307th. I was in the Orange CT, C Battalion, under Col. Beach. After they dropped the pack 75's, I was one of the crew. After we took Myitkyina Airfield, most of the Marauders who were left were getting on C-46-47s, flying back to Ledo, Assam, India. I saw Col. Beach get on a plane. The new replacements (I don't know what they were called) were wounded or killed soon after they landed and on their way on the trails to Myitkyina. Some got back on the same plane to go to the hospital, if the plane was able to fly. I volunteered to stay in Myitkyina to help them with the pack 75's. Later, I received burns on my legs and feet from artillery shells. Disease set in the wounds and I was evacuated to the 20th GH in Assam, where I was confined for two or three months. I had to learn to walk again because of the disease that paralyzed my legs. I got back to the U.S. around the 15th of December 1944. I traveled alone to the States. Earl (Reef) Wright, 1229 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice, FL 34292; 813-488-5959. 5307-3-OCT.

EDITOR:

We arrived in India on May 25, 1944. We were given for our mail address, 5307th Comp. Prov. Group, Hq & Hq Co. Then, when I was in the hospital, they said my address was 475th, HQ & HQ Co. When we were sent to Myitkyina to relieve the MM, I waved to a few men that I knew in Trinidad, when I was in E Co., 33rd Infantry. I left India on March 16, 1945. Andrew Wolniak, 213 Hudson St., Syracuse, NY 13297.

EDITOR:

Ray, did you ever hear of a Sgt. Jim Ballard? He was a radio operator in the 3rd Battalion Headquarters. He was from the State of Washington and I think he said

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LETTERS . . .

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either Seattle or Spokane. I wrote a letter to him at both cities without reply. I met him in the hospital. He had carried a Graphlex camera on the mule along with the radio. I saw the negatives and he had taken some real nice pictures. He was going to get a set of prints made for me in Calcutta. He was down there on sick leave and got sick again and sent home from there. If you know or meet any one who was in 3rd Battalion Headquarters, you may be able to make contact and get some good pictures for your own collection or the paper.

I have a story to tell. In early September '41, my best friend and I were at a carnival. A gypsy read our palms and told us our future. Among other things, she said that I had a long life line and would have many close calls but would never die from an accident.

Here is the real kicker that brought that gypsy back to mind. We, the Red & White Combat Teams had cleared Pamati (we thought) and all we got were a few questionable natives. We were sitting around eating K-ration for lunch and a sniper started popping off. We didn't locate him and he wasn't hitting anyone so we quit paying attention to him. We then got orders to leave RCT to hold the ferry crossing and WCT was to proceed to the air strip. Before we got clear of the village that Jap got a few buddies and the head of the column had started to detour to the right and that is when the shovel full hit the fan. Those guys were shoving down in the gardens and I was next in line. I dove off the road but all that was between me and those last three shacks was a big weed. My pack was still on and every time I raised my head my pack pushed my helmet down over my eyes. I stayed on my stomach and wiggled out of those pack straps BUT while I was doing that, a Jap was looking at me through his sights. He bounced three bullets off the dirt beside my head. A slight windage correction and he would have drilled my head lead center.

NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK WENT THROUGH MY MIND WHILE I WAS GETTING OUT OF THAT PACK? I wonder if that gypsy considered a Jap bullet an accident? Strange, huh? That was the only time that I knew definitely that the bullets were meant for me.

Incidentally, we gave covering fire to the fellows in the gardens and got them out of there. Major Caifson Johnson was one of them. He then ordered all mortars — 60's and 81's set up and we blew the hell out of those shacks and then detoured to the left and went on up to the air strip. They were still fighting over one end of it and we walked across the middle. Gulp! Dumb but we followed orders and got away with it again.

Ray, I think on that little jaunt through Burma, we violated everything I was taught in basic. Being in a machine gun section, many a time I looked ahead at the column crossing a field or paddy and wished I could catch some Japs doing that same dumb trick. Surprise is all that kept a lot of us alive. Ralph Pollock, Rt. 1, Box 1494, Mt. Union, PA 17066.

Col Murano letter, sent to Col. James D. Holland, 5307-475-3-Hq

Thank you for your letter to me including the information of Merrill's Marauders and Mars Task Force in North Burma Campaign. I never knew of Col. Hunter's death. Gen. J. P. Willey, Brigade commander of Mars Task Force, is still fine? I believe Gen. Merrill is dead after he visited Japan almost 30 years ago.

As I write before, we, 56th Division, was blocked at Nampakka on Burma Road, south of Mongyu where it joins Ledo Road, by Mars Force in the middle of January '45. To make withdrawal of our 56th's main strength easier, our infantry companies and the other units attacked West Hill of Nampakka. Also a 75mm gun of our Field Artillery fired at the hill by direct aiming, in front of your position in two nights of 27 and 28, January 1945.

Then the west hill of Nampakka which you occupied became quiet and Chinese 38th Division stopped to pursue us. We, 56th Division, withdrew toward Lashio and Hsipaw, with Kutkai and Hsenwi. This battery commander was given a commendation letter from 33rd Army Commanding General later. My platoon, 56th Recon Regiment, lost three armoured vehicles on the block point of Nampakka and Infantry companies lost over 150 strengths in the number of attacks at Nampakka west hill.

My 56th Recon Regiment occupies south hill of Kutkai in the middle of February '45 to keep the Division's withdrawal to south. When Chinese ten light tanks, U.S. made, came to reconnoiter on the road by fire to their operating slides(?). Our anti tank gun did not perforate armour plate of U.S. made tank.

Anyway, we knew your Mars Task Force was to reinforce Chinese Forces, equipped and trained by U.S. Army, after the War. I believe if the war continues much longer, your Mars Task Force will be moved to

China Mainland against Japanese Forces.

I was in Fort Monmouth, N.J., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., as student officer in 1958 to 1959 and visited Army Depots of Pueblo, Ogden, Redstone Arsenal, New Cumberland and AMC and DSA on my TDY for a month in 1966. Then I was stationed in Ratheon Andover Plant, Andover, Mass., as a liaison officer to Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) in 1969 to 1970. Retired from GDSF with the rank of Colonel, Ordnance Corps, in 1975.

We, old Japanese Military Academy graduates, who joined Burma Campaign during the war had a short trip to Burma for memorial services for ex-comrades in January 1984. We went around Battle Historical area such as Rangoon, Mandalay Myitkyina (air strip) only, Taunggyi Toungoo and so on with hired plane, bus and railroad. The plane flew over Bhamo Namkham, Kutkai, Hsenwi and Lashio from Myitkyina where you will still remember.

I was very happy to meet an old Burmese Defense Army officer who was under my platoon with his company in some of our defense positions in North Shan State 40 years ago. The people, housing, and so on are not so more change than the war days: except roads, bridges and Pagoda temples. Col. Shinichi Murano

EDITOR:

Originally, I volunteered for the unnamed group from the 71st Light Division in Camp Carson, Colorado. That's where most of the 1st Battalion came from (EM) that is. Most of us had been in the 5th Infantry Regiment which saw duty in Panama and they picked on us as jungle experienced (altho they didn't say so at the time).

We'd heard a Battalion was coming out of the Carribean (2nd Bn) and we'd pick up a 3rd Bn from the SW Pacific. (Those are the guys that went home early after reaching

(Continued on page 7)

Pass In Review

Name & Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where, When Deceased	
IRVING BAILEY, 3666 Bainbridge Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118; 5307/1; 475/3/K Co.	March 23, 198
MAX BOOKNER, 221 White Oak Circle, Maitland, FL 32751; 5307/HQ/RE.	198
DAVID L. BURGOON, 422 Logan, Ottawa, KS 66067; 5307	September 6, 198
DAN CARRIGAN, Chicago, IL; 5307/2 ; Nhpum Ga, Burma.	
ANTHONY F. De FELICE, Box 42, Youngwood, PA 15697; 5307/3	June 198
ALVIN EFFRON, 3 Ridgewood Dr., Danbury, CT 06811; 5307/2/PL LDR.	March 17, 198
FRANCIS FREEMAN, 1921 Avalon Rd., Columbus, GA	198
DR. JOSEPH GROSS, Houston, TX	October 15, 198
JESSE HAAG, Fairview, KS.	March 198
THOMAS R. HENDERSON, 8001 E. Broadway, #1479, Mesa, AZ 85208, Member of Board of Directors, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1/HW	October 12, 198
LAWRENCE HOGLUND, 1226 Rochester Blvd., Rochester, IN 46975, 5307/3/OCT.	August 23, 198
THURWOOD MALE, Box 443, Phillippi WV 26416; 5307/3/K; 33 QM PK TR	October 7, 198
GEORGE E. McNALLY, Dunwoody, Atlanta, GA, Kachin Rangers OSS 101, 102.	December 16, 198
CHARLES E. STOVER, 139-3 High St., Pottstown, PA 19464; 5307	April 198
AL WANSOM, South River, NJ; 612th FA	1985
LEE VINEYARD, 109 Warren St., Anna, IL 62906; 5307/3/OCT; 475/3/K Co.	June 20, 1987
VICTOR J. WEINGARTNER, 8960 SW 197th St., Perrine, FL 33157; 5307/3/OCT. Patoon Ldr.	September 11, 1987
AKIJI YOSHIMURA, 120 Tenth St., Colusa, CA 95932; 5307/HQ/INTPR	September 18, 1987

LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Myitkyina).

I started out as a mortar man in HW, 1st Bn. DeFillippo and Herky Hendersen were non-coms from the old 5th (lots of New Englanders). Then someone saw my military record where I was a trained radio CW operator (low speed — extremely low) and I was assigned temporary duty with 1st Bn Communications Platoon (Charley Ogburn). When we started to move out of Assam, Bob Benish and I went to White CT I & R with radio back-pack and a generator operated outfit and I trailed Sam Wilson to provide radio. So, we got friendly. Sam is one month older than I am. The whole platoon was a pretty classy unit. Ed Ammon was platoon sergeant. Can't remember the guide's name. I do remember big Ernie Reid. He led our mules while we went ahead.

Later I was one of the old timers who pulled the Engineers and QM truck drivers out of the C-47s at Myitkyina and gave them rifle training on the spot. Then took them up to the line. Man, that was some O.J.T. One of the first guys off the plane was an old timer from the 5th whom I recognized — formerly sergeant and busted down — Marberry. I made him a platoon sergeant on the spot. Then I took them to an outpost company. Another sergeant — Butts and I ran it without officers. Course we thought we were sergeants. Didn't find out till later about that SNAFU but got our promotions later. But not the back pay!

After Myitkyina, R & R in India. Mostly watching Big Reid eat! Then back to Myitkyina. Right back to 1st Battalion I & R with a new platoon leader (Lt. whom we all resented). We all thought it should have been given to Ed Ammon. And, started the whole affair again. Course, White I & R took off first and went downstream, almost to Rangoon(?). Until we met up with a British Division, before we headed back.

I was hospitalized several times — malaria, typhus, amoebic dysentery and something that was medically identified as the 5307 bug. Somewhere along the way I was diverted as an instructor to the 6th Chinese Tank Battalion. Then we were called back to assemble for boat trip home. To kill time, I helped DePalma cook on boat trip home. Joe DeVriendt and I ran the ice cream manufacturing plant. Wow! That was a long trip. Going over on the SS Lurline was a breeze. No escort, only speed and zig-zag.

Went to OSC in 1951, Class No. 1. I saw Sam Wilson on the church steps one Sunday. But no contact from then till now with anyone from MM's.

When I was hanging from Branscomb's hand, after coming back across the river and watching that Jap detail come to the river's edge to get water and never seeing our footprints or looking across to see me hanging there. I told God I would come to him if he'd get me out of this. Yes, I guess you could say that I am an Original Marauder.

I do desire contact and info. There are a lot of names I ought to remember but don't. I remember faces but not too many names. Frances Biledeau, Holland, Old & Young

Allen. Perlee W. Tintary, 5307-1-WCT-I&R; 475-1-I&R, 1520 East Cameron Av., West Covina, CA 91791.

EDITOR:

Will not be at the reunion. Having a big problem with emphysema and lung cancer. Regards to the fellows. Walter Ollila, 8907 Grandville, Detroit, MI 48228, 5307-1-RCT; 475-1.

EDITOR:

A short note to tell you of the story book ending to my article in the Burman News of May 1987. The day after delivery to my home, I received a phone call from my foxhole partner that I didn't know or remember. But he knew me and after 43 years we talked and talked and talked. Then I went 900 miles round trip to see him and got another surprise. Lewis Day, Silver Star recipient, had called him (John Hartwell) both in Columbus, Ohio. We met and Lewis Day just happened to be the Medic that treated my M. Gunner after I got back to a safe spot at Mankrin and we knew to be a fact because I had helped to carry my gunner to a litter by crossed hands with Lew who mentioned this in our conversation without realizing that I was the other man.

So, you see, the Good Lord does answer prayers even after 43 years. I had hopes that someday I would meet my foxhole buddy and it happened in good measure.

So, tell those Marauders to keep letting people know you still seek them even after 43 years.

Now, if only my gunner who was shot in the butt and still carries the bullet in there could be found. Wow! Bill Brader, Rt. 3, Bethlehem, PA 18015, 5307-1-D; 475-2-E Co.

EDITOR:

Have you any word of Lt. Roy Holden of the 2nd Platoon of BCT. I was with this platoon on Nhpum Ga, when we were trapped. But lost word of him after we got out. I was sent back to the 20th GH after we got off the hill. I was then sent back to Myitkyina and served with C Company for awhile till I was sent back to the 20th GH again. Peter Byers, 38 Crestvu Rd., Phoenixville, PA 19460, 5307-2-MED.

EDITOR:

I wanted to answer some of the questions in the May NEWS. In the Pass in Review column, Warren C. Fry was from Caldwell, Idaho. We were together in the Idaho National Guard, the 183rd FA. Then went to the 98th FA Bn (PK) on 1 March 1942 and volunteered together in New Guinea for the Unknown. Arthur Linne-meyer was also from the 98th FA and his date of death was 20 July 1986. He was in Khaki CT. Edward A. Wade, 112 Reece Av., Nyassa, OR 97913, 5307-KCT-Hq., 372-2820.

EDITOR:

For member's information, the Vietnam 75s are the only Ranger units never authorized a distinctive combat shoulder insignia. We were hidden in major units while tab wearers who never fought in a LRRP-75 Vietnam unit now because of Grenada were allowed, our efforts as their credit, a combat insignia while denying such to Vietnam 75 vets. MSG Henry B. Morton, 85 Scotland Rd., No. B-6, Pueblo, CO 81001, 75-D & M Co's Vietnam

Letter from Col. Murano:

Dear Raymond Lyons

14 May 1987

Thank you for your kind reply letter and much appreciated Mrs. Hunter for forwarding of my letter to you.

Col. Hunter is famous in our Myitkyina Battle History in August 1944 and also we know Gen. Merrill had heart attack; sick at that time.

We, 56th Division, fought to Chinese New 1st Army consist of New 30th Division, 38th Division and Tank Brigade, at Mongyu, however, Mars Force blocked Burma Road at Nampakka (means south of Mongyu) in the middle of January 1945, then 56th Division should be withdrawing to south and release Mongyu.

We begin to attack the hills of Manpakka, west side of Burma Road, to open the road block and make unit maneuver more easier on the road. During five nights attack in the end of January 1945, almost 200 was killed.

However, our 75mm gun firing by direct aiming in the both nights of 27 and 28 January, made firing from the hills quiet as most of our unit could withdraw to south.

The commanding officer of the field artillery battery was given a commendation letter from Commanding General 33rd Army later.

Our company (Recon Regiment) had only an injured man but lost three armored vehicles at block point on the road by your rocket or gun fire in the end of January 1945.

I believe your Mars Force (532nd Brigade?) consist of 475th Infantry, 124th Cavalry without horse and Chinese Unit and occupied west hills in Nampakka. Mars Force came from Namkham via pass, not pass through Mongyu, and Chinese New 38th Division came Nampakka via Mongyu.

We don't know exactly the other party in

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Sharing the Story

Bob Eatman Vignette

Bob says that he was signed into the Army when he was only 15 years old and sent down to Panama for his basic training. He also served in Puerto Rico and Trinidad from whence he volunteered for the "Dangerous overseas assignment." As a member of the 5307/2 Bn., he fought at Nhpum Ga, was evacuated and later returned to Myitkyina. He took over a jeep there and ran back and forth from the airport to our headquarters at Rhadapur Junction, carrying wounded or supplies for the duration of the fighting.

He was then sent back to the States via plane. Arriving at Ft. Bragg, N.C., he noticed a sign on the bulletin board that said he could get a liquor ration card from the Company headquarters office. So, he went in and asked for one. Later the company commander called him in to tell him, "Request denied."

"Why," asked Bob, "I spent five years overseas, fought the Japs in the jungles of Burma. I think I deserve a liquor ration card."

"Sorry," said the C.O., "you are under age!"

LETTERS . . .

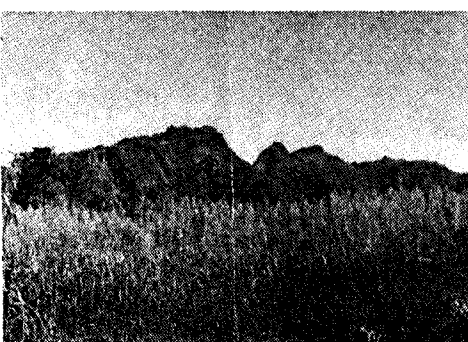
(Continued from page 7)



Nampakka, North Shan State



Aerial view of Kutkai, South of Nampakka



Hill of Kutkai

Nampakka. Mars or N 38th Division which was at that time?

An enclosed picture paper was taken by Capt. Koreishi (our Recon Regiment) during his tour of memorial service of North Burma 1976.

If your Association sends some information concerning Mars Force or Nampakka Battle and so on to me I'm very happy.

Our Recon Regiment was stationed in Kunlong, Est of Hsenwi and by Salween River, and Hsenwi, Burma Road, north of Lashio before Allied Forces counter attack 1944.

Sincerely,
Shinichi Murano

Col. Shinichi Murano
61-6-301 Itasbashi 2-Chrome
Itabashiku, Tokyo 173, Japan

OUR ARMY

Upon a wind swept plateau
And what a hell of a spot
Battling the terrible rain storm
In the land that God forgot.

Into the bush with a rifle
Down in the hole with a shovel
Doing the work of a mole
And too darned tired to kick.

Up with the snakes and spiders
Up where a man gets blue
Up on top of a mountain
And a thousand miles from you.

At night the wind keeps howling
It's more than a man can stand
Hell no, we're not convicts
We're defenders of our land.

We're soldiers of the U.S. Army
Earning our meager pay
Guarding the Wall Street millions
For seventy cents a day.

We are living for tomorrow
Only to see our gals
Hoping that when we do return
They are not married to our pals.

No one knows what we're doing
And no one gives a damn
At home we are soon forgotten
We've been loaned to Uncle Sam.

John Leo Laferriere

You're getting old when your back goes out more than you do.

Mark Twain's wife constantly criticized his habit of going out without collar or tie. One day when the author returned from a neighbor's she was particularly vocal about the omission.

Twain wrapped a collar and tie in a neat package, which he had delivered to the neighbor he'd just left. The accompanying note read: "I've visited you."

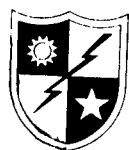
HEY MEDICS

Col. Caifson Johnson, 5307/1/WCT CO; 475/1 CO, has asked us to tell all his friends that he is still confined to the Letterman GH and is therefore unable to respond to the many cards and letters received at Christmas. It is suggested that cards and letters be sent to him at his home address — 18 Kerr Av, Kensington, CA 94707. His wife brings them to the hospital and reads them to him. We will all continue to hope for his improvement.

**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
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Myitkyina"
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