



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

February 1989

The Life Line

Think about it! Walking hundreds of miles — behind the enemy lines, where will the support come from?

Who will make it happen? Hey! How about the Communication Section? That's why they are carrying those boxes on their backs.

Now, the story from the 5307th Signal Officer. Then Capt. Milton Pilcher; later retired as Major General Pilcher. Here it is.

HQ 5332D BRIGADE (PROV)
Office of the Signal Officer

APO 218
1 Mar 1945

SUBJECT: Signal Communication, 5307 Composite Unit (Provisional) (Reprint of Report Submitted 3 August 1944).

1. It is felt that the fall of Myitkyina is an appropriate time for the submission of a report on communications within the 5307th Composite Unit during the North Burma Campaign.

2. On February 6, 1944, the 5307th Composite Unit left the staging area at Ledo and moved off for a 125-mile march down the road to the front. During this march, until the day that the unit crossed the Tarung River at Ningbyen to begin its move to the rear of the enemy positions at Walawbum, radio silence was maintained. During that period the assistant Signal Officer, with a group of men was hard at work installing a base radio station at Dinjan and a radio Liaison station at the Forward Hq of Northern Combat Area Command. At both of these stations, SCR-177's were installed at first. Later, when two SCR-229's were received, one was installed at each station to provide more output and more efficient operations.

3. When the unit halted for the first night in enemy territory, the unit Hq using the AN/PRC-1 contacted the base but was unable to raise the liaison section. Throughout the operation, both base and liaison station maintained continuous watch and the forward station called in whenever halts were made for sufficient periods of time. The AN/PRC-1 using sky wave was able to reach the distant base consistently during daylight hours, but communication at night was erratic, though the lowest possible frequencies were used. Communication to the liaison section which was normally from 20 to 30 miles distant was never satisfactory with the AN/PRC-1. This condition was remedied by establishing a separate channel from the base to the Liaison Section so that traffic from the forward Hq. could be

relayed through base with a minimum of delay. During the first month of continuous travel through the jungle, crossing rivers and mountains alike, there was little traffic and little time for communication as the tired columns bivouaced each night for a few hours of sleep. Most messages pertained to position reports and supply drop arrangement. During this period, it became evident that a hand generator operator receiver, such as was included in the AN/PRC-1 is not practical for field operation as the man power is not available. A separate receiver, Air Corps all wave type, with battery power was resorted to and gave good results. However, the AN/PRC-1 should not be considered for future operations except as an emergency set.

4. During the first few weeks it became evident that the SCR 284 was the ideal set for communication with transport planes for supply drop instructions. Later on, the set was used with success to control fighter aircraft and for this use it earned its weight (one mule load) many times over throughout the operation.

5. During the first major engagement, the personnel, most of them completely lacking in experience or with experience in fixed stations only, earned their rating, which in view of lack of T/O were in most cases at least two grades too low. Communication was maintained to base throughout the day and all messages concerning air support, ammunition drops, and co-ordination of the attack with our Chinese allies were cleared, though shell fire and infiltration were continuous. Except for the fact that the volume of traffic increased day by day and "communications" halts were made morning and evening during daylight hours, there was no change in the radio net to the base, until a temporary command base was established during the latter part of April at Naubum.

6. It should not be forgotten that the campaign was a long hard one and that, however routine their jobs may be, the work of a communications man is as important and is as arduous as that of any man in the organization. Without communications, no unit can fight well and without communications a long range penetration unit cannot fight. A Communication man's work is never done. He walks all day with his unit and at night he "pulls his shift." If traffic is heavy or radio conditions poor, he works all night. In a fight, he stands by his set, clearing traffic until relieved. Another

hardship is the staff officer who lacks understanding of communications and expects "Wall Street" service in the field. It is the Signal Officer's greatest responsibility to keep the users of his service informed concerning the capabilities and limitations of the equipment and personnel with which he has been provided. Failing in this, an operation may fail due to an unanticipated communications failure.

7. Throughout the operation, the Unit Command Net with SCR-284's was not dependable. On the march, when all battalions were nearby, the contacts at noon and at 1700 were good. However, when the enemy was engaged and troops maneuvered to considerable distance from the Hq and then dug in or took concealment in heavy brush, communications were poor. In the jungle, the SCR-284 with whip antenna can be depended on for CW and Voice for distances of from five to 10 miles in the daytime and not at all at night. On the other hand, often reconnaissance units were sent out for distances up to 15 miles and communication was maintained during the day. In these cases, wire antennas cut to proper frequency length and installed as high as possible in cleared areas was used. The best feature of the SCR-284 was its ruggedness.

8. During one phase of the operation, one battalion went to Shaduzup, about 30 miles from the unit Hq, and was beyond range of satisfactory SCR-284 communication. At this time, the Bn used the AN/PRC-1 and was moderately successful in relaying messages through the base.

9. SCR-536's were of no value in the jungle or in the hills, but would serve some purpose for communication within small units in flat country.

10. The SCR-300's were used successfully in all units throughout the organization. They provided dependable contact for distance up to three miles and were not affected by interference.

Communications from Bn Hq to combat teams, from combat teams to companies, and from companies to platoons were all handled with this set. Heavy weapons, and at one time, artillery units were adequately controlled by the use of this set. Of course, Assault Wire, W-130, used with Reel Units, RL-39, the Sound Powered Handsets, TS-10 provided continuous communications from Unit Hq to all units and was used for heavy weapons control on the few occasions when the organization was "stopped" for more than a few days. Sound powered telephone equipment served its purpose well and the organization should have been equipped with more of it. The case and bell of the EE-108, however, is superfluous.

11. A battalion of the organization was cut

off by the enemy on March 27 and remained surrounded on Nhpum Ga Hill for 14 days of attacks and counter-attacks. During this time, the SCR-300 proved itself as an all-purpose set. With it the imprisoned unit, though all elements remained underground, was able to maintain communications until W-130 could be installed. Voice radio communication better than that provided by the SCR 284 was maintained with the unit at the foot of the hill and with all elements of the battalions which fought their way up the hill to release the beleaguered unit. It was during this period that Artillery observation with SCR-300 was attempted with good results. It was also at this time that a liaison plane was equipped with an SCR-300 for contact with the ground to give artillery instructions and information of enemy movements. A range of ten miles was normal except when mountains intervened. This means of communication was used extensively later on by staff officers who desired voice communications with units which were isolated and which were at such a distance from the Hq that lengthy messages could not be transmitted accurately with the CW set available. The SCR-300 is very rugged and will withstand moisture well.

12. Pigeon communication and the use of signal flags and signal lamps were not satisfactory in the jungle. The Panel Sets, AP-30 (White), were satisfactory for giving identification and pre-arranged instructions to aircraft. Cleared paddy fields were used and the panels were easily visible. Messages were not transmitted with panels in as much as Air Force personnel had not been trained to read AGL code. Liaison plane pilots did not know how to pick up messages. Dropped messages were often used.

13. A weekly changing voice code was employed, but due to lack of security discipline, many offices neglected to use it properly. No codes were used in communicating with the Air Corps. The entire S.O.I. and CW call signs and frequencies were changed frequently. It was noted that Air Force frequencies were not changed. There were some instances of enemy interference. On two occasions, Japanese were heard on the SCR-300's. During the operation, on several occasions the operators of these sets were killed and their sets taken. Jamming with music, AC hum, and Japanese language occurred on CW channels, but was not disconcerting. Interference from Allied stations was a greater problem. The M-209 Converter was used for enciphering all messages except on one occasion when a key list was lost and the Double Transposition System was used temporarily.

The M-209 is very fast, simple to operate and entirely accurate if used carefully. The device is fairly rugged, though key wheels jammed after long use. At first, personnel made many minor errors and completely garbled a great many messages, but as they gained experience and were forced to check their work, the errors stopped. On one occasion, the traffic became too great for the inadequate Hq cipher section to handle. Loss of sleep and poor work re-

sulted, and the untrained mule skinnors and messengers pressed into service did not improve the situation.

14. Maintenance of equipment while on the march was a difficult problem and sufficient time was not available. However, the sets used withstood rough handling and mule packing very well. Changing of tubes and repairing of shorted or loose connections were easily handled. It was necessary to "cannibalize" SCR 300 sets due to lack of spare parts. This work was done in the battalion repair sections when the unit stopped for more than two or three days. Hand generators caused considerable trouble, and after a generator was cleaned and adjusted three or four times, it had to be replaced.

15. Supply for the unit was unique in that it all came from the air by parachute. The supply and packing section at the base functioned well and all requests were filled. Supplies of maintenance equipment and spare radio sets reached the Theater from the U.S. in sufficient time to fill the needs of the unit. Turnover on SCR-300's was approximately 100 percent. This was true because extensive repairs could not be made in the field and damaged units were cannibalized for parts, but could not be returned to the repair shop at the base. There was a high rate of loss due to enemy action and due to rough treatment on rougher trails. However, near the end of the operation it became possible to return some equipment through Chinese channels. Due to the lack of use, impracticability of repair, impossibility to return, and enemy action, all the original SCR-530's were lost. SCR-284's and AN/PRC-1's lasted well. Assault wire was expended. Most of the batteries received were weak and did not give full service. As a result, the supply of certain types of batteries furnished the unit was entirely depleted at the conclusion of the operation. BA-70's and BA-80's were the most needed batteries. BA-70's justify the extra weight in length of service, but a greater percentage of the packs we received, though new, were poorly made and did not give full service. BA-43's did not stand rough handling. All batteries should be packed in wooden boxes, as should tools and spare parts, when mule carried.

16. The communications personnel in the organization worked hard, but were handicapped by lack of experience and lack of training as a unit with the equipment which they used. The infantry communications men in each battalion had trained and worked together and were fairly efficient, but there had been little combined regimental training. The procedures differed and co-ordination was poor at first. The radio operators in the battalions were not overworked as CW communication from battalions down to combat teams and reconnaissance units was not required very often.

The personnel at the base, at the liaison section and at the Unit Hq, except for a few key men, were from fixed stations or were men directly from anti-aircraft units in the U.S. There had been no time to train these men as a unit or to give them any instructions in field communications. As a result, they were trained "on the job" and com-

munications suffered. Radio operators gradually learned procedure and form, how to install field sets, how to operate reasonably well and how to read through interference. Cipher men gradually learned message forms and headings, how to operate the device rapidly without errors, how to letter and how to handle messages. Message center men learned to keep record and follow through on messages. Most of the message center personnel knew nothing of tactics, map reading and military terminology, and were by no means expert at spelling and writing. Further, sufficient cipher men were not provided. The result of this inexperience was that officers and section chiefs acted as "corporals" until efficient communications sections were molded. One of the greatest tasks of the chiefs was to impress upon the men the seriousness of their jobs and the importance of "GET THE MESSAGE THROUGH." Future training must correct this by being realistic and by giving each man equipment and instructions for doing his job, plus the responsibility for getting it done. A further comment along this line deals with Signal Corps officers. In each battalion, one Signal Corps officer functioned as assistant to the Infantry Communications officer of the battalion. While this provided invaluable experience for the officers concerned, it did not permit them to employ their specialized Signal Corps training to advantage. Infantry communications officers perform better than Signal Corps officers in these jobs and Signal Corps officers should not be assigned to units under the Division.

17. On April 18, after the unit had covered over 300 miles, a Division was formed consisting of three regiments, each containing one Chinese Regiment, and one American Battalion. The Division Hq remained at Naubum while the combat elements marched another 50 miles over rugged rain swept mountains. An SCR-177-B converted for mule pack was used at the Hq for communication to the rear and at definite times each day for communication to forward units. This set, consisting of a SC-191 transmitter with CW only, a PE-49 generator, and an S-29, Hallicrafter, all wave, dry battery operated receiver (later a V-100 receiver), provided continuous communication to the base and to the liaison section. The original Hq communications section remained with the Division Hq., one American liaison radio and cipher team remained with each Chinese Regiment, and a second team from each regiment, plus a group of "borrowed men" from the co-operating American battalion, formed communications sections for each composite regiment. These quantities of personnel were not sufficient to function efficiently, but the men handled essential traffic. Chinese personnel operated with the Chinese units. Each composite regiment carried a V-100 radio for communication to a V-100 at the Division Hq in the command net. Composite Regiments also carried an AN/PRC-1 for emergency communication to the base, an SCR-284 for Air Ground communication and a second V-100 for communication to the V-100's carried by

the Chinese regiments and the American battalions. The Chinese regiments used British W.S. 48 sets for voice, while the American units used SCR-300's.

SCR 300's proved more satisfactory than the W.S. 48 sets, but lacked the CW feature. The V-100's used for this operation were in poor condition, and caused much trouble, but for distance they outperformed the SCR-284. The Signal Corps must design a better field set, one which is light in weight and rugged, but which transmits a signal which can be received from 50 to 100 miles away regardless of terrain or atmosphere. (The SCR-694 and the AN / PRC-2 should be highly satisfactory). It is felt that a less refined, more straightforward transmitter with a broader note coupled with a sensitive, but more selective receiver would be an improvement. A better set, plus a strong policy for assigning correct frequencies for use at different times of day, these frequencies not to be assigned to other units in the same area will solve many communication problems. When the combat elements had advanced half way to the objective, communications failed and it became necessary to establish a relay station at that point with one V-100 and one converted SCR-177. This improved the situation. The AN / PRC-1 with crystals ground to the Supply Net frequency also provided a means with which the forward unit could break into the Radio Net from Hq. to Base when necessary.

18. On May 17, 1944, the leading combat elements captured the Myitkyina Air Strip in a surprise attack. Within one day the other elements of the composite division arrived, took up defensive positions around the strip and sent units to join two additional Chinese regiments which arrived by plane, in their advance upon the city from the North, West, and South. At this time the complete lack of plans on the part of higher Hq. became evident. There was no unified command, and no signal plan. Each regiment, except those which marched in with the Americans operated their own internal communications but had no communication with the Air Strip Force Commander. On the second day, each unit ran a telephone line into a separate phone in the CP. Sufficient wire, telephone equipment, and wire personnel was not available at first to provide adequate wire communications to any of the units or the rapidly expanding headquarters installations. There were no radio, cipher or message center personnel provided for handling communications, which had to be of radio alone from the Air Strip to the rear, for what amounted to an Army Corps. For one week this work fell on the shoulders of one officer and a skeleton section salvaged from the already exhausted communications section of one of the composite regiments. This small group, one third the size of the group which at Naubum had handled 50 messages a day, attempted to handle approximately 100 messages of abnormal length each day. The Division had provided for its own needs by including a third converted SCR-177 in the first plane load of equipment and the radio personnel were able to handle the traffic. However, the cipher section composed entirely of mule skinnors and

others with little experience. (The regular cipher men were evacuated with wounds and disease), broke down, and important traffic was delayed, garbled and confused during the first four days. Such conditions should never again be permitted to exist in a military operation of such grave importance. As soon as the situation became clear, the Signal Office at the higher headquarters gave its full co-operation in the problems of supplying the necessary personnel and equipment for communications at the Air Strip. Radio sets, switchboards, wire, telephones, telephone operators (both Chinese and American), linemen, radio operators, cipher and message center men all began to arrive. At this time all available personnel and equipment were also obtained from the 5307th Unit base, and air transportation was made available for the remainder of the section still stranded back at Naubum. Satisfactory radio communication to the rear stations and to the combat units was established, a telephone central was installed, and construction of trunks to all units and local wire lines to all strip organizations, much of it on poles, was well underway when a Signal Company arrived.

19. The Hq. of the 5307 Composite Unit was later moved to a point on the road leading into Myitkyina from the North, and the commanding officer was given the mission of clearing the enemy from an assigned sector and moving South to the edge of the city. By this time only a small percentage of the original organization remained, but the headquarters communication section was the same with the addition

of a radio officer, a wire officer, and switchboard and wire personnel. Radio now was only an emergency means of communication, except for the Voice sets which were used continuously in all units while mobile. Many voice sets were lost and security and operating methods were poor due to complete lack of familiarity of the personnel with the equipment. CW radio nets were established and continued in operation for the training of the ciphermen and radio operators as well as for handling written messages which for security reasons could not be handled by telephone or voice radio. Field message centers and runners functioned in the normal manner. The new force consisted of two new Infantry battalions, two Engineer battalions and a small unit composed of the original infantrymen. To simplify the command, the force was organized as a Brigade with two subordinate headquarters, one an Infantry regiment, the other a temporary Engineer regiment. The number of communications personnel in an Engineer battalion is limited, but small switchboard and wire sections were organized. A skeleton Engineer regimental communications section including radio, cipher and wire personnel was organized with men borrowed from the Signal Company. The two new Infantry battalions had complete communications sections which the respective communications officers selected after inspecting Service Records of about 2,000 enlisted men just prior to going into action. The level of training was high but the lack of experience and the lack of training as a unit was evident. A skeleton

FALL IN

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

DON L. BECK, 10251 Dason Dr., Boise, ID 83704, 612/B Battalion
 HARRY F. BLAIR, Rt. 7, Box 384, Oxford, AL 36203, 5307/2/GCT/P&D Platoon
 PAUL R. CEARING, Rt. 3, Box 432, Nashville, IN 47448, 5307
 STANLEY A. EDDY, Box 145, Bancroft, MI 48414, 612 FA/A/2 Section
 ELISEO E. FERNANDEZ, 3800 Tularose Ave., El Paso, TX 79903, 5307; 475
 LEONARD H. GEROW, 3509B Avenida Madera, Bradenton, FL 33210, 5307/2/G/1;
 475/2/G/1
 JAMES B. GROVES, Brian Ctr, 5939 Redmann Rd., Charlotte, NC 28212, 5307/1/WCT
 JOHN S. HILSON, 787 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019, 612 FA/B Battery
 LESTER HOLLENBACK, 2301 No. Normandy Blvd., Deltona, FL 32710, 5307/31 QM PK TR; 475/31
 QM PK TR
 JOE D. KEITH, Rt. 7, Box 7631, Manchester, TN 37355, 615-728-3156, 5307/1/WCT; 475
 HERBERT KLEIN, Box 8, Lehr, ND 58460, 378-2215, 5307/3/OCT/MORTARS
 RUSSEL K. KONO, 336 Mamaki St., Honolulu, HI 96821, 5307/INTPRTR
 RALPH J. LA RUE, 7728 Dale Dr., Pt Richey, FL 34668, 813-863-5859, 612 FA
 HURON L. LACKEY, 144 5th Ave. NE, Taylorsville, NC 28681, 5307/3/L Co.; 475/3/L
 CON K. LOCKHART, P.O. Box 142, Colmesniel, TX 75938, 124/1/H&S/4.2 MRTR
 CHARLES T. LOPEZ, P.O. Box 39, Caldwell, ID 83606, 75/1/C Co/Rgrs
 JOHN J. LUPETIN, 19 Mohegan Rd., Ossining, NY 10562, 5307/2/E; 475/2/E/LMG
 THEODORE MASENGIL, 1730 Morris Hill Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421, 615-892-8991,
 5307/HQ/COMM
 ELBERT V. MC KINNEY, Box 31, Sims, AR 71969, 5307
 PALMER E. PYLE, Box 22, Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA 17853, 612 FA/Vet Det.
 IRA H. ROBERSON, 2720 No. Miami, Apt. 903, Okmulgee, OK 74447, 612/B/Pkmstr
 WILLIAM J. SCHIEFFELIN III, Rd 2, P.O. Box 902, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549, 914-666-5548, 612/B/Ex C
 FRANK M. SCHRAMKO, 1711 Goucher St., Johnstown, PA 15905, OSS-Det. 101
 EMMETT J. SHEA, P.O. Box 137, Lee, MA 01238, 413-243-0561, 5307/1/WCT; 475
 WALTER R. SLAUGHTER, 2383 Lago Dr., Jonesboro, GA 30236, 404-478-8422, 5307/3/OCT; 475th
 OAKLEY H. SMITH, Rt. 8, Box 8228, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, NCAC/50, CH DIV/150 RGT/22 PLAT
 NOVA D. SNEAD JR., 15360 Riverside St., Hesperia, CA 92345, 612 FA
 LAWRENCE L. WATHEN, 411 Elm St., Rockport, IN 47635, 812-649-4138, 5307/2/BCT/B/4
 LELAND J. WORLEY, Rt. 1, Box 86, Chanute, KS 66720, 316-568-6187, 612/A/COMM SEC

regimental section was also formed for the Infantry Regiment, and was composed of men from the original liaison section was no longer needed at Hq N.C.A.C.

20. Wire was the primary means of communication during the final phase of the campaign. Personnel rapidly gained experience and within two weeks communications organizations were functioning properly. Thirty-five miles of trunk lines was installed, line outages were few, switchboard operation was courteous and efficient, and forward units made CP displacements as required with little loss of service. The battalions made good use of assault wire and sound powered telephones to front line companies, for heavy weapons support, and for rapid moves. Well policed field wire lines followed the Battalion and Regimental CP's. It was found necessary to install two trunks over alternate routes to each lower headquarters to prevent outage due to enemy action or shell fragments. Mule pack wire carriers, RL-24, were useful in this work as manpower was scarce and jeeps could not traverse the trails.

As much of the wire as possible was laid over brush or installed on poles, but sections of W-110-B which were laid across a gravel road and through swamp gave good service. W-130 did not hold up over long periods. A complete wire and radio installation for the force artillery battalion was also in operation during the final phase. Wire personnel should be included in all combat units in the future. The Brigade switchboard now had 27 drops in use and was handling 600 calls daily by the time Myitkyina fell on 3 August 1944.

MILTON A. PILCHER
Major, S.C.
Signal Officer

+ + +

A neighbor asked the little girl what she was going to give her brother for his birthday. "I don't know," the little girl said. "Well, what did you give him last year?" "The Chicken Pox."

TRY, TRY AGAIN

Another effort is underway to print an issue of "Marsmen in Burma" by John Randolph, who was a member of the Mars Task Force. This is being undertaken by the University of Missouri Press, in conjunction with other publications and museum relating to military use of mules. Professor Melvin Bradley, in charge of the project, says it would be feasible if sales of 300 books could be anticipated, at \$20 per book. They would need 250 signed up in advance; no money till publication. Book will be in paperback. All those who signed up with Laurens House of Print two years ago need not write, as we have your names as prospective purchasers. Others wishing to sign up, write to: W. B. Woodruff, P.O. Box 515, Decatur, TX 76234. Woody is secretary of the Mars TF Artillery Assn., working with Professor Bradley on publicizing the project, and says they have about 200 already signed up.

Officer's Row

President — Phil Piazza

No, I have not fallen off the end of the earth. The past three months have been murder for me. I have been unable to write or even type. As a matter of fact, I have had both my left and right arms alternating in slings. I had an operation on my right hand, and then they operated on my left arm and back to remove some large moles, caused by the sun. The biopsy came back negative.

Despite these problems, I attended the Reunion of the L-5 pilots at Myrtle Beach, S.C. Then we took off for Louisville to meet with Dick Poppe at the Reunion Hotel to discuss plans. It is a beautiful hotel and all our rooms will be suites. Free parking indoors for cars and free outside parking for RV's. Phil Piazza, Rt. 2, Box 358, Timberlake, 1, Seneca, SC 19678.

Reunion Chairman — Dick Poppe

Things are in the works for the upcoming Louisville Reunion. We are getting help from Martin Saper of the CBIVA. After meeting with President Piazza and the hotel people, they have agreed to absorb the taxes and gratuities in the package price of \$293 for a couple. They are still proposing to have the large suites available at that price. We are making plans to have an optional trip to Fort Knox, Kentucky, on Friday afternoon. We hope to use school buses, have the Memorial Service there, lunch at the NCO Club, all for a price approximately \$10 per person. Hotel advises that recreational vehicles can be safely parked in the lot behind the hotel. At this time, they have agreed to keep the cut-off date for reservations open for future discussion. Reservation cards will be sent out with the May issue of the BURMAN NEWS. **Call me if you have questions, Dick Poppe, 513-683-3365.**

Chairman

Marauder Reunion No. 42 is now past history. As reported to us by the hotel catering manager Saturday evening during the dinner, 431 dinners were served. One of our largest attendances ever. My very deep thanks to all of you who came. Now we all look ahead to No. 43, usual Labor Day weekend in 1989, at Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky, on the banks of the Ohio River. It is suggested that everyone make every effort to attend. "Time gets shorter and shorter for us all, so if you wish to see some of those gallant MARAUDERS with whom you shared that very taxing and awesome experience in the Burma jungles, you must attend as soon as possible." Start now to make your arrangements.

Special thanks are due Phil and Emma Piazza. Phil was co-chairman this year and helped immensely in planning this reunion. But, more importantly, Phil had the foresight to initiate the Merrill's Marauders Association in 1947 when he hosted the first Marauders get-together on the lawn of his home in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Our group has grown considerably since then. Emma Piazza deserves special thanks for re-starting the Ladies Receptions. Special kudos are due the 1988 reunion committee,

Rex Beach, Robert Eatman, Fred Agner and Robert Barrett; and special thanks to their lovely ladies for the cookies they baked for the reception. Thanks, also, to the ladies and their mates who did not want to be on the committee but did bake or buy cookies for the reception.

A very hearty WELCOME to the 70 who attended for the first time, and their ladies. I hope all of you will have caught the wonderful bug — MARAUDER REUNION HABIT. Thanks, also, to Ray Lyons, our secretary, and to Sally, who assists him greatly in that work; and to the other officers, particularly Herb Clofine and David Quaid, who put in lots of time on Marauder work.

My apologies to those couples who because of the influx of the Amway group, had to sleep at other hotels, some as much as 20-25 miles away. The Amway people took over every available room in all hotels, thus making it very difficult to house all our Marauder families at the Marriott.

Lastly, special thanks to our chaplain, Monsignor Edward R. Glavin, for his service for many years to the Marauder Association.

Tom Martini,
5680-P Grand Canal Way,
Charlotte, NC 28226
704-365-4667

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

The P.O. Department has brought to our attention that they want us to add the additional four digits to the Zip Code. We have been making an effort to do this and will continue to do so in the future. If you know yours, please add to your address when you write me; we can pick it up that way and change our mailing list accordingly.

We are making progress on the proposal to publish the collection of S/Sgt. Anderson's news clipping, Father Stuart's Notes, and the list of 4386 men in GO No. 3 who were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge as of June 1, 1944. We expect to have it available for sale at the next reunion.

We are pleased to find out that Woody Woodruff, secretary of the 612 FA (Mountain) is working to get out a re-print of the Marsmen in Burma. It looks good at this point. He needs some 50 additional orders at this time. Perhaps, you could order some copies for children or grandchildren. How about a copy donated to your local library, or school? You must know that there are some kids out there who do not know that we fought the Japanese in the Burma jungles.

Please send your changes of address, obituaries, names of new members, directly to me at the following address:

Ray Lyons
11244 N. 33rd St.
Phoenix, AZ 85028.

COMING EVENTS (?)

We have two Marauders working on plans for the future 1990 Reunion. One wants to bring us to Kansas City — in the middle of the Universe. The other is proposing Seattle, Washington, during the International Goodwill Games.

Sharing the Story

Letters between Henry Kennedy and John Scheifele, 5307/3/I and 475/3/I.

Hello John:

I just had to drop you a few lines because I have just remembered who you were. I just read your letter in the BURMAN NEWS. I don't know what happened in Cape Town because I had to guard a pile of lumber on the docks that night. I do know what happened to Lt. Newman, the first night that we dug in. Lt. Newman shot a man in the head with his .45 pistol. The man died the next morning. I was Lt. Applegate's platoon sergeant. I went into Myitkyina on a C-47. I was the only NCO on the plane. No officer. I ran off the field, told my men to find a hole and get in it. Well, that was me! Hank Kennedy.

Dear Hank:

I laughed when I read that you did not get a pass to go to town in South Africa. Capetown was typically British and interesting to explore. But as you know, we had quite a few wild men on board; volunteers who had already seen combat experience at Guadalcanal and some ex-cons, including one of my crap-shooting buddies, Garth, who had a long scar on his left cheek that must have been made by the slash of a knife. Garth made no bones about admitting that he had served 10 years for man-slaughter! There were many fights in town and I witnessed some of them, including one in which two of our guys pummeled one of our own officers, knocked him out. As my buddy, Larry, and I approached the two in action, for a second, a wave of compassion came over me and an urge to come to the rescue of the officer; but the fight had already been in progress for some time and we saw the officer go down. By the time we reached the officer, the damage had been done.

Incidentally, my buddy, Larry, was the very first man I saw killed in Burma. He and I lay side by side on the third (uppermost) tier of the bunks in the third (bottom) hold of the ship. He was 18, of Portuguese descent and came from California.

Remember Namkwi, the first village we marched thru after leaving the airstrip. It was hot and we were allowed — two at a time — to approach a well, (a hole in the ground), on a little knoll. We had to kneel down, fasten our helmets to a rope that was already there, and let the rope down far enough so our helmets could fill with water. Just as Larry and I got our turn at the well, we heard the "put! put!" of two Japanese knee mortars. Somebody yelled, "Down!" I fell flat on my stomach right at the well, on which the shells had been zeroed. When someone cried, "All clear!" I looked around. Larry was sprawled 10 or 15 feet away from me. I called to him, but received no answer. I ran over to where he was and stunned to see his brains spilling out of the top of his head, onto the ground. Apparently when the cry "Down!" came, Larry ran

(Continued on page 6)

HEADQUARTERS
5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV)
A.P.O 487
c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

19 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 13)

Awards of the Purple Heart Medal	I
Amendments of General Orders — Awards	II
Awards of the Purple Heart Oak-Leaf Cluster	III

I. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL:

Under the provisions of par 16, AR 600-45, dated 22 Sept. 1943, 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:

- CHARLES N. HUNTER, 0177710, Colonel, Infantry, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 18 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Oneida, New York.
- JOSEPH DOYER, W-21330078, WOJG, Infantry, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 3 June 1944 near Myitkyinam, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- WILLIAM C. COLLINS, 7085194, M/Sgt. Hq Co., 2nd Bn., wounded 13 May 1944 near Mutu Ga, Burma. Hometown: Pee Dee, South Carolina.
- REUBEN M. BEY, 20649202, Technical Sergeant, Hq Co., 3rd Bn., wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Marshfield, Wisconsin.
- LAYMAN (NONE) FENTRESS, 15045084, Staff Sergeant, Medics, 3rd Bn., wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Falls of Rough, Kentucky.
- JOSEPH P. HENRY, 32108686, Staff Sergeant, Co. E, wounded 22 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Jackson Heights, New York.
- HERMAN W. KUSSRO, 36163958, Staff Sergeant, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., wounded 7 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Bay City, Michigan.
- PAUL M. MATHIS, 37097227, Staff Sergeant, Co. K, wounded 27 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Grey Eagle, Minnesota.
- GEORGE H. HILL, 36161788, Sergeant, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Bay City, Michigan.
- GEORGE B. CONDRON, 6148737, Corporal, Co. A, wounded 24 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: West Hartford, Connecticut.
- DEWEY J. DAUGHERTY, JR., 7070419, Corporal, Co. B, wounded 30 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Buffalo, New York.
- VICTOR (NONE) DeANGELO, 12006507, Corporal, Co. E, wounded 26 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, New York.
- RICHARD J. HECHT, 12023794, Corporal, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Rochester, New York.
- CAMPBELL C. ROGERS, 39380684, Corporal, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., wounded 1 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: National, Washington.
- PAUL R. BICKNELL, 35117641, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Norwood, Ohio
- GRANVILLE O. COUCH, 37064937, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. A, wounded 18 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Nashville, Arkansas.
- HOWARD (NONE) ELSWICK, 6922907, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. E, wounded 31 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Gatliff, Kentucky.
- JAMES H. BROWN, 36368453, Private First Class, Co. E, wounded 26 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Sims, Illinois.
- JOSEPH L. LESLIE, 32161645, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 5 April 1944 near Nhpum Ga, Burma. Hometown: Jamaica, New York.
- KARL J. LORSON, 35009584, Private First Class, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Massilon, Ohio.
- JOSEPH M. LYNCH, 32637189, Private First Class, Co. B, wounded 28 March 1944 near Uhkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, New York.
- ALBERT (NONE) MAHMOOD, 17107651, Private First Class, Co. L., wounded 22 May 1944 near Charpate, Burma. Hometown: St. Paul, Minnesota.
- CARMEN S. MENTA, 13004136, Private First Class, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., wounded 20 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- MERLIN E. MEREDITH, 36531298, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 1 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Port Huron, Michigan.
- KENNETH R. PRIESKORN, 36539665, Private First Class, Co. C, wounded 24 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Wayne, Michigan.
- FRANK C. RYNDACK, 36005415, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 28 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Chicago, Illinois.
- JOHN J. SELARCIK, 33106591, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 26 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Pottstown, Pennsylvania.
- RICHARD S. SWANSON, 31125149, Private First Class, Co. I, wounded 7 May 1944 near Ritpong, Burma. Hometown: Thompson, Connecticut.
- ROBERT L. TABB, 34019038, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 27 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Vance, Mississippi.

(Continued on page 6)

SHARING . . .

(Continued from page 5)

and a piece of the bursting shell cut him down as he ran. I have no doubt that Larry's fears got the best of him. I saw him buried in a shelter half, not far from where he was killed. I do not remember his second name. But I do know his death left me numb for a long time — and made me realize how true is the saying we had, "If you're scared, act brave and you will be brave." Maybe subconsciously, Larry's death helped me to survive.

You might be right about Lt. Newman's action. We were warned to not leave our foxholes under any circumstances because the Japs were infiltrating our lines. We were told to be especially wary, if we heard the whispered question, "Where are you Joe?" The man Newman shot was out of his hole, relieving himself. But from then on, Newman had the reputation of being a "Jap Hunter." But under the circumstances, what would any of us have done, if we saw the outline of a figure crawling near us? I was also in Lt. Applegate's platoon.

You wrote that you went into Myitkyina on a C-47. Do you recall the co-pilot rushing back to us from the cockpit and advising us to load up our guns? Then you were on the same plane as I.

Another memory. We had already forced the Japs to flee across the Irrawaddy River and we were ordered to clear an area of the jungle for a camp. With our machetes, we hacked away at the jungle for a few days when we suddenly came upon a dead elephant smack in the center of what was to be our camp. We made several efforts to get rid of him. First we tried to burn him up. We piled onto him all the trees and brush we had cut and then set the huge mound on fire. It burned for days and the stench of the burning elephant flesh was unbearable. But when there was just a smouldering mound (all the wood and brush were ashes), the elephant was still there, 95 percent of him!

Then we got orders to dig a huge hole beside him. We labored in teams, back-breaking work. I believe it took us about two weeks to dig a 10 or 12 foot square hole, about seven or eight feet deep. Then, from somewhere we enlisted the help of some natives to tie ropes around the feet of the elephant. The natives tied the ropes to another live elephant — or two (?) and had the dead elephant pulled into the hole. I swear the whole operation (getting rid of the dead elephant) must have taken us at least three weeks. John Scheifele.

Dear John:

Delighted and surprised to hear from you. I know that you were in my platoon for everything you tell me falls in place. I was angry that I did not get a pass in Capetown, South Africa. The lumber I was guarding was for the Engineers to build bridges in Burma. At Myitkyina, I had a close friend who got hit there and died a few minutes later — Eddie Cagle was his name. Lt. Newman was a fine officer. I liked him. I think just about everyone liked him. I

(Continued on page 7)

GENERAL ORDERS . . . (Continued from page 5)

EMMANUEL C. VALDERRAMA, 6592386, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Los Angeles, California.
 EARL (NONE) VAN METER, 13024136, Private First Class, Co. A, wounded 26 May 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Petersburg, West Virginia.
 STANLEY VRUGGINK, 36187213, Private First Class, Co. B, wounded 18 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Hudsonville, Michigan.
 ROY H. WHITE, 39310359, Private First Class, Co. E, wounded 20 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Portland, Oregon.
 ALBERT J. ZIMMERMAN, 33280094, Private First Class, Co. A, wounded 24 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 FRED HALCOMB, 6986649, Private, Co. E, wounded 22 May 1944 near Namkwi, Burma. Hometown: Booneville, Kentucky.
 WILLIAM R. HUBBARD, 20847110, Private, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Prescott, Arizona.
 LEO MILLER, 36740779, Private, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Posen, Illinois.
 ADRIAN B. PAMPLIN, 6955640, Private, Co. B, wounded 18 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Amarillo, Texas.
 WILLIAM J. PANETTA, 13008352, Private, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HARRY C. REINSTADTLER, 33309195, Private, Co. E, wounded 20 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Hickman, Pennsylvania.
 WILLARD I. SANDERS, 6298304, Private, Co. F, wounded 3 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Sawyer, Oklahoma.
 PHILIP (NONE) SMART, 11040073, Private, Co. F, wounded 20 May 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Nashua, New Hampshire.
 CLAYTON A. VANTOL, 16150149, Private, Co. K, wounded 13 May, 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Mt. Morris, Michigan.

II. AMENDMENTS OF GENERAL ORDERS — AWARDS:

1. So much of par 1, GO #6, this Hqs. cs, dated 14 March 1944 as reads "CARL A. THOMAS (36230165), Sergeant" is amended to read CARL A. THOMAS, (36230165), Private."
2. So much of Sec. I, GO #11, this Hqs. cs, dated 2 May as pertaining to award of Purple Heart Medal to GEORGE M. HANSFORD, 01288541, First Lieutenant, Infantry, Co. F, is hereby revoked.

III. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART OAK-LEAF CLUSTER:

ALOYSIUS (NONE) KAZLOUSKY, 31032575, Sergeant, Co. L, wounded 1 April 1944 near Hamshingyang, Burma. (Awarded Purple Heart Medal per GO #61, HQ XIV Corps, APO 709, dated 1943). Hometown: Stoughton, Massachusetts.
 THOMAS J. CROSS, 35365918, Private First Class, Co. I, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrugawng, Burma. Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana. (Awarded Purple Heart Medal per GO #11, Sec. I, HQS RE, 5307th Comp Unit (Prov.), APO 487, dated 2 May 1944).

By order of Colonel HUNTER:

LOUIS J. WILLIAM
Major, Infantry,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:
BRUCE L. LAMBERTSON,
1st Lt, Infantry,
Asst. Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT [PROV]

A.P.O. 487
30 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 14)

ORGANIZATION OF CASUAL DETACHMENT

The Casual Detachment, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) is established with station at APO 487, effective 1 June 1944.

Personnel still be assigned by this Headquarters.

By order of Colonel HUNTER:

LOUIS J. WILLIAM
Major, Infantry,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:
LLOYD B. KIRBY,
1st Lt., AGD
Asst. Adjutant

/jwr



Who could believe ten members of 3rd Platoon, I Co., 475th Infantry showed up at Charlotte, North Carolina, Reunion, September 2, 1988. Front row, left to right: Garland "Gary" Snedegar, Joe Bernardi, Tom Gehan, Bob McDonald; back row: Charles Dennehy, Henry Kennedy, Bill Mohr, George Koppel, John Scheifle, Sandy Head. All were in I Co., 3rd Platoon except Tom Gehan who was in 2nd Platoon, I Co.

SHARING . . .

(Continued from page 6)

would have done the same thing that he did. Lt. Jim Applegate was from Springfield, Illinois. I think that he is dead (?). Do you remember Sgt. Morrison? We were the platoon sergeants all the way to China. Some of the names of the men in our platoon follow: Charles Dennehy, you used to call him the Yonkers Yokel. We are going to be at the reunion so that we can get acquainted again. Come along! I've been trying to help him get his medals. He was supposed to get the Silver Star, 6 June 1944. When you get to the reunion, lots of things will be on display to see. Bring your wife, too. The elephant that you wrote about at Camp Landis; I have an aerial photo of our tents. The tent next to the river, close to the elephant burial place was the one I was in. His (elephant) oil ran almost to the river. Remember the fish fry we had on the river bank? We blasted them out with TNT. They were good. We had beer too. Do you remember what 1st Sgt. Rector used to say at Reveille? Hank Kennedy.

Dear Hank:

I didn't know a second man, your friend Eddie Cagle, was killed at the well in Namkwi. But if you remember, we marched through that town in single file and he might have been killed before or after we went thru. My buddy, Larry, and I took our turns there to fill canteens. I did not know Lt. Newman personally. I do know that several of the EM were afraid to

go on patrol with him because he took unnecessary chances in his hunt for Japs.

I do remember Sgt. Morrison. He was a regular army sergeant, one of the 12 of us who volunteered out of the 76th Division. I'll never forget his crooked teeth and rasping voice!

About Charley Dennehy. I'm grateful to him for pouring sulphur powder into my

wound and bandaging me up after shrapnel from the Jap grenade hit me at Tonkwa. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all again.

I'm glad you remember that elephant. How we slaved in that huge hole, shoveling out the jungle dirt. You have to be young to do a job like that. The only beer story that I remember is of the beer truck that was hijacked by some of the boys (nobody would admit to it). But the truck did arrive and the beer was missing. What was even stranger was the driver couldn't explain why he didn't have a full load. John Scheifele.

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

The following listed are people we have lost track of because the post office has returned their mail for one reason or another.

- Andrew D'Amato, 876 Spanish Moss Dr., Port Richey, FL 33568
- Kenneth J. Spears, P.O. Box 1115, Maitland, FL 32751.
- Montie H. Potter, Rt. 5, Box 373, No. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
- Mrs. Ruth Emerick, 1172 Dayton St., Akron, OH 44310
- Mrs. Wanye McNaughton, 301 Penn St., New Bethlehem, PA 16242
- Luke S. Player, 104 Cactus, Longview, TX 75601
- Anthony L. Bassano, 104 Nature Ln, Port Richey, FL 33568
- Mrs. Lewis Burt, 1396 Oregon Dr., Pontiac, MI 48054-3645
- George A. Carrelli, 75 Baker St., Lynn, MA 01902
- Anthony J. Roth Jr., 2411-3 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14610
- James B. Groves, 928 Graham St., Gastonia, NC 28052

+ + +

On August 7, 1782, George Washington established the Order of the Purple Heart.

**PASS IN REVIEW
Deaths Reported Recently**

Name and Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased.	
DR. GEORGE J. BOWSER, 820 Zlatnik Dr., Two Rivers, WI 54241, 5307/3/KCT	September 21, 1986
WAYNE G. CARPENTER, 625 Spruce St., Morristown, TN 37814, 5307/1/RCT	November 17, 1988
JOHN I. FARRIS, Portland, OR, 5307/Chin Liaison Off, 1st Army	November 8, 1988
ROBERT O. GARDINER, 1936 Summerfield Rd., Winter Park, FL 32392, 5307/RE HQ/Air Drop; 2 Air Cargo Sqdn, CO	December 15, 1988
WILLIAM L. HANNEY, 585 So. Quentin, Wichita, KS 67218, 5307/2/HQ	October 12, 1988
HAYWOOD A. HICKS, Rt. 3, Box 358, Oxford, NC 27565, 5307/2/BCT	February 17, 1988
GEORGE H. HOLMES, 506 East Main B-26, Kahoka, MO 63445, 5307	1988
DR. PAUL JACOBS, 619 King St., Unit 206, Columbia, SC 29205, 5307/475, Surgeon	Sept. 27, 1988
FRANK B. JONES, 501 Elmwood Rd., Baltimore, MD 21206, 5307	March 4, 1988
JOHN H. KETCHUM, 651 First Se SE, Mason City, IA 50401, 475/HQ; 835 SGI SVC Bn	November 3, 1988
HERBERT Y. MIYASAKI, 1934 Uluweihl Pl, Honolulu, HI 96822, 5307/HQ/Intrpr	Jan. 26, 1988
VERN PEARSON, 465 Kirkwall Dr., Waite Park, MN 56387, 5307	November 6, 1988
FRANK PIRONE, 277 Bronx River Rd., Apt. 5B, Yonkers, NY 10704, 5307/2/GCT	October 22, 1988
GEORGE G. ROBERTSON, P.O. Box 2032, Manchester Ctr., VT 05255, 5307/1/WCT/B Co.; Member Board of Directors, former Historian	December 14, 1988
WILLIAM J. SCHWARTZ, 235 Richlandtown Pike, Quakertown, PA 18951, 5307/236/A	September 26, 1988
JAMES R. SHEPLEY, Hartfield, VA 23071. War correspondent, creator of designation, "Merrill's Marauders," died at Houston, TX	November 2, 1988
JOSEPH TUMMINO, 107 Columbia Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217, 5307/2/BCT	1983



Pictured here is the White Combat Team of 1st Battalion, A Co. In front row, first from right is Monday from Texas with Campbell next to him. In the third row, 2nd from left is George Price. Photo was taken in Burma. Photo courtesy of J. C. Hosman, Rt. 1, Box 27A, Willard, Missouri 65781.

Letters

Dear Ray:

I thought I would write the following to see if I could stimulate some of our comrades to remember some of the happenings that have stuck with them over the years.

Myitkyina

The leeches in the water where the cart path to the airstrip across a small arm of the big paddy.

The B-25 bombing short and hitting us.

The P-40 squadron commander dive bombing a bunker on the river bank and we all held our breath until we saw the plane pull out of its dive.

The B-24 raid on the Japanese bunker line and our failed attack afterward. (If it had

not been so tragic you could have broken a rib laughing at something so inept. The boys who said they could drop a bomb in a pickle barrel from 20,000 feet couldn't even hit the bunker line from less than 5,000 feet.)

The feeling you had when you got a close up look at the bunker line that killed and wounded so many good men.

Landis

The fun we had fishing with half pound blocks of TNT.

The instructions in Jungle Lore by Rocky Rae and his men.

The feeling you had when you saw cat tracks as big as saucers in the mud and you were out hunting by yourself.

Conversations with Jack Gresham about Tiger and Elephant hunting in the Teak Wood Forest.

The baby elephant lying in the road on the way to Tonkwa.

FREDERICK R. JONES
16 Hide Away Lane, W,
Winter Haven, FL 33881
5307; 475 / 2 / S-2

EDITOR

Glad to receive your letter and copies of the BURMAN NEWS. I never realized that we had a Merrill's Marauders Association. I was one of the replacements for the 5307th. We left Camp Patrick Henry in April 1944 on the General Butner. Stopped in Capetown and Durbin, South Africa. Then on to Bombay, India. Our group was flown into Myitkyina, Burma. I did not have any training with our new group. We went directly into combat after getting off the plane. I was in the 1st Bn, G Company. Our company was ambushed and destroyed July 1, 1944. I was severely wounded, taken back to air strip by ox cart. Spent next five months in 20th GH, 69th and 14th Evac Hospitals. Reassigned to 675th QM and sent to Kunming, China. Returned to U.S. end of March 1946. Albert Sieber, 4032 S. Oakhurst Dr., P.O. Box 3105, Homosassa Springs, FL 32647. 5307 / 1 / G Co.

EDITOR

I was a member of the Field Artillery in Burma. I was especially interested in the Feb. 1988 article by my former battery commander, Capt. Ness. Also, the photo that accompanied the article was of my gun section. At the time of the photo, I was the rear trail man. On January 27, 1945, I was wounded at Hosi Valley, Burma. I was in the Field Hospital for five days and then airlifted to the 20th GH at Ledo. I was at the hospital for three months and then went to Kunming. From there, I was shipped to Chungking. After the Jap surrender, I rejoined some of my old buddies at Shanghai. Stanley Eddy, Box 145, Bancroft, MI 48414.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

11244 N. 33rd St.

Phoenix, AZ 85028

Address correction requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Scottsdale, AZ.
Permit No. 324