

# The Burman News

Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November, 1989



Sharing the Story . . .

## The Myitkyina Airstrip Recon

Ray: Thanks for sending me the BURMAN NEWS all these years. I guess the reason I've never contacted you before was because of never seeing anything about my unit or anyone I knew or at least could remember. It all seems so far away now and the other thing being associated with another outfit in the South Pacific tends to confuse the memory.

I was with the 161st Infantry on Guadalcanal and then on to New Georgia. At the end of that siege, I volunteered as training cadre for jungle fighting replacements at Noumea, New Caledonia. Turned out to be a farce.

However, we left New Georgia in a small open Higgins boat headed for Guadalcanal. I had malaria 16 times, yellow jaundice or hepatitis as they now call it, and wasn't in the greatest shape. Anyway, I remember Guadalcanal and that's all. Some two or three weeks later, I woke up in the hospital in Noumea. I had lost a lot of weight, as well as my hair, from Dengue Fever, ranging up to 108 degrees, or so the doctor told me. He, then, gave me a letter ordering me back to the States and no more combat.

That was not to be, because I had to report back to the outfit that I had been assigned to. The first I ever saw of them, they were all lined up on a parade field and apparently I got in on the last speech by the colonel, from what was later to become C Battalion. He then asked if there was

anyone there that didn't want to go. So, I raised my hand, thinking if they weren't going to the States, I didn't want to go. When I looked around, I'm the only one in 1,000 men with his hand up. Well, every officer there descended on me asking if I was yellow, (which I was from taking atabrine) and accusing me of everything they could think of. I still think most of the accusers had never seen any action outside of Noumea night life. Anyway, I finally fell in and boarded the Lurline next day, where we met up with the other two battalions, A and B.

I went to the ship's hospital and I was there until we arrived in Bombay. Never even got off in Freemantle. Then, by train, to the Indian Army Transit Camp at Deolali and into the British hospital for that stay. And, then, on up to our own camp at Deogarh. After a short stay in that hospital, they had begun to get rid of the intestinal parasites and I had been transferred from C Bn to A Bn, along with half a dozen other misfits.

We certainly were misfits and all of A Bn thought we were just big blowhards. I followed some platoon out into the field just to see what was being planned. It turned out to be the White Combat Team, I & R Platoon, with a Lt. Sam Wilson in charge. I listened for a bit and could see we were doing maneuvers in Ft. Benning, instead of CBI. So, Sam had me get up and tell them what I thought we would encounter.

So, they put me sergeant in charge of White CT I & R Platoon and so I was until we got thru with Myitkyina.

The first thing I had them do was to get rid of the helmets for reg. hats and issued everyone a Tommy gun, except one. So, Sam asked me what we were going to do with the other misfits. I took two of them for scouts, ---- Clark and ---- Frye. Frye always carried a BAR, they turned out to be the best scouts we could have had and so far as I know were never rewarded in any way and I imagine were discharged as privates. Between the three of us, we literally led A Bn thru Burma.

Towards the end, our platoon and I guess all of A Battalion wound up somewhere down in the flats after several grueling days pushing and pulling mules over a very wet slick mountain. When we made camp, we were all so bushed, we could hardly fix our

K rations. Then I got a call that Lt. Col. Caifson Johnson wanted to see me. He said after what your I & R has been thru, we sure hate to ask you to do this, etc., but would I go over to see Col. Hunter. Which I did and he informed me that we were somewhere near Myitkyina airport. This is about 8:30 or 9 p.m. He didn't know exactly but thought it was some place northeast of where we were and would I take a couple of men and compass that you see at night and go till we found the airport. It was imperative that we find it and that he was unable to make it and Caifson would give me the details.

He also handed me what he said was his last fifth of Canadian Club. I went back to Caifson and he presented me with one of those beat up old pack radios and said we were to go on a certain azimuth until we could either hear or see some action on the airport. As soon as we found it, we were supposed to investigate all the gun emplacements to see if they were manned. Then to walk the airstrip to see if all the bomb holes had been repaired. All this was a hell of an assignment especially if the gun pill boxes were manned.

Then he says the radio is acting up, it seems to receive but sometimes you can't send.

Well, anyway, I went back to the platoon and asked for a couple of volunteers. Finally, got two and I'm not sure if it was Clark and Frye but anyway, we started off but didn't get too far before we killed the Canadian Club and things got better.

After walking for what seemed forever, probably 2½ to 3 hours, we heard talking and as we crept closer, finally saw lights from work crews. We were fairly tense and as we crept around in the grass trying to

(Continued on page 2)

### BURMA CHANGES NAME TO MYANMAR

(From the NY Times Edition of Tuesday, June 20, 1989, Associated Press Dispatch.)

Rangoon, Burma — Burma officially changed its name in English today to the Union of Myanmar, and it renamed its capital Yangon, the state-run Working People's Daily said.

In the law changing Burma's name, the nationality was also changed to Myanmar.

Place names, including the capital's are to be written in English according to the Burmese pronunciation.

The change in the country's name, officials said, would better reflect Burma's ethnic diversity. The term Burma connotes Burman, the dominant ethnic group, to the exclusion of minorities. Several minority groups have been fighting for greater autonomy.

### READERS RETREAT

We have published as a new book in three parts, the Father Stuart Notes, GO #3, and the Staff Sgt. Anderson Story. The book is called "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume I." Cost is \$12.00. Send check to Merrill's Marauders Association, % Ray Lyons, Executive Secretary.



MYITKYINA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

get a better view and find some pill boxes, the Japs started packing and leaving. I guess they were only working until midnight, but it seemed they didn't live on the field because they kept leaving via truck and the lights would eventually all go out.

We crawled around in the grass and brush trying to work our way around the airport perimeter. After almost knifing each other a few times and at about 2:30 a.m., I picked up the radio and started walking down the middle of the runway, thinking if those emplacements were occupied, we'd soon find out besides our time was up. I sat the radio down and called Caifson. I could hear him fine but he couldn't hear me. So, we invoked the code — 1 is no; 2 is yes. He asked me if there were Japs on the field — 1. He asked me if there were holes in the runway — 1. Then

he finally asked, should he call India and send the gliders in — 2.

Well, we pulled back on some high ground and as it got lighter, the whole world changed. The sky was suddenly full of planes and gliders. And, the ground was full of Chinese which we sure didn't need.

Anyway, when Sam and the rest of the platoon arrived, we walked across the airstrip and on into the town of Myitkyina and camped by the Irrawaddy. I asked Sam to call Hunter and see if we could take and hold the town and we got a negative.

It seemed the Chinese were in need of accomplishing something and everyone knows what happened then. We did pull back to the revetments at the airport and watched the Chinese shoot up plane loads of ammo, killing and maiming each other.

Finally, after most of our outfit left, I boarded a plane for Ledo. So, I never met any of the MARS bunch or whoever replaced us. Never really met many of the men in A Bn, much less B or C battalions.

It's just an old man's ramblings. Use it or lose it. S-Sgt. Clarence Branscomb, 5307/1/WCT/I&R Platoon, 800 Cameo Ct., Brookings, OR 97415.

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BURMA ROAD AMBUSH

This is a list of the fellows that signed the captured Jap Flag for me at Myitkyina.

The ambush of the Jap Tank that Robert Rose wrote about in the April issue, Ex-CBI Roundup, was mainly made up from the fellows that signed the flag.

One thing that Robert Rose did not mention was that while we were ambushing the Burma Road, the Japs were attacking Loi Kang Hill. The Japs were in the fox holes with our men in hand to hand combat. This is one time I was glad I was on an ambush. However, this put the Japs between us and our lines. You can be sure we were wondering if we would be able to get back to our

lines in the morning.

We were lucky because the Hill remained secure even with the intense fighting and we were able to return at first light. The Japs had pulled out having been unsuccessful.

I have discussed this with Denver Newsom and Weldon Faulkner who were also on this ambush and they remember it the same way.

Some Members of Company E, 2nd Platoon 5307th at Myitkyina and 475th Later

PFC Robert L. Brooker, Carl Savage, Stan C. Yarulis, Pvt. George R. Furbish, PFC Albert Kalpler, PFC Raymond Williams, PFC Kenneth R. Timmons, Pet Pedrone, PFC Joseph Yohe, Sgt. Hugh J. McNulla, John R. Caratti, PFC John R. Coñdon, T-5 Franklin C. See, Pvt. Charles H. Pelsler, PFC Paul O. Schell, Arthur Webb, Auburn Daughety, Brantly M. Wilson, William S. Morrison, William Klaristenfeld, James P. (Greek) Kyreakakis, Pvt. John W. Bowyer, Ernest R. Keer, PFC Asa C. Dickens, Maurice Sims, 1st Lt. John W. Jones, T-Sgt. James C. Marbury, Pvt. Denver E. Newsom, S-Sgt. James M. Morrell, Sgt. Albino A. Chavez, PFC Anthony Accurso, Earl C. Zeese, Pvt. Weldon Faulkner, Pvt. Glenn P. Harrell, Pvt. Arthur Johnson, PFC Reginald Woolridge, PFC Ray R. Nelson, PFC William E. Hicks, PFC Martin Baker, Pvt. Stanley Potkai, Merlin Slater, PFC Welch R. Early, Sgt. William E. Petra, Pvt. Earl E. Nelson and Pvt. M. L. Rotman.

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The rain in North Burma in the Dry Season of 1944:

- January — 12 days rain.
February — 18 days rain.
March — 10 days rain.
April — 10 days rain.

Then the rainy season started and it rained every day. Total for year 175 inches

OFFICER'S ROW

President — Phil Piazza

I have been talking to the sales manager of the DeSoto Hilton in Savannah. Their capacity is 250 rooms and they are only allowed to block off a maximum of 200 rooms for a reunion. I am going down there soon to discuss this with them.

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

We have started a new system for the BURMAN NEWS mailing in accordance with the Postal Service program. This will have an effect on your receipt of the NEWS if you move and have not notified us in advance. In the past, the piece of mail was returned to us with the Address Change endorsed on it. We then, remailed a new copy to the new address. This cost us postage on the return and postage for the remailing. We now have the piece forwarded to you and you will pay the forwarding postage and we will pay for a Postal notification only. We still have the potential problem of postal errors. We urge you to let us know if you move.

Rene Genest has forwarded us a copy of the new MM Book which he found on a table outside the Sunday brunch room. It was probably lost by a member of 475/3/I Co. Write to me for it.

One member, Charles Beck, has been writing to newspapers in California and a magazine, "Gold Old Days," putting in ads to contact Merrill's Marauders. He got one letter from an 84-year-old mother of an MM. She wasn't sure what outfit he was in but she remembered getting a micro letter saying he couldn't write because he was in combat. She was right on. Her son is in GO No. 3, and we have written to him.

Historian — Dave Quaid

We hope to make a video tape of all of our Signal Corps photos, as well as those personal photos, sent to us by members. It will take some time to do this, but we hope to have it ready for the next reunion. Keep sending in photos and personal stories from Deogarh to the Burma Road. India and China scenes and situations are not as interesting.

PASS IN REVIEW

DEATHS REPORTED RECENTLY

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

- ALFRED HENRY AMYOTTE, 1200 East 18th St., Hastings, MN 55033; 5307 . . . . . June 18, 198
HERBERT ARCHER, 8909 Yvonne Ave., Baltimore, MD 21236; 5307; 475 . . . . . March 28, 198
DR. WARREN BOECKLEN, Photographer, 1949 Barret Sta. Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; 5307/3/OCT/ . . . . . April 26, 198
MORRIS COHEN, 6804 Sylvester St., Philadelphia, PA 19149; 5307/HQ . . . . . August 19, 198
JEREMIAH FRANCIS CONWAY, 16 Flagg St., Cambridge, MA 02138; 475/2/E Co. . . . . June 5, 198
WILLIAM D. CREWS, Sheridan, MT 59749; 5307/1/WCT . . . . . About 198
KYLE W. DAVIS, 401 Hillcrest Ave., Gastonia, NC 28052; 5307/1/WCT; 475/1 . . . . . May 28, 198
MARVIN (DIZZY) DEAN, Rt. 2, Rockmart, GA 30153; 5307 . . . . . February 198
RICHARD ESPINOR SR., 11207 Sageheather St., Houston, TX 77089; 5307/236/A/MED . . . . . March 6, 198
LAWRENCE W. GARDNER, 1211 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 5307/2/F Co. . . . . 198
LARNCE HOPKINS, 5001 Caryn Ct., #101, Alexandria, VA 22312; 5307/2/BCT December 15, 198
DR. ROLAND V. HUDSON, 80 Sycamore St., Tiffin, OH 44883; 5332 BDE/Chaplain . July 20, 198
WALTER K. KAMINSKI, 15 Gunia St., East Brunswick, NJ 08816; 475th . . . . . June 25, 198
GEORGE C. MACK, 742 Huguenot Ave., Staten Island, NY 10312; 1st Sgt., 5307th, Myitkyina . . . . . May 194
JOE MARTINEZ, 5555 Poplar St., El Sereno, CA 90032; 5307/3/KCT . . . . . Spring 198
IVAN L. RASH, 4500 37th St. S., #103, St. Petersburg, FL 33711; 5307/3/OCT . . . . . April 28, 198
DON RYDER, Waianae, HI, formerly of Arkansas; 5307th . . . . . June 15, 198
WILLIAM H. STAFFORD, 1337 Abner St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952; 5307; 475 September 9, 198
CHARLES J. WEINER, 3 Morton St., Danbury, CT 06810; 475/1/B/4 . . . . . December 8, 198
M. LEO WILLIAMS, Los Gatos, CA 95030; 5307, youngest member of 5307th . . . . . September 12, 198



# 1989 Reunion Held in Louisville, Ky.

### Galt House East, Labor Day Weekend 1989

We had another Great One! Seems like we are getting better at it as we get older. We had 463 members and guests at the Saturday Night Dinner. A new record. And, having it at a new location brought out more members from the area that were not on our list previously. You will be surprised if not stunned at the list of new members printed elsewhere in this issue. And, I feel that there were some at the Dinner who did not register and got away without giving us their names and addresses. It proves that we should continue to look for new, different locations for reunion sites.

For the first time we had a Memorial Service outdoors, at Fort Knox, on Friday morning. It was well attended. We had a few cars trailing along behind the buses for overflow attendees. Afterwards, we had a lunch at the NCO Club. They handled the big crowd in good style.

The Saturday Night Dinner was held in the large Archibald Room in the Galt House across the road from the GH East. We were privileged to have as the guest speaker, Col. Keith M. Nightingale. He has had a distinguished military career, including Ranger Qualified. Presently he is commander of the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia. It should also be mentioned that his father served in the CBI and his wife's uncle was a member of the Merrill's Marauders. We should have given her a big hand also.

The Colonel provided us with some interesting background on how the Rangers were tied in with the 5307th. Those of us who attended the Changing of the Colors, to the Rangers down in Eglin Air Force Base, knew something of the story. But he told us that in 1974, General Abrams was dissatisfied with the morale of the Army in its entirety. In order to upgrade the service, he assigned a Lt. Col. Luers to assemble a group of staff officers to determine what WW II outfit had demonstrated the most effective mission accomplishment despite the odds. The staff went to the National Archives and studied all the elite troop records. They recommended that the 5307th has shown the best discipline, mental courage, and accomplishment despite the problems encountered.

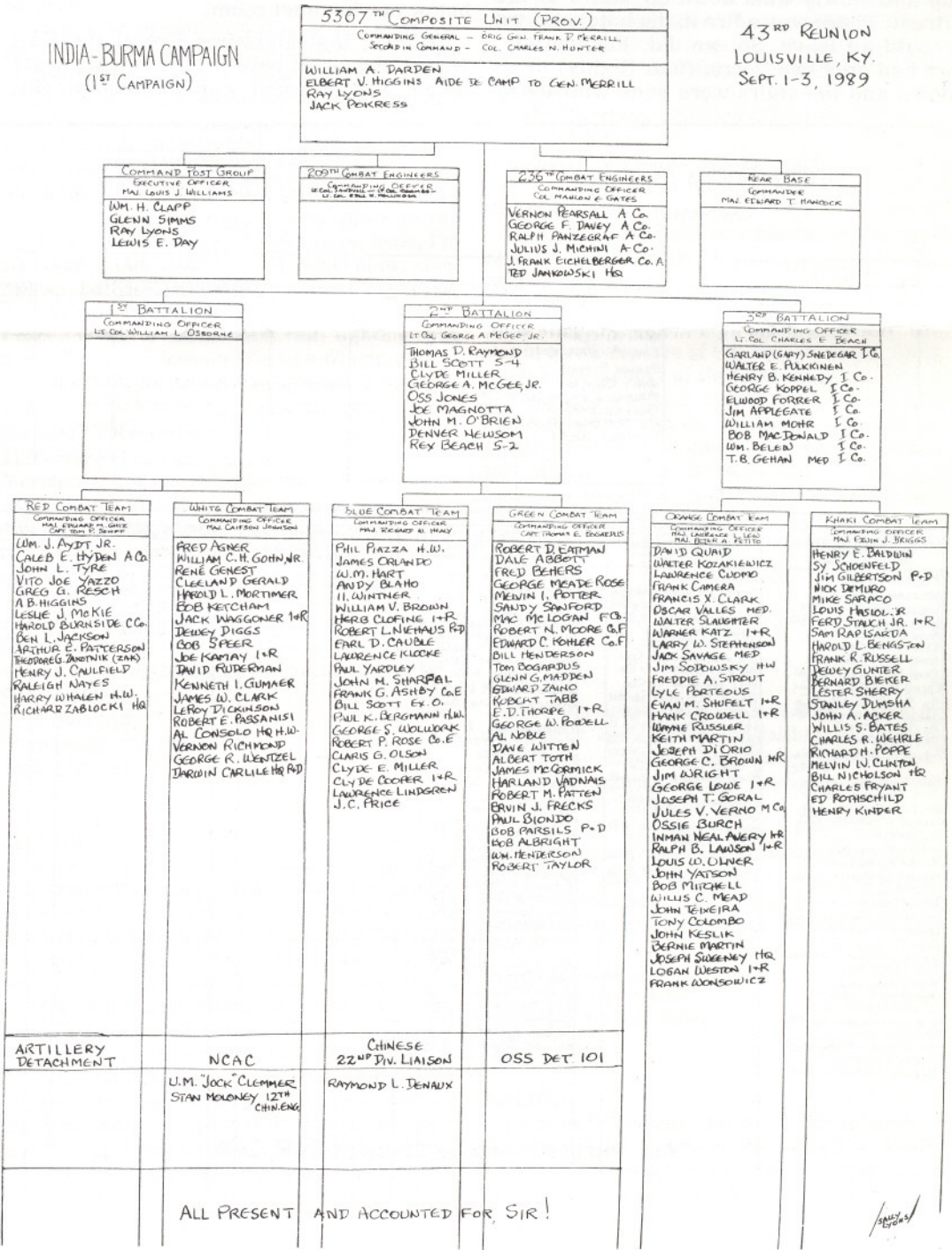
The Ranger training was to qualify men to be platoon leaders for the rest of the army units. Later this was modified to provide men for Ranger combat units in addition.

Rangers today study our heritage. Use the same tactics. To go around the enemy rather than try to go straight over them. They want their units to be tough and hard, mentally as well as physically. Road marching is a big part of training. The stress of light rations, 1800 calories per day helps to condition the troopers. They concentrate on deprivation training — lack of sleep, food. They teach that their efforts are 90 percent mental and 10 percent physical.

They looked to the Marauders for examples of Performance and leadership. He said the Marauders were a tribute to the human spirit and much of that spirit still exists.

One time on maneuvers, the Ex Officer bought two cows and called the 12 cooks from the Battalion over and told them that was supper. Get going! Another anecdote was about a mule named "Gelatine" that allegedly was donated by a former 5307 man. In their inter-platoon contests, the best platoon got a plaque, the platoon coming in second got the mule. To take care of, that is. It was a big problem as most of us can recall. It mysteriously disappeared.

The airstrip at Camp Merrill, Dahlenega GA may be named Myitkyina. The Iran (Continued on page 4)



Reunion Photo by MacDonald  
L to R: Logan Weston, Col. Keith Nightingale, Phil Piazza.



REUNION . . .

(Continued from page 3)

failed rescue mission had the 1st Ranger Battalion assigned to it. Their job was to provide security at the air strip and after attacking the U.S. Embassy, provide security there until all evacuated.

A well told tale. There was lots more to it but that's all I wrote.

And, then, there was the Fire. You remember last year at Charlotte, we had two fire drill false alarms. This time we had the real thing. Not serious, but there was smoke. It happened after the Dinner had ended. The speeches were finished. The band was playing and the dancers were dancing. Most of the crowd had left but about half of us were still there talking. This was at 10:25 p.m. All of a sudden, our leader, Phil Piazza, ran up to the dais, got on the microphone and announced that there was an emergency. Would we all get up and slowly walk down the stairs to the street. There was a fire in the hotel and we should all leave. So, we did. Fortunately, we had only two floors, (four flights) to go down and the stairs were wide with extra

bannisters in the middle. We all struggled down and out to the street to be greeted by lots of fire engines, police cars and later ambulances. None of us were hurt but later there were some people carried out from smoke.

After watching the activities from the other (Galt House East) side of the street, we went upstairs and watched from the window. We also turned on the TV to hear what the news program had to say. It was interesting to hear the BN Fire Chief say that he was pleased. It had been a very orderly evacuation of the hotel. What he did not realize was that all us senior citizens, with our arthritic hips and knees, couldn't do anything else! There was no way we could have gone down those steps, pell mell. Later we found out that Joe DiOrio had gone up to the 25th floor to have a drink at the bar up there and had to walk all those flights down. There is a moral to the story. The fire was in a kitchen on the floor below our banquet room.

(During that nighttime fire at the Galt House, the circle between the two separate hotels was crowded with fire equipment,

police, ambulances, etc. Along comes a car with tin cans tied on, Just Married signs; the young woman stuck her head out the window and said, "Say, can you move some of that equipment. We're in kind of a hurry, you know!") Jim Gilbertson, our roving reporter.

General Business Meeting

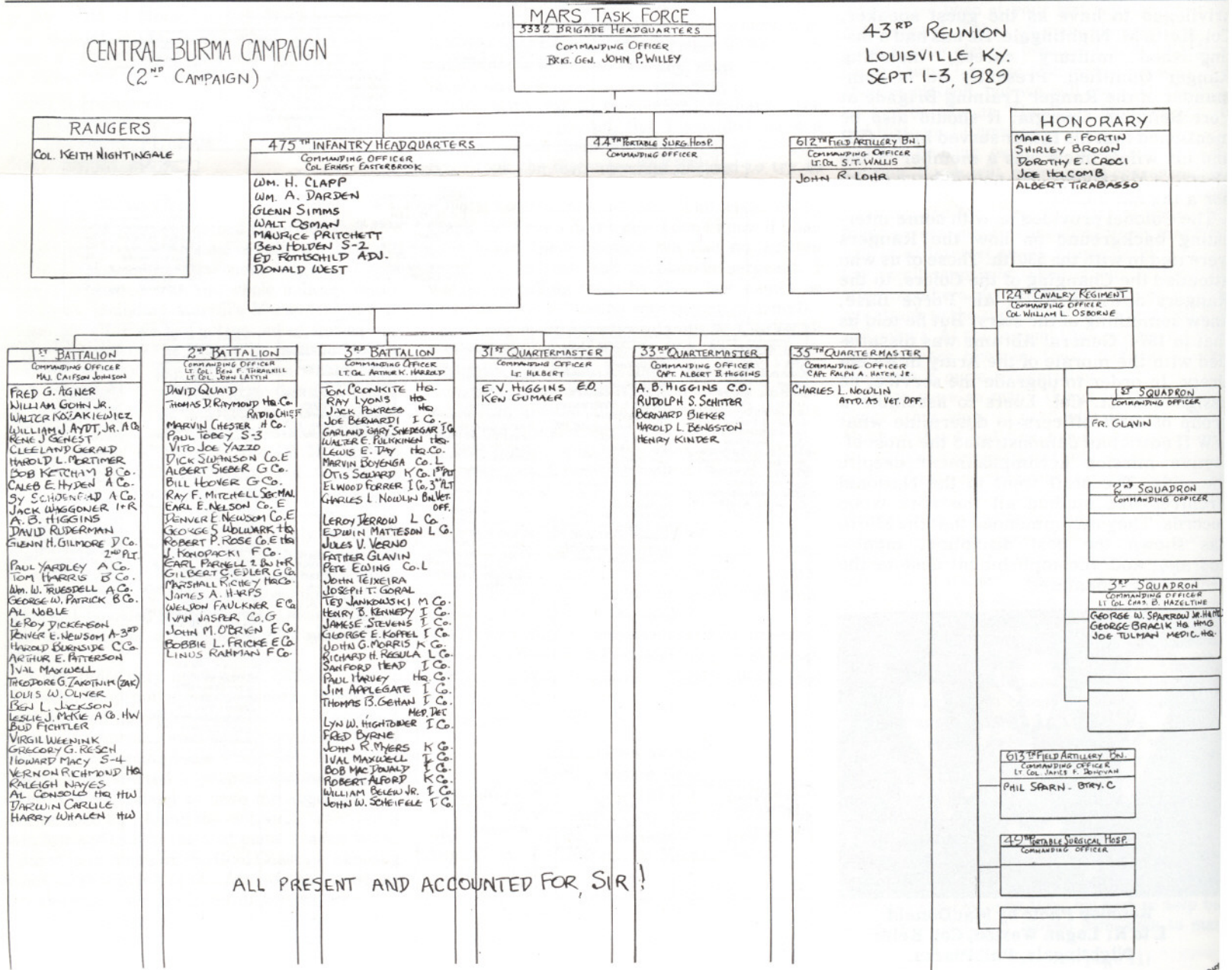
Held in the Archibald Room, Galt House Louisville, KY, Sunday, September 3, 1989 Called to order by President Phil Piazza at 10 a.m.

First order of business was to thank Reunion Chairman Dick Poppe for the great reunion.

Invocation by Msgr. Glavin. Dick Poppe: Thanks to all for coming. Special thanks to Ray and Sally.

Roll Call of Officers: Present: Phil Piazza, president; Herb Clofine, treasurer, executive secretary; Ray Lyons, historian; Dave Quaid, excused had to make early plane, liaison officer; Dave Hurwitt, absent due to wife's injury; chaplain, Msgr. Glavin present.

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**THE 475th INFANTRY REGIMENT  
REMEMBERS ITS 1944-1945  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
COL. ERNEST F. EASTERBROOK**

With the passing of Major General Ernest F. Easterbrook on February 19, 1989, the Army and the Country lost a great and courageous soldier, a fine gentleman and a true friend of the many who had known him and had served under him.

It was late afternoon, in early September last year, when a thin elderly man of good stature entered the hotel lobby in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was recognized immediately and warmly greeted by a few for they were expecting him. Soon, he was surrounded by a group of men, also elderly and bearing their age well, eager to hear his every word of individual greeting, and also eager to shake his hand, introduce themselves and have a word with him. The following morning, the same man was seen, perhaps tenth in line to register for the reunion he was to attend; he carried on a conversation with those ahead of him in the line as well as those behind him, and was overheard to politely refuse an invitation to bypass the line to register. This man many at the reunion had known 44 years before as Colonel Ernest F. Easterbrook, their regimental training officer of the 47th Infantry Regiment, the successor unit of Merrill's Marauders.

Colonel Easterbrook joined the 475th at Camp Landis, a training camp several miles north of Myitkyina, Burma, on the west bank of the Irrawaddy River. He replaced a distinguished, experienced, popular and respected commanding officer, Colonel William Lloyd Osborne, who had been with Merrill's Marauders from the beginning of their campaign to the end with the capture of Myitkyina, and who became ill and was hospitalized. As with any new commanding officer, his background and qualifications were topics of immediate concern to all ranks. His background revealed that he was a son-in-law of General Stilwell, the ranking United States General in Burma, the Deputy Allied Supreme Commander and Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, the head of state in China. The assignment to command a "long range penetration regiment" was surely an assignment to be sought by any field grade infantry officer. It did not take Colonel Easterbrook long to establish that he was there by ability and not by gift. He did this by quiet competence and without fanfare. All of us soon knew that we were in capable hands.

He was a thin, wiry man, then 36 years old — about the maximum age for one to assume what was to become a rigorous command. Most of his soldiers were in their late teens or early twenties while most of his officers were in their early mid to late twenties. He had a calm manner, devoid of bravado but, rather, with an atmosphere of efficiency and determination, and, above all, he had the ability to make each member of his regiment comfortable in

talking to him.

Now his 475th Regiment, a part of the Mars Task Force, was in three months to cover some 250 miles marching on foot in some of Burma's roughest country while engaging the Japanese in two actions, the second of which was no side show, that lasted for three weeks.

To make this march, officers and soldiers had the same march routine. It could be described as a democratic march routine for the officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) did not wear any conspicuous identification of rank and each carried his personal supplies, weapon, ammunition and up to three or more days rations on his back or over his shoulder. Each member of the unit, while on the march, got up in the morning from his bed which he had made on the ground the previous night, performed his ablutions, rummaged around his pack for his breakfast ration which he prepared and ate, policed his area, swallowed his atabrine tablet and frequently dusted the openings in his clothing with DDT. Having done this, he slung his pack on his back and his weapon on his shoulder and assumed his place in the line of march. For every third or fourth soldier, there was his mule to be prepared for the day's march by getting it fed, saddled and packed. At the end of the day, they entered a new bivouac area. Usually such areas were near a stream which was used for a welcome bath, albeit the water was very cold, and a chance to do some laundry on a do-it-yourself basis. For the mules, it was an opportunity for a long drink.

For the 475th, the first 100 miles of the march was along vehicular roads while the remainder was on mountain trails, often steep, slippery and muddy, leading to high mountain passes, and sometimes sloshing for miles along and in stream beds.

Colonel Easterbrook's daily routine was not much different from that of his soldiers and those who from time to time saw him on the trail will attest to this. Of course, in addition to the march, he had his command

and administrative responsibilities to perform.

The mission of the Mars Task Force was to clear the Japanese off the route of the supply line from Ledo in Assam, India, to Kunming in China. To do this, the 75 mile mark on the original Burma Road, from Lashio, Burma, to Kunming, was chosen as the spot to deny the Japanese reinforcements from the south and to interdict those retreating south. Upon reaching the 75 mile mark, without being observed, the Mars Task Force occupied the high ridges bordering the road. When the Japanese realized what was going on they took strong exception to this occupation and a three week battle was started. There were some who soon realized, once the battle was underway, that, perhaps, we should actually be astride the road. Colonel Easterbrook suggested that this be done, for he was an aggressive commander, but was overruled for some unknown reason by higher authority. He visited each of his battalions now and again by walking across the rice paddy from his headquarters and climbing the steep ridge to the Battalion Command Post. On such a visit, his first question concerned the condition and welfare of the soldiers. On one such visit to the second battalion, which was located near the village of Loi Kang, he took his pack off his back and produced a bottle of Scotch whiskey, which he shared with those assembled. While we were enjoying this welcome respite in a spot just below the crest of the ridge, the Japanese let loose a round of their 77mm artillery which detonated just a few feet from the crest on the other side with a deafening impact. The ground shook and dirt filled the air. Colonel Easterbrook was the first to recover. Dusting himself off, he gathered up the bottle of Scotch and with a steady hand poured each of us a new drink.

When the Colonel left the Merrill's Marauders reunion, he remarked that he hoped to be home in time to join his grandchildren at the beach for he was a family man de-

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**Col. Easterbrook Post Funeral Gathering**  
Marauders present, L to R: Paul Tobey, John Teixeira, Msgr. Glavin, Joseph Konopacki, James Sanford.



**REUNION . . .**

Continued from page 4)

**President's Report — Phil Piazza.**

We spent \$150 for a Merrill's Marauders Memorial at the Rangers location in Ft. Benning, Georgia. There were two separate Ranger units at Ft. Benning. The Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment. The Training Brigade is dedicating a wall to be available to the Ranger Association, which will include us. We have allocated \$100 to the activity fund of the 1st Battalion, at Hunter AAF Base. We meet regularly with the president of the Rangers Association. We also find ourselves periodically at events at Ft. Benning, Ga. The Army had designated a little street alongside York Field for Ranger Memorials. In November, the Korean Ranger Association dedicated a fine memorial stone to their deceased. The directors voted to look into the cost of setting up a Merrill's Marauders Memorial quoting General Merrill's remark, "That we could always walk another mile, fight another fight, etc."

Dick Poppe asked for a membership vote of confidence in the Board of Directors proposals. There was considerable applause.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

**Financial portion — Donations**

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| received this year's reunion . . . .  | \$4142.00 |
| Donations received                    |           |
| last year's reunion . . . . .         | 3686.00   |
| Mail donations                        |           |
| received this year . . . . .          | 3539.00   |
| Mail donations                        |           |
| received previous year . . . . .      | 3102.00   |
| Misc. expenses year to date,          |           |
| postage, stationery, etc. . . . .     | 785.07    |
| Similar expenses last year . . . . .  | 781.19    |
| Publishing and mailing                |           |
| 3 issues of BURMAN NEWS . . . . .     | 2225.05   |
| Same 3 issues previous year . . . . . | 2101.00   |
| Publishing of New Directory,          |           |
| 500 copies . . . . .                  | 1121.72   |
| Balance in Sec'y SW S&L               |           |
| Acct, 8-20-89 . . . . .               | 479.31    |
| Balance last year . . . . .           | 1444.38   |
| Estimated cost of publishing          |           |
| 500 copies of New book . . . . .      | \$3500.00 |

We mailed out 937 pieces of mail in addition to 4827 copies of the BURMAN NEWS.

**Additional items of interest:**

We are now using a new postal service system to advise us of Changes of Address. It cuts our costs and simplifies our work. But judging by the results of the May issue mailing, we did not get anywhere near the same number of returns. It would appear that the emphasis will be on you to notify us if you move.

Our thanks to the helpful cooperation that we are receiving from so many people in contacting new members. As of this writing we have 1632 members.

We have made available the new book, "Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Vol. I" for \$12.00. I started the work but Dave Quaid finished it up. What you see is what he did. We were so pleased with our handiwork that we convinced each other that we should work on another one. We are thinking of collecting material from all the letters we have used in the NEWS and he

will supplement with all the photos in his custody.

I should also mention that most of the letters I receive, particularly the ones that we quote in the NEWS are forwarded to Dave. He takes a photo of them and then forwards the original on to the USA Military History Institute. They appear to be pleased with our and your efforts. We were not the biggest outfit in WW II but some people think we were the best. And, we are still working at the proof.

We have been authorized by the Board of Directors to publish additional pages in the BURMAN NEWS. I am not sure how it will work out but the material has been piling up faster than I can get it printed.

We have gotten many requests, I guess from new members, asking about the procedure to obtain their wartime service medals. We will reprint soon the material that we covered previously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Charlotte Reunion 1988

Receipts:

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Registration . . . . .                | \$3686.00 |
| Sales . . . . .                       | 4400.90   |
| Raffle . . . . .                      | 530.00    |
| Logan Weston Sales . . . . .          | 57.50     |
| Hotel Rebate, \$3 per adult . . . . . | 1050.00   |
|                                       | <hr/>     |
|                                       | +9724.40  |

(Continued on page 7)

**EASTERBROOK . . .** (continued from page 5)



**Col. Easterbrook Funeral  
Flag presented to widow, Mrs. Nancy Easterbrook**

voted to his grandchildren. He was also a kind man, who upon retiring from his military career as a Major General, devoted time to community projects and volunteer hospital work. There are patients and former patients of the local hospital who will tell you that their mail was delivered by a Major General, and others will tell you that their wheel chair was pushed by a Major General — and all of them probably called him "Ernie."

Major General Ernest F. Easterbrook was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. At the Memorial Service in the chapel, his son John, in closing his moving comments for the family said: "I would like to conclude with a few lines that my father specifically asked to be read:

**"I wish to say thank you to each of my friends who are here today. I hope you will do me a favor. When you leave the chapel, go with a happy heart, go with your eyes open to the wonderful things in life that are**

**yours to share and enjoy, go with your friends and be thankful."**

On the plot where he was buried, there is a headstone for his father telling us that he was an Army chaplain, who, as a colonel was chief of chaplains. Also buried there was his brother, a brigadier general, and his nephew, an Air Force officer. Thus, we learn that Ernie was brought up in the tradition of the Army and the spirit of the clergy and he lived for his country in the spirit and traditions of his father's teachings.

There is not a member of the 475th Infantry Regiment who does not stand a little taller, knowing that he served under the gentle and brave soldier.

Paul L. Tobey  
475/2/HQ

John L. Lattin  
475/2 Bn/C.O.



**REUNION . . .**  
(Continued from page 6)

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Expenses:</b>            |           |
| Col. Austin .....           | 95.96     |
| Color Guard .....           | 332.00    |
| Bando Team Lunch .....      | 62.25     |
| Ladies Tea .....            | 367.32    |
| Coffee Break.....           | 73.71     |
| Gratuities .....            | 200.00    |
|                             | <hr/>     |
|                             | -1131.24  |
|                             | <hr/>     |
| Net Cash Proceeds .....     | \$8593.16 |
| <b>Additional Expenses:</b> |           |
| Band .....                  | 550.00    |
| Typist .....                | 34.00     |
| Misc. Expenses .....        | 162.50    |
|                             | <hr/>     |
| Net Income .....            | \$7846.66 |

**Reunion Photos by  
Official Photographer Hyden**



**Memorial Ceremony, Fort Knox, Ky., 9-1-89**  
L to R: Paul Piazza, president, Fort Representative, Msgr. Glavin, Dick Poppe.



**'Big Fire' Following Banquet  
Outside Between the Two Hotels**



L to R: Msgr. Glavin, Mrs. McGee, Col. McGee, Col. Nightingale.

**Annual Report**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of 8-28-88 ..... | \$14,925.81 |
| Deposits .....              | 9,345.16    |
| Interest .....              | 1,065.56    |
|                             | <hr/>       |
|                             | +25,336.53  |

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Checks Paid Out .....           | -5,722.93 |
| Balance 8-27-89 .....           | 19,613.60 |
| Executive Secretary's Account . | 479.31    |
|                                 | <hr/>     |

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Total Cash on Hand ..... | \$20,092.91 |
| Accounts Payable .....   | 1,238.83    |

We are continuing the Silver Compass Award. We award two to each class, 11 classes a year. It is a highly prized award within the Rangers. Through the efforts of a sergeant in the Training Brigade, who got a Bill Johnson Camping Equipment Co. in Binghamton, N.Y., to provide the compasses, we now save considerable money. We now only pay for engraving.

Motion made by Robert Passanisi to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded and approved.

**Report of Committees**

Piazza — The Audit Committee, consisting of Everett Hyden, Jim Orlando, and Piazza, reviewed the books of the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer and found everything satisfactory.

**New Business:**

There was a discussion on the lack of Reunion Site proposals at this reunion. A motion was made by Slaughter, seconded by Colombo, to provide that a committee from the Board of Directors, headed by the president, to work out arrangements for Savannah or other site (amended by Passanisi). The Savannah proposal that was being considered was at the DeSoto Hilton Hotel. The problem was with the rates offered at that hotel. Unanimously approved by the membership.

**Election of Officers:**

A motion, made by Passanisi, to re-elect all of the existing officers. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Benediction: Msgr. Glavin.**

Piazza — Requested Ray Mitchell to come forward. He did, with a needlepoint MM Emblem plaque which was presented to Sally Lyons "In Appreciation for Service to Others."

Meeting forthwith adjourned.

**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS  
COMBAT FILM VIDEO TAPE**

"March Over Mountains to  
Myitkyina"  
By 3rd Battalion  
Taken by S/Sgt. Dave Quaid

\*\*\*

Send check or money order of  
\$30.00 to:  
Herb Clofine  
1632 Surrey Lane  
Havertown, PA 19083  
Specify VHS or BETA

# Letters

**EDITOR:**

I was happy to participate in the Arlington Cemetery service for General Easterbrook. Paul Tobey was there and John Teixeira, Joe Konopacki, and Jim Sanford. The Easterbrook family knew that there were five members present who served under the General in Burma, and that we came to represent the Long Range Penetration Group Infantry in tribute to his leadership.

Colonel Easterbrook was a Commanding Officer who was well respected by all. He was looked upon as a soldier's soldier. He had the confidence of the men.

The chapel service and the grave service had all been arranged ahead of time in accordance with the standard pattern of Arlington Cemetery. But I stood at the foot of the grave and blessed it. I had a great sense of loss at the death of General Easterbrook, especially after the warm and enjoyable reunion in Charlotte. I felt a sense of happiness that I was present to represent the men he commanded in Burma.

There was a very fine reception afterwards, and we did have the opportunity to express to the members of the family the admiration which we felt for Colonel Easterbrook in Burma.

My presence at Arlington was after an involved trip. I left Houston, Texas, on Thursday morning to visit friends in Little Rock Arkansas. After registering at a hotel, I spent some time with this family. At their home, I was given a note telling me about a phone message for me. Col. Lattin had called the rectory in Amsterdam. Father Gulley relayed the message that Col. Easterbrook had died and there was to

(Continued on page 8)

**HEADQUARTERS**  
5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT [PROV]  
APO 487  
1 August 1944

**GENERAL ORDERS]**

:

**NUMBER 16]**

**I. AWARD OF COMBAT  
INFANTRYMAN BADGE**

UP WD Circular 186, dtd 11 May 1944, a Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy in Northern Burma to the following:

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Lt. Col. James E. Ligon | 033947  |
| Maj. Lawrence Lew       | 0401329 |
| Maj. Louis J. Williams  | 0372083 |

**II. AWARD OF EXPERT  
INFANTRYMAN BADGE**

UP WD Circular 186, dtd 11 May 1944, an Expert Infantryman Badge is awarded to the following:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Capt. G. Clare Thomas | 0402885 |
|-----------------------|---------|

By order of Colonel HUNTER:

TOM P. SENFF  
Capt., Inf.  
Adjutant

**OFFICIAL:**  
LLOYD P. KIRBY,  
1st LT., AGD.,  
Asst. Adjutant

CORRECTED COPY



## LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 7)

be a memorial ceremony at Ft. Myers and Arlington Cemetery, Friday at 11 a.m. I gave up on the dinner, was rushed to my hotel to check out, to the airport to make a plane for WDC within an hour. I flew thru the night to Washington. Registered in a hotel, and after a short sleep, made it to the Ft. Myers Chapel on time.

There I met Tex and Joe and their wives and we ultimately formed a representative group at the chapel and at the committal service at the grave.

Father Edward R. Glavin,  
Chaplain, St. Mary's Church,  
156 East Main St.,  
Amsterdam, NY 12010.

## EDITOR:

COLOR OF HONOR is an interesting film. Loni Ding tried very hard to get an interview with my dad on camera. When Dad died, he had just arrived in Washington, D.C., to preview the exhibit which was opening that month at the Smithsonian on the Nisei soldiers and also to preview the COLOR OF HONOR. In the original version of the film of which Loni sent me a copy, there are two photos of my dad, including the one with Herb Miyasaki and Gen. Merrill. Loni uses that picture slot for promotion purposes. In the television version of the film, there is a photo of my mom and dad holding hands in front of the Amache sign, just before he went overseas. Loni says it is one of her favorite pictures. The photo of my dad, Herb Miyasaki, and Merrill now hangs in the Smithsonian's American History Museum as part of the exhibit on the Nisei soldier.

Lani Yoshimura,  
P.O. Box 1214,  
Los Gatos, CA 95031.

## EDITOR:

I was a Reconnaissance and Survey Officer with the 612th FA/B Battery. I was in action on Loi Kang Ridge, bordering the Burma Road as a Forward Observer with the 475/2nd Bn. Went thru one Banzai attack on the ridge that temporarily overran many perimeter positions including mine.

Charles J. Stormont,  
150 Bonneau Rd.  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
612/B; 475/2/HQ/FWD OBS, 938-5633.

## EDITOR:

I was sorry to see Herb Miyasaki's name on the "gone" list. Herb was a great guy as was his side kick, Katz Kono, who, I see has just joined the association. In early '45, I think it was, I was on my way back to CBI after the furlough home. Mary, my wife, went with me to Miami and we ran into Herb and Katz and had dinner with them. Then in '57, I was an overnigher in the hospital at Pearl Harbor, (on my way to Walter Reed), and I called Katz. Herb was away. This is the first time I have heard about either of them since.

I remember their handling prisoners at Myitkya. They (unbeknownst to them), taught me a lot about men and especially the psychology of interrogation. They were both fine men.

I was also interested in the letter from Frank Jones about Jack Gersham. Jack told me the story about his wife and son in Ledo, in August

'45. Jack's wife was raped and killed by the Nips and the boy died in the jungle. A British major, I don't recall the name, promised Jack that he would get his wife and child out by plane if Jack would help the Rosner's, Dennis (I think the other was Joe), get the treasury out over the Ft. Hertz trail. Jack and Dennis and the elephants

and gold got out. But, Jack's wife and child didn't. Jack was in India to visit friends about 50 miles down from Ledo. I asked Gen. Wilson (Weary Wilson) for the loan of a jeep and when he heard about Jack, he loaned him one. Jack turned it in two weeks later. Here again,

(Continued on page 9)

## FALL IN

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

JAMES H. APPLGATE, 122 A Holloway Estates Dr., Lebanon, TN 37087;  
5307/3/I/3/Platoon Leader; 475/3/I/3/Platoon Leader.

WILLIAM BELEW JR., 5708 Southland Blvd., Louisville, KY 40214; 5307/3/I; 475/3/I.

JOSEPH HARRIS BISSONNETTE, 45 Clark St., Framingham, MA 01701; 5307/1/RCT; 475/1,  
508-875-4418.

LEE BREWER, 601 No. 35th St., Ozark, AR 72949; 5307; 475/3/L Co.

ROBERT CAMINA, 124 Thomas St., Brownsville, TX 78521; 124/2/HQ TR.

HAROLD K. CHAPPEL, 1530 Ackley St., Westland, MI 48185; 5307/1/WCT/I&R.

GEORGE COLE, Rt. 3, Box 207, Houlika, MS 38850; 5307.

WENDELL CRAMER, Rt. 2, Box 431, Clymer, PA 15728; 5307/3/KCT/33 QM PK TR;  
475/2/33 QM PK TR.

EDWARD CYMBOLA, Box 25, Colton, OH 43510; 124/3/HQ TR/P&D Platoon; 419-533-4620.

ANTHONY C. DADO, 1545 7th St., Green Bay, WI 54304; 5307/2/I&R Platoon.

EARL R. DAVIS, P.O. Box 2401, Terre Haute, IN 47802; 5307; 475.

ELWOOD L. FORRER, 200 West Ohio Ave., Rittman, OH 44270; 5307/3/I Co; 475/3/I/3.

BOBBIE L. FRICKE, Rt. 3, Box 337, Seymour, IN 47274; 812-522-3845; 475/2/E/1 Platoon.

JOHN J. GALLAGHER, 259 So. Teller St., Apt. 109, Lakewood, CO 80226; 5307.

FERNANDO GARCIA, 561 No. Arden Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004; 5307/2/F; 475/2/F.

GEORGE C. GREEN, 4425 Highway 441 So., Lot 10, Okeechobee, FL 34974; 5307/3/I Co.; 475/3/I.

PETER GUZAITIS, 2915 West 38th St., Chicago, IL 60632; 247-2529; 475.

GEORGE F. HEATH, 1947 W. Baseline Rd., Lot 35, Phoenix, AZ 85041; 5307; 475th.

ROBERT R. HICKEY, 2528 West 6th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336; 5307/3/?.

JAMES O. IMBODEN, 131 Judy Lee Dr., Largo, FL 34641; 5307/?.

TED JANKOWSKI, 4236 So. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60632; 5307/236/HQ/COMM SEC.

IVAN T. JASPER, Rt. 2, Box 198, Yorktown, IN 57396; 317-288-5662; 5307/3/L Co.; 475/3/L.

H. MYLES JOHNSON, MD, 5902 Copperfield Ave., Riverside, CA 92506; 714-682-1062;

Seagraves Hospital.

ALTON T. KNUTSON, 4905, 217th St. No., Forest Lake, MN 55025; 613th FA/B/4 Section.

CECIL LAWRENCE, 7525 No. 109th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85307; 602-872-9589;

5307/HQ/HW/4.2 MRTS; 475/HQ/HW/4.2 MRTRS.

ISADORE LURIE, 808 No. McKean St., Kittanning, PA 16201; 412-543-3049;

5307/2/F Co; 475/2/F.

BENNY MATUCCI, 105 Crestwood Dr., No. Syracuse, NY 13212; 5307/209/B.

IVAL MAXWELL, 1306 No. State St., Marion, IL 62959; 618-997-2182; 5307/3/I; 475/3/I.

MELVIN E. MEYERHOFF, 327 Third St., Washburn, IA 50706; 5307; 475.

WILLIAM MEYERS, 3119 Woodland Pl., Akron, OH 44312; 5307/209/A Co.

JULIAN S. MOLIFF, 1204 Pierce Ave., Columbus, OH 43227; 5307/3/K Co.

STANLEY J. MOLONEY, 6228 Case Ave., Bradenton, FL 34207; 813-756-3706;

12th CHIN COMBAT ENGINEERS, NCAC.

JOHN MORRIS, 5446 So. Foster Rd., San Antonio, TX 78222; 5307/3/K Co; 475/3/K.

PRICE M. MORRIS, 294 Hill St., Mountville, PA 17554-1005; 5307/3/HQ/K-9; 124/2/HQ/K-9.

GEORGE A. MOUNT, 914 Peppertree #C, Owensboro, KY 42301; 5307/3/I; 475/3/I.

EARL E. NELSON, 3925 Woodbine Dr., Marion, IN 46952; 5307/2/E; 475/2/E Co.; 662-3613.

DENVER E. NEWSOM, 26154 Wagner, Warren, MI 48089; 5307/2/E; 475/2/E; 313-757-5866.

W. E. NICHOLSON, 519 Maxine Manor, Brownsburg, IN 46112; 5307/2/F; 475/2/F & G.

COL. KEITH M. NIGHTINGALE, COMMANDER, Ranger Training Brigade, ATSH-R,

Fort Benning, GA 31905-5430.

JOHN M. O'BRIEN, 4326 Alicent Rd., Louisville, KY 40207; 5307/2/G-E Cos; 475/2/E.

GEORGE R. OTT, 2730 McCracken, Muskegon, MI 49441; 613 FA.

FRANK F. PAULIN, JR., 634 Eryav Ave., Louisville, KY 40217; 5307/3/L/60 MM MRTS.

JESS R. PEEK, SR., 8012 Thixton Lane, Louisville, KY 40229; 5307.

RICHARD H. REGULA, 16934 Georgina, Birmingham, MI 48009; 475/3/L Co.; 646-5267.

EDWARD RYBA, 4936 So. Karlov, Chicago, IL 60632; 582-2328; 5307; 475.

CARL SCHERMERHORN, 8613 No. 84th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85258; 602-991-6026; 5307; 475.

JOSEPH SELF, 48425 Cherokee Ave., Alexandria, VA 22312; 5307; 475.

ERWIN F. SIEH, Rt. 3, Box 4, Avoca, IA 51521; 5307/209/C/1; 209/C/1.

ERNEST SLEVIN, Rt. 1, Box 144, Union Mills, IN 46382; 5307; 475.

HOWARD SOMMERFIELD, 4647 So. Rockwell, Chicago, IL 60632; 523-6943; 5307; 475.

JAMES E. STEVENS, Box 142, Middle Branch, OH 44652; 216-499-9810; 5307/3/I; 475/3/I.

ALBERT THOMASSON, Rt. 2, Box 34, Bonaqua, TN 37025; 615-67-3650; 5307/3/L Co.; 475/3/L.

WALTER V. TRAVIS, 10971 Shelp Lake Dr., Delton, MI 49046; 5307/2/G Co.; 475/2/E.

ARVAL TURNER, 6225 So. 475 East, Lebanon, IN 46052; 475/1/B/2/3 Squadron.

NICK VIDOVICH, 100 Woodland Rd., Aliquippa, PA 15001; 5307; 475.

LLOYD T. WALDEN, 2924 Westknolls Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45211; 5307/3/I; 475/3/I.



## LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 8)

learned from him. I doubt any living man knew or will ever know the jungle and people of Burma as well as Jack did. He was also a boxing champ of Burma.

I also wrote to Albert Sieber. He wrote about "G" Company. You may recall that there were two groups that came back from that fiasco. The first bunch of about 25 and the next day Lt. Pick came out with a dozen more. I had the chore of finding out from those men what happened. Essentially this was it. When the Nips, whom Lt. Broadfoot took for Chinese, opened fire, the company simply ran. Of some 160 men, we got back about 30 and 2, I repeat 2 weapons. A Sgt. Petrie, who when I asked what happened said, simply, "These S.O.B.'s simply ran." They threw away their weapons and were run out by about 25 Nips. Lt. Pick said the same thing. You may not know that it was in the plan for me to take a couple of squads of I & R and go with them. Then, at the last minute, actually the night before, Col. Hunter told me not to go. I always felt that had I gone and taken Grimes, Smith, Kappas, Worsnop, etc., it would have been different. It was a shame but those people simple panicked and ran. I know how scared I was in my first fire fight and I had infinitely more training and know how than those kids did. Still, I recommended to Hunter that all but Pick and Petrie, be tried for "Misbehavior before the enemy." Naturally, he said, "No." I've always regretted that I wasn't along. Anyhow, he was the wounded man that got back and I asked him what happened.

I ran into another "G" Company man here and he wouldn't even talk about it.

To my mind, looking back some 44 years, the fault lies with the Army, on the whole, and with Col. Hunter and his staff, of which I was a part. Those recruits should never have been sent on the mission without a few men who knew jungle warfare to steady them. The facts are, when Lt. Broadfoot was killed, the rest simply ran. Forgive my dwelling on "G Company Massacre" but it is a sore remembrance for me. I shall always feel that had Hunter let me go along with the I & R Platoon, we would have taken the objective with very little loss of life.

Actually, two MG's and some dozen or so rifles were all that fired that morning. Strange, I hadn't thought of that fiasco in years. The letter from Siever brought it all back.

You know, Logan Weston was one of the few people that I ever thought of as truly brave.

**HEY, MEDICS!**

Due to the loss of my left leg on May 26 and problems with the healing process because of my diabetic condition, we will not be able to attend the Reunion this year. My wife and I appreciate the great work done by the officers and committee to make the reunions such a great success. Hope to see you all next year. Philip L. Olsen, 7719 West Dakota St., West Allis, WI 53219, 5307/3/KCT.

We had a short visit at the Reunion from a son of Jess R. Peek, 5307th. He said his father was at the Audubon Hospital, Louisville, KY 40217 and would appreciate company and I am sure a "Get Well" card. RVL.

When I think of brave men, I think of Logan, "Wild Bill" Emerick, Russ Blair, Bill Grimes, Dr. Jacobs, who died recently, and "Pop" Wilson. There are others but Weston tops my list.

Somehow, I never thought of Sam Wilson as brave. I should add Hunter and Osborne to my list as well. And, Jack Gresham.

I used to envy Blair, until I heard him tell Hunter how much he envied another man, who "Goes in with a cigarette hanging from his lips and a grin on his face like he was going to dance." Blair didn't recognize a cover up when he saw one.

Seriously, we had some truly brave men. Not many "good" ones, but brave and tough. And, I'm sure, that the lads of "G" Company had they a little training or had been "stiffened" with a few "old hands" wouldn't have ended up as they did.

Nellis Johnson, 5307/HQ/S-2,  
14750 Beach Blvd, #13,  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250.

## EDITOR:

I was with the 5307th/G Co./ 81 mm mortars/ 1st Gunner. We arrived on the General Butner in May 1944 and were brought to Myitkyina as badly needed replacements soon after arriving in India. Never was wounded, but had plenty of spent shrapnel bounce off me. Still get shivers whenever I think about it or when someone asks me what I did in the war. Had malaria eight times in Burma and China. Three times in the field when I could not be pulled out. At least, I'm still here to talk about it. While some of my comrades, Laby, DelVecchio, Roman, Mitchell, Jenson were all killed. May their Souls Rest in Peace. Went to China after our fighting was done. Taught Chinese soldiers on 60 and 81 mm mortars. Left for home from Calcutta, Nov. 16, 1945.

Richard C. Kearney,  
11 Terrace Gardens,  
Meriden, CT 06450, 203-238-0161,  
5307/2/G/81 MM Mortars, 1st Gunner  
475/2/G/81 MM Mortars.

## EDITOR:

In Jess Hosman's picture on page 8 of February BURMAN NEWS, I am sixth one from the left in front row. Second from left in second row, big husky guy is Jerry Laurent.

Robert Nelson  
Rt. 5, Box 310,  
Livingston, TX 77351,  
5307/1/WCT); 475/1/B Co.

## EDITOR:

I appreciate Bill Darden giving you my name as a former Marauder. I lost contact with everyone when I lost my address book. There were 32 communication men taken from Camp Stewart, GA, put on a plane in Miami, FL, 16 Jan. '44, and headed for parts unknown. After delays, due to a burned out engine over South America, we arrived in Karachi and learned that we no longer were anti-aircraft personnel but now were in the infantry and headed to the Burma border.

I was in the regimental message center during the first campaign and was on duty as an operator the night that the 4Z (ZZZZ) message came through that the troops on Nhpum Ga Hill were running out of water and ammunition and requested immediate air drops. Due to the

urgency of the situation and lack of personnel, this message was not sent in code but in plain English. That night I smoked my first cigarette and did not quit until 1½ years ago. After the airfield was taken at Myitkyina, I went in as a replacement and was attached to HQ & HQ Co.

On the 2nd Campaign, I was attached to HQ & HQ Co. and after the opening of the Burma Road was airlifted to Kunming, China, where we taught the Chinese to operate the International Morse Code.

I am looking forward to the Louisville Reunion.

James "Ted" Masengil,  
1730 Morris Hill Rd.,  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-3340  
5307/HQ/COMM; 475/HQ/COMM.

## EDITOR:

On the trail that the Japs held going up to Nhpum Ga, Dean Voltz and the Third Bn 1st sergeant, whose name I forget, were on the trail on their haunches, when a sniper took a shot that went through the 1st sergeant's hand, hit his gun barrel and ricocheted up, hitting him in the chest, killing him instantly. He also, as far as I knew, pulled out Major Lew when he was wounded.

James Gilbertson, 5307/3/KCT/P&D  
12206 Old 8 Dr.,  
Tomahawk, WI 54487; 715-453-5833

## EDITOR:

I talked to Jack Goff the other day and he says he can't recall which Battalion he was in. He says he was in the column on the left and was in the Walawbum Battle. He was on New Caledonia when he volunteered for the mission. He was in on the capture of the Myitkyina Air Field and was evacuated to the Ledo Hospital. When he asked to go back to Myitkyina, after the Chinese lost it, the doctor said he knew what was the matter with him, "You're Crazy." Jack said he stayed with the same men all the way from the Solomons, so I guess he was in the Third Column as he called it.

(Editor: Can anyone help out this Tennessee Volunteer?)

J. Frank Eichelberger,  
138 Hayfield Sq.,  
Manchester, TN 37355-1407.

## EDITOR:

About Creight Smith. He was a BAR man in my platoon and a proud and faithful Marauder. Ray Thorpe, another platoon member, (that's F Co., 2nd Bn.), and I spent a few hours with him back in March before he died.

Creight's "Nom de guerre" was "Gasline," which he earned one morning on the Ledo Road. He stepped off into the brush to zero in his new BAR. Accidentally, he fired a burst into the camouflaged aviation gasoline pipeline, setting it afire.

Edward McLogan,  
1717 US 31 N, Unit 17,  
Traverse City, MI 49684,  
5307/2/GCT.

## EDITOR:

I was in I Company, 3rd Bn. 475th Infantry. I am not sure what platoon. We had a Sgt. Morrison or a Sgt. Browning as platoon sergeant. Lt. Applegate was the platoon leader. I was in a

(Continued on page 10)



## LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 9)

squad with a fellow from Fresno, California, for 36 months. Frank Bataglia was his name. Elwood Forrer, 5307/3/I Co.; 475/3/I/3 200 West Ohio Ave., Rittman, OH 44270.

## EDITOR:

Would like to hear from men who were in the War Dog Detachment, attached to Merrill's Marauders during Burma Campaign. Upcoming K-9 Reunion.

Russell F. Miszner, 5307/K-9,  
412 Iowa St.,  
LaPorte, IA 50651.

## EDITOR:

About the Jap General Suicide incident in the underground bunker. Two of the men who I remember as giving a first hand account of it were named Horton and Jasper Swearingin. Horton is listed as having passed away in the last year and Swearingin did not respond to last year's Christmas card exchange for the first time. I guess time is taking its toll. The tank in the photo that I sent was near the old Burma Road, a short distance south of Mong Yu. Col. Murano sent me the manual on that model which was 1929 vintage. It probably had seen prior service in China in either the 1931 or 1937 invasions.

John D. Holmbeck,  
1425 Garwood Dr.,  
W. Melbourne, FL 32904  
5307/236/B,C,H&S.

## EDITOR:

In your letter, you seemed surprised that I've finally surfaced. Well, time is quite a healer and after 45 years, the bitterness is gone. I was pretty disgusted with the whole military establishment, including Merrill's Marauders and to top it off, after we had gotten out of Burma and we're camped by the River, the monsoons were well on the way. The point system was enacted and I had lots of points so they decided to ship me States side. I'm enclosing the ticket which I've just found, notice how brief and uncaring. By the way, I've never looked at the things I have, since being discharged and finding all kinds of goodies. Anyway, at this point, I had no clothes to leave with but it didn't seem to be anyone's concern but mine, so I finally went over to a huge pile of mildewed clothing that had been dumped out of barracks bags, picked out a shirt and a pair of pants and hitchhiked to Chu. There, I boarded an ATC plane, headed West. All this without a thanks or goodbye or anything.

I left India very much alone. When I got to Karachi, they put me in a General Hospital. I had doubled up with cramps in the old stomach again. The hospital staff had a very bad attitude about anyone going home while they had to stay there. They started to prepare me for surgery. Well, I wasn't about to have my appendix out. So, as soon as I found my clothes, I went out a window and caught the next plane headed West. I did stop in Accra on the Gold Coast for almost a week of swimming in the Atlantic and washing my clothes to get India out of my system.

After having arrived in the U.S., I reported to the Armory in Monterey, California, where I had been drafted four years before. Some shave-

tail collected a bunch of us and said, "We're going to give you the best time of your lives for the next few days at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Barbara." When we showed up there some other officer, with a touch more rank said, "You're not going to bring that lot in here. They're probably full of all kinds of exotic diseases."

So, they shipped us back up to Camp Beale in North California, where we were supposed to be discharged from the army. Some officer said, "You can't turn these men loose until they have had a medical exam." Which made some sense. So, they gave us a one-week furlough home. When I reported back, I was put in Hoff General Hospital, Santa Barbara, for nine months, during which time I learned to go out the window after lights out and headed downtown.

It was on one of these outings that I spotted Col. Hunter on the other corner of the street with his wife, I presume. Well, we both ran out in the middle of the street and threw our arms around each other. No saluting or anything and with his wife still on the sidewalk. He said he was going back to Washington to the Army War College and was there anything he could do for me. I told him I couldn't stand the natives around this part of the world and wanted to go back, but on my terms.

He agreed and said he would contact G-2 and have them make me an officer with orders to go to China and be dropped someplace in Northern China by parachute to organize some sort of an attack on Japan.

The day I was to receive my discharge, the sealed orders arrived, but I wouldn't have a chance to read them until I was out of the U.S. So, I took the discharge and decided to try to adapt.

To answer some questions. You asked about Clark and Frye's first name. I don't know if I had ever heard them because we had no written roster or roll call and as platoon sergeant, I wound up calling them by their last names or just, "Hey, you!" (Some way to run an army!)

It surely could have been James W. Clarke, all I remember about him is that he was from Wyoming or Utah. I think Frye was from Kentucky. They were both transferred like me out of the 3rd Battalion. So, maybe, there is a list of the transferrees.

Sam Wilson must have been booted out before retirement, because the last I heard, he was a Brig. General (Ed: Lt. Gen.). He does live near Farmville, Virginia. By the way, Did you see Sam in the old Merrill's Marauder film as a sort of assistant to Jeff Chandler? I think Claude Akins was supposed to be me in what I thought was a pretty poor endeavor. Also was mentioned a few times in the book.

All this rambling doesn't make a lot of sense, but seems like when I get started, it won't stop. S/Sgt. Clarence Branscomb, 5307/1/WCT/I&R 800 Cameo Ct., Brookings, OR 97415.

## Chu to USA by Air

## C-46 - Indian Time

July, Thurs., 27 - Chu to Lal Hat - 11:00 - 1:05  
July, Thurs., 27 - Lal Hat to Agra - 2:30 - 7:00  
July, Fri., 28 - Agra to Karachi - 2:20 6:15  
Aug., Mon., 7 - Karachi to Misriam Isl -  
10:05 - 1:35  
Aug., Tues. 8 - Misriam to Aden ARB -  
2:15 - 8:10  
Aug., Tues., 8 - Aden ARB to Khartoum -  
8:40 - 2:00

Aug., Tues., 8 - Khartoum to El Fasher -  
6:35 9:45

Aug., Tues., 8 - El Fasher to Maiduguri -  
11:20 - 3:00

Aug., Wed., 9 - Maiduguri to Accra - 3:30 - 6:45  
C-54 - G.M.T.

Aug., Wed., 16 - Accra to Ascension -  
12:25 - 7:30

Aug., Wed., 16 - Ascension to Natal S.A.  
8:45 - 4:15

Aug., Tues., 22 - Natal to Belem - 12:30 - 5:15

Aug., Wed., 23 - Belem to Georgetown -  
4:55 - 9:00

Aug., Wed., 23 - Georgetown to Trinidad -  
10:40 - 12:25

Aug., Wed., 23 - Trinidad to Porto Rico -  
1:00 - 3:35

Aug., Wed., 23 - Porto Rico to Miami -  
4:15 to 8:40

Clarence Branscomb's trip back to U.S.A.

## EDITOR:

Needless to say, I should have taken your advice to sit down before attempting to read any of the copies of "The Burman News" you sent.

Who, in his wildest dreams, would have dreamt that ten members of my old platoon would have been at your last reunion. You can rest assured, if they all make the next one, our total will be eleven, because I sure intend on being there. I realize that one man was from another platoon, but we will overlook that and let him become an "Honorary Member" of our 3rd Platoon, I Company.

After pouring over the Newsletters - devouring, if you will, every word concerning the old outfit - I dug into my old foot locker (Molding and Decaying for years of unuse) and found several pictures and news items that I feel will be of interest to all. Particularly, I have a few small snapshots taken of our platoon and other members of I Company (475) just prior to our attack to the right flank of the 2nd Battalion at Tonkwa. At the present time, we are having a photographer blow up these pictures so that everyone is more recognizable.

There were so many things in the "Burman News" that were of particular interest to me. Much of this I had first hand information on and would like to comment on these events, but to do so would take more sheets than the news letter itself. Notably, the letters between Bob MacDonald, Henry Kennedy, and John Scheifle.

God, how one piece of information can set your mind back to remembering things from some 45 years ago. Things like Bobby Newman's incident in shooting his own man as we dug in that first night at the air strip. I know from talking to Bob later that this had a drastic effect on him. Some of the boys may remember how members of mine and Bob's platoon would yell back and forth comparing how many Nips Bob had against how many I had.

I will never forget the bravery of Charles Dennehy on our second and third days attack from the air field. As we advanced, we were passing thru a draw when we were hit by a barrage of knee mortar fire. The officer from the headquarters was following our progress. I am ashamed to say that I don't recall his name. This officer was hit in the stomach and chest by shrapnel and Dennehy tried his best to help but to no avail. Dennehy moved from man to man

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## LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 10)

unmindful of his own safety, to take care of their wounds. I did, as one of the boys mentioned, make the statement that he should have at least a Silver Star for such heroic action. If I am not mistaken, Lt. Jim Blocker, our Ex Officer (later C.O. of I Co.) made a note of it in the book he always carried.

Later as we advanced, as some recalled, we approached the village of Namkwi. We took up position at the edge of a clearing overlooking a park of sorts. Out in the middle of it was a well which has also been mentioned. Bill Payne's Weapons Platoon was on our right flank. Bill had dysentery real bad and left his position to relieve himself, a sniper took pot shots at him. Needless to say, he made haste back to his fox hole, squirting, cussing, and pulling up his pants all at the same time. Humorous — Yes. Serious — You bet your life!

The next day, we advanced more toward Namkwi. My platoon took up positions along a bamboo row, almost face to face with the Nips. First Sgt. Rector (God Bless him, wish I knew what happened to him) (Ed: address supplied) and I grabbed a 60 mm with the tube between my legs and Rector feeding the shells. We had one H— of a time. This is where I got hit with shrapnel in the left foot and leg. I was evacuated to 20th GH, later returning to the outfit at Camp Landis.

One last thing, this time anyway. If anyone would have any knowledge of Jim Blocker, our C.O. of I Company, Bob Malnick, 2nd Platoon Leader, or any other members, I would appreciate hearing from them. I was with Logan Weston in Korea from Day One. He later became BN CO, 2nd Bn, 27th Inf. Regt. (Wolfhounds) and I, again, Platoon Sgt. (M/Sgt.) 3rd Platoon, I Co., 27th Regt. When the 2nd Infantry Division came over, I was assigned to meet them and guide them in to position on our 25th Division right flank. Guess who I met? Former Lt. Bill Payne, now a major with the 2nd Division.

Just to clarify things — at the outbreak of hostilities in Korea — there were no provisions for recall of former officers. In our first combat action, 7 July 1950, Gen. Bill Kean (25th Div. Cmdr.) gave me a Battlefield Commission as 2nd Lieutenant. I rose to the rank of captain before retiring.

James Applegate,  
122-A Holloway Estates Dr., Rt. #6,  
Lebanon, TN 37087  
5307/3/1/3; 475/3/1/3/Platoon Leader

## EDITOR:

In scanning the roster of 475/3/I Co., listed in the May issue of the NEWS, the name of James A. Larrabee leaped out at me. We were together in HQ Co. "C" Team, one of the several reorganizations of the 475th after our move to China.

Jim Larrabee was acting NCO of the 37 mm AT Gun demonstration team. One of the other men in that team was Leroy C. Brawdy, also from I Co.

Two other men from I Co. were also listed on the rolls of "C" Team: Ernest W. McKissick and Gordon Griffith. McKissick was a driver on a 6x6 move we made from Kunming to Kweilin in May of 1945. Griffith was in the ammo section of the team.

"C" Team was originally organized as a Weapons & Tactics demonstration team for instruction of the Chinese Eighth Army. We all learned to throw the German Potato Masher Grenade with which the Eighth Army was equipped. As I remember it, it was generally agreed that it was easier to throw, and easier to get near a target than our own grenade, or the British Mills Grenade with which all of us were accustomed.

Jim Larrabee and I became good friends and maintained a correspondence from 1946 thru 1950. But, somewhere, during the Korean War period, we lost track of each other. The last known address I had for him was Downey, California. If someone can locate him there, I would certainly appreciate his new address. (Ed: Us, too!)

Arthur Wilson,  
8335 SW Fairway Dr.,  
Portland, OR 97225  
5307/1/A; 475/1/A Co.

## EDITOR:

I am looking forward to the next reunion. I was wounded at Nhpum Ga in April 1944 and again at Myitkyina. I also received the Silver Star at Myitkyina, June 5, 1944. I would like to know the Special Order that would cover this award so that I can upgrade my service record and discharge. If you can help me at this time, I would appreciate it.

S/Sgt. John E. Johnson,  
2957 Botany Dr.,  
Jonesboro, GA 30236  
5307/3/KCT/HW.

(Ed: Anyone have a photo of this award ceremony or knowledge of it, please advise.)

## EDITOR:

I was in the 5307/3 BN/Orange Combat Team/I & R Platoon. Lt. Logan Weston was our platoon leader. Can you help me? I've accounted for all that was left of my squad but for one man. His name is Ernest "Alabama" Lewis. He was from Fayetteville, Alabama. I was behind the line from start to finish, so I know he was there when we hit Myitkyina. So, if anyone out there knows anything about Ole "Alabama," please drop me a line to set my mind at ease.

George C. Brown,  
#1 Pepper Tree,  
Anderson, SC 29621.

## EDITOR:

We went to Minneapolis to parade with CBI group on Memorial Day. While at the VA Cemetery, checked on Alfred Henry Amyotte. He is buried there.

(Ed: We have map showing spot if anyone is interested. Courtesy of Mr. Clausen.)

H. F. Clausen,  
19 Arthur Circle,  
Silver Bay, MN 55614.

## EDITOR:

Saw your reunion notice in the VFW and American Legion magazines. It's over 40 years and I have never attended a reunion. Two years ago, I visited Port Richey, Florida, with a friend whose sister was married to one of the Original 5307th, Al Glave. We got to bull crappin' and he was at Myitkyina! I was there also, on Detached Service from the 988th Radio Group, as I was a

radio operator. We flew from Shadazup, Fighter Strip, on a C-47 loaded with medical supplies. When we got to Myitkyina, Japs were still shelling the strip. There must have been about 30 wrecked C-47s, all about the sides of the field. There was a small Engr tractor pulling them to the side so another one could land.

We dug in along the strip. All this time, I had a khaki uniform on, as I was supposed to go out with the Chinese Army. The reason was the Chinese wore khakis and if you didn't, they would pick you off.

My company commander told me to go over to the Evacuation Hospital that was operating along the airstrip. I was told to ride out to the "Y" Headquarters with the Jeep driver, who was bringing wounded back from the front. No one knew where the "Y" was. Finally, by chance, the road shaped itself like a "Y" and I met my contact. I dug in around this perimeter. I worked with Sgt. Dustin as he was giving orders. He was a nice guy.

What I remember about this area was we were dug in a little below the road. The radio was dug in a little below with canine dogs and to the left they had a stockade where we helped strip prisoners with berry berry. Radio men did everything! We also dug holes for the guys who expired, who were in the aid station above the Ghurkas. Then, after a couple of weeks, I was sent up the road, to work with a Combat Engr. Bn., 236th, I think. They had a Col. Greenlea for the honcho, also a Lt. Blair. I was still wearing my khakis. I started to dig in. I sure attracted some S.O.B. as he took shots at me all afternoon. He sat in the tree, and the captain who was dug in near me, sez, "When they snap around your ears, they're close!" I wish I could say I got the bastard. But, being new to these conditions, I was just scared.

Oh, yeah! That night, Pistol Pete had a bead on that area. He peppered the hell out of it. A shell hit the corner of our hole and the guy who was in the hole with me, screamed all night. Wasn't hurt, but was lighting cigarettes under his helmet, and I think that attracted the bastards. But, the next morning, someone elected to get me a set of fatigues for the khakis and things got a little duller. The Japs thought Merrill and Stilwell had come back. Remember, they were at the "Y" Junction one time, pinning medals on some guys. We worked with Air Force by radio on strafing and air support.

I was with this outfit until Myitkyina fell. We got our ice cream and chicken. (I still think they were pigeons.)

I can't remember most of the guys but I had almost three years there. Started out at Hell Gate, walked to Tagap, about 65 miles, to set up a radio station. After a few months, that Ledo Road came thru there. We were replaced and rode back in style, in a jeep. And got lucky, they sent us to Calcutta for instruction on How to Operate Hi Speed Equipment.

While at Tagap, we worked with the Chinese. I think the 1st and 6th Armies were waiting for the monsoon to quit. But, getting back to Calcutta, there was no school. We sat on our butts, while the Army figured out what to do with us. We worked the Big Radio Station atop the Hindustani Building in Calcutta for a while.

Then, when the 5307th started the skirmish, I was lucky. My name was pulled out of the hat. As no one wanted to volunteer for combat duty.

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**LETTERS . . .**

(Continued from page 11)

Back we went to the jungle. And, we started from Hukawng Valley, Walabu, Shaduzup and up to the Irrawaddy. After Myitkyina, I was at Camp Landis and they transferred us to the Chinese. I got down to Bhamo and a little below there, the liaison captain put me in for Tech Sgt. rating. They transferred me to another outfit in New Delhi. We were, after all, G.F.U., weren't we? And, that's when I quit working for the Army, Heh! From Delhi, I went to Bombay and finally got to go home in September of '45 on rotation.

I'll try to get some guys to come to the reunion with me. After 40 years, everyone changed and we'll be hard to recognize.

Ted Jankowski,  
4236 So. Richmond St.,  
Chicago, IL 60631  
5307/236 Engrs; 475th.

**EDITOR:**

I would like to hear from members of the 33rd QM PK TR that trained in Ft. Bliss, Texas, and that were on the ship that sunk on the way overseas. We became part of Merrill's Marauders.

Graham Bennett,  
100 East 13th St.,  
Edmond, OK 73034.

**EDITOR:**

Please help me locate a Sgt. Patrick W. Murphy, who made Lt. Murphy on that mountain in our last combat in Burma, near the Burma Road. That's when I was wounded on my right side of neck by shrapnel. Would like to locate my two

buddies who were in the same foxhole with me and helped me to the doctor. I can't remember their names anymore. I need their help with the VA in Washington. On that mountain we were in F Co., 475th Infantry. I have Lt. Murphy's name because I have in my possession a Catholic prayer book which he gave me and said, "I hope it brings you good luck as it did me."

After Burma, they flew us to China, near Kunming and later war ended. I volunteered for jungle fighting while in the 97th Division, 303rd Infantry. We were sent to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, and on to the USS General Butler to Capetown and to Bombay. Two days later and we were on a plane to Myitkyina that crash landed. The pilot had to stay there and help us.

I made it through Burma, except on top of that last mountain near the Burma Road. We drove the Japs off but at night, when I was in our foxhole with my two buddies they paid us a visit. I was on 15-minute watch, heard an incoming noise and a direct hit got me. The doctor patched me up and I stayed because I could hold a rifle and shoot.

Joseph K. Schubert,  
6147 Ridgewood Ave., #40,  
Port Orange, FL 32127  
5307/2/HQ; 475/2/F Co.

**EDITOR:**

It is not my purpose to cause any "flak" but for pure personal reasons, I am writing to you. In the NEWS, page eight, under the heading, Historian, there appears the name of William S. Thornton, as a 2nd Lieutenant.

William S. Thornton, was my best friend, killed at Inkangatawng and was a "Buck Private." I have a son named after him, Jack.

This Thornton came from Trinidad, 33rd Infantry, with a Captain Jack Benfield. Thornton was better known as "Smiling Jack." Among our squads, he was called T-7 and I was T-6, being a Private First Class.

Jack belonged to E Company of Blue Combat Team as an assistant machine gunner. How his death came about was — a Jap had jumped in a hole of a fellow named Wray. As the Jap was escaping, Jack had opened fire on him. Doing so, caused the Japs to zero in on the tell tale fire from Jack's machine gun. I was in the hole between Wray and Jack. I belonged to F Company, of Green Combat Team, and cannot explain how F Co. and E Co. got mixed together. It has been some forty years ago and my memory is not so sharp as it could be, but the circumstances of Wm. S. Thornton's death are very vivid to me.

There never was a better person than "Smiling Jack" and his death affected me greatly then and still does now.

James L. Waldron,  
Rt. 1, Box 320,  
Republic, KS 66964.  
5307/2 / GCT/F Co.

**EDITOR:**

I was in the CBI War Dog Detachment which was attached to the 3rd Bn., 5307th. Later it was the 5332 Bde, 475th/3rd Bn. Hq. Then I was attached to the 124th Cavalry, with the Hq/2nd Squadron. I was with them until I was hospitalized on February 10, 1945.

Price M. Morris,  
294 Hill St.,  
Mountville, PA 17554-1005.



## MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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