



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1990

Savannah Reunion Coming

REUNION — SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
De Soto Hilton Hotel

Package rate \$310 double; \$210 single. Will include two nights lodging, dinner Friday night, breakfast Saturday morning, Saturday Night Cocktail Party and Banquet and dancing, Sunday morning brunch. Package rate includes all taxes and gratuities.

Extra nights lodging, \$60 per night plus GA 12% tax. Free parking in indoor garage. Reservation cards are enclosed with this issue. Toll free reservation #1-800-426-8483.

RV parking at the Convention Bureau, a few blocks away. It is well lighted but no hookups. There is a security guard on duty inside the building.

The City of Savannah will be celebrating "First Saturday," which has all kinds of things going on; crafts, entertainment, etc. City tours can be arranged at the hotel.

American, Delta and Eastern Airlines serve Savannah. Delta and American offering 5% off west class and 40% off First Class. Delta call 800-221-1212 and ask for special meetings network file #V19069. Must be made seven days in advance. Return may be changed at any time.

Hotel is located right off Interstate 16, just a few miles from I-95. The railroad terminal is located just outside of town.

We have reserved 200 rooms for the reunion. It would behoove everyone to send in reservations early, so if we run out of space, you can make arrangements to stay at a nearby hotel.



Left to right: Gen. Su Li-Jen, commander Chinese 38th Division; Col. Henry Kinnison, commander "K Force"; Maj/Gen. Frank Merrill, commander 5307th CUP, planning march to Myitkyina, April 1944, at Hsamshingyang, North Burma. Col. Kinnison died of typhus after march to Myitkyina.

Sharing the Story . . .

It Happened at Nhpum Ga

It was my experience on the morning of April 5, 1944, to witness a most extraordinary act of bravery by a fellow soldier in combat at Nhpum Ga, Burma. Just after daylight broke, the Japanese made their strongest effort to break through the perimeter defense of the 2nd Battalion in the battle for this insignificant hill-top village where the 2nd Battalion of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) was completely surrounded for a total of ten days. The battle began on the 25th March and lasted to the morning of 9 April, 1944. Our only source of supply, ammunition, food and even water was by parachute air supply. These supplies as often as fell outside of our perimeter. The Japanese in some cases most definitely got our supply of food and water. The whole thing in at least one air drop. In some instances we were supposed to be the recipients of ammo for weapons that the Japanese received. E.g., they received the machine gun, and we then received the tripod

for the gun.

In the pitched battle of early AM April 5, 1944, one sergeant of Japanese ancestry made the all important outstanding contribution which I am convinced saved the lives of every man who survived the long tenacious defense of Nhpum Ga.

As Major Rogoff stated in an article printed in the BURMAN NEWS several years ago, we 600 men on Nhpum Ga hill were convinced we could not survive but he, as well as myself, knew that every single man was committed to fight till the end. We expected to meet our God.

Sgt. Roy Matsumoto stood up in the midst of the Japanese assault on our perimeter and fully exposed himself calling out to the Japanese as if he were a Japanese officer and ordered them to an all-out Banzai attack on our position.

As the attack continued, Sgt. Matsumoto stood fully exposed to the enemy and they had to have seen that he was continually shooting at

them with his pea-shooter carbine.

No other man in our battalion exposed himself. We were all in holes in the ground, firing from ground level.

Sgt. Matsumoto was fully exposed and most certainly drawing attention of the enemy to himself. That he survived was and is a miracle.

(When I asked our Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. George McGee why this man was not recommended for the Medal of Honor, he told me that "he was only an enlisted man doing his duty. Enlisted men do not get medals for this.")

It should be noted that at the time of this battle and all during the war, Sgt. Matsumoto's mother was in Japan. I ask, if Sgt. Matsumoto had been identified by the Japanese, what would have been the fate of his mother? If he had been captured, what would his fate have been?

If any actions by a soldier were above and beyond the call of duty, then his actions were. Any members who were on McLogan Hill or on right flank of that position who can verify this action, please let us have it.

Sgt. Warren T. Ventura, 5307/2/GCT/HW
24247 Eucalyptus Ave.,
Moreno Vallev. CA 92358

OFFICER'S ROW

President — Phil Piazza

I had just gotten back from Ft. Benning when George Rose contacted me to tell me about Doc Stelling's death. Doc was a very popular man in our battalion. We had nicknamed him "Little Red Beaver," as he was the quintessential Boy Scout. He always insisted on carrying a pack twice as large as ours; so he would be able to have the medical supplies the men would need. He also never took his ten minute break when we did, as he was up ministering to the men. I do not know how he managed, but he was like a bull in those days. We will miss him.

We have received contacts from hotels interested in hosting the 1991 reunion from Seattle, Washington, Chicago, Illinois, and Texas. We should be considering going North again, tho it is up to the membership vote.

Emma and I went to the Rangers Formal Ball and had a good time. Went back the next week to attend a Ranger Leaders Conference. We have now formalized a Federation of all Ranger Associations. I agreed to serve as Vice President and on their Steering Committee. The Ranger Leaders comprise the Presidents of all Ranger Associations, the Merrill's Marauders, Darby's Rangers, Korean, Vietnam, the C.O. and the X.O. of the Ranger Brigade, and the 75th Ranger Regiment and the President of the U.S. Army Ranger Association. We are in the process of making plans to have a Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning. The Infantry Museum is going to have a part of that museum for a Ranger Museum. It will have to be refurbished of course, and we are working on plans to raise the considerable amount of money needed with the help of the Chairborne Rangers. They are the ones who give a tremendous support to the Ranger program, and raise money to help support the Best Ranger competition each year. Plans are also being made for a very large monument to all Rangers. We have been able to get the Field opposite York Field, where all ceremonies are held, designated as Ranger Field. That is where the individual monuments for each Ranger Association will be located. Ours was authorized at the last reunion. The cost for our own monument will be in the neighborhood of \$16,000. I have met with the President of the Korean Rangers a number of times and he gave me all the specs on theirs, which was dedicated in November. We will have to hold up ours on official advice until the main monument will be located. Then each of our unit monuments will be located in front of it. It will be known as the Ranger Walk, where visitors can stroll among them.

The Rangers had five men killed at Panama. One from the 1st Bn and two each from the 2nd and 3rd Bns.

I am heading up a drive in this area for the

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.

Ranger Phillip Lear Memorial Fund, to raise a Memorial Flag Pole at his church in this area. At the Annual Best Ranger competition, in order to raise funds, on Sunday night, the 29th of April, we are having a dance with Connie Haines, the singer and a big name band. They are expecting support from each association. For those who might not be able to attend, they might be able to make a contribution.

We were at a Ranger meeting at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Met several MM's there including Frank DeBias, Tom Raymond and Jim White.

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

There has been some concern expressed over the fact that GO #3 does not list all of the men who were in the 5307th and again all of the men who were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. The problem that I had was the availability of space in the BURMAN NEWS.

We have been publishing General and other Orders as a matter of editorial policy since we took over the job several years ago. We intend to print all of those we can get our hands on. Several years ago we went to the National Archives outside of WDC and found in their records complete records of General Orders of the 5307th and 475th. Not however, Special Orders.

Those of you who save the copies will note that the Nov. 1989 issue listed in General Order #16, 5307th, three names of officers who were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for service in Northern Burma and one for the Expert Infantryman Badge. In the May 1989 issue, we published General Order #15, which listed 37 names starting with Capt. Burch and Logan Weston and ending with Pvt. Robert Sreaks who had been entitled to the Combat Infantryman Badge for service in New Georgia.

Those names should not appear in GO #3 of the 475th. I reported to the Board of Directors at the time that I uncovered the General Orders, that GO #3 was too extensive to take the space to print in the BURMAN NEWS and got authority to print it separately in book form.

Eventually, all of the GO's will be printed and you should find your name listed at some point in the future.

While we are on the subject, I would like to point out to men or their family who are interested in obtaining the medals that these orders are evidence that you are entitled to a Bronze Star for having been awarded the CIB and also that as a member of the 5307th you are entitled to the Ranger Tab. Make a photo copy of the first page of GO #3 and the page that lists your name and send it along with a photocopy of your discharge.

On a different topic, we are interested in getting some letters of your recollections of the fighting withdrawal along the trails south of Nhpum Ga. And, of the battle at Shadazup.

Historian — Dave Quaid

We have been asked to clear up the title of the Video tape that we made and have for sale. It should be called "Merrill's Marauders, North Burma, 1944 — Naubum to Myitkyina" with a subtitle of "March Over the Mountains to Myitkyina."

There is a video tape of the movie, "Merrill's Marauders." We have seen an ad from the Boomerang Publishers, 6164 West 83 Way, Arvada, CO 80003; Phone #303-423-5706, will take VISA or MASTERCARD. Listed as Merrill's Marauders.

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

9 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 18)

Section

Awards of the Purple Heart Medal I
Awards of the Purple Heart
Oak-Leaf Cluster II

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.

William T. Bell, 0369760, Captain, VC, Medics 3rd Bn, wounded 13 May 1944 near Tingkrakawng, Burma. Hometown: Monroe, Ga.

George G. Bonnyman, 0413059, Captain, FA, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 25 June 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee.

William J. Emerick, 0284760, Captain, Infantry, Co. K, wounded 29 June 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Akron, Ohio.

Louis J. Michaelson, 0385911, Captain, Infantry, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 18 May 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ralph E. Duston, 6883461, Master Sergeant, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 12 July 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Sharon, Pa.

Hunt D. Crawford, 15334309, Technical Sergeant, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 12 June, near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

Joseph F. Freer, 32163703, Technical Sergeant, Hq. Co. 2nd Bn., wounded 28 May 1944, near Charpate, Burma. Hometown: New York, New York.

James V. Tutty, 32158010, Technical Sergeant, Co. E, wounded 21 May 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Dover, New Jersey.

George O. Blazier, 36610620, Staff Sergeant, Co. K, wounded 24 May 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Elgin, Illinois.

Evert L. Cranke, 6578495, Staff Sergeant, Co. A, wounded, 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Lompoc, California.

Johnnie B. Holmes, 6342203, Staff Sergeant, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., wounded 29 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Blake [NMI] Williamson, 39404023, Staff Sergeant, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Doyle, California.

Moye M. Belger, 6927924, Sergeant, Co. L, wounded 24 May, 1944, near Charpate, Burma. Hometown: Columbia, South Carolina.

Johnnie S. Fist, 20508652, Sergeant, Co. I, wounded 8 April, 1944, near Nhpum Ga, Burma. Hometown: Sardinia, Ohio.

Daniel J. Grady, 32535893, Sergeant, Co. B, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Yonkers, New York.

John C. O'Hara, 13115381, Sergeant, Co. G, wounded 31 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Elwin H. Laetsch, 31031543, Sergeant, Co. C, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown, Reading, Massachusetts.

(Continued on page 3)

GENERAL ORDERS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Charles F. Slusser, 15042717, Sergeant, Co. E, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Lima, Ohio.

Harry M. Paris, 16040658, Technician Fourth Grade, Co. C, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Staunton, Ill.

Richard H. Thomas, 12024710, Technician Fourth Grade, Co. G, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Marcy, New York.

Maxie D. Bigham, 38000703, Corporal, Hq. & Hq. Det., wounded 30 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Clifton, Arizona.

Nelson L. Couch, 34384879, Corporal, Co. E, wounded 27 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Honea Path, South Carolina.

Edmund J. McCloskey, 35416019, Corporal, Co. K, wounded 2 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Columbus, Ohio.

Anthony S. Rossano, Jr., 13152568, Corporal, Co. E, wounded 2 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.

Hosea A. Thomas, 36064058, Corporal, Co. E, wounded 1 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: West Frankfort, Illinois.

Ivan F. Butterfield, 37458492, Technician Fifth Grade, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., wounded 29 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Sheridan, Wyoming.

Arnold T. Geissler, 36216067, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. B, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Henry [NMI] Parsons, Jr., 15065904, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. C, wounded 27 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Covington, Kentucky.

Melvin F. Stanton, 18075745, Technician Fifth Grade, Co. E, wounded 31 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Petersburg, Texas.

Russell G. Wellman, 6985041, Technician Fifth Grade, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: English, Indiana.

Dan [NMI] Blankenship, 37456378, Private First Class, Co. A, wounded 29 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Buffalo, Wyoming.

Thomas W. Brymer, 39030664, Private First Class, Co. C, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: San Francisco, California.

Joseph G. DeFillippo, 32641490, Private First Class, Medics, 2nd Bn., wounded 6 March, 1944, near Walawbum, Burma. Hometown: Mount Vernon, New York.

Sidney German, 32297096, Private First Class, Hq & Hq Det., wounded 30 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, New York.

Harry E. Hahn, 6810119, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 11 April, 1944, near Hsamshingyang, Burma. Hometown: McKees Rocks, Pa.

John J. Hewitt, 6899288, Private First Class, Co. C, wounded 22 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Fontrose, Virginia.

Talmage A. Hinson, 7085154, Private First Class, Co. E, wounded 22 July 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Winnsboro, South Carolina.

Stephen [None] Komar, 17047768, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 24 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Carlyle A. Lilly, 35429239, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 14 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Crab Orchard, West Virginia.

Manuel B. Macias, 38100318, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 27 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Waco, Texas.

Herman [NMI] Manuel, 20845086, Private First Class, Co. B, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Scottsdale, Arizona.

Edward L. McKee, 34428744, Private First Class, Co. G, wounded 31 May, 1944, near Charpate, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Charles A. Ogden, 20105959, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 24 May, 1944, near Charpate, Burma. Hometown: W. Somerville, Mass.

James L. Waldron, 12081489, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 28 March, 1944, near Auche, Burma. Hometown: McLean, New York.

John J. Wendle, 34057957, Private First Class, Co. E, wounded 1 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Daytona Beach, Fla.

Gust R. Adams, 37272322, Private, Co. E, wounded 27 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Joseph R. Linthwaite, 11008786, Private, Co. A, wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Long Meadow, Mass.

Jess R. Peek, 38133834, Private, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., wounded 28 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Seymour, Texas.

Harold R. Stevenson, 13013280, Private, Co. K, wounded 24 May, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Lummie S. Watson, 37514255, Private, Co. E, wounded 1 June, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Rolla, Missouri.

II. Awards of the Purple Heart Oak-Leaf Cluster
George M. Hansford, 01288541, 1st Lieuten-

ant, Infantry, Co. F, wounded 3 April, 1944, near Nhpum Ga, Burma. (Awarded Purple Heart Medal by HQ 172nd INF, APO 43, 19 July, 1943.) Hometown: Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Arthur J. Richards, Jr., 33353539, Corporal, Co. E, wounded 27 July, 1944, near Myitkyina, Burma. (Awarded Purple Heart Medal per GO #11, HQ 5307th Comp. Unit (Prov), APO 487, dated 2 May, 1944. Hometown: Scranton, Pa.

By order of Colonel HUNTER
TOM P. SENFF,
CAPTAIN, INFANTRY,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:
JOSEPH DOYER:
WOJG, AUS
Asst. Adjutant

(Ed: The above GO is the last issued by the 5307th on August 9, 1944. Please take advantage of the opportunity to search out the old names at the hometowns indicated. They may still be there or someone may know where they have gone. The next GO published will be by the same organization but they will be now designated the 475th Infantry. It should be noted that this issue date was the last date of the 5307th as a named unit. Practically all of the men on the 5307th rolls on that date were then carried over to the same units but now known as 475th.)

+ + +

A motorist slammed his car into another auto that suddenly made a left turn in front of him. "You should have signaled!" the motorist shouted at the other driver. "Why?" the other driver asked. "I always turn here."

+ + +

The older a man gets, the farther he had to walk as a boy.

DEATHS NOT POSTED

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently

Name & Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where, When Deceased	When Deceased
CARL J. BEURALA, P.O. Box 414, Buhl, MN 55713, 5307/209/C Co.	March 12, 1988
EDWARD BLACKMAN, Voorhesville, NY 12186, 475/2/G Co.	February 1988
HECTOR E. BLAIS, 5 Rochdale St., Auburn, MA 01501, 5307	January 23, 1990
ALEXANDER ERVOLINO, 7 Star Ln, Glen Cove, NY 11542, 5307/2/G Co.	November 26, 1988
GOTTFRED "FRITZ" EURICH, % Nerpel, Rt. 1, Box 18, Dunseith, ND 58329, 5307/3	May 29, 1944
GEORGE J. FISHER, 160 Harmony Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545, 5307/3/OCT/K Co.	November 21, 1988
THOMAS B. GEHAN, 7300 Cedarpost Rd., Apt. B-15, Liverpool, NY 13088, 5307/3/1/3/Medic;	December 12, 1988
475/3/1/3/Medic	December 12, 1988
PHILIP A. KERRIGAN, 201 No. 21st St., Herrin, IL 62948, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1	March 22, 1990
LEMUEL H. KING, P.O. Box 1153, Mesa, AZ 85201, 5307/3/OCT; 475/1/HQ/I&R Platoon	March 4, 1990
EARL H. LEONARD, Madrid, IA, 475/3/L Co.	February 13, 1990
LAWRENCE L. LEW, 2117 Glasgow Dr., Ceres, CA 95307, 5307/3/OCT - C.O.,	February 20, 1990
Member of Board of Directors	February 20, 1990
THOMAS H. MATNEY, 109 Jodean Dr., Raymond, MS 39154, 601-857-2702,	March 21, 1990
5307/1/RCT/I&R	March 21, 1990
THOMAS K. MONAHAN, Box 231, Ivor, VA 23866, 475/3/L Co.	December 19, 1988
WILLIAM H. SAFELL, P.O. Box 293, Joliet, MT 59041, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1 Vet Tech	January 8, 1990
LT. COL. LESLIE E. STANDOVALL, Omaha, NE, C.O., 209th Engr. Bn. (C)	Spring 1988
DR. HENRY STELLING, 3879 Wieuca Terr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30342, 5307/2/BCT/Surgeon,	January 29, 1990
Member of Board of Directors	January 29, 1990
CHARLES A. TROUT, 777 Utica St., Akron, OH 44312	March 1, 1982
EMROY "JACK" WILCOX, 313 East St., Box 26, Middlebourne, WV 26149,	December 16, 1989
5307/1/Hq/Comm Sec; 475/1/Hq/Comm.	December 16, 1989
JAMES K. WILSON, 1301 So. Tyler St., #701, Beeville, TX 78102, 5307/3/KCT	Fall 1989
WILLIAM J. WINNIE, Great Bend, PA 18821, 475/2/G Co.	October 22, 1989

✓ MARAUDER? 35638085 PFC



The Old Swimming Hole — Irrawaddy River, Camp Landis, Burma, 1944

RANGER COLUMN

We are on the mailing list for the Ranger Register, the Official publication of the US Army Ranger Association, Inc. We intend to publish excerpts of the Register from now on. As well as other Ranger information that we receive from other sources.

Some of their accomplishments during 1989: Published four issues of the Register.

Assisted in financing the Best Ranger Competition.

Leadership awards, two knives per Ranger class — compliments of ARRCO, were presented to the outstanding student CO and 1st Sgt. (as selected by the Ranger students and cadre).

One hundred and fifty T-shirts, compliments of Ranger Joe's, were presented to the Best Ranger Competitors and coaches.

A stained glass USARA logo was donated for display in the 4th Ranger Training Battalion Headquarters Building.

Plaques, compliments of Names & Frames, were presented to the NCO & Soldier of the quarter of HHC/75 and 3/75.

A Ranger model Silva compass, compliments of Ranger Joe's is presented to the "Marco Polo" of each LRSU class.

RANGER SAMUEL V. WILSON

Honorary Colonel, 75th Ranger Regiment

Ranger Wilson, a native of Southside, Virginia, retired from the Army, 31 August 1977, after holding every rank from Private to Lieutenant General during his 37-year career. In WW II, he saw service with the OSS and Merrill's Marauders. His further assignments include liaison and interpreter with the Soviet Army in Europe; Special Intel Staff Officer; CIA Field Case Officer; SF Group Co.; Ass't Commandant, Special Warfare School; Dept. Ass't to the Secretary of Defense for Spec. Opns; ADC (Opns) 82nd Abn Div.; Army Attache in Moscow; Deputy Dir. of Central Intel.; Director, Defense Intel. Agency; Assoc. Dir. USAID/Vietnam; and US Mission Coordinator, American Embassy/Saigon (for which he received a Presidential Appointment to the rank of Minister). He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course, the Army Command General Staff College; the Air War College (Dis. Grad, Class of 1964), Columbia University's Russian Institute, and a number of more specialized training courses. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Disting-

uished Service Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, CIA Distinguished Intelligence Medal, Silver Star (Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star w/"V" (Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm.

Since retirement, he lectures extensively, and serves as a consultant to the government on Soviet affairs and related matters of sensitive Special Operations and Intelligence. He and his wife, Virginia, live at Windy Hollow, Virginia.

MEMORIALS

To the Memory of Dr. Henry Stelling — Donations by Mrs. Helen Rayner, 6079 Fairway Dr., Ridge Manor, FL 33525; Tom Martini, 5680-P Grand Canal Way, Charlotte, NC 28226; Mrs. Virginia Palmes, 1865 Harbert Ave., Memphis, TN 38104; George C. Brown, 1 Peppertree, Anderson, SC 29621; Nunzio J. D'Apice, 202 Tibbets Rd., Yonkers, NY 10705; Dr. Lewis Kolodny, P.O. Box 964, Brooklandville, MD 21022; Robert Passanisi, 111 Kramer Dr., Lindenhurst, NY 11757; Rose E. Cobb, 50A Yorktown Parkway, Whiting, NJ 08759; Alvin R. Sutton, 58 Van Reypen St., Jersey City, NJ 07306; Robert E. Feeney, 805 Main St., Winchester, MA 01890; H. Nelson Mayhew, P.O. Box 383, Gretna, VA 24557; Dominic Montiglio, 32 Springtime Ln, Levittown, NY 1175620; George M. Rose, 6407 Portsmouth Blvd., Portsmouth, VA 2370125; Andrew Blaho, Box 4, Westmoreland City, PA 15692.

To the Memory of Lawrence L. Lew — Donations by Clarence O. Burch, 101 Morningside Dr., Barboursville, KY 40906.

To the Memory of Lemuel H. King — Donations by Richard J. Hecht, 124 No. Bean Ave., Tucson, AZ.

To the Memory of Carl J. Beurala — Donations by Widow, Mrs. Laina Beurala, P.O. Box 414, Buhl, MN 55713.

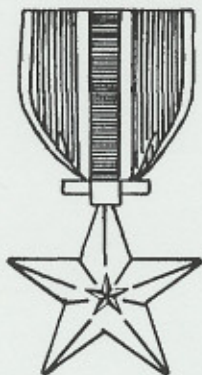
WARREN BOECKLEN'S LETTER TO HIS WIFE FROM BURMA

Can't write a thing,
The censor's to blame.
Just say that I'm well
And then sign my name.
Can't tell where we sail from
Can't mention the date
Can't even mention the
Meals that we ate.
Don't know what our speed is.
Don't know where we'll land.
Couldn't inform you
If met by a band.
Can't mention the weather.
Can't say if there's rain.
All military secrets must
Secrets remain.
Can't have a flashlight
To guide me at night.
Can't puff on my brier
Except out of sight.
Can't keep a diary,
For such is a sin.
Can't keep the envelope
Your letters come in.
Can't say for sure,
Just what I can write,
So I'll call this my letter
And close with 'Good Night.'

FALL IN

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

THOMAS E. CARR, 1201 Fairwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43206, 5307; 475
 JAMES O. CORNELL, 2201 Main St., P.O. Box 472, West Point, KY 40177, 5307/1/A Co.; 475/1/A
 BERNARD DEMAREE, 3910 So. Walnut St., B-180, Bloomington, IN 47401, 5307; 475
 GEORGE DUPES, 2647 Cardinal Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, 75th Rgrs/1/A Co.
 DANIEL FUSILLO, 616 Flamingo Dr., #202, Venice, FL 34285, 5307; 475
 JOSEPH C. KASTENMEIER, 109 East South St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916, 414-885-4373,
 5307/209/A/1 Platoon; 209 ENGRS/A/1
 LORIMER J. KNOLL, 3512 W. 89th St., Bloomington, MN 55431, 5307/209/C Co.
 TONY LOBROVICH, 9057 No. Olive Ln., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-6403, 602-895-0250,
 612 FA/Liaison Pilot
 FLOYD LUTON, HCR 61, Box 153, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805, 124/3/K/1 Platoon
 LESTER E. MENDENHALL, 20115 Hamburg, Detroit, MI 48205, 313-527-8738, 475/1/HQ/MRTR
 Platoon
 AROLD A. PHILLIPS, 1844 Haster St. So., Anaheim, CA 92802; 5307/3/KCT/L Co.
 LOUIS J. POVINELLI, 606 Elm Ave., Ridgefield, NJ 07657; 124/2/G/1/1
 TILL G. ROSALES, 3338 W. Granada Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85009-2427, 602-278-1523,
 5307/3/I Co.; 475/3/1
 ANTHONY V. SCALI, 4 Apple Tree Ln, Liverpool, NY 13090; 475/3/L/1 Platoon



Now Hear This!

Here are some interesting pieces of information that you should save for your guidance and possible use now or later.

CHINA WAR MEMORIAL MEDAL

Originally, this Medal was issued only to those military persons who served in China. They have now broadened this to include those who were associated with the Chinese troops who fought in Burma. That, of course, includes the 5307th Composite Unit, 209th and 236th Combat Engineers, the QM Pack Troops, 475th Infantry. Any member of the above units who are on our rolls, and are interested in making the effort to obtain this Medal, should write to us at Phoenix, providing the following information: Name, Rank, Organization (as above), Dates served in Burma and/or China. We will provide you with a written certification that you can mail to the China Government Representative, requesting the Medal.

BRONZE STAR — U.S. Government

The issuance of this Medal has been the subject of much discussion. Usually, it is given to an individual for a specific act of heroism, which is described in the certificate provided by the Army with the Medal. In some cases, including ours, a determination has been made that because of the unusual nature of the combat action in which the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) participated, up to and including the Battle of Myitkyina ending August 3, 1944, those soldiers who took part in that action are entitled to the Bronze Star Medal. According to Dave Hurwitt, those men interested should write to:

Commander
Army Reserve Personnel Center
Attn. DARP-PAS-EAW
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

They should enclose a legible photocopy of their separation document, honorable discharge (WDAGO Form J3-55), name, rank, Army serial number and unit (5307th Composite Unit Provisional). Quote this Directive:

By Direction of the President, under provision of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 Feb. 1944, Section II, War Dept. Bulletin No. 3, 1944. Authority for the Award: P No. 18, AR 600-45, General Order No. 3, Hq. 475th Infantry Regiment, August 1944.

RANGER TAB

From Dave Hurwitt and Tom Raymond comes



Capt. Willis Mead, 5307/3/OCT. Just about to raise his hand to volunteer.

the following information: Under the provisions of AR 670-1, Paragraph 26-30a (1) 1 Nov. 1981.

26-30. Distinctive items authorized for other than infantry personnel.

a. Ranger tab.

[1] **Approval authority.** The Commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School may award the Ranger tab to any person who successfully completed a Ranger course conducted by that school. The Commanding General, MILPERCEN, may award the Ranger tab to any person who was awarded the Combat Infantryman badge while serving as a member of a Ranger battalion (1st 8th inclusive) or in the 5307th Composite Unit, Provisional [Merrill's Marauders] or to any person who successfully completed a Ranger course conducted by the Ranger Training Command. The Ranger tab will be issued without charge to the individual.

[2] **Description.** The full color tab is 2-3/8 inches long, eleven-sixteenth inch wide, with a one-eighth inch yellow border and the word RANGER inscribed in yellow letters, five-sixteenth inch high. The subdued tab is identical except the background will be olive drab and the word RANGER will be black letters.

[3] **How worn.** The full color tab is worn one-half inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve of the Army green uniform coat and the Army tan uniform shirt. The subdued tab is worn one-half inch below the shoulder seam on the left sleeve of the field jacket, utility shirts, and the OG-108 wool shirt.

[4] **By whom worn.** In addition to the personnel authorized in paragraph 26 - 30a (1), above, qualified personnel assigned to Ranger Units, Ranger department, U.S. Army Infantry School and active duty advisors to Reserve Ranger units are authorized to wear the Ranger tab on and off duty.

Flash.

[1] **Description.** A shield-shaped felt or embroidered flash with a semicircular bottom approximately 2-1/4 inches long, 1-7/8 inches wide.

[2] **Approval authority.** Color selection and/or color combination of the flash will be approved for each organization by The Institute of Heraldry. The flash will be provided without cost to enlisted personnel.

[3] **How worn.** The flash will be sewn, centered on the stiffener of the beret, beneath the insignia of grade or distinctive unit insignia.

Cite above and give Name, Rank and ASN and Unit (5307th Composite Unit Provisional). Send request to:

Commander
Army Reserve Personnel Center
Attn. DARP-PAS-EAW
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

They should include a legible photocopy of their separation document, honorable discharge (WDAGO Form J3-55).

If you would be interested in membership in the First American Branch, Philadelphia, Pa., of the Burma Star Association, London, England, please send the following information to Robert E. Morris, 606 St. Clair Ave., Springlake Heights, New Jersey 07762.

Name, address, home and business telephone, military biographical information such as country served, branch of service, military components, major and minor units with which you served, subsequent military service after World War II, highest military rank attained either in active or reserve service, geographical areas of service during WW II, awards and decorations, American, British and Foreign, spouse's name and children's names, date of retirement from active service, with any supplementary remarks. Membership fee is \$15.00.

+ + +

I'M FINE

There's nothing whatever the matter with me
I'm just as healthy as I can be
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my back
My hearing is poor, my sight is dim
Most everything seems to be out of trim
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I have arch supports for both my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night
And in the morning I'm just a sight.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
I'm peacefully living on aspirin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is, as this tale we unfold
That for you and me who are getting old
It's better to say "I'm Fine" with a grin
Than to let them know the shape we're in.
(Anonymous)

From Al Fedder

LOST, STRAYED OR MOVED WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW!

Don Maggert, 1802 Romford Dr.,
Austin, TX 78704.

Major Dell L. Dailey, 160 Avn Bn.,
Ft. Campbell, KY 42223.

Around Maingkwan

ED: Portions of a report, "Hukawng Operation in Burma," by Takuma Hirose, War History Dept., Carlisle, Pa.)

a. Battle development.

On or about February 20th, the division elements arrived at their positions in Maingkwan in a piecemeal manner.

This area was flat and included little jungle and the front to be defended extended over 40km. Because of this, two regiments at the front were not sufficient. Consequently, an additional temporary battalion (called "KIKU" Battalion) was organized.

Failing to envelop the Japanese forces, along the Tanai River, Lt. Gen. STILWELL attempted, for the sole purpose of capturing the Japanese army, to encircle the Japanese army in Maingkwan from the east with his main force, intercept the path of retreat of the Japanese army to the south of Walawbum, and capture and destroy the 18th Division in a battle extending from Maingkwan to Walawbum.

The force was comprised of a powerful new element, or GALAHAD Unit, a US ground force introduced at the battle of Hukawng Valley. This GALAHAD unit was a unit organized with the WINGATE unit as a model and trained according to the WINGATE system.

Against such an enemy force, the 18th Division organized two regional units, each with one infantry as a nucleus to deal with the enemy from the front and one battalion as a right task force against envelopment from the east.

The enemy's attack intensified from the end of February.

Against such attack, the 18th Division conducted counter-attacks with one battalion from each of the original units. But, under the violent bombardment of enemy trench mortars, the casualties and wounded increased, and the counter-attacks were foiled.

The front of the right regional unit received enemy tank attacks, but the attacks were checked by the anti-armor abilities of the Kiku Battalion and artillery fire.

On March 2nd, Commander Tanaka received a report that "the Nambyu River crossing point in the rear of the Maingkwan position was held by a part of the U.S. force. This crossing point was a key point for supply and logistic activities of the division and further meant the division was encircled in the Maingkwan area. Thus, on the following day, the division started to move from the Maingkwan battlefield and entered Walawbum on the 4th. But, the main road to the south of Walawbum had already been intercepted by the enemy and thus the 18th Division was completely encircled in the area from Nambyu River to Walawbum. The commander then attacked the enemy in vicinity of Walawbum with the main force of the division but was unable to break through the enemy and the main road was thus completely interdicted. The enemy gradually compressed the encircling net. The division was thus faced with the critical situation of being encircled and destroyed.

At this time, the commander of the engineer regiment of the division had two secret roads cut and opened for an emergency. These roads were completely concealed from the U.S. forces, and using the roads, the division started its withdrawal in the afternoon of March 5th and retreated toward Jambu Bum about 30km to the



Preparing emergency air strip for L-4's at Nampakka Valley, Burma, by P & D Platoon, 1st Bn 475th Infantry.

south.

When 18th Division got out of Walawbum, the attack of Imphal was finally started at the front of the main operation.

At about this time, the airborne force, under the command of Maj. Gen. WINGATE, landed by gliders in Katha close to Mawlu.

Thus, the supply from the Army to the 18th Division was completely cut off.

b. Evaluation.

The period of delay here is about two weeks. Here, the delay was a result mainly of the counter-attacks as in the battle along Tanai River but these resulted in a succession of damage. The anti-armor attack of the enemy's tanks by the Kiku Battalion which was organized with forces extracted from the division headquarters, artillery and transport corps, seemed to be extremely effective.

This area covered a broad front of defense, and so no reserve force could be raised. Consequently, it was difficult to promptly react to the enveloping force of the enemy. Also the division's rear was completely interdicted and failed in an attack to break the encirclement. The only thing left to do was to await the compression of the encircling ring.

It was the roads secretly cut and opened that saved the division from annihilation.

Commander Tanaka highly praised the work of Commander Miyama of the Engineer Regiment in that "the roads cut and opened rendered the greatest contribution to the activities of the division around Walawbum."

One of the roads led from Walawbum through the jungle to the main road in the west far to the south of Walawbum, and the other ran from the battlefield at Maingkwan south to the west of the main road and further to the west of the first road after the main road, and both had the lower branches in the jungle cut and opened to a width which allowed the infantry troops to pass in six columns. STILWELL cited the following three reasons for the failure of the encirclement and destruction:

(1) The order given to Merrill, commander of Galahad was not clear:

(2) Difficulties occurred in communication so that the locations and movements of the units under command were not well understood; and
(3) Excessive caution of the Chinese 22nd Division delayed the attack speed.

7. Progress and Evaluation of the Operation from Jumbu Bum to Kamaing [early March to early July] [Third Stage Operation]

(1) Progress and Evaluation of the Operation at Jumbu Bum and Shaduzup.

a. Battle development.

In this battlefield, Lt. Gen. STILWELL decided to terminate the Hukawng operation with the retreat being intercepted at two places.

The 18th Division's deployment for defense was mainly provided by reverse-slope positions in the vicinity of Shaduzup about 5km south of Jumbu Bum. These positions were located in an area where the enemy would gather judging from the terrain analysis. With the main force of the 56th Infantry Regiment, placed close to Jambu Bum to counter-attack the enemy who was in hot pursuit the main position was prepared.

The battle near Jambu Bum started in mid March. As for the terrain, the front was wide and the enemy penetrated through the gaps into

(Continued on page 7)

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 487
10 August 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 1

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

UP AR 600-20, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the 475th Infantry.

WILLIAM L. OSBORNE
Lt. Col., Infantry
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: "A"

jwr

AROUND MAINGKWAN . . .

(Continued from page 6)

the flank and rear. The 56th Infantry Regiment blocked the enemy with local counter-attacks but retreated to its main position after three days.

The main position had the nucleus of the 55th & 56th Infantry Regiments deployed as right and left flank units and the 1st Battalion, 55th Infantry Regiment assigned as a right task force against an envelopment from the east.

The enemy's attacked the main position every day mainly with tanks and from the direction of the main road.

The 18th Division engaged mainly in anti-tank battles and repelled the enemy several times causing considerable damage to the enemy.

On March 23rd, during the fierce engagement at Shaduzup, the main road was interdicted by an enveloping unit of the enemy close to Inkanghataung about 20 km to the rear of the 18th Division.

Commander Tanaka immediately organized a provisional unit to deal with the enemy and repelled the enemy's enveloping unit.

In late March, the enemy penetrated the right flank to the rear of the right side, resulting in confusion with some of the enemy emerging close to the division headquarters. Thus, on March 26th, the units were ordered to retreat.

Each unit retreated toward the Namsang River-Tingring line while attacking the enemy advancing to and located on the course of the retreat.

b. Evaluation.

The period of delay in the area was about 20 days. At this time, the personnel and equipment consumption of the division was considerable and the strength of each infantry company was about 50-60 men or about 1/3 to 1/4 of full strength and there was no reserve force.

To prevent degradation of the fighting spirit, Commander Tanaka encouraged counter-attacks by some of the forces.

Here, the units were deployed with priority on defense against tanks. The attacks of the enemy's tanks were made by daring stories and rapid fire guns and thus the delay was accomplished.

In the night of March 23rd, a report came to Commander Tanaka that "Inkanghataung was occupied by a part of the U.S. forces and the traffic was interrupted." But, there was no reserve force available to deal with this enemy and so the commander, gathering men from the engineer corps and from headquarters, organized a task force equivalent to two companies (about 300 men) and had it placed under the command of the senior adjutant of the division.

The task force rushed to Inkanghataung and launched an attack in the afternoon of the 24th. Part of the assault force rushed into the enemy's line and the GALAHAD unit retreated into the mountains.

According to the records of the U.S. forces, "the counter-attack of the Japanese began on March 24th and was vicious, and the Japanese army continued counterattacking one after another." Gen. MERRILL informed the commander of the GALAHAD attack unit by radio that "two Japanese battalions are moving to surround his side." Receiving this radio communication, the commander of the second battalion of GALAHAD felt a threat to his flanks and began to retreat.

The information regarding the two Japanese

battalions which the U.S. forces obtained at that time was of the task force equivalent to two composite companies and the daring attack of the unit led to a misjudgment by the U.S. forces.

All of the officers and men of the 18th Division, whether they were in the front or in the rear, had great fighting ability such that a unit rapidly organized could defeat the enemy's enveloping unit.

Since his assignment in March 1943, Commander Tanaka maintained, as a training principle, that "all of the officers and men in the rear should be trained in jungle hand-to-hand combat." When he inspected the units, he had the unit commanders present such practice.

Also, the commander himself trained the medical corps of the division, in shooting and combat fighting and attended the training to encourage them.

The rear units had the same training as the front units and therefore the break-through attack was successful and permitted the subsequent delaying operation.

[2] Progress and Evaluation of the Operation South of Namsang River - Tingring Line

a. Battle development.

Thereafter, the delay period at the Namsang River - Tingring line was from late March to mid April, at the Wala-Malakawng line from mid April to late May and finally at the Kamaing line until July 2nd.

During this period, a GALAHAD unit made a turning movement from the Minbogium Range in late March to intercept the rear of 18th Division. For this purpose 1 Battalion heavy of the 114th Infantry Regiment at Myitkyina was assigned until April 7th.

In late April, the 33rd Army was newly organized with the 18th Division and 56th Division.

On April 25th, at a critical stage of battle at Wala-Malakawng, the 18th Division was reinforced by about one regiment from the 56th & 2nd Divisions and had about 2,000 replacements provided in mid May.

On May 28th, the enemy infiltrated Seton on the main road 8km south of Kamaing and cut off the division's line of communications. So, the commander attacked the enemy from the north and south to eliminate it but was unable to dislodge it and the units of the division in Kamaing were completely encircled. At about this time, the roads were completed allowing withdrawal to Mogaung. On July 2nd, based on an Army order, the division began to retreat from Kamaing to Sahmaw vicinity.

Thus, 18th Division's Hukawng holding-out operation of over eight months had ended.

* * * * *

The overall report is an account of the fighting in the Hukawng Valley of Northern Burma between the Japanese forces (LTG Tanaka) and US-Chinese forces (LTG Stilwell) from October 1943 to July 1944 from the Japanese point of view. This is stated to be the only example of US ground forces fighting in the Asia Continent during WW II. (Central Burma and China came later, of course.)

The action covered in the material extracted involves delaying operations by the Japanese 18th Division against Chinese forces (22nd Division) and Merrill's "GALAHAD" forces from February 20, 1944 to July 2, 1944.

While the Japanese conducted a holding operation to protect the main offensive to Imphal, Stilwell attempted to capture or destroy the

18th Division in a series of actions in the area from Maingkwang to Kamaing. The Japanese division escaped destruction each time and thus carried out the protracted operation extending over eight months until the Japanese Army attack on Imphal failed.

In the report, there are many references to actions of Marauders which kept the pressure on the Japanese. On several occasions, the 18th Division was faced with the critical situation of being encircled and destroyed. At one time, only roads secretly cut by their engineers saved the division from annihilation. It is clear that the Japanese were forced to withdraw more rapidly than planned, and that there were great sacrifices on both sides during this early phase of the liberation of Burma.

Milton A. Pilcher
Maj. Gen., AUS-Ret.

HEADQUARTER MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

March 8, 1954

Field Orders #1**Operation New Hampshire**

1. The members of the unit with all the members of their families are requested to make preliminary arrangements for attending the eighth annual reunion which marks the tenth anniversary of our organization from September 3-5, 1954. Suggested action is:

- a. Discuss with your wife and children.
- b. Make arrangements with your boss.
- c. Start saving a couple of dollars a week.

2. Place. Forest Hills Hotel at Franconia, New Hampshire. This is in the heart of the White Mountains in the shadow of the famous "Old Man of the Mountains."

3. Cost. Three meals a day and room will cost exactly twelve dollars (\$12.00) per person. There will be no extra charge for use of any of the hotel facilities including swimming pool and golf course. The Hotel offers reduced rates for children. There will be a registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per member which will take care of all refreshments at special parties, baby sitters during banquet and other special events, etc. In short, this will be cheapest reunion to attend you have experienced and the Committee is planning much more entertainment for you than in the past including scenic trips, a golf tournament and an opportunity to go trout fishing.

4. Please talk to others and give us the addresses of any members whose address we may be lacking and consequently may not receive this notice. Send names to Frank D. Merrill, State House Annex, Concord, N.H.

5. You may anticipate receiving more complete information and an official letter from the Governor of New Hampshire at a later date.

By nobody's command:

Your Committee

Ray Houghton, Chairman
Stanley Pliska, Co-Chairman
Earl Remal, Co-Chairman

Send your Three Bucks Membership Fee to David Hurwitz, 22 Basket Lane, Hicksville, New York, before you forget!

The big trouble with people who believe only half of what they hear is that they usually believe the wrong half.

Letters

EDITOR

All of us, I'm sure, are sorry to hear about Dr. Stelling. He would have been 82 on February 18, 1990. He had a couple of months on me. At a break, I tried on his bag and it was heavy! He said, "I'm only as good as my tools. If a mule goes over a cliff where am I without my instruments?" I'm in bad health and a lot of pain but I'm hanging in there. Alvin Sutton, 58 Van Reyepen St., Jersey City, NJ 07306; 5307/2/BCT/P&D.

EDITOR

I received your name and address from the US Army Center of Military History in response to an inquiry about "Merrill's Marauders." My father, George M. McLaughlin, served in the unit. I have never been able to ask him about it personally because he died in 1958 when I was five years of age but would like to learn about the unit and the experiences of those in it. In "V-Mail" discovered when his sister, my aunt, died, he identified his unit as the 5307th Composite, which, I understand, was the Marauder's unit number. One of the "V-Mail" pieces, I believe, was written just before one of the unit's trips into Burma. It is addressed, "somewhere in India," dated "24 Jan. 1944," and states "Amazingly, there's nothing much to report, so if you don't hear from me don't be too perturbed." He listed his rank on that date as "captain," Co. A, 5307th Composite.

I'd be interested in learning something about the unit history and unit association. There is a group photograph of officers in Charlton Ogburn's 1959 book, *The Marauders*, labeled, "Officers of 1st Battalion" which Ogburn indicates was taken in April 1944 at Naubum. A man in it, in the front row, may be him; he is squatting in the front row, wearing shorts, on the far left, next to a bare-chested man identified in the caption as "Lt. William T. Bright."

The profile bears a strong resemblance and the man's small stature and coloration (my father was 5' 4" tall and had black hair) may have been his.

I'd appreciate any information you could send me or direct me to about the unit and its experiences and would like to know if there are any get-togethers of the association.

I appreciate your sending me Dr. McLaughlin's address. There is an old family story that my father had had some bridgework done and, at some point, when under fire, removed it and placed it in a back pocket where he promptly forgot about it. The tooth worked its way through his pants and he felt it several days later and went to the medic to see if he had been wounded. In fact, he'd only bit himself in the butt! According to my family, they kept trying to give him a Purple Heart, but he managed to avoid the honor.

Mike McLaughlin, 2037 Churchill Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517-1311; 907-274-1189.

EDITOR

According to my notes in my copy of "Marsmen in Burma," I was in the 1st Platoon under Lt. Louis Mitchell. We were part of the 5307th. Our Company Commander was Captain Harold L. Clark, also known as "Paddy." I well remem-

GI Reunion on Self's Front Porch



On the front porch at home in Greeley after two and one-years of war were two ex-GIs Monday morning. They are Joseph M. Self, Jr., of 701 Cameron Court, Greeley, and Trexler, the big, beautiful K-9 corps dog that accompanied Self thru most of his army service. Self and Trexler served with Merrill's Marauders in Burma during several campaigns, and later in China. When Self was discharged the pair was separated. Trexler was sent home to his owner, J. M. Talbert of Vallejo, Calif. Self wrote letters trying to find the dog and finally got Talbert's address and wrote him asking to buy Trexler. "I have no right to keep this dog after reading that boy's letter," Talbert said, so Trexler was crated and sent to Greeley. He arrived Friday afternoon. After a joyous reunion with Self and a trip to the mountains Sunday, Trexler seemed quite acclimated to Colorado and very happy in his new home.

ber "Hill 77," the attack and the dangerous withdrawal. I was trained as a mortar squad man, in the 386th Inf. Bn., 97th Div., Camp Swift, Texas. Shipped out of Newport News, VA., on the USS Butner. Stopped at Capetown, South Africa, then on to Bombay. Flew into Myitkyina Airstrip with full combat gear as a rifleman (M-1).

After the Burma Campaign, I remember a very long army truck convoy to Kunming, China, and being assigned to the Chinese Combat Command. Anthony V. Scali, 4 Appletree Ln, Liverpool, NY 13090; 5307/3/L/1; 475/3/L/1.

EDITOR

With reference to the ambush of Company G, 2nd Bn, 5307th at Myitkyina, let me say that I knew a lot of the men in Company G. When we sailed on the USS Butner out of Newport News, VA, on the 23rd of April and landed in Bombay, India, on the 25th of May 1944, I was the last man in E Company and following me was G Company. The first man behind me was G Company's Commander, Capt. McNight, followed by 1st Lt. Broadbrooks, several other lieutenants and Tech Sgt. Toomey, Staff Sgt. Tommy Roland, etc.

We bunked in the 3rd hold in hammocks. My hammock was the bottom one and then theirs started above mine. Thus, I became acquainted with many of the men in G Company.

We flew into Burma and landed on the airstrip at Myitkyina on June 1, 1944.

Captain McNight and Staff Sgt. Tommy Roland and others were killed in action sometime in June 1944 while on patrol. They ran into a Jap "S" machine gun formation and were cut down as I was told. In the last part of June 1944, while on a combat patrol, I sustained a serious wound in a firefight with a Jap position and was evacuated to the 20th GH, where I stayed for several weeks before I was returned to the States.

While in the 20th GH, after the ambush of Company G took place, some of their wounded were brought in and this is what I was told had happened that eventful day.

First Lt. Broadbrooks had assumed command of Company G after the death of Captain McNight. Lt. Broadbrooks and Company G were ordered to proceed several miles to the east of Myitkyina to take control and make secure a small airstrip that a small contingent of Stilwell's Chinese had cleared.

This airstrip was needed to land small planes and alleviate some of the congestion at the large airstrip at Myitkyina.

While proceeding to their target in late afternoon, they came to a large rice paddy and as they started across they encountered heavy enemy fire. They fell back to a semi-bushy area and waited for daybreak.

Lt. Broadbrooks ordered a reinforced squad carrying several 60mm mortars and several Bren guns to proceed to the north edge of the rice paddy during the night and set up supporting cover for the company in case of a fire fight when they would attempt to cross the rice paddy just before daybreak.

I&R had reported that the area in question was only lightly infested with enemy troops but as it turned out it was heavy. Company G less the reinforced supporting squad crossed into the rice paddy just before daybreak and proceeded towards the airstrip without incident.

Just on the outskirts of the airstrip, G Company halted and Lt. Broadbrooks and some of his men went to meet the so-called Chinese commander and his staff to accept the transfer of the airstrip. As it turned out, the Japanese had in fact killed the small contingent of Chinese and put on their uniforms and as the Americans arrived, they greeted them with the Chinese words, "Ding Hao" to set them off guard.

The supporting squad leader who was set up on the north edge of the rice paddy detected hostile forces moving into position against G Company and he sent a runner to warn Lt. Broadbrooks. Just as the runner was approaching, the Jap Commander in Chinese uniform started calling out fire orders. Lt. Broadbrooks was bayoneted and all hell broke loose. G Company taken by surprise and many of their numbers decimated in the first few minutes of the fight. Nevertheless they fought bravely.

The runner from the supporting squad, shot and possibly killed the Jap Commander and he himself was seriously wounded. In the meantime, the supporting squad opened fire with their 60mm mortars and Bren guns on the Japs and laying an umbrella of cover which enabled

(Continued on page 9)

LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 8)

to 40 men from G Company to extricate themselves. As told to me, none of the men threw their weapons away and when they finally got back to the perimeter, every man had a weapon. The above events were related to me by at least four or five of the survivors. Thomas G. Poulos, 478 Kendall Dr., Marco Island, FL 33937; 5307/2/E Co.

EDITOR

The first American Branch of the Burma Star Association was organized 11 years ago at the suggestion of the late Lord Louis Mountbatten, who expressed the wish to see the Burma Star Association represented in America, where he knew there were many Burma veterans. We received our charter in the spring of 1979. Each year, members of the Branch have attended the annual spring Burma Reunion of the Association in London, England, usually the last weekend in April. It is great to be among the thousands of Burma wallahs in Royal Albert Hall at the Saturday night reunion, and to march in the Sunday morning parade to the Cenotaph for the annual memorial service.

Our Branch held its annual Burma Weekend reunion in Arlington, Va., last week; the weekend of November 10, 11 and 12. Countess Mountbatten of Burma flew over from Great Britain to be our guest of honor. She seemed to be quite happy to be among Burma veterans. A bus load of Canadian veterans came down from Toronto for the occasion.

Our Branch is not large, but it consists of many fine ladies and gentlemen. We have both British and American veterans, so it is a mixed group. We are widely distributed throughout the U.S.A., in Canada, England and West Germany.

As Lord Mountbatten said, "Your purpose is to preserve the Burma brotherhood of those who served in Burma, and to cherish the memory of those who died in the campaign." I believe, in a modest way, we are doing this. William P. Houpt, Past Chairman, 1662 East Street Rd., Glen Mills, PA 19342.

EDITOR

I was in that ambush area soon after it happened. I was told then that the Jap officer who walked up to the American Captain was assisting the captain to take off his pack. When the pack straps got down to the elbow joints and he was helpless, a Jap private bayoneted him. Dave Quaid, Historian, P.O. Box 1617, Duxbury, MA 02331.

EDITOR

When I was going through the new Directory I saw several names with Pilot listing. Here is a story about a C-47 pilot in Burma.

At Walawbum, White CT was watching the back door and we were moved up to get an air drop. One of the C-47's went over me at tree top level and on his tail was a Jap Zero. In a few seconds there was a rattle of machine-gun fire coming from the direction in which they had disappeared.

Then here comes two P-51's from that direction. Jap artillery shells started crashing into the trees then and I got a little busy. It was quite awhile later that this incident was brought

back to mind. I was evacuated from Myitkyina to the hospital at Margherita. When I was moved to the convalescent area of the hospital, I went down to the Ledo Airfield and bummed a ride back into Myitkyina. Three times just to see how the boys were doing.

I never went through Operations. I just checked with the pilots until I found one that would take me along. Usually a different plane coming back out. I always spent some time in the cockpit talking to the crew. I asked one pilot if the Jap planes ever got after him and guess what?

This was his reply. "Once while flying over the Mogaung Valley, a Jap Zero got on my tail. I went down to the tree tops, he stayed on my tail. I had to bank around a hill and that's where I thought he was going to let me have it. When I banked around the hill, here come two P-51's. I was never so glad to see fighter pilots in my life. They took care of the Jap!"

Wasn't it strange that I would run into that same pilot? I'll bet he never forgot that day! Ralph Pollock, Rt. 1, Box 1494, Mt. Union, PA 17066; 5307/1/WCT.

EDITOR

Re: Alexander "Duke" Ervolino

I have enclosed material to help identify that outfit my father was in. (5307/2/G Co.) (Combat Team?) We would like to have his death mentioned in the BURMAN NEWS. If anyone knows anything about him, I would enjoy hearing from them. We would like to attend the next reunion. Elaine Ervolino, P.O. Box 44, Bayville, NY 11709; 516-671-2788.

EDITOR (To Joe Cordeiro)

In reading the February issue of the B/N, I saw a picture of you and my very best friend. We had been in the 14th Infantry, Panama, gone thru Basic, transit guard, etc. Then came back to the States and volunteered for "mission impos-

sible." I am trying to figure out the names of some of the fellows. They all held up good for what we had to do. The I&R's of all combat teams had it bad. They protected us and did a good job. I had two 81mm mortars which I had to see that they got to the point where needed. Some higher rank took over from there. I then had to see that the ammo was supplied. Anyway, I have two questions to ask you.

1. When was it we marched 35 miles to help one Combat Team out? I can remember the large holes from the bombs dropped. Dead mules! I had a big fox hole with two other men. We lined out the hole with a parachute we picked up from an air drop. The damn chute was heavy but we made it. I can remember the Japs would crawl up to the hole and you could hear the dirt fall in. The next day we had to move to our right flank, go around and try to stop them from using a trail. When we got to where it was, orders came down. If there was any shooting, to stay put. That was when an officer from the Canal had gone to the CP. When he came back, his own men shot him in the head. And, I know that I and three others had to fall down and the bullets were just missing us but not by much.

I'm sure that Joey Bissonette was one, but the other two I can't remember. Then, on the return to the hill we called "Fort Stinker" (because of the dead mules), a Jap sniper opened fire on us. One fellow said to me, "Don't move, the bullets are missing your jacket. I couldn't fall down, because of the dead Jap at my knees. Someone from the I&R Platoon had a sub-machine gun and took out the sniper. As we came back to that hill, I had to go to the aid station because I had almost passed out. All they gave me was a pill and a cup of juice. I came back to our group. I can't remember if I had to go and pick up some mail or K rations for my group. There are so many things I can't remember.

2. The second question. When we came near

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AFC 1954

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LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 9)

the Irrawaddy River, we ended on the banks of the river. We had to dig in. We had our holes almost dug and the Air Corps started to open fire on us. I can recall the bullets hitting around us. After that, I was sent out to check an area out with another short fellow. We checked the pill box and found some flags. I gave this young fellow the best flag. It had gold braid around it.

A Jap plane came over and the AA guns took it out. It landed in the river. We moved fast to get back. As we were returning, I think about 20 of these young guys, came out of the holes in the ground. And, a group of them were saying, "No Good" to me, and pointing at this one fellow. Anyway, when we arrived at the CP, and turned over a photo album, etc., this one guy was taken away by a group of Chinese. I can't remember this young fellow's name. I can't remember the gunner's name, who got busted by this Lt. because he refused to fire the 81 mm mortar because of the bushes in the way. That was either before or after we had to cut thru the bamboo. It was like a tunnel, that's how thick it was. Can you remember any of that?

After the ordeal at the river, we were ordered back to the R & R area. That's when I left the unit. I had gone to the Aid Station with another lad. He told me he had a big black bug in his ear. So, I had gone with him. He went inside the tent and I stayed out. Someone came out and put a temp stick in my mouth. All of a sudden the person came out with a tag, stating that I had to leave because of a high fever. I then went back to the group and told Lt. Harris that I was leaving. I can remember the fellow yelling at me, "Who is going to take your place?" I think I told them it was up to the Lieutenant. Also can remember walking to the air strip in the rain. And, the damn Japs came over and knocked out one C-47 and got some of the Seagraves nurses.

Then, they put me on a plane, offered me a beer and I couldn't drink it. When we landed at the rear echelon, they asked me what I thought of their liaison planes. They said they had a hard time finding you guys. They gave me a shower and a pair of Captain's coveralls, put me on an ambulance, one swift ride, got to the hospital. They said, "Captain, you first." I told them I wasn't a captain and they said come anyway. So, I gave them name, rank and ASN. They took me to my bed. I sat on the edge and that was the last I remember. For four weeks they fed me with a spoon. Scrub Typhus.

While I was in the 20th GH, Joe Bissonnette came to see me. All he could do was look in the window. Gregory G. Resch, 637 Warsaw St., Menasha, WI 54952; 5307/1/RCT; 475/1.

EDITOR

We would like to express a "Thank you" to all the folks who signed that "Much appreciated" Get Well card during the Louisville Reunion. Johnnie is doing well. Feels pretty good between transfusions which he gets about once a month. Johnnie & Dorothy Holmes, 121 East St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180.

EDITOR

Recently I visited a nearby hotel where a man was buying military memorabilia, including patches. I took along a couple of patches for appraisal. Several years ago, I was offered \$40 for leather-backed MM patch. That day, the patch

price was \$100. The same price was offered for a Mars Task Force patch with metallic thread. The man that wanted to purchase the patches was Pete Bennethum from Wyomissing, Pa. He has an ad in the Ex-CBI Roundup all the time. I didn't sell my patches. I told him that they were not eating anything. Ralph G. Miller, 10 Gloucester St., Harrisburg, PA; 475/2/G Co.

EDITOR

A few notes about my memories of Dr. Stelling. Doc and I were both together from Trinidad to the end of the Burma Campaign. Doc was a Boy Scout and so was I. I remember in Trinidad, we went on a hike and we stopped at the PX and he bought all of us, ice cream. Doc always was for the GIs. When in Burma, I remember his letter from his girl friend. He carried them all through the Burma Campaign and never would give them up. He was ordered to lighten his pack and he refused to do so. He said, "I'll throw away my food first!"

Doc gave me my E.M.T. tag just before Myitkyina. He had to fight to get his sick men out but he did. I will always give thanks for everything he did for the MM men. Many are home due to his efforts. That's what I remember of Doc Stelling. Nunzio J. D'Apice, 202 Tibbets Rd., Yonkers, NY 10705; 5307/2/GCT/MED.

EDITOR

This is not about the battles or trail fights, but about the days spent in and around Camp Deogarh, India. It was there that our food improved from what it was at Dcolali. Other things, some pleasant, some not so pleasant happened here.

One thing, it was here that our squad, in Hq. Co., 1st Bn., lost their hair. Sgt. J. J. Chatham was the barber. He gave the whole squad a bald head. When we had to stand reveille, Sgt. Chatham would whisper — loud enough to be heard, "Squad, Uncover!"

We went on a short maneuver where I slept in my poncho. The first night out with the bald head! I felt what I just knew to be the cold nose of a jackal on my head. I was on my feet in a flash with my B A R — empty as it was. Then I realized it was the corner of the poncho, wet with dew, that had touched my head.

Another time one of our men by the name of Bridges, I believe, drowned while we were practicing swimming (compulsory). We dove for him for hours before Lt. Scott decided to use TNT to dislodge him. We put men downstream in shallow but swift water. His body didn't come up but the fish did. We stopped looking for our buddy for a while and harvested the fish. The drowned man came up the next morning.

The 1st Battalion had a maneuver against a British Brigade. About half of our platoon was to defend a bridge. After a few days of waiting, we saw a plane circling in the distance and a guy named Howard Carter from West Virginia begged to be sent to spy out their position. His wish was granted. When he got close enough to see and smell their rum ration, he gave himself up. He brought them to us. The umpire ruled that we were overrun, but not before we "blew" the bridge. Being a P&D platoon, our leaders, Lt. Wilson and Lt. Scott, I believe, had drawn a sketch of the bridge and showed where the TNT was supposed to be placed. Enough explosives to blow the bridge was placed on a boulder in midstream and was detonated.

The umpire ruled that all of us defending the

bridge were killed. Because we were dead, he let us walk across the bridge but made the British guys swim the river because the bridge was destroyed. They didn't like our good-natured ribbing.

While on this maneuver, some of the mer were sent out to hunt deer to supplement our food supply. One man, I remember only as Cisco went out with a man from New York State. The men all had a compass reading to go by. The fellow from New York State came back. He said they had killed a deer that weighed at least 300 pounds. Now, that is a sizable deer. Lt. Scott took some of us with pack-boards and we went to where Cisco had a small smoke fire to help find him. On the way, Lt. Scott killed several half-grown wild cats that were playing on the trail. We found Cisco without trouble. The deer turned out to be one of those cows with the hump on its shoulders (Brahman). The head man from the nearby village was demanding 40 rupees. He got the money, but kept the cow! I am almost sure the natives did not eat the cow.

Just before we went to Burma from this camp, the platoon went on a three-day maneuver. I was left in camp to practice with a flame thrower. Carter left a small dog and a chicken in my care. The puppy got dysentery, but I stopped that with "K" ration cheese. Someone ate his chicken. At first he blamed me but found the bones by Cisco's tent and knew it wasn't me.

While practicing with the flame thrower in a field near the camp, Lord Louie Mountbatten and a cameraman came up. He discussed the weapon and inspected it. I had one filled with gasoline and one with napalm. Somewhere in the British archives there is a picture of this old Alabama boy talking to royalty. I really cherish that memory.

By the way, I never used the flame thrower. I "drug" a mule to a trail near Walawbum. There that faithful, but stubborn, beast was killed by artillery fire. I was not very sad about that mule's passing. The three flame throwers were left by the trail.

This does not tell much about the bunch of bald heads, but the training together was most interesting. Lt. Scott, who later went to 101 would walk beside you, suddenly toss a car behind you or wherever he decided, and say "Shoot that noise." That was good training. I have seen JJ Chatham and Albert King, a few times in the past few years. I went to the reunion in 1980 in Atlanta and sat at the table with our Col. Caifson Johnson, Chatham, Kin and others from Hq. Co., 1st Bn., White Combs Team.

If you do not deem this worthy of print, not to worry. I have spent years trying to forget some of the experiences. Others are a joy to recall.

Concerning the photo on page 2 of the Feb issue of the BURMAN NEWS, on the back row left to right, Joe Cordeiro, Johnnie B. Holmes, James J. Chatham, (middle man), Mauric Adams, the other two in the front row, I can't recall.

A group from the 14th Infantry, all MM's, will meet in Burlington, NC, the week of June 24th. Contact Albert E. King or James Chatham. W. T. Hagans, 5307/1/WCT/P&D, 475/1/C/1s Platoon, P.O. Box 125, Saraland, AL 36571.

EDITOR

I received your letter and the copies of the

(Continued on page 11)

LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 10)

BURMAN NEWS. I read them all.

My husband, Carl J. Beurala, died one year ago. He would have been overjoyed had he been able to read the NEWS. He often talked about WW II. He needed to share his experiences with other servicemen who had lived in the Burma jungles. How I wish we had known about your newsletter. People who had not experienced the horrors of war were not interested in his stories. But, here were other men telling their stories in the B/N. Many of the stories were truly shocking — young men killed on foreign soil. My husband said his outfit joined the Merrill's Marauders at the Battle of Myitkyina. I am sending copies of my husband's records. I hope he is qualified to be considered a member of your group. Mrs. Carl (Laina) Beurala, P.O. Box 414, Buhl, MN 55713.

EDITOR

I have enclosed the obituary and death notice of General Wedemeyer. He was a tremendous person and had an extraordinary army career. I was not able to attend this funeral service (although I was able to attend Gen. Easterbrook's) at Arlington, but understand that there was a large turnout in his honor. I noted from the picture in the BURMAN NEWS that Col. Schmidtman, Deputy Commander of the Military District of Washington, presented the flag to Mrs. Easterbrook. And, an "Arlington Lady" with dark shawl appeared behind him.

Gen. Wedemeyer formulated the Grand Strategy adopted by the allies to win World War II and later served as the American Commander in China. In the early 1930s he had served in China. In October 1943 he became Deputy Chief of Staff to Lord Mountbatten, Commander SEAC. When Gen. Stilwell was relieved of command in October 1944, he was made Commander of US Troops, China Theater and Chief of Staff to Chiang's troops as well in 1944. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1945 in China. M/G Milton A. Pilcher, 1532 Dahlia Ct., McLean, VA 22101; 5307/Sig. Off.; Mars Task Force, Bde Hq. Comms. Off.

EDITOR

This is the way that I remember what happened to us in Burma. After two years of fighting in the South Pacific, New Georgia, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, we volunteered for CUP. From Guadalcanal, we boarded an LST to New Caledonia. There the 3rd Bn was formed which consisted of Orange & Khaki Combat Teams. (I was in the Orange.) From there we sailed aboard the SS Lurline to Bombay, India. At Deolali, the British were going to teach us jungle fighting but we couldn't find anything new in what they were teaching since those of us in the 3rd Bn. had already fought in the South Pacific jungles. But, to the green troops, it proved beneficial. In three months, the training was over and our orders came that we were to march into Burma and get behind the Jap lines.

Our objective was Walawbum about 150 miles down the trail. We were to cut the railroad and destroy the supply depot.

We marched from Assam in India up the Ledo Road and passed a group of Black Engineers who were working on the road. We bivouaced for the night on the side of the road but here

come the Engineers with their trucks. They invited us to their headquarters for chow. We went with them and they gave us supper and also invited us to spend the night there. Which we did. They put fresh clean linen on their bunks for us to use and also fed us breakfast the next morning.

As we marched down the Ledo Road and turned to the left on a trail, it was getting dark. At this time, we rubbed phosphorous on the back of our packs so we could see the man in front of us. We marched more or less in single file. This could be called a forced march. The 2nd Bn. placed the RR block. The 1st Bn. was in reserve. The 3rd Bn went above the river there. The riverbank was shaped like a horseshoe. We were looking down at the river when the Japs came across to attack. About 800 lay dead in the river when it was all over. We withdrew from Walawbum at night.

The 1st Bn. then went to Shadazup. The Orange and Khaki CT's were either at Nasega or Shamberange when the 2nd Bn. was surrounded on Nhpum Ga Hill. Orange & Khaki had the task of getting them out of the trap. It took us 14 days to do so. There were 94 wounded and 34 killed. Major Lew was wounded there. Major Petito took over the Orange. Some thought he did a pretty good job. My platoon was on the right flank and Col. Beach was with us then. We could see him firing at the Japs like we all did.

My platoon, the Pioneer and Demolition, was the second unit to arrive to get the boys out. After they were freed from the trap, the 3rd Bn. took over. We were there for at least 10 to 13 days, then the Chinese came to hold it for us.

We pulled out then on our way to Myitkyina. Our next battle was at Ritpong. One little Chinese took a satchel of TNT, tossed it in the bunker and blew it all to hell. After this, we were on our way again. Up to the Kumon Range, the big hill, then down into the valley to Myitkyina.

We took the airfield there. Myself with ten other men took up an outpost on the Railroad tracks. We were hit by the Japs. We were outnumbered, so we withdrew and picked up some more automatic weapons. My men and I hit them again with no success. With the help of Col. Beach, we hit them a third time. This time we got them. I don't remember what the names of the men were but I did love those guys. I'm sure my men and I picked up some information that helped a lot. Ray C. Braden, 5307/3/ OCT/ P&D PLAT., 5125 SE 31st St., Apt. B, Ocala, FL 32671, 904-624-2490.

EDITOR

The Japs still held one end of the airfield in Myitkyina. We were at the side, further down amongst some big shell holes half filled with water. A plane came in, stopped in front of us. A bunch of clean kids got out. The officer had them line up.

We hollered, "Get your men out of there!" He said, "Dress right." We said, "You dumb so and so, get your men out of there." He gave us a court martial look. About that time, shells coming in, we hollered, "Over here, guys." We dived for the holes and they came running.

We asked them where they thought they were. They said, India. We said, "Buddies, there's a war going on. You've been initiated and you're right in the middle of it." I don't know what happened to the officer.

Guess we were jungle happy about that time.

We didn't know much about Heaven. But we talked about the next best thing — a stockade back in India. Clean clothes, a dry bed, three square meals a day, and nobody shooting or throwing shells at you.

Here's a little piece I made up:

I've never been a speller
Nor knew too much to fuss.
But unless I missed a lesson,
U.S. still spells us.

James Gilbertson, 12206 Old 8 Dr., Tomahawk, WI 54487; 5307/3/KCT/P&D; I&R

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

(Ed: This all started with a letter that I received from the US Army Military Attache, London Embassy, transmitting a letter from the Commando Veterans Association. They wanted to parade in New York with a similar elite outfit. I replied to them promptly that we did not parade and had plans to meet at Savannah this year. Then, the following happened.)

EDITOR

We have been given your address by Mr. P. Cully of the US Embassy Defense Attache Office in London. I am a member of the Burma Star Association and have written an article on Merrill's Marauders for our journal — DEHHO. This has aroused considerable interest, particularly regarding the regimental insignia of the present 75th Infantry US Army, which, as you know, is the lineal descendent, through 475th Infantry and 124th Cavalry (Mars Force & Disbanded China July 1945) of 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional).

I know that when the 75th Infantry were raised in 1954, it was granted Campaign Streamers for "India-Burma" and "Central Burma" and a Distinguished Unit Streamer for "Myitkyina" and that its Regimental Insignia is a shield on which two elephant tusks form an arch to represent Burma with crossed kukris representing jungle victories with the tusks and kukries forming an M for Marauders. However, I have never seen any representation of this insignia and wonder if you can tell me where I can see one and perhaps buy one or two?

Incidentally, I collected about 2,000 items of Burma campaign memorabilia which I have donated to the National Army Museum in London where they will go on permanent display as the "The Burma Campaign Memorial Collection." Among the items are several given by American ex-members of Detachment 101 OSS and the USAAF but unfortunately nothing — so far from 5307th and I should be very grateful if your members could rectify this and also, hopefully, record on tape their Burma experiences for use by future military historians. The tapes and artifacts can be sent to me or direct to Dr. Mark Nicholls, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW 3 4HT, England. J. R. Allan, Tregairewoon Cottage, Portscatho, Truro, TR2 5EP, England.

(Ed: We have obtained a copy of this gentleman's article about the MM from a different source. We do not intend to reprint it, but any interested parties can write and I will have photocopies made of it.)

EDITOR

It was kind of you to respond to my original letter so promptly. I note that you hold your

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LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 11)

Annual reunion on the first Monday in September. Unfortunately, our members will be in Blackpool (a holiday resort in NE England) on that date. We are there for three days at the invitation of the Lord Mayor for a civic reception, a march past and dancing and fun and games in their famous Tower Ballroom.

Quite by accident, I met an American unit on the India/Burma border and I believe they are now called "Seals." They were there to clear underwater obstacles before landings. Two days after that we did one of the seven landings I was involved in. There were no obstacles in our way. However, I was surprised that this unit was not more urgently needed in the Pacific.

If any of your members are holidaying in London next year, tell them to let me know just in case we can include them in any of our events. For example, on 10th November we hope to be in the Lord Mayor of London's Parade which is in the morning and then in the afternoon we have a short service in Westminster Abbey, followed by English Tea! We also have a spot in the Royal Tournament on July 24th, in London. My wife and I live one mile from Hampton Court Palace.

I am heading a small sub-committee of our London Branch to arrange some social events for next year and this Branch meets on the second Friday of each month in the upstairs room of the George Public House in the Strand, right opposite the Law Courts in London. Visiting members will be welcome but they should advise me in advance.

This evening our members, including me, are on duty in Westminster Abbey. We do this every Wednesday in December to help the regular staff cope with the tourists. Yes, we get a lot in December — and to keep an eye open for plastic shopping bags containing plastic explosives. Desmond Crowden, 3 Down St., West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 OSY England, Ex RSM 5 Commando, Commando Veterans Association.

EDITOR

I read with much interest an article in the Burma Star Association magazine — a thumb nail sketch of Merrill's Marauders by Jim Allan. In his article he wrote that the 475th Infantry Regiment was reformed as the 75th Infantry and that the Regimental Insignia of this new Regiment is a shield on which two elephant tusks form an arch, with crossed Kukris within the arch — together forming the letter M for Marauders. It is in particular the Kukri which interests me.

My Battalion, the 4th Battalion of the BURMA REGIMENT was a Gurkha Battalion



and we flew in to Putao in October 1943, fought our way south, all the way down to Myitkyina, capturing the Japanese stronghold of Sumprabum on the way and then we took part in the final stages of the siege of Myitkyina. All this time we were under the command of General Stilwell, so, of course, we met many men of Merrill's splendid jungle force.

I would be most interested to see the insignia referred to above as I would like to feel that the

Kukris are included to recognize the part played by my GURKHAS in the campaign. I had the honour to command the battalion in 1945.

Any member of your Association would be most welcome at 'Maymyo' should he ever find himself in Edinburgh.

I undernote a rough sketch of my battalion insignia — a Chinthe, (wrongly called Chindit by Wingate) and crossed kukris. I C.G. Scott, One time Lt. Col. commanding 14th Burma Regiment, 'Maymyo,' 18 Frogston Gardens, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, EH10 7 AF, Scotland.

EDITOR

I hope you can help me with the following. Since 1985, I correspond with WW 2 veterans about their combat experiences. I'm not so much interested in arms, used in the war, but in the fighting men themselves. What did they see, do, feel, wish, want, think, hear? Can they tell me about the things they went through, both bad and amusing, during combat and on leave? Of course, I can read books, and I do, but personal contact with people who have actually been there and are willing to tell me about it means much, much more to me. They tell me the stories I don't read in books, namely, their own, and in a far more personal way. That makes it more valuable to me. The things that happened to small units and each soldier individually never cease to interest me. Let me say to the members of your association, I'm truly interested in your wartime career. I'm interested in the things you've been through, the things you saw, did, feel, act. I'm not looking for heroic stories, I want to know the truth. How did you live through the war and how did the whole situation affect you? If you've been in combat and are willing and able to share your memories with me, please write. Or, maybe things can be put on tape. Don't let your stories and efforts fade away in time. I'm very interested in them! I want to know what happened in WW 2 from you guys. P.S. I'm 19 years of age. Stevin Oudshorn, Amsterdamse Weg 394, 1181 BT Amstelveen, Netherlands.


**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
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RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

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