



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November, 1990

DeSoto Hilton, Labor Day Weekend, 1990

44th Annual Held at Savannah with Rangers

[Photos by Hyden, Official Photographer]

Lovely town and we were in the midst of it. Small parks at planned intervals throughout the historic area. The big function was the trip to Hunter AA Field to observe the Ranger Demonstration. Most impressive to the onlookers. See some photos elsewhere in this issue. A nephew of Henry Kennedy was the second one out of the plane on the mass jump.

Also, some of the veterans got a chance to fire the new modern weapons. They even came back claiming the Army wanted them to sign up again.

On Friday, we had a briefing on the Panama Operation by the Rangers at the hotel which made it more convenient for us.

The Saturday Night Banquet, we had 439 persons present. Not quite as big a total as last year's (463) but still impressive. Col. Donovan, CO, 75th Ranger Regiment, was the guest speaker. We had a Kukri Drill Team Demonstration by the American Bando Association. The 1st Bn, 75th Rangers, provided the Color Guard.

We had some problems due to the hotel not being large enough to accommodate our group. Some had to stay at other hotels and we had an overflow of 60 people seated outside of the banquet room, Saturday night.



Col. Donovan



Henry Gosh

General Business Meeting

Held in the De Soto Hilton Grand Ballroom, Sunday, 9/2/90.

Meeting was called to order by President Phil Piazza at 10:03 a.m. Invocation by Monsignor Glavin. All Association officers present. Phil expressed his thanks to Dick Stewart for his help in getting the Reunion Ranger program organized.

Hurwitt: Reunion Chairman Report. I am not apologizing. Just want to give you the facts. Gave talk on reunion program arrangements and efforts to solve problems. Just to set the record straight. The Rangers had been after us a number of years. It was eight years since we were here in Savannah. Rangers desperately wanted to demonstrate their professionalism, their abilities to us. The whole idea of coming to Savannah was not to give you luxurious accommodations, not to give you gourmet food. The idea was to give you comradeship, to meet with each other and to see these fine young professional army men to demonstrate their capabilities. There were only two hotels in Savannah that could accommodate us, the Hyatt Regency where we were the last time and this hotel, the De Soto Hilton. The Hyatt wanted \$340 for the weekend, plus \$6 a day for parking even though you were a guest. They could only give us 25 rooms on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These people were extraordinarily cooperative. If they were late in opening doors, that's tough. We were late in arriving in Walawbum and

other places. The point is that we wanted to have a place that we could come to and it came down to this place as the only one that could accommodate us.

Piazza: President report. During the year represented the MM at many Ranger affairs. We were at the welcoming home part for the Rangers coming back from Panama. Went to the Wake of the Ranger Philip Lear, 2nd Bn, who died in Panama. He came from near Seneca. They will erect a monument at his church cemetery in Seneca, SC, near Clemson University, in his memory. So far, I have raised \$1,000, I'm trying to raise \$5,000.00. On the issue of the new Ranger Federation, we will not lose autonomy as the Merrill's Marauders Association. This Federation is formed to perpetuate the Rangers tradition and for the young Rangers. The young Rangers will carry it on. Next week, Dick and I will go to Ft. Benning to review the Federation Constitution and By-Laws.

Executive Secretary Report — Ray Lyons

Donations received at this year's reunion

Thursday, \$1805; Friday, \$2145;	
Saturday, \$318	\$4,068.00
Last year donations at reunion	4,142.00
Mail donations received during the year 201 Amount	\$4,315.50
Last year mail donations	3,539.00
Expenses year to date, postage, stationery, Burman News, etc.	\$6,290.02
Compared to last year	3,010.12
We have increased membership, sent out 1,156 pieces of mail, plus 5,034 copies of B/N with 50% more pages, costing us	\$3,227.70
Balance in Sec'y S & L Account 8/26/90	\$2,311.95
Compared to last year	479.31
We owe the Laurens House of Print for the New Directory	\$1,200.00
Not billed yet — Estimated (Actual cost — \$1,150.00)	

We have sold over 300 copies of the new book, "Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Vol. I." We printed 500 copies.

A recent count revealed that we have 1,460 members plus 220 Honoraries.

In response to much pushing by Howard Macy, we learned how to use our computer to print large size labels. Sally handprinted 200 for the advance registration names. Next year we will print one for each man on the rolls in advance and just need to make one up for the wives and guests.

We recommend that when members are making a donation for a specific memorial,



1st Battalion Ranger Color Guard

monument, etc., they should specify the purpose of the donation. Otherwise I will assume that they are giving to the fund to support our expenses.

Last item, I just received a report from the hotel, at last night's dinner they served 439 people, about 25 less than last year. That represents Marauders, guests and so forth. Thank you.

Treasurer Report - Clofine

Balance as of 8/27/89	\$19,613.60
Deposits	10,103.50
Interest	1,154.14
Total	\$30,871.24
Checks and Charges	9,047.40

Balance as of 8/26/90	\$21,823.84
Executive Secretary Account	2,311.95
Total	\$24,135.79

Accounts Payable, for supplies sold at the Registration Room 1,149.97
 Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report. Seconded. Unanimously approved.
 Motion made to accept Secretary's Report. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Piazza: Want to remind you that the amount indicated in the Treasurer's report, we have agreed to spend \$16,000 for the monument, so that is in escrow. Money is being spent during the year for awards for Ranger activities.

Historian Report: David Quaid: Ray Lyons and I are very busy collecting material of historical interest. We forward it to the Military History Institute in Carlisle Barracks. We are building up an excellent file there. We are actively soliciting from our membership, audio tapes, written material, etc., on member recollections. This has been incredibly valuable. We are making a special effort to obtain material on the Logan Weston I & R Platoon, holding action retreat up the hill to Nhpum Ga. We will do a major article for "Parameters," which is the magazine put out by the USAMHL. Duplicated material received from Secretary. Making another video tape of MM. It is an ongoing program. Putting still photos into a Disney-like film and documents. We intend to put them into a continuity, starting at Deogarh. We will put a sound track on it. The second prong of our offensive will be to go to Turner Broadcasting or CBS to look for funding to make a major film on the Marauder operation in Burma up to the present day Rangers operations. Any large expenditure will go to the membership for approval. It is estimated that it will cost in the range of \$6-7,000. Asked for a show of hands to

indicate approval. Ordered 400 foot of film to shoot footage of Ranger Activity Day. Hoping to get started on visit around country to tape personal interviews.

Chaplain's Report - Magr. Glavin: We should think about our relationship to the Lord. I prefer that the Field Mass will be Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m., and the Memorial service following at 4:30 p.m. I make that announcement now so that next year you can make your plans in accordance. I look forward to seeing all your happy faces next year.

Piazza: Asked for a show of hands to show membership approval of Quaid's expenditure of funds for film. Agreed.

Old Business - Sweeney: Objected to the one hour to one hour, 20 minute delay, waiting for the Friday night dinner. It was supposed to be at 7 p.m. Elderly people required to be standing all that extra time.

New Business - Rex Beach: Suggest that all

new members be introduced. (They were asked to stand. Impressive number stood. Members asked to identify themselves. Applause.)

Bob Eatman: Asked original members of 5307 to stand. Also a large group. (They are indicated in the sign-up charts every year.)

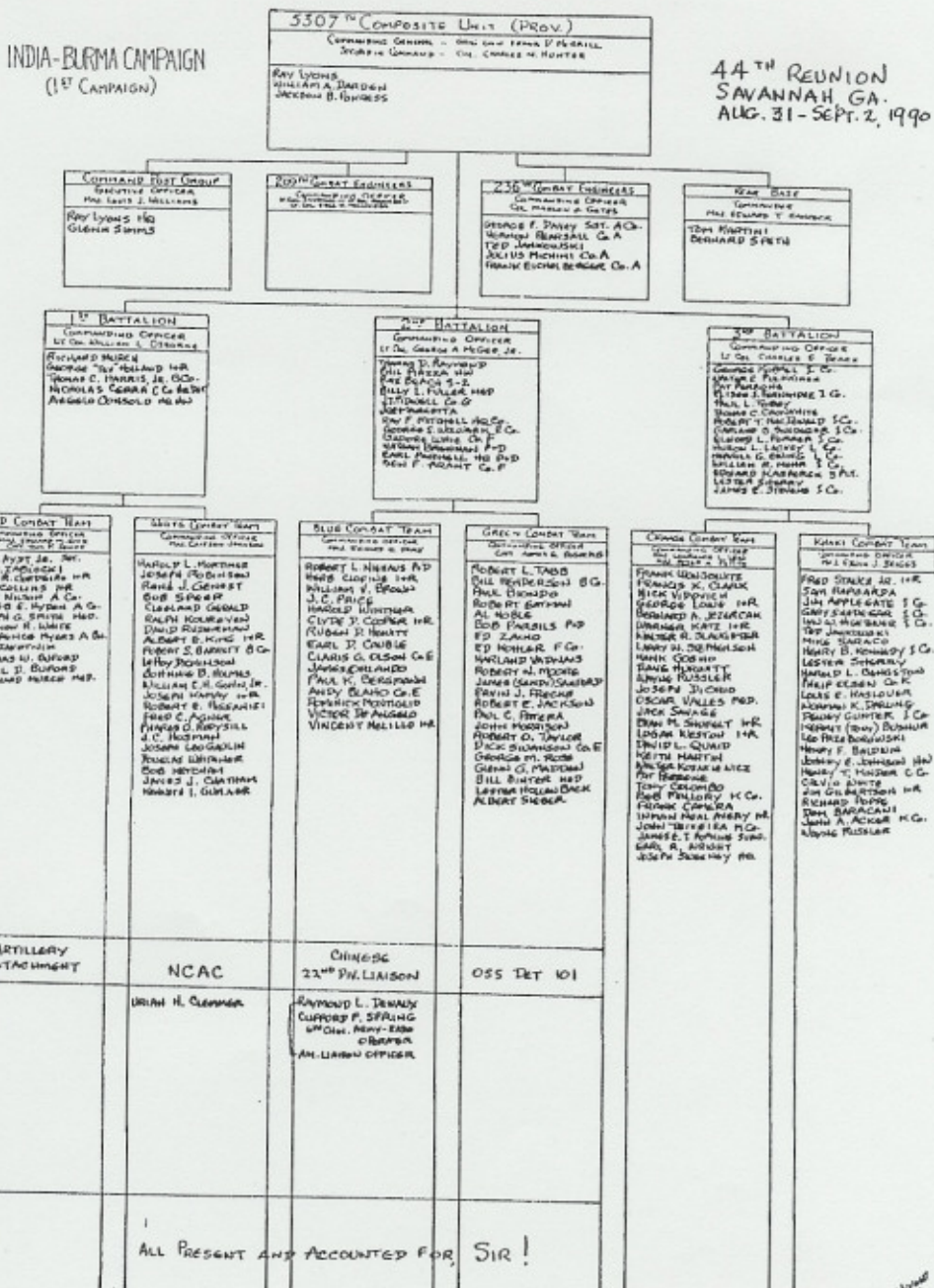
George Brack: Asked for all former members of 124th Cavalry to stand. Two, although there were four who signed in.

Dick Poppe: Suggested that hotel arrangements could have been better. In future make an effort to handle better.

Cordeiro: There should have been more attendees at the Ranger demonstration.

Election of Officers: President Phil Piazza nominated by Tony Colombo, seconded by Sam Rapisarda. No other nominations. Unanimously approved.

Passanisi: Motion to re-elect all officers without vote. Seconded. Lyons objected vigorously to dismissal of voting procedure. Mo-



tion approved.

No further election of officers at this meeting.

Reunion Site Nominations: Discussion of procedures. Agreed that it would be based on the most votes for a particular site.

Passanisi: Motion to vote for site, if majority of total votes not cast for a particular site, then re-vote for top two choices. Seconded by Pat Perrone. Motion carried.

Passanisi: If a person is not present to submit reunion proposal it should not be considered. Lyons, disagreed. Wanted to have the contract proposal from the Meridian Hotel in San Francisco given consideration. San Francisco was the port that most of the Marauders left from to go to the CBI and was the port that many of us came back thru on rotation. San Francisco is a world-class city like New Orleans and Montreal and deserves consideration. I think San Francisco would make an excellent choice a couple years down the road. Pointed out that we have had reunion proposals in past, specifically New Orleans, where the party did not come to reunion to present proposal and has not come to reunions before or since. (Also true of Second Savannah Reunion proposal.) I received the contract proposal from Jack Egan because he could not come for personal reasons. I asked Larry Stephenson if he would briefly summarize the proposal and present it on behalf of Egan. I will



repeat that when it suits certain people we have rules and when it does not we follow no rules.

Comment from floor that the Western Division has a separate reunion at the same time and they are not interested in joining us. We should not go to California for that reason.

Piazza: We do ask them to come to our reunion and have asked them to have theirs at a different time so that some people could, if they wanted, go to both of them.

Passanisi: Motion amended to add that a letter should be sent to Meridian Hotel thanking them for their offer. Motion approved.

Piazza: We now have a rule that the person must be present to offer the reunion proposal and must live within 250 miles of the reunion

site.

Reunion Proposals Presented: **SOUTH PORTLAND, ME**, by Betty Pulkinen.

Sheraton Tara Hotel. Near airport. Hotel guarantees 300 rooms available for us. Package Rate: Individual \$245, Double \$318. Extr nights, \$70. Includes tax and gratuity. N charge for parking cars or RV's.

CHICAGO, IL by Ed Zaino.

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Oak Brook, suburb o Chicago. Fifteen miles from airport, 18 mile from downtown.

Hotel guarantees 250 rooms for us. Package rate, four meals, two night package; Individual \$215; double \$300. Extra nights, \$65. Free parking for cars. All advantages of big city activities. Banquet room can handle 600 people.

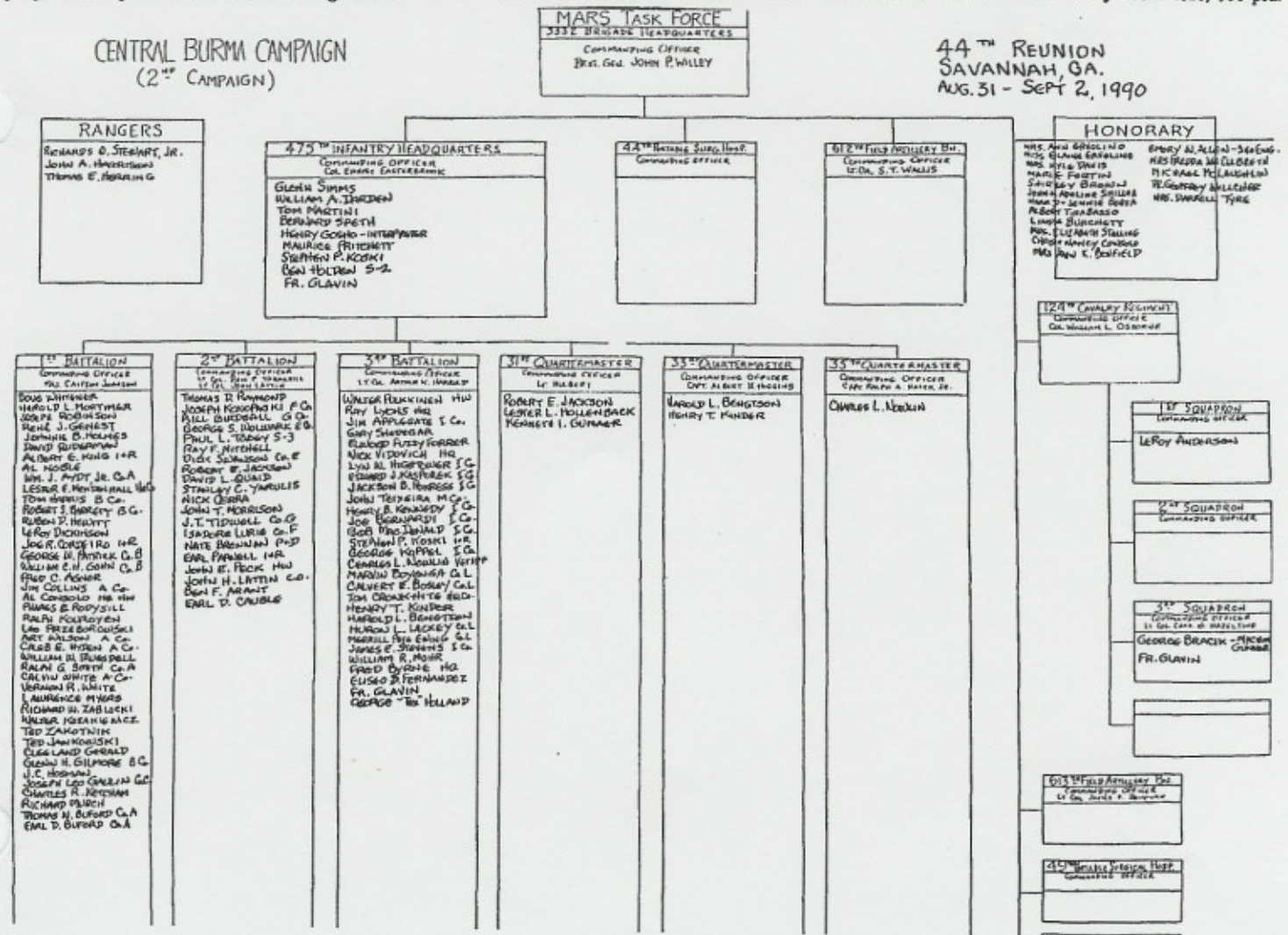
EL PASO, TX by Harold Mortimer and Hotel Manager Kai Fischer.

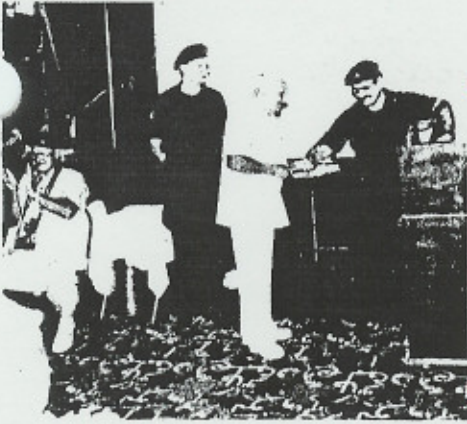
Marriott Hotel, one mile from airport and near Fort Bliss. Near I-10.

Hotel has 500 bedrooms. Guarantees 250 for us. There are 200 rooms next door — Marriott Residence Inn. Banquet room can accommodate 700 people. Package rates for two nights, four meals; Individual - \$212, double \$284. Parking free for cars and motor homes. No extra charge for children in room. Package rate for children 1/2 regular rate, meals 1/2 regular charge, no to exceed \$11.00. Extra day room cost, \$55 plu:

CENTRAL BURMA CAMPAIGN
(2nd Campaign)

44th REUNION
SAVANNAH, GA.
AUG. 31 - SEPT 2, 1990





Presentation of Kukri to Piazza by Dr. Willcher

tax. American Airlines will offer 40% discount on coach fare. Hotel will allow MM people 25% discount in restaurants, 10% discount in Gift Shoppe. They have two swim pools, whirlpool, fitness, suana. Hotel to downtown bus is 25 cent fare. Fare to Juarez is \$5.00. There are tour buses; \$2.00 maximum cost of drinks. Dog racing in Ciudad Juarez - free everything for the \$5.00 trip. In addition, on Friday night, we will have a Margarita reception with free hors d'oeuvres and a Mariachi band, the mayor of El Paso will be there to greet you. People from Ft. Bliss will put on a patriotic show, "Showtime USA" - free.

Piazza: Vote results: So. Portland, 21; Chicago, 21; El Paso, TX, 67. El Paso is to be the next reunion site.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Sharing the Story . . .

Walawbum to Shadazup to Nhpum Ga

Walawbum for most of the 1st Battalion, was their baptism under fire. They did real well considering that we had no defense against the Jap Artillery but to dig in and wait it out. The horses and mules, however, didn't do so well. We lost several and had to dispatch some others with large pieces of shrapnel in them. I believe our human casualty list in the 1st Bn was very low. The 3rd Bn had a much larger role than we did, but it did stop the Jap advancement up the Hukawng Valley.

The 1st Bn was then given orders to take a Battalion of Chinese and make an end run up through the mountains to hit Shadazup from the flank, in an effort to cut the Japanese retreat and also give the Chinese a lesson in maneuvering.

The WCT/I&R led off with one of those old British maps that had large areas of uncharted land. It didn't even show mountains or rivers. One time we went clear around a mountain and almost drew down on the tail end of our own main column. We finally found a small stream that seemed to run in the right direction and figured by following it down stream we were bound to find the main river and Shadazup.

From then on, we had lost radio contact with India and didn't realize until much later that 2nd Bn was in trouble at Nhpum Ga. Anyway, the small stream got even smaller when we got the whole 1st Bn down there. When our I&R finally arrived at the confluence of the stream

and main river, we could hear Japs talking across the river. We stopped the main column and had them try to get the mules back up the creek. This was not a two mule creek and there was lots of kicking, swearing and confusion. (Thank God, their vocal cords had been tampered with.)

We spread the I&R out, up and down the river, on the side of the mountain, facing the river and Sam and I started to try and find out if it was a Jap camp or just a patrol. As we looked through some trees, four or five Japs came down to the water on the other side, about 150 feet away. They were washing clothes and bailing water out for their camp. Sam and I then withdrew and went looking for Lt. Col. Osborne, 1st Bn, C.O. We found him sitting on a rock, looking thoroughly bushed after our long push.

He told Sam to take some of the I&R and cross the river to see how many of the Japs there were. It's now about 3 p.m., and the sun is shining and the river is arm pit deep. Sensing a pending massacre, I told Sam I wasn't going. This didn't shake him up too much. He just took off his pack and grabbed his carbine and along with one other man started out. When they got to the middle of the river with guns over their heads and hardly able to move, Sam looked back. I'm frantically pumping my fist up and down and motioning for them to come back because there was a whole bunch of Japs headed for the river. They came back and I still don't know how they got out of the water without being spotted.

Sam and I went back to Osborne again and between the three of us, decided to have everyone sit on their packs until about 2 a.m. Then one column go up the river to cross and the other column go down to sort of surround the encampment. This plan worked out real well. The only Japs in camp were the cooks and helpers which were quickly finished off by the few Gurkhas with us in the dark without any noise.

Both columns then took up positions and waited. When it started getting light, columns of Japs started coming in from the surrounding hills. The I&R didn't cross the river but we were told they got 300 Japs without a casualty.

Just as they were finishing up across the river, a truck load of potatoes came into camp, driver unaware of what was going on. So, they all loaded their packs with potatoes and came back across the river.

The Chinese were not behind us and we had to wait the rest of that day, all night, until almost noon the next day before they arrived. In the meantime, we spread out on the side of the mountain facing the river and prepared for a bad night and were not disappointed. The Japs apparently used the day to get their artillery from Walawbum into position. They had flat trajectory 77mm, anti-aircraft guns as well as a bunch of mortars and proceeded to pound us all night. There were quite a few casualties, including three of my I&R. We had dug in real well or it would have been worse. I didn't have a buddy as most others did, so I dug a post hole and sort of stood up, leaving a very small opening at the top. Right above me, two more I&R men had a buddy hole. Old Allen and Young Allen. I think they thought they were related or something. Both were from Kentucky or Tennessee. The ar-

FALL IN

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

- EARNEST C. BANKS, Rt. 1, % Johnny RV Park, Thackerville, OK 73459; 5307
 PETE N. BARTOLOVICH, 4114 Brooke, Weirton, WV 26062; 5307
 RICHARD BOGGS, P.O. Box 121, Cottle, WV 26207, 304-742-3317; 612/B/#2 GUN
 JOSEPH M. CABRAL, 28 Harkness Rd. W., No. Smithfield, RI 02095, 401-762-5320; 475/3/I
 NICHOLAS CERRA, 12 Luther St., Johnston, RI 02919; 5307/1/C/HQ Det.; 475/1/C Co.
 DONALD W. DELOREY, 505 Oak Brook Blvd, Battle Creek, MI 49015; 5307; 475/3/HQ CO/EXO
 EARL C. FREEMAN, 626 East 250 North, Vernal, UT 84078; 5307/1/RCT/C Co/3/3
 RICHARD GOATES, 1555 Huntington Village Ln, #26, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, 714-894-1066;
 612th FA
 SSG JOHN A. HARRISON, 8000 Water Ave., #52, Savannah, GA 31406; Ranger, 75/1/B/2 Platoon
 TERRY W. HENDRICKS, 1412 East 56th St., Savannah, GA 31406, 912-354-1544; 5307
 GEORGE "TEX" HOLLAND, Rt. 4, Box 206, Alma, GA 31510, 912-632-5512; 5307/1/I&R;
 475/3/K Co.
 ORVILLE HOGEBOOM, 2804 Poplar Ct., Plano, TX 75074, 214-424-8960; 5307/3/OCT
 JOHN F. HORSTMANN, 535 Cynwyd Circle, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004, 215-664-9929;
 5307/2/HW; 475/2/HQ/CO CL
 DONALD K. KEENE, P.O. Box 35, West Poland, ME 04291; 5307/209th Engrs
 JOHN KIENLEN, 6415 Overbrook Ave., Philadelphia, PA 16151, 215-878-2479; 5307/2/HW
 STEPHEN P. KOSKI, 775 Monroe, #217, Missoula, MT 59802; 475/3/HQ
 KENNETH (GLASBURG) LANGFORD, 9100 SW 27th Ave., #A7, Ocala, FL 42876; 5307; 475
 JOSEPH N. MALONE, 1053 Alice St., Zanesville, OH 43701; 5307; 475
 JAMES W. MITCHELL, 320 Edison St., Kingsford, MI 49801; 612 FA (Pack) BN
 JOHN T. MORRISON, 2311 Grenada Blvd., Greenwood, MS 38930, 601-453-2493; 5307/2F Co.
 WALTER R. NEMORE, Rt. 1, Box 198, Gainesboro, TN 38562; 5307/236/
 ALVIN J. PAUKERT, 13500 McCracken Blvd, Garfield Hgts, OH 44125, 581-1752;
 5307/Comm/Radioman; OSS 101
 ANDREW R. SHINSKY, Rt. 2, Box 331, Portersville, PA 16051; 5307/HQ; 475/1/C
 RICHARD D. SLATER, 930 Lincoln St., Wooster, OH 44691; 475/2/G Co.
 JOHN B. SLOWEY, 1810 Sury Rd., Oreland, PA 19075, 215-896-5954; 5307
 ROY E. SMITH, Rt. 1, Box 98, Alexander City, AL 35010, 205-329-0737; 475/1/31 QM PK TR
 CLIFFORD SPRING, 711 Moray Dr., Inverness, FL 32650; 5307/Comm
 TEDDY T. SWIET, 29 Second St., Medford, MA 02155; 5307; 475
 EDGAR L. VAN ZANDT, 1517 Eastern, Stillwater, OK 74074; 475/HQ/COMM SEC
 GEORGE R. ZECKLIN, 1883 57th St., Fennville, MI 49408; 5307; 475/2/Hq Co. Horseshoer

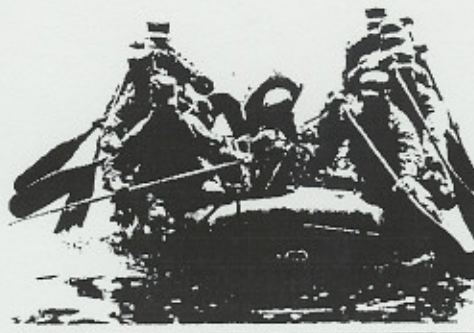
tillery started about dark, they were getting tree bursts that sent shrapnel everywhere and the mortars kept raining down. Shells were falling so close that I could hardly hear anything. The Allens took a direct hit and I could hear Young Allen calling for me, Old Allen was dead and Young Allen fatally hit.

It was so dark you couldn't see your hand except when a shell would burst. I got out of my hole and started crawling up the hill trying to find a medic and some morphine. Fellows would whisper directions as I passed. I finally found someone and got a needle full of morphine and started back. It seemed like forever with many encounters with thorn bushes and other people's foxholes. I made it back to Allen's hole and in total darkness reached in and found Young Allen. What I felt made me sick. Anyway, I gave him the shot and he said something just as another shell hit very close. I got back in my hole. There was no more noise from that hole. Next morning, as we were burying our dead, another I&R man got shot by a sniper.

I guess Osborne sent some men with a radio back the way we had come to Shadazup until they got contact with India to ask for a food drop. We were told to head for Nhpum Ga to help get 2nd Bn out, with no food drop until we got there.

The Chinese arrived and we left Shadazup to them and headed for Nhpum Ga. Some 30 hours away and no rations. We traveled night and day until we arrived in pretty beat condition.

I took a patrol around the right side. Actually way down to a stream, down the stream, then up a ridge on the far side of 2nd Bn. There was a patrol of Japs on a trail and just as we saw each other, two fighters came in low, strafing with a .50 cal. machine guns. The empty casings were falling on us and the lead on the Japs, who immediately ran back down the trail. We were about as scared as they, thinking it was us they were shooting at. We should have been briefed about the situation, so we would have known more about where all the players were. Clarence



Branscomb, 5307/1/WCT/I&R, 800 Cameo Ct., Brookings, OR 97415.

(Ed: Support from DR. HOPKINS' records. "Sporadic artillery and mortar fire was directed at the perimeter during the night of 28-29 March. Of three casualties, one was KIA, one DOW, and one WIA. No. 37. ALLEN, Dervis J., Pvt., 38215163, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (a) Shell made direct hit on center of posterior thorax and tore body into three pieces. (b) Defensive, in deep and much too large hole with Case #38. Hole was not undercut, 77mm shell hit center of thorax, 0100 hours, 29 March. (c) Foxhole poorly constructed.

No. 38. ALLEN, Eugene (NMI), Pfc., 37240530, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (a) Wound, at least 30 pieces of artillery fragment in back, pelvic area and legs. (c) Morphine only by aid man. (d) DOW, one-half hour.

No. 39. CLAYBURN, Grady B., Pfc., 38285708, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (a) Wound, penetrating severe, leg, left: entrance anterior surface, at junction of midder and upper thirds; traversing tibia and soft tissues; lodging in popliteal space. (b) Defensive, in foxhole, fragment from 77mm shell, range not known, 0100 hours, 29 March 1944. (c) Aid station to Seagrave Unit No. 2, 29 March; 2nd Pl., Co. D, 13th Medical Battalion, 2 April; 20th G.H., 4 April; 181st G.H., 16 June. (d) WIA, hospital in U.S. (e) Unavoidable.")

MORE ON NHPUM GA BATTLE

In the last issue of the Burman News, you featured a letter from W. T. Ventura captioned "Sharing the Story — It Happened at Nhpum Ga." Since the story pertains to the 2nd Battalion, and there is a personal reference to me, I feel that my comments thereon are in order.

I appreciate that this is a personal account, however, I find the story at odds with the facts as I know them, i.e.:

- The battle began on 28 March, not on 25 March.
- The strength of the 2nd Bn on that date was approximately 900 men, not 600.
- Nhpum Ga was not an "insignificant hilltop village" but rather an important terrain feature on the Kamaing-Nhpum Ga ridgeline which both forces fought to secure and hold.
- The air resupply support provided by the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron was outstanding. On only two days of the period, 28 March to 9 April (8 and 7 April) were a relatively few bundles dropped outside the perimeter. These contained rations.
- Throughout the period of siege, the 2nd Bn was well supplied. We did not lack food, ammunition, weapons or medical supplies. The shortage of water was the major problem, and this situation was relieved to an endurable degree through the efforts of our own supply people in the rear echelon.
- Too important not to be mentioned in any account of Nhpum Ga was the fire support provided the Bn by the combat aircraft of the 51st Fighter Group. On only two days during the period, 29 March to 8 April were we without this vital support. In addition to carrying out bombing and strafing missions in support of the perimeter, these fighters frequently provided cover for the air drops.
- The Jap attack on McLogan's Hill occurred on the night of 5-6 April and not on the morning of 5 April.
- Visibility in the jungle at night is extremely limited.

Returning to Ventura's account of the attack on McLogan's Hill on the night of 5-6 April, I would like to point out that all sectors of the perimeter had been subjected to attacks at varying times from 28 March onward. These attacks had all been repulsed. On only one occasion was the perimeter penetrated, and that was on the morning of 5 April when a machine gun position was overrun on McLogan's Hill position. After which the Jap force withdrew.

The attack on Lt. McLogan's sector of the perimeter had been anticipated, and his platoon had been reinforced with men and weapons drawn from then less threatened sectors. Sergeant Matsumoto, an intelligence specialist, and a first class soldier, joined the reinforced platoon and would pass on any Jap orders or other information which he overheard.

The attacks that night and in the early morning were repulsed with the Japs suffering heavy losses. Lt. McLogan's reinforced platoon

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently

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

HUGH L. AULT, 301 West 2nd Ave., Derry, PA 15627; 5307; 475	August 30, 1990
ALVIN BUSH, 5305 Pincham Rd., Guthrie, KY 42234, 502-483-2477; 5307/1/WCT; 475/1/I&R	June 15, 1990
MEREDITH CALDWELL JR., 3803 West End Ave., #1, Nashville, TN 37205-2450; 5307/1; 475/HQ	February 20, 1986
LOUIS "SONNY" CRONAN, Houston, TX	December 26, 1989
WALTER J. CROSS, 12 No. Main St., Apt. 404, Keyser, WV 26726; 5307	July 30, 1990
THOMAS J. "JACK" DALTON, 5058 Merlin Dr., San Antonio, TX 78218; 5307/3/HQ; 475/HQ	August 31, 1990
CLARENCE H. DOALLAS, 509 Rockwood Ct., Orange Park, FL 32065-8902; 5307/1/WCT; 475/1	July 17., 1990
CAPT. PAUL A. DUNLAP, P.O. Box 5544, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938; 5307/1/RCT; 475/1	November 3, 1989
ROY W. GIBSON, P.O. Box 23, Washington, IN 47501; 5307/1; 475/1; 31st QM PK TR	January 18, 1990
STANLEY F. GILETA, 261 Westview Ave., Fort Lee, NJ 07024; 5307/2/G Co.; 475/2/G, Hosi, Burma	January 27, 1945
ALEXANDER "BILLY" McFADDEN, New York, NY; 5307; 475, 1st Lt., Aspen, CO	1948
CARROLL MOLDER, Box 264, Claredon, TX 79226; 5307/3/OCT	March 5, 1985
EDWARD MONNIN, 110 Winspeak Rd., Elma, NY 14059; 5307/1/RCT/C Co.	June 9, 1990
LARK PEACH, 15485 Rockdale, Detroit, MI 48223; 5307/1/RCT/A Co/P&D	August 20, 1990
LEON PRESS, Rt. 1, Box 420, Chester, MD 21619; 5307/1/WCT/B Co.	May 3, 1985
THOMAS E. SMITH, 2725 Moss Grove Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807	April 2, 1988
OSCAR W. SWENSON, 918 Wirth, Augusta, KS 67010; 5307/2/BCT, Sqd. Leader	July 7, 1987
ROBERT C. TACK, 3207 Tennessee Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34947; 5307; 475	June 10, 1990
J. D. YOUNG, 3324 Texas Ave., Montgomery, AL 36110; 5307/2/GCT/F Co.	1988

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.

had done an outstanding job, and Sergeant Matsumoto had made a valuable contribution.

The real story of Nhpum Ga is concerned with the officers and men, for the most part unsung, who night and day fought the battles on the perimeter; and with the supporting efforts of the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron and the 51st Fighter Group, which kept us in the ball game.

While my comments hereon pertain to the battle of Nhpum Ga, that is, the siege, I would be remiss to omit mention of the important contribution of the 3rd Battalion which fought its difficult battle up the ridgeline from Hsamshingyang.

The quote attributed to me would appear to imply that I had a callous attitude toward "enlisted men" and their entitlement to recognition for outstanding performance of duty. I have no recollection of having made this confused statement. I disassociate myself from it. It goes without saying that soldiers — officers and men, are rewarded for outstanding performance of duty; and as a case in point, Sergeant Matsumoto would be awarded the Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star Medal for his performance at Nhpum Ga and throughout the campaign. Col. George A. McGee, C.O. 5307/2nd Bn, 216 Camp Willow Rd., New Braunfels, TX 78130.

SURVIVING

Thanks to the alertness and the sharp ears of PFC James D. Young, ASN 34339952, we survived in the early A.M. of April 5, 1944. We were awake, wet and miserable after days of fighting, with little hope of relief or for that matter of survival on what we now call "Maggot Hill" — Nhpum Ga, Burma. We were surrounded by a far superior force of Japanese. We had about 600 members of the 5307th Comp Unit (Prov), 2nd Battalion.

At one time in this seemingly hopeless battle, someone yelled out, "Where the hell are those other 5306 Composite Units?" Even in desperation, there was humor.

We had K rations, and rice we couldn't cook for lack of water plus it would have been suicide to start a fire and reveal our positions. What little water there was, was slimy mud run-off, without a doubt unfit for consumption by a dog, much less 600 emaciated men.

Col. Hunter later said he never got amebic dysentery because he always boiled his water. Thank the Lord for his sake, he was in a position where this was possible. I believe in our position, boiling our water would have given us maggot soup. As it was, we drank our maggots raw. And, even despite the sickness, most of us survived.

Getting back to J. D. Young. He suddenly shoved me from behind our light .30 cal. machine gun, saying, "Give me that gun." I hadn't heard what J. D. had. He told me later, he heard the Japs very close, striking their hand grenade pins on the stocks of their rifles. As J. D. opened up with our MG., grenades landed in our old position from which we had moved two days before when I was sure the Japs knew the exact location of that position.

As J. D. opened fire, he caught the Japs moving up on us with a Nambu MG with which we had traded fire before from our old position.

They, and a rifle platoon, were caught in the open and not dug in. How many we killed or wounded, I don't know but this was in the same action I spoke of before referring to Sgt. Roy Matsumoto. Roy was about 20 yards on our right flank. The Japs dropped the Nambu MG and either died or were wounded or withdrew from



the attack.

One hand grenade landed not two feet to my left peppering me with dirt and the concussion bent the follower tube which reloaded the Garand Rifle I had picked up and was firing. In bending that rod, I had to kick the butt forward to re-load to fire each shot. I may have fired six rounds in this manner. Then, Roy Matsumoto did his thing and all hell broke loose.

In our position, after the action, J. D. said to me, "You're hit." As there was blood on the left side of my face. Minute hand grenade fragments had peppered my left and face. Even at this late date, x-rays show these foreign bodies in my left arm and face.

First J. D. Young, then Roy Matsumoto — what better men to have with you in a battle?

In the original attack, when I had to kick the bolt closed on the Garand, as I said, I did not fire over six rounds. I do attest to this, each time I fired I had a target in view which was no more than 30 feet from me. The first two shots were at no more than 15 feet. I am certain that I hit each and everyone in the chest.

After this intense attack on our Nhpum Ga position was over, we could see something that was on the ground in this draw through which the Japs had attacked my machine gun position. There was a rifle squad from what I believe was Co. E on my left flank. A man from this squad crept down into the draw with a length of nylon parachute cord and he attached it to this object. He then ran back up out of the draw with the cord end in his hand. With help from another member of that squad, he then pulled that object up out of the draw. It was the Light Nambu Machine Gun with which my squad had been dueling. This Nambu was then taken to Col. McGee and it sat on the ground outside of his fox-hole until Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944, when we were finally reached by the 3rd Bn.

This I am certain, is the Gun pictured on April 15, 1944, with Cpl. Wilbur Thorpe, Co. E; Sgt. Major Joe Doyer; 1st Sgt. Recke, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn; and S/Sgt. Sam Rapisarda. It was the only Japanese machine gun from the whole Nhpum Ga engagement, which I know of that was captured. Of these men, the only one I know of whom is still alive is Sam Rapisarda. It could be he could have been told at that time of how it was captured. (This photo appears in MM Vol. I, Page 20.)

ON THE TRAIL WITH GCT

A lot of the men were not aware of the rice bag free drops that we used to receive. I believe that they were intended to be used to bargain

with the natives along the way. But in many instances they were just left along the trail. We used to cut the bags open and fill our extra sock with the rice. Later when the chance presented we would boil water in our canteen cups and cook some of the rice and mix it with the K rations. It helped to fill our stomachs.

Another thing, most of the column would have long delays while the men at the point would resolve roadblocks or other problems. While we were resting, what we did was get four men together to play pinochle. I taught J. D. Young to play on board the Lurline. One time, when our platoon was at the head of the column and we were under fire, I asked J. D., "Wouldn't you rather be playing pinochle?" Sgt. Warren Ventura, 24247 Eucalyptus, Moreno Valley, CA 92388, 714-653-8221, 5307/2/GCT/HW/F Co.

JOHN J. GALLAGHER, 475, 3rd Bn.

(He turned up at my house on June 1, 1990 with his finally remembered story. One of the items that helped him to bring it back was a small 2" x 5" notebook with a Red Cross on the front which he had used as a diary. Here are his notes. RVL.)

John J. Gallagher, ASN 33585880, Co. M, 5307 Composite Unit.

Left States on USS General Butner on April 23, 1944. Left from Newport News, VA.

Arrived Capetown, South Africa, May 10.

OFFICER'S ROW

Reunion Chairman — Harold Mortimer

We are planning on getting together with President Phil Piazza in mid-October at El Paso to meet with Hotel Management. Predicting a fine reunion.

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

We are sorry to report that the Chinese have given up on the China War Memorial Medal. They said, "In response to your letter addressed to Mr. Mou Shih Ding, Representative of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, I regret to inform you that we have stopped awarding the China War Memorial Medal since June 1, 1990, as the supply of the Medals has been exhausted. However, your wartime service against our common aggressor in the China theater is much appreciated. With best wishes Sincerely, Stephen S. F. Chen, Deputy Representative." So, unless they change their mind sometime in the future that must be laid to rest.

One of the fascinating things that we acquired at the Reunion was a copy of Dr. Hopkins' notes. I have only skimmed thru it so far but it has incredible documentation. For example, he has notes on many of you wounded men. He has notes on the action, dates and times. We will surely do something with this valuable acquisition to our history. A partial glimpse, "Casualty records up until May 26, 1944. A Bn — 15 dead, 46 wounded; B Bn — estimate 40 dead, 200 wounded; C Bn — 40 dead, 111 wounded. I have no record of Marauders killed or wounded after May 26. The 209, 236 Engineers and New Galahad lost 272 dead and 972 wounded at Myitkyina. The Chinese at Myitkyina lost 972 dead and 3,184 wounded. The Chinese with C Bn at Ritpong had 30 dead and 100 wounded. Tingkrukawng, 6 dead and 10 wounded. Chinese casualties are estimated."

We are acquiring more and more valued recollections. Please be patient with us as we work our way thru it.

1944. Had 12 hour leave. Left May 11.

Arrived Durban, South Africa, May 13th. Left same day.

Arrived Mombasa on 15th and left next morning.

Arrived Bombay, May 26.

Embarked upon 4 day train trip to Ramgarh, India.

May 31 — Some air field, North India.

June 1 — Myitkyina airstrip.

June 3 — Went forward to front lines. During this time, June 1st to July 1st, we were constantly under slight shelling and sniping. However, attacks and counter attacks were bloody. Jap mortar and machine gun fire were murder. Casualties were heavy every time. Immediately after our battalion forced a road block to the river in North Myitkyina, cutting off Jap supplies in that area, I sighted about 20 Japs crossing the road 750 yards down the road. We hit the spot with all the artillery we had and the next day attacked. I remained with a machine gun at the CP and did not participate in the actual attack. They found the Japs dug in six foot underground and we took an awful beating. Time after time, we attacked and the same thing happened each (time). I had moved up in the meantime to another squad suffering severe casualties.

During the time I had been at the CP, I had a funny experience. At night every two fellows stood guard, one hour on and one hour off. At 3:15 one morning, I heard a light swishing (noise). I could not see to the rear or side of my foxhole and it had been raining. Four men glided by my hole for 12 feet and turned behind a clump of brush. It was only in the last second that I recognized them to be Japs. Since it had been raining I had my rifle and grenades on the side out of reach and I had no chance to get any of the four. I regret it to this day. I saw quite a bit more action before returning to the air strip on July 1. Maybe that wasn't a hell of a march.

On the 26th of July, our Battalion again went to the front. I was there for six days. Five days we attack. Five days we caught hell. I believe our casualties are at least 65% now and they were still pushing.

We, the fellows who came over on the boat with me are the 5307 Composite Unit. We are the second and third battalions of the Marauders. We are supposed to be experienced jungle fighters but I don't believe there are 400. And their training came from Panama. Half of the men aren't even Infantry men. Engineers were fighting when we got here, and we have field artillery men, QM, horse cavalry and medics fighting.

Someone ought to be court-martialed for this blunder.

When we came to Myitkyina, we are only to stay four days and none had equipment and what we had, we lost. Most couldn't be replaced. I finally got a tooth brush here.

On July 31, at 10:00 in the morning, I was standing in I Co. CP when a sniper hit me in the left back. The bullet passed through the left side causing little damage. One hour and a half later, I was operated on and slit from one hole to the other and dead skin cut out. I don't believe the wound was more than 100 or 150 yards away. I was flown from the field hospital to the air strip in a cub hospital ship and then to Ledo. I am here now on August 1.

August 2nd — Moved to another ward and feeling fine. Can stand but I am cut for five inches and it has to heal. Have two of our



lieutenants in ward with us. Find one company has 20 men left out of 220. I believe there is a day coming when someone will shoot the battalion commander.

August 19 — Today received secondary sutures. Received Novocain local. Quite some pain. Probably more when local wears off.

Sept. 11, 1944 — Leaving hospital for convalescent 1300 hours. Still slight drainage and wound slightly open.

Sept. 21, 1944 — Still draining and might have infection. Will probably see doctor in day or two.

October — Convalescent hospital till November.

Nov. 13 — Returned to Camp Landis, Myitkyina.

Nov. 16 — Started second campaign.

Dec. 8 — Marched 165 miles with several days breaks. Mission changed four times so far. Moving off tomorrow.

Dec. 25 — Arrived at Tomqua (Tonkwa) three days ago. Plenty of packages, plus plenty of Japs. Am going on another patrol.

Jan. 1, 1945 — On trail behind Jap lines moving east toward Burma Road.

Jan. 16 — Been on trail quite some time.

Jan. 25 — On 16 we walked all day plus night plus got short break. On the 17th we walked all day plus night to get in position to hit Burma road. The 18th — Hit hill overlooking road. Light opposition. Been heavy artillery and quite a few casualties.

Jan. 26 — Other battalions holding. Second heavy casualties. Enright (friend from St. Joe's College) went to hospital. Cavalry lost heavy by foolish move. Bayonet (?) charge.

May — In China. All fighting over for us.

HEADQUARTERS
5307TH PROVISIONAL UNIT
APO 884, c/o Postmaster, New York, NY

(From Ralph Atherton, 1st Bn, Heavy Weapons
XMAS GREETINGS

Today when we are far from home and in a strange land, Xmas has a special significance. All members of this regiment can take pride in the fact that they are engaged in a mighty conflict: the successful conclusion of which will insure future security and happiness not only for themselves and for their families but for all the downtrodden peoples of the world.

The short holiday we have today is richly deserved.

MERRY XMAS.
Charles N. Hunter,
Lt. Col., Infantry
Acting Regiment Commander

RANGER COLUMN

The close of March saw a gathering of veterans that was unique in history. For the first time, men who served as Rangers in World War I, II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada and Panama joined together as brotherhood.

The place was Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Rangers are at home around this area. In 1763, they were part of a force that marched west to break the back of the Indian threat. In more recent times Carlisle was the place the initial region of the Korean War Ranger Association was formed.

Now, in 1990, men who ranged in age from 20-70 gathered together to share their experiences.

The list of attendees read like a Who's Who of the Ranger World. Rex Sharp, president of the Ranger Battalions of World War II, Tom Herring, president of the US Army Ranger Association, Phil Piazza, president of the Merrill Marauders Association, Emmett Pike, president emeritus of the Korean War Rangers were in attendance.

The program opened on Friday afternoon with a visit to the United States Army Military History Institute. Ranger photographs and archives were reviewed. The staff of the Institute provided an excellent briefing and tour which included the General Omar Bradley Museum. Those who desired, were given a walking tour covering the Military History of Carlisle Post and Carlisle Barracks by Bob Black.

AN ELITE FIGHTING SPIRIT From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer June 14, 1990

Paralyzed in Panama invasion, young Ranger, PFC Patrick McElrath is now out of the Army and living with an aunt and uncle in Tacoma, Washington. After six months of rehearsal, on Dec. 20, he jumped with other members of the 75th Ranger, 2nd Bn, Charley Company's Heavy Weapons Platoon. They had dry run jumps into an abandoned airfield in Florida just prior to the action. Months of training came down to the instant when his chute collapsed during a collision with another jumper. McElrath wound up with a broken leg and spine. He is permanently paralyzed from the rib cage down.

His Staff Sgt., Russell Van Arsdale, says, "He is a supermotivated guy. He already owns his own business. He is an Amway distributor." On May 17, 1990, he was officially retired from the US Army.

+ + +
Life is uncertain — Eat your dessert first!

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

DITOR

I am Sgt. Lester Sherry. I do not know the exact dates we were in there but my 30th birthday, March 7, 1944, was spent trying to get out of Walawbum after our first battle there. KCT was rear guard. I was in KCT from the start until Dr. James Hopkins tagged us for hospital observation at Myitkyina. Typhus ended my combat career.

"Pass In Review" listed Thomas Dotson from KCT/I&R, May 7, 1988. It is saddening to know that a very fine scout has answered the call. Dotson was point on many patrols that I accompanied. He was the best. Very quick and a sure shot. I've observed Richard Shaver (also deceased) and him break up a Jap road block on occasions. They were both lucky and good at their trade, to get home alive. A local businessman said of Shaver that if he had all the medals he deserved, he would not be able to carry them all. I extend that statement to include Dotson who may have been better, if possible. They led charmed lives. We needed these scouts very much as we passed out of Kachin territory and were not helped by those native patrols. Dotson was with weapons platoon when he began training where I first knew him. He was transferred to I&R just before we went into Burma. To my knowledge, they were not properly decorated. Shaver did get the Chinese Medal, at least the Chinese recognized gallantry.

Another close friend was Sgt. Robert Norling, who along with Richard Shaver and I were all from Paulding County, Ohio. Robert Norling was killed in the breaking of the encirclement of B Battalion. He was a machine gunner as I was. His position took a direct hit. Evidently he was gunner at the time. I was called to replace him. Placing my gun in position after removing his demolished piece, I became aware of something in the foxhole. Reaching down, I removed a body and giving my gunner charge, started putting a tourniquet on the badly wounded crewman. The medic came up and we got them out as quickly as we could.

Getting back to the job, I asked, "Who was killed?" It was extremely shocking to find that it was my neighbor from back home, Norling.

Lt. Hughes — Hughes was my favorite officer of my entire war experience. We did not call him Lieutenant at his request. I met him first on the Lurline after our stop in Perth, Australia. This stop alarmed the officer staff as a few screwballs (as they thought of them) re-embarked drunk after a formal march in town. Actually, the grateful town folks were handing them beer and drinks. Officers couldn't understand it. They wondered what kind of a mess they volunteered for. It's understandable that our group had just finished a very grueling campaign on New Georgia, Solomon Islands. Officers took the unusual course of mingling with enlisted men after Perth and never changed. Merrill's Marauders was a very irregular unit in many ways. Lt. Hughes attached his attention mainly on me. He asked what kind of fighting force I thought we were. I told him it would turn out to be a good one. He asked about the drunkenness. I told him it didn't concern me that my past duty had stressed guard duty on payday and I was familiar with drinkers. Explaining that they were just kids and needed an outlet. He liked the theory but couldn't get used to it.

During our tour of duty in Burma, he got first



hand experiences of the unit and claimed to be convinced of its merit. Unfortunately, he also contracted typhus. I miss him. Wish I could talk to him now about it all.

The Lieutenant was not very big nor tall but he had good measure of rest of what it takes to get thru an ordeal of this kind. I can say this because his counterpart in the 148th Infantry was the opposite, rough in speech and teaching but chicken in combat.

Lt. Hughes was like a brother — all wool and a full yard wide. Perhaps I cared for him more because he questioned and listened. You don't ask about background and he didn't reveal but this could have been his first campaign. Too, he was like Capt. Ferris, a good officer, I left behind, not too good to get in and do his share, on patrols of all sorts. You had to rate him one of the boys. Lester Sherry, Rt. 2, Box 132, Oakwood, OH 45873; Sgt. 5307/3/KCT.

JAP TANK AMBUSCADE AT BURMA ROAD

(An exchange of letters between Robert P. Rose, 475/2/E Co. and Col. Shinichi Murano, Platoon Leader, 3rd Recon Company, 56th Div. Recon Regiment.)

Dear Robert P. Rose: Our Company Commander/Captain and driver/Sgt. who were crew of a tankette which your patrol of Co. E, 475th Infantry Regiment, hit near by the junction of Namkham pack trail and the Burma Road at midnight of January 1945 are fine now. We rescued them and abandoned the tankette at Nampakka block point on the Road at that time. Enclosed is a Nampakka combat history of our 3rd company, the 56th Recon Regiment at Nampakka, North Burma, and a picture of Type 97 Tankette, same type as your patrol hit. We are happy to exchange the detailed combat information between both sides. Please say "Hello" to the comrades of Co. E, the 475th Infantry Regiment. Sincerely, Shinichi Murano.

Enclosure from Col. Murano:

I was platoon leader, The 3rd Company of the 56th Recon Regiment, 56th Division, at Nampakka combat in Jan. to Feb. 1945. Our 3d Co. consisted of two light tanks, five tankettes and two trucks at that time. The 3rd Co. immediately reached the south of Nampakka on Burma Road from the south of Lashio, maybe on 20 or 21 of

Jan. 1945, and our Infantry Battalion reinforced the 4th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Division occupied the part of Loikang Hill against Mars Force and Chinese Force from Namkham already at that time.

The many number of trucks loaded with fuel stopped to go for North on the Road by your plotting fire of pack howitzers and mortars around crater block point behind us.

[1st Ambush by Kachins and I&R - Rose]

Our 3rd Co. was ordered to break through the fire and crater block point and to guard truck convoy for north. For the reconnaissance, around the block point on the Road in midnight — we couldn't do it in the daytime. US fighters and light planes were flying over around Nampakka. I broke through the block point with a light tank and a tankette and received heavy fire of pack howitzer or mortar from west hill of the Road. We also responded to fire by tank gun and machine gun to west hill. However, the tankette caved in the crater, blew up by your 475th demolition team. We couldn't recover it under dark, heavy fire and no materiel. Then abandoned it. We also watched our two trucks abandoned in or near crater at that time.

[2nd Ambush by E Co., 2nd Platoon, Bazooka Team and LMG Squad - Rose]

Next night again, Captain/Co. Commander (tankette A) and Sgt. (tankette B) broke through the block point under more heavier fire from west hill. On the way back to our company parking area, in the south of Nampakka, the tankette A was hit near by the Road. It was near junction of Namkham pack trail and the Road according to the memory of driver of tankette A. Therefore, he felt big flash with big explosive report and became dazzling (dizzy?). Also, the inside of the tankette was fired. The tankette A was still rushing to south but even this skilled driver couldn't shun the crater block on the Road and stroke (ran?) aground on the tankette previous night abandoned. The inside fire was extinguished by Captain of crew. The second tankette B was missing to follow the leading tankette A and reached back to our parking area safely via detour road and reported to us.

I drove up to the around crater point with 1 light tank and a tankette immediately to rescue the crew of tankette A. We got off from the tank and tankette and looked for tankette A under heavy fire from west hill. Fortunately, we found the tankette turned sideways through their low call to us outside. They couldn't get out of the overturned tankette. The turret hatch could not be opened from inside. Anyway, we rescued the crew little bit injured, turning the tankette over after 30 minutes to an hour by towing and hand work under dark and fire plotted on us

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 48
10 August 194

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

from the west hill. We abandoned the tankette A as it was not to be used after the hit. Captain and driver were hearing the enemy voices speaking near the tankette which was turned sideways. During rescue work of crew, we never saw the enemy around us and the heavy fire was coming instead. A driver of the light tank was wounded by the splinter of a mortar shell during the outside work at that time.

The truck convoy penetrated the fire and crater block point on detour by the Road with our guard after it and supplied fuel at the point between North Nampakka and south of Mong Yu (Junction of Ledo Road and Burma Road). This truck convoy, consisted of 40 trucks and Major commanded, was awarded a unit citation by the 33rd Army Commanding General, later.

I learned from CBI Book One, written by W. A. Sinclair, that Tech Sgt. A. T. Martin, 3rd Bn, 475th, was promoted to Lieutenant on a Field Commission for placing demolition charge of TNT and mortar shells that blew up that part of the Burma Road.

[3rd Ambush - Rose]

The retreating for south was harassed by Nampakka block point and north Nampakka fire block point of Chinese both during end of January to beginning of February 1945. Until the night of Feb. 4, all units around Nampakka were ordered to retreat to south, such as Hsenwi or Lashio. Our Infantry, Field Artillery and Engineers continued to attack Loikang Hill and north Nampakka Hill occupied by Chinese coming from Namkham bypass trail, for keeping traffic free for us on the Road. Our attacking units to each hill paid more than 200 killed in the actions during two weeks combat. The four units used last side trail of the Road to retreat south. Our 3rd Co. retreated to next position, Hsenwi Pass via Kutkai in the night of Feb. 4 as the last rear guard of the 56th Division. We had good moon light and it was cold. The Chinese Forces didn't pursue our columns soon and our company got two days rest around Kutkai before Hsenwi Pass. Murano.

[Letter from Robert Rose to Col. Murano]

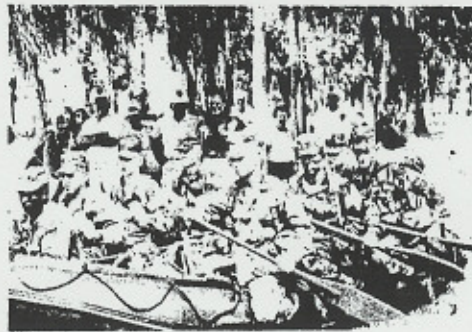
I knew of the efforts to retrieve the tanks but not just how you had proceeded. I do know that patrols would discover movement around them and call for artillery fire — we even sprayed the area with machine gun fire.

From your history of events, I gather support for my memory of three ambushes. The first conducted by a patrol of Americans and Kachins, the second by Co. E of 475th (second platoon), and the third never really came off as this was the night you indicated an attack on Loikang Hill. Your troops hit Co. E (less the second platoon and an MG Squad). The only one wounded in Co. E that night was one of the MG Squad who had left behind because he had diarrhea and he was the one who saw the first of the Japanese troops come over the brow of the hill. I cannot tell you of the planning that went into this as I was a Private - MG Gunner. One thing you might be interested in is that the night you attacked Loikang, Japanese troops poured down valleys on each side of a knoll and we (about 40) were dug in there with our radios "dead" — otherwise you would have had a "hotter" reception. Sincerely, Robert P. Rose.

BATTLE BUDDY LETTERS

EDITOR

As of now, April '90, there are 14 men still alive, who were in the 5307th; 475/2/E Co. I know where they are today. But where are the rest of you? Call me or write. Denver E.



Newsom, 1781 SE Elkhart Terr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952; 407-337-0343.

EDITOR

My father fought with the Merrill's Marauders and I am looking for information about him. I am a sergeant in the Regular Army, stationed at Ft. Carson, CO. My father died December 11, 1977. I was 11 years old at the time. His name was Oliver Ernest Cavanary, nickname "Bud," height 5' 10", brown hair, brown eyes, born in Detroit, Michigan. Military Service 1941-1945, Infantry; Rank, Sergeant, E-5; in China, Burma, India Theater from 1943 to 1945. I also believe that he was with Merrill's Marauders when it was activated. I also believe that he was on the hill that was attacked the night before Easter morning. His weapon might have been a Thompson Sub-machine gun. I would gladly accept any collect calls, to my home at night or on weekends. 719-576-1255. Sgt. Kris Cavanary, 5845 BQTRS, Ft. Carson, CO 80913.

EDITOR

It was kind of you to send me the booklet and the shoulder patch which will remain a most treasured possession amongst all my other war memorabilia which includes a Kachin flag, my various badges — Burma Frontier Force, Burma Regiment, Burma Rifles, etc. I used to have a Japanese flag which we captured at Tiang Zup and a Japanese sword, but I presented them to a War Museum ages ago. My sons have never forgiven me.

I have many memories of the year we spent in the Kachin Hills during which time I met many Americans, mostly pilots, who I will never forget. When we reached the outskirts of Myitkyina, late in June, we had left behind us in the hills hundreds of casualties, mostly men ill with typhus and malaria. I noticed that the road at about Milestone 22, north of Myitkyina, ran straight for more than 100 yards. I contacted an American Sergeant Pilot who flew a light plane — an L-5, I think — and he told me what was necessary to turn that road into a landing strip. We got to work and he landed a plane and made as many as six trips per day ferrying our casualties down to the airstrip at Myitkyina where they were put on C-47 transports and flown out to India.

I wish I could remember his name as I never did get the opportunity to thank him. He must have saved the lives of many of my Gurkhas. Also, I remember especially one Captain Porter who flew the 'search ship' and was a splendid tonic for morale before we captured Sumprabum, as he used to strafe the Jap positions every time he was anywhere near at hand. At that time, he flew a DAKOTA which was unarmed but we lent him a couple of Bren guns and gave him boxes of grenades. He, then, attacked the Japs flying at about 50 feet and firing the Brens

out of his cargo doors. Later, he was given a B-25 which was more effective and he returned our Brens. Sadly, he became involved in a dog fight Jap Zeros and he was shot down. We rescued many American pilots who had been shot down, mostly dropping rations to us and to the Levies but we never did locate Porter's plane.

Again, I would like to assure you that the Marauders who find themselves up in Scotland will be sure of a warm welcome at MAYMYO. Ian Scott, MAYMYO, 18 Frogston Gardens, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, EH10 7AF, Scotland.

EDITOR

I remember the Field Artillery that was dropped to help break through to Nhpum Ga. That sergeant in charge of the Pack Artillery sure outdid themselves for the short time it took from the time the guns were kicked out of those drop planes till they had them together and fired the first shot. The picture in the paperback that the Government sent me, showed someone even got a picture of that first shell going out of the gun. I was in the Khaki CT that had the defense of the airstrip. It was a rough go to get the Second Battalion out of the trap. When we did break through, it was one rough go but the guys were sure glad to see us. Man, that Maggot Hill was something! You never forget that if you live to be 200 years old. I am sending photocopies of the old maps. One of them is missing because that was the one on the mule that got hit and destroyed mule, maps and all. S/Sgt. Harold A. Phillips, 5307/3/KCT; L Co., 714-750-2339, 1844 So. Haster St., #23, Anaheim, CA 92802.

EDITOR

I was on the airfield at Myitkyina the last days of May 1944. We moved up to the railroad, June 1st. I was wounded June 14, 1944. I was at the 20th GH until August 16th, when we went back into Burma and built Camp Landis on the Irrawaddy River. I contacted typhus the 7th of October, the day Vinegar Joe came to talk to the boys. I was sorry I did not get to see him. January of '45, I was sent home. I was in K Co., 5307 and 475th. Maybe I can make it to the reunion this time. Gail T. Hunt, 125 Organ Dr., Bellefontaine, OH 43311.

EDITOR

I came in at Myitkyina in May 1944. We couldn't take baths or change clothes for weeks on end. Soon, I could not walk. Then they got me to the hospital and they had to take all the skin off my feet. The socks had rotted to the skin. It was either gangrene or jungle rot. I spent three months in the hospital. After I got out of the hospital, I was given a truck driver's job. I drove a "4 by" over the Burma Road. William Hoover, 5307; 475/2/G Co.; 15737 Muskingum Blvd., Brook Park, OH 44142.

EDITOR

At age 74, I have just retired from my Thoracic surgery work here in Baltimore. I never cease to marvel at what a great bunch of men we had. I was with Paul Armstrong in Orange CT on the way to Myitkyina with the King Force. "Doc" Jim Hopkins, 2 St. Johns Rd., Baltimore, MD 21210; 5307/3/OCT/SURG.

EDITOR

I was in Co. I, 3rd Bn, 475th. My lieutenant was William N. Payne and my sergeant was George "Doc" Mamula. I remember Sgt. Arvil B. Monholton, Sgt. Richard M. Benfer, Capt. James H. Blocker. I arrived in Burma, September 7, 1944, at Myitkyina, and trained at Camp Landis. I had previously trained in the Cavalry at Fort Riley, KA. I was in the Battle at Trunkwa and the

Battle for the Burma Road. I would like to get in touch with Sgt. Benfer, Monhollon and my fox-hole buddy, Thomas J. Flaherty, if anybody knows where they are.

Flaherty was from California, Calvin O. Cobb was either Maine or Vermont, Erwin Lochbrunner was from Louisiana. John L. Gillette, (I'll always remember, we were big buddies going over on the ship, USS Randall), he got killed at Nampakka Valley. Lawrence Ledoux did come from Vermont. I think he now lives in New York. My platoon sergeant was Arvil Monhollon. He was from Kentucky. He got sick and Sgt. Richard M. Benfor took over. He was from Pennsylvania.

After I left Burma, we flew over the Hump to Kunming. Then we went to Chicayang. We did some Quartermaster jobs. Then we trained Chinese with Lt. Payne. One Chinese boat had to retreat because Japanese patrol boats were coming up the river. I think the Japs had broken thru the Chinese lines. We rode a truck back from Chicayang back to Kunming. At one time we had to guard the "Flying Tigers" airfield. Another time we had to guard a hill with radio communications. Then, from Kunming, we flew to Shanghai where they put me in the Air Force Military Policeman #677. I left Shanghai Jan. 12, 1946. Landed at Seattle, Jan. 26, 1946, and was discharged from Fort Dix, NJ. Joseph M. Cabral, 23 Harkness Dr. W., No. Smithfield, RI

A SPECIAL TYPE OF VOLUNTEER

Recently I have done a lot of thinking, and have compared the run of the mill volunteer for hazardous military duty, with the type of man who volunteered to become a member of the SPECIAL MARAUDER REGIMENT. When men are asked to volunteer for hazardous duty, they are normally informed as to what type of mission they will be involved in; a complete diagram of their objectives is shown; and also they are informed of their chances for survival. Additionally, they then have the opportunity of taking the risk by declining. In other words, after being fully briefed on the pros and cons of the particular mission, they can decide for themselves whether or not to volunteer.

Now, take the man who volunteered to become a member of the regiment which eventually became known as "Merrill's Marauders." He was quite a different type of soldier. First of all, when the call for volunteers for "A Dangerous and Hazardous Mission," which was the key phrase in the TWX which was flashed to military units in the United States, the Caribbean and the Pacific areas, approximately 3,000 men stepped forward. These volunteers had no knowledge of what their mission would be; how long they would be at their final destination; and the possibility of their survival. In other words, they volunteered not knowing what the future held for them.

This type of soldier, regardless of what his assignment was in the new regiment, made him a SPECIAL TYPE OF VOLUNTEER. It should be kept in mind that many of the men had personal reasons for stepping forward, but the fact remains that they did VOLUNTEER for a dark and mysterious future. To my way of thinking, it is what made a MARAUDER. The mold was cast only once, and smashed when it had served its purpose, never to be created again. As a professional soldier, I am might proud to have come out of that mold as I am sure you all are. Thomas J. Dalton, CWO, 5307/3/HQ; 475/HQ; 605R Merlin Dr., San Antonio, TX 78218.



Kukri Drill Team

02895; 401-762-5320; 475/3/I.

EDITOR

I was with you Buddies in the 5307th Composite Unit and the 475th. I was one of the Originals that came from the 33rd Infantry in Panama. I was assigned to the Blue Combat Team, I&R, 2nd Bn. I went into Burma with Captain John K. Benfield. I was his 1st Scout. We were with Col. Brown and his Chinese outfit. PFC Alvie Robinson, 6536 Akron Rd., Smithville, OH 44677.

EDITOR

I received the BURMAN NEWS today. The story on the front page had been told to me by my husband. He was one of the 5307th, a Sergeant Squad Leader. He often told me about Sgt. Roy Matsumoto's bravery at Nhpum Ga. I am very happy to receive the Burman News. Oscar was very honored to be one of the Marauders. I believe that any man that showed this bravery as Sgt. Matsumoto did, enlisted and/or an officer should get a medal for his bravery.

Oscar Swenson (my husband) died July 7, 1987. I bought a book, the story of Nhpum Ga, and I felt some of it was not correct. This story was like my husband told it. He was very proud of his Army service and I was proud of him and his being in such a noted group of men. A friend, Mrs. Oscar Swenson, 918 Wirth, Augusta, KS 67010; 316-775-1463.

EDITOR

I served with Hq. Co., 5307th Composite Unit, and proud of it. I seem to have lost contact with all of my buddies that I served with. I always considered them as family. I was in C Co., Hq. Det., of the 5307th and 475th. I wasn't too happy at first about being in C Co. I had always been in Heavy Weapons. I remember telling the sergeant (I can't recall his name) that I was a heavy machine gunner and he put me behind an air-cooled gun. So, I thought, well at least it's a machine gun. But, I always carried along with me, the pistol and the carbine, plus two grenades. I always traveled prepared. To make a long story short, the grenades came in handy after I was wounded. I wish, at the reunion, that I will meet up with the Marauder that helped me to safety after I was wounded. I do not remember his name, but I do know that he came from Tennessee. Nicholas Cerra, 12 Luther St., Johnston, RI 02919; 5307/1/C Co/Hq. Det.; 475/1/Co. C.

EDITOR

The newsletters that you sent to me astounded me to say the least. I am from the Hq. Co., 475th Infantry (Communications). I am greatly relieved to know some of the Mars Task Force, Merrill's Marauders and Mule Skinners

are still among the living.

I vaguely remember my Army days in Burma when I was 19, only 46 years ago. I was drafted into the Army in July 1943, right after graduation from Perkins High School.

I remember Bombay to Calcutta by railroad. Narrow gauge RR from Wide gauge. I remember beggars, beetle juice (red spit), vultures, burning ghats on the river, intense heat, pyramid tents, ten hole toilets, little mail, seldom paid, fed adequately. I remember homesick men. Men who cried when a train whistle would woe in the night. I remember strange sounds, jackels in our trash cans, elephants trumpeting, big King cobras, lizards, mosquitoes and biting insects. I remember French harps, harmonica players playing "Home Sweet Home." In the night, at the front, this would place waterfalls in grown men's eyes.

I remember British soldiers, Chinese soldiers. I remember Indian soldiers, Punjabis w/turbans, and Gurkhas with their big hats, a curved knife and all seemed to wear the same size shoes and clothes. I've stood guard with Indian soldiers. I gave them mangoes and American cigarettes. They were very devoted and very friendly. I think their pay was about seven rupees a month for the Indian soldiers.

My most vivid experience was with the 475th in Burma. Going across Burma by foot with the mules, two men to a mule. We walked thru elephant grass, up and down mountains. We drank and bathed in the streams. We slept under our ponchos. We cooked our own food, or ate K rations, or C rations. Our latrines were primitive.

We would walk three days and the C-47s would come and kickers would kick out oats for our mules and food for us, medical supplies, clothing, or whatever had to be dropped to us and rice for the Chinese.

Before we got to the Burma Road (which was our mission — to open it to China), we walked day and night. I became totally exhausted and came down with typhus. When the campaign started, I was nearly out of my gourd with typhus fever. I was flown out in an L-5 (A S/Sgt. was the pilot).

I remember the artillery, the fox holes, the M-1 rifles, the Thompson machine guns, the mortars, the airplanes overhead, the noise, noise, noise. So much noise and I was so sick. Felt like intense flu, high fever.

The Field Hospital was so overworked. I saw a Burmese woman wounded and patched up or one breast, and feeding her baby out of the other. Leaflets were dropped that an encounter would be there, but some of the Burmese refused to leave. I remember the wounded and the sappy red blood thru their bandages, head wounds, feet wounds, arm, torso, everywhere. This happened to our mules also; flank wounds head wounds, sides, hooves, and etc. And, the veterinarians tried so hard to patch up our wounded mules which were tied up in picket lines by type of wounds. Our mules suffered from tree bursts of the artillery, whereas, we could get down in our fox holes for protection.

About the only antibiotic we had was sulfu drugs, aspirin and the Grace of God.

We stopped on the trail only to rest the mules to water the mules. Our artillery was 75mm carried in by the mules. Our artillery would fire and the Japanese retaliated with 155s, so we were out-gunned. We used white phosphorus and smoke and were prepared to use poison gas and chemicals. Gas in those jungles would have

killed us all. Our mules had a grain bag around their necks and most grain bags had a puppy in them. We connived dogs all across Burma for pets.

We saw jungle fowl and would try to shoot them so we could have fried chicken. We craved meat, bread, and milk. Some craved chewing tobacco and snuff which we did not get. Our K rations had cigarettes in them for the soldiers. Also candy and biscuits. BIG DEAL!

I was admitted to the 69th General Hospital, Ledo, India, the first part of 1945, I believe. Vaguely, I'd say I was there one month to recover from the typhus. Had to learn to walk again, due to weakness.

The typhus was caused from never getting to change clothes, vermin, fleas, lice, ticks, leaches, not to mention flies, mice, rats, and cockroaches, and no hygiene. No sanitation. Sleep where you could. Eat what you could. We were next to animals, and more dangerous than animals. Our mission was to kill or be killed. So, to this day, I do not think much of the Rising Sun. We had an intense hatred for our enemy. We were taught this. This was instilled within us. We were brain washed to kill, kill, kill. This is the only mission of a disciplined Army (unfortunately). We were very unwholesome individuals in very unwholesome jungle surroundings.

My proudest moments after combat was when I was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, and given a promotion to PFC. This gave me \$10 or \$12.00 more pay a month. Before going overseas, I received \$50.00 a month and forced to take out a savings bond. They called this PFC, a Truman stripe, as he maintained anyone in combat was entitled to PFC. Woeeeee!

In conclusion, I am very proud of my CBI service. I am proud of this country. I am proud of my regiment. Many men would die for this country. Many men have Edgar Lee Van Zandt, 1517 Eastern, Stillwater, OK 74074; 475/Hq/Comm. Sec.

EDITOR

I was a S/Sgt., ASN 36008734. I sailed in USS Butner, 23 April 1944. Arrived Bombay, India, 25 May 1944, and arrived Myitkyina, Burma, 1 June 1944. I was with Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 5307th, until after Myitkyina fell. Then at Camp Landis. The 5307th became part of the 475th Infantry. I stayed in Hq. Co., 2nd Bn. I left Burma about the 1st of October 1945 and sailed from Karachi, India, 20 October 1945. Walter E. Bostick, Rt. 1, Box 76, Portales, NM 88130-9220.

EDITOR

I was in 5307th at Myitkyina and in the 475/2/G Co. We left Camp Patrick Henry, New-

CBI PILOT WRITES AUTOBIOGRAPHY

CBIVA Life member Robert T. Boody, a pilot with the 90th Fighter Squadron and the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron, has written his autobiography and announces that it is available for purchase.

He flew 115 missions, bringing materiel to Merrill's Marauders. On his 116th mission he crashed, lost a leg and was returned stateside.

To order, send \$19.90 (New York residents add \$1.64 sales tax) to MM Communications, 965 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310. Checks should be made in favor of "Robert T. Boody." You can charge to your Mastercard or Visa by giving number and expiration date.



port News, VA, on April 23, 1944, aboard the USS General Butner via Capetown, South Africa. We arrived in Bombay, India, on May 25, 1944.

Then by train across India to a tent city (Ramgarh). After a few weeks at the tent city, we were flown by C-47 to Myitkyina Airstrip. Stayed one night at the airstrip, then walked to the front lines to relieve troops already there near the Irrawaddy River. My name then was Pvt. Teddy T. Swietlikowski, from Boston, Mass. (A long name.) I shortened my last name when I got out of the Army in 1946. Teddy Swiet.

I was a buddy of Joe Tapa (?) from Binghamton, NY. He got hit by mortar fire or a grenade at Myitkyina and was sent back to the States. I am now 65 years old and have been retired from the PO for three years. Teddy Swiet, 29 Second St., Medford, MA 02155. *Nov 90 Roster 4*

EDITOR

I am the sister of S/Sgt. Stanley F. Gileta, who served with G Co., 2nd Bn., 5307th and 475th Infantry. He was killed in action during the fighting in the Hosi Valley at the Burma Road Block. Through the years I have had very little luck in obtaining any information about him. Possibly there are some veterans still alive who were in his outfit and may have known him and could recall some personal experiences or contacts they made fighting in that dreadful campaign which was given so little publicity and recognition in the war effort. About Stanley, he was like the wind, here one day and gone a day or so later. He never discussed where he was or where he was wounded. All I know is that he was in the Panama Canal Zone at Fort Clayton. Any scrap of information from anyone who possibly knew my brother would be deeply appreciated. Helen Gileta, 261 Westview Ave., Fort Lee, NJ 07024; 201-944-0438.

EDITOR

John Garlewsky asked in the February issue who was the 2nd Bn. Sgt. Major. I answered his letter. The Sgt. Major was Ray Mitchell. I was his Hq. Company Commander. Capt. Madding was also C.O. of the company. The action he mentioned prior to Tonkwa involving his I&R Platoon took place at Mohlaing on Dec. 9, 1944, about 1 1/2 miles northeast of Tonkwa. The I&R was in advance of the 2nd Bn., headed for Tonkwa to relieve the Chinese troops there. I believe it was the 22nd Division and not the 50th Chinese Division. The 50th moved into Tonkwa after MARS left and the 22nd Chinese Division was airlifted to China to face recent Japanese moves in East and SE China that threatened Kunming.

Second BN Headquarters was several miles away and Lt. Col. Thraikill and I were sharing a slit trench. The I&R encountered about 3-5 pla-

toons of Japanese and in the ensuing fire fight, Pvt. Walter C. Mink was killed. The first Mars casualty since leaving Myitkyina. John Randolph in his book, "Marsmen in Burma," said that there were 33 Japanese killed at Mohlaing by the I&R. The 2nd Bn moved on into Tonkwa to relieve the Chinese on Dec. 10. I was with Capt. Maury Hunter of E Co. as assistant C.O. We moved out of Tonkwa, New Year's Day, 1945, for the Burma Road.

I was C.O. of Hq. Co. of the 2nd Bn., 475th from Oct. 22 to Nov. 9, 1944, and from Jan. 24 to April 14, 1945. Capt. Madding was C.O. during the intervals. Madding later took over E Co. after Capt. Hunter was killed on Loi Kang Ridge, Jan. 31, 1945, less than 30 yards from the Hq. Co. C.P.

Tell Nellis Johnson that I knew Gen. Arms had a son in the Army. I served with Gen. Arms at the 5315th Infantry Training Center at Kweilin, China, before joining MARS. We used to refer to the son as "small arms!" Captain Albert T. Willis Jr., 814 Chattawka Ln, New Bern, NC 28560.

EDITOR

Re: M/Sgt. Philip M. Farrell.

I have been informed that Philip Farrell passed away March 19, 1969, in Omaha, Nebraska. Death was due to a heart attack. He enjoyed a very successful civilian life with Phillips Petroleum Company. I know Tom Martini, T. J. Dalton and all other Headquarters friends will mourn his passing. Kenneth L. Ferguson, 5307/2/BCT, 3440 N. 65th St., Lincoln, NE 68507.

EDITOR

I have found that my father, Andrew Shinsky, was discharged from C Co., 475th Infantry. He arrived in India on 25 May 1944 and left Oct. 6, 1945. He was wounded 14 July 1944 at Myitkyina. He recalls that the head of his unit was called "Pappy." He believes "Pappy" was killed shortly after they arrived. My Dad was assigned to an Intelligence Officer, the first night upon arriving in Burma. He said they were on the phone all night and had to keep checking each other to see if each other was still awake.

One fellow I remember from my childhood who was in the same company as my Dad's was Joe Bunton. He's listed in your book, also. But unfortunately, he died quite a few years ago of a heart attack. A few other names my father recalls were a Bell from Ohio, a boxer from New York state by the name of Zebrowski (not sure of the spelling), and a Hornburger who died in Burma (believed drowned). Mary Ann Shinsky 326 Robinson Ct., Prospect, PA 16052.

EDITOR

It has been a lot of years since Mitch. I was in the 5307th, 2nd Bn., HW, at that time. Afterwards, I was appointed Company Clerk, of all things, for Bn. Hq. Co., during most of the Central Burma Campaign. Capt. Albert Scott Madding was our C.O. and Sgt. McNally (formerly G Co.) was our 1st Sergeant. The Captain used to call him Sgt. McNasty. He called me Homer Horstmann, the poet laureate of Burma.

After our action on the Burma Road, Madding was moved to E Co. and he took me with him and made me a Buck Sergeant. The First Sgt. of E Co., Charles Patrick Clancy ("Top" he was called), a very fine man indeed and well liked by the entire company. Toward the end of the war he was given a Field Commission and Capt Madding appointed me to fill his boots, a tough job to be sure; but, by then, it was all over but the shouting. I have enclosed some photos that

might be of interest.

Your little note with the three names, jogged my memory on the name of the fellow next to me on the road (picture). He was **Richard L. Keeling**. In fact, I was able to resurrect an old letter that was buried in a pile of old papers. It was sent to my parents from Richard's mother. It is dated March 7, 1945, from Sheridan, Indiana (Ed: Is he still there?) reads as follows: "Mr. and Mrs. Horstmann: My son, Cpl. Richard L. Keeling, who is in Burma, sent me a picture that was taken while they were sleeping one morning and he asked me to have some prints made and sent to you and some of the other boys' folks. I guess you can recognize your son next to the camera. My son is next. You may have seen this picture in the paper as Richard said several of the boys had gotten them from home. This was taken Dec. 4, 1944, 30 miles behind the Jap lines after hours of night march. Richard said they were sure glad to get this break that morning. Hoping and trusting our sons may be returning to us in the not too distant future. Sincerely yours, Mrs. Charles R. Keeling."

I remember my father telling me in connection with that picture, that when he first saw it, he recognized me right away and not reading the caption as yet, called to my mother, "My God! Here's a picture of John and they're all dead!" In that picture of me eating, the fellow next to me was probably Sgt. McNally, our First Sergeant of Headquarters Co. This group is the Headquarters group of the company. **John F. Horstmann, Jr.**, 535 Cynwyd Cir., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004; 215-664-9929; 5307/2/HW; 475/2/HQ Co.; E Co.

EDITOR

I was in Burma with **John Lohr**. We were put in the Mule Pack and 75mm howitzer at Camp Gruber, OK. From there to Camp Carson, CO, for more training. Then to Camp Pleuscha, New Orleans, LA. From there on cargo ships loaded with 300 mules and 60 pack men to Calcutta, India, and from there, mules and men by narrow gauge railroad to Camp Landis. Now we were **612 FA Bn** attached to the 475th Infantry Regiment to form part of the 5332nd Brigade,

known as Mars Task Force. I was in Battery B, on the #2 gun all the way to **Kunming, China**.

After our last encounter with the enemy at **Ina-lang**, near **Lashio**, which finished our combat in Burma, the 3rd of April, we were flown to Kunming, China. We were assigned to train the Chinese. Some of us were flown back to Burma to herd drive the mules to Kunming, Hostel 9, where many of the mules were destroyed. Later we were split up by the Point system, some of us were sent home by way of Calcutta and some by way of Shanghai, China. I traveled by troop ship, USS Squire, from Calcutta to New York Harbor, and discharged at Ft. Meade, MD, Jan. 15, 1946. **Richard Boggs**, P.O. Box 121, Cottle, WV 26207; 304-742-3317; 612/B/#2 Gun.

EDITOR

I was a sergeant in the Orange CT of the 3rd Bn, 5307th. My nickname was "Frosty" because the tropical sun bleached my blond hair white. **Orville E. Hogeboom**, 2804 Poplar Ct., Plano, TX 75074; 214-424-8960; 5307/3/OCT.

EDITOR

My dad was in Merrill's Marauders — **Sentinel A. Rommel, Sr.** When I saw the Reunion notice in the American Legion magazine, I had to write and make contact. It has been difficult to find a way to say — Hey, my dad was in that outfit. Does anyone remember him? Do you have any stories to share that his family would like to hear? Does anyone know how his life was? He passed away in 1976 — cancer. Mom is holding the fort down on the farm, though she doesn't farm it anymore.

Well, this is like saying so long to a part of my past. I guess I'm hoping someone remembers my dad. It would be neat to have some kind of contact with that part of his life. Thanks, **Jo Anne R. Erving**, RFD 1, Box 1730, Vassalboro, ME 04989.

EDITOR

I made the complete run to Myitkyina. I don't remember how long I was there, perhaps two or three weeks or more before I was evacuated.

Prior to leaving Ledo, we were told that everyone would be promoted one grade. After Myitkyina, I found out that I wasn't promoted. I

was very bitter. I was in the Regular Army a year and a half before Pearl Harbor. I was a Buck Sergeant and a Section Leader for 60mm mortars and/or 1919 Light Machine Guns. I was trained by West Point officers and tough Army sergeants. I felt it was time to start all over again. I knew a First Sergeant in the 475th Infantry that I served with in Panama and requested a transfer with reduction to Private. I think my problem was with the C.O. because I was Regular Army.

Well, anyway, it's a thing of the past. Later I was told to report back to the 1st Bn and that we were to be shipped back to the States. I don't know how they followed thru with the paper work. I was discharged from Ft. Meade, MD, from Co. L, 475th Infantry. How were the other Marauders discharged? This has always bugged me. In later years, I served with the Air Force Reserve as a 1st Sgt. and a Base Sgt. Major for six years. My daughter **Patty Sedlmeyer-Robinson** had a baby boy on July 31, 1987, at Elcot Lodge, Landour Cantt, Mussoorie U P India. That is north of New Delhi. I was wondering if any of the other Marauders had grandchildren born in India? **Charles Sedlmeyer**, 409 Chapel Cir., Berea, OH 44017; 5307/1/WCT; 475/3/L Co.

EDITOR

Fred Fesselmeier and **Pat Perrone** are seeking **Fred H. Pape**, Air-Ground Liaison Officer with MM. Also, seeking identity and contact with Air-Ground Liaison Officer assigned to 3rd Bn during Wesu Ga and Walawbum period. **Fesselmeier** was ALO with 1st Bn. Who was ALO with 2nd Bn and with 3rd Bn? Request any information which can be used to identify and to locate former ALOs. **Pat Perrone**, Box 1623, Williamsburg, VA 23187; 5307/3/OCT/HQ.

**LOST, STRAYED OR MOVED
WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW!**

Burness Fenton, 13111 John Clark Rd., Gulfport, MIS 39503.

Col. Joseph S. Stringham, P.O. Box 70491, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307-0491.



**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

RAYMOND V. LYONS
Editor

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