



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

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5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)

Dr. James E. Hopkins Report

DOCTOR JAMES E. HOPKINS REPORT

PREFACE

These records are part of the New Georgia, Solomon Islands and Merrill's Marauders Wound Ballistic Report, compiled by Dr. Hopkins in 1944. The Records make up a chapter in "Wound Ballistics," a book published in 1962 and later in 1986 by the War Department. These records help convince the Army that a better helmet and a protective vest were necessary. A Memorandum, which was drafted by Dr. Hopkins for President Truman, was sent to him by the Marauders after the meeting in Washington, D.C. Eventually, a Congressional investigation resulted in a better helmet and body armor.

Second (B) Battalion records are not included. Casualty records up until May 26, 1944:

A (1st) Battalion: 15 dead, 46 wounded

B (2nd) Battalion: (estimated) 40 dead, 200 wounded

C (3rd) Battalion: 40 dead, 111 wounded.

I have no record of Marauders killed or wounded after May 26.

The 209, 236th Engineers and New Galahad lost 272 dead and 972 wounded at Myitkyina.

The Chinese lost 972 dead and 3,184 wounded at Myitkyina.

The Chinese with C Battalion at Ritpong had 30 dead and 100 wounded. At Tingkrukawng, 6 dead and 10 wounded. Chinese casualties are estimated.

Dr. Hopkins would like to have supporting versions of the casualties cited by men who were there.



Dr. James Hopkins, 3rd Bn Surgeon and Henry Goshu, 3rd Bn, OCT, Interpreter

HISTORY OF THE

5307th COMPOSITE UNIT [PROVISIONAL]

In September 1943, volunteers were gathered from four Divisions which had seen action in the South Pacific Theatre. Six hundred and fifty men and officers congregated in New Caledonia to form a special infantry battalion. Men came from the 37th, 43rd, 25th and the Americal Divisions. Later, 250 officers and men came from the 32nd and 41st Divisions, as well as the 98th Pack Artillery from Australia. The majority of these men had been overseas over one year and had seen action in the SPT or SW PT. This was to be the 3rd Battalion of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional).

The unit traveled to India on a transport with another battalion of volunteers from the continental United States, which was to become the 1st Battalion, and a battalion of volunteers from the Caribbean, which was to be the 2nd Battalion. This regiment trained in India during November 1943 to January 1944. During this time, there were many transfers of men in the battalion, and approximately 150 replacements arrived from casual units, and the 31st Quartermaster pack organization were absorbed by the regiment.

After boat and train travel, the entire regiment arrived at Ledo, Assam, during the first week of February 1944. The regiment, at this time, was under General Stilwell's command. Its mission was to spearhead Chinese movements in North Burma. After a march of 125 miles up the Ledo Road, the regiment left the Chinese in the vicinity of Nyenbien, on the Chindwin, in the third week of February and set out on a campaign which was to carry them on foot between 700 and 1,000 miles over the mountainous and jungle terrain of Northern Burma. They were to aid the Chinese in the occupation of the Hukawng, Mogaung and Myitkyina valleys. Their mission was climaxed by the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, 17 May 1944.

B. Geography and Climate

Northern Burma is separated from India and China by high mountain ranges, the foothills of the Himalayas, some of which reach an altitude of 20,000 feet. This unit entered Burma after a march up the Ledo Road and through Pangsau Pass of the Kumon Range at 2,400 feet. They passed into the Hukawng Valley, a very narrow valley bordered by very hilly, rugged, mountainous terrain. Much of the operation took place on the razor-back ridges of these hills on the eastern border of the valley. Here, like all of Northern Burma, the jungle is quite heavy; however, usually not impenetrable as it is often described. The terrain is the main factor which makes it difficult to pass through the jungle

growth.

Practically all of our operations in this area, as well as in the Mogaung and Myitkyina Valleys, were confined to century old native and game trails, which were seen throughout all of Northern Burma. The Hukawng Valley is very flat and covered in places with dense jungle growth and in other places with elephant grass. Average altitude is about 500 feet. Throughout the entire area, numerous Kachin villages, with a few native inhabitants, were constantly being passed. The Mogaung Valley was approached through difficult terrain over the Ywangabum Mountains, along the course of the Tanai Hka River, and then across approximately 50 miles of mountains, reaching from 1,000 to 5,000 feet, to

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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.



Ranger McElrath and M. M. MacDonald at V.A. Hospital in Seattle, Washington.

the west. These mountains, as well as the narrow valley, resemble those of the Hukawng valley.

After operations in this area, the regiment retraced its route for perhaps 50 miles and passed over the 6,500 foot Jaupadu Bum Mountains, separating the Mogaung Valley from the Myitkyina Valley. This terrain was perhaps the most rugged encountered during the North Burma campaign; in some places, one-mile stretches of the overgrown trails had a rise of 3,000 feet.

During the months of February and March, the days were very hot, the temperature averaging 80 degrees. However, the nights were cool, so that one blanket was always required. There was little rain. April was hot during the day; however, a light blanket was required at night. The month of May was very hot and humid, with almost daily rain showers. This, of course, was the beginning of the monsoon season, which was not to stop until the end of October, but it did not materially affect operations as the majority of our original troops had left the area by the end of June.

C. Evacuation and Hospitalization

The three battalions of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) for the greater part of the campaign in Burma, operated along separate trails. Evacuation for all of them was often not possible for periods of a week or more. However, fortunately, during all large engagements, they were able to quickly build landing strips on the rice paddies of native villages. Gravel bars along rivers were used on two occasions. A few men were put in care of Kachins, who evacuated them by litter in some cases, and in other cases by elephant transport. The greater percentage of the wounded were evacuated anywhere from a few hours after their injury to 10 days by L-4s, L-5s and L-1s.

After the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, casualties were evacuated by C-46s and C-47s to hospitals in the Ledo area; namely, the 20th General Hospital, the 14th Evacuation Hospital, and the 111th Station Hospital. During the first three months of the campaign, these small evacuation planes deposited their patients in various collecting and clearing companies along the Ledo Road, in back of the advancing Chinese troops. In some cases, these men did not reach the 20th General Hospital for several days after they had been wounded.

The 1st Battalion, for the first three weeks of March, during the Shaduzup campaign, had the services of a surgical team supplied by the Seagraves Unit. These men, after treatment, were picked up by a platoon from a collecting company of the 13th Medical Battalion.

The 1st and 3rd Battalions, during the first three weeks of May, on the March to Myitkyina, had the services of the 42nd Portable Surgical Hospital and the Seagraves Portable Hospital. The majority of their casualties received surgery within a few minutes to a few hours. During this trip, approximately 70 litter cases were carried as much as 10 miles to an air strip 40 miles north of Myitkyina. Aside from evacuation facilities, which were at times poor, to say the least, but remarkable nevertheless, the men of this unit received excellent surgical care.

D. General Discussion of Military Operations "Merrill's Marauders" entered Northern Burma the second week of February 1944, made up of three battalions of infantry organized into combat teams, two combat teams to each battalion. After making a wide flanking movement to the left of the Hukawng Valley, they arrived in the vicinity of Walawbum during the first week in March.

Numerous skirmishes and several engage-

ments took place with complete success for our forces, who were relieved in a few days by Chinese troops. This operation enabled the Chinese to occupy the entire Hukawng Valley.

During the last three weeks in March, the 1st Battalion reinforced by a regiment of Chinese, marched across the Aipawn Bum Mountains to engage the Japs at Shaduzup in the Northern sector of the Mogaung Valley. This operation was also very successful and enabled the Chinese Divisions to enter the upper part of the Mogaung Valley, after passing down the Japanese built road through the Jambu Bum Pass.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions crossed and traveled through the Wangabum Mountains to the east, where they engaged the Japs at Inkangataung, in the valley, approximately 50 miles distant and 20 miles above Kamaing. This operation on the road was a success and enabled the Chinese to advance rapidly down the Mogaung Road toward Kamaing. Because the Chinese did not relieve this block as planned, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were forced to withdraw to the mountains in the vicinity of Nhpum Ga where one Battalion was surrounded, the other Battalion, with the aid of air dropped 75mm Pack Artillery, engaged the Japs for nine days in a major battle to relieve them. Air support was provided.

After the Japanese had been routed, in the third week of April, the three battalions assembled at the base of the Jaupadu Bum Mountains for the Myitkyina campaign. For this campaign two forces were organized; the 3rd Battalion with the 88th Infantry Regiment (Chinese) and the 1st Battalion with the 150th Infantry Regiment (Chinese); the 2nd Battalion would

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HEADQUARTERS 5307th COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV)

A.P.O. 487
7 June 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : All Personnel of 5307th
Composite Unit (Prov)

Having been assigned to duty with Southeast Asia Command, I bring to a close my connection with 5307th Unit.

My farewell to the outfit will be as brief as my introduction was.

I want everyone to know that I feel that I have been very fortunate and more so than any other commander in this war to have had the opportunity of commanding 5307. All of you know what you have accomplished and I will not waste your time on this. However, I want you to know that I feel that no other outfit in the United States Army could have accomplished the work which you have done.

You now are undergoing the most difficult job of all. Waiting for something to happen is worse than either marching or fighting. I am sure that the gang who licked the Japs from Walawbum to Myitkyina can lick the war of waiting on the Ledo battlefield in the same way.

I would have preferred to have remained with you but circumstances did not permit this, and it is with great regret that I am leaving. If, at any time in the future, I can ever be of assistance to any of you I hope you will not hesitate to write me.

F. D. MERRILL
Brig. Gen., U.S. Army

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently

Name & Hometown [Where Known], Organization, Where, When Deceased	
JAMES BUFFINGTON, 921 Lockland Ave., Winston Salem, NC 27103, 5307/3/OCT	Oct. 31, 1989
ANGELO A. CONSOLO, 1973 No. Sage Ave., Rialto, CA 92376, 5307/1/HQ/HQ;	
475/1/HQ/HW	November 16, 1990
RALPH L. CORNWELL, SR., Rt. 2, Americus, GA 31706, NCAC; 124/2/F TR-CO	May 28, 1990
SANFORD W. CRAMER, 13241 Safford Ct., Garden Grove, CA 92643-2743,	
124/3/L Troop	September 17, 1987
JAMES H. DAVIS, 3180 North Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435, 5307	August 22, 1990
KYLE DAVIS, 401 Hillcrest Ave., Gastonia, NC 28052, 5307/1/WCT/B Co.;	
475/1/B Co.	May 28, 1989
JOSEPH GANCI, 241 So. Fork Rd., Mountainside, NJ 07092, 5307/2/BCT./HW	December 21, 1990
VARDIC E. GOLASH, PO Box 135, Haydenville, MA 01039, 5307/3/OCT	October 20, 1990
JOHN R. HENNEMUTH, 1028 Park St., Scranton, PA 18509, 5307/236 Engrs.	October 9, 1990
DERYLE MEHRTEIN, 129 Goya Dr., Fairfield, CA 94533, 5307/1/RCT/A Co.	August 27, 1990
PATSY A. NERI, 540 East Ave., Albion, NY 14411, 475/3/K Co.	July 12, 1990
WILLIAM J. PAGELS, 01920 Marion County Rd., Weirsdale, FL 32695,	
5307/33 QM PK TR; 475/3/37 QM PK TR	October 7, 1989
ROBERT H. PORTER, 5845 Ridgewood Rd., Apt. F4, Jackson, MS 39211,	
601-956-4009, 5307/HQ	July 19, 1990
FOREST L. SCARBROUGH, Rt. 5, Box 334, Greenville, TX 75401,	
5307/1/RCT/C Co/3 PI; 475/1/C	November 6, 1990
LUTHER SMITH, 201 Valley View, Apt. 1-L, Fountain Inn, SC 29644, 5307/2/BCT	July 16, 1987
BEN S. SUGETA, 1843 West 42nd Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90062-1541,	
5307/2/GCT/I&R; CBI THEATRE HQ	June 12, 1990
LARENCE WIEGERT, 10149 Carolynne Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128, 843-9141,	
5307/236/C Co. Engrs.	November 6, 1990
GEORGE J. WILTRACK, 5374 South Blvd., Maple Heights, OH 44137,	
5307; 475/2/G Co.	October 7, 1990
DR. JOSEPH P. WORLEY, 9124 Sargeant Creek Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46256-1373,	
475/2 - SURG	September 4, 1990

be used for regimental reserve.

While passing through Myitkyina Valley, two major battles developed with complete success for our forces. One at Ritpong and one at Tingkrukawng. The Myitkyina Air Field was captured by the 1st Battalion and the attached Chinese on 17 May.

The campaign in the Myitkyina area, for the greater part of the 5307th, lasted approximately three more weeks. However, the town did not fall for two and a half months, when it was taken by Chinese forces with the remnants of less than a battalion of the original 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), plus approximately 4,000 Engineer and Infantry troops, who had been flown in shortly after the air field was captured, together with Chinese troops.

E. Forces Involved and Casualties

Official and absolutely reliable figures are not available for either the size of the Japanese forces or the number of Japanese casualties. The Chinese casualties were only approximate. The Japanese casualty figures presented were obtained from Capt. Logan E. Weston, who was 3rd Battalion S2 at the end of the campaign. They are for the dead only.

All figures are given in round numbers except the American casualties. Certain of the 2nd Battalion engagements are not mentioned here. In the Walawbum, Inkangahtaung, and Nhpum Ga engagements their casualties totaled approximately 40 dead and 200 wounded. They lost very few at Myitkyina.

A skeleton battalion, made up of members of

the original three battalions of "Merrill's Marauders," continued to fight at Myitkyina for two and one half months after the airfield was captured.

None of the several hundred dead and wounded of the two Infantry and two Engineer Battalions, which were flown into Myitkyina for this last phase of the campaign, are discussed in this report.

It must be remembered that it was rarely possible to examine or count the enemy dead. In spite of this, it is felt that the figures given are conservative and that "Merrill's Marauders" killed at least 3,000 Japanese in North Burma with a loss of a little over 100 dead.

**5307th COMPOSITE UNIT [PROVISIONAL]
Burma, 15 February - 8 June 1944**

a. Activity of First Battalion at Walawbum and Wesu Ga.

While guarding the air strip at Lagang Ga, elements of the 1st Battalion were under barrages from Japanese 77mm artillery at two and a half miles range. During this time, about 100 shells were thrown on and around Lagang Ga and the trail to Walawbum.

The first shells on the afternoon of 5 March 1944 caught them without foxholes. They left the area shortly after noon 6 March. Perhaps 25 shells exploded near our troops. There were seven casualties.

List of Casualties at Walawbum and Wesu Ga

No. 1. MYERS, Crawley L., Pfc, 34132652, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, flat terrain, tall grass and bushes, prone, burst at one

yard range, 1600 hours, 5 May 1944. Immediate incapacity.

No. 2. CLARK, David V., T/Sgt. 6843897, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, no protection, 77mm artillery shell fragment, tree burst at 25 yards, 1700 hours, 5 March 1944, no disability.

No. 3. SMITH, Clyde, T/5, 39689010, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, no foxhole, 77mm artillery shell, fragment, 5 March, no disability.

No. 4. GROVES, James B., T/4, 34119255, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, no hole, 77mm artillery fragment, burst two yards on ground, 1500 hours, 5 March, moderate incapacity.

No. 5. BRIDGEHORSE, Joseph E., S/Sgt., B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, no hole, 77mm artillery fragment, 15 yards range, tree burst, no incapacity, 5 March.

No. 6. DIGGS, Dewey K., 34491721, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, no cover, 77mm artillery shell fragment, burst 10 yards, ground, moderate incapacity, 6 March 1944.

No. 7. EVANS, William C., 1st Lieutenant, 0-424516, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, walking, five Japs were surprised as patrol moved into a trail block, 25 caliber rifle bullet at 15 yards range, no disability, 6 March.

No. 8. QUINN, Frank (NMI), S/Sgt. 38322528, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, horseback, trigger of Thompson submachine gun discharged when it was caught by a twig, 12 March.

(ED. We have additional technical data on the wounds, disposition of man, probable reason for becoming a casualty which we will keep until requested by individual or family.)

b. First Battalion at Tabaying and Naprawn trail blocks 14 to 20, March 1944.

The 1st Battalion, after Walawbum was assigned the job of placing a road block below Shaduzup. A regiment of Chinese with pack artillery were attached to them for the mission.

The I and R Platoon hit Jap ambush near Tabaying, Burma, 1100 hours, 14 May 1944. This platoon, which had preceded the battalion by several hours, attempted to break the block until 1600 hours when the main column arrived and they were replaced by another platoon. No advance was made, in spite of the use of mortars. The Japs employed two LMG's for the first time and killed two men. Three men were wounded during the day's action. The Japs had an estimated eight casualties. Their group was later wiped out by the Chinese. On 15 May 1944, the American force cut a new trail and bypassed the resistance. On 20 May 1944, another block was encountered at Naprawn, but only held one hour, resulting in two American casualties.

Tabaying and Naprawn Trail Blocks

No. 9. REHDER, RAYMOND M., PFC, 37465617, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, walking with no helmet or cover, knee mortar burst 3 yards, complete incapacity, was helping Chastain who had just been hit. 1100 hours, 14 March 1944.

No. 10. CHASTAIN, Lawton L., PFC, 14009708, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, standing on trail when knee mortar exploded at unknown distance, moderate disability, 1100 hours, 14 March 1944.

No. 11. LENNON, James L., SGT, 33099367, C Company, 1st Battalion. (B) Offensive, walking, side of trail, thick growth, 25 caliber bullet, sniper, 1800 hours, 14 March 1944. Moderate disability.

(Continued on page 4)

TABLE 28.—Estimated number of troops involved and casualties sustained, Burma campaign, 15 February-8 June 1944

Locality	Troops involved			Casualties sustained		
	United States	Chinese	Japanese	United States, killed in action	Japanese, killed in action	United States, wounded in action
Walawbum.....	2,700	.....	1,000	5	850	28
Shaduzup.....	800	3,000	1,000	8	600	23
Inkangahtaung.....	1,200	.....	1,000	2	350	3
Nhpum Ga, Anche, Warung	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poakum.....	1,600	.....	1,000	22	600	67
Ritpong.....	700	3,000	200	1	185	4
Tingkrukawng.....	700	2,000	400	6	350	15
Myitkyina:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1st Battalion.....	500	.....	50-200	3	(?)	9
3d Battalion.....	500	.....	200-400	6	85	15
Total.....	8,700	8,900	4,850-5,200	53	3,020	164

• Undetermined.

TABLE 30.—Distribution of 393 casualties, 1st Battalion, New Georgia Island, and 1st and 3d Battalions, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), Burma, by category and survey period

Category	1st Battalion, New Georgia, 18 July-5 August 1943	1st and 3d Battalions, Burma, February-June 1944	Total casualties	
			Number	Percent
Killed in action.....	35	31	66	16.8
Wounded in action:				
Died of wounds.....	11	25	36	9.2
Survived wounds.....	135	156	291	74.0
Total.....	146	181	327	83.2
Grand total.....	181	212	393	100.0

No. 12. **CLARK, William E.**, 38273886, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, walking crouch, side of trail, struck by two automatic weapons, 25 yards range, 1800 hours, 14 March 1944.

No. 13. **FORONOF, Edward S.**, PVT, 35035009, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, prone, 25 caliber bullet, sniper at 100 yards, 1700 hours, 14 March 1944.

No. 14. **GLOVA, Paul M.**, T/5, 33395694, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, trail block discovered, advancing prone. Japanese 25 caliber LMB. Range not known. Enemy pulled out in one hour, 0900 hours, 20 March 1944, moderate incapacity.

No. 15. **GOLDMAN, Julius NMI**, PFC, 36019331, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, prone, Japanese 25 caliber LMG, Range not known. 1000 hours, 20 March 1944. Severely incapacitated.

c. 1st Battalion, action at trail block, Htingdankawing.

Two platoons forced Japanese to withdraw after a short engagement from a strongly defended area at Htingdankawing. One man died from wounds due to a LMG. Our 60 mm mortar wounded two and our 81 mm mortars two of our men. One casualty was caused by a Jap grenade.

Htingdankawing

No. 16. **STITT, William A.**, T/5, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive action, was prone behind a clump of bamboo but for some reason was told to go to rear. Hit by 25 caliber LMG bullet while running down center of trail at 75 yards range. 1600 hours, 22 March 1944, became hysterical.

No. 17. **GUZAITES, Peter P.**, T/4, 16002160, Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, treating Stitt when struck by fragment, short U.S. 60 mm mortar shell exploded at unknown distance. 1600 hours, 22 March 1944. No disability.

No. 18. **SMITH, Ralph G.**, T/5, 6874125, Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, treating Stitt, when struck by fragment, short U.S. 60 mm mortar shell. Exploded unknown distance. 1600 hours, 22 March 1944. No disability.

No. 19. **FEATHERGILL, Gerald R.**, S/SGT., 16016092, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, standing, 81 mm mortar brought in close, 15 yard burst; 1600 hours, 22 March 1944. No disability.

No. 20. **McNABB, Richard S.**, T/5, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Same as Case No. 4.

No. 21. **MURPHY, Richard S.**, T/5, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, prone bamboo clump protection. Jap grenade fragment, explosion five feet, no disability, 1600 hours, 22 March 1944.

d. First Battalion Road Block at Shaduzup, 28 March - 29 March 1944.

This battalion, with attached Chinese regiment, had been advancing on Shaduzup over very difficult terrain and virgin jungle for two weeks. They had fought several skirmishes with few casualties. Late 27 March, the Americans with the Chinese 24 hours behind, bivouacked with great care and secrecy on the east bank of the Nam Kawng. Chaung, three miles below Shaduzup. Chinese in the distance attracted attention with fires. They were shelled with 77 mm guns and sent back counter barrages, giving away their positions, resulting in many casualties. Shells began to fall in one of the 1st Battalion platoon areas, but they moved out.

During the night, an officer made reconnais-



Early April 1944, Hsamshingyang, Burma. Wounded Marauder brought into Aid Tent for treatment. Tent is made of parachute canopy, and supported by its shroud lines. Man with pipe and glasses is Capt. (Dr.) A. Lewis Kolodny, Surgeon, 5307/2 Bn.

sance of the Jap camp across the river. A combat team crossed at dawn, catching the Japs by surprise, and killing many. One platoon crossed the river twice because of an S shaped bend and ran into heavy fire.

The entire operation was a complete success. Many Japs were killed and the attached Chinese arrived in 24 hours to take over the position. Several heavy counter attacks were easily broken up.

Shaduzup

No. 22. **WELCH, James R.**, PVT, 33392021, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, platoon was being shelled, men moved to safer spot, went back to get pack, wore no helmet, walking around in dark, 77 mm shell fragment, distance not known. 0300 hours, 28 March 1944. Unconscious immediately.

The following four casualties were in the same platoon. Their platoon, in the dark, was assigned a section of river, S shaped in character so that it required two crossings. The Japs had the second crossing covered with automatic weapons from a 20 foot bank. Two were wounded on the approach and two in a rescue attempt. One died. The platoon was forced to cross at a new point.

Shaduzup

No. 23. **PAGE, Norman**, NMI, PFC, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, prone, grass and brush cover, LMG at 125 yards, 0830 hours, 28 March 1944. Could crawl.

No. 24. **DINARDO, Anthony N.**, PVT, 12031920, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, prone, grass and brush cover, 25 mm LMG at 125 yards, 0830 hours, 28 March 1944, very disturbed.

No. 25. **OLSON, Lambert L.**, PFC, 20604521, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, crawling to get two wounded (cases 23 and 24), 25 caliber LMG at 150 yards. Immediate incapacity, 0830 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 26. **SUSNJER, Milton (MI)**, PVT, 13131539, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, advancing in crouch to aid wounded (Cases 23 and 24), 25 caliber LMG at 120 yards. Immediate incapacity, 0830 hours, 28 March 1944.

After Jap camp was occupied, a platoon patrol advanced north on the road. A Jap truck rounded a corner before cover was available. Nine Japs were killed. One American was wounded by a grenade.

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Left to right: Cpl. Alfred Guido, [PA], and Pvt. Frank Polesinelli, Brooklyn, NY, both of E Co., B Bn, 5307th Composite Unit (Prov), lead an Indian Band at Ranaghat during a rest stop while enroute to front.

Shaduzup

No. 27. **TULLI, John L.**, CPL, 7024345, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, prone, grass by side of road, Jap hand grenade fragment, burst 5 yards, 0700 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 28. **LYNCH, Joseph M.**, PFC, 32637189, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, position not known, 25 caliber bullet creased head, 0800 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 29. **FRIGULTI, John NMI**, PVT, 3968647, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, on knees, digging foxhole. 90 mm mortar shell exploded at 10 yards. 1100 hours, 28 March 1944, moderate disability.

No. 30. **CUMMINS, Ralph H.**, PFC, 39263742, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, sitting in shallow foxhole with head down. 90 mm mortar fragment, tree burst 5 yards distant, 1100 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 31. **GOLDSTEIN, Nathan NMI**, 2nd Lt., 0-1306836, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, had just gotten out of hole and was standing, 90 mm mortar fragment, tree burst at 5 yards, 1100 hours, 28 March 1944. Immediate incapacity.

No. 32. **ASHER, Joe B.**, T/5, 38246275, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone but not dug in, 30 minute Japanese infantry attack ricochet, 0.25 caliber bullet, 1100 hours, 28 March 1944. Moderate disability.

No. 33. **MURPHY, Richard S.**, T/5, 6147306, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, sleeping prone in very shallow hole, 77 mm shell fragment, tree burst at 5 yards, 1500 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 34. **BRESSE, Robert O.**, PVT, 36442575, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, sleeping in shallow hole with Case No. 33. 77 mm shell fragment, tree burst at 5 yards, 1500 hours, March 1944. Moderate disability.

Two Americans were wounded when Japs hit one platoon on river side of perimeter for 35 minutes.

No. 35. **McKINNEY, Elbert V.**, PFC, 38333411, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, foxhole, 90 mm mortar fragment, tree

burst, few feet overhead; 1710 hours, 28 March 1944.

No. 36. **MATNEY, Thomas H.**, S/SGT., 13018166, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, prone, foxhole, 90 mm mortar fragment, tree burst, few feet overhead (Same as Case No. 35), 1710 hours, 28 March 1944. Moderate disability.

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. (b) Defensive, in deep and much too large hole with Case No. 38. Hole was

not undercut, 77 mm shell hit center of thorax, 0100 hours, 29 March 1944.

No. 38. **ALLEN, Eugene (NMI)**, PFC, 37240530, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (b) See Case No. 37.

No. 39. **CLAYBURN, Grady B.**, PFC, 38285708, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, in foxhole, fragment from 77 mm shell, range not known, 0100 hours, 29 March 1944.

e. First Battalion in vicinity of Nhpum Ga, 8 April - 1 May 1944.

A combat team of 250 men from the 1st Battalion threw a road block at Kauri, one mile south of Nhpum Ga, 1800 hours, 8 April. A strong perimeter was set up. In early A.M., two attempts, of a food and ammunition train, to move up to Japs were stopped. One American was killed by a U.S. carbine. Another shot himself while cleaning his gun. Two were wounded by Jap fire. The C.T. withdrew to Nhpum Ga, 9 April, when the 3rd Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion.

13 April 1944, one man was killed and one wounded on a patrol. Four other casualties occurred up to 1 May 1944. Two were accounted for by carbines, one death by a Thomson sub machine gun, and a wound by a BAR.

During the last three weeks in April, six of ten casualties were caused by U.S. fired weapons.

No. 40. **JOHNSON, Robert Allen**, 1st Lt., 0-422409, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, got up from hole during night to investigate a noise. Killed 10 feet from hole by a carbine, few yards range, 2300 hours, 3 April.

No. 41. **GARCIA, Salvador C.**, T/5, 39263575, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, out of hole rolling pack, hit by opening fire of Jap supply train, 0.25 caliber bullet. 0630 hours, 9 April, no disability.

No. 42. **ERRIS, Stanley**, PFC, 36044864, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Offensive, moving in a crouch to drive Japs back, 25 caliber bullet, range unknown, 0700 hours, 9 April 1944.

No. 43. **HAYDEN, Floyd V.**, PFC, 35621182, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, M 1

(Continued on page 6)



Early April 1944, Hsamshingyang, Burma. Marauder injured in combat with Japanese brought into airstrip for evacuation after treatment by battalion medics.

went off in foxhole when the Japanese struck the perimeter, 0700 hours, 9 April 1944.

No. 44. SUTTON, Norman G., PFC, 34150912, Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, sitting and cleaning carbine, accidental discharge. 1440 hours, 10 April 1944.

No. 45. GRANT, Deek B., PVT, 34087208, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, ambushed Japs on trail south of Nhpum Ga, 0.25 caliber LMG, 10 yards range, 1530 hours, 13 April 1944.

No. 46. CLARK, Aubrey H., 1st Lt., 0-12988194, B Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Patrol, ambushed by Japs on trail south of Nhpum Ga. (See Case 45), hit at range of 20 yards by 0.25 LMG, 1530 hours, 13 April 1944.

No. 47. JOHNSON, Herman (NMI), PVT, 35106065, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, had gotten out of hole at 0100 hours, awoke buddy as he returned. Mistaken for Jap and shot with Thomson submachine gun, 0100 hours, 19 April 1944.

No. 48. LUMSFORD, Joseph F., PVT, 3833154, A Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, had just traded Thomson Submachine gun for a carbine and was cleaning the carbine when it accidentally discharged, 1600 hours, 22 April.

No. 49. SAPP, Benjamin J., 34054891, C Company, 1st Battalion. (b) Defensive, accidental discharge of BAR which he was cleaning; 0630 hours, 1 May 1944.

f. Action of First Battalion at Myitkyina, 17 May - 8 June 1944.

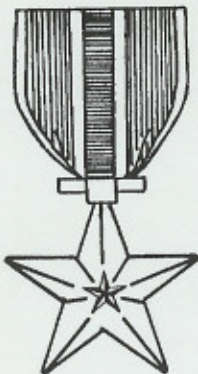
(To be continued)

For years, the side-show strongman had lured crowds by squeezing a lemon dry, then offering \$1,000 to anybody who could get another drop out of it. Nobody paid much attention when a wispy little man in one audience dared challenge the strongman. The strongman first squeezed the lemon until it was little more than a pulp; then handed it to his frail challenger. The little man not only squeezed out another drop — but got almost a saucer full of juice. "Amazing!" the strongman conceded. "What kind of work do you do?" "I'm with the Internal Revenue Service," the little man replied.

And keep running the aspirin commercials right after the school-closing bulletins. — TV Director of Programs

If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts.

— Satchel Paige.



SHARING THE STORY

List of towns on the "Hard-boiled Egg Express, from the Jaucklaun Train Station, Central Provinces to the British Camp Marguetia, Assam Province. I gave the train its nickname because we could only buy hard-boiled eggs, and sometimes fruit, if we stopped at towns on our trip.

We left Camp Deogarh at 1400 hours, 26 January 1944 and arrived at the Jaucklaun railroad station by marching eight miles. The stops are listed in order from the first to the last. We did not stop at night as that is when we traveled more.

27 JANUARY 1944

JAHASI	0730
MAURAPUR	1245
RORE	1300
HARPALBUS	1325
BELA TAL	1350
MAHOBA	1445
KABRAIR	1645
MADAUNDH	1715
BANDA	1800
KHURHAND	1845
AGARIE	1900
BADAOSA	1915
KARWI	2015

28 JANUARY 1944

MEJAR RD.	0730
MANHAD RD.	0755
CAIPURA	0835
PIROHE	0845
BINDAHOHAL	0855
IMIRZAPUR	0905
CHUMAR	1015
KYALHANT	1045
AHRURA RD.	1100
GEONATHPUR	1105
MOGHAL SARAI	1120-1400
SAKALDIHA	1425
DHEENA	1440
ZAMAINE	1455
DILDARNAGAR	1510
GAHMAR	1550
CHAUSA	1600

BUXAR	1610
BARUNA	1640
DUMRAOM	1650
TWINING GAWL	1700
BEHEA	1740
ARRAH	1805
DINAPORE	2000

29 JANUARY 1944

GIDHAUR	0745
JHAJHA	0820
SIMULTALA	0915
JASIETH JUNCTION	0950
MADHUPUR	1020-1100
MAADUNCATO	1125
KARMATAR	1135
JAMGARA	1155
MIHIHJAM	1210
RUPNARIRNAR	1215
SALANPUR	1225
SITARAMPUR	1235
BARACHUCH	1240
ASANSAL JCTN	1255-1405
KALIEAHARA	1450
RANIGANJ	1520
ONDAL	1550
DYARIA	1615
DURGAPUR	1630
RAJABANDH	1640
PANAGAR	1700
MANIKAR	1730
PANAJ	1740
GALSI	1750
KHARA	1805
OALIT	1815
BUROWAN JUNCTN	1830-2000

READERS RETREAT

We have published a 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.



30 JANUARY 1944

SHIMURALI	0720
ANAGHTA	0800-0920
ARANGHATO	0935
BAGAOLA	1000
MAJDIA	1020
BANPUR	1025
DARSANA	1040
CHUADANGE	1100-1125
HALSA	1210
PAKSEY	1250
ISHURDI	1340-1630
ABBALPUR	1650
MALCHI	1700-1815

31 JANUARY 1944

KAHALOO 0725

Changed trains at 0730 and moved to rest camp to wait for transportation to go on. We stayed here till 2 Feb. 44.

2 FEBRUARY 1944

Left camp at 0830 hours and marched two miles to dock, arriving at 0930. We boarded a river steamer called "Goorkha" at 1110 hours, traveling on the river the rest of 2 Feb. and 3 Feb. On 3 Feb., we docked at 2330 hours at **Dibrugarh**. The name of the river was the **Brahmaputra**.

4 FEBRUARY 1944

Left from Dibrugarh railroad station at 1030 hours and traveled all day and night.

5 FEBRUARY 1944

Detained at 2315 hours and marched 2 1/2 miles to **Marquetia Camp**, arriving at 0030 hours. We stayed here until 8 February 1944 and then left for our mission.

I do not know the number of miles we traveled. I did not have a timetable for arrivals and departures. I did this on my own from the signs posted at the stations and my watch. Between stops, I was working on the Company's paperwork, a roster of platoons, etc. All information is from note books I kept from start to finish, ending up in China. I also had to send these notes as part of our Company's Morning Report, in addition to the number of men sick in the hospital, killed in action, wounded, etc. I don't know what the rear headquarters did with them. Most of what I have is for Company A and Red Combat Team of the 5307th and Company A, 475th.

William J. Aydt, 1st Sgt., Co. A, Red Combat Team, 1st Bn, 5307th; 1st Sgt., Co. A, 1st Bn., 475th; then Chinese Combat Command, China. 222 Green Ave., Woodbury, NJ 08096; 609-845-4475.

FATHER BARRETT

Army Chaplain Thomas Barrett of Des Moines, Iowa, died June 4, 1944, of scrub typhus contracted in the steamy jungles of North Burma, where he was serving with Merrill's Marauders, the famed jungle fighters. When he learned the unit had no Catholic chaplain, Barrett volunteered for an expedition that has been called the most perilous up to that point in World War II. The Rev. Thomas Barrett is remembered as a popular young priest who served briefly as an assistant at St. Ambrose Cathedral and two years at St. Anthony's Church, both in Des Moines, before becoming an Army Chaplain in 1942. Barrett was not heard from for three months after volunteering to march through the mountains with the intrepid Merrill's Marauders in North Burma. He was flown out of the innce



Left to right: M/Sgt. **William C. Collins**, Florence, SC; S/Sgt. **Paul W. Craig**, Monongahela, PA, and T/Sgt. **Oysne F. Jones**, Youngwood, PA, 5307th Composite Unit [Prov], trying to talk to the Indians somewhere in the Bengal Province while waiting to move into the bivouac area.



in late May 1944 and died several days later of typhus. A Monsignor Raymond Conley, now retired, assisted at Barrett's funeral in 1944. From the Des Moines Sunday Register, May 1949.

AUCHE TO NHPUM GA

March 27, 1944

During the morning hours, before daybreak, Mayor Healy and Capt. Ashby informed me (S/Sgt. Clarence "Matt" Matlovich) that my platoon would be the "Point" on our way to Nhpum Ga.

Japanese troops were reported close-by, therefore, I was instructed to move my men out quickly and keep the column marching at a fast pace. At exactly 0700 hours, I was to call for a "break" in order to permit the rear guard to catch up, which is what I did. However, at that very instant, the Japanese began to shell our main column. The order of double time was echoed and we began to run to our destination, a little over four miles away. At approximately 0830 hours, what seemed to be days later, we arrived at that village.

General Merrill, whose command group had spent the night at the "Hill" asked me what had happened. Being out of breath, he realized my predicament and suggested I sit down until I was able to explain the situation to him; which I did minutes later.

I was instructed by General Merrill to gather up all men available and report to Capt. William Scott. We were to go back down the trail and set up a delay-action maneuver in order to allow the main body sufficient time to dig in at Nhpum Ga. It was an important time, the beginning of a 13 day siege.

Approximately thirty minutes later, the enemy shelled our unit on the trail with heavy mortar fire, injuring several of our men, including Capt. Scott who was seriously wounded. I helped Capt. Scott reach the Medics at Nhpum Ga, where he was treated and evacuated to a base hospital. (After his discharge, Capt. Scott was later elected to the office of State Senator, and US House Representative from Pennsylvania. S/Sgt. Matlovich, 5307/2/BCT/3 Pl., 2073 Idaho Ln, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953; 412-233-4109.

ROY MATSUMOTO'S STORY

These are my memories of the actions of myself and others in the 2nd Battalion in the North Burma Campaign in early 1944.

At the Walawbum Road Block, I climbed a tree and tapped into a Japanese phone line. For

the information which I gained from this phone tap, I was eventually awarded the Legion of Merit for my actions. General Order No. 122, Headquarters, United States Army Forces, China-Burma-India. A.P.O. 885, 19 Sept. 4. "STAFF SERGEANT ROY MATSUMOTO, 18184261, Infantry, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from 24 February 1944 to 11 March 1944."

I was next recommended by Major Healy of the Second Battalion, Blue Combat Team, for a Silver Star Award for my actions during the night of April 4 - 5, 1944, for going outside our defense perimeter and overhearing Japanese plans to attack our position at dawn April 5, 1944, on the Northwest side in the area of what is referred to now as McLogans Hill. To my knowledge, our defense of that area was re-enforced but there was no moving out of or booby trapping of fox holes as Col. McGee and others have claimed. We waited for the attack. It occurred in the manner in which former Sgt. Warren T. Ventura reported in his article printed in the May 1990 issue of the Burman News. But actions of myself on that occasion were completely of my own volition.

There was no plan for me to act in this manner. I was never recommended for or received any award for these voluntary actions to the Japanese attack was reported in the article written by former Sgt. Ventura. Getting back to the Walawbum road block — to my knowledge no area of that perimeter was attacked by Japanese forces. I have been told that a Japanese patrol was observed on the west side of the perimeter and 13 Japanese were killed by machine gunfire from our perimeter. There was at no time any mortar or artillery fire from the Japanese on this perimeter. Further, I know of no attempt to block the road upon our withdrawal by dropping trees across the road in this location. Roy Matsumoto, 5307/2/HQ/I&R/INTPTR, 1536 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703; 415-849-0576.

MORE ON THE AMBUSH AT SITAPUR

I was in the Company that was ambushed by the Japs at Myitkyina. G Co, 2n Bn, 5307th. Company Commander was Lt. Broadbank, Lt.

Jones was the Adjutant, Lt. Pick was our Platoon Leader. When we arrived in Indir during the latter part of May, 1944, we went to Ramgarh for just one day and then we were transferred to G Company, 5307th Composite Unit Provisional. It was on the plane flight between Ramgarh and Chabua. We stayed at Chabua overnight and the next morning flew into Myitkyina. I was then placed in Lt. Pick's platoon. At that time, we also learned that we had a new Company Commander, Captain McKnight.

Later, when we left the airfield and moved to a new position, Captain McKnight and another soldier were killed by snipers. It was at that point that the Company reverted back to Lt. Broadbanks.

During the month of June, we were involved in several skirmishes. On that very first day, as we attempted to cross the rice paddy, we came under heavy machine-gun fire. During it several of our men were wounded. I also recall Will Cutshaw was shot in the jaw at the ambush. It was then that Lt. Broadbanks decided to move the company a couple of hundred yards to the right and across the paddy sometime prior to daybreak.

One very strange thing that happened that I recall clearly. We had gotten up early in the morning before daybreak. When the call came to move, I went over to Acting Sgt. Tony Marino from Buffalo, NY, who was sitting on the ground very still. I asked him what was the matter. He said, "Today is the day that I will die." I couldn't believe him. But an hour later, he was dead.

We then crossed the paddy and, once across, encountered some small arms fire and one of the men in the Company was hit. I believe it was a Sergeant. As we started out, we were to the rear of the column. I should point out here that when we crossed the paddy for the second time, the Lieutenant failed to compensate for the fact that we had already moved some distance. So, that instead of moving more to the left at that point, he moved us even further to the right. But, as we started out this time, there was suddenly a warning that we were needed at the front. But, when we raced to the front, we started getting heavy fire from the Japs. Marino was suddenly hit so Lt. Pick asked me to see how he was. I crawled up and reported Marino

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





One Indian boy climbs the train steps to get a "C" ration biscuit from a soldier of the 3rd Bn, India, February 1944.

appeared to be dead. When I turned to my right, I saw Lt. Pick and Lt. Jones kneeling over a young officer who was fatally wounded. That was the last I saw of Lt. Pick until sometime in July when he and a Major and I were evacuated from Myitkyina to the 69th General Hospital.

Getting back to the scene at the time, I was just turning my head when a grenade was thrown at us. A soldier, just to my left by the name of Red Roff, was hit and his left leg mangled. I suffered only a few facial cuts. I remember Morty Silverman of Phila who was shot in the stomach, early in the combat. He didn't have any rifle so I handed him Marino's carbine. It was at this point that the wounded were ordered to the rear. There was also a temporary order given by Lt. Jones to hold our fire because most of the company was still in front of us.

For the rest of the day, the Company was engaged with the enemy. When the order came through to withdraw, I was with a group led by Sgt. Toomey. Somehow or other, eight of us got separated from the group late that afternoon so we spent the night in the rice paddy. In the morning, we met up with a patrol and returned to our area.

After this happened, there was so few of G Co. left that they transferred us to F Co., under Capt. Maxon, and immediately went into the lines. This is my best recollection in line with what Mr. Tidwell said regarding the events that happened that day. And, like him, I don't want to be classified as "a son of a bitch who just ran." It is implied that we only came back with two weapons. But I had a weapon, and so did Morty Silverman, and so did all the men with Sgt. Toomey.

So that if we "ran out," what in the name of God were we doing during the entire day this incident took place? If not, can't understand why Lt. Pick didn't say something to me on the evacuation plane. Later I realized also that Lt. Pick had been suffering from anemic dysentery all the time that we were at Myitkyina. During the investigation that followed, I understand

that the only ones interviewed were Lt. Pick and Sgt. Peterie whom like Tidwell, I don't even recall being there! Why wasn't Lt. Jones interviewed, or Sgt. Toomey? Why weren't the survivors, including myself, ever interviewed?

One other point. In his book, Capt. Tobey reports that Colonel Harrold refers to the massacre of F Company (p. 115) and on page 105 displays a map pointing to the F Company. For the record, and as a matter of simple history and military record, I was a member of G Company and as proud of that fact today as I was then, and will always be. William F. Ryder, 520 Eighth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215; 718-499-1657; 5307/2/G & G Co.; 475/2/F Co.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

Where the Jap has placed his outposts,
Where his road-blocks hold the trail,
Where the lone patrol is moving,
Where the dark begins to pale;
There's a whisper through the jungle,
There's a shadow on the track,
Sentry, you whose nerves are straining,
That is Fear behind your back.
For Merrill's men are marching;
They've been seen at Masakawng.
They have crossed the Tanai River,
And they're threatening Warong.
Jungle trails are close and silent;
Merrill's troops move swift and far;
They may pass through Sharaw.
And tomorrow through Sana.
Tokio has maps of Burma
That will show the whence they have come.
See that red line down the Hukawng,
See the cross at Walawbum?
There's another at Shad'uzup.
And below, Ink'angatawng ----
The Marauders roll of victories
Is both barbarous and long.
From Nhp'um Ga on to Ritpong
(Add a cross at each of these)
Red lines lead to Myitkyina:
Just you ask the Japanese.

Ghostly files that strike and vanish,
You'll not know where they may be,
Till the Browning automatics
Leave dead Japs for Japs to see.
If you really want to see us,
There's a way you can't go wrong:
Pick a trail that goes behind them
Where our enemies are strong.
Where the trail goes through a rice field,
You may see the column clear,
But — we're not so much to look at,
And we're worse than that to hear,
Comes a line of weary scarecrows,
Bearded, pale, unclean, and hot;
Never would you think of soldiers
(Which we wish that we were not.)
Belly-aching, griping, grumbling,
Mounting curses to the sky,
"Damn those lousy bastards," say we,
"They will march us till we die."
"Regiment of volunteers —"
Well, it's true, and it's because
Everyone had reasons why he
Did not like it where he was.
We're the misfits of the Army,
That the System can't digest;
There's but one way to control us.
And it's not to let us rest.
Writers, lawyers, drunkards, failures ---
There's no trait we share but one:
We have to butt our heads into those
Things that aren't, or can't be, done.
"Put 'em on . . . They're moving out."
Come on, then, you're not yet dead,
And there's walking left aplenty
While the trail still leads ahead.
Let the typhus try to stop us ---
We've got dysentery now ---
Still we'll keep the column rolling,
Though we could not say just how.
Half a thousand miles we've walked,
Over hills, on heavy feet,
And the steps we've taken measured
Full the length of Jap retreat.
For Merrill's men are marching
We have come both fast and far;
And we've opened Northern Burma
From Maingkwan to Myitkyina.
And there'll be no final halting
(So we fear it's bound to be)
Till the last poor mule has foundered
Or we've reached the China Sea.

Submitted by Greg Resch, 5307/1/RCT

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 487

c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

24 August 1944

GENERAL ORDER)

NUMBER 2)

1. All Native Villages and Towns except Pana tola, Chabua, and Dibrugargh are OFF LIMITS to all ranks of this Command.

2. This order will be read and fully explained to all ranks once a day for the next three days by the respective Company Commanders.

3. Copy of this order will be posted conspicuously on all Bulletin Boards.

By Order of Lt. Colonel Osborne:

EDWIN A. ROTHSCHILD

2nd Lt., Infantry

Adjutant

General Order #3 will not be printed in the BURMAN NEWS as it has already been published in the "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume I." RVL

tremendous respect and love he felt for Lt. Weston.

Of how his buddy, Davis, I don't believe I ever heard a first name, slept with his head wrapped up because he was bald and the mosquitoes bit his head.

How they were waiting for supplies to be parachuted in — they were well out of the way but one box glanced off a tree, flew across and struck Davis in the head and the tears he would shed even 30 years later at Davis' death.

Of how some of the men didn't think they could hug the ground as close as the officers seemed to think they should. But when Japanese shell-fire was coming down the trail, clipping grass off in front of their noses, they could suddenly hug that ground very tightly.

I thank you for calling these things to mind. I am amazed that I have so many memories of a place that I never saw and never even heard of until I married Carroll. I am glad you are doing this work and hope some day to read more of it.

Another memory of how at a church outing, two children wandered off. When it was determined which direction they had gone, Carroll had me take him past where they could be and he started traveling upstream to intercept them. One of the men in the group got terribly concerned that Carroll would also be lost. And, our amusement that he thought an Orange I & R scout, who had wandered over much of India, and what seemed to him, most of Burma, would get lost following a creek in open country in the Texas Panhandle. Mrs. Roberta Molder, Box 264, Clarendon, TX 79226.

EDITOR

There is a "China Hand Network," a group of WW II Amateur Radio Operators who get on the air on Monday and Thursday at 1420 Z (V.T.C.) on 20 meter at 14,257 M.Hz. George Sparrow, Rd. 1, Box 33, Delmar, DE 19940; 124th Cav/3/HQ/HW.

EDITOR

My story of the "Big Shoes." The Army gave me a 13AA shoe. At Camp Landis my shoes were worn out and I couldn't get the Supply people to get me another pair. By this time we were about ready to leave on our second campaign. Supply did have a pair of size 12 shoes but they wouldn't give them to me. Said they had been ordered for someone else who I knew already had two pair. I broke in that night and

stole them. By the time we got to Tonkwa, they were also worn out, and I had to settle for a size 11. I had to cut the toes out to be able to wear them.

I was in the 5307th at Myitkyina, H Co., 2nd Battalion as a machine gunner, (.30 Cal. water cooled). After Myitkyina, I was in the 475th Infantry, Heavy Weapons Platoon, Machine Gun Section, Hq. Co., 2nd Battalion. After the fighting was over in the Namkham area on the Burma Road, we went to Kutkai, from where we flew to Kunming, China. From there we trucked to Kweiyang. Some time after the war ended, we trucked back to Kunming. Flew then to Myitkyina and on to Calcutta, India. We sailed from Calcutta to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Arrived home after discharge the night of Dec. 23, 1945. John Replik, 32 Madison Rd., Herminie, PA 15637; 412-446-7232.

EDITOR

In the 5307th at Myitkyina, I was a Machine Gun Platoon Leader in M Company, under Captain Brubeck. I was hit twice and received the DSC. In the 475th, I was Heavy Weapons Platoon Leader and was hit again at Hosi Valley. My C.O. was Jim Holland. I married a nurse from the 44th Field Hospital, who went over on the Butner and served in Burma. Don W. Delorey, 605 Oak Brook Blvd., Battle Creek, MI 49015.

EDITOR

I was in the 475/3/K Co. My squad leader was Sgt. Pete Pistono, the second in command was Sgt. Joe Augusta, others in the squad were Dale Thoman, Merringer, Valencia and others that I can't recall. Curtis T. Thayer, 2133 Turner Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110.

EDITOR

We have much enjoyed the reunions that we have been able to attend. In recent years, we have been in the resort business in California, so we've attended the West Coast meeting. At this year's, we were asked to make some announcements at the Saturday night dinner, so I requested that anyone, Marauders or guests, who would like to share some thoughts to please come to the microphone. It was a small group, but three or four speakers came up, all were interesting, and when they had finished relating events from past battles, our grandson, age 9, raised his hand and said, "I'd like to say

something, please." I put a chair at the podium for him to stand on, and he swallowed hard, and said, "Hello everybody, my name is Robbie Nelsen. I just want to thank all of you for helping to save my Grampa. Because if he'd been killed, my Dad wouldn't be here and I wouldn't be here and he wouldn't be here!" I guess that's all I have to say." He got down and later said, "That was scary!" His remarks express a gratitude that must be shared by each of us. Robert Nelson, Rt. 5, Box 310, Livingston, TX 77351; 5307/1 WCT; 475/1/B Co.

EDITOR

The importance of your dedication to gathering material — letters, recollections, manuscripts, and photographs — of our Burma experience was surely further impressed on me as I watched Ken Burns' remarkable eleven-hour TV series entitled, THE CIVIL WAR.

In this endeavor to collect and preserve our own Burma combat memorabilia you are fortunate that you have a viable association supporting you and equally important that you have a permanent library for your collection where it will be available to future generations of researchers and scholars whatever their interests.

The TV series THE CIVIL WAR obtained a surprising amount of background material from letters written by soldiers and sailors of all ranks. There should be many letters of our comrades in arms, hidden away in all sorts of places, the contents of which would expand the knowledge of our conflict. Perhaps a request in THE BURMAN NEWS would bring forth some original letters or copies thereof. Paul L. Tobey, 5307/3; 475/2/HQ, 34 Summer St., Rehoboth, MA 02769.

EDITOR

During the Burma Road Battle at Loi Kang Hill, this correspondent was there at the death of LTC Thrallkill and the wounding of S/Sgt. Kornfeld and others. As Kornfeld was being carried away on a stretcher, he said, "Well, just call me peg-leg Korny." In connection with the incident where Major Lattin shot a Jap, there occurred some banter among the men in the party in which one referred to another by his military rank (Sergeant), which was a breach of security practice to which the sergeant vigorously objected, whereupon the offender rejoined in a loud voice, "All right, GENERAL, I won't do it any more." And, in that very instant, he says, a group of Japs rose out of the brush, yelling "Banzai." James A. Harps, 475/2/HQ/ALO, P.O. Box 879, Hot Springs, AR 71902.

EDITOR

The more I think about it, the more I am sure that Jack Benfield told me how and when Grady Corley was killed. I never knew the place but got the idea that it was near the Village of Char pate. As I recall the circumstances, Grady's Company was making an attack. A sort of "training mission." I think the Colonel was "Still." They had a half dozen or so Nips cut off on a hill and were using them as a group to trail New Galahad. Grady's Company was the one that was being "trained." As I got it (and remember it), Grady had his company ready to attack. He gave the order and he made the attack alone. The Nips hit him several times and he was the only one killed in the "attack." That's as I recall what was told me by, I am sure, Jack Benfield. He, Grady and I were together in Basic Infantry Course at Ft. Benning and Jack was the only man I knew who also knew Grady Corley,

FALL IN

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

EARNEST C. BANKS, Rt. 1, % Johnny RV Park, Thackerville, OK 73459; 5307
 RICHARD M. BENFER, 3484 Horizon Dr., Lancaster, PA 17601; 717-285-4370; 5307; 475/3/I Co.
 CLIFFORD E. BUSSE, 819 Wayman Branch Rd., Covington, KY 41015; 356-5583; 5307; 475
 FRANK A. GARRISON, PO Box 95, Montpelier, IN 47359; 124/3/HQ/HW/LMG
 GEORGE J. LINNBAUM, 1966 Poplar Ridge Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122; 5307/2/G Co.; 124/3/K Tr.
 ERWIN LOCHBRUNNER, 6224 Wadsworth Dr., New Orleans, LA 70122; 504-288-1330; 475/3/I Co.
 JOHN A. LYNCH JR., PO Box 264, Eastport, ME 04631; 475/2/G Co.
 PATRICK MC ELRATH, 4526 So. Puget Sound Ave., Tacoma, WA 98409; 206-471-0364;
 RANGER, 75/2/C/HW
 ROBERT E. MORRIS, 606 St. Clair Ave., Spring Lake Heights, NJ 07762; 201-449-4377;
 124 Cav/HQ
 TOM PADGETT, 412 North A St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577; 515-673-7572; 475/3/K Co.
 WILLIAM F. RYDER, 520 Eighth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215; 718-499-1657; 5307/2/G Co.; 475/2/F Co.
 HENRY M. SESWICK, 4614 Yorkshire, Parma, OH 44134; 613th FA
 GERALD T. SMITH, PO Box 1166, Tulsa, OK 74101; 5307; 475
 PAUL K. SMITH, Rt. 1, Box 28, Cove, AR 71937; 475/3/L Co.
 CURTIS "RED" THAYER, 2133 Turner Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110; 475/3/K Co.
 DEAN WEHRMAN, 1216 So. G Ave., Nevada, IA 52021; 515-382-6215; 475/2/E/2
 LEONARD ZITE, 14863 Gale Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745; 818-968-6608; 5307; 612/B Batt.

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 II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada and Panama, joined together in 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 an 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 experience.

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's 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.

OFFICERS ROW

Executive Secretary — Ray Lyons

It is time to think about a Commemorative Stamp for the Merrill's Marauders. The WW II anniversaries are starting to come around and I am sure that the POD is starting to make plans for such stamps.

Those members who are interested should write a letter to: Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Information Branch, U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, Washington, DC 20260-6352. There are two areas that they consider. One is a person, e.g. General Frank D. Merrill, or other significant person associated with our war effort. The other is a subject, e.g. our unique campaigns fighting behind the enemy lines, against the Japanese.

The person must be an American and deceased at least ten years and celebrates the significant anniversaries of their birth. Events must be commemorated on 50th anniversary of that event, e.g. capture of Myitkyina Airstrip on May 17, 1944, or the surrender of the town on August 3, 1944.

If you do write, we suggest that you mention among other considerations that the present day US Army Rangers base their heritage on our missions in Burma. And, that determination was made after a thorough research of all WW II Elite Army units.

They will determine the specific stamp design and select the artist to do it. We must get their attention to the subject matter. Now is the time!

Dave Quaid has reminded me that any member who finds it difficult to write his recollections can send a voice cassette tape to him. He will have it transcribed so that I can consider it for editing and printing in the B/N.

We have also had the opportunity to read OVERSEAS Diary by Fred Robins. Fred Robins was a Special Service Officer in the CBI. Not much in common with us you would think. However, his diary covers a lot of the same ground and same travels that we did and his training as a neacetime weekly newspaper editor resulted

in his taking notes of his daily activities. You will find he was in Camp Deolali, India, shortly after we were and had similar experiences there. Traveled on troop transport that stopped at Fremantle, (Perth) Australia. I enjoyed the reading even if it had little to do with our personal experiences. Price \$17.95 + \$1.50 handling. Order from Baker & Taylor, 652 East Main St., PO Box 6920, Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0920.

Historian — David Quaid

We are still interested in audio tapes from the members. We have received quite a number of them and have had them transcribed. The material in them is fine history. David Quaid, 282 Trotting Park Dr., East Falmouth, MA 02536.

Reunion Chairman — Harold Mortimer

Had a meeting with Phil Piazza and hotel officials to make arrangements. Things are going well. Gen. Leonetti, CG, Ft. Bliss, and his staff are cooperating with us. Marriott Hotel runs continuous shuttle service to and from the airport that is approximately four minutes away. Checked out trip to Juarez on the "Border Jumper" trolley, which has seven stops in Juarez, starting at 10:00 AM and running on the hours, with last return trip at 6 PM. Does not run Saturday or Sunday, but arrangements can be made for tours. Pick up at hotel, cost \$5.00 per person, round trip. Also, El Paso runs a trolley to major shopping malls, costs 50 cents each way. In addition there are many other major attractions, museums, missions, etc., that can be visited on your own.

Harold Mortimer, 4109 Dietz Farm Circle NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107; 505-345-2866.

Letters

BATTLE BUDDY LETTERS

EDITOR

I had been asked to convey the best regards of the Merrill's Marauders Association to Colonel Shinichi Murano on my trip to Tokyo, Japan. I did call his home on November 9th only to be informed that he had passed away on October 23, 1990. The lady who answered the phone was sincerely appreciative of the regards from the Merrill's Marauders Association and asked that I convey the same to you and the Association. Hank Gosh, 2828 Wakefield Dr., Belmont, CA 94002; 415-595-2828; 5307/2/OCT/Intrprtr.

EDITOR

Enclosed photo of Ranger Patrick McElrath taken at the Seattle VA Hospital during his recent stay for an operation on his hip. In spite of his paralysis of the body, he is very up-beat and planning for a very ambitious future. He drives around in a snappy red Mustang convertible. He and I are making plans to attend the El Paso Reunion together. I hope we can all make his first reunion a memorable one. He is sure pumped up about attending. Robert MacDonald, 7708 NE 14th Ave., Seattle, WA 98115; 206-522-3638; 5307/3/I Co.; 475/3/I Co.

EDITOR

Jim Holland sent me your letter and some other materials about the Merrill's Marauders Association. I was Jim's Executive Officer when he had 3rd Bn.Hq. Co. I'd love to be on your rolls. I served in the 5307th and also in the 475th. While in the 5307th, I was hit twice and got the DSC. I was hit again while serving with

the 475th. My wife Mary Jane Healey Delorey served with the 44th Field Hospital, taking care of both Chinese and American Troops. Donald W. Delorey, 505 Oak Brook Blvd., Battle Creek, MI 49015; 5307; 475/3/Hq Co/EXO.

EDITOR

I would like to report the death of Marauder Clark Peach. In your February 1990 issue, on page one, seventh from left, top of picture with mule was Clark. He was sure it was him and I've enlarged it with a projector I had, and I, too, think it was him. Ruth Peach, 7924 Bywater, Union Lake, MI 48387.

EDITOR

How I wish Carroll could have contributed to the material being collected about the Orange CT I & R Platoon. He died March 4, 1985. I had not notified the association because I treasure the "Burma News" etc., that comes from them. If you will look at a Texas Road Map, Route 287 between Amarillo and Wichita Falls, you will find the names Clarendon, Hedly, Memphis, Childress. For 36 years of my life, the names Walawbum - Nhpum Ga - Myitkyina, were as familiar as the towns along 287.

I have been reading the material thru tears because of the memories of the things Carroll told about the country and the people there. About how when they met the Kachin people - what a clean, friendly people they were. How embarrassed the soldiers were when bathing in the stream and they realized the women had come down to watch. When they would give any of the people a piece of their soap, they would rush right to the stream and bathe.

Of the time they had been two weeks without a supply drop and they were getting pretty hungry. He found himself in a patch of shoulder high lambsquarters, very tender. He picked some - cooked it in his helmet over the protests of the other men. They watched him eat it, waited awhile and when it did not harm him, most of them cooked some, too. He had eaten lots of lambsquarters in Texas. (Ed: Webster's - Lambsquarters, n, A. a goosefoot naturalized in the United States from Europe, and used as a potherb; also any of several related species.)

How some of the land in Northern India reminded him so much of the Texas Panhandle, of going out and hunting deer to supplement the food supply.

Of the supply dump where he was assigned guard duty outside one of the large Indian cities. And, one of the little Indian boy who would come to visit with him each time he was on guard. How this was against the rules and he would try to send the child away. How the boy would cry — his mother had sent him out to beg and if he came home empty-handed, she would beat him. He thought the child was about four years old, but found out he was 12. He would give him two annas (coins), and send the child to eat. He would come back with his belly sticking out from having eaten so much. He would finally give him a coin and spank him to get him to leave. Carroll said he would have been in big trouble if the child had been found with him.

Also, of how the poor people in India, when deciding a family member was dying, would take the ill member out and abandon him because they could not afford to bury him.

Of the time his foxhole did not meet Lt. Weston's specifications and the chewing out he took — not because Lt. Weston wanted to throw his weight around but because he really cared about his men and wanted them to be as safe as possible under such trying conditions. Of the

he must have been the one who told me. Grady Corley was a swell fellow. All our class at Benning liked him. I think he went to Clemson with Jack Benfield and was from, I think, Augusta, GA. I had not thought of this event in over 40 years, but it was an attack — not an ambush.

Does anyone recall a Captain Jack Spillane? He and Benfield were friends. I knew him in the Chinese Army in '42-'43 and wonder what became of him?

I doubt that I shall ever make it to a reunion. I am quite weak and can sit up only an hour or so at a time. Awful shape to be in for a man who was active. But I enjoy hearing from you and the others who write and hope to get better as time goes on. Col. Nellis Johnson, 14750 Beach Blvd #13, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250; 223-1965; 5307/HQ/S-1.

EDITOR

Just before starting the trip home from Lashio, two of us were brought into the Headquarters for shooting within two miles of camp. Frank See and I had gone up across the road to an old Jap tank repair area and were shooting up a batch of ammo. We didn't want to take it back to India. The name, Col. Ligon (not sure of the spelling), seems to come to mind. Anyhow, the big boy threatened to take our names off the shipping list until Hq. 1st Sgt. told us that we had been out of camp, on a special assignment, the day he read the order to the company. We almost went to China. Ralph W. Pollock, Rt. 1, Box 1494, Mount Union, PA 17066; 5307/1/WCT/B CO/MG SEC; 475/HQ.

EDITOR

My name is Sanford W. Cramer III and my father was a former member of the Merrill's Marauders. My father, Sanford W. Cramer, passed away in September 1987. He is buried at Riverside VA Cemetery, Riverside, CA. My father retired as a SP-5 at Ft. Huachuca, AZ, in the early '60s. He resided in Alpena, MI, and in the early '80s moved back to Long Beach, CA. My father was also known as Sandy Cramer. I remember as a boy, my Dad telling me of his time in Burma in Merrill's Marauders during

WW II and I remember his patch on his uniform but could not find any photographs or information about this elite fighting group. Could you please send me the list of the members of Merrill's Marauders; history of and where they fought from and any photographs of the group. Does anyone remember fighting alongside my dad? Sanford W. Cramer III, 13241 Safford St., Garden Grove, CA 92643.

EDITOR

The following is an account of action while I served with K Troop, 124th Cavalry.

In the book by John Randolph, "Marsmen in Burma," on the fourth page of the picture section, there are two men, one with a grease gun, name was Marson and the other one was LaHomedieu (not sure of the spelling). Anyway, the ones who really took out those Japs were Lou Barreiro, John Thompson, Elmer Reich and myself. I can remember that so well, because when our squad crested the hill, the first Jap jumped up in front of me, and I emptied my clip on him, then Lou and the rest finished off the others. I can remember going through the clothes and knapsack of the one I hit. I took some rice biscuits from them and ate them. The next day, there was a sniper up on the hill on our left flank. John Thompson and I were sent out to take him out. When we got down in the valley, we saw something flash up in a tree on the hill, we figured the shooting was coming from. We cut loose on it, Thompson was our B.A.R. man, and I had my M1. Anyway, we shut him down. We were going to go up to check it out, when we came across a basha. We sprayed hell out of it, but received no response. Then we went in to check it out. It appeared to have been used for some sort of command post. While we were looking through it, we realized we were being ate up by fleas. So John said, "Let's burn the bastards out." We set it afire and ran down the hill to watch it burn, when all hell broke loose. As it turned out, there was a mess of ammo stored under it, that we had overlooked.

So, we went back to our position and didn't get harassed by the sniper any more. Whether or not we got him or if he just took off, I can't

say. These facts are true and if you ever hear from our squad leader, Sgt. Tony Prince, I am sure he will verify them.

The CO of K Troop was Capt. Tom Moore, the 1st Sgt. McKee, Platoon Sgt. Jack Chism.

I recognized the name of Gust R. Adams in the Purple Heart list. He was released from the 20th General Hospital the same day as I, and we were taken by truck to a field replacement depot in Assam to be sent back to our units. That was the last time, I saw or heard of Gus and I wonder how he made out. From the Ripple-dipple, I was assigned to a Vet outfit taking care of mules for a week or so. From there, I joined a Remount Pack Troop transporting mules up to Myitkyina. After we got to Myitkyina, I was assigned to the 124th Cavalry, K Troop, and remained with them throughout the rest of the Central Burma Campaign and into Kunming, China. George J. Linnbaum, 1968 Poplar Ridge Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122; 5307/2/G Co.; 124/3/K Troop.

"He was a 'witness,' not a historian, he explained, and in 'this free country, every man is at perfect liberty to publish his own thoughts and impressions, and any witness who may differ from me should publish his own version of facts in the truthful narration of which he is interested. I am publishing my own memoirs, not theirs, and we all know that no three honest witnesses of a simple brawl can agree on all the details. How much more likely will be the difference in a great battle covering a vast space of broken ground, when each division, brigade, regiment, even company, naturally and honestly believes that it was as the focus of the whole affair! Each of them won the battle. None ever lost. That was the fate of the old man who unhappily commanded." From the Memoirs of William Tecumseh Sherman.

LOST, STRAYED OR MOVED WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW!

SPC JIM KOENIG, HHC 22ND SIG BDE,
APO, NY, NY 09757.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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