



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1991

El Paso Beckons

Come on down to the Pass to the North or to the South if it pleases you. El Paso is over 400 years old. It is a historic gateway from Old Mexico to the Cities of Gold. At least that is what the Spaniards were led to believe.

It is famous for blue jeans, refried beans and cowboy boots. For dog track, old world culture, 3rd world souvenirs, bargains in leather, silver and gold. Bring money -- lots of it. It is all accepted below the border. There will be buses to make the trip easy. Tour guides to explain it all. This is a city with museum, monuments and memorials. Did you promise to take your wife to a foreign country? Here is your chance to do it the easy way. The language is Spanish [Mexican style]. The food is Mexican [hot or not] [ask first]. This is also cowboy country with steaks, chicken fried or thick.

If you are planning on a trip across the border, we suggest that you go with a buddy. Just to keep you straight. Stay on the main streets. The tour busses will show you all you need to see.

Fort Bliss is the home base for the famous Third Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Patriot Missiles. You remember them. Both acquitted themselves with honor in Arabia. We will probably have the chance to tour their base.

Hey, I almost forgot. Lee Trevino comes from here.

The Marriott Hotel is next to the airport. Pick up no problem. The city is served by American, America West, Continental, Delta, and Southwest Airlines. Ask for the Senior Citizen rate.

The package rate for two persons is \$284, covering Friday and Saturday lodging, meals -- Friday Night Dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday Banquet, Sunday Brunch. Saturday night Bar will be a Cash Bar, buy your own, that is. All prices are inclusive of tax and service fees. The package rate for a single will be \$212. Any additional night lodging will be charged at the rate of \$55 plus taxes.

We have one small problem which you probably noticed by now. The registration cards provided by the hotel, this year will require your \$.19 postage. Suggestion is to sit down, make it out so that you are clear as to your arrival and leaving dates, then call the hotel at 1-800-831-4004 and make the reservation. The NY Marriott Hq told me -- no problem with that solution.

Signs are good -- Bueno, bueno! Hasta la vista!

Texans and New Mexico committee people.

Skip the shooting of the spy the evening before the first attack on the hill. A few days after we had secured our position on the ridge overlooking the road, the Colonel came to me and directed me to get some men and dig trenches that would go from each company's CP to the Battalion CP. While doing this, I began digging with the detail that I had assembled. Ben saw me and again explained leadership principle to me. "I told you to get it done. I did not say that you were to dig the trench. Jimmy, you are to supervise and get the job done".

A day or two later, and Hq Company faced the road, off to the right was a saddle, too steep down and up, leading to a higher elevation, that was too difficult for us to attack and hold. On that hill area were a few remaining Japanese. They could see us. To my knowledge, no frontal attack was made to dislodge them. I do not recall that there was even a minor skirmish between the two groups. Still they could observe what we were doing. At this time, again Ben came to me and instructed me to get him an observation bunker dug and covered which would be large enough for several people. So with a small group we dug and while covering the hole, someone suggested it would be better if we used a parachute over the logs to keep dirt from falling into the hole. So what you have is a white panel marking the exact spot of what was an observation post. To my mind, the Japanese on the knoll could accurately mark the location of that spot. Hind sight makes me wonder if that had any bearing on what was apparently a direct hit on that bunker during that fierce battle that ensued that very night.

In that CP with Ben, along with possibly two others, was S/SGT Kornfeld, (who would not wear leggings. It was a rule that all men wore either the canvas lace up leggings or World War I, roll wool type. Kornfeld just wouldn't do it).

Well with that direct hit his lower leg was so badly wounded that in the morning as the detail was taking him down to the airstrip -- as ALO it was my responsibility to be around when aircraft was involved -- I heard him say, "Well, they will just have to

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Sharing the Story

I remember Lt. Col. Ben F. Thrallkill and the events leading up to his death at Lol Kang.

He was the best leader of men I ever encountered.

First I remember seeing him when he rejoined the 475th after leaving the hospital. It seemed to me that he was in poor shape. Later though, in day to day contact, I could see his strength improved.

I recall seeing him on his haunches watching and listening as the column would go by and begin to make camp at nightfall. At the staff meeting on that night, he said something like this, "There won't be much trouble tonight. How do I know? Because the men were griping as they went by. If they are silent, they are brooding".

On another occasion, I watched and listened as he would look at the terrain and talk about a Civil War Engagement, thus indicating some possible tactical actions if an engagement were to happen.

In my position as Air Liaison Officer, from time to time it was necessary to go ahead of the column and pick a drop site for the next days airdrop. On one occasion, I had just started to make camp and the runner came over and said, "Col. Thrallkill wants to see you at the Command Post. I inquired, what for. The corporal said that I would have to go ahead and pick the next site that the Colonel had picked on the map. Thus the communication unit and I had to make two days march in one day, albeit a short one. Anyway, as I walked off, I, in my immaturity started talking out loud something like this: "No God Damned Infantry SOB's are going to get the best of this Air Corps trooper. ___em". About that time an arm came out of somewhere and was gently but firmly put around my shoulder and a voice said, "Jim that's no way for an officer to talk about his superiors. Now come here, look at this map and get going. We will be there by 10 in the morning, have your panels out." That is what I call leadership.

Now let's jump to the Lol Kang stay.

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.

call me Peg Leg Korny." A high quality person. James Harps, 475/2/HQ/ALO, PO Box 879, HotSprings, AR 71902.

SHADAZUP SCRAP

Let me tell you of my experiences in that action. A British Captain Darlington and two natives were with the 1st Bn as guides. I was told that the Capt had lived at Shadazup before the war and had left a wife and son there. On page 11 of MM War in Burma, Father Stuart tells of the trail blocks, cutting trail, etc. I was in the group close to the point of the WCT and I saw this with my own eyes.

The trail went down one side of the gully at an angle crossed a small stream and then reversed direction going up the other side. The two natives had started up the other side and one of them hit the trip wire of a small charge. I saw it happen and I didn't have to have an interpreter to know what that meant! The natives headed for the rear and we put out feeler patrols. It didn't take long to draw fire. The Japs had machine guns up there and with the thick growth and steep terrain we were in for trouble.

Col. Osborne called Capt. Darlington up to the front and asked him if there was any way around the block. They went into a huddle over the map. I heard the Colonel say, "That's what we'll do then. We are here to accomplish a mission, not to lose men's ves."

WCT backed down into the gully, went up stream a couple of miles and then started cutting that tunnel through the jungle. RCT moved up and protected our back until the Chinese moved in. Just thinking about all that machete swinging makes my arms tired!

We did eventually get to the Shadazup area. When we stopped and unloaded the animals, we were in another narrow gully, with a small stream, and no level ground to lay down and rest on. We had to prop our feet at the edge of the water and lay back against the slope. Jim Vavra and I shared a "D" Bar that I had kept, and that was all the chow we had left.

Later that night, we moved on down stream. It was so dark that each man put his wrist compass on the pack of the man in front of him. We smeared phosphorus on the animals tails. The phosphorus was available in the ground along the creek bank. We stopped where the creek emptied into the river and stayed there until just before daylight. Some Japs came down to the other bank of the river for water and we could even hear them talking. When we got the order to move out, one of the fellows picked up a can of MG ammo that had an opened latch. That ammo belt came running out of that tin box sounding like a thrashing machine. I'll never know why those Japs did not hear it!

Our column moved left and across the river. When we got to the other side, we were told (our Machine Gun Section) to stay below the edge of the bank until after the initial attack, which was to be at 7 A.M. It was an overnight truck stop, and the trucks started pulling out. The shooting started

before 7 A.M. I was told that there were only two trucks left and a guy with a Thompson SMG wasn't going to let them get away. The shooting didn't last long. They then placed our two M.G.'s on the road where the line turned back to the river. Things got pretty quiet for a while and someone brought me some dried fish, and a potato. Not having had anything except half a "D" bar for two days, I was pretty hungry. I peeled the blood off the potato and ate it but that stinking fish I could not get past my nose.

Some time later two columns of Japs came up the road with an officer in the lead. The other gun was closer so we kept waiting for them to open up. Finally someone with a rifle shot the officer and then we all opened up. Quite a few went down before they got off the road. Three times that afternoon, they tried to get that officer's body and get back across the road. All we received on the road that day was small arms fire and a few knee mortar shells. They caught hell back in the C.P. area.

The Chinese came walking up to relieve us about 1600 and just about that time the Japs decided to try us again. The Chinese disappeared! About an hour later, they came back on their bellies! Our orders were to leave them all the ammo, except 3 cans for each gun. We left 7 cans at our position. They had replaced our light MGs with heavy's. I think they shot it all up that

night.

After we were relieved, we moved back across the river and they sent us up on top of a hill to bivouac for the night. I was too damned tired to dig a hole so I just leveled off a spot with a five inch tree on the down hill side to go to sleep. Sometime after dark, the Chinese opened up with their artillery, and the Japs returned the fire. Man, they were dueling right over the top of us on that hill. When this started, I put my helmet on. I couldn't sleep so I just lay there counting shots as they were fired and passed over. I was counting the Jap rounds this one time - one, two, three, Eh Oh, number four is not keeping up. I started to cross my fingers when it hit a tree. I could see the hot steel dancing among the trees and kicking dirt onto my poncho. I jumped up and got behind a big stump I had seen before dark. The next salvo went over top so I went back and laid down again. The next morning when I stood up that five inch tree beside me had a two inch chunk torn out of it. The ground all around me looked as if someone had been digging weeds with a garden hoe and about one foot from where my head had been there was a palm seedling cut off about a foot above the ground. The three leaf stems formed about a three inch triangle. That had to be a large piece that had hit something and ricocheted past me at a right angle. If it had

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PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently

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

- GEORGE M. BOMBORIS, PO Box 25, Short Creek, OH 43989, 475/3/HQJuly 18, 1988
- RONALD BURNS, 8-06 Clintonville St., Whitestone, NY 11357,
5307/3/KCTJuly 7, 1990
- GEORGE J. CARTER, US Soldiers Home, Washington, DC 20015,
5307/1August 29, 1988
- LEROY COOPER, 214 Linden Ln, Louisville, KY 40206, 5307/3/KCT November 1990
- DALLAS E. DALEY, Clearfield, UT, 5307/3/KCT August 1966
- QUENTIN "DAVE" DAVIS, Rt. 7, Box 171, Bemidji, MN 56601,
218-751-6213, 5307/3/L Co; 475/3/L October 26, 1990
- JOSEPH G. DeFILLIPPO, 12401 W. Okeechobee Rd. #200,
Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016, 5307/2/BCT/HWJanuary 8, 1990
- NOBLE DOELING, Box 9, Dunseith, ND 58329, 5307/3October 1988
- LUTHER GEHRINGER, 111 Cardinal Ln, Eustis, FL 32726, 124/1/A Tr May 12, 1990
- JOHN J. GUTHRIE, Rt. 1, Box 258, Castleton, VA 22716,
124/1/A Tr November 7, 1990
- LOUIS E. HASLOUER, 409 Hillside, Abilene, KS 67410, 913-934-2265,
5307/3/KCTJanuary 9, 1990
- HAROLD W. HILLER, 797 Atlantic St., Memphis, TN 38112,
5307/1/RCT/ACo August 4, 1987
- HERBERT NELSON, 22 Blackstone Rd., Port Reading, NJ 07064, 969-2265,
5307/1/WCT; 475/2/HQ/COMM CHF March 12, 1991
- WILL E. RIDINGS, 302 Hillcrest Dr., Aberdeen, MS 39730, 369-2047,
475/2/E/HQ/LMGNovember 22, 1978
- EARL ROGERS, 501 Fleming, Wrens, GA 30833, 5307November 22, 1978
- RICHARD SAINÉ, 434 East Main St., Peru, IN 46970-2521,
475/2/MedSeptember 20, 1987
- WILLIAM J. SCHIEFFELIN III, Rt. 2, Box 902, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549,
914-666-5548, 612/B/EXO March 23, 1988
- CLARENCE T. SMITH, 206 A Second St., Brownsville, PA 15417,
5307/2/GCTDecember 20, 1990
- JULIO SPINO, 12 Pierce St., Westerly, RI 02891, 401-596-2675,
5307, 475/612January 15, 1991
- LAWRENCE J. STAFFORD, PO Box 927, Putnam, CT 06260,
5307/1/WCT/I&RMarch 7, 1991
- CHET STOVALL, 1636 Hudson Dr., Dellwood, MO 63136, 314-867-7052,
5307/3/KCTNovember 18, 1990

come straight down, it would have torn into my head.

If I could have seen all that damage at the time of the explosion, I would have dug right. By morning I would have been so deep, they would have charged me with desertion.

On page 13 of Father Stuart's Journal, he said, "The weary American troops rested, and enjoyed the music of Chinese and Japanese Artillery from just over the hill." IT DID NOT SOUND LIKE MUSIC TO ME. I have a piece of one of their instruments among my souvenirs.

We left the area the next day and went back a way for a rest. It was my understanding at the time, that the 1st Bn Radio had been destroyed during the mortar and artillery action on our CP area and that Col. Osborne had sent someone on horseback to a Chinese outfit to contact the rear HQ. That was when we found that 2nd Bn was in trouble and we were on our way again!

Ralph W. Pollock, Rt. 1, Box 1494, Mount Union, PA 17066, 5307/1/WCT/B/MG SEC; 475/HQ.

A DIFFERENT VIEW

This is my opinion of what really made the capture of the all important, all weather air strip at Myitkyina easy or maybe possible. It is an error to state that the 2nd or 3rd Battalions were in reserve. To allow such a discrepancy to go unchallenged could mean that the 3rd Bn was more interested in getting home than correcting history. The several accounts I have read showed little regard for what the 3rd achieved.

It might even be said that our rescue of the 2nd Bn was the toughest fighting of the campaign. One could compare their position with a similar entrapment of 1st and 2nd battalions of the 148th Infantry in New Georgia. The difference could be that they had water while none was available in New Georgia and it was really tough. We were able to break out with the help of 147th Infantry.

In the February 1991 Burma News issue, "History of 5307th Composite Unit, [Provisional]", there seems to be an important omission about the capture of Myitkyina airport.

The Second Bn may have been in reserve but the Third Bn was very instrumental in the affair. Along with the 88th Chinese

Infantry Regiment, we crossed the mountains north of the rest of the outfit. We were led to believe that the Chin Hills, as they were called, were nearer to the 9 to 10,000 ft. heights.

This outfit struck out in an easterly direction toward the Japanese main supply base. Our fast moving diversionary attack with its many skirmishes led the enemy to re-deploy to protect this base.

We wanted them to think that this was the whole outfit and their real threat. When we were informed by radio that the airport was taken but that they would need our help to hold it, we left the 88th Chinese to continue the ploy. Immediately going into a forced march, we traveled the many miles thru leech infested swamps and rough terrain. It took five days. Our airplanes were landing supplies and troops and taking back casualties. Two days later, the enemy began shelling the strip, halting the flow.

A drive was started that forced the opposition back 5 miles. Their artillery was not effective enough to keep our planes out and Dr. Hopkins started tagging Marauders for hospital observation. My diagnosis was Asiatic Typhus at Dibrugarh, located in Assam, India. This terror was soon followed by malaria. My doctor did not think he could get me ready for more combat, so he sent me to Calcutta to a Board of Examiners for evacuation to the USA. But not until yet another fever, Dengue, took its toll.

The 3rd Bn was a very combat ready unit. Most of us were experienced in the art thru action in the south Sea Islands. My group, the 148th Inf. had fought with the best Japan had, Imperial Marines. We met these vicious scappers in New Georgia of the Solomon Islands. They tended to make "behind the lines" Jap troops of Burma almost a turkey shoot.

In our first battle at Walawbum, we deployed on the high side of a stream with the Village directly to our front. As we began shelling the road and town, with their trucks revving up to get away, they started a charge across a paddy field for the stream in front of us. Wave after wave gave the field the look of being planted with dead Japs, instead of rice.

Our only casualty was a minor finger scrape. The front line troops that usually accompanied the four 77 mm artillery pieces that we encountered at close range

two times, were better able to defend themselves.

It was our belief that the "friendly fire" and disease were high on the list for real problems in Burma. Lester Sherry, Rt. 2, Box 132, Oakwood, OH 45873, 5307/3/KCT.

OFFICERS ROW

President - Philip Piazza.....

My postal address is now 374 Timberlake One Cir., Seneca, SC 29678. Same house just a new street designation.

We expect to meet with Harold Mortimer and Ray Lyons in El Paso in May to make further reunion plans. Still do not have a guest speaker in place due to the Gulf War military assignments.

Ask for Senior Citizens rates on all airline fares to the reunion. We are planning on having a tour of the El Paso Base [home of the Patriot Missiles] on Friday. Advise me of your interest so that we can plan on number of buses needed. May be able to get Army transportation. Not sure yet about that. Expect a nominal change in any event. Trips to Mexico we will not plan as there are local bus trips available at low cost.

Executive Secretary -- Ray Lyons.

Some comments that will be of interest. We will not be printing GO #3 of the 475th Infantry because that was published as part of the "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume 1." We will continue to print the remainder of the General Orders of the 475th as time and space permits. In addition, we have been collecting lots of other Special Orders that members have provided and hope to print them.

You will note that we have a lot of Deceased Members to report in this issue principally because the letter sent out under Dave Hurwitz's name resulted in replies from family that the man had been dead for many years. In some instances, the family wished to continue to get the BURMAN NEWS and did not want to let us know of the changed circumstances. The Board of Directors policy which we follow is to continue to send the NEWS to widows or family members who are interested. In some cases, we can figure that out ourselves based on their activity in the reunions, in others we would like to have a note from the family to indicate their interest.

Reunion Chairman -- Harold Mortimer

We are planning on meeting with Hotel staff in mid May to finalize menus, etc. Eliseo Fernandez has been in touch with Ft. Bliss Public Affairs and they are planning on a tour of the Post, a Command Briefing, Post Museum, Equipment displays, etc. Everything looks good for a bang-up reunion with the Patriot Missiles.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Some of the men who have asked that we call, visit or write to them for the sake of comradeship:

RAY BRADEN, 5125 SE 31st St., Ocala, FL 32671, 904-624-2490.

FALL IN

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

CHARLES F. CATTANEO, 970 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, 5307.

PATRICK DIETERICK, 80 East Fairmount Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607.

LONNIE M. DILLS, Rt. 67, Box 47, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

DONALD C. GRIGSBY, 3909 Hollister Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608.

JOSEPH N. MALONE, 1053 Alice St., Zanesville, OH 43701, 5307/3/M Co.; 475/3 HQ/HW/MG.

ARNOLD D. MICHELS, 130 Hawkins Rd., Centerreach, NY 11720, 5307/2/HW/MG; 475/2.

PAUL RAZIEN, 215 Atlantic Ave., #403, Long Beach, CA 90802-3216; 213-432-3591; 475/3/K.

JOSEPH TAPA, 55 Margaret St., Binghamton, NY 13905; 5307/3/K; 475/3/K.

ALEX E. THOMAN, 4412 Picot Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310; 838-3088; 475/3/K/3.

CLAYTON VAN TOL, 8768 Osmo St., PO Box 404, Kaleva, MI 49645; 5307/3/KCT.

DANK WHITLOCK, Rt. 2, Box 480, Alto, GA 30510; 475/2/G CO.

STANLEY YARULIS, Rt. 3, Box 630, Monongahela, PA 15063; 5307/2/E; 475/2/E/2/4.

JOSEPH B. YOHE, 1450 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325; 5307/2/E Co.; 475/2/E.

5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)

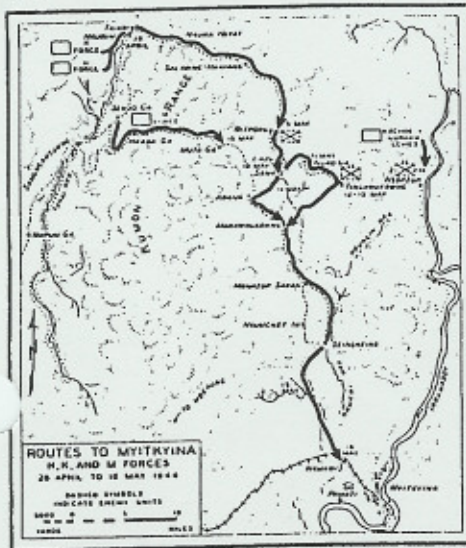
Jr. James E. Hopkins Report

(Continued from February 1991 Issue)

Burma. 15 February - 8 June 1944

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

The 1st Battalion with the 150th Infantry [Chinese] attached, bypassed the 3rd Battalion with the 88th Infantry [Chinese] attached at Ritpond, 10 May 1944. They took the southern air field 17 May, at Myitkyina, with very little opposition.



From this time, until they were reformed early in June, they defended the airfield. Most of this battalion was evacuated early in June to hospitals. The few who remained were reinforced with three or four hundred men who were released from hospitals in late May and during June. The reorganized



S/Sgt. Victor Jelosek of Rock Springs, Wyo.; Cpl. Louis Wyosky, 2409 Donald Ave., Youngstown, Ohio; PFC Vernall Jacobs of Clinton, N.C.; and S/Sgt. George T. Campbell of Bloomfield, Ind., all of 1st Bn Galahad, l. to r., operate a 60 mm mortar about 200 yards behind the front lines. Myitkyina Task Force, Burma. 17 July 1948. Photo courtesy of T/Sgt. Ammon.

battalion fought in the attack on Myitkyina, during the latter part of June, July and the first two weeks of August. Casualties during this period are not included in this study.

No. 50. HAMILTON, Harold V., PFC, 18192954, C Co., 1st Bn. [b] Offensive, wounded by U.S. mortar on airfield, 1140 hours, 17 May.

No. 51. COUCH, Granville O., T/5, 3706437, A Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, riding in a jeep, Myitkyina air field, hit by ricochet of 25 caliber bullet, which struck the vehicle, 0830 hours, 18 May.

No. 52. PLUNKETT, Russell J., PFC, 35027412, C Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, was

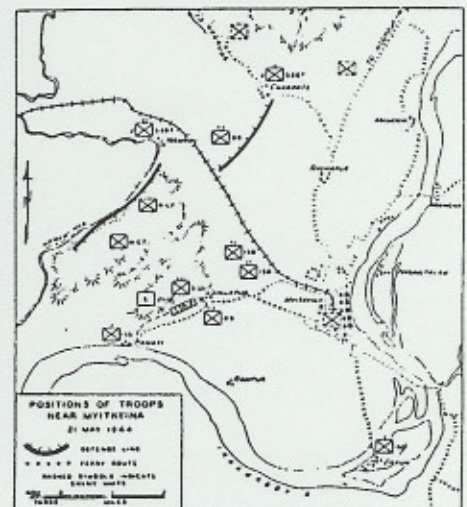
walking on airport at Myitkyina when struck by sniper's 0.25 caliber bullet at 15 yards range, 0900 hours, 18 May 1944.

American patrol of 18 men had moved 750 yards from base at Zgyun Ferry when it hit a seven man trail block. The Japs had a LMG. One American died of wounds and two were slightly wounded. Three Jap casualties known.

No. 53. PAMPLIN, Adrian B., PVT, 6955640, B Co., 1st Bn. [b] Offensive, standing when struck by hand grenade fragment. Explosion at two yards, 1745 hours, 18 May 1944.

No. 54. VRUGGINK, Stanley [NMI], PFC, 36187213, B Co., 1st Bn. [b] Offensive, standing when struck by grenade fragment which exploded at one yard, 1745 hours, 18

(Continued on page 5)



Galahad artillery at Myitkyina, Burma, engages in 75-mm Mt. Pack Howitzer firing. The brass in the foreground represents nine hours of firing to support infantry. 27 July 1944. Photo courtesy of T/Sgt. Ammon.



Ox carts are bringing wounded men to the 42nd Portable Surgical Hospital over a rough five-mile trip in monsoon beaten trail. The man in the rear guards against small attacks by snipers. 12 July 1944. Myitkyina Air Strip. Photo courtesy of T/Sgt. Ammon.

May 1944.

No. 55. CHAMBERS, Raymond K., Sgt., 7025667, HQ Co., 1st Bn. [b] Offensive, standing when struck by hand grenade which exploded at three feet, 1745 hours, 3 May.

From 24 May 1944 until 30 May 1944, five men were wounded on the airfield. Two from 60 mm's fired by Chinese, two from snipers, and one by Jap 77 mm artillery.

No. 56. CONDON, George B., CPL, 6148737, A Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, position and function at 1500 hours, 24 May 1944, when struck by fragment from Chinese 60 mm mortar not known.

No. 57. ZIMMERMAN, Albert J., PFC, 33280094, A Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, position and function, when hit by fragment from Chinese fired 60 mm mortar, not known.

No. 58. PREISKORN, Kenneth R., PFC, 36539685, C Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, position and function, when wounded by 0.25 caliber rifle bullet, 24 May 1944, not known.

No. 59. VAN METER, Earl [NMI], PFC, 13024136, A Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, sitting on ground at airfield eating when struck by a 0.25 caliber rifle bullet, 26 May 1944. Probably a stray.

No. 60. DAUGHERTY, Dewey J., CPL, 7070419, B Co., 1st Bn. [b] Defensive, artillery fragment while on airfield. Jap 77 gun four miles distant.

Six man patrol, 1515 hours, 8 June 1944, in vicinity of air strip to set up machine gun for defense of same. Saw Chinese body and approached with care. Covered by two Japanese LMG's. The first burst took heel of one man's shoe, grazed another and hit 3rd man's carbine. After a few minutes of action, Krug was killed. Estimated two Japs killed.

No. 61. KRUG, Melvin G., PFC, 36217430, A Co., 1st Bn. [b] Offensive, prone, brush cover, helmet had fallen off and was

reaching for it when 0.25 caliber bullet from LMG struck him, range 150 yards, 1515 hours, 8 June 1944.

Summary of 1st Battalion Casualties Compared with Japanese.

With one exception, the 1st Battalion had no large engagements with Japanese. It is difficult to estimate Japanese forces opposed and their casualties.

At Shaduzup, where they made a road block, they were given credit for 600 dead Japanese. Their casualties during the actual action and the days leading up to it amounted to 8 dead and 23 wounded.

Other figures are as follows:

Walawbum, Dead 1, WIA 7

Nhpum Ga, Dead 3, WIA 7

Myitkyina, Dead 3, WIA 9

TOTAL: Dead 15, WIA 46 = 61.

g. Activity of Third Battalion - Nzanga Ga, Burma, 28 February 1944.

I & R Platoon, composed of 46 men, four animals, four BAR's, six TSMG's, and radio equipment, was traveling six hours ahead of the Third Battalion.

The platoon had been on the trail at 1000 hours, where it crossed a rice paddy.

(Continued on page 6)



Cpl. Werner Katz killed first Japanese soldier by an American Infantryman. Photo courtesy of T/Sgt. D. Richardson.

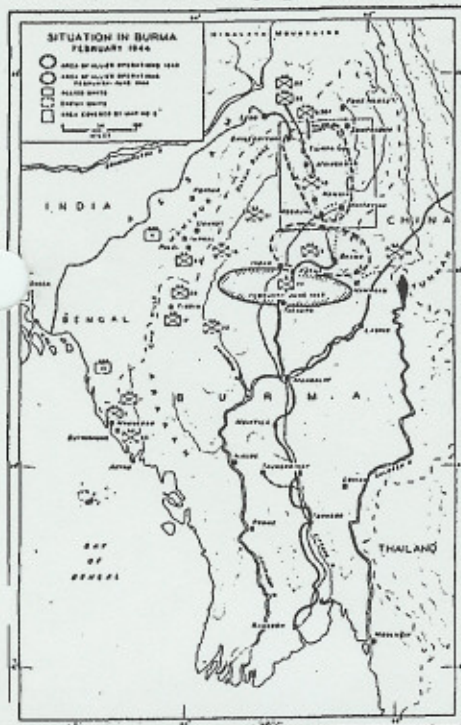
It was overgrown by tall thick elephant grass. The 1st Section, with Corporal Katz, advanced about 30 yards to the edge of thick jungle where the village boundary ran. Corporal Katz heard voices and, after signaling his men to stop, advanced a few steps. He saw Japs just as they spotted him and dove into a shallow ditch, from where he returned fire for about twenty minutes, through thick bushes, at a light machine gun, with his M-1. The platoon was under orders not to become involved in fire fighting, so as soon as a covering force was brought up, he withdrew two miles north to Lanem Ga, where the platoon threw a trail block and awaited the arrival of the battalion at 1600 hours.

The Japanese force was made up of two light machine guns, one heavy machine gun, and approximately 20 men with rifles. Later, reconnaissance showed that they had left the area during the night.

U.S. Forces: 46; Casualties: 1 WIA.

Japanese Forces: 20; Casualties: 2 Probable dead.

(Continued on page 7)



Stilwell Chinese 22nd and 33rd Divisions; Merrill's Marauders, Wingate's Chinese, Kachin Levies, U.S. Det. 101, Chinese 30th [still in training]; Total, 55,000. Japanese: 18th Division, 56th Division, 53rd Division, 40,000 to 50,000. Japanese, 28 Air.

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY
APO #487
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

11 September 1944

GENERAL ORDER)
:
NUMBER 4)

AWARDS OF PURPLE HEART MEDAL
1. Under the provisions of par 16,

AR 600-45, dated 22 Sept, 1943, the O's and EM indicated below are awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in combat against the Japanese forces in North Burma:

ANDREW E. ACKER, 34706373, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 12 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Carrolltown, Ala. #75482.

GERALD J. BEAUPRE, 31317191, Private First Class, Co. I, wounded 15 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Dexter, Maine. #75483.

RICHARD M. BENFER, 33501469, Corporal, Co. I, wounded 14 June near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Milton, Pa. #75437.

JOHN D. CIPOLLONE, 33585413, Private, Co. L, wounded 1 August 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa. #75488.

STEPHEN A. CONTURSI, 32748845, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 16 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY #75489.

GILBERT F. COPPER, 37674248, Private, Co. G, wounded 4 July 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Osage, Iowa. #75491.

MATTHEW M. DEFRANCE, 12227368, Private, Co. K, wounded 15 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y. #75492.

LEONARD R. FREZZINI, 32751179, Private, Co. K, wounded 12 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Camden, N.J. #75493.

WILLIAM E. GREER, 31316158, Private, Co. L, wounded 14 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: New Haven, Conn. #75494.

HENRY E. GUILLET, 31290638, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 16 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Woonsocket, R.I. #75495.

JASPER L. HASSEY, JR., 18079417, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 14 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Abilene, Texas. #75496.

ROGER HILSMAN, JR., 0-25899, 1st Lieutenant, Inf., Hq. Co., 3rd Bn, wounded 5 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: San Antonio, Texas. #75497.

GLENN L. HINER, 0-1313406, 2nd Lieutenant, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 30 July 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Loudonville, Ohio. #75498.

HOWARD S. KEELER, 11015501, Private, Co. K, wounded 14 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Wells River, Vt. #75501.

FRED H. KUVERE, 32807364, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 14 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Jamaica, NY #75502.

ARNEL E. McFADDEN, 35050012, Private First Class, Co. I, wounded 14 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Middlefield, Ohio. #75503.

IVOR (NMI) MORGAN, 6885937, Private, Co. E, wounded 11 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Scranton, Pa. #75504.

HENRY C. MORRISON, 31319295, Private, Co. G, wounded 16 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Lisbon Falls, Maine. #75508.

HERMAN R. NEWMAN, 39125396,

Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 28 July 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Martinez, Calif. #75509.

EDWARD H. PECK, 0-1284338, 1st Lieutenant, Co. F, wounded 16 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla. #76650.

JERRY (NMI) SCHANTZ, 32805010, Private, Co. K, wounded 15 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Bronx, N.Y. #76664.

STARR (NMI) SCHERMERHORN, 32838960, Private, Co. G, wounded 6 July 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: South New Berlin, N.Y. #76680.

WILLIAM A. SHOTT, 33433455, Private First Class, Co. K, wounded 12 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Marienville, Pa. #76705.

SHELDON (NMI) SILVERBERT, 32811477, Private, Co. L, wounded 22 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: New York, N.Y. #76739.

ROBERT E. SIMMS, 33437765, Private, Med. Det., 2nd Bn, wounded 28 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Woodruff, W. Va. #76760.

CHARLES R. SNYDER, 35629617, Private First Class, Co. L, wounded 14 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Delaware.

LEON E. SNYDER, 32839063, Private, Co. I, wounded 5 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Wyalusing, Pa. #76928.

RUSSELL E. SORRELL, 35092993, Private, Co. I, wounded 13 June 1944 near Mankrin, Burma. Hometown: Centerville, Ind. #76929.

HENRY (NMI) STRUZIK, 36310228, Private, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 15 July 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Chicago, Ill. #76932.

JOSEPH D. THOMAS, 38193946, Private First Class, Co. F, wounded 30 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Bush, La. #76934.

HENRY L. THRALL, 35094583, Private, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn, wounded 6 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Gary, Ind. #76935.

ROBERT E. THURSTON, 31253872, Private, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn, wounded 5 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Windsor, Vt. #76944.

JAMES R. TRUETT, 34607405, Private, Co. F, wounded 28 June 1944 near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Lexington N.C. #76957.

CLARENCE C. WALKER, 34783721, Private First Class, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn, wounded 14 July near Myitkyina, Burma. Hometown: Deland, Fla. #76966.

By order of Lt. Col. OSBORNE:

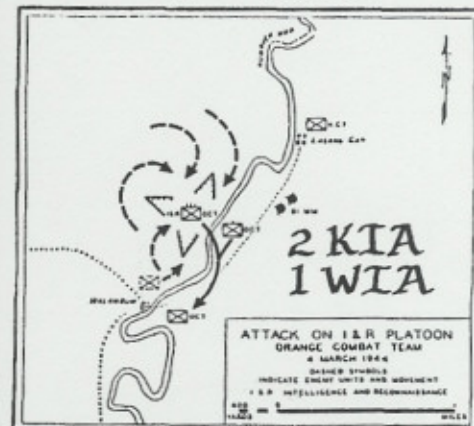
EDWIN A. ROTHSCHILD,
2nd Lieut., Infantry
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:
JOSEPH DOYER,
WOJG, AUS,
Asst. Adjutant.



Wesu Ga-Lagang Ga, Burma, March 3, 1944. Japanese patrol members killed in surprise encounter are viewed by Marauder patrol. Weapons carried are Thompson .45 cal. submachine guns, a favorite jungle weapon. Photo courtesy D. Lubin.

Japanese made four attacks. They cross-fired on the river, the only route of escape. Mortar support was excellent during this engagement and was directed by radio from the platoon perimeter. Approximately 200 rounds of heavy and light and smoke were fired during the engagement.



Casualties: U.S.: 2 DOW, 1 WIA. Japanese: 60 - Of these 38 were KIA from rifle, the rest estimated by mortar, according to remarks of Japs, by Japanese interpreters.

No. 2. LEIGHTNER, Pete, PFC, 34200282, I&R Platoon, K Co., Orange CT. [b] Defensive, standing gathering camouflage material 10 feet from edge of perimeter, 0.25 caliber sniper's bullet, 50 yards range, through brush, 0700 hours, 4 March 1944, Immediate Incapacity.

No. 3. PAQUETTE, Lionel J., CPL, 20637984, I&R Platoon, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive firing, prone position, shallow depression in ground, Japanese mortar tree burst at 25 yards, no helmet, 1000 hours, 4 March 1944, Immediate Incapacity.

No. 4. FARREN, Thomas E., PVT, 35015696, I&R Platoon, Co. K, Orange CT.

(Continued on page 8)

No. 1. KATZ, Werner, NMI, CPL, 2173012, I&R Platoon, K Co., OCT, 3rd Bn. [b] Patrol, firing M-1 from prone position in a natural ditch, struck by ricochet, 0.25 LMG Bullet, passed through brush at range of 30 yards, 1000 hours, 28 February 1944, no disability.

h. Activity of Third Battalion - Lagang Ga, Burma, 3 March 1944.

The 3rd Bn. was moving along the north trail leading into this village. The Orange Column led and was followed by Khaki Column. The I&R Platoon had passed through the villages, as had the elements of several rifle platoons. As the Battalion Headquarters Section of the Column passed through the village, they noticed a party of Japanese approaching from a southern trail along the river bank. The word was passed along the column that these men were approaching. When the Japanese were approximately fifty yards from the Bn. HQ, many men in the column opened fire. This party of Japanese consisted of seven men. They were carrying a litter. The party was protected by a light machine gun. Five Japanese were killed instantly and two escaped. These two were later killed. There were no American casualties.

Japanese casualties: The Japanese were killed by many types of weapons with multiple wounds and all died instantly. Because of lack of time, it was impossible to examine the bodies carefully.

i. Activity of Third Battalion - I&R Platoon, Orange Combat Team.

Action which took place between Lagang Ga and Walawbum along the

Numpyck Hka, 4 March 1944. Shortly after the tactical situation just described, the leading elements of Orange Column contacted a small disorganized party of Japanese, who apparently were coming from the vicinity of Walawbum. Several were killed, and Orange Column had no casualties. Since it was quite late, perimeters were set up and the column dug in for the night. Late in the afternoon, however, the I&R Platoon was ordered to cross the Numpyck Hka River and protect the right flank of the column as it proceeded towards Walawbum on the trail. The platoon halted at dark and dug in. At dawn the next morning, the platoon leader took a small platoon forward about 300 yards and found slightly commanding ground from which the column could receive flank protection until it reached its position along the river opposite Walawbum. The Platoon moved forward and took up a new position. This was approximately 0700 hours. Men had begun to dig in. The visibility at this time was very poor, since it was quite foggy. PFC Leightner advanced a few yards outside of this small perimeter to gather camouflage material. He was wounded. Apparently the Platoon had been surrounded by approximately ninety Japanese. The Platoon Leader had available 48 men with three BAR's and six Thomson sub-machine guns. This engagement lasted from 0700 hours until 1100 hours, when the Platoon withdrew under cover of mortar fire and smoke, leaving approximately sixty Japanese casualties. The Platoon had two other casualties. The three casualties crossed the river when the Platoon evacuated. During this engagement, the

GENERAL SUN LI JEN
General Sun Li Jen, born 1900, died of old age on November 19, 1990. Gen. Sun graduated from Tsing Hua College, in Beijing, and then transferred to Purdue University, where he graduated with a Civil Engineering Degree in 1927. He then entered Virginia Military Institute, and received his Liberal Arts Degree in 1927. He returned to China, joined the Chinese Army, served as a General, fought the Japanese in the Battle of Shanghai, where he was seriously injured. He then organized the New 38th Division, which went to Burma to assist the British during the early stages of the Jap invasion of that country.

During 1943-45, he led the Chinese New First Army in the counter attack against the Japanese in North Burma. General Sun went to Taiwan after the fall of mainland China to the Communist forces and trained a strong army there.

Chung Chieh, Foster Son, 240 Shakespeare Dr., Waterloo, Ont., Canada, N2L 2T6.

[b] Defensive firing, prone, shallow hole, Jap mortar tree burst at 35 yards, use of m immediately lost, 0800 hours, 4 March 14.

j. Activity of Third Battalion - Trail on right side of river 300 yards south of Lagang Ga, 4 March 1944, 0700 hours to 11 hours.

The Orange CT had formed a perimeter 500 yards south of Lagang Ga, on the other side of trail, in thick jungle, about forty yards from the river for the night of 3 March. In the early morning it was obvious that the I&R Platoon previously mentioned was in a very tight spot. Lieut. Weston, the Platoon Leader, called for mortar support from Lieut. Woomer, who had the mortars in K Company. During the morning, Lieut. Woomer fired about 235 rounds of 81 light, heavy, and smoke about Lieut. Weston's position 300 yards away and across the river. While the mortar squads were in action, two knee mortar shells landed in their area resulting in three casualties.

Casualties: U.S.: 1 KIA, 2 WIA. Japanese: See previous action.

No. 5. BRUNO, Clarence J., SGT, 6904202, HW Platoon, K Co., Orange CT. [b] Defensive, in charge of mortar section, during a lull moved off trail to dig hole, sitting position, Japanese knee mortar burst in tree at 15 feet, 1000 hours, 4 March 1944.

No. 6. WRIGHT, George W., PVT, 38231811. Mule skinner attached to Weapons Platoon, K Co., Orange CT. [b] Defensive, prone in shallow hole, tree burst knee mortar [same as Case 5] at 5 yards range, 1000 hours, 4 March 1944, no disability.

No. 7. GIANDONATO, Frank R., CPL, 13027722, HW Platoon, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive, sitting in jungle, no hole, tree burst Jap knee mortar, [see Case 5 & 6] at 5 yards, 1000 hours, 4 March 1944.

k. Activity of Third Battalion. Khaki Column at Lagang Ga, 4 March 1944, 0630 hours.

On the afternoon of the 3rd, Orange Column had moved through Lagang Ga village. Khaki Column remained in the village to protect their rear as well as the air strip at Lagang Ga. They had no contact with the Japanese during the night. The men were just beginning to move about and prepare their breakfast in the morning when approximately thirty Japanese

struck Area B, on diagram. They had available two light machine guns, two knee mortars, and many rifles. The men were considerably disorganized during this attack. A large group were examining the bodies of five Japanese killed the previous day. The first attack of the Japanese was easily repulsed by the riflemen in Area B.

They then advanced toward Area B along north trail. A light machine gun was clearly seen by the machine gunners in this area. However, it was well protected by a gully. It was easily seen at a range of thirty yards in spite of poor visibility because of fog. Engagement lasted approximately 20 minutes when Japanese withdrew, taking their wounded and dead with them.

Casualties: U.S.: 6 WIA; Japanese, 8 with one definitely dead.

No. 8. THIBODEAUX, Theodore P., PFC, 38380449, HW Platoon, I Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, prone position with his machine gun in a protecting gully, 0.25 LMG bullet, 0830 hours, 4 March 1944, moderate disability.

No. 9. MAYER, Jack V., SGT, 20609098, Weapons Platoon, I Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, prone position with machine gun in a protecting gully, when knee mortar burst 3 yards distant, 0630 hours, 4 March 1944. Moderate disability.

No. 10. LANG, Adam J., PFC, 33067546, Weapons Platoon, I Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, prone position with machine gun in a protecting gully. Knee mortar [same as Case 9] burst 3 yards, 0630 hours, 4 March 1944. Moderate incapacity.

No. 11. GRIGSBY, Jack D., Staff Sgt., 39085274, 1st Platoon, Co. I, Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, sitting position, on left flank of machine gun. [See Cases 9, 10, 11] Rifle protection, no hole, hand grenade fragment

which exploded three yards, 0630 hours, 4 March 1944. No incapacity.

No. 12. SCHUMAKER, Harold, S/Sgt, 20508075, 1st Platoon, Co. I, Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, in charge of rifle squad protection for gun prone in same gully as gun, knee mortar [see cases 9 & 10] burst at 3-4 yards, 0630 hours, 4 March 1944, no disability.

No. 13. FINNLEY, Horace C., PFC, 2nd Platoon, Co. I, 3rd Bn. [b] Defensive, prone position, on far side of tree from enemy, knee mortar burst in tree, 0630 hours, 4 March 1944, moderate disability.

l. Activity of Third Battalion - Walawbum, Burma, 4 March 1944 - 7 March 1944. Orange Combat Team.

Column with all animals and men removed 4 March from position 200 yards south of Lagang Ga by trail [east of river] 400 yards to set up perimeter on bank of river opposite village of Walawbum. During afternoon, perhaps 100 mortar shells were fired onto road or in village. Japanese threw perhaps 20 mortar shells about area. Numerous 77 artillery shells passed over area to Lagang Ga, where other elements of battalion and regiment were receiving air drops. The column had one minor casualty from a stray bullet.

During the 5th, a few artillery shells and perhaps 24 mortar shells fell along the trail and about the perimeter. We took no casualties. Orange column continued to harass the Japanese forces at Walawbum with mortar fire expending about 100 rounds of all types.

During the morning and early afternoon of 6 March, the enemy expended about 200 mortar and artillery shells, throwing most of them along the trail and into the jungle. The column took three minor casualties.

In the late afternoon, 1715 hours, a sudden attack in force was made on the river side of the perimeter. It was necessary for the enemy to approach the river by crossing 60 yards of flat, brush covered terrain, at least 10 feet below the fairly flat jungle covered terrain, occupied by our forces. Very few Japanese reached the river. A complete unit of fire was expended during the hour and 15 minutes of the engagement. The Japanese volume of fire, with the exception of mortar, probably equaled ours.

The combat team took no serious casualties and was given credit for 400 head Japanese by unit which later passed through the area. This is a conservative figure. Our forces left the area at 0200 hours, 7 March 1944. Consequently, the Japanese bodies were not counted.

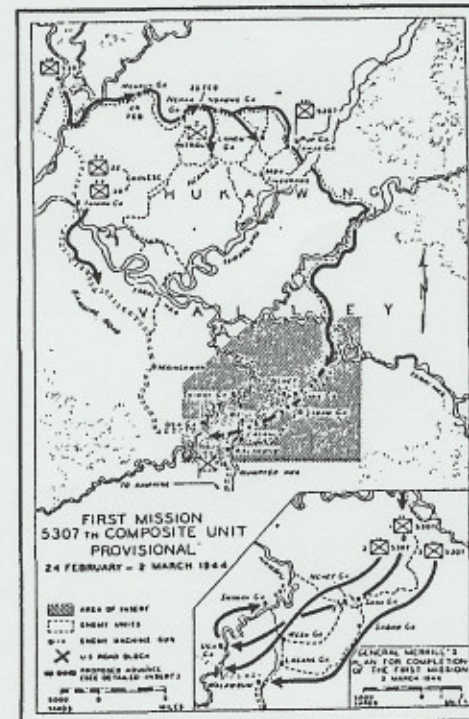
Casualties: U.S.: 4 slightly wounded. Forces: 400; Japanese: 400 KIA, estimated, Forces, 1000.

No. 14. HEALTH, Willard M., T/5, 36027669, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Defensive, sitting in foxhole, Japanese mortar, tree burst 20-30 yards, no disability, 6 March 1944.

No. 15. BARCLAY, Hollis D. PVT, 38385793, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol, walking, Japanese 25 caliber bullet, probably not aimed, little immediate disability. 1300 hours, 4 March 1944.

No. 16. GILLESPIE, Clarence G., PVT,

(Continued on page 9)



A Battalion: 7 WIA, 1 KIA; B Battalion: 10 WIA, 2 KIA; C Battalion: 20 WIA, 4 KIA; 1 KIA, hit at air drop.

LOST, STRAYED OR MOVED WITHOUT LETTING US KNOW
 KARL C. OVECKI, 1318 Constitution Blvd., New Kensington, PA 15068
 PHILIP L. ROBINSON, PO Box 375, 214 So. Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62708.
 EMERY J. VRANA, 1338 El Prado St., % Torrance Books, Torrance, CA 90501.
 DEWEY J. DAUGHTERY JR., 914 Reserve Rd. W, Seneca, NY 14224.
 BERNARD BLOCK, 238 Eddy St., San Francisco, CA 94102.
 JEROLD V. LAURENT, 510 West South St., Sallina, KS 67401.
 THOMAS H. OSBORNE, Alexandria, VA 22312.
 RAYMOND WILLIAMS, Rt. 5, Box 374, Mayfield, KY 42066.

35663559, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Defensive, prone in half covered foxhole. Feet and legs were not covered. Japanese mortar, tree burst, directly over head. Walked to aid station. 1300 hours, 6 March 1944.

No. 17. CRUMB, Clarence J., PVT. 37522649, Hq. Co., Orange CT. [b] Defensive, prone in same half covered hole as No. 16 with another Japanese mortar shell with tree burst directly overhead, walked to aid station. 1310 hours, 6 March 1944.

m. Activity of Third Battalion - Action of Khaki Combat Team between 4 March and 7 March 1944 on and about trail between Walawbum and Lagang Ga.

During the morning of 4 March, while Orange CT was supporting its I&R Platoon, which was fighting across the Numpyck Hka, Khaki CT rested along the trail at Lagang Ga. First Lieutenant Duncan was hit by a stray bullet this day. No active fighting took place and no Japanese artillery shells landed in their area.

The column bivouaced during the night in the area occupied by Orange Column along the river the night of 4 March 1944. They remained in this area covering Orange Column's supply trail until 1800 hours, 6 March 1944. A few artillery shells fell near them during 5 March 1944, and two men were wounded.

At 1800 hours, 6 March 1944, they attempted to reach Orange CT by traveling through the jungle to the left of the main trail. This operation was unsuccessful. The column became lost and wandered 8 hours,

March - 7 March 1944. They had seven wounded and one killed by contact with booby traps their unit had previously set. Both columns then moved north through Lagang Ga to Wesu Ga where Chinese troops who had been supposed to relieve them were bivouaced in force.

No. 18. DUNCAN, William Z., 1st Lt., 0-1318146, Hq. Co., Khaki CT. [b] Patrol activity. Walking along open trail when Japanese sniper fired at 200 yards range with 25 caliber weapon. No disability. 1100 hours, 4 March.

No. 19. CHAFFINS, Richard J., Jr., PFC, 35636573, Hq. Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, guarding supply line. Prone but no foxhole to cover. Wounded by fragment from Jap 77 artillery shell which fell on trail. Also wounded PFC STAUCH. Range 20 yards. Slight disability, 5 March 1944.

No. 20. STAUCH, Ferdinand M., Jr., PFC, 39235746, Hq. Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive, along trail in prone position, no hole, fragment from tree burst of 77 Jap artillery shell at 20 yards. No disability. 5 March 1944.

No. 21. CLARK, George B., T/Sgt., 20646049, Co. I, Khaki CT. [b] Patrol, night march through thick jungle to join Orange CT. Walked into U.S. booby trap previously set by own men, walked out. 2300 hours, 6 March 1944.

No. 22. HUGHES, Theodore [NMI], 1st Lt., 12911280, Co. I, Khaki CT. [b] Patrol, night march through thick jungle to join Orange CT. Injured by U.S. booby trap which Clark, T/Sgt. walked into. 2300 hours, 6 March 1944. Continued walking.

No. 23. BRIGGS, Edwin J., Major, 0-358112, C.O., Khaki CT. [b] Patrol, column ran into second U.S. booby trap four hours

after first. One KIA and two wounded. 0200 hours, 7 March 1944. Continued walking. Burst 5 feet.

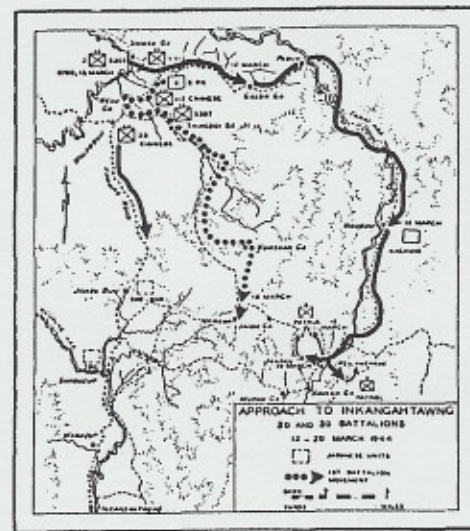
No. 24. HOFFMAN, William F., Sgt. 39450269, Hq. Co., Khaki CT [b] This man was radio operator for Major Briggs. He was killed by the booby trap which wounded his Commanding Officer and was not missed until the next day. His body was found and buried by another force several days later.

No. 25. BOITEAU, Robert A., PFC, 31164673, Hq. Co., Khaki CT. [b] Refer to Briggs and Hoffman.

n. Activity of 3rd Battalion from 7 March 1944 to 31 March 1944.

The 3rd Battalion spent the early morning hours of 7 March 1944 at Wesu Ga. Orange Column suffered one accidental death here when an enlisted man was instantly killed by a box of M. ammunition. It separated from its parachute during a supply drop for the Chinese. The man's head was cut in two and right leg torn off.

In a few days, the First Battalion marched toward Shadazup, where a roadblock was planned a few miles below the town. A regiment of Chinese troops accompanied them to aid in holding the block once it had been set up. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions marched, also, through very rugged and mountainous terrain toward the Japanese held road at Inkangahtawng 12 miles north of Kamaing. The 3rd Battalion had one accidental gunshot death at Tate Ga on 17 March 1944.

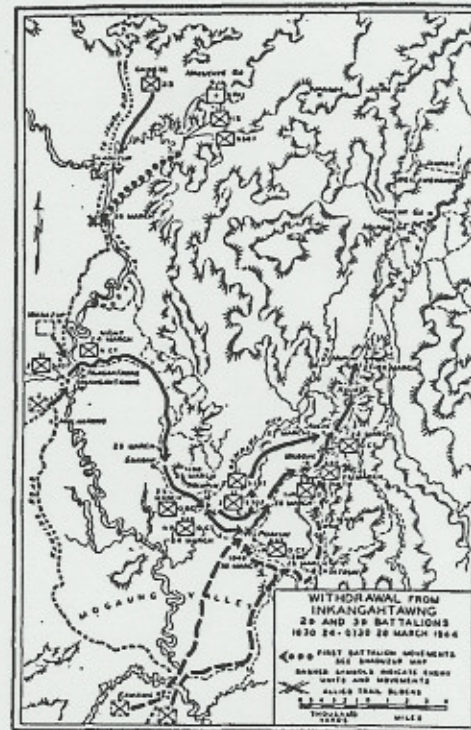


One accident, gunshot KIA.

On 25 March 1944, Khaki CT and the 2nd Battalion set up a road block at Inkangahtawng. Braatan, Raymond L. was accidentally killed by a 2nd Battalion man, and one minor casualty was suffered. Khaki CT did not take a very active part in the fighting and during the 24 hours only accounted for an estimated ten dead Japanese from bullets. Their mortars probably accounted for many more. The Second Battalion, after inflicting many casualties on the Japanese, withdrew with Khaki CT during the afternoon, because of threatened encirclement, and marched six miles over the trail they had come to, Sharaw. Here a landing strip had been prepared for evacuation of their wounded.

On the 28th, they passed through Manpin toward Auche.

Orange Combat Team had been holding the trail open at Manpin. On the 26th and 27th, the Orange I&R and an Orange rifle platoon fought two skirmishes with the forward elements of a Japanese battalion advancing from Kamaing toward Warong by another trail. If they had forced the trail, the lot of 5307 Composite Unit in Burma would have been grave. The platoons held them and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were at Auche, intact, during the afternoon of 27 March.



About 100 Japanese killed at Poakum and Warong; 80 mile round trip, 2 KIA, 12 WIA; 200 Japanese dead; 2nd Battalion, 1 KIA on trail 3/28; 3rd Battalion, 2 WIA on trail 3/28.

No. 26. PIETSCH, Carter, PFC, 37457922, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Resting about 200 feet from the end of and to the right of the dropping field. Plane discharged cargo diagonally instead of lengthwise on the field. Case of M. ammunition separated from parachute and struck Pietsch.

No. 27. KUCZOR, Elmer J., T/4, 16132473, K Co., Orange CT [b] Defensive position. Force was retreating from bivouac area. Injured by 77 shell while walking. Range not known. 0600 hours, 28 March 1944. Walked out.

No. 28. BROWN, Raymond [NMI], PFC, 34319560, I Co., Khaki CT. [b] See Kuczor.

(Continued on page 10)

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS FILM

This film is available from Boomerang Publishers, 6164 West 83rd Way, Arvada, CO 80003, 303-423-5706. They list it as 112 minutes, color, VID 63339. \$19.95 + Postage and Handling, \$3.50.

No. 29. ZOKOSKY, John [NMI], S/Sgt., K Co., Orange CT, 3rd Bn. [b] Cleaning M-1 in sitting position. Enlisted man 10 feet away, who was also working on gun, got an accidental discharge, 17 March 1944.

No. 30. BRAATEN, Raymond L., PFC, I&R Platoon, Khaki CT. [b] This five man patrol from Khaki column had just come out of dense jungle along narrow trail into fairly open area. Braaten saw another patrol, ahead about 50 yards, from the 2nd Battalion. One of these men raised his gun and took aim. Braaten yelled, "Don't shoot, we are Americans." 25 March 1944.

No. 31. CLAYTON, Murray P., Sgt. 14033929. Hq. Co., Khaki CT. [b] Defensive propelling charge accidentally exploded while loading 60 mm mortar at Inkangahtawng, 25 March 1944.

Casualties: U.S.: KIA, 2 [By U.S. Weapon]; DOW, 1 [By U.S. Weapon]; WIA, 2 [duty] [By U.S. Weapon]; WIA, 1 [evac.]; Accidental, 1 [Case of ammunition tore loose from parachute]. Japanese: 10 - 20.

Forces involved: Never more than 450 Americans and same number of Japs. Usually one or two platoons of Americans against 50 - 100 Japs.

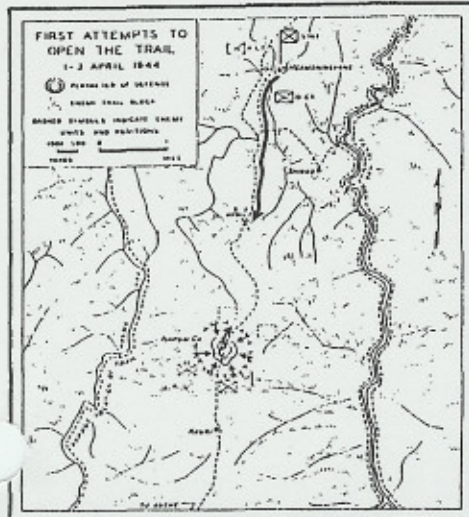
o. Activity of Third Battalion - Action along trail between Hsamshingyang and Nhpum Ga, 1 April 1944 to 6 April 1944.

The 3rd Battalion had arrived at Hsamshingyang on the morning of 28 March 1944 with the mission of supplying the 2nd Battalion at Nhpum Ga, keeping the trail open, evacuating wounded, etc.

The Japanese began to attack the 2nd Battalion on 28 March 1944 at Nhpum Ga. They sent casualties to the 3rd Battalion on 28, 29 and 30 March. On 31st march, patrols could not reach them and Orange CT was ordered to open the trail. They were to fight for six days when Khaki CT was to take over the job.

The CT had two engagements in the first mile of the advance on 1 April, over this trail which climbs 1000 feet to Nhpum Ga and follows razor back ridges covered with thick jungle and bamboo.

No. 32. COLE, Robert W., PVT. 20711137, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol, five man. Advanced as scout leading Orange CT up



April 1-6: KIA 6, DOW 2, WIA 14 duty, WIA 14 evac. April 7-9: KIA 3, DOW 5, WIA 9 duty, WIA 19 evac.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Jezercak.

Nhpum Ga trail. Scout on his left moved off trail to investigate movement ahead. Cole moved off trail to right and kneeled to cover him. The scouts had run into strong Jap positions on either side of trail. A sniper wounded Cole at 20 yards range. Machine guns did not open up until the position was approached by the platoon. The Japs quickly retreated about 1/2 mile to a very strong previously dug position without inflicting and probably without taking casualties. 1 April 1944, 0745 hours.

No. 33. BROWN, Leroy E., PFC, 31019773, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol, leading Orange CT advancing steep trail flanked by thick jungle and bamboo. Hill known to be held by enemy. First burst of heavy machine gun fire got Brown and Kaslousky at a range of 10 - 20 yards. Carbone was hit by Jap rifleman a few minutes later. 1 April, 0900 hours.

No. 34. KAZLOUSKY, Aloysius [NMI], Sgt., 31032755, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] See No. 33 patrol.

No. 35. CARBONE, John P., Pvt., 31018306, Co. L, Orange CT, 3rd Bn. [b] Offensive, firing at enemy from sitting position with BAR. Wounded a few minutes after previous cases, 25 caliber rifle bullet at 30 yards range. Cover, brush only.

The Japanese forces holding this second block on the trail were heavily pounded with mortar shells during the morning and afternoon. This, together with flanking movements by two platoons of L Company, carried out with great difficulty because of the terrain and jungle growth, forced the Japanese to withdraw at 1600 hours. No dead were left by the enemy. The combat team set up a strong perimeter in this area and spent a quiet night.

After an advance of two miles, 2 April 1944, the three lead scouts became casualties. The enemy had picked a strong defensive position.

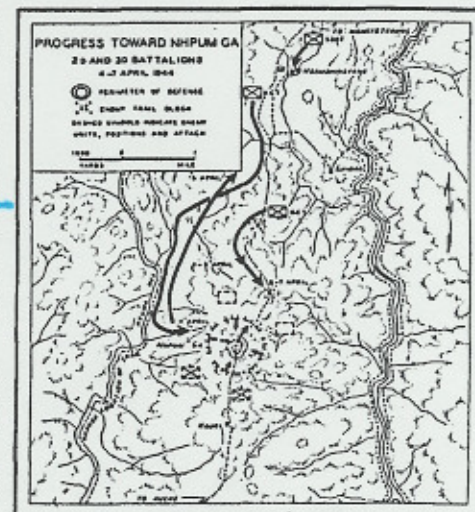
They could easily cover, because of the nature of the terrain, all avenues of approach, with automatic weapons. These positions, together with 400 more yards of the trail, were not taken until the afternoon

of 4 April 1944. Two scouts were killed and one wounded during the initial contact. Stray bullets caused two minor wounds. One man was killed and seven wounded by one of the few knee mortar shells thrown during the two days. Several infantry assaults, mortar concentrations, diving bombing and strafing attacks this day failed to take the position.

Our forces made no strong attacks: April 1944, but by the late afternoon two pack 75 mm artillery pieces, which had been air dropped to Khaki CT at Hsamshingyang, began to soften the area for an offensive on 4 April. The hill fell to our men on this date at 1300 hours. They moved up the only route of advance against the Japs, with fire and movement while mortar and artillery put up a rolling barrage. Orange CT had one killed, two slightly and two severely wounded, all after the ground had been taken.

No advance was made 5 April, and

(Continued on page 11)



Khaki: April 4-5, 1 KIA, 2 DOW, 1 WIA duty, 3 WIA evac.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Jezercak.

Orange Combat Team had seven casualties.

On April 6, 500 more yards of the hill were occupied. This successful advance was made following excellent preparation. Several thousand rounds of overhead heavy machine gun fire, 200 rounds of artillery, several strafing and dive bombing attacks as well as a rolling barrage of 60 mm and 81 mm mortars were used. Three minor wounds occurred during the attack, all from our own mortars. One man was killed and one wounded at the new perimeter set up for the night. Thus ended Orange CT's main effort to rescue the 2nd Battalion. On 7 April the work was turned over to Khaki CT and Orange went on a two day flanking mission to the left of the trail.

No. 36. GRAHAM, Frank L., CPL, 20901551, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol, 2 April 1944. Cpl. Robertson, 1st Scout, Cpl. Graham, 2nd Scout, Sgt. Ploederl, 3rd Scout, were leading elements of Orange CT when they ran into 3rd Japanese block on Nhpum Ga Trail. Graham saw Japs at heavy machine gun 20 yards ahead on right of trail. He warned the others and jumped in a depression to the right. They jumped to cover on the left. The heavy as well as a light opened up. Graham was hit after he had fired a clip at the gun. He used another clip after he was wounded and then made his way 300 feet back to the doctor.

No. 37. ROBERTSON, Edgar [NMI], CPL, 35433040, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol, apparently crawled into line of fire of heavy machine gun, 20 - 30 yards away. See Graham.

No. 38. PLOEDERL, John L., S/Sgt, 36200824, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Patrol. See Graham and Robertson. Hit in legs by heavy machine gun at 20 yards as he moved into jungle to left of trail. Lay wounded several minutes. A friend reached him and was pulling him to safety when he was killed by a bullet through his chest.

No. 39. MIKOLEJCZYK, Walter J., S/Sgt., 36012765, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Offensive.

ricochet of 0.25 caliber bullet while crawling during his platoons advance. Continued attack, 2 April 1944.

No. 40. DEWHURST, Kenneth H., Sgt., 31031238, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Offensive, was working with mortar squad, during mortar preparation for infantry attack when struck by a stray 0.25 caliber bullet. Sitting position with no cover.

No. 41. HOWARD, Ryland A., T/5, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive, about ten men were bunched up along the trail 300 yards from block. A knee mortar shell exploded five yards in back of them on the bank which was one foot above the trail. Seven others were injured. Howard was sitting on the bank facing the trail, 2 April 1944.

No. 42. AGRESS, Albert [NMI], PVT, 16063321, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive. See Case 41. Sitting on bank.

No. 43. HOROWITZ, David [NMI], T/5, 32174963, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive. See Case 41. Standing on trail.

No. 44. HOWARD, Thomas W., Cpl, 20133543, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] Defensive, standing, five yards range, knee mortar fragment, 2 April 1944. See Case 41.

No. 45. DULIAN, Chester N., S/Sgt, 36217812, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] See Case 41. Defensive, sitting on bank, five yards range, knee mortar fragment. 2 April 1944.

No. 46. LEWIS, Arvil [NMI], PFC, 35471481, Co. K, Orange CT. [b] See Case 41. Defensive, sitting on trail bank, five yards range, knee mortar fragments. 2 April 1944.

No. 47. GARDNER, Martin E., PFC, 33139150, Co. I, Khaki CT. [b] See Case 41. Defensive, sitting on trail bank, with back to area where knee mortar exploded at five yards. No disability, 2 April 1944.

No. 48. BERGER, David S., PFC, 32494933, Hq. Co., Orange CT. [b] See Case 41. Defensive, sitting on trail bank, with back to area where knee mortar exploded at five yards.

No. 49. CARRIGAN, Daniel V., PFC, 36605795, I&R Platoon, K Co., Orange CT. [b] Offensive, walking, no cover. 0.25 caliber

light machine gun, 10 yards range. Lead platoon had just made advance of 40 yards in its sector over Japanese strong points, 4 April. Carrigan and LeBrun were protection for Mueller with flame thrower. They were at the farthest part of the advance when they became careless and stepped from the jungle cover onto the trail where two of them were shot.

No. 50. LE BRUN, Jean P., PFC, 20144706, I&R Platoon, K Co., Orange CT. [b] Offensive, walking, no cover, 0.25 caliber light machine gun, 15 yards range. 4 April. Injured at same time Carrigan killed.

No. 51. AVERY, Inman N., T/5, 14081840, I&R Platoon, K Co., Orange CT [b] Offensive, prone behind tree, Japanese hand grenade thrown 10 yards and burst five yards away. In advance line with lead platoon as BAR man on left of trail. Visibility about 30 yards since artillery and mortar had cleared out the area. Had just killed six Japs as he kneeled behind a tree. Saw grenade land and threw himself on ground for explosion. 4 April 1944.

No. 52. SEEGARS, John W., PFC, 34097016, Co. L, Orange CT. [b] Offensive, prone, 0.25 caliber Japanese stray rifle bullet, probably a ricochet. Range not known.

No. 53. LEW, Lawrence L., Major, 0-401329, Orange CT, Commanding Officer. [b] Defensive, walking, 0.25 caliber aimed snipers bullet, range 60 yards, 4 April 1944. Major Lew was walking near front of perimeter while line was being set up. The sniper had been active for some time. He should have stayed out of open area.

(To Be Continued Next Issue)

Letters

EDITOR

I am trying to get in touch with Canadians who served in the United States Forces OR Americans who served in the Canadian Forces during World War II. Contact: Fred Gaffen, Military Historian, 82 Florizel Ave., Nepean, Ontario, Canada, K2H 9R1. Telephone 613-996-1388.

EDITOR

I signed up while at Camp Carson, sailed over on the SS Lurline. I was in the Red Combat Team under Lt. McDowell. Earl Clell Freeman, 625 East, 250 North, Vernal, UT 84078, 5307/1/RCT/C/3/3.

EDITOR

On a recent visit to the East Coast, for the dedication of a plaque for General Stilwell recognizing his role as the "Father of Army Basketball" [he introduced basketball to West Point, played on the first team and was the first coach], I took the opportunity to research the status of the Great Americans postage stamp for General Stilwell. The recommendation has been accepted by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and is currently before a subcommittee for further review. The committees next meet in May, and hopefully will consider the proposal to issue the stamp in 1992, [anniversary of the

(Continued on page 12)

Walkout from Burma and formation of the CBI Theater]. I would like to ask for the support of your members to help by writing a supporting letter to: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington DC 20260-6753. John H. Easterbrook, 12454 Dover Court, Saratoga, CA 95070.

EDITOR

I trained with Co. B, 397th Infantry, 97th Division as a Light Machine Gunner. We were sent overseas as replacements on the General Butner. Landed in Bombay, went by train across India to Ramgarh. That same night we were issued weapons. I received an old M-1. In the morning, we were trucked to the airstrip, put on a C-47 and flown to Myitkyina with a stop overnight at another airstrip.

The next day or two we were moving along a road when all machine gunners and mortar men were told to fall out. This is where I became a member of an outfit. I was an ammo bearer. Co. M, 5307th Comp Unit [New Galahad].

The Bn moved to the railroad and made an attack near a little village. Everyone got lost! My Lt. told me and another man to find L or K Co. This boy was really fearless. Weeks later I was to see him get shot in the chest by a sniper while firing a heavy .30 cal. About July 29th. I wish I knew his name.

We did find L or K Co. and on the way back to the assembly area, we ran into a squad from the other company. So everyone got back together again.

My Lt. was to get killed that same afternoon. I didn't even know his name.

The Bn pulled back the next day and later moved to the road, north of Myitkyina. After a few weeks, the 2 Bn relieved us. The 3rd Bn then moved to the airstrip to train and reorganize. I became the 2nd gunner on a heavy .30 cal. mg.

In a few weeks, we moved up through the Y Road Jct., where some Engineers and

Artillery were stationed.

The Bn attacked across a wide field, maybe an old rice paddy. Our gun was set up at the end of an old airstrip for a day or two. We then attacked toward Myitkyina. I was hit on July 31st. The battle was over the next day or two.

I spent time in the 20th General Hospital, the 20th Conv. Hospital and the 69th General Hospital.

When I returned to Myitkyina [Camp Landis], the 475th had started down the road. Someone got us a ride on a truck and in two days, I was back with the old outfit. Company M was now a part of 3rd Bn., Hq. Co., 475th. We were at Tonkwa over the mountains to the Burma Road. After the battle at the Burma Road, we moved down to Kutkal. This was the end for us in Burma.

We flew to Kunming with a stopover at Myitkyina. In Kunming, I received one year's pay. I had not been paid since I left the States. We were supposed to train Chinese but I ran an Outboard Motor Boat up and down a river. We hauled wounded Chinese down the river and supplies up.

After the war ended, I was sent to the MPs. We trained for a few weeks and were flown to Shanghai. The company was stationed in the center of the town, in the racecourse building. This was a great time. In November, I returned home by Navy Cruiser via Pearl Harbor to San Francisco, via train to Camp Atterbury, IN., to home Dec. 12, 1945. My trip around the world. I would like to have any old Burman News copies to read. Anyone have any they want to get rid of? I would like to find the old movie of the Merrill's Marauders. Joseph N. Malone, 1053 Alice St., Zanesville, OH 43701.

EDITOR

My father, Carmen S. Menta, from Philadelphia, PA, was in Merrill's Marauders, 2nd Bn, Blue Combat Team, Hq. I & R Platoon. He was at Nhpum Ga and was seriously wounded at Namkwi on 30 May, 1944. I seek information about him..

He died about 13 years ago and never really expressed himself to his family. My mother and I will be attending the El Paso Reunion next September. To anyone who knew him please contact me at the reunion, or write or call me collect. Robert S. Menta, 2 Spring Ct., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3024, 609-795-3369.

EDITOR

Answer to a previous question. Charles Burkhardt was from Hazard, KY, in Harlan County, a Platoon Sgt. from F Co. Raymond Williams was a Platoon guide from F Co. under Burkhardt. T. Tidwell, Rt. 7, Box 132, Mayfield, KY 42066, 5307/2/F-C Companies; 475/2/G Co.

EDITOR

Correction. I have been in touch with Lt. McLogan, 5307/2/BCT. From that discussion I have found that the hill known as McLogan's Hill was on the northwest side of the trail through Nhpum Ga Village and the location of our machine gun position was on the northeast edge of the perimeter, southeast of and below the water hole. At the juncture of the perimeter before and after the loss of the water hole. We had a position overlooking a draw up which the Japs had attacked. [See page 73 of "Merrill's Marauders" by Historical Division of War Dept., 4 June 1945]. What this means is that I was partly wrong in my dispute about the location and actions of Roy Matsumoto in that I was not aware of the location of the different units. I still feel that his actions entitled him to a higher level medal than he had received. It would appear that he covered different parts of the perimeter on different days. Warren Ventura, 24247 Eucalyptus, Moreno Valley, CA 92388, 714-653-8221, 5307/2/GCT/HW.

* * * * *

Misery is when you ask your doctor if he can cure you and he asks to be paid in advance.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

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