



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November, 1992

REUNION AT RICHMOND WHERE DO THEY ALL COME FROM?

We continue to have great reunions. This was one of the best. We had about 282 Marauder Members at the Reunion and with Honoraries, we had a total of 494 at the Banquets. Increasingly we are getting family members of the deceased Marauders who come to associate with their buddies that knew them at that time.

The activities started off with the Supper Boat ride on Thursday Night. We had a good crowd for that affair. It was fine entertainment and the buffet was good. I believe we had about 70 show for that ride on the Annabelle Lee.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER - We had **Colonel Logan Weston** in full dress uniform give a talk on his experiences and his relationship with his God. He indicated his strong religious feelings which his platoon certainly observed at that time.

He spoke of the fellowship that we enjoy today as a consequence of our experiences together in Burma. He also spoke of some of his wartime experiences in the Korean Police Action.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Salon V, Hotel Marriott,
Richmond VA, Saturday,
9/5/92.

Meeting called to order by **President Piazza** at 12:40 PM. Msgr **Edward Glavin** - Blessing. Roll Call of Officers - All present.

Reading of Minutes of previous meeting. Motion made to dispense with reading since they had been printed in the BURMAN NEWS.

Executive Secretary's Report - **Ray Lyons**:

Donations received at this year's Reunion: Thursday, \$1760.; Friday, \$2520.; Saturday, \$632.; Total, \$4,912.00.

Last year's Reunion Donations, \$2,770.00.

Mail donations received during the year: 180 = \$4,394.50.

Last year mail donations: 179 = \$3,790.00

Expenses year to date, postage, stationery, BURMAN NEWS, etc., \$7,332.41. Compared to last year: \$5,506.88.

Sent out 932 pieces of mail + 6,887 copies of BURMAN NEWS

Balance in Sec'y Bank Acct 8/28/92: \$1,104.95

Compared to last year: \$1,671.03

We will be printing a new Directory soon.

Our membership figures are holding up. We have lost many of our buddies in the recent year but

are still finding others. The Honoraries are increasing.

We have sold over 400 copies of the new book, "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume I". We printed 500 copies.

We purchased 100 copies of the WD "Merrill's Marauders" and sold 86 of them by mail. We ordered another 50 copies for the Reunion. They were all sold.

General Order #5 printed separately - seven pages - copies available.

The American Legion VETNET did not work out as promised. We tried it out and found that they did not keep to the one minute charge. Eventually we wrote them to terminate our association with it.

We bought several new books

(Continued on page 2)

INDIA-BURMA CAMPAIGN (1st Campaign)

3307th Composite Unit (Prov) Commanding Officer - W. H. G. ... Major D. ...	
Ray Lyons Tom ... William A. ... Dave ... Bob Hill Frank E. ...	Nelson ... Major D. ...

**46th REUNION
RICHMOND VA.
SEPT. 4-6, 1992**

Company (1st Group) Commanding Officer Major ...	Company (2nd Group) Commanding Officer Major ...	Company (3rd Group) Commanding Officer Major ...	Company (4th Group) Commanding Officer Major ...
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1st BATTALION Commanding Officer Major ...	2nd BATTALION Commanding Officer Major ...	3rd BATTALION Commanding Officer Major ...
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1st COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...	2nd COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...	3rd COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...	4th COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...	5th COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...	6th COMPANY Commanding Officer Major ...
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ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR

and made them available at the reunion. It is increasingly obvious that many of the books that we have sold in the past are out of print and they do not intend to re-issue them. So any of you book lovers had better take advantage of the opportunity to buy them while they are available.

I obtained approval of the Board Members who were at the Ft Benning Ranger Reunion to put out a special edition of the B/N in August. We do not intend to do so again unless we again have a special circumstance.

Treasurer's Report - Herb Cofline:

Report on MM 45th Reunion at El Paso, 1991

Receipts:

Registration - \$2770.00

Sales - \$ 2248.50

Logan Weston Donation from

Sales: \$216.00

Total: \$5234.50

Expenses:
 Hotel - Tea \$158.00
 Band - \$350.00
 Audio-Video - \$160.00
 Guests Meals - \$657.22
 UPS - \$124.19
 Gratuities - \$150.00
 Total - \$1599.73
 Net Income - \$3634.77
 Treasurer Bank Acct Balance - \$26,155.20

Deposits - \$4,332.77
 Interest - \$1,071.52

\$31,559.49

Checks issued - \$10,221.16
 Balance 8/27/92 - \$21,338.33
 Exec. Sec'y Bank Acct - \$1,104.95

\$22,443.28

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report - Ralph Kouroyen, Sec Passantsi.

Audit Committee Report: President Plaza stated that Walter Pulkinnen and Rene Genest had been the Committee members

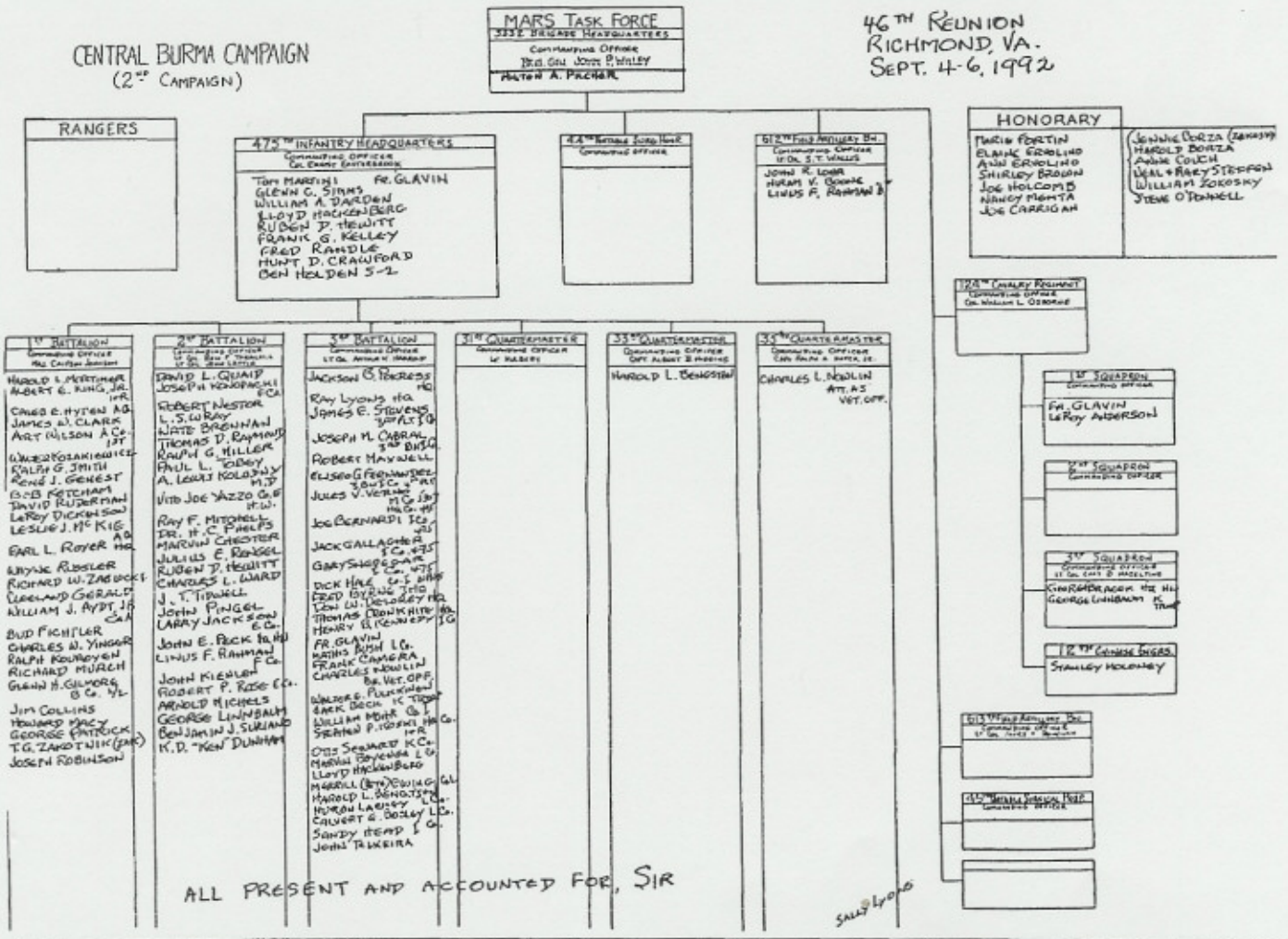
along with him and reported all accounts satisfactory.

President Plaza Report: Made 24 trips to Ft Benning this past year.

Chaplain - Msgr. Glavin: Invitation to all to attend Mass and/or Memorial Service this afternoon at 4 PM and at 4:30 PM.

Historian - Dave Quaid: This past year had been an incredibly active one. We donated 157 prints to the US ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE. Has been conducting Oral History Interviews with as many men as possible during the reunion. He has been getting cooperation from Everett Hyden taking over the Historical displays in the Registration Room in order to do this. Is working on a video to show photos from Ledo to China. Suggestion that the interviews could be made up to sell copies. Asked for a show of hands

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for people interested in buying them. Positive reaction.

Liaison Officer - Dave Hurwitz: Explained how the 75th Rangers got their start. The patch was not officially authorized by the Heraldry Office. The idea of "Elite Forces" not approved by the senior army officers. When the 75th Rangers was started up in 1954 on Okinawa, they did not use our patch. Col Brian J Sutton, Office of Chief of Staff Abrams, was very cooperative. The Rangers were re-created in 1969 at Eglin AFB under the Ranger Department. They took over our Flag at that time. When 75th Rangers was activated, Col Sutton suggested submitting a design similar to ours which the Heraldry Section then accepted.

New Business - Poppe, comment from the floor that we had two of the modern day Rangers present at the meeting. Asked them to stand up and say a few words which they did.

Frank Camera - Asked that consideration be given to having a separate table reserved for families coming in groups of at least eight or more people.

Election of Officers - President Piazza turned over to Secretary Lyons.

Lyons - Asked for nominations from the floor for the position of President.

Motion from the floor by Passanisi to re-elect all the present officers. Seconded. No objection. No further election.

Selection of next year's Reunion Site:

#1 Wakefield Massachusetts - Proposed by David Quaid. The Colonial Hilton. Has 283 Bedrooms available. No one but us to be there at the time. No courtesy bus from the airport. Cost of shuttle bus \$16. per person. Package Rate for two persons, two nights lodgings, five meals, \$282.00. Package Rate for one person, two nights, five meals, \$225. Children - half price. Individual room rate for extra nights \$59. + tax. No parking charges. Plenty of space. Boston nearby. 28 acres for Ranger activities. An 18 hole golf course. \$2. per hole. A Health Club. Four indoor tennis courts. Pool. Cuisine Notable.

#2 Orlando Florida - Proposed by Charles Ketcham. A Marriott Hotel. Shuttle transportation to

airport \$16. for a round trip ticket. 1076 bedrooms available. Banquet Room 20,000 sq ft. Package Rate for two persons, two nights, 4 meals, \$295. tax included. Package Rate for one person, two nights, 4 meals, \$225. Children - half price. Individual room rate for extra nights, \$60. Parking free. Five minutes from Sea World, Ten minutes to Disneyworld. Shopping is superb. Five miles to business district Orlando. Hotel has 48 acres. Three swimming pools, two children pools, jogging track. Steak House.

#3 Chicago IL - Proposed by Edward Zaino. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Oak Brook IL. Transportation to airport \$20. Hotel making arrangements. 25' to downtown Chicago. Hotel has 1000 rooms. Package Rate for two persons, two nights, four meals, \$285. Package Rate for one person, two nights, four meals, \$202. Individual room rate for extra nights, \$59. Parking free, inside parking. Swimming pool.

Vote: For #1 Wakefield MA = 91
#2 Orlando FL = 27

#3 Chicago IL = 48

Next year will be at the Colonial Hilton, Wakefield MA, Dave Quaid Chairman.

Meeting adjourned 2:15 PM

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET - Major General Wayne A Downing.

On behalf of all the soldiers of the United States Army Special Operations Command, I'd like to congratulate Merrill's Marauders on this your forty-sixth anniversary reunion. And, forty-nine years since Merrill's Marauders were formed. It's really great to see you all here tonight. Many of you I recognize from these affairs in the past. You've got a great turnout. Phil tells me that you have almost 500 people here tonight. That in itself attests to the spirit and the reputation of Merrill's Marauders. You truly were a unit forged in combat. Your spirit, your legend, has passed the test of time. And, your superb reputation is well deserved.

For you men of Merrill's Marauders established an

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PASS IN REVIEW (Deaths reported recently)

Name & Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased.

KENNETH AKUNE, 1105 "D" Rycroft St, Honolulu HI 96814-2849, 475/HQ/INTRPTR, August 1992.

LEO A AREND, 421 Sample St, Millville PA 15209-2339, 5307; 475/HQ/HW/MG, February 15, 1991

LEWIS W BLISS, 21905 Powhatan Rd #W2, Apple Valley CA 92308-6540, 619-247-3910, 5307/3/KCT; 475/1/A Co, June 1992

CHARLES BRADOSKY SR, Rt 1 Box 384, New Alexandria PA 15670, 668-2937, 5307/3/OCT; August 20, 1992

JAMES A BUFFINGTON, 5307/3/ORANGE CT, December 1991.

CHARLES L CAMERON, FT CUSTIS NATL CEM, AUGUSTA MI, 5307; 475, July 1992

CAPT HAROLD CLARK, Monmouth IL, 475/3/L Co-CO, January 28, 1945.

BURNES FENTON, RT 3, Box 725, Gulfport MS 39503, 5307, August 20, 1992

JAMES C INKROTE, Northumberland Memorial Park, Stonington Pa, 5307/3/Co I; 475/3/Co I, September 28, 1976

RAYMOND D JOHNSON, 812 Park Ln, Liberty MO 64068, 816-781-4866, 5307, April 3, 1992

F.OYSLYNE JONES, 527 College Av, Greensburg PA 15601, 412-834-7558, 5307/2/GCT, August 30, 1992

PAYTON JONES JR, 1751 Grayrick Dr, Cincinnati OH 45231, 612 FA/A Batt, August 1, 1992

JOHN A JOSEPH, 2131 Parrish Dr, Santa Rosa CA 95404, 5307th, December 17, 1989

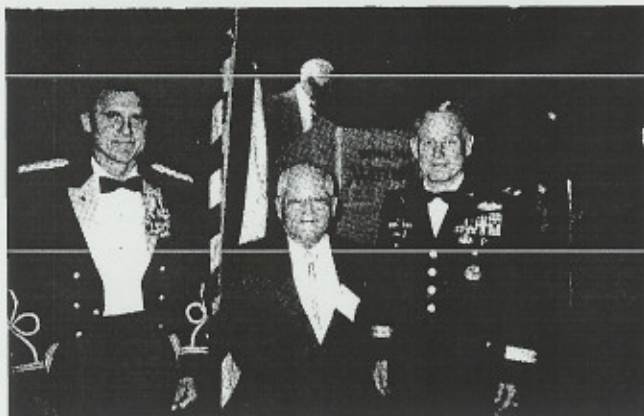
ALBERT F KLAR, 116 Leora St. Akron OH 44301, 5307/3/KCT, September 23, 1992

JOHN W LONG, Box 21, Russelville TN 37860, 5307/1, September 30, 1992

G CLARE THOMAS, 1229 SW Goodwin Pl, Pendleton OR 97801, 5307/HQ/RE/S-4, July 7, 1992

VIRGIL A WEENINK, 12734 Fifth Isle, Hudson FL 34667-1982, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1 Bn, September 8, 1992

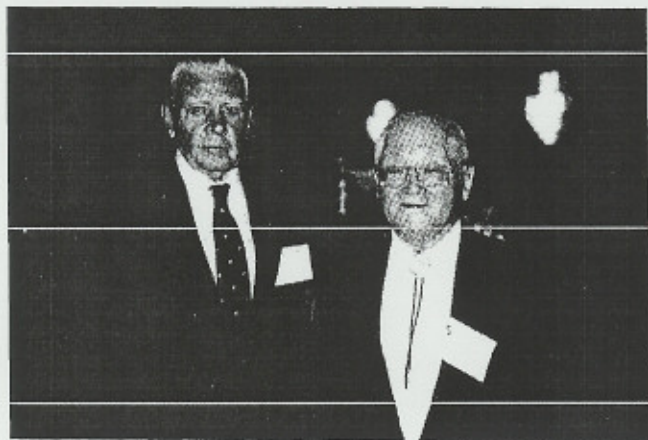
Photos from Richmond



L-R: Col. Grange, C.O., 75th Rgr Regt.; Roy Matsumoto, 5307/2/HQ Nisei Intr.; M/G Wayne Downing, CG, Special Oper. Forces. By DeSalvo.



L-R: Col. Logan Weston, 5307/3/OCT/ITR; Dave Richardson, Yank Writer; Dave Guaid, 5307/3/Photographer; original Yank issue on Marauders by Richardson. Pokress Photo.



L-R: Col. George McGee, C.O., 5307/2 Bn.; Roy Matsumoto, 2 Bn. Intell. Sgt. Photo by DeSalvo.



L-R: Dave Guaid, Msgr. Glavin, Warner Katz, Dave Hurwitt, Herb Clofine. Pokress Photo.



L-R: Ralph Kouroyen, 5307/1/WCT; Mrs. Caifson Johnson; Robert Passanisi, 5307/1/WCT. Photo by DeSalvo.



L-R: Col. Logan Weston, Col. McGee, Dr. A. Lewis Kolodny, Phil Piazza. Pokress Photo.

More Richmond Photos



L-R: Rex Beach, Paul Tobey. Photo by DeSalvo.



L-R: George Rose, Ray Lyons, Roy Matsumoto.
By DeSalvo



L-R: M/G Milton Pilcher, 5307/Hq/Sig Officer;
M/G Wayne Downing, CG Sp. OP Forces, by
Pokress.



Unidentified Marauders, by DeSalvo.



L-R: Roy Matsumoto, Johnnie Johnson.
By DeSalvo



Unidentified Marauders, by DeSalvo

unmatched record as one of the toughest, most courageous and most effective combat units in World War II. Your exploits in the jungles and mountains of northern Burma have earned you a distinguished place in the annals of military history. And we, in the United States Army, and in particular the Special Operations Command, are very, very proud to share that heritage with you.

So, tonight, I would like to take a few minutes and talk to you a little bit about the impact that you men of Merrill's Marauders continue to have not only on today's Rangers, not only on Colonel Grange's men, but on all Special Operations Forces and the US Army as a whole. For you Marauders present to us a vivid example of perseverance, of loyalty and of extra-ordinary valor in combat.

This example you have given us is, I believe, a greater tribute to your legacy than any thing I can say tonight or anything that you might do on this great weekend. And, you have given the new generation of Rangers and the Army a deeply embedded sense of the importance of dedication to the mission and to your comrades. For, as you know better than I do, your dedication enabled you to meet and overcome the almost insurmountable challenges that you faced in the jungles and mountains of Burma almost 50 years ago.

These challenges go on and on. They started out with your exhausting, long range marches to envelope the flanks of the veteran Japanese 18th Division. Your continued isolation with limited food and water and, at times that food and water had to be parachuted in to you. Your sustained contact with a very, very diligent and a very, very courageous enemy. And, the sixty-five mile march over the mile high saw tooth ridges of the Kumon Range to get the mission accomplished.

Throughout all of these trials, you demonstrated a dedication and a camaraderie and valor in combat that distinguished you among all others. I think of the many, many examples that you set. Your dedication and teamwork in flanking and cutting off the Japanese retreat near Walawbum. The perseverance, the determination and, the boldness of

the Red and White Combat Teams of the First Battalion as you moved through impossible terrain to establish road blocks and blocking positions south of Shadazup and cut off the Japanese. I read in the history books an account of one stream that the First Battalion crossed 56 times enroute to Shadazup. Only another Infantryman with a pack on his back can appreciate what that might have been like.

The defiance of the Green and Blue Combat Teams of the Second Battalion in maintaining an isolated and surrounded static defensive position to block vastly Japanese forces for 11 days at Nhpum Ga. And, the determination of your Orange and Khaki Combat Team Marauders of the Third Battalion that broke through to relieve them on Easter Sunday, 1944.

And finally, of course, after all that fighting and all that sacrifice the guts and the grit all of you displayed as you got hold of yourselves, reached down deep inside and continued on. And, then seized and held the air field at Myitkyina despite your heavy losses and despite your weakened condition and despite the strong Japanese counter-attacks which were determined to take it away from you.

Your example has led the way for today's Rangers and you know that they continue to uphold your tradition of dedication, determination and extraordinary

valor in combat. You should be proud of these modern day Rangers as they are proud of you.

The nation, the Army, and we in the Special Operations Force: thank you all for your proud legacy, as brave, fighting men. Yes, and you can be sure that both the values you imparted and the legacy you created indelibly bond today's Army Special Operations Force with you Marauders. Names like Shadazup, Nhpum Ga, Kumon Range, Myitkyina go right along with Point Salinas in Grenada, Rio Hato in Panama and the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia. They firmly link the past to the present. These names will forever represent places where Marauders and your sons, today's Rangers, have sweated, where they bled, where they died, where they endured where they succeeded. Their names bond all of us together.

So, I want you all to know that we cherish the rich legacy you have passed on to us. I can assure you that we will continue to uphold your honor by our actions and by our deeds. We have learned and profited from your experience. We pride ourselves on being physically fit, aggressive fighters and ready to go anywhere at any time to defend our Nation's interests.

Our Nation's decision makers will continue to depend on our Special Operations Forces for those hard, no nonsense options that are essential for dealing with

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FALL IN

Here are the latest additions to our assembly. Remember them?
 JAMES K BLOCKER, 219 Saddlewood Ln, Clinton MS 39056, 601-924-5998, 5307/3/I Co; 475/3/1/C.O.
 MATHIS BUSH, 640 Walker Springs Rd, Knoxville TN 37923, 615-693-3222, 475/3/L Co
 A LEWIS CARTER, 2213 SW Longmont Ln, Port Charlotte FL 33948,
 CLARENCE C EULER, 4308 3rd Av W, Palmetto FL 34221, 613/A BATT
 PETER J FAGGION, 1340 N Jenison Av, Lansing MI 48915, 517-484-6204,
 475/1/HQ/HW/MG
 RICHARD D GESNER, 4915 Swegle Rd NE #61, Salem OR 97301,
 5307/3/KCT
 RICHARD W HALE, 1196 Sandcastle Rd, Sanibel FL 33957, 813-472-4590, 475/3/1/HW/ASST MG
 JAMES KYREAKAKIS, 2210 Taylor St, Hollywood FL 33020, 5307/2/GCT
 ROBERT B NESTOR, 4135 E Jessie Ln, Inverness FL 34453, 904-344-4699, 5307/2/CO E; 475/2
 PHIL NICHOLOFF, 2010 W Oakland, Lansing MI 48915, 517-484-0615,
 475/1/B Co
 ROBERT W NUMMER, 28824 Groveland, Roseville MI 48066, 313-778-0148, 475th
 DAVID C SMITH, Rt 3, Box 179E, Orangeburg, SC 29115, 124/Tr I

the crises that we may face. Our Rangers will continue in your footsteps to be our Nation's premier light infantry fighting force.

The Lord has been good to me, has blessed me with a wonderful life. A few of the things that I am proud of - these are things that I share in common with many of you; the Combat Infantryman Badge, The Purple Heart and, the Distinguished Unit Insignia that Colonel Grange pointed out that I wear. It's my regiment, the 5307th Composite Unit, Distinguished Unit insignia, Merrill's Marauders. These things give me an opportunity to come to places like this and associate with people like you. I can tell you that this inspires me and, will be a highlight of this week for me.

After the talk, Major General Milton A Pilcher, 5307/Hq/Signal Officer, presented a plaque to M/G Downing making him a member of the Mosby Ranger Association.

IN MEMORY

A Donation in memory of LYN HIGHTOWER by Robert Mac Donald

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - Phil Piazza

I was quite pleased with the turnout at the Richmond Reunion and have received many letters and phone calls already saying they are coming to next year. Next year will be the Fiftieth Anniversary of the origination of the 5307th Mission to the China Burma India Theater. There will also be a Ranger Reunion at Ft Benning Ga next July in which we will play a big part. We are also discussing with the Board of Directors a visit to West Point, to General Merrill's Grave to commemorate the Relief of the Second Battalion at Nhpum Ga on Easter Sunday, 1944.

Ray & Sally Lyons will present the Ranger Hall of Fame Medal to Mrs. Merrill. They visit NH often because of a son up there and I have been very busy. We will be going up to Wakefield MA to visit the Colonial Hotel with Dave Quaid to make preliminary arrangements.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - Ray Lyons

During the recent reunion while listening to Roy Matsumoto, I heard him say that he had two brothers who were in the Japanese Army. Later I was told that Henry

Gosho also had two brothers in the Japanese Army. We have all heard the Civil War spoken of as the war between brothers. Now we know that our war was also a war in which our Nisei had to fight against an army that could very well have included their brother. It makes me think that we should send in all the stories you can recall about our Nisei buddies and their actions and problems during the Burma Campaigns. Let's make this the year of the Marauder Nisei. You send them in; I will print them.

During the Spring we had a phone call from CBS television. They wanted to check on a man whose family had claimed that he was a former MM. The name was Avery Drown. I could not find him in my lists. On Thursday, the 2nd of April, the program - Street Stories - showed him. A bewhiskered individual, our age, who had been captured by the Communists in the Philippines back in 1990 and was being held for ransom or whatever these terrorists hold people for. If anyone recalls him, CBS - NYC would be interested in the facts. So would I if we can get him back and on our mailing list!

From the AZ Republic, 7/1/92: "Date line Manila - A California businessman freed by Philippine Communist rebels after being held nearly two years in mountain jungles was flown to a U.S. military hospital Tuesday.

The US Embassy said Arvey Drown, 64, was flown to the Subic Bay Naval Station for a checkup after reaching the town of Tuguegarao with Roman Catholic priests who negotiated his release.

There was no word from US authorities on Drown's condition, but church sources said he was generally in good shape.

In Tuguegarao, 250 miles north

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HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 218
5 October 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 7)

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

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

ERNEST F EASTERBROOK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

Distribution "A"

LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS?

WILBER ARBUCKLE, 725 Stackman Dr BL 715/C, Wichita KS 67203-2214

RAYMOND BROWN, PO Box 499, Mamers NC 27552-0499

HECTOR ANTOINE ROCHIN, 116 Hidden Ln, Red Oak TX 75154

Sidney Block, Old address 1021 Society Hill, Cherry Hill NJ 08003.

Carmen Menta's son, Robert found out for us that he is now getting his mail via a daughter % Ruth Flom, 362 Davis Av, Sicklerville NJ 08081, 609-561-6651..

SPENSER TEDFORD, 302 W Sierra Av, Cotati CA 94928,

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. Send check to Merrill's Marauders Association % Ray Lyons, Executive Secretary.

of Manila, radio station DZNC said Drown arrived at Archbishop Diosdadlo Talamayan's residence Tuesday. It said they released him Sunday but that it took two days to reach Tuguegarao. There he was met by his wife and US Embassy officials.

He was abducted October 17, 1990, when rebels stopped train he was on near Appari. The family is from California, but his hometown was not immediately known. Drown owned a mining company in Colorado and reportedly was in the Philippines to investigate business prospects."

We noted on July 23, 1992, the TV same CBS program that he returned to the USA. They showed his arrival at a USA airport.

Quotes from a book "About Face" by Colonel David H Hackworth, provided by Charles E Beck & copy of the book by Jack Egan."Colonel Locke was one mean hombre, the worst-tempered, toughest guy he'd ever worked for. Colonel Locke was Old Army through, and through. The word was he'd risen to topkick before the war, then was battlefield commissioned while with Merrill's Marauders in Burma. The man was mean as a snake and looked like one, too - a rattler about to strike. He was thin, almost bald, with a long face and thin, tight lips he mashed together like Humphrey Bogart. He chewed tobacco, had a stain from it on his cheek, and his teeth were ground down like an old horse's."

Was this Wilford Locke, Cpl found in GO #3 ?

From the American Heritage Magazine, Dec '91 issue: World War II. "My Guns" an article by Roger J Spiller. "Of the millions of Americans sent overseas by the Army, only 14 percent were Infantry. These 14 % took more than 70 percent of all the battle casualties."

Just got a news clipping from Larry Cuomo about L/Gen Sammy Wilson. Also 5307/1/WCT/I & R Plat Ldr. He lives nearby Richmond - Rice VA. I understand from the clipping that he just took on a job as President of Hampden-Sydney College, Farmville VA 23943.

During the Reunion, we were handed a photocopy of a poem by a Nathaniel Cobb in memory of his brother Stanley Cobb. under the heading "The Adjutant Speaks". Would the man who gave me this

please write and provide the address of Nathaniel Cobb so that we can get permission to print this fine poem.

**HISTORIAN - Dave Quaid
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS
FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN**

We have photographed on super-finegrain color film our COLORS and the rare original THEATRICAL POSTER for the movie "MERRILL'S MARAUDERS".



We have made available a negative and a 3 1/2" x 5" print of the Colors or Theatrical Poster at a cost of \$5. each. The instructions that come with each packet are as follows:

DO NOT TOUCH OR HANDLE THE ENCLOSED NEGATIVE. Bring negative to a photo store that sends printing to Eastman Kodak. Almost all stores will send work to EK on request. Ask for a POSTER PRINT. These prints come in two



So you've killed a lot and you've lost a lot and your guns are scratched and your nerves are mangled and an inch is a mile and you have to forever.... Well, your war has just begun - You're part of

Merrill's Marauders
True story! Incredible story!
How they fought never lost and they will remain forever in your memory!
JEFF CHANDLER
PETER BRAN
WILL HAZARD
ANDREW DUGGAL
Merrill's Marauders
1989

sizes: 20" x 30" @ \$22.95 or 12" x 18" @ \$18.35. I think the larger size is more impressive and a better buy. It takes about 10 days to complete the order.

After over 50 years in professional photography, these stunning POSTER PRINTS which show every stitch in our Colors just amaze me. Mounted on board or framed they will look great in the grandchildren's room, your den or office. My copies hang in my studio. Dave Quaid, Historian.

Send order with check to Herbert Clofine, 1632 Surrey Ln Havertown PA 19083.

**RANGER COLUMN
COL DAVID GRANGE, CO 75TH
RANGER REGIMENT**

Spoke of the continuing training missions of the Rangers, literally all over the world. There is a new Commanding Officer for the 2nd Bn, Lt Col Bob Fretant. He also displayed on easels outside the Banquet Hall, the proposed Drawing for the Merrill's Marauders Association by the same artist, Jim Dietz, who had drawn last year's color picture for the World War II Rangers at Omaha Beach. The sketches were in black and white and we had the opportunity to vote for the one that we liked best. At this time, it appears that #2 was the most popular. The color picture will probably be \$50 each. That was the cost last year. They may be ready for purchase by Christmas.

In addition, the Rangers are sponsoring the sale of granite blocks to be installed as paving a the Monument area. For \$240 each, they will inscribe the following - the Title Ranger on the first line, the persons name on the second line (no rank) and the unit (Merrill's Marauders) on the third line as follows:

**RANGER
JOSEPH G DOYER
MERRILL'S MARAUDERS**

Bear in mind that this can be a Memorial to a former buddy or a family member. The Board of Directors elected to purchase three blocks to honor Gen Merrill, Co Hunter and Col Sutton. We know of others who have decided to

(Continued on page 9)

purchase a block to honor other former member of the Merrill's Marauders. Send the check made out to the Ranger Memorial Foundation by way of **Phil Piazza** so that he can make a record of the names and ensure that there are no duplications. There is a deadline on these orders so if you are inclined, do it now.

The 75th Ranger Association is planning on having another Reunion at Ft Benning to honor World War II Veterans and specifically the Marauders in mid-July of 1993. The complete 75th Ranger Regiment will be there at that time. I hope they get to Parade in Review before the stands next year (Editorial opinion).

The RANGER MUSTER

The United States Army Ranger Association will conduct its national convention, known as the Annual Ranger Muster in Columbia SC during the period, 8-11 October, 1992. The Annual Ranger Muster is conducted for all Ranger trained personnel, both active and veteran.

The Muster will be held at the Sheraton Hotel on Bush River Rd, and will begin with an opening blast reception party starting at 1 PM, Thursday, 8 October. Activities are planned for everyone (wives and dates included) and will continue, with revelry and merriment through Sunday, 11 October. All interested should call or write:

To attend the Ranger Muster:

Ranger David Campbell, ARM Chairman, 84 Middle Creek Rd., Irmo, SC 29063; phone 803-781-8656 (after 7 p.m.).

To join the Ranger Association:

US Army Ranger Association, Inc., Post Office Box 669, Columbus, GA 31902-0669; phone 706-576-6630.

This Ranger Muster is in tribute to South Carolina's first Ranger, the legendary "Swamp Fox" Col. Francis Marion.

* * * * *

My big problem is I keep putting things off! What I need to do is make a list of everything I need to do! Yeah! That's it! First thing tomorrow.

Big news! Senior Citizens are now called - "Chronologically gifted".

Sharing the Story

NHPUM GA - TRAPPING THE TRAPPERS.

Received orders from Headquarters to set up a trap to protect our men and Machine Gunner from a surprise attack. Had **PFC Anderson** to help me, and proved to be a good man. After talking it over with our men, we agreed that the Nips came up as far as a big tree. Therefore, we would be placing the explosive, 60 mm shell with hand grenade taped on it, ten yards further down the trail. It proved to be successful. Green Machine Gun crew said I should pass the word in the morning around the **Blue Combat Team** as I was next to Sgt Carr of the I&R platoon, where we were linked up. So the news was spread in the morning, our Machine Gun got 8 Japs and the explosive got the other seven. The Japs thought they were safe up to the big tree. They were wrong. Alvin Sutton, 58 Van Reypen St, Jersey City NJ 07306, 5307/2/BCT/P&D; 475.

Nick 2d Nov

MORE ON NHPUM GA

Reading your letter and the information in it, set into motion thoughts I had held in reserve for many years. Let's start with **Sid Savitt**. At the time of Nhpum Ga, I believe he was either a squad leader or 2nd in command. I vividly recall his coming to the "rear" minus his left eye. **Sgt O'Hara** and I escorted him to the aid station, which was on the other side of the hill crest from our position. O'Hara had one arm and I the other.

Just as we were going over the crest, an artillery shell loaded with canister hit behind us. I remember dust and dirt flying around my feet. At the same time, I heard Sid say, "O'Hara, are you hit?" Sid knew something was wrong because O'Hara had released his arm. O'Hara was on the ground, out like a light. One of the lead balls from the shell had hit his helmet and knocked him out. It made a good sized dent in his helmet, even cracked the metal.

He recovered, we delivered Sid and I think that was the last time I ever saw Sid or O'Hara. **Phil Christner**, 5307/2/BCT/I&R Platoon, 499 Darwin Dr, Buffalo NY 14225

ANONYMOUS REPEATS

I was with an I&R Platoon that **Col Hunter** kept near him. Five of us were out on patrol to locate a certain group of Japs. We found out where they were when one of our planes strafed us and them. Anyway, none of us were hit, but I had to run a message back to the tracks, thru what appeared to be an orchard. (A few snipers were there and I was kind of scared of getting winged in the legs.) As I was approaching the tracks, I saw a sniper on the other side and cut down on him. From the other side of the tracks, a bunch of guys I couldn't see started laughing and hollered, "Leave him go, hero. He's been dead two days." They were **Ray Braden's** bunch. They had a 50 caliber machine gun and asked if I'd baby-sit it for a while. Hell; yes! A new toy. I wanted to use it so bad, I could taste it, but nothing came along.

Ask Braden about it. The Japs had pushed them out but they came back with the .50 and moved the Japs out. **James (Anonymous) Gilbertson**, 12208 Old 8 Dr, Tomahawk WI 54467, 5307/3/KCT/P&D; I&R

WALAWBUM STARTER

The following is a transcript of an audio tape made, at the request of **David Quaid**, Historian, Merrill's Marauders Association, by **Col Logan Weston**, US Army, Ret.:

The following is a description of the Battle of Walawbum and holding action on the **Poakum/Tatbum** trails, Spring 1944, North Burma Campaign, by Lt Logan Weston, Platoon Leader of the I & R Platoon, Orange Combat Team, 3rd Bn, 5307th C.U.P., (Merrill's Marauders).

With regard to our phone conversation of a short time back, I am transmitting the account of the **Manpin, Warong, Aucho, Kauri, Nhpum Ga Action** for your historical records.

In trying to develop this report, I found it to be necessary to affix numerous tabs for a vivid understanding.

The first of these tabs is one showing the I & R Platoon organization and also the normal troop disposition when on the trail in densely jungled mountainous terrain, deep in enemy-infested

(Continued on page 10)

territory. An additional diagram is needed to depict all around security whenever contact with the enemy is made or whenever all round security appears to be a necessity. From our experience in the South Pacific, we had a pretty comprehensive idea of enemy tactics and how, when they were first contacted, they would immediately attempt a counter-attack. I trust this report will meet with your approval, Dave, and be of value to posterity. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know. I do hope that your 1990 will be especially prosperous, beneficial in every way and exceptionally joyful. With hopes of seeing you in Savannah, I am sincerely, Logan.

As the I & R Platoon patrolled toward Walawbum, it found a heavily mined trail on the way toward Lagang Ga. My patrol moved about 6 hours marching time ahead of the parent 3rd Bn. We marked the mine field, circumvented it by cutting a new route through the jungle and proceeded toward Lagang Ga and Walawbum.

At the outskirts of Lagang Ga, we ran into an enemy outpost estimated to be about a squad in strength. By building up a base of fire with the lead squad, the rest of the I&R Platoon was placed in its perimeter defense, then the 3rd squad in line (See Tabs A, B, C) was sent to the left of the enemy position in a flanking movement. The Headquarters Squad filled that squad's position in the perimeter defense.

In our flank effort, we outmaneuvered the enemy. They lost 3 KIA's before withdrawing through Lagang Ga. On the west side of Lagang Ga, the same situation was repeated, except that the enemy appeared to be about a platoon in strength. We, by flank movement, forced their block back toward Walawbum to their successive position. They fought light delaying action during this withdrawal. By now Lagang Ga was secured by the I&R Platoon. The battalion arrived to take over the action against the withdrawing enemy positions and the I&R Platoon was ordered to ford the river and protect the right flank of the battalion as it moved toward its objective (see Tabs D&E).

As the I&R Platoon crossed the

river, minus our mules, we fell occasionally under enemy observation but an exchange of shots was minimal due to fleeing enemy movement and poor visibility resulting from the thick foliage.

At dusk that evening, a heavy fog enveloped the area to eliminate all visibility. Fearful of being ambushed, the I&R Platoon was ordered into its perimeter defense in a poorly defensible swampy area. The night passed with minimal incident. Occasional shots could be heard from the battalion to our left rear across the stream. At first light the next morning, the fog lifted and we could observe from our lead squad position, a better defensive location on higher ground where the foliage was less dense which provided better fields of fire. The platoon was ordered forward to occupy that position.

As we established our new position, we observed a sharp bend in the river and determined that our flank protection mission for the battalion could be accomplished without further movement. By placing our automatic weapons on our open flanks and by firing up and down the stream, we would be able by fire to secure the flank of the battalion until lit was on its objective. We dug in. With slit trenches only partially completed, the enemy first thrusts came from Walawbum along the river trail. This thrust was turned back by fire from our first squad. The enemy fell back, regrouped, and a short time later attacked with greater strength in the same area and also in a second probe further to their left. By now mortar tree bursts were landing on our position. The Platoon Interpreter, Sgt Henry Goshu, who was able to understand Japanese could hear Japanese officers or non-coms giving oral orders to their men. With each new enveloping thrust, the enemy met final protective line-type fire from our automatic rifles. These were located at the point and each flank of each squad.

By about 1330 hours, our battalion was on its objective and the I&R Platoon was completely surrounded except on the open river bank to our south. The firing and mortar bursts were so intense at this time, that we had difficulty

hearing and calling for 81 mm mortar support from the battalion. By radio we directed high explosive mortar fire completely around our perimeter. We had 3 seriously wounded men and were running low on ammunition.

With improvised litters constructed from bamboo poles completed and the platoon ready to evacuate and join the battalion across the river, we received verbal orders to withdraw. We began by thinning out our two 1/2 squads nearest the river bank. They were providing the least pressure against the enemy. They crossed the river and formed a covering skirmish line under 81 mm mortar smoke screen placed on the river bed at both of our flanks. This skirmish line was reinforced south of the river by riflemen sent up from the battalion. Our wounded men were evacuated, then our troops ex-filtrated to join the battalion under cover of overhead rifle fire from the skirmish line and a mixture of smoke and high explosive mortar barrages on both of our flanks. The men most heavily engaged against the enemy were evacuated last. When they had crossed through the platoon Hq position, along with three riflemen, I slipped down over the river bank and continued firing overhead fire while they withdrew through us to the south. After the entire platoon was evacuated and safely on the south shore, these 3 men and I then withdrew to the skirmish line.

When south of the river, the skirmish line men returned to the battalion command. By the end of this action, the 81mm mortars had fired their complete unit of fire except for 3 - HE rounds. This action resulted in an estimated 70 enemy killed in action and unknown number of wounded in action with the loss to the I&R Platoon of 1 killed and 2 wounded.

About 18 hours later, the battalion had accomplished its mission of blocking the enemy main supply route at Walawbum and when the Chinese troops coming down from the north replaced us, we returned under darkness with the battalion to Lagang Ga. The Allied Chinese moved their front lines approximately 25 miles south down the Hukawng Valley to

(Continued on page 11)

Walawbum and our unit regrouped, evacuated our casualties from Lagang Ga by plane, received a supply air drop and prepared for our next mission.

After the war ended, an intelligence interview with Japanese General Tanaka revealed that his losses at Walawbum exceeded 200 men and his attempt to eliminate the Marauder Unit had failed. This was Tanaka's first attempt to eliminate the threatening Marauders in Burma.

My most vivid recollections of personal involvement in the Walawbum action involves first, since it was our second contact with the enemy in Burma and our first experience against organized enemy resistance, I, not knowing the capability or reaction of the members of the platoon, went ahead with the first squad and set up the lead squad base of fire in position against the enemy block. Now I realize that this should have been done by the squad leader. Subsequent to this action, it was done by the squad leader.

This action included designating sectors of mutually supporting fire for each member of the squad. After setting up this skirmish line, the squad leader was then left to supervise fire control of his men. I then went back to the 3rd squad and led them in their maneuvering movement around the east flank of the enemy to hit the enemy block on their right flank. The main purpose of taking this action was in order that by radio, I would be able to coordinate the maneuvering troops with the base of fire and have the base of fire lifted when it became masked by our movement.

The second thing I recall is that when we were digging slit trenches in our final position across the river, Pete Leitner, an Indian from Florida and one of my scouts, had only partially completed his slit trench and was out in front of his position gathering camouflage material. It was very early in the morning and the very first shot that was fired by an enemy trooper hit him in the abdomen. Pete slumped helplessly about 35 ft in front of his slit trench position. Another man of the platoon, I think it was Sgt Mathis, crawled out and helped me drag Pete back inside the platoon position, where he

could be placed undercover in a safe position. Gomez, the aid man, then rendered first aid. We did lose Pete, however, during the evacuation process at Lagang Ga when the plane that came in to evacuate him crashed.

Another incident I recall is that when I was ordered to rejoin the battalion south of the river, I ex-filtrated the men in teams, one man of each team firing while the other crawled toward the river. The last man to withdraw from the platoon position were those most heavily engaged against the enemy. The base of fire covered our withdrawal by firing over us with rifle and machine gun fire. They had been ordered to fire 18-24" over our heads. The overhead fire, cracking in our ears, the incoming enemy rifle fire and the shower fire of tree bursts from enemy mortars and our own supporting mortar bursts were combined to become deafening. With mission completed at the time I rejoined the battalion, I recall being completely exhausted and deeply depressed having lost three mighty fine men. COL LOGAN WESTON, I&R PLAT LDR / DAVID QUAID, HISTORIAN

Letters

EDITOR

There will be a 3-day Commemoration Program for the 110th Birthday of General Joseph W Stilwell in Chongqing (Chungking), China on March 17, 18 and 19th, 1993. The program activities will include a seminar on "Sino-U.S. Relations since General Stilwell and In the Future", an exhibition on General Stilwell and other Americans in Chongqing during WW II, the opening of the Stilwell Library and other interesting ceremonies.

In connection with the events in Chongqing, a tour is being planned that may be of interest. We would leave San Francisco on March 11th to go to Hong Kong for one day and two nights, then fly to Gullin and have that wonderful trip down the Li River before proceeding to Chongqing. After the three days of activities, we will board a cruise ship and go down the Yangtze River to Wuhan and from there on to Xi'an, with its historic pottery warriors, the Ban Poi Neolithic

Village and the Hua Qing Hot Springs. After Si'an we'll proceed to Beijing and have time to see the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Ming Tombs and the Temple of Heaven, to say nothing of Tianamen Square.

After Beijing we will return to Hong Kong for another day and two nights so everyone can pick up the clothes, shoes and other purchases they ordered on the way in to China. We return to San Francisco on April 4th.

This will make a total of 21 days in China. Marilyn Oisen of Carmel Travel is working to get the best possible price for this tour, but as of today, (April 92), it is not determined. I hate to quote prices at this time, but if you are interested and would like a brochure and an application, please contact:

Marilyn Olsen, Carmel Monterey Travel, PO Box 221998, Carmel CA 93922, Tel.: 408 - 624-1501.

The price should be settled and ready to quote by the time you contact her.

If you'd like to continue your tour by going to Japan, for instance, or if you want to go directly to Chongqing and back again, that also can be arranged.

We hope you will all want to go.
NANCY STILWELL
EASTERBROOK,

EDITOR

The outfit that I was in was Company G, 2nd Bn, 475th Inf. I think I was in the 4th Platoon. My Platoon Leader was Lt Jacob Berkowitz, Platoon Sgt was Sgt Eugene Marcusl, Company Commander was Capt Irving Gordy.

Robert Edmonds, 224 N Pleasant St, Watertown NY 13601

EDITOR

NATIONAL ORDER OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS are looking for men commissioned on the field of battle while engaged with the enemy in WWI, WW II, KOREA, and VIET NAM. Contact: John C Angier III, NOBC #338, 67 Ocean Dr, St Augustine FL 32084, 904-471-7695.

EDITOR

I found your address under

(Continued on page 12)

Reunions, in the April issue of the DAV magazine. I kept trying to get back in touch with the old outfit but always seem to run into some sort of problem. The last time I had any luck in this regard was in the fall of 1986 when I was living in Louisville and there was a reunion at the Galt House. I remember that I saw Dick Poppe and a few others I knew and joined the organization at that time.

I was with the outfit from the beginning to the end and beyond. I spent a lot of time on patrols and liaison missions to the Chinese and with the Mihprap Rung Kachins. I was assistant to "Uncle Bill" Laffin, the S-2 and, in fact, personally buried him in the rementent across the strip at Myitkyina. After that Col Hunter sent me up to Mankrin as his personal S-2 representative with the new 2nd Bn, until the end of the campaign.

When the 475th took over the 5307th men remaining, I became Assistant to Major Reuben A Holden, S-2 for the 475th. Then after Lashio, flew to China where I was Asst G-2 to Colonel Wilson and Aide to Gen Woods Kind, Comdg Eastern Command, Chinese Combat Command until the end.

I have been a patient at Bay Pines VA Hosp for most of the past two years. Now discharged to Outpatient status and recovering from a stroke and an eye implant and a couple of operations. My next big plan is to attend the Richmond Reunion, if I can work it

out. I have heard from Col Ben Holden that he would like to meet me there. Ben is also the Godfather to my son, a regular career officer on detail to the State Dept for the Disarmament Talks. Col Hunt "Beast" Crawford, 5307/HQ/S-2 SGT; 475/HQ/S-2 Sgt, 1318 Franklin St #306, Clearwater FL 34616

EDITOR

I am a Professor of Political Science at the US Air Force Academy and I am working on a project dealing with refugees in combat.

My topic involves researching cases in World War II and the Korean War in which civilian refugees were directly in contact with US troops. I want to find out what impact the refugees made on the American soldiers - from the soldier carrying a rifle on up to the various commanders of the units. Essentially I am asking if the presence of the refugees in the combat zone (or on the way to the combat zone) forced some sort of change in plans or operations on the part of the US units. For instance did the refugees slow the progress of US troops to the battle? Did they prevent maneuver that was intended? Was some sort of compensation made when the presence of refugees was discovered? What was this? What was the overall result?

People who wish to respond can correspond directly with me or call 719-472-2388-2270.

I should emphasize that I am

not looking for any major, "earth shattering events that your men may recall; rather I am interested in normal combat type situations in which refugees were present. Nor am I looking for any formal, literary masterpieces. I just want some basic information; phone calls or handwritten letters would be sufficient.

My goal is to compile case histories in which refugees were encountered in combat so that soldiers of the future will have something to read about what Americans have done in the past in similar situations. I think that this is a very useful project to the US Army and will be useful in the future to ensure that American soldiers will be able to earn from the past and "fight smarter" in the future. I am anxious to acquire this material before your generation passes from the scene. Douglas L Erwin, LTC USAF, HQ USAFA/DFPS, USAF ACADEMY CO 80840-5701

EDITOR

I was a member of the 475th serving at Myitkyina, down to Shwegu, Tonkwa, Mong Wi, Lo Kang at the Burma Rd and finally Lashio and then China. I was a member of a Heavy Machine Gun Squad, HQ Company, 1st Bn. My Battalion Commander was Calson Johnson, my squad leader was Charles Yinger of York PA. I was referred to you by Joe Bernardi of Milford MI. Peter J Faggion, 1340 N Jenison Av, Lansing MI 48915.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RAYMOND V. LYONS

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