



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

February, 1993

Sharing the Story . . .

Fighting Retreat from Poakum to Nhpum Ga

When one thinks of military holding actions, the first to come to mind is the heroic defense of the pass at Thermopylae, Greece by King Leonidas and his Spartans against a superior Persian Army in 480 B.C. His famed defense, history records, was a total failure. Leonidas was outflanked, because of the actions of a Greek traitor, and the entire Spartan force was destroyed to the last man. The Persians went on to burn Athens.

During World War I, the order "....to the last man, to the last round of ammunition; there will be no retreat" gained currency. Military history does not record many successful holding actions, since the very nature of this defense tactic leaves few survivors to tell the tale. In WW II the British at Dunkirk is an exception. An entire army was saved by the tenacity of a

few. To be successful, the sacrifices of those participating in a holding defense must contribute to a positive result for the army as a whole.

The holding action that should be intensively studied by every infantry platoon leader is that conducted by Lt Logan Weston and the Intelligence/reconnaissance Platoon of Orange Combat Team, 3rd Bn, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). This group was later dubbed Merrill's Marauders, its code name Galahad. Two days into the action, Weston was supported by the platoon of Lt Warren Smith. The time was late March 1944. The place was in the Kamaing quadrangle of North BURMA.

During March of 1944, Galahad executed a series of end run actions, far behind enemy lines, which culminated in the brilliant

victory at Walawbum by 3rd Bn and successful road blocks at Shadazup by 1st Bn, and further south at Inkangahtawng by 2nd Bn with elements of 3rd Bn. These blocks cut the Japanese 18th Division's main supply route, the Kamaing Road.

A HOLDING ACTION ON THE TRAIL TO NHPUM GA

While these operations were in progress, General Merrill received intelligence that the enemy reinforced battalion quartered at

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SHARING THE STORY BURMA ROAD BITS

I joined Merrill's Marauders at Myitkyina and found myself in 2nd Bn, Co F, 3rd Platoon. As mentioned by Lawrence Fonte in The Burman News (May 1992), I also was within 30 yards of Colonel Thrailkill's foxhole when it was hit. Another round hit approximately 3 feet behind my foxhole shortly thereafter, but thank the Lord it was a dud.

I was with one of the first units to set booby traps on the Burma Road. We used 4.2 shells.

The outfit I was with succeeded in capturing the big (several officers estimated at approx. \$4 million) ammunition dump which our demolition crew destroyed.

My fellow soldiers buddies called me "Junior". Possibly, because they did not know my name or possibly because I was shaving about once a month, I was junior. After all I was only 18 years of age at that time. Ben F Arant, "Junior", 1315 Barringer Rd, Rock Hill SC 29730, 803-324-0483, 5307/2/F/3 475/2/F/3



Lt. Logan Weston (left) Intelligence/Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Orange Column, 3rd Battalion, 5307th C.U.P. Right: Sgt. Henry "Hank" Gosho, Nisei interpreter for the platoon. March/April 1944.

Kamaing was about to move north and east to flank the Chinese 22nd and 38th Divisions presently attacking the Japanese 18th Division defenses at Jambu Bum Pass, the entrance to the Mogaung Valley. General Merrill ordered Lt Col Charles Beach, C.O. 3rd Bn to block the trails south of the 2nd and 3rd Bn's position at Inkangahtawng to forestall this Japanese flanking movement. Lt Weston's platoon was chosen for the job. He established a trail block at Manpin with his 53 man platoon. After scouting the area, he felt uncomfortable with the situation and radioed Col Beach for permission to move 4 miles further south, toward the enemy, to a village named Poakum.

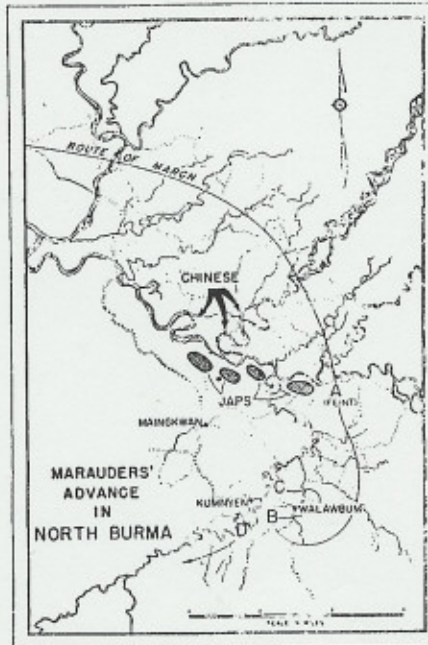
We will now go to the I&R Platoon action at the area from Poakum to Nhpum Ga. Col Logan Weston's story follows:

Having been resupplied at Lagang Ga following the Walawbum battle, I received verbal orders from Colonel Beach to force march my platoon about 35 miles southward and establish a block at the Manpin area after securing the trail through Nhpum Ga.

The Second and Third Bns were to follow, and when they got to Manpin they were to proceed westward coming over the same trail that I had patrolled. Then at Manpin they were to move west toward Inkangahtawng and cut the enemy main supply route in that area. There were two parallel roads running down the mountain spurs from the high ridge on the east to level off in the Mogaung Valley floor on the west. The northernmost trail extended from the high ground at Kauri down to Manpin. The south parallel trail extended from Poakum eastward to Warong.

I arrived at Manpin at dusk about 12 hours ahead of the parent unit. After establishing the bivouac and positioning my local security and scouting the area very briefly, I then radioed the finding to Battalion CO and recommended that I be permitted to move my platoon southward and establish my block not at Manpin but at Poakum, 4 miles further south toward Kamaing.

I thought that the Japanese at Kunming, and we knew that there was a strong force there, in the event that they should attempt to



cut off the only escape route of the Inkangahtawng force, it would be more feasible to try to block them at Poakum. If necessary, we could attempt to draw them up the south parallel trail running from Poakum to Warong. I figured that if this action was successful, it would provide an unhindered escape route from Inkangahtawng to Nhpum Ga over the north parallel trail for the Inkangahtawng force.

My request was granted. I received authority about 10:30 that

night by radio and at first light the next morning, I moved the platoon to Poakum, arriving at Poakum at approximately the same time the battalion arrived at Manpin. My platoon dug in at Poakum. A half squad was then placed in an ambush position about 3/4 mile south of Poakum on the trail that led to Kamaing. (See Tab F). Within a few hours, an enemy patrol of 12 soldiers was killed by that ambush. The ambush party, then, was ordered to return and complete their partially prepared positions in the platoon perimeter at Poakum.

By late morning, my platoon was being probed by enemy units approaching from Kamaing. Evidently that was a point squad that had been eliminated by the ambush. This unit had a scout dog with their lead elements and that dog was eliminated when it located our machine gun position. The enemy unit estimated to be a platoon at this time and later it was determined that it was a lead element of a company judging from the double envelopment that they tried to make on our platoon. They tried to get around and sever our south trail escape route going toward Warong.

Three distinct probes were each preceded by incoming mortar shells. Fortunately, we had time to

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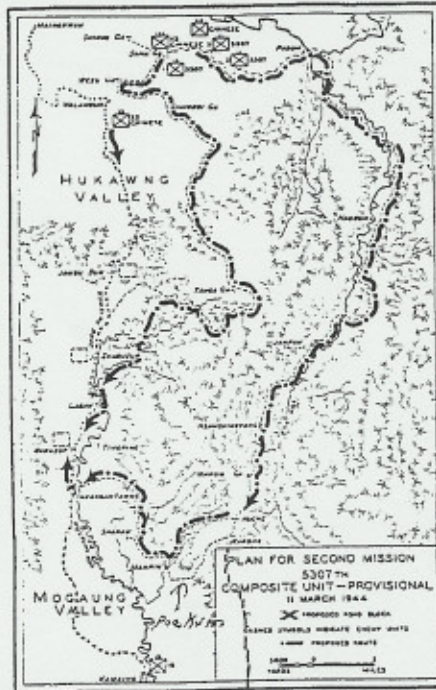
PASS IN REVIEW Deaths reported recently

Name & Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased
 VERNON L BEARD, Box 544, Arlington OH 45814, 5307/3/OCT/COMM O, January 17, 1989
 WAYNE R BEESLEY, 1611 S Main St, El Dorado Sprgs MO 64744, 475/3/K Co, Fall 1992
 RAYMOND D BROWN, Mamers NC, 5307IH, September 16, 1992
 HOMER BUSH, 207 Shoran Av, Battle Creek MI 49017, 5307/3/OCT, April 28, 1992
 JAMES CROWDER, 689 Leslie, Wood River IL 62095-1547, 5307/1/C Co
 PETER GUERTIN, 80 East Av, Harrisville RI 02830, 5307, 475, June 19, 1990
 DONALD G MC DONEL, 123 Ann St, Eau Claire WI 54701, 5307/2/GCT, June 12, 1992
 ROBERT N MOORE, 13711 Rawhide Parkway, Dallas TX 75234, 247-7561, 5307/2/GCT, November 17, 1992
 CHARLES J MOSS, 234 Rively Av, Glenolden PA 19036, 5307/HQ/FWD, Fall 1992
 JOHN L RAY, 904 W Maple, Centerville IA 52544, 5307/1/WCT/B; 475/1/B Co, March 30, 1991
 OSCAR VALLES, 3234 Altman Dr, Dallas TX 75229, 214-357-7779, 151 MED BN; 5307/3/OCT/MED, November 23, 1992

dig in good fox holes, although we had not had enough time to properly camouflage them. Another fortunate thing was that we were on the highest ground in the area and higher ground was to our rear, over which we would plan to later withdraw, if necessary. Each of these enemy probes were turned back with a known enemy loss of 28 men.

There was practically no firing after darkness. We did manage to get rid of a few grenades at unseen noises to our front, but that night enemy units kept working around our position on both of our flanks. One of my mules had been hit by mortar fire. We had no personnel casualties.

At first light the next day, we were hit from the south and from the west by an estimated enemy company. About 10:30 hours that day, our radio received a direct knee mortar hit and was totaled. But the operators at the time were at my fox hole a few yards away picking up a situation report that I intended sending to battalion, now located somewhere near Manpin. The enemy were repulsed and remnants of their forces withdrew toward Kamaing, evidently to regroup. We estimated their losses to be around 18. However, I took a patrol out to determine if any enemy had moved around us toward Manpin and found the



situation there negative. But I was able to account for 11 enemy bodies along the trail.

While awaiting the next enemy action, I took three men and moved eastward toward Warong to locate the next defensive position in the event withdrawal became necessary. The south trail toward Warong consisted of several terraces with a trail running up the spine. Around the rim of the

terraces, the flanks were steep, rugged, precarious and difficult to negotiate in addition to being covered with dense undercover jungle growth. Upon locating this next good defensive position a few hundred yards from my present location in Poakum, I then returned to the platoon around 4:30 PM.

Shortly after that Lt Smith arrived with his platoon from Manpin. The Battalion Commander had sent him down thinking the worse for me when my communications with him were severed. I then discussed the situation with Smith and then suggested he occupy the newly located blocking area I had just scouted out on the way to Warong. I wanted him to protect my withdrawal route in case the enemy might try to surround it and cut me off. Smith dug in on this location and there they spent the night.

Throughout darkness that night, we received sporadic harassing and some mortar fire and could hear movement of patrols on both flanks and shortly after daylight the next morning, three enemy troopers stepped out on the trail between my location and Smith. In an exchange of hand grenades, we eliminated the three enemy and of course, I had no way of knowing the strength of the force that they were with.

During this exchange of hand grenades, I received fragmentation

(Continued on page 4)

FALL IN

Here are the latest additions to our assembly. Remember them?
JAMES ANGELOS, 468 Forestview Dr, Atlantis FL 33462, 5307/3/L Co;
475/3/L

NEIL E BERNIKOW, 4548 Oakdale Av, Las Vegas NV 89121, 458-7435.
613/H&S

COL TREVOR N DUPUY, 1324 Kurtz Rd, Mc Lean VA 22101, 38 Chin
Div/Arty O; 612 FA/C.O.

HILBERT E ERICKSON, 1408 S 29th St, La Crosse WI 54601, 5307

ROBERT F HAMILTON, 7682 Riga Hwy, Riga MI 49276, 517-486-2680,
5307/31 QN PK TR; 475/31 QM PK TR

RAYMOND R LA PIERRE, 167 Eileen St, Yarmouth Port MA 02675, 5307;
475

KENNETH R LANDECK, 849 Arrowhead Tr, Henderson NV 89015, 5307

ERCOLINO MASSARI, 160 Russell St, Waterbury CT 06708, 203-756-
3970, 5307; 475/HQ/I&R

VIRGIL V ROE, PO Box 1967, Oak Harbor WA 98277-1967, 206-675-1324,
5307/3/H Co; Pack Arty

JOSEPH A SCAPARRO, 291 Marlboro Rd, Woodridge NJ 07075, 201-
935-4231, 5307; 475/3/L Co

MELVIN H SMITH, 18291 Majestic View Dr, Anderson CA 96007-9525,
916-365-3547, Mars Task Force

HAROLD R STEVENSON, 10808 Perez Dr, Tampa FL 33624, 813-963-
1358, 5307/3/OCT

JAMES L WATSON, 1101 Kendall St, Amory MS 38821, 504 Engr Lt
Ponton Co, Myitkyina.

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.

We have available the Mike Gabbett Book, "The Bastards of Burma". \$10 per copy.

Mike was one of the Original Marauders and the book covers in Regular Army Top Sgt style his observations of what went on in the 1st and 2nd Campaigns in Burma.

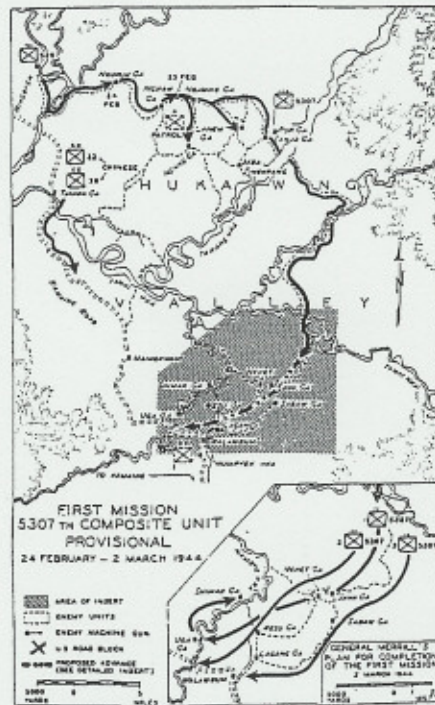
shrapnel in the left leg. For this injury, James Hopkins, Battalion Surgeon, wrote me up for the Purple Heart.

Shortly after this, a loud frantic Banzai attack came at us from the southwest and during this relay, another mule was hit by mortar fire tree bursts. Not knowing the strength of the enemy, closing in between Smith's Platoon and my rear escape route, I was fearful of being forced between a hammer and an anvil. The hammer being the Banzai attack coming up from Kamaing; the anvil being the force between me and Smith. And in view of this, I decided to begin to extract men, dispatching them to Smith's location, sending the most heavily engaged men against the enemy last. They were pulled back only as the enemy forced them back.

Our mules were led back, but the two wounded ones were unable to carry loads. Our blown up radio and generator which were no longer of use to us, as they were inoperative, we destroyed them with fragmentation grenades but had to hand carry the decoding machine, the machine guns and the ammunition previously carried on the mules, to our next defensive position by hand. This second position was fully occupied by my men late that morning.

The mules were tethered to a rather long picket line and blocks of TNT with different length fuses were prepared and the entire Poakum blocking position was evacuated. When we reached the next defensive position, Smith and I discussed that he move on to Warong with his platoon to block the south Tatbum Trail in case enemy forces might come up that way, to further complicate our route of withdrawal.

At my location, enemy probes were active on both flanks throughout the day but only occasional shots were exchanged. We assumed the enemy was preparing for a night attack. We knew that our position had been thoroughly scouted, so at dusk that evening, we moved eastward to the next defensible terrain and left our two wounded mules in the vacated position. Also we ignited the TNT fuses so that one would blow occasionally throughout the early hours of the night. That confusion with the noise made by the mules



stomping around on the picket line evidently gave the impression to the enemy that the position was still occupied.

Again at first light the next day, the enemy attacked the position from the north and from the south, thinking that we were in between their forces. Their vision was quite thoroughly blinded by dense jungle undergrowth.

Later on that day, I took a small patrol out and found the area that we had just vacated bloodied by the enemy's own inflicted fire and the

carcasses of our two mules were riddled by small arms fire testifying to the ferociousness of the enemy assault. The rest of the day was spent by probing into known positions of enemy units working through the precarious steep, rocky, wet, leech infested jungles on both of our flanks, both to the north and to the south. This action was accompanied by frequent leapfrogging by squads of my platoon eastward toward Warong.

Our effort to avoid being surrounded was being realized. When we closed into our perimeter at Warong on the Poakum Trail shortly before dark, we found Smith in a good blocking position on the Tatbum Trail (See Tab F). The terrain in our area dictated that we build our defense on the military crest of a terrace with good grazing fires and fall observation to our west front, down toward Poakum. The enemy had not yet established contact with Smith by the time darkness descended that night. But on first light the next day, I was on the left flank of my platoon attempting to tie in with Smith's platoon right flank.

There was a natural enemy covered approach into our position. So while scouting for the best location to dig in about fifty yards forward of our perimeter three of my men and two men from Smith's platoon ran into an enemy

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RANGER COLUMN

SCHEDULE OF "RANGER RENDEZVOUS" JULY 17 - 21 1993

- JULY 19 REGIMENTAL AIRBORNE OPERATION
NIGHT WEAPONS COMPETITION
- JULY 18 DAY WEAPONS COMPETITION
SPORTS COMPETITION
RANGER WIVES LUNCHEON (ALL RANGER ASSOCIATIONS)
REGIMENTAL OPEN HOUSE / BARBECUE FOR EVERYONE
- JULY 19 DAY WEAPONS COMPETITION (CONTINUED)
SPORTS COMPETITION (CONTINUED)
RANGER MEMORIAL DEDICATION
RANGER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY
AWARDS BANQUET FOR EVERYONE
- JULY 20 REGIMENTAL PT.
PARADE REHEARSALS
HAIL AND FAREWELL DINNER (SELECTED GUESTS)
- JULY 21 REGIMENTAL CHANGE OF COMMAND ON YORK FIELD

ANY MARAUDER PLANNING TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT PHIL PIAZZA, SO HE CAN BOOK ROOMS AT THE SAME HOTEL AS LAST YEAR. HIS PHONE NUMBER 803-972-3239. HIS ADDRESS 374 TIMBERLAKE ONE CIR, SENECA SC 29678

squad patrolling for an open flank of our defense. A short exchange of rifle fire and an exchange of grenades ensued at this meeting. We got five of the enemy but we feared that at least two of them had gotten away.

About this time on one occasion, I was crawling through the jungle and looked up the hill to my left front and saw a Japanese soldier standing partially covered by a protruding rock. He saw me about the same time that I saw him. I was tangled up in jungle vines and was unable to get to my grenades or to bring my rifle into play. There was a dead banana tree partially decayed lying there, and when I saw him pull the pin and toss his grenade at me, I rolled downhill to the other side of the banana tree. Seconds later, a dull thud sounded, and I looked over the banana tree to see the Japanese grenade lying there in two halves. It would have hit me mid-section, but fortunately turned out to be a dud. This gave me time to react and eliminate the enemy with rifle fire.

Shortly after this, Lt Smith's Platoon was hit on the Tatbum Trail and simultaneously, my platoon was hit real hard on the Poakum Trail. This appeared to be a coordinated attack and was estimated to be a fresh enemy unit of unknown size. This was later confirmed to be a battalion when about 45 minutes later, the hostile units were supported by artillery fire evidently coming from a 76mm artillery piece and the shells began to pepper our position and peppered the trail leading northward from Warong to Auche, Kauri and Nhpum Ga. An early tree burst of either artillery or mortar fire found its mark on my left thigh before I could get back to platoon headquarters.

The flanks of our Warong position were more easily negotiated by the enemy patrolling because of the flatter, more level terrain, but we still had the advantage of higher ground to our rear and we also retained flexibility. We kept maneuvering our automatic weapons to meet new threats on our flanks. Smith and I decided to begin displacement by platoons toward Nhpum Ga through Auche and Kauri.

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OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - Phil Piazza

The week after the Richmond reunion, we went to a Change of Command at Ft Benning and then up to Camp Merrill at Dahlonga for another Change of Command. The following week to Benning for a Ranger Memorial Foundation meeting. We are meeting down there every month this year until the money is raised for the Memorial's needed \$500,000. On Oct 8th we were at Atlanta for an affair put on by the Republic of China to celebrate their anniversary. On Oct 22nd, I went up to Mass. to meet with Dave Quaid and the staff at the Colonial Hilton Resort at Wakefield. It is a beautiful facility. We also went over to Salem to visit with the Chamber of Commerce and go on a tour of the old town. We are planning on organizing a trip there as it is only 3 miles from the hotel. On Nov 10th I met with Col Grange, CO of the 75th and his new S/5, Major Green to discuss plans for this coming year. On the 13th we had a Foundation meeting and this was followed by Command Sgt/Maj Leon-Guerrero's retirement ceremony and the Change of Command for the new CSM Laye. On Nov 23rd, we went to a cocktail party at LTG Wayne Downing's home in honor of Gen Stringham's retirement.

The morning of the 24th, we had the Dedication of the Marauder Memorial Stone at JFK Special Forces Plaza. It was a beautiful ceremony with the 82nd Airborne Band and 75th Color Guard. We also dedicated the 75th Stone at the same time. It was a memorable occasion. In the afternoon, there was BG Stringham's retirement ceremony followed by a reception at the Officer's Club. On the 25th there was a Foundation meeting at Ft Benning. On Dec 3, 4 and 5th, we were in Savannah to help Darby's Rangers celebrate Christmas with a party. We also had lunch one day at Hunter AAF Base with the 1st Bn who also put out a large static display for us. On Dec 17, 18 and 19th, we were down at Ft Benning again for a Foundation Meeting and unveiling of the Merrill's Marauders' painting which is beautiful. We wound it up with the Regimental Ball. I also met with Col Grange to go over coming events. I hope that some of you

can make some of them at least. If you can, please let me know, so that I can get you the invitations.

On January 18th, Change of Command at Camp Merrill in Dahlonga GA. Feb 11th, at Ft Benning for a Change of Command for 3rd Bn LTC McKnight assuming command, Feb 20th, "Dining In" for 75th Regiment, "Once an Eagle" at the Officer's Club. End of March for 4 days at Ft Benning, the Best Ranger Competition. On July 17th through 21st there will be another Ranger Rendezvous similar to this past year's. Winding up with Col Grange's Change of Command on the 21st. If any of you plan to make the July Rendezvous, please let me know and I can make hotel arrangements at the same place in Columbus.

In November the Regiment suffered a tragic loss while on a night problem in Utah, under abominable weather conditions, a chopper went down in the Great Salt Lake, killing five Rangers, including LTC Ken Stauss, CO - 1st Bn; LTC John Kennealy, CO - 3rd Bn; 1st Sgt Harvey Moore; Sgt Blaine Mishak; Spec Jeremy Bird; all of 1st Bn. Sgt Moore had won the Best Ranger Competition in 1985. The following week another Sgt was killed in a night fire problem.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -

Ray Lyons

We have been receiving a lot of return mail. Please keep us in mind if you are moving, retiring to a different location, etc. The Postal Service despite its intention to be a 100% organization does not come up to that standard.

Mary (Logan) Weston called to say that they now have the re-printed copies of their book, "The Fighting Preacher". Send check \$12. (includes postage and handling) to Col Logan Weston, 298 Swamp Fox Dr, Fort Mill SC 29715.

Larry Stephenson, OCT has a daughter, Linda Cunningham, Rt 9 Box 426 Beaumont TX 77713 who is making a determined, detailed effort to obtain a Congressional Medal of Honor for Logan Weston, I&R Platoon Ldr, Orange CT, 3rd Bn, 5307th. Anyone who has

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OFFICERS . . .

(Continued from page 5)

Information about Logan Weston's military history to add please write to her or to me.

We went up to NH over the weekend of 10/17-18 and delivered the Ranger Hall of Fame Medal to Mrs Lucy Merrill at her apartment



Ray Lyons presenting Ranger Hall of Fame Medal to Mrs. Frank D. Merrill, Concord, New Hampshire, November 17, 1992.

in Concord. Dave Quaid also came up to participate in the presentation. We also met General Merrill's sister - Grace Fifield. She advises that they were both born in Woodville MA near Hopkinton.

General Merrill & Col Hunter graduated from the same West Point Class of 1929. Gen Merrill was #8633 and Col Hunter was #8705. That's seniority.

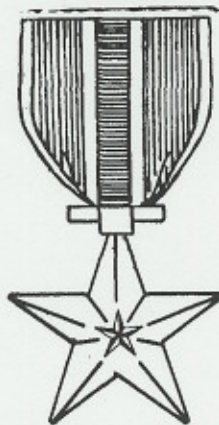
At this time, we have 1474 Regular Members and 270 Honorary Members.

HISTORIAN & REUNION CHAIRMAN - Dave Quaid

We have been making plans to have a Historic Colonial Reunion up here "Down East". For the

benefit of First Timers we will try to explain that there are two kinds of Reunion Folks. The Maxi and the Mini. The Maxi come early or stay late and the Mini come just in time for the Weekend doings- Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. The Package rate for 2 persons - \$282. covers the Mini people who will have the advantage of two nights lodging and five meals. Then they leave Sunday morning after the Brunch. The Maxi people come earlier in order to take in the tourist advantages, as well as having the chance to talk to other Marauders and their families who also come early. Besides the package cost, they will be charged \$59 + tax for additional nights lodging. Meals will be wherever you choose. This Maxi practice started when the airlines came up with a seven day cut rate fare package. We enjoyed that opportunity and used it to advantage to make a vacation trip out of it.

Nearby are the famous towns of Revolutionary War and Colonial times. Salem, for example, has a trolley which starts out of the National Park Visitors Center and runs every hour till 4 PM. Cost S/C \$7. You get off and on again at 15 famous tourist spots. More later.

**SHARING THE STORY . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

Smith dispatched a messenger to battalion to inform the command that we didn't think we would be able to hold beyond nightfall of that day. The messenger contacted lead elements of the battalion as they approached Kauri. They had come up the north parallel route from Inkangahtawng. They were enroute to Nhpum Ga to establish a battalion size perimeter there.

Under heaviest enemy pressure by about 10:30 it was decided that since he was more heavily engaged than I was, Smith would delay action from Warong and I would begin a leap-frog blocking action to establish the next block south of Aucho. Smith and I now had radio contact between us with SCR 300 Radios.

When my platoon was dug in south of Aucho, Smith broke contact and moved through me to a second blocking position. From this point on, our platoons leapfrogged northward under enemy probing action on our flanks and rather extensive artillery bombardment throughout the day. We reached Kauri shortly after the second and third battalions had cleared Kauri on their withdrawal from Inkangahtawng.

The Second Battalion proceeded northward to dig in at Nhpum Ga where they made an 11 day stand, and we proceeded to join our 3rd Bn unit 4 miles further north at Hsamshingyang where they prepared a battalion size perimeter around an area that could be developed into an evacuation air strip. There on Nhpum Ga, the Second Battalion lost all of their mules and 302 men were wounded in action and 57 men were killed in action during the next 11 days. This loss was to the same enemy unit that had taken 4 days to drive us 8 miles (See Tab G)

During this operation the enemy lost in excess of 700 men approximately 90 of which had been killed in their thrusts against us during our delaying action. In addition to surrounding the Second Battalion at Nhpum Ga, the trail that led from Poakum to Hsamshingyang was also covered

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LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS?

HENRY J BRIGHAM, 42 Elm Hill St Nurs Home, Dorchester MA 02121
THEODORE S PIETRAZEK, 51 Raven Rd, Lowell MA 01852
ERNEST M REID, 1624 44TH AV S, New Port Richey FL 33552

by enemy forces. This trail was on a ridge with precipitous flanks and it went from the low ground at Hsamshingyang to the high ground at Nhpum Ga in seven terraces similar to the ones that we had withdrawn over in our delaying action from Poakum, through Warong, Auche and Kauri.

During the eleven days in which the 2nd Bn was surrounded at Nhpum Ga, the 3rd Bn I & R Platoon spearheaded the drive to release them. The terrain was such that it was only possible to commit two squads at a time on a skirmish line. The drive to break through in this relief effort put the I&R Platoon on skirmish line in the offensive for five days. Although no I&R Platoon men were lost during our blocking action, we did lose three killed and four wounded during this offensive.

On one occasion, shortly before we broke through to the 2nd Bn, we were following a rolling mortar and artillery barrage up over a terrace. My two squads were on line and I was working behind them over on the left flank and observed three enemy soldiers that had been bypassed by the attacking squads.

They were in rear of our skirmish line and had hidden in spider holes. I saw them come out of the holes, aim at my men on line, intending to shoot them from the rear. In reflex action, I shot and killed all three of them.

I was later severely criticized for killing them rather than trying to take them prisoner. However, this criticism came from some rear-area desk jockey back in India and he didn't have the whole story.

Our Third Battalion, after we broke through to the Second Battalion at Nhpum Ga, then occupied that area until relieved by Chinese troops. The Chinese troops were now in possession of the entire Mogaung/Hukawng Valley complex of North Burma and Japanese General Tanaka had failed in his second attempt to eliminate the Marauders and out-flank the Chinese troops in the Valley to our west. At Nhpum Ga he lost in excess of 700 men.

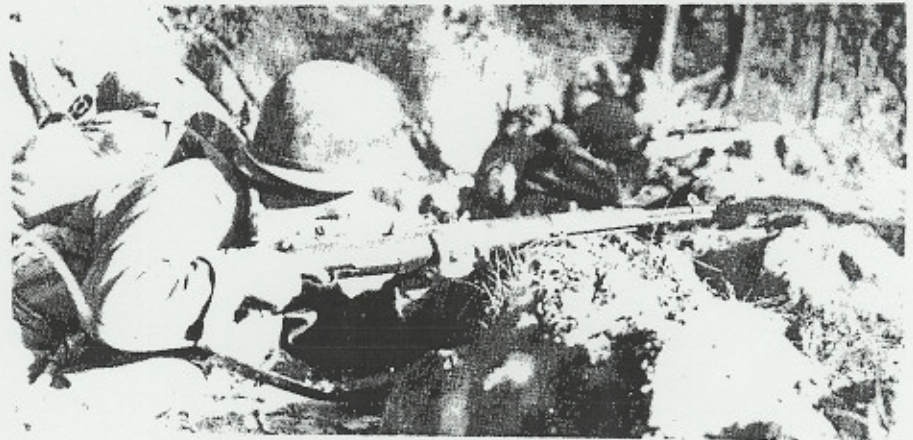
When relieved by the Chinese, we then pulled back to the north in preparation to cross the Kumon Mountain range into the Irrawaddy River Valley, prior to the attack on our final objective at Myitkyina.

(To be continued next issue)

Who We Are - The Infantryman!

From a clipping received from Jim De Salvo. West Point Infantry Magazine. "Ever since the first man on foot shot the first armored knight off his horse, the Infantry has had the right of way on the field of battle. In no other way can we get a decision; it must still be physical contact, man to man, with rifle and bayonet. It is our Infantry that the enemy must stop, and so it is our Infantry that is the target for all the hell they can pour on us. There is no rest; it goes on day after day and night after night. The doughboy must live in the mud, eat when he can, fight fatigue, hunger, thirst, cold, vermin, and fear, and still push on. He must absorb 70% of the casualties in his 20% of the strength of the army, and endure that too. There is no glamour or hoorah about this job; it's all hell.

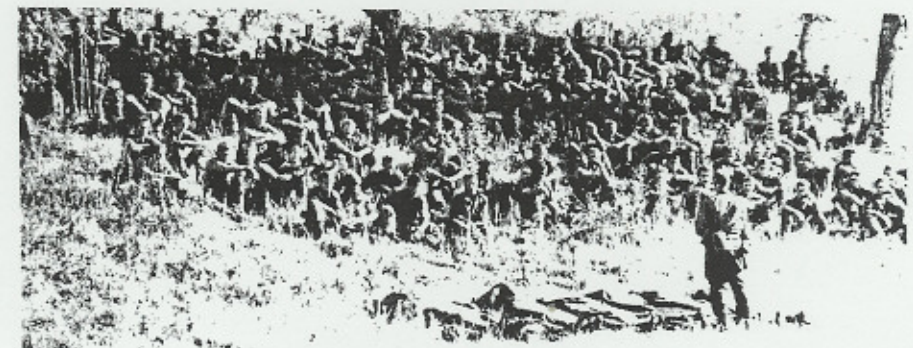
Now, I ask you, is one day a year suitable recognition of his devotion. Of course not - you can't pack enough recognition into one day to adequately express our appreciation for the doughboy and his accomplishments. And anyway, he doesn't need it. He wears a badge that adds it all up and says it for us, the Combat Infantryman's Badge - to which the doughboy himself has given full meaning by his deeds on the field of battle. For the man who has the right to wear it, every day is Infantry Day." Joseph W. Stilwell, General, US Army.



Riflemen in combat on trail



L Company soldier burial detail at Nampakka



Burial service at Burma Road

Letters

EDITOR

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
TO HELL AND BACK TWICE
FROM THE EYES OF A
MULESKINNER

This is the name of a book that I am writing. I would like any Marauder who were in any of the campaigns to send me some of the things that happened that they were involved in personally. Don't let the title make you think this is only for Muleskinners. It is for all of you who can remember things that should go down in history while there are enough of us around to help remember. Harold L Bengtson, 114 Tenth Av, Camanche IA 52730, 5307/3/KCT; 33 QM PACK TROOP

EDITOR

It would be a good idea at the Reunion to have everyone autograph 2 or 3 books with Original Marauders Signatures and put them in our history museum. Get Lt Weston especially. When his I&R Platoon was surrounded at Walawbum, there were 12 of us across the river laying down covering fire after the mortars stopped, while Lt Weston crossed. Later I saw him under a tree reading his Bible. He is my hero. Charles E Beck, 5307/3/OCT/L Co, 4642 Monroe St, Riverside CA 92504, 689-7238

EDITOR

I've noted that there is some discussion that the Merrill's Marauders Association have never had a parade. If memory serves me right, we had a parade of sorts in Fremantle, Australia and again in Deolali. That one I remember well because in the parade, I was part of the "Color Guard"

Something that may be of interest to you. I received a book order from a "Masakazu Shimizu", Kashihara-Shi, Japan. I assume he got my address from "CBI Roundup". After receiving my book, he sent me a postcard wherein he states he lost 20 of his men at Myitkyina. After some digging around, I learned that he was an Infantry Captain. A few days ago I got a letter from him telling me that all in all the Japs had lost approximately 2000 men, during

the fight for Myitkyina. Michael Gabbett, 10413 Walker Dr NE, Albuquerque NM 87112, 5307/HQ/RE; 475/HQ/1ST SGT

EDITOR

I am a combat veteran of the WW II Burma Campaign and am trying to get in contact with some of the men I served with. I was a scout in the 3rd Bn, I & R Platoon of the 475th Infantry. I served from June 1 with the 5307th, 3rd Bn, I & R until the fall of Myitkyina and then served with the 475th same outfit.

Robert Maxwell, PO Box 785, Athens WV 24712, 304-384-7964

EDITOR

I am writing to you in pursuit of my hobby - the collection of U S Army distinctive unit insignia. The colored metal crests. At present my collection numbers over 15,000 pieces.

I am looking for a sample of the "Marauders Crest" made in the CB for my collection. The CBI made crest has painted design on crude metal, not the recently made enameled pieces made for veterans reunions.

I would offer \$50 for the authentic CBI made crest with the

(Continued on page 9)

LET'S GET AFTER THESE GUYS!

475th Regimental I & R Platoon Roster - 17 February 1945.
Platoon Leader - Capt Alton M Shipstead, O-26345, 520 West 218th St, New York City NY
Assistant Platoon Leaders - 1st Lt Vern Mahoney, O1318200, 200 West Comstock St, Seattle, 99, Washington
1st Lt John L Robertson, O1322710, 1102 Eldridge Av, West Collingswood, Pa (NJ?)
Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Ray C Jackson, 37513702, Rt 1 Celina, Kansas
1st Squad = Sgt Hilton R Higgins, 18196777, 412 25 Mile Av, Hereford, Texas
T/5 Jack E Plunkett, 34396600, 2517 18th Ensley St, Birmingham Alabama
PFC Ercholino Massari, 31324174, 22 Winchester St, Waterbury, Conn
PFC Steven A Jacobs, 32918228, 131 Somerset, Alpha NJ
PFC John C. Porraz, 39049433, 3211 East Weber Av, Stockton, Calif
Cpl Albert N Kevorkian, 31031292, 81 Richmond St, Dorchester Mass
2nd Squad = T/4 Eugene M Lusk, 35094902, RFD #5, Shelbyville, Indiana
T/5 Arnold E Dethloff, 34706247, 309 South Dearborn St, Mobile, Alabama
T/5 Simplico B Gonzales, 39562305, 128 Erwin St, San Bernardino, Calif.
T/5 Gus Tahyi, 35603172, 754 Hall Av, Zanesville, Ohio
Cpl Furril R Corder, 13018124, Coeburn, Virginia (Deceased 2/91)
Pvt Cyril A Stone, 35094801, 5135 Ruth St, East Chicago, Illinois
PFC John M Hilton, 35622856, 123 East Lincoln St, Columbus, Ohio
PFC Harry L Peebles, 36061209, 713 East Main St, Marion, Illinois
PFC Robert Keith, 35712400, Louisville, Kentucky
Pvt Jack L Lyles, 7085245, Rt #1, Camden, South Carolina
3rd Squad = Sgt David O Turner, 34666880, 213 West College, Mount Olive, NC
T/5 Charles B Elkins, 35725766, Murray, Kentucky
Cpl Elmer French, 34373822, Findlay, Tenn
PFC William H Jenkins, 38516582, 401 Park Av, Eldorado, Arkansas
T/5 Paul J Fenstermacher, 33501153, Rt #3, Muncy, Penn
PFC Mike Kokulak, Jr, 32811086, 734 Leonard St, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY
PFC John J Pollock, 33438360, Box 869, Lyndora, Penn
Sgt Vincent B Bradley, 13175876, 1231 South St, Bernard St, West Philadelphia, Penn.
PFC Donald D Evans, 655324, Atlanta, Indiana

The above names and addresses obviously go back to 1945 and they could have moved elsewhere but a check of the phone book or a chat with the Postmaster or Letter Carrier could turn someone up. There might be relations in the town. I think it is worth the effort. RVL.

motto "Marauders" on the bottom. I am not looking for patches but only the metal unit insignia.

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to give me.
John H Linden, Col USA (Ret), 8963
Colesbury Pl, Fairfax VA 22031,
703-280-5398

EDITOR

Not only was I part of E Co, 2nd Bn, 475th, I was also in the 5307th. I served in the CBI from May 1944 to November 1945. I went over from Newport News VA on the USS Butner (31 days) and left for the states on a Merchant Marine ship "Angel" from Calcutta, India. I was discharged on 12/25/45. What a Christmas present! I have a poem that was hand written and personally given to me by a Wade Hall. Anyone else have knowledge of him or his whereabouts? This happened while we were at Myitkyina. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to share some info about that place and time. I'm sure we all remember wading thru rice paddies, cutting thru jungles, the Burma Road and the many other events that changed our lives.

I was a 21 year old from a farming family who had not been more than 30 miles from home and ended up across the world. I am known by a lifetime nickname: DIMP. My hometown while in service was Monroe NC. Moran F Helms, 6800 Pleasant Oak Cir, Charlotte NC 28216-1833.

EDITOR

I would like to hear from anyone that was in Co L, 3rd Bn, 475th. Some of the names I have written down in a small Bible that I had over there are as follows. Theodore Cox, Albert Thomasson, Dominick Santoro, Clyde Taylor, Leroy Thompson, W P Alexander, Gregory Samosuk, Richard Loos, Donald Britton, James Miller, Rex Lewis, Lonnie Dilly, Knight Dillard, Shelly Roberts, Floyd Dye, Doleman Henderson, Alphonsus Terlinksi. Hope you have a wonderful reunion. Maybe I can make it another time. I would like to hear from some of you. Roland Bressette, Rt 2 Box 406A, St Albans VT 05478

EDITOR

Just got out of the hospital, so this will be brief. I am still weak. I

IN MEMORY

A Donation in memory of LYN HIGHTOWER by James K Blocker.

A Donation in memory of FRANK WEBER by Millie Weber.

A Donation in memory of JOHNNIE B HOLMES by Dorothy Holmes.

woke up this morning wondering if Col Coombs ever was given the Silver Star. The story as I remember it, is that he jumped into a fox hole and killed five Japs. He died in less than a day from many wounds. Dr John Mc Laughlin, 5307/1/SURG, 416 Woodward Av, Buffalo NY 14214-1938.

(Ed: My personal recollection is that the story at the Command Post was that he had a son who as a pilot was killed in the South Pacific and he was out for revenge. He was CO of the 5307/236 Combat Engrs at that time.)

EDITOR

I was in the 612th Field Artillery, A Battery. My role in Burma was as an Automatic Rifleman (BAR) and was assigned to perimeter defense of our battery when in position for artillery fire. During our marches through Burma terrain, I was located at the head of the column with the 1st Sgt and lead officer. George W Haupin, 32 Ellwood Rd, East Brunswick NJ 08816, 908-254-5216.

EDITOR

I was a Machine Gunner in the 5307th. Landed at the airfield at Myitkyina when we were on one side and the Japs were on the other. After Myitkyina fell, we camped on the banks of the Irrawaddy River. Later it was known as Camp Landis.

I had jungle rot on my feet that didn't heal right. A couple of days after we left Myitkyina, I was transferred to the 55 TH Chinese Division. We went down through Bhamo, Lashio and Hsipaw about 40 miles from Mandalay. Then we went into China until the war was over. Richard Gillette, 5307; 55 Chin Div, 5132 Parker Rd, Hamburg NY 14075, 716-649-0224.

EDITOR

I was delighted to receive your letter. I must tell you the letters

from you and Dr Williams set me looking through boxes of family papers that brought back many memories.

My Grandfather, Dr I.S. Ravdin was proud to have served with the Army Medical Corps in India and to have helped provide care for members of Merrill's Marauders. As you probably know, he was a university professor of surgery in civilian life, and he was determined to provide first-class medical care to the troops. I understand that despite difficult conditions, the 20th General did a pretty good job. I would be delighted to become an Honorary Member of the Merrill's Marauders Association. Vivien Ravdin, Senior Speechwriter to the Secretary of Defense, 37 Great Pines Ct, Rockville MD 20850, 301-309-8955

EDITOR

I joined the Rear Echelon of the 5307th in Dinjan in May of 1944 as Assistant Adjutant (Personnel Officer). The Combat Teams were already in action, but had not yet reached Myitkyina. I worked with Bruce Lambertson, also an Assistant Adjutant, under Major Hancock, who was in command of the rear echelon.

Later, after the fall of Myitkyina and the formation of the Mars Task Force, I was Assistant Adjutant General in the Headquarters of the 5332nd Brigade, under Col Ligon. Lloyd P Kirby, PO Box 926, Land O'Lakes FL 34639

EDITOR

The outfits that I was in were the 5307/2 Bn/ Co G/3 Platoon. The Company Commander was killed while on patrol and then commanded by 1st Lt Broadbrook until Company was ambushed by Japs. Broadbrook and Platoon Leader Lt Foote were both killed. First Sgt Gross called for withdrawal of group. I was with some 30 survivors who were transferred to Co E. I served with them until formation of the 475th Inf. Then I was in the HQ Motor Pool until moved to Kunming China and served there in the 43rd QM Truck Bn until I reached age 40 when I was returned to the USA and discharged at Ft Douglas UT. Zene B McConnell, 211 W Janeaux #308, Lewistown MT 59457.

EDITOR

I was surprised how active the group is, and particularly interested in the sign-in sheet for the 44th Reunion. My unit had the second largest turnout for the Mars Task Force! I was a member of "I" Company, Third Bn, 475th Infantry, an Assistant Machine Gunner in the Company Weapons Platoon. We had two Browning light .30's and one 81 mm mortar.

I was one of the 5-600 cavalymen shipped from Fort Riley as fillers for the 124th Cavalry, but who found ourselves diverted into the 475th upon arrival. According to my diary, we left Long Beach on 29 August 1944 on the "General George M. Randall". Arrived in Bombay 7 October 1944 via the Fiji's and Melbourne. We walked across Bombay to a train station, rode a train to a remote airfield, and flew into Myitkyina that same night, ending up in Camp Landis.

After the Central Burma Campaign, we flew out of Kutkai to Kunming in March 1945. After filling in as emergency truck drivers for two runs to the front with Chinese troops and material, most of us were assigned to the Chinese Training Command. In my case that was the Chinese First Heavy Mortar Regiment in Lushien.

In October '45, I flew back to Calcutta for a dreary round of waiting for a ship at Kanchrapara, Hijli, etc. Circa 21 February 1946 we finally got a ride on the "Marine Angel" back to Seattle. **Richard W Hale**, 1196 Sandcastle Rd, Sanibel FL 33957, 813-472-4590

HISTORIAN

Thank you for your support of Camp Frank D Merrill and the 5th Ranger Training Battalion. The Marauder pictures, poem, and maps will allow us to remember and learn from the first generation of Rangers.

Your efforts have made it possible to display the Marauder pictures in our Battalion Headquarters in time for our Open House on August 1, 1992. I am sure they will be a big hit to everyone who sees them. Also, I'm sure COL Weston will enjoy using your maps when he speaks to us about his adventures in Burma. "Rangers Lead The Way!" Brian M Pentecost, Lt Col, USA, Commanding Officer,

5th Ranger Training Battalion,
Camp Frank D Merrill, Dahlonga
GA 30533-9499.

EDITOR

Could **Avery Drown** have been with the Combat Engineers who were thrown among us in the Battle of Myitkyina? I remember the story you put in the B/N about a Marauder who found himself in a foxhole with an engineer who didn't even know how to load his M-1. Strange as it may seem, I had exactly the same experience.

Moreover, questioning him as I demonstrated the gun-loading, I learned the engineer had never received Basic Training, was 42 years old, had four kids, and was from a small midwestern town. "All the young men had already been drafted," he explained. "And when I was picked, I guess I was at the very bottom of my town's barrel of able-bodied males." Can you believe that? I was shocked and to this day I feel awfully, awfully

(Continued on page 11)

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 218
15 October 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 8)

Section

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

1. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL:

Under the provisions of par 16, AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943 and par 20, Cir #55, Hq, USAF, CBI, APO 885, dated 29 May 1944, the O's and EM indicated below are awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds and injuries, sustained on dates indicated, in combat against the enemy in the North Burma Campaign:

JOHN A ACKER, 34104668, S/Sgt	16 April 1944	125
GAIL V AERNI, 35548000, Pfc	29 June 1944	✓
ELMER D ALEXANDER, 35789725, Pfc	12 August 1944	126
PATSY ALGIERI, O1290350, 1st Lt, Inf	31 July 1944	127
RICHARD E ALLEN, 31299769, Pfc	30 July 1944	✓
JOHN E ALLGOOD, 35095228, Pfc	28 July 1944	✓
ROY E ALVAREZ, 39125021, Pfc	16 June 1944	✓
ALLISON AMIS, 35789402, Pfc	31 July 1944	✓
JOHN P ANDERSON, 32736066, Pfc	11 July 1944	128
MARVIN H ANDERSON, 35789276, Pfc	27 July 1944	✓
WILLIAM J ANDORFER, 35603424, Cpl	16 June 1944	✓
ROBERT P ANGLE, 33616810, Pvt	2 July 1944	129
JAMES O APOSTOLAKO, 31258056, Pvt	1 July 1944	130
JAMES H APPLGATE, O1324694, 2nd Lt, Inf	15 June 1944	✓
JOSEPH ASARO, 20903832, Pfc	27 July 1944	✓
EDWARD ASHLEY, 34606303, Pvt	6 June 1944	✓
JOHN P AVILA, 32517735, Pfc	7 June 1944	131
GLENN C AXE, 33501781, Pfc	25 July 1944	132
RAYMOND E BAILEY, 35603578, Pfc	27 July 1944	✓
RAYMOND L BALDWIN, 35048690, Pfc	11 July 1944	✓
STANLEY G BALUNAS, 32751168, Pvt	3 August 1944	133
BOYD H BANKSTON, 33558711, Pvt	29 July 1944	✓
STANLEY M BARKER, O1320813, 2nd Lt, Inf	5 June 1944	✓
PARIS D BARNES, JR, 32838934, Pfc	30 July 1944	✓
JAMES W BARRETT, 33585481, Pvt	1 July 1944	✓
MOSE O BARRINEAU, 34543585, Pvt	30 June 1944	✓
EDWARD BARTLETT, 39410741, Pvt	26 July 1944	✓
ROBERT L BATCHELOR, 32838595, Pfc	2 July 1944	✓
LAMAR BEAIRD, 35697783, Pfc	12 June 1944	✓
CLYDE A BEARD, 34571834, Pvt	11 July 1944	✓
ROBERT W BECK, 35725498, Pvt	28 June 1944	✓
STEVE BELUS, 35336151, Pvt	30 June 1944	✓

sad for him. John W Scheifele, Rt Box 692, River Rd, Mt Bethel PA 18343, 5307/3/I CO; 475/3/I CO/3 PLATOON.

EDITOR

I started to serve in the outfit in October of 1944. I was a member of the 475/1/HQ CO/HW attached to a .30 caliber heavy machine gun squad. Charley Yinger was my squad leader. We left Camp Landis, then we hit Shwegu, Kahta, Mong Wi and lastly Namkam at the Burma Road. I am proud to say that I held in there all the way even with a bad case of malaria which sapped my strength. If you are interested in seeing my squad, the July 1992 issue of Ex-CBI Roundup has a little article and a photo of the squad. Charley's the one kneeling with the dog in front and I am the second from left with the mule. If you see Charley Yinger tell him I said, "Hello". Peter J Faggion, 1340 N Jenison Av, Lansing MI 48915, 517-484-6204.

EDITOR

Within the last year or two there were several pictures in the B/N to which I could relate. The dead enemy soldiers, wounded Sid Savitt and one I just discovered after looking over some old issues. In the February 1991 issue, on page 5, is a picture of a Marauder injured in combat and brought to the airstrip for evacuation. In my personal photo album, I have a similar picture of the same soldier. My picture should be in the 5307/2nd Bn album because all my pictures were supposed to be there.

After Nhpum Ga we enjoyed a rest period at Hsamshingyang. On the day the drop plane was forced to make an emergency landing in the paddy field, John Sklarick and I, OCT I&R, were on the field and witnessed the landing of this plane. As the plane was about 50 ft or so from the ground, we saw a soldier standing in the open (cargo) drop door. We wondered if he was thinking about jumping or perhaps he had not been told to prepare himself for such a landing. We will never know because he was unconscious at the time I took the picture. I wonder is there is any way of finding out who he is.

Both pictures are of the same soldier as you can see from the

bandages. However, my photo was taken earlier, before he was ticketed for evacuation. Phillip Christner, 499 Darwin Dr, Cheektowaga NY 14225. 5307/2/BCT/I&R PLATOON,

EDITOR

I would welcome any information regarding the Mars Task Force, also any one having personal knowledge of my brother Jim Inkrote's experience with I Co, 475th Infantry. He was Pfc James Inkrote, 33501547, Co I, 475th Infantry and is listed in GO #3 for the Combat Infantryman's Badge as a member of the 5307th on June 1st 1944. You were great heroes and what all of us owe you could not ever be repaid. I extend my gratitude and sincere thanks to each and everyone of you. God Bless you all! Joan Inkrote Koble, 518 S Front St, Sunbury PA 17801, 717-286-4972.

EDITOR

In re; the Rangers, I do not recall that they were intimately connected with airborne traditions in WW II. The five battalions in Europe were developed by Col Darby, an ex-mulepacker out of the 99th FA Bn (PK); and were decimated at Anzlo. The one battalion (6th Rangers) in Pacific was formed on New Guinea of members of the 98th FA BN (PK), when none of the commanders there wanted any 75 mm howitzer support ("mere popguns"). CO of Company C, 6th Rangers, was one Arthur "Bull" Simon, who had gone overseas with the 98th. The same "Bull" Simon, as a Colonel led the raid on Son Tay POW Camp in North Vietnam, in 1971 or '72; one of the biggest coups of the Rangers in WW II was the rescue of American POWs at Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines, just before the Japs could slaughter them.

Still later, after retirement, it was the same "Bull" Simon who was hired by Ross Perot to lead the rescue effort of Perot employees in Teheran. So there has been an intimate connection from the beginning as between the mulemen and the Rangers. But sometime between the end of WW II and beginning of the Korean War, the airborne element appropriated the Rangers, and made parachuting a requirement,

which they have managed to hold to date. However, one of the first Ranger Battalions sent from Benning to Korea went by way of Camp Carson - to receive a bit of mountain and cold weather training from the 4th FA Bn, (Pk). Pre-war, there was a requirement that pack artillerymen be at least six feet tall, with stout joints, in order to lift loads up over the mule's rump. If you ever see a photo of pack artillerymen, take special note how many of them are TALL. One result, more or less unintended, was that the pack outfits tended to win all the basketball games, not to mention the Saturday night fights in the canteen. Some old timers say artillerymen were made to walk under a bar set at a height of 6 feet; any who had to duck their heads were sent to the pack outfits; anyway the result was many were up to 6 and a half feet tall. At Ft Sill when we used to march back from the stables past the motorized truck parks, all their troops would halt work to watch us. This made us stand a couple inches taller, and the motorized men look 2 or 3 inches shorter. Woody Woodruff, Jr., PO BOX 515, Decatur TX 76234-0515.

EDITOR

In Feb '92 issue I noted a paragraph dealing with awards of the Expert Infantryman Badge. Imagine my surprise when I noted second name listed was Sgt Joe V Alford. By his ASN I have confirmed this is the same man I knew and served under during the Korean War, winter of 1950-51. He was then M/Sgt and acting Platoon Leader in Co L, 35th Inf, 25th Division. Recently in trying to locate him I was informed by the Dept of Veterans Affairs that M/Sgt Alford (Ret) died 9/24/65.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew and served with Joe Alford in the Marauders. He told me only that he had been in the Marauders, when he learned I was in the Mars Task Force. And that at one time his duty was loading C-47's and kicking supplies out the door in air drops. He retired from the Army in 1951, having originally enlisted in 1931; he served three overseas tours before World War II. I think it was in Hawaii and two in Panama. I

(Continued on page 12)

SKLARICK

also believe that he was in the South Pacific before going to CBI, so probably was in the 5307/3rd Bn. He was a native of Indiana.

As I knew him, Joe Alford was an outstanding example of the old army NCO. In peacetime he may have had his faults, but in combat he was without equal as a soldier and as a small unit leader. He taught me lessons I still ponder.

Hoping to hear from someone who remembers Joe Alford. **W B Woodruff Jr**, Box 515, Decatur TX 76234, 817-627-3745.

EDITOR

The office of Military History is reprinting a lot of books. The three book CBI series by Romanus and Sunderland, also Crisis Fleeting about the Medical problems in the CBI. Lt **Donald Delorey** name was mentioned as being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on Page 253 of Stilwell's "Command Problems". He and I met at the Richmond Reunion for the first time since July of 1944. He was shot three times. The last one was a bad wound. He had 7 3/4" of his leg shattered (femur) and has a built up heel and walks with a limp. He was a Platoon Leader in Co D, 387th Inf, 97th Div and left Ft Leonard Wood with the rest of us in April 1944.

The Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks PA has a large number of photos of the CBI that are not identified. A few years ago, they had a print of **Gen Merrill** and they didn't know who he was. I met him once - in the 69th Gen Hosp.

He walked through the ward and stopped and talked to every patient till he met a muleskinner that he knew. His aides didn't know what to do. You never heard so much laughing and carrying on that they did. **Ralph G Miller**, 10 Gloucester St, Harrisburg PA 17109, 5307; 475/2/G Co

EDITOR

I obtained your address from the VFW publication. I joined the Marauders at the **Myitkyina** airport under fire. I was in H Co as wireman and telephone operator for mortar observers throughout the Battle of Myitkyina. I was handed a phone and a reel of wire and told to follow him. After that combat, I was sent by ox cart to the 44th Field Hospital where I spent thirty days recovering and then went to Camp Landis where Mars Task Force was training for the trek south.

While at Landis, I was in the Motor Pool, driving a 6 x 6. Upon leaving Landis I was put back in artillery, given a mule with the wheels and breach block to the old French 75, and headed south. The rest is history.

I find it amazing how little I remember. I recall so few of my comrades and none of my officers. After reaching Lashio, we were flown to Kunming Hostel 9 where I got back to the Motor Pool. I was trained as a truck driver for the wire section in the artillery. That might explain something. When the point system came out, I had my 86 and was headed for home.

My phone number is 206-675-1324 and would like to hear from old buddies. **Virgil V Roe**, PO BOX 1967, Oak Harbor WA 98277-1967

EDITOR

I served with the 5307th and later on the 475th at Myitkyina. I was an ammo carrier in a Heavy Weapons Company which included the 4.2 Mortars that I distinctly remember as having a quite erratic firing behavior. Arrived at the airstrip around June 1, 1944 and was with the unit until about two weeks into the start of Camp Landis. Was evacuated to strip hospital and later to the 20th GH at Ledo with scrub typhus. After six months of hospitalization and rehab, I was assigned to 330 Engrs, Co E from which I was discharged in January '46. **A Lewis Carter**, 7415 SW Longmont Ln, Port Charlotte FL 33981-2616.

EDITOR

I am writing for my wife, Avis who is a sister of Leon Wralstad who was killed in Burma on April 7, 1944. His mother told Avis that he was shot by a sniper. Having served with the 77th Inf Div or Guam, Leyte and Okinawa, (in combat, front lines), I know that the term "sniper" is sometimes used loosely. If not too much trouble, please try to find out if anyone remembers Leon and can provide more details of his death on that date. We would like to hear from them. **Joe Stein**, 2121 Pat Ct, Denison TX 75020-7715.



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

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