



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November, 1993

Some of You Missed Mass!

That's alright, we knew you would have come if you could. With hurricanes and floods it was remarkable that we had as many as we did. There was a lot of coming and going at this reunion. Lots of folks took advantage of the opportunity to visit nearby historic spots. The food was excellent, the service equal to the need.

General Business Meeting- Colonial Ballroom, Colonial Hilton & Resort, Wakefield, MA, September 4, 1993.

Meeting called to order by President Piazza at 1 p.m.

Invocation by Msgr Edward R. Glavin, chaplain.

Officer's Call: Present - President Piazza, Treasurer Clofine, Ex Sec Lyons, Historian Quaid, Chaplain Glavin. Military Liaison Officer Hurwitt - deceased.

Reading of minutes of previous annual meeting. Motion to dispense with reading of minutes since they were printed in the Burman News, Nov. 1992 issue by Rapisarda/Rose.

Financial Report by Treasurer Clofine: Balance on 8/27/92 = \$21,338.33. Deposits during year \$10,317.15. Interest on accounts \$521.22. Subtotal \$32,176.70. Checks paid during year \$20,104.02. Balance on 8/30/93 = \$12,072.68. Exec. Secretary Account = \$411.09. Grand Total Balance on Hand = \$12,483.77.

Report on previous, 46th Reunion at Richmond, VA. Receipts - Registration Desk \$4,912.00, Sales \$5,309.00, Total Income \$10,221.00.

Expenses - Hotel Ladies Tea, \$484.55, Miscellaneous \$11.30. Total Expenses \$495.85. Gross Income from Reunion = \$9,725.15. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Passanisi, accepted by voice vote.

President Piazza reported that the Adult Committee has inspected the books of the Treasurer and



At Wakefield Reunion: B/Gen. Wesley Taylor, guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet. Photo by Pokress.

Executive Secretary and found no irregularities. Voted to approve.

Historian David Quaid Report - Had a busy year. Made 157 copies of photographs which were not in the National Archives and made them available to them. Also to USA Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA. Worked on maps of the Burma area we covered along with Logan Weston and copies made available to Rangers for instruction and historical purposes. In order to compile the video tape which has been assembled, I had to buy back my own film tapes from such film as "Victory at Sea." The National Archives finally agreed that they did not have our material. Copy will be made available to them. A definitive video now being assembled. It takes about two hours. We will make it available to the members. We will mail out a postcard in a few months, to all members to ask for

orders, spelling out cost, etc. Again copy will be sent to National Archives and the USA MHI. A financial report on the cost of my work goes to Treasurer. It is still within the amount agreed to at a previous reunion annual meeting.

Chaplain Glavin - We must appreciate the good health that we now have. Let us make an effort to keep in touch with one another. Make phone calls, write, whatever is necessary to share the fellowship of our experiences.

President Piazza reminds me to ask you to notify us of the deaths of members. The Secretary, Ray Lyons, has the records and keeps us all informed.

Executive Secretary Report - Ray Lyons. Attendance at Saturday night banquet - 400. MM registered at our desk - 169, others 157.

Donations received at this year's reunion: Thursday, \$1,619; Friday, \$1,979; Saturday, \$810 = \$4,408.00.

Last year's donations at reunion: \$4,912.00.

Mail donations received during the year - 157. Amount \$3,940.00.

Last year's mail - 180 donations: \$4,394.50.

Expenses year to date, postage, stationery, Burman News, etc., \$6,227.97; compared to last year \$7,332.41.

Sent out 958 pieces of mail plus 5,285 copies of B/N. B/N cost: \$3,157.17.

Balance in Secretary's S & I Account, 8/28/93: \$411.09. Compared to last year \$1,104.95.

The cost of printing the new Directory was \$999.64. Cost of mailing out copies was \$36.69.

Our membership is holding its own. We have lost many of our buddies in the recent year but are still finding others. The Honoraries are increasing. Members as of 8/30

(Continued on page 2)

are 1,444. Honoraries are 291.

We have sold over 450 copies of the new book, "Merrill's Marauders War In Burma, Vol I." We printed 500 copies.

We have purchased 150 copies of WD "Merrill's Marauders" and sold all of them. We ordered another 50 copies for this reunion.

We bought several new books 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.

The USA MHI has again made available the Questionnaire on WW II veterans available at this reunion. Those that did not pick them up can write to Coordinator, World War II Commemoration, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008 and ask for a copy. They will pay the mailing costs.

We again have run out of Directories so will be compiling and printing a new one as soon as we finish up on the Nov. issue of the BURMAN NEWS. How do you get one? The Board of Directors has decided that anyone who makes a donation to the Merrill's Marauders Association is entitled to a copy, or, attends a reunion!

President's Report - Piazza.

Again this past year, we have made numerous trips to Ranger and Special Forces affairs. We have lost five members of the Board of Directors this past year. Particularly important was the loss of Dave Hurwitt who has been the Military Liaison Officer for the Association. The B/D meeting has authorized a committee to work on the qualifications, duties, etc., for a replacement to be designated. The committee will be chaired by Bob Passanisi and will also have Dave Quaid and George Rose. Candidates should contact them.

In the event that any friends, buddies of Dave Hurwitt are interested in making a donation in his memory, I have consulted with Helen Hurwitt and she has decided that such donations should be made out to the Ranger Memorial Foundation and sent to me. If we obtain \$500 that will entitle him to have his name inscribed on the monument as a donor.



Wakefield, MA, Reunion Color Guard. Four Rangers with Phil Piazza: Ron Bly, Ray Barger, P. J. Oakes, James D. Pippin. Photo by Pokress.

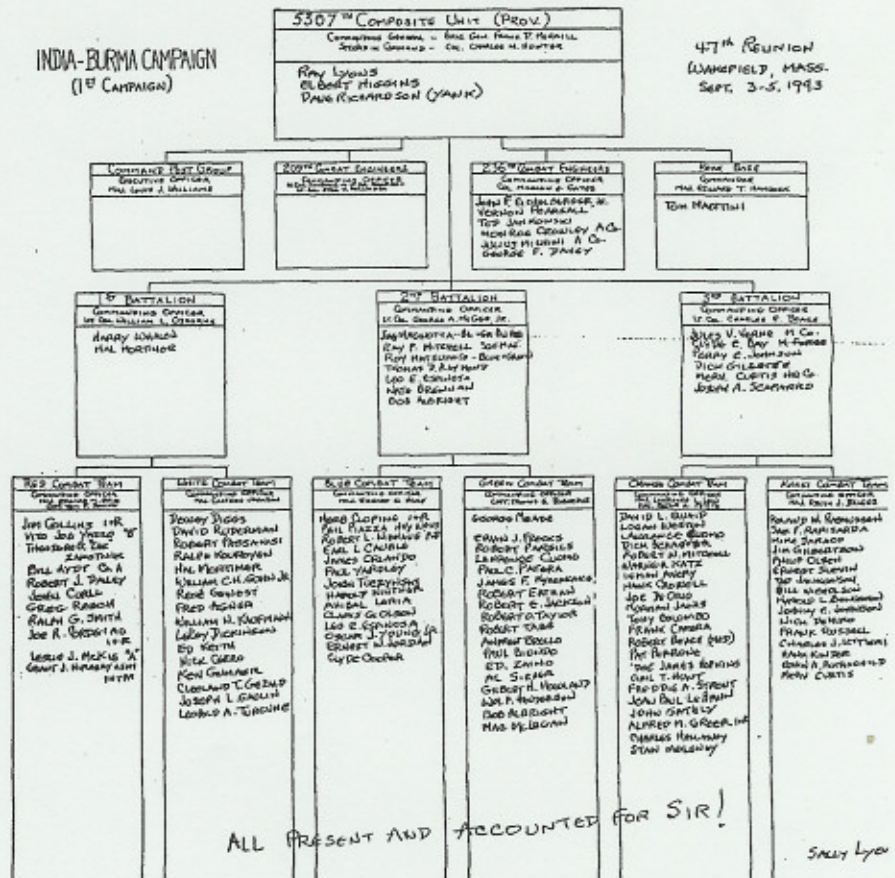
Good and Welfare - Suggestion that we have group photos made at each reunion. Reminder that we can have a reunion anytime in the month of September, except when they would conflict with Jewish Holydays. Question as to what happened to the CBI rug that was raffled off at the New Orleans meeting and subsequently returned. We checked the B/N for the following Charlotte reunion and there was no mention of its disposition. Does anyone recall who took custody of it?

Election of Officers: Secretary Lyons called for nominations from the floor for President. Instead we had a motion from Bob Passanisi that the present officers be nominated and elected. Seconded by George Rose. Motion carried. No elections therefore took place. The office of Military Liaison Officer remains vacant at this time. A committee has been appointed to work on the problem.

Next Year Reunion Site - Nominations were as follows:

#1 Chicago - Hyatt Regency Hotel, Oakbrook, IL, proposed by Ed Zaino and Ed Rothschild. Hotel has 425 rooms, and indoor pool exercise area, sauna and whirlpool. Adjacent to Oak Brook Shopping Center, 15 minutes from O'Hare International Airport (limousine rate \$14 per person), 25 minutes from Downtown Chicago. It has two restaurants, two lounges. Package rate for two persons, \$284 includes taxes and gratuities. Package rate for one person, \$202. Package covers two nights accom

(Continued on page 3)



modations, Continental Breakfast - Saturday AM, Full service breakfast Sunday, Full service dinner Friday, Full service dinner Saturday / one hour free cocktail reception. Additional nights stay \$59 plus tax. Special rates for children.

#2 Knoxville, TN - Interstate Holiday Inn, Worlds Fair Hotel, proposed by Earl Cauble. Hotel has 226 rooms. Package rate for two persons, \$280, included two nights, four meals. Package rate for one person, \$218.24. Additional nights stay \$65.00.

#3 St. Petersburg, FL - Tradewinds Hotel, proposed by Jim Collins. Hotel has 18 acres. Package rate for two persons, \$322, includes two nights, four meals. Package rate for one person, \$238. Additional night rate \$70.00.

#4 Asheville, NC - Anderson Hotel, proposed by Logan Weston. Hotel has 285 rooms. Package rate for two persons, \$293.50, includes



At Wakefield Reunion: Back row, left to right: Warner Katz, Paul Tobey, Dave Guaid, Massachusetts National Guard General, Dave Richardson. Front row: Tony Colombo, Herb Clofine. Photo by Pokress.

two nights, four meals. A later in the month proposal would have been \$257.70 (not considered because of possible conflict with Jewish Holydays). Package rate for one person not available. Additional night cost \$69 plus tax.

Vote results - #1 Chicago 46, #2

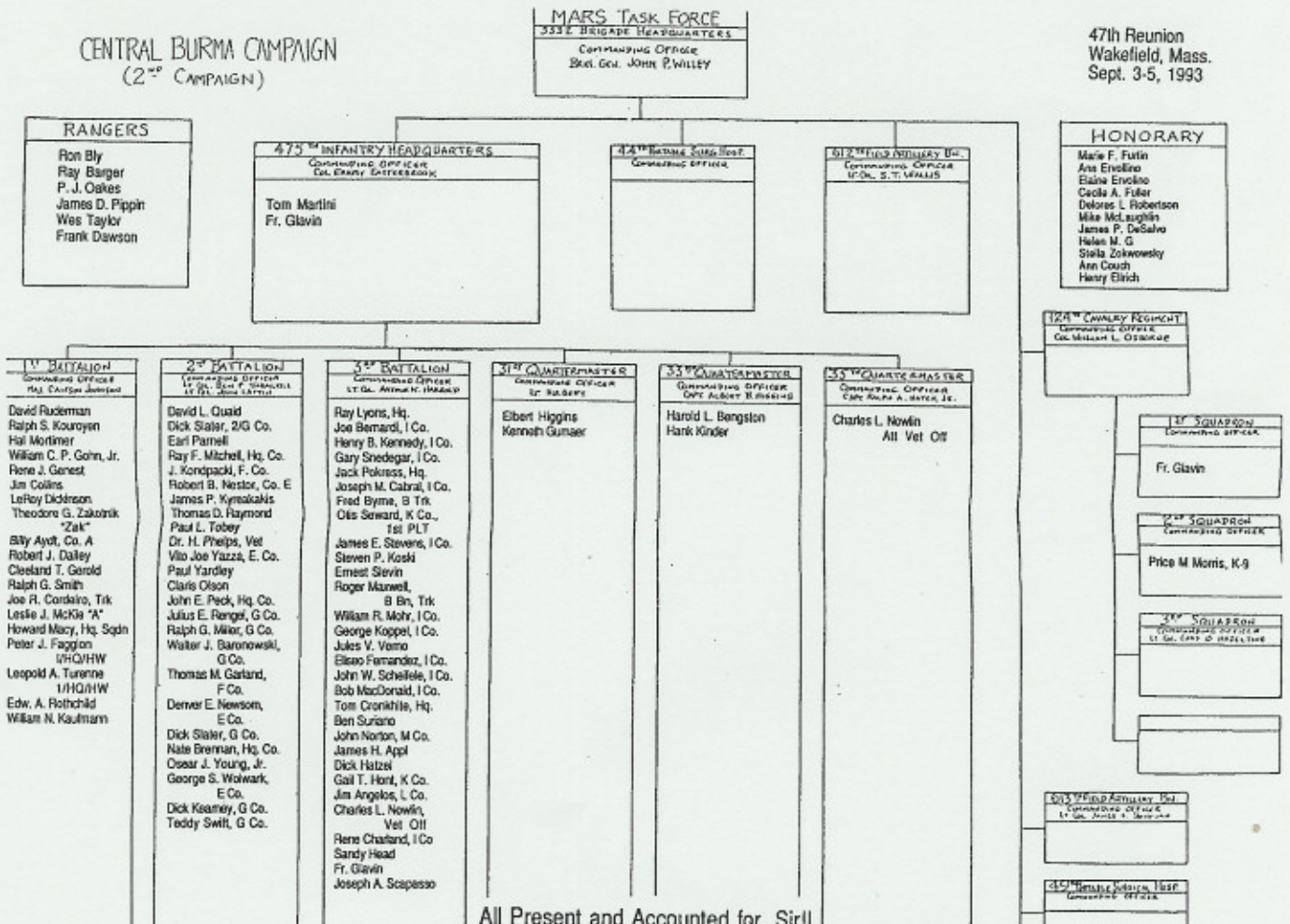
Knoxville 29, #3 St. Petersburg 19, #4 Asheville, NC 44, Chicago the winner. Ed Zaino to be chairman for next year's reunion.

Saturday Night Banquet - Colonial Ballroom, Wakefield Resort Hotel, September 4th.

Guest Speaker, Brigadier General Wesley B. Taylor, Jr., USA, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy and Missions.

I think that one of the great things since I joined you yesterday was the opportunity to get around and talk to a great many old friends and meet a lot of new ones. There is a lot of individual instances of heroism, dedication and professionalism. That's what makes we Rangers of today proud to be associated with this group. When I get a chance to talk to the Roy Matsumoto, Chief Norm Janis, Leroy Dickinson, and the rest of

(Continued on page 4)



47th Reunion
Wakefield, Mass.
Sept. 3-5, 1993

you. I picked these few examples, but it really does make you humble, but it also makes you very proud of this long tradition which we are sharing here tonight.

Now, what I would like to talk to you very briefly tonight is coming home. I am proud to be here with you and, I feel I am home. What am I talking about, coming home? I use the term "home" loosely to speak to a relationship, a kindred spirit, a brotherhood. And, that brotherhood that we of the modern day Ranger Force share with most of the gents in this room is one that's been forged in a pool of blood, sweat and, sometimes tears and, the acrid smell of a dirty battlefield. That is a melting pot that brings about some of the very best in humankind as well as some of its worst.

As you look around the room here tonight, we are all different; different appearances, different complexions, different backgrounds. But, we are really alike. We are alike most importantly under the skin. You Marauders and you Rangers that are here tonight represent the family of today's Ranger Force. These four super noncommissioned officers that participated as your color guard here tonight and myself have had and do owe each of you in this room here, a great world of confidence. You are our tradition, you are our lineage. You are the embodiment of what it means to be a Combat Infantryman. And, that is a very select subculture within our society. Beyond that, a further subset that we know and refer to as Ranger.

So, you sit there and listen to me for a few minutes and you ask "What do I mean by being home, of being with family?" And, I say to you, you are our family. Each of you in this room with your tradition from Merrill's Marauders or from the Ranger Force represents that greater family. It represents the Army tradition of the brotherhood of combat infantrymen and the smaller subset of the brotherhood



George Rose, Roy Matsumoto, Vito Yazzo at the Wakefield Reunion. Photo by Pokress.

that we know as the Ranger Force.

Each of you in this room I hold up as a point of light, as an example of what is good about this country and what we are all about. You are the sources of inspiration for these younger Rangers serving today. You have given us a difficult mark to shoot at; a set of high standards represented by words which impart a great bit. Words like courage, commitment, professionalism and a concept of brotherly love. Bonding, or as I call it and prefer to use the term, family.

We, of today's Ranger Force, owe each and every one of you a great deal, more than we can ever say thanks for. Not only for what you are but, what you continue to be and what, most importantly, you represent. We are proud to be descended from such quality stock. So, some of us have had the opportunity tonight to come home to family. I salute all of you and wish you God's blessing and good will.

Thank you.

Remarks of Dave Guaid, Reunion Chairman.

I think we should at this point, recognize the video crew. This group of incredible professionals in the New England area have been here for four days, recording your most intimate expressions of how you felt as a combat infantry soldier. The material we have is so shattering that, in my 54 years in the film business, I've never seen anything like it. This will be added to the video that we are going to produce. I think it's going to be an incredible historical document.

LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS?

JOHN C. KIDWELL, PO Box 603, Greeneville, TN 37743

BERNIE COX, Rt 3, Box 4, Hamlet, NC 28245

MRS. MARGARET OLLILA, 64625 Pierson Blvd., #D6,

Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

MRS. FRANK MORGAN, Rt. 1, Box 241, Columbiana, AL 35051

I want to thank my friend, Nick Cerra. When we decided to come up to New England for this reunion. Nick said, "I'll take care of the music. That's my contribution." Nick was a badly wounded man at Myitkyina and there are Nick's friends and, there are my friends over with the cameras. It's been an incredible expression of friendship.

As General Taylor said, we are family. But, why are we a family? It's very simple. A volunteer is an optimistic person. You cannot be a volunteer and be a cool cat. There is no way. A cool cat knows the odds are against him and doesn't play the hand. Here all you men volunteered for a dangerous, hazardous mission on another continent without anyone telling you what your chances of survival were. Actually they were 30 percent as we found out later. They figured that 70 percent of us would be dead based on the previous experience of the Brigadier Wingate Chindits. Yet, we went out and took on the Japanese 18th Division, the Chrysanthemum Division, the Emperor's favorite, that took Singapore and captured 60,000 Commonwealth troops and lost only a hundred of their own men. You took them on and beat the hell out of them in five major battles, 32 minor engagements and never once left a man behind. They captured no one.

Remarks of Staff Sergeant Pippin.

I'm not much of a speaker but, I asked Phil if I could get up here and say a few words to you. I'd like to say one thing. Never have I ever witnessed the camaraderie that I see amongst you men. It's incredible that after 40 plus years, you men are still like this. Like Gen. Taylor said a while ago, we are your descendants and it's an extreme honor. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. The next thing I would like to say is thank you for having us here. Several individuals have come up to me and said, "Thank you, it's an honor to have you here." Well, I throw it right back at you. It's a tremendous honor for us. I thank you for what you did forty plus years ago. It's a tremendous honor to be here and I thank you for putting on such a good show for us. You treated us as if we were a king.

Friday Night Dinner - We had

(Continued on page 5)



Col. Logan Weston, Gen. Wes Taylor and M/Sgt. Roy Matsu-moto at Wakefield Reunion. Photo by Pokress.

Col. Francis Dawson, of the Fifth Ranger Battalion, as the principal speaker. He spoke eloquently of his experiences in World War II, and particularly of his combat leading the Rangers onto the Beach and through the wire on D-Day in France.

On the night of June 5th, we knew that tomorrow morning would be D-Day. The chaplain, of course, had his services and I think every man there attended that night.

Having only 18 men in my platoon, I guess I really knew what to expect out of each one of them. My platoon sergeant was Sgt. Ronan, a little tongue tied, but, I could understand him. He would get excited and start stuttering. The company loaded in two LCA's, landing crafts. The ships did not load from the water, we loaded from the deck side, we stepped right into the craft.

Around 4 o'clock we assembled on the deck and I assigned the LCA's. We checked our platoons, checked their equipment and then loaded our boats. We split Hq. Company up among the two company platoons. The first sergeant, Sgt. Herlihy was standing with me in the front of our LCA. As we shoved off from the ship, the ship's captain said, "Good Hunting, Rangers." I thought that was nice of him. Just as we moved away from the ship, the Battleship Texas was on our right and, of course, the battleship opened fire.

H Hour now was about 5:15 or 5:30 when we boarded the LCA's. D-Day was supposed to be 0615. We had about four-foot waves and a wind of about 10 miles per hour. They say those little LCA's were unsinkable but, we immediately lost one. It sank. An LCT came by and picked up most of the Rangers from that one. On the way into the

beach, we passed a number of paratroopers who had missed the land and were out in the water. Of course, they drowned. The wind had their parachutes inflated and they were pushing them across the water. We went around and through them as we headed in.

Now daylight was breaking. We were in kind of a column, the lead LCA would go down in these waves

and disappear and then come up again. It wasn't any day to make an invasion because the water was just too rough. With four-foot waves and the small LCA's you were immediately soaking wet. The men were starting to bail with their helmets.

We continued and, maybe five miles from the beach, we began to

(Continued on page 6)

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently

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

- JOHN A. ACKER, 2079 Eastern Valley Rd., Bessemer, AL 35023, 205-425-8144, 5307/3/KCT, June 16, 1993
- ANDREW BLAHO, Box 4, Westmoreland City, PA 15692, 5307/2/BCT/E Co/2/PL, July 6, 1993
- HAROLD E. DIBBLE, 2596 Oak Park Way, Orlando, FL 32822-9435, 5307/3/KCT, May 5, 1993
- JAMES C. FOWLER, Rt. 2, Box 42A, Bridgeport, TX 76426, 5307/2/E; 475/2/G/HW, August 26, 1993
- MICHAEL S. HANCEWITZ, Lewis St., Phillipsburg, NJ 475th, September 29, 1992
- J. EUGENE HARRIGAN, West Barnstable, MA 5307, April 11, 1993
- C. M. HOVIS, Box 6, Alexis, NC 28006, 704-263-4922, 5307/236 Engrs, Reported 1993
- DAVID HURWITT, Military Liaison Officer, Merrill's Marauders Assn, Secretary nearly 30 years, 3107 Lucerne Park Dr., Green Acres, FL 33467, 5307/3/OCT/COMM, July 15, 1993
- FRANK A. JOHNSON, 12613 Friendship Ridge Ln, Sunset Hills, MO 63127-1735, 5307/3/KCT/HQ, 3/HQ, February 19, 1993
- THOMAS LAMBERT, 75 Lyman St., Holyoke, MA 01040, 413-532-0161, 475/3/L Co., August 2, 1987
- WILFORD L. LOUNSBERRY, 11 Thomas St., Galesburg, MI 49053, 5307/2/GCT/F Co., February 1992
- ZENE B. McCONNELL, 211 W. Janeux #308, Lewistown, MT 59457, 5307/2/G/3 Pl, E Co., 475 HQ Motor Pool
- JOHN C. OHARA, 262 Lea Ln, Warminster, PA 18974, 5307, October 22, 1992
- WARREN A. OLSEN, Woburn, MA 5307/2/HQ, August 6, 1993
- R. W. PANZEGRAF, Rt. 2, box 4945, Justin, TX 76247-9802, 5307/236/A Co. Reported 1993
- DR. ALVIN J. PAUKERT, 13500 McCracken Blvd., Garfield Hgts, OH 44125 5307/HQ/COMM/Radioman; OSS 101, December 25, 1992
- RICHARD H. POPPE, Member Board of Directors, 8904 Primrose Dr., Loveland, OH 45140, 5307/3/KCT, 513-683-3365, March 30, 1993
- ANDREW B. PUNG, Rt. 1, Box 33, Franklin, ME 04634, 5307/3/OCT, September 10, 1993
- JAMES F. RICHARDSON, 710 Bryant Av., Altoona, PA 16602, 5307th, May 26, 1992
- JOHN R. SILOSKY, PO Box 23, Markleysburg, PA 15459, 5307/1/WCT, September 5, 1992
- ARTHUR ROY SIVERLING, Rt. 2, Box 100A, Du Bois, PA 15801, 475th, June 24, 1993
- ALBIN W. SOKOLNICKI, 450 Seventh St., Hoboken, NJ 07030, 5307/2/BCT, 1991
- LARRY W. STEPHENSON, Member Board of Directory, R# 7, Box 175, Lake Charles, LA 70611, 318-433-4722, 5307/3/OCT, April 27, 1992
- WARD TRUESDELL, PO Box 128, Clark, MO 65243, 314-641-5279, 475/1/A/1 Platoon, January 18, 1992
- CLAYTON VAN TOL, 8768 Osmo St., PO Box 404, Kaleva, MI 49645, 5307/3/KCT May 1993

get into a circle, like circling the wagons for an Indian attack. What we were really doing was waiting to get word from Pointe du Hoc that the three Ranger companies assaulting that point were successful. But, we never received the word.

So, after waiting more than 15 minutes, the required time, Major Snyder who had made the invasions of Africa, Italy and Sicily, led the 5th Bn, plus the two companies of the 2nd Ranger Bn, on toward Omaha Beach

As we neared the beach, these LCA's picked up power, you could see the motors racing. Of course, the waves were still rough, but I

could see where we were going. I could see the coastline. There was a lot of smoke and haze and daylight was still breaking. I could see spurts of water coming up beside the LCA's. You could hear machine gun fire off the ramps. But, Major Snyder, who was a veteran of all these landings, looked across and saw what was happening. What was happening was that when D-Day started 20 minutes or so before H Hour, they had dropped off 16 DDT tanks, a dual drive medium tank which had a canvas balloon wrapped around it with a propeller and it could swim its way onto the beach. Out of

these 16, all sank but four. Four did make it to the beach. The LCT commander took a chance and landed on the beach with the next load of tanks with the wraparound balloons on them.

In the meantime, eight bulldozers tried to make it ashore, two made it. The rest of them sank and the drivers were killed. We had four rifle companies that assaulted at H minus 5; four rifle companies from the 116th hit the beach. And, out of those four rifle companies, they were just about all killed. There were not enough men left from the four rifle companies to make an assault on the cliff. What happened was that all the men that made it out of the water without being killed rushed up to the sea wall that was about four feet high. They just crowded around the wall. No one took the initiative to blow the wire and leave the beach. What they were doing was just laying there dying. The ones that didn't make the beach were hanging onto obstacles out in the water. As the tide came up, the wounded were drowned.

As our battalion, started in to make our landing, Major Snyder had the LCA's make a left movement slightly. We weren't too far from the beaches. I guess it was a couple of thousand yards. He made a decision to move to the left slightly, to the east. When he did, there was a beach area that was not receiving any fire. We were on a beach called Dog White which was only about a thousand yards from Dog Green. Dog Green was the one

(Continued on page 7)

FALL IN

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

ANTHONY ADAMS, 11511 AV J, Chicago, IL 60619, 5307; 475
 HORACE J. ALLEN, 10 Little River Rd., Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064
 CHESTER BELNAP, 6404 Glenoake Dr., Murray, UT 84107, 5307
 HERSCHEL C. COOPER, 5374 Prin-olney Rd., Princeton, KY 42445,
 612/B Batt; DS 475th
 MUNROE (BUD) CROWLEY, Corea, ME 04624, 5307/236th Engrs
 JAMES E. DEROSSITTER, 1301 Burnell St., Pine Bluff, AR 71602,
 5307; 124th
 WILLIAM FEDAK, 1516 Belle Av., Lakewood, OH 44107, 5307; 475
 THOMAS M. GARLAND, 135 Classen Dr., Dallas, TX 75218,
 5307/2/Co. F; 475/2/F
 TOM GAVOSTAS, 5153 N. Chester Av., Chicago, IL 60656, 5307; 475
 HERBERT V. GEORGE, Box 53, Monkton Rd., New Haven, VT 05472,
 802-877-3494, 5307; 475
 GORDON M. GRIFFITH, 204 Ninth Av. N, Twin Falls, ID 83301;
 208-734-7535, 475/1/B Co.
 ED KING, Rt. 2, Box 3040, Old Town, ME 04468, 5307/3/KCT/I&R/
 Platoon Sergeant
 ROY LEON-GUERRERO, PO Box 251, Dupont, WA 09827-0251,
 Ranger/75 HQ/CSM
 SEYMOUR, LEWIS, 27 Woods Edge Dr., Asheville, NC 28803, 704-274-5913,
 5307/3/M/M/MG 30 CAL; 475/3/HQ/HW/Mortars
 LEROY S. MANSELL, PO Box 66, Hynar, PA 17738, 5307/209/A
 NORBERT A. McNIEL, PO Box 26, Moody, TX 76557, 817-853-3013,
 CHIN 22 DIV/64 REG
 MELVIN MERTLICK, 92 Lynnwood Dr., Clearfield, UT 84015,
 801-825-3864, 475/1/B Co.
 ANDREW P. PETRO JR., 149 N. 3rd St., Catawissa, PA 17820-1219,
 1-717-356-2206, 5307/3/I & R
 LUTHER S. PLAYER, PO Box 829, Gladewater, TX 75647, 5307/2/GCT
 STANLEY V. POLLOCK, 80 Monterey Rd., Defiance, OH 43512-3290,
 5307; 475/2/F Co.
 BRONIS A. PUZAS, 807 Washington Ave. Ext., Waterbury, CT 06708,
 754-1721, 5307; 475/3/I Co.
 GEORGE W. ROUGH, 724 Covert Run Pike, Box 9, Bellevue, KY 41073,
 475/2/Co. E
 CALVIN SASS, 2634 Angela Ct., St. Paul, MN 55119, 612-777-3984, 475th
 RICHARD B. SCHAEFER, 15 Island Rd., Lynnville, MA 01940,
 617-334-4783, 5307/3/OCT/CO L/1 Platoon
 JOHN W. STIFFLER, 2445 Lyntz Rd., Warren, OH 44481, 5307; 475
 JAMES V. SURRUSCO, 42 Marshmallow Dr., Commack, NY 11725,
 516-368-3402, 124/3/L Tr
 HENRY W. THEILE, PO Box 349, Hebron, IN 46341-0349, 5307
 LEOPOLD A. TURENNE, PO Box 481, 28 Ridge Rd., Slatersville, RI 02876,
 401-766-1424, 5307/1/HQ/HW/MG; 475/1/HQ/HW/MG



Col. Frank Dawson, 5th Ranger Battalion, was the speaker Friday night. Photo by Pokreas.

that was really getting them all killed.

So, we shifted to the left. We were still getting a lot of fire, artillery fire and sniper and rifle fire. My landing craft came onto the beach. All these obstacles appeared in front of me like little telephone poles with a big telamine on the end of them. There were a lot of steel obstacles but, the Navy and British guys that took us in knew what they were doing and sliced in between them. We were just about to hit a telamine when the pilot realized it and turned to the left. A big wave took us and whipped us right over the top of this obstacle. I knew I was killed at the time. We landed in water about two feet deep.

When the ramp went down, I took off across a sandy beach and started up hill. I had about 100 yards to run - just as hard as I could go! I felt like I had two cement blocks tied to my feet. At times there would be pools of water that you see at a beach. We had to run through them. A lot of times you would see the machine gunfire cut through the water and you would just wait a second and then run because the gunners were firing a burst and you knew you might get through it. But, if you hesitated, you were killed.

I took off to that wooden wall that was about four feet high. It was crowded, about six feet deep around it when I got there. But I bulldozed myself into the wall. I sent my runner down to the beach to find my company commander and tell him where my platoon was.

While he was gone, Colonel Canham and General Cota, who landed with the 116th Infantry slightly to the east of our battalion, arrived. He was walking up the beach with bullets flying everywhere. But Gen. Cota stood up and walked right up to our area. He came in where our Bn commander was and he said, "What outfit is this?" This is what I was told, I didn't see it personally. The battalion commander said, "We are Rangers." The general said, "Well, if you are Rangers, lead the way."

Before that word filtered down to me, Col. Canham, the 116th First Bn commander, I believe, was wounded in the wrist. He had his arm in a sling. He stood beside us and told us to get off the beach or die. I had my two Bangalore men

beside me, they were named Norman and Reid. The wall was about four feet high and beyond that was a service road. On the other side of that was concertina wire, triple wire, three down, two on top and one on top of them. Reid and Norman shoved their Bangalores under the wire, pulled the fuse and jumped back over the wall and yelled, "Fire in the hole!"

About that time an explosion went off. All the ammunition going off and the machine gun fire and artillery. When you have a "fire in the hole," everybody ducked. One guy from the 116th Infantry jumped up and a piece of barbed wire caught him across the head. So, as soon as that went off, I saw what was happening. I think it was a conspiracy between my 1st sgt. and my platoon sgt. because the first thing I knew, they formed their hands like so and threw me over the wall. Why me, I don't know. I guess they figured, let Frankie do it or let Mikie do it!

So, I went through the wire. I didn't go under the wire field, I went through it! There was one terrible explosion, the dust was flying everywhere. I had about 100 and some yards to run till I cleared the wire and then on to a bluff which went up about a hundred feet. It wasn't a cliff, it was a bluff, pretty steep. You could not walk up it, you had to go with the tommy gun in one hand and bracing yourself with the other. I started climbing.

But, before I started to climb, when I left the wire area where the explosion was; being a good infantryman who was being shot at, I hit the ground, rolled over, jumped up and took off again. What I didn't know at the time, was that there were something like 150 mines in that area. I did that twice and got to the high ground where I started to climb. I knew it was getting a little smoky but not enough to stop me. The Navy guns had set the grass on fire and the wind was blowing in our direction which was really good because it concealed us from the machine gun fire.

I kept working my way up to the top of this bluff. The first thing I knew, I was right among the Germans, right in their trenches. But, I was behind them and they were firing down the bluff. The first German I ever saw in my life jumped out of a trench there from about here to the flag there. He

scared me half to death. But, I had a Thompson Submachinegun and he and I had a little argument then.

About that time, a number of his friends in a trench there saw that I had the upper hand, so they all came out and threw their hands up. I put them on the ground and continued along the edge of the crest of the bluff. A machine gunner was firing down on the beach and I got behind him. But, he was a little out of range for a Thompson sub and I didn't have too much confidence in it anyway. So, I called my BAR man up and he started firing. As soon as he stood up and started firing, the German turned around and cut him in half. He kind of exploded with the BAR ammunition around him. He was right beside me and I picked up his BAR and I worked over those two. They picked up their machine gun and started running. So, I broke that machine gun nest up.

I started moving on down the line where the trenches were. I looked back of me and here comes the battalion. The battalion all started to follow up the route that I came up. They were a little slow coming up because everyone of them was afraid of the mines. They

(Continued on page 8)

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 1". 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.

We had sold out of all copies of "The Marauders" by Charlton Ogburn. We recently received our back order. \$8. per copy.

Woody Woodruff is working on a re-print (again) of "Marsmen in Burma". Price appears to be going up but that is not news.

were trying to follow in a column formation. They got up to the top and the Bn commander came up and asked me what was happening. He said that since I was scheduled to be the rear guard and since my platoon is in the front, I was to take off. So, I again led the way towards the little town of Variable (?). The Germans still occupied it so we were told to go behind it and circle around the town. A machine gun opened up on me. We attacked it up the side of a hedgerow.

These hedgerows in Normandy were something like ten feet high and eight feet wide with a bunch of trees growing up on top. Normally to get through the hedgerow, you had a gate; that's the only way you could get through it. The Germans had set machine guns up to prevent this. I saw this machine gun in the distance and I called my rifle grenade gunner there and he put the grenade launcher on top of the rifle. Of course, you had to have a blank inside to fire it. I showed him where the machine gunner was and he fired. I saw the round go up and fall right beside the German machine gunner. He had forgotten to pull the pin on the grenade.

The German picked up the machine gun and ran. I started after him. By the time we got to the edge of the hedgerow, two more machine guns opened up on us and I brought my platoon back to the road.

About that time, B Company of the 5th Bn had moved down the Variable road into the town of Variable. They had a lot of sniper fire; a lot of Germans were in the town of Variable. We cleaned those out and then we started on toward Pointe du Hoc with our battalion, plus some stragglers we picked up from the 116th. We also picked up some stragglers from the Ranger company that had landed on Omaha Beach. They had lost something like 30 men as soon as the craft hit the beach. Out of the 60 some odd, they lost 30 killed.

So, we picked those boys up and started out of Variable. We were halted because Gen. Cota stopped the 5th Ranger Bn and put them

into a defensive area protecting the Division CP.

By that time, night was starting to fall. We spent the first night about three-quarters of a mile from Omaha Beach. That night we had very little territory that the Americans claimed outside of Omaha Beach. Artillery shells were still landing on Omaha from a distance. Our artillery which was still on the beach at that time could not fire because of the hundred-foot bluff. They couldn't set their guns up to get the elevation to fire on the German artillery.

The next morning, we attacked with two tanks and the 5th Ranger Bn on the Variable Road. We started out and German artillery opened up and fired on us from eight o'clock until five that afternoon. All day long, we received heavy artillery and, of course, we couldn't advance.

So, we pulled back and spent the night not too far from Pointe du Hoc where the 2nd Ranger Bn had fought.

OFFICER'S ROW

PRESIDENT - Phil Piazza

Chief Norman Janis. I found out at the reunion that his name is pronounced Jan-ee-se. Correction duly noted.

Anyone wishing to donate to the memory of Dave Hurwitt, I have talked to Helen about it and they would prefer to have the donations go to the Ranger Memorial. Send checks to me, % Ranger Memorial Foundation. If we can accumulate at least \$500, his name can be engraved as a donor. Jim De Salvo is making arrangements for the Memorial Service at West Point on Easter Sunday to commemorate the Nhpum Ga Battle. Fifty rooms will be available at the hotel there on the reservation. Write to Jim at PO Box 2717, Merrifield, VA 22116. He is also working on a presentation of our Patch to take place at Arlington National Cemetery to take place the following week.

Executive Secretary-Ray Lyons

During the Merrill's Marauders Association Board of Directors

meeting, it was determined that for future consideration of nominees for the Ranger Hall of Fame medal from the Marauders, it would be a good idea for the membership to submit names of candidates and the reasons why the man should be nominated. Submit to Phil Piazza, Ray Lyons or Dave Guaid. In the future, only one nominee per year will be considered from the Marauders.

The ARMY is once again making a detailed survey of the military history of all of us GIs. Those of you who would like a copy write to DIRECTOR, US ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE, CARLISLE BARRACKS, PA 17013-5008 TAT: COORDINATOR, WW II COMMEMORATION.

Supt. of Doc. Washington, DC 20402-9325 is selling a paperback book, "The U.S. Army Campaign of World War II - Guadalcanal." Order number 008-029-00259-1, ISBN 0-16-038104-5, Price \$1.00.

WORLD WAR II magazine, November 1993 issue has an article about the Merrill's Marauders. An interview given by Frank Rinaldi.

We were given a supply of Denny discount tickets at the reunion by some unknown benefactor. We have been mailing them out with letters. We found they were accepted out here in Arizona.

Some person lost a ladies bracelet at the reunion and it was turned into Sally. Please write to us and describe it and we will return it to you.

I have been sick (nothing serious) and this is why there is a delay in answering correspondence and getting the Nov. issue of the B/N to the printer.

Historian - Dave Guaid

Making progress on the video tape. It is keeping me busy. Hope to have it available soon. We will postcard you to let you know when it is available.

* * * * *

"Excellence is never granted to man, but as a reward of labor."
Joshua Reynolds.

* * * * *

Sign on a restaurant wall "Beware of the man who says he is boss in his house because he'll tell other lies too!"

* * * * *

"Women never have young minds. They are born 3,000 year old." Shelagh Delaney

IN MEMORIAM

Donation by Millie Weber in the name of Frank Weber.

RANGER COLUMN

RANGER RENDEZVOUS - FT. BENNING, GA July 1993

This was the occasion of the Annual Ranger Hall of Fame Medal presentation.

This year, three members of the Merrill's Marauders Association again were presented with the Medal. **M/Sgt. Roy Matsumoto**, 5307/2/Hq/S-2 Interpreter; **Colonel Charles N. Hunter**, Commander and Deputy Commander of the 5307th; **Lt. (Lt. Gen.) Samuel V. Wilson**, 5307/1/WCT/I&R Platoon Leader, nominated by the Special Operations Command.

Additional nominees were Col. Roy A. Murray, by the WW II Ranger Bn Association; Sgt. Don F. Porter and PFC Robert L. Mastin by the Korean War Ranger Companies; CSM Gary Littrell, SSG Dave C. Dolby, by the 75th Ranger Regt (LRP) Association; CSM Henry Caro; 1st Sgt. Harvey L. Moore, by the 75th Ranger Regt; SMA Glen E. Morrell, CSM Neal R. Gentry, by the Ranger Training Bde; Col. Arthur C. Stange, III, by the US Army Special Operations Command; LTC Andre C. Lucas, by the 101st Airborne Division; President Abraham Lincoln, Cpt. Nathan Hale, by the USA Ranger Association; Col. George A. Paccereilli, by the 1st Cavalry Division; Honorary Inductee - John O. Marsh Jr., Secretary of the Army.

At the Ranger Awards banquet last year, we had a polite hand from the troops as we were called up to hand out the respective awards. This year, it was an incredible, awesome, standing ovation. They were standing, cheering, shouting, clapping, stamping their feet. It was like being in Dallas stadium when the QB completes a touchdown to win the Superbowl. We were in the same hangar with the ends open, otherwise the walls would have blown.

Afterwards, I asked one of the sergeants to account for it. I mentioned that last year we had a polite reception but nothing to compare with this year. I said the only significant difference was the presence of Roy Matsumoto on the stand. He indicated that he could not account for the noise but believe me, it was something! Overwhelming!



Ranger Roy Matsumoto, USA, Ret. M/Sgt., receiving Hall of Fame medal.



Lt. Col. Charles N. Hunter, USA, Infantry Commanding Officer of the 5307th Provisional Unit at APO 884, is working at a table. Camp Deogarh, India.



Merrill's Marauder Reunion at Fort Benning, GA, July 16-20, 1993. Left to right: George Rose, Ranger Roy Matsumoto, Ray Lyons, Don Delorey, Phil Piazza

FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Excerpts from a letter to Mike Gabbett.

About **Lt Akio Yashida**. I did not know that any of our Military Academy Graduates was captured at Myitkyina. **Lt Yashida** entered the Military Academy in August 1937. I entered in December 1937. I can not understand how he has been a mere Lt for almost seven years. In our case after three years one got to be a Captain from 2nd Lt.

As you know we lost many of our soldiers at **Myitkyina**. We went back to Myitkyina in 1984-85 but could not get all of our remains. Where and who carried those remains? We lost about 2,500 men and could find and pick up only about 500 men. **Masakazu Shimizu**, 167-12 Ishiharada-cho, Kashihara-shi, 634 Japan.

Sharing the Story

NHPUM GA retold

Dale Abbott story - from the Tazewell IL NEWS:

The men of the 2nd Battalion had been surrounded for over ten days on this rocky hill in the midst of this Southeast Asian jungle. Supplied by air drops and receiving close-in-air support, the men were tired, hungry, running low on water and ammunition. Casualties were mounting under continued artillery and mortar fire. 1st and 3rd Battalions were on their way to break through, but whether they would make it before 2nd Bn was overrun was in doubt.

"Not a one of us should have come off that hill alive," Dale Abbott of Mackinaw, said. "Our 81 mm mortar team kept firing until it got knocked out by shrapnel. We then took our rifles and went to the perimeter." He didn't have far to walk.

For the men of 2nd Bn, it was April, 1944. The enemy was the Japanese and the jungle was in Burma. They were part of a three battalion unit designated by the U.S. Army as the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). The world would come to simply call them "Merrill's Marauders".

The journey to Nhpum Ga for Dale Abbott began in September of the previous year. "I was in San Francisco after Basic Training waiting for assignment overseas to the Pacific. One day there was a call for volunteers for a special mission assignment that would last six months and then we would come home. I was going over anyway, so I volunteered. I found out much later they were expecting 80 percent casualties for the mission. If I had known that, I would never have volunteered. Anyway, Abbott continued, "the next night I was on a ship with a bunch of other volunteers. We had no idea where we were going."

"We didn't even know we were in India until we got there", Abbott said. "I was assigned as a mortar man to 2nd Battalion, Green Combat Team. We trained to fight behind Japanese lines. We were all a little nervous. The British had tried this before and had gotten clobbered."

After three months of intensive

(Continued on page 11)

GENERAL ORDER #8 - PURPLE HEART AWARDS - Continued

Hq. 475TH INF, APO 218, GO #8, Sec. I, dtd 15 Oct 44 (Cont'd):

ALBERT GLUNT, 33429679, Pfc - 1 July 1944
 FELIX N GOLD, O4450042, 2nd Lt, Inf - 5 August 1944
 VICTOR T GOLDEN, 32754799, Pfc - 1 August 1944
 RUDY GONZALES, 38050134, Pvt - 5 June 1944
 IRVING M GORDY, JR, O537857, 2nd Lt, Inf - 11 July 1944
 NATHAN GOZANSKY, 32811575, Pvt - 22 June 1944
 JAMES GRACEY, 244588, Pfc - July 1944
 GEORGE H GRA____, 6141436, Pfc - July 1944
 ERWIN S GREENE, 34723070, Pfc - 16 June 1944
 J D GREESON, 34760329, Pfc - 30 June 1944
 WARREN H GRIER, 14022405, Pvt - 14 July 1944
 WILLIAM L GROSS, 35725680, Pfc - 23 July 1944
 ALBERT A HAGEDORN, 35790073, Pfc - 28 June 1944
 JAMES W HAGGARD, 35725673, Pvt - 1 August 1944
 RALPH E HAIN, 33586340, Pfc - 1 July 1944
 DENNIS E HALL, 35093103, Pfc - 9 June 1944
 JAMES M HAMILTON, 35725850, Pfc - 12 July 1944
 JAMES A HANSEN, 35048578, Pvt - 11 July 1944
 GUY D HARRINGTON JR, 36584499, Pfc - 12 June 1944
 HURSELL E HARRISON, 15040942, Sgt - 16 June 1944
 DAVID J HARTLEY, 35092990, Pfc - 2 August 1944
 PAUL B HARTLEY, 35629266, Pvt - 20 June 1944
 CAMERON W HASSELL, 6289642, Pvt - 27 July 1944
 VERNON R HAYES, 16005724, Sgt - 16 June 1944
 WILLIAM H HAYNES, 35127721, Pfc - 24 June 1944 152
 FLOYD T HAZELWOOD, 13015262, Pfc - 5 June 1944
 WILLIAM H HAZLETT, 20304887, Pvt - 1 July 1944
 CHARLES E HEATH, 31317514, Pvt - 5 August 1944
 CHARLES J HEFFLINGER, 35548224, S/Sgt - 31 July 1944
 ARTHUR G HERBERT, 31266972, Pfc - 1 July 1944
 ARTHUR F HESTER, 17161483, Pvt - 30 June 1944
 WILLIAM E HICKS, 32735924, Pfc - 24 July 1944 - 153
 LYN W HIGHTOWER, 6266938, T/Sgt - 1 August 1944
 PRESSLIE T HILL, 38498289, Pvt - 15 July 1944
 GEORGE E HINSON, 34096391, Pfc - 11 June 1944
 RICHARD J HIRSCH, 35049949, Pfc - 1 August 1944
 FREDERICK W HOBSTETTER JR, 35651992, Pfc - 30 June 1944
 HOWARD J HOCKETT, 16131122, S/Sgt - 14 July 1944
 JOHN A HOERIC, 35547565, Pfc - 30 June 1944
 LEWIS M HOFFMAN, 35090520, Pfc - 2 July 1944
 ROBERT C HOFFMAN, 32810367, Pvt - 28 June 1944
 WALTER A HOGG, 34543513, Sgt - 16 June 1944
 WILLIAM E HOLMES, O1300487, 1st Lt, Inf - 11 July 1944
 CHARLES H HOMEISTER, 35697809, Pfc - 14 June 1944
 FRANCIS F HOOD, 37085312, Sgt - 28 July 1944
 ALEC A HORSKY, 12027153, Pfc - 1 August 1944
 LESLIE C HOWELL, 35761473, Pvt - 3 August 1944
 THEODORE A HUDDLE, 34605829, Pvt - 12 June 1944
 WILLIAM I HUEBNER, 33429862, Pvt - 12 July 1944
 CHARLES H HUFFMAN, 35547932, Pfc - 14 June 1944
 GAIL T HUNT, 35630450, Pfc - 14 June 1944
 IVEN E HULSEY, 34760441, Pvt - 7 August 1944 - 154
 EVERETT O HUNTER, 32765969, Pfc - 22 June 1944
 OLIVER W HUNTINGTON, 11048756, Pvt - 8 July 1944 155
 ROSCOE P HUTCHISON, 35789869, Pfc - 14 June 1944
 JOHN A HYDE, 32859499, Pfc - 14 June 1944
 HOWARD E HYLANDER, 32748891, Pvt - 27 July 1944
 DAVID HYYTI II, 31298551, Pfc - 1 July 1944
 ROBERT J IGNACZAK, 35548507, Pfc - 11 July 1944
 LAWRENCE D JACKSON, 32849621, Pfc - 16 June 1944
 WARREN W JACKSON, 32751375, Pvt - 1 August 1944

(To Be Continued Next Issue)

training, the Unit entered the Burmese jungle in February of 1944. They were to act as a blocking force, cutting Japanese communications and lines of retreat from larger Chinese units attacking head on.

The Marauders entrance into the jungle would begin a seven months odyssey that would put them through the most grueling combat experience faced by any American fighting man during World War II. They would hike over 600 miles of dense jungle, fight five major and 30 minor engagements and capture the prize of North Burma, the all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina from which the Japanese were sending fighter planes to attack Allied transport planes flying war supplies to China.

"Just moving in the jungle was difficult," Abbott said. "Men got malaria, dysentery, typhus and jungle rot. Leeches were always a problem." Holding up his fist he continued, "leeches this big would get on the mules we used to haul our equipment. The wounds they left would fester all the way to the bone, full of maggots. The same could happen to a man. They were everywhere. One time we crossed a stream 40 times in one day. When you were in water, there were leeches. You just learned to pick them off." The leeches were only part of the hardships Abbott would endure.

"We went in with three day's ration, a weapon, a machete, a shovel and a poncho. We were supposed to be air-dropped supplies every three days. A lot of times, because of weather and the Japanese, it could be a long time (over 10 days) between drops. You learned to hold back a little food. We'd mix it with the mule feed and eat it. At times, water could be scarce and you drank whatever you could get. I've drunk water out of elephant footprints. I didn't think anyone would believe what we went through."

In March they positioned themselves to block the Japanese. For 36 hours they fought off determined Japanese attacks. Third Battalion got hit hard but they held on. The first dead Japanese I saw were on a jungle trail. There were three of 'em. We didn't touch them because they were booby trapped. We were on the same trail three days later and

we had to run past them one at a time because they smelled so bad."

In their first major engagement of the War, the Marauders had more than held their own and had bested the Japanese in their own kind of jungle warfare.

They continued to maneuver to block Japanese lines of retreat from Chinese forces further North. This time the Chinese were bogged down, allowing the Japanese to send the better part of a division against the Marauders. In the ensuing fights, 2nd Bn was isolated on the hill at Nhpum Ga in a perimeter 400 yards by 100 yards. The siege began on March 28th.

"How many times they attacked I can't remember," Abbott said. "They used high velocity artillery, mortars and we were constantly being sniped at when not under direct attack. Our P-47 fighters really helped. They strafed so close to our lines the hot brass shells from their bullets fell on us. They were hot too."

The action of one Marauder still stands out in Abbott's memory. "Roy Matsumoto was a Japanese American assigned with us. He would tap into Japanese phone lines and interrogate prisoners. On the hill he would sneak out every night to listen to the Japanese and find out where they would attack next. If he had ever been caught, I hate to think what they'd have done to him. We'd set up our automatic weapons where they would attack. One day they were to attack in two waves. The first one came but the second was hesitant. Roy jumped up and yelled 'attack' in Japanese and on they came. He saved the Battalion. Things were grim after ten days on the hill. Most of the mules were dead and the smell was horrible. Their only water source was in Japanese hands, and even with air drops supplies and ammunition were low. "I wasn't really scared until they came around one night and said we might try to break out in small groups." Abbott paused, then added, "the British had tried this and been annihilated earlier in the War. You couldn't survive in the jungle alone. It was just too tough. The next day the word came that no matter what happened, we would stick together. We were all glad to hear that."

First and Third Battalions were fighting to break through, but they

were also meeting stiff resistance. "Third Battalion got two 75 mm pack howitzers flown in to them. When they started shelling Japanese positions, we all cheered." On Easter Sunday, April 9th, the siege ended.

"I will never forget Easter as long as I live," Abbott said. "Every Easter I still call a good friend of mine who was on the hill with me. We just talk to see how we're doing."

By now, the Marauders had spent over 90 days in the jungle and hiked over 500 miles. Casualties and illness had reduced 2nd Bn to 400 men (from 1,000 and there would be no replacements for these men. Most of the remaining men were worn out and needed rest. Instead, they were ordered to march 90 more miles to capture the air field at Myitkyina. This would require crossing the Kumon Mountain with its 6,000 feet elevations.

"The slopes were so steep you had to cut steps just to walk. The mules would lose their footing and fall. Many broke their necks and you either left their load or you hauled it yourself. I was so tired or the march I would fall sound asleep on the trails in puddles of water during rainstorms." It would take over 20 days to reach the air field. During most of the hike, Abbott suffered the effects of having contracted malaria and yellow jaundice (hepatitis). They used small single engine planes from make-shift airfields to fly out the sick.

"You had to have a temperature of 102 degrees for at least three days to qualify for evacuation." Abbott was not evacuated until after the airfield fell. On May 16 the Marauders surprised and overwhelmed the unsuspecting Japanese on the airfield. "I didn't get there until just after it fell and I was airlifted out right after."

Of the 3,000 original Marauders only 1,300 made the march to Myitkyina and over 800 of these men were evacuated after its capture. Second Bn at one time would be down to 13 effective fighting men.

The result of the airfield fall had an immediate impact on the war. Supplies being flown to China were doubled now that the Japanese air threat was reduced and the Allies now had an airfield to continue

their offensive to open the Burma Road.

The unit received a special unit citation and every member of the Marauders received a Bronze Star for their bravery.

Dale Abbott recovered from his illnesses and spent more time in Burma with the 475th Infantry, the successors to the 5307th, until he acquired enough points to go home.

Gary Watson, the Tazewell News

Letters

EDITOR

The 504th Light Ponton Company which served under fire at Myitkyina did not belong to any Battalion, Regiment nor Division. No Regimental C O bucking for a star. No Battalion C O to question what we did or how we did it. Just one lone Company commanded by an unorthodox ROTC Captain. When we needed something for a specific task, we just went out and found what we needed and "acquired it". The rest of the 504th was flown to Myitkyina, the first part of September, 1944. we went with the British 36th Division on their drive down the RR toward Mandalay.

My platoon repaired the bombed out bridges. The other two platoons operated a supply and evacuation train, using Jeeps with rail wheels for locomotives. We left the 36th at Katha and returned to Myitkyina. There my platoon

operated a large ferry to supply the troops that were building a B-29 strip across the river. I flew back to the States in July '45 and spent 8 months in the tropical disease center at Swannanoa NC. There were two Officers from the 5307th in the same ward with me. One was Capt George Hickman, a veterinary. There was a Lt Finlayson.

General Wessels was in command of this group. I later ran into General Wessels at Anniston Ordnance Depot, Alabama in 1952. The first thing he said to me was "How is the Commander of the Irrawaddy Navy?" James L. Watson, 1101 Kendall St, Amory MS 38821.

EDITOR

NEWS ITEM: A new bridge linking Burma and China along the route of WW II's famous "Burma Road" has opened. Officials from both countries inaugurated the bridge over the SHWELI RIVER to link Kyaukok, about 530 miles northeast of Rangoon, with China's Yunnan Province. The New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported. The "Burma Road" was built in 1940 by the United States and Britain as a backdoor supply route for the Chinese forces fighting Japanese Invaders - Part of the Mars Task Force crossed the Shweli River on Jan. 3, 1945. Provided by Albert T. Willis, Jr., 814 Chattawka Ln, New Bern, NC 28560. 475/2/Hq Co CO.

EDITOR

I was in Company F, 475th, as well as in the 5307th. I arrived at

Myitkyina March 25th and am listed in Go #3 for the Combat Infantryman Badge. I do not recall what platoon I was in. In your May 1991 issue of the B/N, there was a reference to Charles F. Cattaneo. I am sure he was my squad leader. I also think that Michael J. Cryderman and Anthony F. Fontana were in the same squad. I fought at Myitkyina and Tonkwa and went off to China. Served there till Nov. 1945. Chester F. Pollock, 80 Monterey Rd., Defiance, OH 43512-3290, 784-2297.

EDITOR

I was with the 5307th & 475/2/G Co. I spent a long time with them wading through the jungles of Burma. I finally got gangrene in my feet and could not walk any more. I was sent to a "hospital" (a large tent with a lot of cots). It was somewhere in Assam on the Ledo Road. I almost lost my feet but Red Cross doctors cured them. I could not walk very good but I was not discharged, either.

I was given a truck drivers license (which I still have) and became a truck driver. I was transferred to the 3841st QM Truck Co. 88 QM Bn Mobile Unit. I drove the "6 bys" over the "Hump" (the Burma Road). When the monsoon season came, that was when the truck drivers really had to know how to drive. William H. Hoover, 15737 Muskingum Blvd., Brook Park, OH 44142.

**Make Plans Now for
Chicago Reunion!**



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

RAYMOND V. LYONS
Editor

11244 N. 33rd St.

Phoenix, AZ 85028-2723

Forward & Address Correction

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Scottsdale, AZ.
Permit No. 324