

The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1995

CLIMBING BACK UP INTO THE HILLS!

By Logan Weston, Reunion Chairman

The 1995 Merrill's Marauders Association Reunion is scheduled for August 31 - September 3rd at Asheville, North Carolina. The facilities selected for this occasion are located at the exquisite "Great Smoky Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort". This facility is listed as 1 of the 12 top Resort areas in the United States. In order to confirm your attendance, it is imperative that you call phone number for reservations - 1-800-733-3211 any day prior to 6:00 PM. Reservations must be received by the hotel no later than July 31st. The management offers a package of 4 meals and 2 nights lodging for the following rates:

Doubles (for two) \$296.00
Singles \$221.00
Meals for children under 12 staying with guardians are half-price.

This package is inclusive of all taxes and gratuities. A deposit of \$73.00 is required at time of registration. Credit card and/or send check within following ten day period, confirmation will be provided at that time. Additional night rates are \$69.00 plus 9% tax. Be sure to identify yourself with the Merrill's Marauders Association Reunion when you call to be eligible for the drastically reduced rate.

Surface and air access from all

points is convenient. The Henderson - Asheville Airport is serviced by Delta, U S Air, American and other Airlines.

Greater details explaining conveniences, sight seeing details and amenities offered by the Host Hotel will be elaborated on in future issues of the BURMAN NEWS. In the meantime you may call Logan Weston at 803-547-6744 or Phil Piazza at 803-972-3239 for answers to your questions.

If your plans change after you register, your \$73.00 will be 100% refunded up to 72 hours of arrival date or by 29 August.

RANGER COLUMN

RANGER RENDEZVOUS 1995

The 75th Ranger Regiment has announced the schedule for this summer's Ranger Rendezvous. Anyone who is interested in attending, please contact Phil Piazza at 803-972-3239, or write him at 374 Timberlake One Cir, Seneca SC 29678. We will be staying at the LA QUINTA MOTOR INN, Columbus GA, 1-800-531-5900. Tell them you are a Marauder. It is located at Exit 4 on I-85. Please let me know, as I have to make reservations for the various activities going on.

If it is a question of attending this or our own reunion in Asheville, I would recommend our own reunion.

RENDEZVOUS SCHEDULE

Fri 14 July: Regimental Airborne Operation

Sat 15 July: Night Weapons Competition; Officer and Ranger Association Representatives Social at Harmony Church Recreational Hall.

Sun 16 July: Day Weapons

Competition; Sports Competition; Ranger Stakes; Regimental Barbecue.

Mon 17 July: Regimental Mass PT; Ranger Wives Luncheon; Hall of Fame Induction; Informal Regimental Awards Banquet; (Lawson Field Hangar.)

Tue 18 July: Rangers in Action Demonstration (Ranger Training Brigade); Hall of Fame Plaque Unveiling (RTB); Rehearsal for Change of Command.

Wed 19 July: Regimental Change of Command.

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM SEEKING RECORDS OF STATE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS FOR ARCHIVES

To locate and preserve the records of Wisconsin's Veterans, the WVM has initiated the Wisconsin Veterans Records Location Project. The museum is seeking donations of records from Wisconsin's Veterans organization for its research archives. Individuals who possess records

are encouraged to donate those materials. The records will then be available to qualified scholars for historical research and possible future museum exhibits. For more information about the collection efforts, contact Mark D Van Ells, Archivist/Historian, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin St, Madison, WI 5 3703, 608-267-1790.

ARMY QUARTERMASTER CORPS SEEKS HISTORICAL PERSONNEL DATA

The Army Quartermaster Foundation is compiling a listing of past and present members of the Quartermaster Corps. This historical record, the Army Quartermaster Roll Call, will contain the name, date and place of birth, dates of service, unit assignments, and highest rank held by members of the Army Quartermaster Corps. For further information, contact the Army Quartermaster Roll Call project, PO Box A, Fort Lee VA 23801, (804) 734-4339

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - PHIL PIAZZA

I have been on the go constantly since the reunion, with trips to Asheville with Logan Weston to finalize plans for our reunion and many meetings at Ft Benning for the Ranger Memorial. The Memorial was dedicated last August at the Ranger Rendezvous, but now we are working on future plans. We are having lighting installed and a sprinkler system. The small ravine that runs across the front of it will be enhanced, and we are installing a couple of marble benches for people to sit and meditate. Anyone who cares to make a \$500 donation or more to the Ranger Memorial Foundation, to off set some of the future costs, can have their name engraved on a marble slab at the Memorial site. So far, Warner Katz, Roy Matsumoto and Phil Piazza are on them, as well as the Merrill's Marauders Association.

You all have read about the unfortunate training incident at the Jungle Training Camp at Eglin AFB, Florida. It was a terrible tragedy, as we lost four of the cream of the crop of American manhood. These three young officers, West Point graduates and the NCO should be remembered in our prayers and condolences for the surviving families. It disturbs me greatly to hear some critics chastise the Ranger Training Brigade and their training tactics in preparing the future Rangers for the possibility of eventually having to participate in combat.

I hope that day will never come again, but we must be prepared for it. I think the Ranger training is the best in the world. We turn out the most dedicated, best trained, best equipped, best disciplined soldiers in the world. No one abhors the fact of losing these fine young men in a non-combat situation more than I do. You all remember the strenuous training that we endured in India, acclimating us to the climate, terrain and stress of combat. I think that you will all agree that is was largely due to this training that we were able to withstand the long punishing months of combat and some of us were able to survive.

God willing we will never have a repeat of this unfortunate happening, but I think you will agree that we must continue this type of

training for the benefit of all future Rangers. M/G Jay Hendricks, the C.O. of Ft Benning, B/G John Maher, his Deputy CO, and Col Galen Jackman, CO of the Ranger Training Brigade are carrying on an intensive investigation of the incident, and I am sure that they, in their infinite wisdom, will arrive at the proper conclusion. On March 24th, we will be conducting a Memorial Service for the four Rangers who died. It will be held at the Ranger Monument, Ranger Field, Ft Benning GA. These fine young men were: 2nd Lt Spence D Dodge, President of the West Point 1994 Class, 25; 2nd Lt Curt G Sansoucie, West Point Class 1994, 23; Capt Milton Palmer, The Citadel Class 1990, 27; and Sgt Norman Tillman, 28, married and the father of one child. God Bless them all.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - RAY LYONS

Dave Richardson has contacted the Chinese Government Coordinating Council in Washington DC on our behalf and reports that they are willing to cooperate with us again in the Awarding of the Chinese War Memorial Medal. We will resume the procedure we have followed in the past. Those men who were in combat with the Chinese First Army and interested should write to me with details providing details of the dates you were in service in Burma and/or China and the units that you served with during this period. I will write a Letter of Certification for you to send to the Chinese Government representative.

There is going to be a BIG WW II veterans parade in NYC on November 11th. Celebrating 50th anniversary of end of War. Ticker

tape down lower Broadway. More news later.

We have received a letter from John Easterbrook about the Stilwell Museum, in Chongqing China. There was a news article about this Museum in the NY Times International Section or December 20, 1994. It appears that we are indebted to Mrs Nancy Stilwell Easterbrook for her insistence that our service in the CBI should be noted in a section of this museum. They are looking for donations of service mementos to place in this museum. As we go to press we have heard that a Chinese Government Official presently at Boston University will accompany a Museum Official to meet with Dave Quaid the first week of January to discuss what items we have available that they might be interested in presenting.

Write to your Congressman asking for support for the General Stilwell Commemorative Stamp.

We have the new, improved second edition of the "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume I". The price will be \$15.00. Senior Citizen rate \$12.

HISTORIAN - DAVE GUAID

I am back on the Merrill's Marauders Historical Video Tape project. My work in this area has been curtailed for some months due to some mysterious medical problems which I've experienced. Nevertheless, I went back to Burma with Gen Castor's group of veterans and returned with a case of next year's Asian Flu. Dorothy got it from me. Since my return to the States on February 5, we both got out of the house for the first time, yesterday, March 3rd.

The trip was a great success. The Burmese Government did all in (Continued on page 3)

FALL IN

Here are the latest additions to our assembly. Remember them?
LARRY FURLAN, KETTERING BOX 272037, Dayton OH 45429, 5307, 475
BALDWIN (HANK) HANSEN, 5 Gimlin Pl, St Louis MO 63138,
5307/3/KCT; 475/1/B
ROY S LOMBARDO JR, 6824 Windsor Mill Rd, Baltimore MD 21207-4427,
RANGER; 4th Ranger Group/Vietnam
DANIEL NOVAK JR, 4420 Avondale Rd, Golden Valley MN 55416-33519,
612-377-4405, 5307/164th Signal Photo Co
OLIVER W RAFFERTY, PO Box 98, Pampa TX 79065-0098, 5307/3/C/3;
475/1
CELESTINO P (BUD) VELARDO, 25 Plantation Dr, Vero Beach FL 32960-
7937, 5307/2/F Co; 475/2/E

Officer's Row . . .

(Continued from page 2)

their power to welcome us. We had audiences with all of the top governmental officials from the Prime Minister to all of the Service Generals and their staffs in each command we visited. Due to the ongoing insurgency, our security was a main concern to the government, still, we did get to Myitkyina (pronounced Meech-in-nah). It is now a thriving city of about 150,000 people. The old airstrip looks just about the way we found it 50 years ago. The north end of the strip where the wrecked Mitusbishi 97 lay and also was the location of the waterhole there now stands an old hangar.

The Jap earth revetments which housed the Seagrave's hospital group have all been leveled. There are no buildings to be seen with the sole exception of a modest control tower for civil aviation. S/Sgt. Branscomb, who first reconned the strip for Col. Hunter, would not find much changed. Logan Weston, who is running our next reunion in Asheville, N.C., has asked me to give a full report of this nostalgic journey at our Friday night dinner.

Nancy Stilwell Easterbrook, along with Sec. of Defense Perry, recently visited the Stilwell Museum, located in the General's old headquarters in Chungking. Its creation was an initiative by the Mainland Chinese Government which always held Stilwell in high esteem for his contributions to the people of China. In the course of their tour of the museum, Nancy Easterbrook noted that exhibits perpetuating the exploits of the Flying Tigers and the opening of the Stilwell Road, etc., there was nothing to indicate the contribution of "my father's Infantry," Merrill's Marauders.

After hearing from Nancy Stilwell, Ray Lyons turned the problem over to me. A delegation from the Stilwell Foundation Institute came to my house consisting of Donghui Zhang, Museum Curator; Ambassador Edmund Gullion, formerly of the Foreign Service and James W. Sintros of the Stilwell Foundation. Consultation with our MMA officers gave me the green light to furnish the museum with a display of photos, maps and other artifacts to present our history. Much of the

collection has been put together, we expect to turn over the material to the Foundation in the middle of May.

Any of our members still having artifacts suitable for display in this museum that they would like to donate, should forward them to me.

David L. Quaid
282 Trotting Park Road
East Falmouth, MA 02536-5656
Tel: 508-457-4406.

Every cloud has a silver lining but it's sometimes a little difficult to get it to the mint. - Don Marquis

+ + +

I can't go on.
I really
Can't go on
so,
I guess
I'll get up
and go on.

- Dory Previn

PASS IN REVIEW**Deaths reported recently****Name & Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased**

- INMAN NEAL AVERY, 1211 Pine Av SW, Live Oak FL 32060, 964-362-2479, 5307/3/OCT/I&R, March 29, 1995
WALTER J BARONOWSKI, 31 Castine St, Worcester MA 01606, 617-853-8625, 5307/1, March 16, 1995
ROBERT BARRETT, 4603 Oakwood Cir, Gastonia NC 28052, 704-867-3204, 5307/1/WCT, B CO; 475/1/B CO, June 1, 1994
JOSEPH CALACI, 31 Ruffell Dr, Vernon CT 06606, 5307/3/Oct, 1982
LOUIS CARDINALI, 12 Effingham Pl, Newport News VA 23602, 5307/2/BCT/HW, September 1994
JAMES W CLARK, Box 1042 131 Schley st, Thomasville GA 31792, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1/MED, July 25, 1994
LEBERT D DEANE, RT33, Box 25, Standardville VA 22973, 5307/2/GCT, June 26, 1972
STANLEY DUMSHA, 3266 Sandy Ln, Bensalem PA 19020-4635, 5307/1, January 14, 1995
COL TREVOR N DUPUY USA (RET), 503 Stephen Cir SW, Vienna VA 22180-6346, 38 Chin Div Arty; 612th FA Bn, C.O. June 8, 1995
FRANK P GALLAGHER, 2701 N Lakeshore Dr, Browns Mills NJ 08015, 5307/1/WCT; 475, May 24, 1995
FELIX N GOLD, Jackson NJ, 5307; 475, January 18, 1995
CON K LOCKART, 720 Ockerman St, Rockdale TX 76567, 124/1/H&S/4.2 MRTR, August 28, 1994
ROY C MANER, 2687 Hwy 415, Perry GA 31069, 5307/3/OCT, January 1995 @ PO NOTICE
JAMES B MC INTOSH JR, Mary Ann Manor, Washington ST, Limerick ME 04048, 5307TH, May 4, 1995
WILLIAM R MOORE, Springfield TN, 5307/236, March 6, 1990
RAY R NELSON, Box 64 Estilline SD 57234, 5307/3/OCT/1/4, April 24, 1995
EDWIN A ROTHSCHILD, 5825 S Dorchester #7W, Chicago IL 60637, 312-876-8009, Member Board of Directors, 5307/3/KCT, 475/HQ/ADJ, January 10, 1995
FAY C VAN NORDSTRAND, Montour Falls NY, 5307; 475, December 20, 1994

RESEARCH ON LOST, STRAYED, ETC BY ED WADE.

Ed has been doing a job on searching Social Security records for former members. So any of you men who thought you could sneak out of this world without telling us be advised. His results are listed below.

- Francis H Luke, SS# 111-09-5588, b 29 Dec 1919, dec. April 1977, Centennial Village, Westchester Co, NY 10566
James O'Malley, SS# 295-07-8942, b 4 July 1919, d Jan 1985, Cleveland Cuyahoga Co OH 44109
Patrick Hart, SS# 348-14-1960, b 7 Aug 1924, d 7 Jun 1991, Jacksonville Duval Co, FL 32256
Milton Kornfeld, SS# 131-10-1714, b 14 Feb 1920, d 22 Aug 1993, Middletown Orange Co NY 10940
Stanley Bragg, SS# 007-12-2968, 6 Mar 1924, d July 1986, Waterville Kennebec Co ME 04901

Ambush - Preamble to Walabum

For Members of the Third Bn, Merrill's Marauders

By Pat Perrone

To: Those Merrill Marauders who participated in or observed any portion of the ambush of a Japanese patrol at La Gang Ga, Burma, on 3 March 1944.

Those Marauders who engaged a Japanese force of approximately 30 men in the early morning of 4 March 1944 at La Gang Ga, Burma.

Those Marauders who were detailed to former 1st Lt. Dominic A. "Pat" Perrone at La Gang Ga to work the 3rd Bn Air Drop resupply and were with him on 4 March 1944, at Wesu Ga, Burma, when he was wounded by Japanese artillery shrapnel.

1. Ambush at La Gang Ga, Burma, on 3 March 1944: David L. Quaid, Historian, Merrill's Marauder, approached me at the 1990 MM Reunion and informed me that he was aware that I had conducted the ambush at La Gang Ga and that no account had ever been written. He asked that I write an account for the MM Historical Files. I agreed before I realized that what seemed a simple clear - but minor part of our history, which could be quickly and easily written in the third person, required factual details as to time, place and circumstances and finally explanations of the parts played by the participants plus a biography. I needed statements from participants to back up the account.

Actually, I was not very well prepared. I had no reference material, had never read a book about MMs, didn't see the movie, only own a copy of Galahad because I was identified as Lt. LoPrio (whoever he might be) and an almost, if not completely verbatim speech I made was recorded in the account; but, completely out of context. I had been ordered not to move out with the 3rd Bn pack train of ammo/supplies and said: "Go to Hell!" therefore the speech that we were going. Shortly afterwards, I was hauled in, given a direct order not to move out and informed that if I did move out, I would be charged with insubordination and court martial. Since technically, T/Sgt Ballard didn't belong to me, (he had come back from Bn Hqs to ask that ammo be brought in immediately), I returned

Ballard with a small pack train pending our departure. How anyone could have quoted me verbatim for the entire speech baffles me. I couldn't have done it and have never identified who did.

Until that 1990 reunion, I hadn't discussed or even thought about the ambush.

Except for Dave Hurwitt, I wasn't sure of the identities of the participants and have not been able to confirm the name of the Army Air Corps captain who was with Hurwitt and me. Since then, have identified Tony Colombo, Perry Johnson, 1st Lt. Vernon Beard. A number of those thought to have been participants have not replied to letters, denied participating, or cannot provide any other identification.

Doc Hopkins and his medical team observed the Japanese patrol marching in the clearing just before the ambush group opened fire. I have more than sufficient confirmation of the actual situation and conduct of the ambush and have prepared what could be the rough draft of the account. But, I would like to include more identities and statements. At most, there were only between 15 and 20 of us directly involved in setting up and conducting the ambush.

Perry Johnson thinks that the Air Corps captain was named Lawrence C. Paulson. He was the Air-Ground Coordinator for the 3rd Bn.

Abie Weingartner brought my attention to a book entitled, "Shots Fired In Anger," authored by the former CPT George, Hq, 3rd Bn, which contained a version of the La Gang Ga ambush which, unfortunately, does not adhere to the actual facts of the ambush. George indicates that the 3rd Bn had stopped for a rest and he and

about 100 Marauders, armed with carbines, were sitting at rest when, suddenly a Japanese patrol marched out of a trail and he and the 100 carbineers took their under fire and wiped out the patrol.

There had been some discussion of the identity of these soldiers who were initially thought to be Chinese until George verified their identity and killed the leader. Then ready for a fire-fight to expand, they were a kneeling line of carbineers. He continued: Mustering a normal voice, I called out to the others, "Hold it. Keep watch. There may be others;" or something of the sort. To me, a situation of this kind called for extreme caution and immobility.

"My photography and intelligence-gathering operation was interrupted some 15 minutes later by a second bit of firing by a Japanese platoon. Freed this time from the need to identify them first as enemy, we demonstrated again the deadlines of our semi-automatic carbines. We killed 10 of them in the grass beyond those already dead and the others pulled back and fired no more."

The essential facts of the ambush at La Gang Ga are: There was never any question as to the identity of the Japanese patrol. Prior to the Japanese patrol being taken under physical observation at the time it left the cover of the opposite brush line and entered the La Gang Ga clearing.

Perrone had sensed its presence and had informed the men near him that Japanese were in the area. No one, including Perrone, could locate any Japanese and some of the men started to laugh and there were a few crude remarks until Hurwitt said, "If Perrone says that there are Japanese over there, there are Japanese over there. He can smell them."

Perrone, Hurwitt and Paulson used a set of binoculars among them to check the opposite side of
(Continued on page 5)

LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS?

MAIL RETURNED BY PO AS UNKNOWN:

JOHN A LYNCH JR, 14623 PERDIDO KEY DR, PENSACOLA FL 32507-4543 - PO SAYS INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS
JOSEPH NAPOLETANO, 104 GAVIN ST, YONKERS NY 10701-5648, PO SAYS FWD ORDER EXPIRED
TEE RIGGS, 209 ROBERTA ST, HARRISON AR 72601-6131 PO FWD ORDER EXPIRED

Ambush . . .

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the clearing without success. Finally, Perrone had to accept that his sixth sense for impending danger might be wrong for once; but, it wouldn't go away.

Also, Perrone could see the joke following the rest of his military career, Perrone and the Japanese who weren't. Since lives were at stake, Perrone decided to go across the clearing and reconnoiter the area and had taken two or three steps when Paulson excitedly said that there were people over there, probably Japanese.

Paulson, who was undergoing his first experience with the Infantry, had continued to observe the opposite brushline with the binoculars and therefore was the first person to observe the physical presence of the Japanese. Paulson gave the binoculars to Perrone, who immediately identified the one individual who could be seen as Japanese.

There were others there in the brush who could not be seen clearly and there was no way to determine the strength or composition of the Japanese.

Perrone took command and ordered the Marauders in the trail to take ambush positions directly in the brush behind them. He directed that word of the Japanese be passed up and down the line, to alert 3rd Bn Hq and the Orange and Khaki Combat Teams and to permit the Bn commander to take over command and control of the situation.

About eight or nine mules had come out of the brush to enjoy the grass and had to be moved back under cover.

Perrone ordered the pick-up ambush group to remain in position and there would be no firing until he gave the command. Perrone then had the binoculars and kept the Japanese under observation as they finally broke cover and left the brush to take the trail which led to the Walabum Trail which would put them behind 3rd Bn headquarters.

After the patrol left the brush, it was under the direct observation of Perry Johnson, 1st Lt. Beard, Tony Colombo, Paulson, Hurwitt and Perrone and continued to be under that observation until Perrone gave the order to fire at the secondary ambush site.

At the primary ambush site, Perrone gave a preliminary order to fire on his command and someone in the line, identity unknown, said, "Pat, let them get closer so we can get a better shot at them." Since Perrone was concerned about possible other Japanese units following the patrol and killing the patrol at the secondary ambush site would allow the opportunity of determining the strength and composition of any other Japanese troops, Perrone agreed.

At the secondary ambush site, when the Japanese scout, armed with the light machine gun, became aware of their danger, Perrone gave the order to fire. No shot was fired prior to that order. There was one blast from the ambush group followed by some shots to our left up the Walabum Trail. Perrone ordered the ambush group to remain in position since other Japanese troops could be following the patrol.

The ambush group was still in position when LTC Beach, George, two others and Sweeney ran out of the Walabum Trail into the clearing to the Japanese bodies. They ran so fast without stopping to check that we had no opportunity to warn them of the potential danger of a counter-ambush. So, we remained in position to provide covering fire.

Finally, when it was apparent that they had been lucky and were still alive, Perrone got up to report to the Bn commander and to suggest that the La Gang Ga clearing probably was not the healthiest place to stand around discussing the situation. George intervened and informed Perrone that they didn't require his assistance.

Disgusted, Perrone left them to their own devices, crossed over to the opposite brushline to check for any Japanese sign and then returned to his ambush position. The ambush group probably did not number over 20. There wasn't enough room for 100 carbineers on that portion of the trail.

No Japanese infantry platoon attacked us at La Gang Ga to be repulsed by 100 carbineers. The ambush, since the Japanese were unable to fire one round, can hardly be classified as a fire fight, and was the only combat action which took place at the La Gang Ga on 3 March 1944.

1. If the 3rd Bn had been attacked by a Japanese infantry platoon as George alleges, it probably would have split the battalion in half, rolled us up, wiped out Bn Hq to include the Bn commander and S-2 who were in the clearing, and inflict so many casualties that the 3rd Bn could have been rendered ineffective and decisively affect its mission. A Japanese Infantry platoon's fire power and tactical maneuverability far exceeded that which we had in the immediate area. It would also have had a tactical advantage over the formation of our Bn strung out single file along the trail without crew served weapons and armed with pistols, carbines, M1's and a few BARs and a very few grenades.

Our Rifle and Weapons Companies would have eventually wiped out the platoon; but, it would have taken time to maneuver into position. That time would have been a blood-letting time in the La Gang Ga clearing and vicinity.

Further, it could have dug in after the initial attack and called for Japanese reinforcements from Walabum and the other areas which would have changed the major battle scene from Walabum to La Gang Ga with the Japanese having the tactical advantage.

Fortunately, that Japanese Infantry Platoon and the fire fight between it and George's 100 doughty carbineers was a figment of George's imagination and is a distortion of the true history of MMs.

I am thankful that the La Gang Ga ambush ended as a minor combat incident, an improvised ambush which resolved the situation within the ambush group's capabilities and could not be considered properly as a fire fight since the Japanese force was only a patrol which was taken completely by surprise and unable to fire one round in their defense. Which is the primary objective of an ambush, to destroy the enemy without any threat of casualties to the ambushers.

2. At La Gang Ga, Burma, in the early morning of 4 March 1944, a Japanese force of approximately 30 men bit off more than they could chew on and swallow when it attacked elements of the KCT. Probably Ted Hughes' company. This is the only other unit besides

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Ambush . . .

(Continued from page 5)

the ambush group to have engaged Japanese troops at La Gang Ga. Need details for inclusion in MM historical files. The 3rd Bn Air Drop Detail was co-located with this unit; but took no part in the fire fight.

3. Marauders assigned to the 3rd Bn Air Drop Detail and who were with Perrone on 4 March 1944 at Wesu Ga, Burma when Perrone was wounded by Japanese artillery shrapnel.

The 3rd Bn had been designated to receive an Air Drop at La Gang Ga, Burma, after its arrival at La Gang Ga and prior to moving into blocking position at Walabum. Extra ammunition for the Walabum Block was needed and since other planned air drops had been aborted, food had been scarce and then non-existent for several days. After the ambush, we waited for the air drop at La Gang Ga. The planes arrived, circled and then the air drop was aborted.

Rescheduled for 4 March 1944 at La Gang Ga. Bn commander informed Perrone that he intended to move the 3rd Bn into Walabum by the morning of 4 March 1944 without waiting for the rescheduled air drop. Perrone was designated to take the air drop and resupply the Bn. A detail from various units of the Combat Teams and Bn headquarters was assigned to Perrone to include mule transportation with skimmers.

Unfortunately, there is no record of the identities of the detail and over the years, names have been forgotten and specific individual actions forgotten.

Perrone and the Air Drop Detail remained overnight at La Gang Ga and were then informed that the air drop would be at Wesu Ga and that the 2d Bn would be moving into the area and sharing in the drop. The detail moved to Wesu Ga. We had come under Japanese military and mortar fire.

Either at La Gang Ga or Wesu Ga, Perrone and members of the detail observed Dr. Philip Cecala, one of the 3rd Bn surgeons, and the tall, blond, conscientious objector, under Japanese artillery and mortar fire, attempting to save the life of Sgt. Parquette, Orange I&R.

Knelling, while we were flat on

our bellies, they worked on his head wound for about one hour or so. We admired their courage and dedication.

The 2d Bn started moving into Wesu Ga and the Japanese increased fire. Perrone and about six or eight members of the detail were lying out in the open taking cover, as best as possible, in depressions of the ground. Perrone was hit by shrapnel on the right wrist. It was a flesh wound approximately two inches long which, fortunately, was shallow enough to have missed any of the vital portions of the wrist. The shrapnel created a furrow about two inches long which bled considerably. It

also caused jokes because of its minor nature.

We joked that it must have been a C-Ration can or a thorn from a rose bush that caused the wound. The jokes were based on the fact that we hadn't eaten for a while and that we had not seen a C-Ration for longer than we cared to think about and also that there were no roses growing in our part of Burma. It was implied that it might earn me a trip home.

3. I decided that as minor as the wound was, I had better have medical treatment and went looking for a medic. In the next clearing, the Regimental Surgeon

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Ambush . . .

(Continued from page 6)

and a 2d Bn Surgeon, Dr. Kolodny, had just moved in.

Kolodny was very cool and collected and not excited by Japanese artillery and mortar fire and I picked him. Kolodny bandaged me. I don't recall seeing Kolodny again until the 1953 reunion in Baltimore, where we met and he remembered having taken care of my wound at Wesu Ga. Since I was not in the 2nd Bn, I was not entered in 2d Bn morning reports. I compounded it by being diverted after I returned to the 3rd Bn and not making certain that it was entered in a 3rd Bn morning report.

Then I got caught up in the daily routine and forgot to do anything about it.

Back in Ledo at the 14th Evacuation Hospital, I had cerebral malaria with a left hemiplegia. Returned to CONUS, I completely lost touch with MMs and since I had no documentation, etc., didn't do anything to attempt to obtain my purple heart.

It wasn't until I met Dr. Kolodny and he gave me that statement, that I really thought of obtaining my purple heart. I hadn't taken the proper steps when it happened. I should have reported it officially to Dr. Hopkins or one of the other 3rd Bn doctors. I didn't and have no proof of having been wounded. Even after I got Dr. Kolodny's statement, I did not turn it in for years since I had no other proof and felt that too many years had passed. Finally, it became important for me to have it to be buried with me; but I do not have any back-up statements of Raiders who were present when I was wounded and can attest to the fact that they were present and aware that I had been wounded by shrapnel from Japanese artillery. So many years have gone by that it seems impossible to obtain such proof.

But I decided that I should try - I'll be 77 on 30 August 1995 and now is the time, if ever. So, I have taken advantage of this request for help in finalizing the account of the ambush at La Gang Ga. If any of you remember the circumstances and can attest to the validity of my claim for a purple heart, I would appreciate your help. A notarized statement of who you are, the circumstances that allowed you to

know that I was wounded and when and where.

Further reminder of those days with MMs. Later, more 2d Bn began arriving at Wesu Ga as did Regimental HQs. A number of pilots had been brought into Wesu Ga and were sitting near our detail. Suddenly, Perrone felt the same warning of danger and felt that there were Japanese down the end of the clearing along the river. He warned the detail that there were Japanese and we went into a line of skirmishers formation to sweep down to the brush at the river. As we started to move out, Brig Gen Merrill walked into the Wesu Ga clearing and got into a large hole being used for the Regiment Headquarters.

Perrone designated several of the detail to stand guard over the General and the detail continued on the sweep. We passed the pilots who were sitting in a shell crater (hole in ground) back to back ready to fight to the death from any angle. We finished the sweep without finding any Japanese or seeing any trace of their presence.

Not finding any Japanese, we returned to our resting positions. I couldn't understand it - the warning of danger had been of about the same intensity as that which I had felt at La Gang Ga.

Sometime later, the MP unit, assigned to guard Regiment Headquarters, arrived at Wesu Ga and were assigned perimeter guard duties. One of the MPS was assigned to the area where I had thought there was a Japanese presence. Later, as he checked the brush going down the river, he almost stepped on two Japanese scouts who were observing Wesu Ga. Armed with a Thompson SMG which was pointed at the Japanese, he pulled the trigger and killed both of the Japanese.

+++++

A man at a party approached a psychiatrist and said, "Doctor, I understand that you can tell whether a person is intelligent or not by asking some very simple questions. Is that true?" "Yes, a very simple question," the doctor said. "For example, Capt Cook made three voyages around the world and died on one of them. Which one?" "Ah, Doc, the man said, "You know I'm no good at history."

Sharing the Story**CENTRAL BURMA CAMPAIGN**

Here are some experiences that I had in the CBI. At Camp Landis, I was regrouped in Company F with a Platoon Sergeant, Charles Burkhart and Ray Williams was the Platoon Guide. I was to be one of the Squad Leaders. Very soon after that I had Typhus Fever and was sent back to the 20th Gen Hospital in India. Eight months later, I was sent to China to help train Chinese.

We had to fly 21,000 feet between the mountains to get over the Hump to China. We went to a village near the Yellow River. Mr Kerr and I checked a young Chinese soldier's rifle one morning, and it was dirty. We showed it to his leader, because it was dirty. He began to beat the boy and the boy gave no resistance at all. Mr Kerr and I were sorry we showed it to him.

One day in Training Chinese in a rolling barrage problem with 60 MM mortars, six Chinese advanced into it and three of them were killed and the other three were hurt. A fellow Chinese soldier said, "me-o-quanchy" which meant "I don't care". This is the feeling that they had for each other.

A friend of mine Reed, was acting as a Medic. He told us he gave a Chinese woman, 2 "brown bombers". Remember them!

If any knows any of the men that I mentioned and a man named Bunton, who told me how Charles Klingensmith got killed, I would love to hear from them. J T Tidwell, Rt 7, Box 132, Mayfield KY 42066

A SMALL WORLD INDEED

Having been acquainted for several years with a resident at my place of employment, it was only recently that I was pleasantly surprised to learn that he and I had something in common. It being that we both served in the C.B.I. Theater.

Lt Russell Younce was a pilot with the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron headed by Captain Ferde A Larson, its Operation Officer. He was later killed in action while leading a second supply mission in the Fort Hertz Valley, January 18, 1944.

Captain Marlan Lowell, their Liaison and Project Officer, stated,

(Continued on page 8)

Sharing the Story . . .

(Continued from page 7)

"We were prepared to support the Merrill's Marauders at their every beck and call. We even hauled their mules whenever we could. Portable stalls were built into our C-47s when this was needed. Later after our successful mission, General Merrill visited the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron to thank them for their support, and added that without them our mission would not have been possible." S/Sgt C Matt Matlovich, 2nd Bn, 3rd Platoon. 2073 Idaho Ln, Port St Lucie Fl 34953

ANOTHER VINEGAR JOE STORY

How many of you fellows recall the speech that Gen Stilwell made to us at Camp Landis? If you recall at the time there was a lot of bitching (and rightfully so) by the remainder of the 1st Bn that had been kept in Burma and the 2nd and 3rd Bns had been sent back to the U.S. Vinegar Joe got the word and showed up at Camp Landis to give us a pep talk. I do not remember what he said (and probably didn't care - we had been lied to many times) except this and I quote, "I understand that you fellows are calling me an Old Son-of-a-Bitch. Well that's alright between us friends but don't go telling that to strangers" end quote. Ralph W Pollock, RR 1 Box 1494, Mt Union PA 17066.

SAILING HOME

This past May 8th brought to mind my being on that Liberty ship in 1945 to come home. Liberty ship is a misnomer. It was more like a slave ship. Much has been written about the two campaigns - Marauders and Marsmen; but very little about the third one, the trip home. When we went over on the beautiful SS Lurline, I was a buck Sgt and had a stateroom with 5 others on B Deck. When I came back home, I had two more stripes but I ended up in the hold - D Deck.

Someone told me it was 130 degrees down there. I remember getting up in the middle of the nite to stand in line to get a drink at a water fountain. I tried a salt water shower once, it didn't work. Then there was the incident with the Marines and my friend Ralph Kouroyen. They wouldn't let him buy a coke.

Now comes the beautiful shore

leaves - Saipan, Guam, and Hawaii. I don't remember which - Saipan or Guam, there was a banner strung across the road, "Lookout for Japs". In Hawaii, I spent the day in a line in front of a restaurant. When we finally hit the Bay area, they put me off at Angel Island because I had the Scabies.

Finally made it to Frisco and a

train home. Never saw my barracks bag again. It had lots of loot, including a hunk of Jade about half the size of a football.

By the way, I think it was June 30 when we hit the states, about 55 days on that "pleasure cruise". Edmund Machin, 206 Columbus Av, Syracuse NY 13219, kk5307/1/RCT/INT SGT; 475/1

CANADIAN V.J. DAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CELEBRATION

Our membership has been invited to take part in this commemoration. Details follow:

The "Canada Remembers" committee, set up under D.V.A., is working on the plans and organization for the national celebration of the 50th Anniversary of V.J. Day in Ottawa on August 11, 12 and 13th, 1995.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS**FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 1995**

It is expected that this will be the day that most veterans will arrive in Ottawa. Eastern Ontario Branch of the Burma Star Association has arranged for a block of rooms at special rates at one of the Days Inn Chain. Call 1-800-325-2525. Single Rooms \$59 per night, Double Room \$69. per night and Indoor parking \$10 per night. This hotel - The Roxborough is part of the Days Inn Chain and is 5 blocks from Parliament Hill and 1 block from the National War Memorial and is in the central shopping area. Individuals are responsible for their reservations and should specify that they are booking under the Burma Star Association group in order to obtain the special rate.

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST

10.00 A special display of World War II military equipment and artifacts will be set up at the Canadian War Museum.

13.00 There will be an aerial display of vintage aircraft at the Canadian Aviation Museum at Rockcliffe.

15.00 The vintage aircraft will be on display at Uplands Airport. It is expected that bus transportation will be provided at no cost for veterans to visit these displays.

18.00 A Gala Dinner with Entertainment will be held at the Canada Reception Centre (Hangar #11 at Canadian Forces Base Uplands). Again, it is expected that transportation will be provided from the hotel to the Reception Centre, and back to the hotel. The cost of the dinner is not known at this time, however the admission will either be by ticket obtained in advance, or purchased at the door. There will be a cash bar. The entertainment is planned to be characteristic of that in World War II and especially in the Burma Theatre.

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 1995**11.30 COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT THE NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL.**

The parade will form up on Parliament Hill near the east entrance at approximately 1100 hours and will be lead by military bands to the National War Memorial where an appropriate ceremony will take place including the laying of wreaths. Those veterans who are unable to march in the parade, may proceed independently to the War Memorial, and join their fellows there.

It is pointed out that there are no arrangements for the provision of wreaths and hence it will be the responsibility of each group or person to provide their own.

The ceremony will end with a march-past of the veterans, with the salute being taken by the dignitary representing the Canadian Government.

12.30 After the march-past there will be a reception for all veterans at the Cartier Square Drill Hall.

14.00 The Canadian War Museum will hold an Open House for veterans.

L J BIRCHALL, BURMA STAR ASSO, PO BOX 785, KINGSTON ONTARIO K7L 4X6

BURMA TWICE?

So we found some more volunteers to go back to Burma. Here is the list of Merrill's Marauders Association members that accompanied B/Gen Castorr:

Harold L Bengston, 5307/3 Bn/Khaki Combat Team; 475/3; Tony Columbo, 5307/3/OCT; Don Delorey, 5307/3/HW; 475/3/EXO; Richard Gillette, 5307/3/HQ/HW; Kenneth Gumaer, 5307/1/WCT/31 QM PK TR; Lloyd R Hackenberg, 5307; 475; Henry Kinder, 5307/3/KCT; Roy Matsumoto, 5307/2/HQ; 475/2; David L Quaid, 5307/3/OCT; 475/2/HQ; 164TH SIGNAL PHOTO CO; Paul Tobey, 475/2/HQ; Art Wilson, 5307/RCT/A/1; 475/1/A/1; Theodore Zakotnik, 5307/1/RCT/C CO; 475/1/C CO;

Other units: B/G L R Castorr, NCAC HQ/FWD ECH; Leroy Fisher, 3RD COMBAT CARGO/1ST COMBAT GROUP/FLT ENGR/KICKER; Charles Hattaway, Stillwell HQ; Lloyd Messersmith, 274th MP CO; Stan Moloney, 12th Chinese Engrs/1st New Chinese Army; George P Smith, 527th Signal Air Warning Bn; O J Taylor, 1905 Engr Bn;

Honoraries: James P DeSalvo, Ranger Historian; Gary Layton, Mike Martin, Mike McLaughlin, Son of Capt George McLaughlin, 1st Bn;



1st Battalion men who were at air strip, May 17, 1944 - Ted Zakotnik and Ken Gumaer standing on same Myitkyina Air Field in 1995.

Erik Syversen, & Robert Syversen, Grandsons of Col William H Combs; Major Ngwg Ton, Foreign Liaison Dept, Ministry of Defense, Yangon, Myanmar.

We are planning on doing another Special Issue to cover the trip activities in Burma and possibly the Trip that our President, Phil Piazza made to China in May with the Defense Department.

A TIME FOR CHANGE

As they say, it is never too late to make changes. The question is why are we so long in making them. We have recently decided to upgrade the B/N by making small, passport size photos available next to the letters of stories from the members that we print. In order to make this easier on Dave Quaid and I we are going to use the voluntary services (means no pay) of Joe Leo Laferriere. For many years he attended reunions and took current day pictures of the men who attended which he kept in albums. Sally & I visited him one time and were impressed by his collection.

We have also over the years, provided him with the many photos that the membership have sent to us. So we will use Joe's work to support this new idea. Since he is not getting any pay - like the rest of us, we will provide him with a Title - Photo Archivist of the Merrill's Marauders Association. He is asking that you men out there send him a current photo to supplement his collection. His address is 100 Richview Av, South Hadley MA 01075, Phone Number 413-533-2954.

+++++

We keep going around in circles - trying to make ends meet.



Travelers at Mvanmar Embassy. 1995. Ambassador and wife in middle.

Letters

EDITOR

I was a member of the 5307th in the Khaki Combat Team. I was with the Headquarters group as a bivouac scout, to find camping area suitable for men and mules (with "water" when available). I was evacuated at Myitkyina with malaria when there was only 26 men left, and I heard that they came out soon after - never kept track of the date. S/Sgt Gilbert R Shelton, 3088 Mission Cr Rd, Cashmere WA 98815

EDITOR

Here is a little item that may give someone a chuckle. A USO troupe came in to Camp Landis, Burma. Included in that troupe were Pat O'Brien, Jinx Falkenburg, Jimmie Dodd and Betty Yeaton. I have their autographs on a five rupee Burmese note. They ate their evening meal with us. Pat O'Brien sat straight across from me. Among other things we had Vienna Sausage and the cooks used pieces of the little RED HOT, native grown red peppers for seasoning. Thinking that I was spearing a piece of sausage, I put a piece of pepper in my mouth. IMMEDIATELY FIRE, I ate all my bread, drank my coffee and ran for the Lister bag for water. When I came back to the table, Pat was laughing so hard that tears were running down his cheeks. Ralph Pollock, Rt 1 Box 1494, Mt Union PA 17066, 5307/1/WCT/B Co.

EDITOR

I was always called the "Kid" as I looked much younger than my 22 years and I had a small body structure. We left California on General Randall and arrived in Myitkyina on a C-47 from India, the day before the 475th left to go South. My basic training was at Ft Riley KS. Then spent time at Main Post of Ft Riley. When we arrived in Burma, I did not know what a full pack or a five mile hike was like. We trained with Cavalry Pack - very small. Our horse carried saddle bags and a bed-roll. I weighed 118 pounds and soon had a real problem with my feet and ankles which doubled in size. I soon became a mule skinner as I had trouble staying out in front as a scout. My feet just could not take

the load. A full pack, Thompson machine gun, ammo and such was too much weight for my size 8 feet. The Supply Sgt had no shoes that small, so I kept my Cavalry boots. John G Morris, 5446 S Foster Rd, San Antonio TX 78222-4114, 648-1507, 475/3/K Co.

EDITOR

CALLING MERRILL'S MARAUDERS OF WORLD WAR II

Can you help an author? Robin Neillands, an ex-Royal Marine Commando and a military historian, is writing a book, "THE HISTORY OF SPECIAL FORCES" and wants to include a large section on American Special Force operations, in World War II,

Vietnam, Korea, the Gulf, and elsewhere. He is looking for personal accounts, the more personal the better, about the unit and the training, our buddies and the missions we took part in, and about what it was really like to serve in Special Forces.

If you served with the Special Forces, particularly in World War II, and have a tale to tell, contact Robin Neillands now, at 48 Beltran Rd, London SW6 3AJ, England. All accounts will be acknowledged in the book.

Rob's latest book, "THE CONQUEST OF THE REICH", about the end of World War II in Europe, has just been published by the New York University Press.

Yours Sincerely, Rob Neillands.

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN COMBAT AREA COMMAND

A. P. O. 218

27 Dec 1944

SUBJECT: AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART - TONKWA

TO:

1st Lt.	Berkness, Norman R.	01321011 (15 Dec 44)
2nd Lt.	Lakin, Charles A.	0529508 (16 Dec 44)
T/Sgt.	Weber, Carl H.	6843597 (15 Dec 44)
T/Sgt.	Morrison, Robert C.	6977058 (15 Dec 44)
S/Sgt.	Mosakewski, Stanley J.	31284819 (15 Dec 44)
S/Sgt.	MacDonald, Robert T.	39202117 (15 Dec 44)
T/5	Goodman, Garvin L.	34706401 (15 Dec 44)
T/5	Johnson, Thornton E.	35725313 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Pender, Francis E.	35548032 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Decker, George F.	38433207 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Hoffman, George C.	37533822 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Kidd, Goldman E.	35697021 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Scheifele, John W.	32352543 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Wisnibaugh, Clarence	36562941 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Zielke, Harry	36586232 (15 Dec 44)
PFC	Dineen, William C.	15107085 (15 Dec 44)
Pvt	Cathell, Louis E.	33849180 (15 Dec 44)
Pvt	Hensley, Chester W.	37737932 (14 Dec 44)
Pvt	Keane, John F.	6153811 (16 Dec 44)
Pvt	Lucky, Loyd P.	38683149 (15 Dec 44)
Pvt	Martin, William T.	36954185 (15 Dec 44)
Pvt	Mauney, Talbert Jr.	34985696 (15 Dec 44)
Pvt	Newton, J.T.	38118486 (15 Dec 44)

Under the provisions of par 16, AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943 and per 2e, Cir #55, Hq, USAF, CBI, APO 885, dated 29 May 1944, the Officers and EM indicated above are awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds and injuries sustained in combat against the enemy in the North Burma Campaign, on date indicated.

By Command of Lieutenant General SULTAN:

/s/D.A.Yett

D.A.YETT

Lt Col, AGD

Adjutant General

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

JAMES K BLOCKER

Captain, Infantry

Actg. Adj. Gen.

LXXIV Army C/S, CCC (D)

Letters

EDITOR

I would like to ask if anyone in the outfit who knew of Joe Calaci, my father, could please contact me at this address. I know now that he was in the 2nd Bn with Col Mc Gee, but I also know is that he was involved in the fighting at Nhpum Ga. He also was on the cover of Yank Magazine. He is the one on the right and the G I in the middle with the machine gun was his buddy Red Morrissey. With the help of Dave Quaid and Ray Lyons, we found that he was mislsted in General Order #3 as Pfc Joseph Caisol, 31191397. Thanks! Joe Calaci, 31 Russell Dr, Vernon Ct 06066, 203-643-8594

EDITOR

Am writing to let you know a little about my service in Burma. I was with the 3rd Bn, 3rd Platoon, C Company or B Co, I can't remember which. Col Beach or Major Briggs were my commanders at Nhpum Ga. I was in Khaki CT with Sgt Ellsworth, Dalmus and Curtin were Platoon Sgts. I walked the Ledo Road and was with the Marauders until we took the Myitkyina Air Strip. I was flown out for R & R. Came back with the Mars Task Force, 475th Infantry. We went to Bhamo and Lashio. Lt Dumsha was my Commander. We were dug in on a hill. The Japs were shelling us but rounds were going over us. Good Thing!

At Nhpum Ga we were going up the hill a few feet at a time trying to reach the 2nd Bn. Sgt Acker with his field guns was a Godsend.

We left San Francisco on the SS Lurline, stopped at New Caledonia to pick up more troops. Then stopped at Australia for a walk down the street. Then on to Bombay.

After the action was over, we were sent to Calcutta where we stayed until we were shipped home in July.

PS Hansen and I were put in the stockade in Calcutta for fighting with the British. Caifson Johnson got us out. Oliver Rafferty, PO Box 98, Pampa TX 74065-0098, 530713/KCT/13: 475/11



UPON MY WORD

We all seem to be hung up on "up." We put up with. Use up. Come up. Butter up. Line up. Punch up and Belly up.

Houses are opened up. Lighted up. Warmed up. Cleaned up, and closed up. Motors are fired up. Gassed up and charged up. Boats are speeded up. Slowed up. Tied up and laid up.

If we are mixed up, we must hurry up and shape up. Or, we will be fouled up, and, Heaven help us. We drink up with 7-UP.

If you think up other examples, don't call me up. I'm up the wall with up.

I give up!

+++++

Rumor has it that Diogenes recently entered Washington DC looking for an honest man and left looking for his lamp.

REPLY TO ANONYMOUS

LOOK AT THE MEDIC, SAFE IN HIS HOLE.
 WAITING FOR THE CALL TO PLAY HIS ROLE.
 WHEN THE CALL COMES, HE IS UP AND RUNNING.
 SOMEWHERE AHEAD, AN INFANTRY MAN BLEEDS.
 THE MEDIC IS COMING TO TEND TO HIS NEEDS.
 HE MAY NOT BE CHARMING, WITH A BEDSIDE MANNER, HE MAY TALK ROUGH TO HIDE HIS FEARS,
 FOR THE MEDIC IS HUMAN, JUST LIKE HIS PEERS.
 LOOK AT THE MEDIC, BACK IN HIS HOLE AGAIN,
 AND BE THANKFUL HE'S THERE, YOU INFANTRY MEN.

James R White, 5307th/2nd Bn/Hvy Wns Plat/Medic

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE ABOUT NISEIS

HONOR BY FIRE by Lyn Crost, Hardcover, \$25., Presidio Press. One chapter devoted to our men - Secret Warriors in Burma. Expect to have copies available at the Reunion and afterwards from Exec Secretary address.

MIS IN THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN: Personal experiences related at the 1993 MIS Capital Reunion. Soft Cover, \$10 + \$2 P & H. One chapter relating to "In Action in the CBI Theater" Order from JAVA BOOK SALES DIVISION, P O Box 391, VIENNA VA 22183-0391.

SONG OF A RAILROAD

Oh, we're off for God knows where at break of day,

And there's a railroad that we'll take along the way.

But if your heart pumps partly water,

Why, we'll tell you, as we ought'er,

It's not eh Atchison, Topeka 'n' Santa Fe,

Nor yet the Paris-Lyon-Mediterrane'e.

But if your blood behaves like whisky

And you'll take your travel risky, Then, brother, lift your glass with ours when we say,

We'll take the Myitkyina, Mogaung and Mandalay.

We'll get aboard at Mytchin' Where the devil had his kitchen

And the Brownings and the Nambus kept tedium at bay.

We'll pledge the gods in laughter For what may come hereafter;

Yes, we'll take it in good spirit come what may,

When we board the Myitkyina, Mogaung and Mandalay.

Charlton Ogburn, 5307/1, 403 Hancock St, Beaufort SC 29902

+++++

Talk is cheap. That's because the supply exceeds the demand.

+++++

The two leading recipes for success are building a better mousetrap and finding a bigger loophole.

+++++

Just when you get to the point where menu prices don't matter, calories do.

I CAN'T REMEMBER

JUST A LINE TO SAY I'M
LIVING, THAT I'M NOT AMONG
THE DEAD.

THOUGH I'M GETTING MORE
FORGETFUL, AND MIXED UP IN
THE HEAD.

I GOT USED TO MY ARTHRITIS,
TO MY DENTURES I'M RESIGNED.

I CAN MANAGE MY BIFOCALS,
BUT GOD, I MISS MY MIND.

FOR SOMETIMES, I CAN'T

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.

We had sold out all copies of "The Marauders" by Charlton Ogburn. We recently received our back order. \$8.00 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.

REMEMBER WHEN I STAND AT
THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS,

IF I MUST GO UP FOR SOME-
THING, OR I JUST CAME DOWN
FROM THERE?

AND BEFORE THE FRIDGE SO
OFTEN, MY POOR MIND IS FILLED
WITH DOUBT,

HAVE I JUST PUT FOOD AWAY,
OR HAVE I COME TO TAKE SOME
OUT?

AND THERE'S A TIME WHEN IT
IS DARK WITH MY NIGHTCAP ON
MY HEAD,

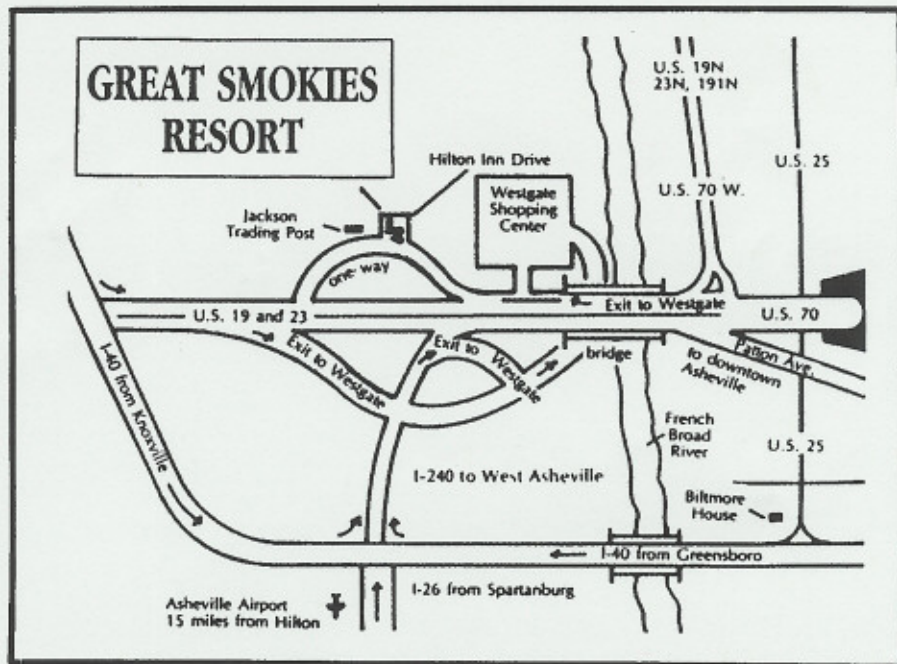
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M RE-
TIRING, OR JUST GETTING OUT
OF BED.

SO, IF IT'S MY TURN TO WRITE
YOU, THERE'S NO NEED FOR GET-
TING SORE, I MAY THINK THAT I
HAVE WRITTEN, AND DON'T
WANT TO BE A BORE.

SO, REMEMBER THAT I LOVE
YOU, AND WISH THAT YOU WERE
NEAR.

BUT NOW IT'S NEARLY MAIL
TIME, SO MUST SAY GOOD-BY,
DEAR. THERE I STAND BESIDE
THE MAIL BOX, WITH A FACE SO
VERY SAD. INSTEAD OF MAILING
YOU MY LETTER, I OPENED IT
INSTEAD.

From Earl Nelson



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

RAYMOND V. LYONS
Editor

11244 N. 33rd St.

Phoenix, AZ 85028-2723

Forward & Address Correction

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