



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November 1995

"China At Last!"

By Phil Piazza

In April, I was invited by the Secretary of State to participate in a WW II Commemorative Flight to China and India, to be hosted by the Dept. of Defense. This was a very special mission to thank the veterans of the CBI Theater and to re-fly the historic route over the Himalayas, known as the "Hump." We flew a total of 38,000 miles.

The first leg of the flight was in an Air Force KC-10 tanker and then the newest Air Force C-17, which has just been put into service. It was Red Carpet treatment all the way, with ceremonies and receptions at all stops, and the Air Force people that coordinated the trip did a fantastic job. They could not do enough for us, and it made for the most memorable and nostalgic trip I have even taken.

There were only 18 selected for the trip, most all Air Force people, Flying Tigers, etc. The exceptions were Lt. General Tom Rienzi, a Signal Corps officer with Gen. Stillwell's staff, Maj. General John Singlaub, an OSS officer, who jumped in behind the lines on Hainan Island off the coast of China to try to rescue 400 POW's, Australian and Dutch. I was also picked to represent the Marauders, as the Marauders were the only Ground Force to fight on the continent of Asia since the turn of the century, during the Boxer Rebellion. And as you know, we defeated the Imperial Japanese Division that was infamous for the capture of Singapore, and the Rape of Nanking.

Also on the trip were four Aces of the Air Force: Maj. Gen. Eugene Sterling and Maj. Gen. John Allison, who flew in support of the Marauders. I had always wanted to thank these wonderful people, and it was nice to do so at last.

Also in the group was Brig. Gen. Robert Scott, author of "God Is My Co-Pilot." The whole group had a



Hump Flight Monument, Phil Piazza and China's most decorated pilot.

wonderful time recounting past experiences, and everywhere we went, the military and civilians alike, were excited about meeting these fine warriors, and welcomed them with open arms.

After our initial briefing and orientation at Andrews Air Force

Base in Maryland, we took off for Hawaii. Our first stop was Hickam AFB, Hawaii. We flew in a KC-10 extender tanker, which is an air refueler. It was rigged up inside as a commercial airliner, which they do in transporting VIP's on a trip such as this.

On the flight, I visited the cockpit a number of times to enjoy the wonderful view, and also down in the tail, where the bomber sits in front of a bank of dials for when they are doing air refuelling. It is all automatic. I had the pleasure of sitting in front of the picture window, where planes come up to within 20 feet to be refueled.

While I was there the first time we flew over Missouri and I could see the tremendous damage done by the floods and the broken dams. I also saw the Clark Air Field in the Philippines, which the US abandoned.

(Continued on page 4)



KC-10 Tanker Plane, Okinawa, Japan. June 1, 1995; 17 members of CBI on trip. Flew in this plane on first leg to Hawaii and last leg on return.

ASHEVILLE A SMASHVILLE

Mark one more up as a success. We had them coming from all directions. Volunteers from Tennessee, and from Kentucky, from Ohio, California, Oregon in fact we were all volunteers, weren't we. One hundred seventy six Marauders signed in at Sally's post. There may be more than that on the charts that follow. At the Saturday Night Banquet we had 411 plus 8 small children. Food was excellent. The Hotel Construction gave us something else to watch. This was the first time our reunion was surrounded by a golf course. No reports of anyone being hit by a golf ball.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER - Phil Piazza, President Conducting. Called upon Father Glavin to give the Invocation. Called upon Color Guard to stand. Cited them as Viet

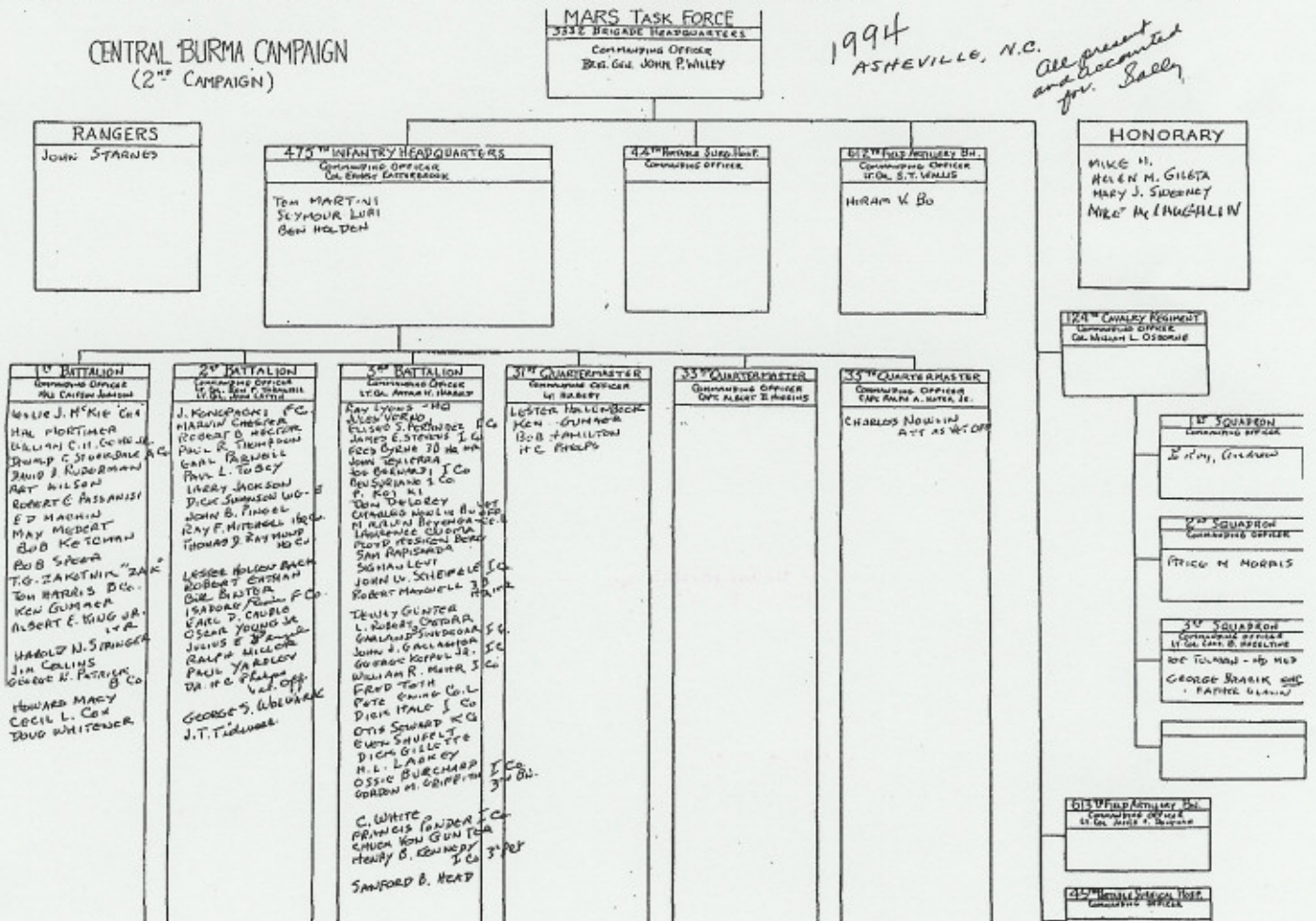
Nam veterans who wore the Merrill's Marauders emblem while there. They were known as Merrill's Marauders. They did a fantastic job in Viet Nam and, unfortunately never got the credit they deserved for what they did. Tomorrow evening they will put on a demonstration.

For the General Membership Meeting, it is really important that you attend because we only meet once a year. I'm in contact with our officers during the year but we only meet once a year at the Reunion. We will not be voting on a reunion site because, if you remember, those of you that were at last year's reunion, decided that as it was our Fiftieth Reunion, we would meet in Washington DC this time.

Update on Ranger Memorial. when we first started, and Ralph

Puckett will agree with me, we wondered how we were going to raise \$500,000. but we did it. We did it within the Ranger fraternity itself; amongst the Ranger and all the Marauders. And, how we did it. We worked out a scheme where we would sell those bricks which many of you have bought - in the walkway. At the present time we are planning on perpetual care for it. We have recently put some marble benches there under the trees where people could sit and meditate. We are putting an underground sprinkler system in; we are putting in a lighting system. We are putting a drainage border around the base of the monument. So, if any of you are still interested in getting one of the bricks

(Continued on page 3)



Marauders March on Washington

By Dave Richardson, Reunion Chairman

Washington, DC, will be the site of the 50th Annual Reunion of the Merrill's Marauders Association, August 29 - September 1, and the place will be the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, adjacent to the National Airport and overlooking the Nation's Capitol, from across the Potomac River.

The opening event will be a Merrill's Marauders Association visit to the Tomb of Unknown Soldier for a wreath laying ceremony. This will be on Wednesday morning, August 29. We will also visit the Merrill's Marauders Association Monument and Trees which is a short walk. There is a Museum at the tomb location which has insignia from army units including the Merrill's Marauders.

The Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, lies on a hill above and only ten minutes from the National Airport, and provides free shuttle-bus service, not only to the airport but

also to the nearby Fashion Center at Pentagon City, with more than 100 upscale shops, and to the nearest Metro (subway) station for travel into Washington, DC.

The hotel has 685 rooms, two bar-lounges and two restaurants - one of each on the roof overlooking the Capitol - a health club and spa, an outdoor swimming pool and free indoor parking. The package rate for two persons is \$325 for two nights lodging, including four meals, taxes and gratuities. Package rate single person, two nights, four meals, taxes and gratuities - @275. Additional nights lodging costs \$94. The above includes Friday night banquet, Saturday morning full breakfast, Saturday evening cocktail party, open bar and banquet, Sunday morning sumptuous buffet.

Reservations for the Washington, DC, reunion may be made by calling 1-800-233-1234, saying

reserve at Hyatt Regency - Crystal City for Merrill's Marauders Association reunion, next Labor Day weekend, giving dates you wish to reserve and number in party. **Deadline for reservations will be July 29, 1996.** If any Marauder is having guests, relatives and friends who might live in the area, the banquet manager must be notified two days in advance of the number of extra meals needed to be served. **No last minute orders for meals can be taken. This is important!** The charge for parking has been waived - NO CHARGE. There is parking for RV's just down the street from the hotel.

Further details on the Golden Anniversary Reunion will follow in future issues of the BURMAN NEWS, including special events sightseeing, amenities. For any questions you need answered in the meantime, call Dave Richardson at 202-364-4617 or Phil Piazza at 803-972-3239.

ASHEVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 2)

installed, what you have to do, is send it to me to be authenticated and then I send them on to the Committee. It is \$240 and tax-deductible because it is to a Non-profit foundation. Make the check out to the Ranger Memorial Foundation, but send it to me.

Viet Nam Vet Sgt. Polk: Last year the Black Tigers came to your reunion and we did a sponsorship program, as those of you who came know, the Black Tiger gives the mate a gold belt buckle. In return they got a Merrill's Marauder patch. We wear the Merrill's Marauders patch on our sleeve of honor. The four that will be presented will be Tony Colombo, Grant Hirabayashi, Bob Passanisi and Harold Mortimer.

Phil Piazza: I've been asked to tell you about my trip and in the interest of time, I don't intend to do it. For those of you who didn't know about it, the Department of Defense sent me on a trip to China. It was a 38,000 mile trip, two weeks - went to Hawaii, Guam, Calcutta, New Delhi, Kunming, Beijing,

Okinawa, and back to Hawaii. It was a fantastic trip. We went on the newest Air Force C-17 and it was first class all the way. I wish all of you could have done it. Those of you who were in India, and we all were, I don't care if I ever go back again because conditions are even more deplorable than they were. I was quite impressed with China though. They are really progressive.

I'd like to mention one other thing. I don't know if any of you noticed that these are our new colors. Our old colors were one-sided; they only had the colors on one side. Roy Matsumoto graciously donated the money to purchase this. Roy, I would like to thank you. I believe Lloyd Hackenburg has a presentation that we want to make.

Hackenburg: Thank you. I would like to have Don Delorey come forward please. I have to tell you something about this gentleman. I owe him a debt for 53 years. And, tonight's my night to repay him. He was my first lieutenant that I ever met in the service and he was a hell of a guy, believe me. First of all, I have this

item I want to return to Lieutenant - my razor. (Delorey - I made him shave for the first time.) You can't imagine how painful that was to shave when I had nothing to shave. He made me go out and buy a razor. I didn't know how to use the razor or how to adjust it and soon I had one side completely off, skin and all. The other side wasn't too bad. This gentleman here, one of those second lieutenants, that didn't really know what they were doing, would like to present my razor to him.

But, that isn't all. I have a lot more for this man. He met his wife over in Burma, she was a nurse. And the place he met her; you can never imagine where he met this lady. When I returned to Burma, I found out where he met this lady. I brought back for him, a remembrance for him. It's a replica of the outhouse. This outhouse still remains from 50 years ago where he met his wife. I have here a replica of Myitkyina Burma 95. And the doors open. Inside I have all the rooms with the sides and I had all the equipment that was in that room. Can you imagine

(Continued on page 9)

CHINA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

done after the earthquake. It has now been completely cleaned of the ash which had covered it.

In Hawaii, we were taken on a tour of the Arizona Memorial, by Rear Admiral Smith, on his VIP barge. He is CO of the Pacific Fleet. Also accompanying us was Lt. Gen. Fairfield, Vice CO Pacific Air Force.

Of course, when we landed at Hickam, we received the traditional flower lei greeting, and at every stop, we were greeted by Dignitaries and hordes of news media. At the Arizona Memorial, there is a somber aura that surrounds the site. Almost impossible to describe. We had a ceremony there, and deposited a wreath in the water.

It was strange to see after we left the Memorial, hordes of Japanese tourists come aboard the Memorial. We had lunch at the Officers' Club Lanai at Hickam where a symposium was held, and six of the veterans described their experiences in the CBI campaign, at a moderator's table. The young Air Force officers and guests sat enthralled by the tales. The Club is open to the sea, and the birds flew in and out and landed on the tables.

After lunch, we went on a tour of the Central Identification Laboratory, where all remains of servicemen killed in WW II, Korea and Vietnam and other countries are identified. It is amazing the lengths that they go to try to identify remains, and the expense involved, to recover the remains. It sounds gruesome, but they had tables laid out with minute remains, including particles of clothing, ID's, etc, and they use all kinds of tests, scopes and DNI. As a matter of fact, they had remains of a plane that was just returned from the Himalayas a week ago, that had crashed in the mountains in 1944. They presented us with a plaque containing a particle of the plane, which Gen. Rienzi gave to Gen. Scott, to be presented to the National Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the "Punch Bowl," as it is located in an extinct volcano. We had a ceremony with a 21 gun salute, honor guard, etc. It was a beautiful ceremony, and attended also by some Hawaiian vets, who were very

(Continued on page 5)



Rear, left to right: BG Robert Scott, Phil Piazza, LTG Tom Rienzi, Col. Bill Ramsey. Front: 1st Lt. Laurel E. Scherer getting promoted by MG Eugene Sterling and MG John Alison (double ace, CBI), May 29, 1995.



Lt. Gen. Tom Rienzi and Phil Piazza, May 28, 1995, Beijing, China.



May 30, 1995. Ceremony at Hump Pilot's Museum, Kunming, China. Chinese Air Force officers lined up.



Breakfast at Outrigger Reef Hotel, Hawaii. Phil, Maj. Gen. Alison, Col. Shupe, Col. Lopez.



Hickam AFB, Hawaii



Guam in front of Jap caves at their last their last command post. Lt. Gen. Rienzi and Piazza.



Last Jap Command Post on Guam. Left to right: Maj. Gen. Singlaub, Phil Piazza and Col. Shupe.

CHINA . . .

(Continued from page 4)

emotional with meeting the group. Four of the Flying Tiger vets presented wreaths in honor of the pilots who lost their lives flying the Hump, and all veterans buried there. The 38,000 graves there overlook Hawaii and 1300 veterans killed in the Pacific and 600 from Korea and Vietnam. It is the Powania crater, which the natives say translates into "The Hill of Sacrifice."

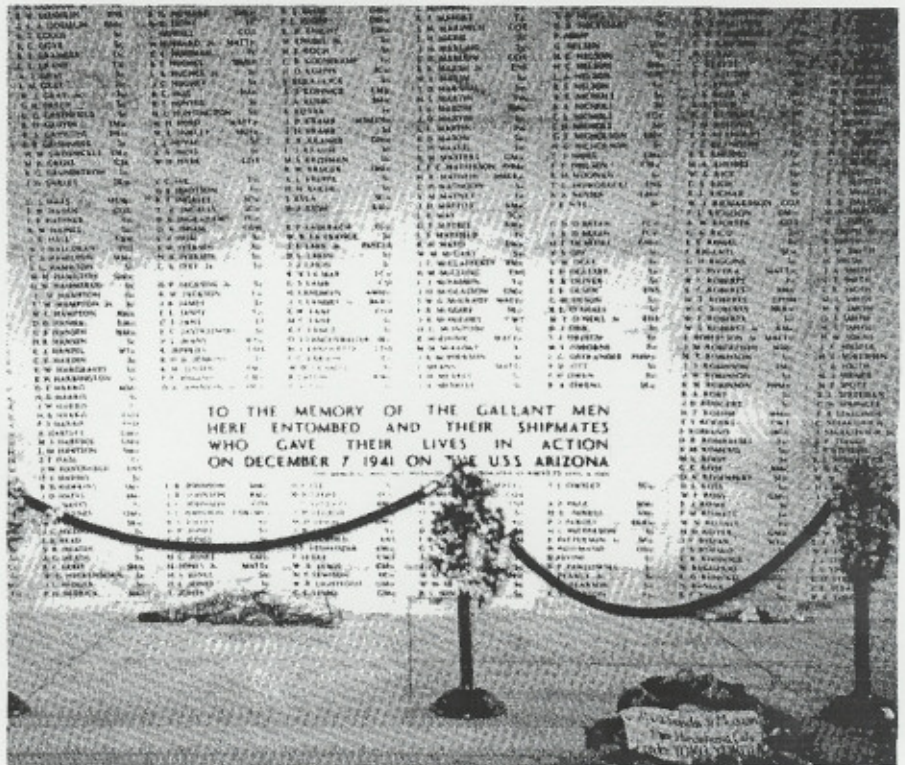
After the sounding of Taps, we visited the Hall of Honor located in the upper pavilion. It is a beautiful spot. Only a few CBI men are there, as the rest have been returned to the States.

We left Hawaii and flew to Guam. In crossing the International Date-line, we lost a day, but picked it up on the return trip. We landed at Anderson Air Force Base on Guam and were met there by Maj. Gen. Richard Swope, CO of the 13th Air Force. We received a typical Guamanian welcome and then toured the Northwest Field, where the 20th Air Force flew their missions. Then we visited the last Japanese Command Post and the caves used by them and where many committed suicide rather than surrender. The Japanese have built a cemetery there also, and maintain a Memorial Chapel, as many of their soldiers are buried there. In the evening, Gen. John Lorber, CO of the Pacific Air Force, hosted a very nice reception at the hotel. I had the pleasure of spending the evening with Ben Stilwell, son of Gen. Stilwell, and his wife. He is a forensic pathologist stationed in Guam.

As we took off from Guam the next day, I had the pleasure of riding in the cockpit, as we took off at dawn over the ocean and flew through a rainbow. It was quite a sight.

We arrived in New Delhi, India, at the airport at Palam Technical area, temperature 110 degrees. Flight line ceremonies were held and we were greeted with marigold garlands and our foreheads marked with the symbol of warriors by young Indian women. There were hundreds of newspaper and TV people there. We were then greeted by Ambassador Frank Wisner, and Air Marshall

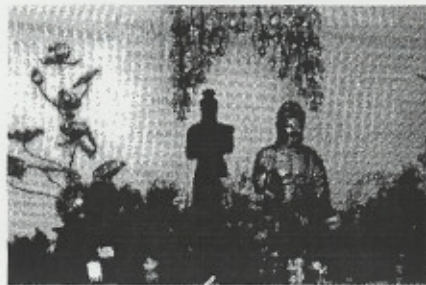
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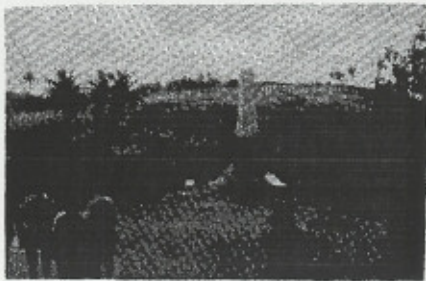
U.S.S. Arizona Memorial



Jap Cemetery, Guam.



Chapel at Jap Cemetery.



Jap Cemetery on Guam.



Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China. L to R: Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, Phil Piazza, May 28, 1995.



Interior of C-17.

CHINA . . .

(Continued from page 5)

Sareen, commander-in-chief of the Indian Air Force. We were taken on a tour of the Palam Air Station Air Force Museum, and viewed the Indian Air Force, which is in very sad condition. They are still flying some old Russian MIG airplanes that I would not dare to take off in. They are in such bad shape and they cannot get spare parts for them from Russia. They even had a couple of old DC-3 planes. Their military is in sad shape also. They were fascinated by the Air Force's new C-17 Globemaster III which was flown in to take us over the Hump and the rest of the trip. It was on display.

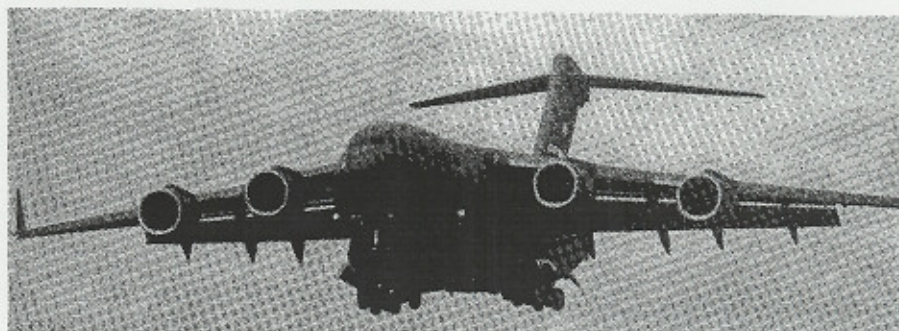
In the evening Ambassador Frank Wisner hosted a reception for us at his home, the beautiful Roosevelt Mansion, with a terrific buffet, special ice cream which the Ambassador had ordered especially for us, and we were entertained by the Indian Air Force Band and Bagpipers. At a special ceremony, the senior visitors lighted the symbolic candle (Indian gesture of welcome and goodwill), as the band played, "Abide With Me."

In the morning, we went to a very solemn ceremony at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, Eternal Light, the soldier's memorial. Air Marshall Singh and Phil Piazza presented wreaths at this very moving ceremony, as Taps were played twice.

We then took a short 1-1/4 hour flight to the Kalaikunda Air Station where we toured the Army salvage and supply station, which was a WW II supply point, and also one of the many hospitals that I was put in on my slow journey back to the States after being wounded in Burma. I was too weak to travel any great distances at the time. We then had a Catholic service at what was once the site of the church during the war. It is one of Mother Theresa's, although she was in the States at the time. Three nuns and two priests conducted the service, as the nuns sang and played guitars. It was 125 degrees, and they had spread a silk canopy over us.

After laying a wreath there at the Depot, we had lunch at the Kalaikunda Officer's Club and then toured the Air Station Museum, with many exhibits of Hump era photos and cultural exhibits.

The next day we arrived in

**C-17 Globemaster III****In Boomer's seat in tail of a KC-10 for refueling.****Hump Pilot's Monument, Kunming, China. Phil Piazza and Lt. Gen. Lin Dianfeng, the highest ranking Chinese general.****In front of Communist HQ Beijing.****In front of Dept. Store in Kunming, China.**

Calcutta. Things have not changed any since we were there in India. As a matter of fact, I think it is worse. The poverty is everywhere. Everything, including buildings and vehicles, is in awful shape. If India doesn't do something about their rising population, they are going to be in much worse shape.

If possible, at every stop on our tour, we were put up in top class

hotels. In Calcutta, we stayed at the Taj Bengal Hotel. Although India says there is no class distinction anymore, it is not very obvious. You still have the very rich, and the extreme poor, no middle class was obvious.

In the evening, at the hotel, Counsel General Boggs hosted a dinner complete with bag pipes.

(Continued on page 7)

CHINA . . .

(Continued from page 6)

etc., and gifts were exchanged.

In the morning, at 5 AM, the Ambassador's aide called me. He rented a cab and took me on a tour of the city. I think that cab driver was a former Kamikazi pilot. We made him stop periodically so we could get our breath and see some of the sites. I thought NY cabbies were in a class by themselves, but these drivers would put them to shame. All the vehicles, including the cabs, cars, trucks and buses are so battered, you would think that they were in a demolition derby. I do not know how they keep them running. We toured several native quarters, and even went to the Kali Temple, where they still sacrifice. As a matter of fact, they were sacrificing a goat as we attended.

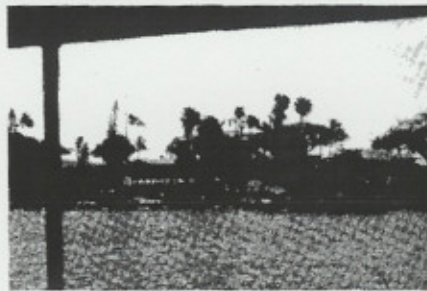
When the General in charge of the trip found out I had gone through these areas, he had a fit, as they had been having riots there, and things are not too stable.

In the morning we had a Commemoration Ceremony at the Indian Centopath Memorial, where four of the veterans presented wreaths. There was a very nice ceremony held, with a crack Gurkha honor guard. They looked very sharp, as usual, in their uniforms, and they presented each of us with an engraved Officer's Kukhri in a sheath. Alongside the Memorial is a boulevard, which during the war, the Indians blocked off and it was used as an instant air strip for the US pilots.

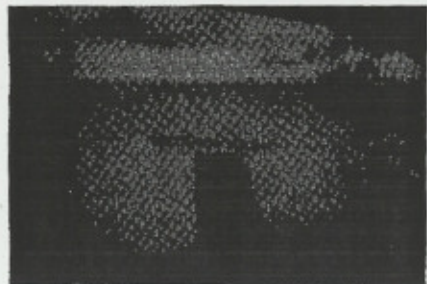
After the ceremony, we departed Dum Dum Airport to fly the Hump in the new C-17 Globemaster plane. The pilot called me up to the cockpit to sit alongside of him. As we flew the Hump he said, "This time you can fly, not walk over it." It was an amazing sight, and in the distance you could see Mt. Everest. We had been ordered by the Indian officials to divert south, as there was some fighting going on in Kashmir.

We arrived in Kunming, China, and were met by Consul Gen Chengdu and Sr. Chinese officials and hordes of media people. As we came down the ramp, their eyes boggled at the sight of the C-17. It is a very impressive plane.

Going from India to China is like going into another world. I was very impressed by what is going on



Arizona Memorial



U.S.S. Arizona Memorial



Great Wall of China, May 29, 1995.

in China. Everything is brand new, and the thousands of high rise construction going on is mind-boggling. All the vehicles are brand new, and in immaculate condition. We were fortunate enough to be taken on tours to see quite a bit. There are thousands of people on bicycles. They are fanatics on exercising. Early in the morning, I went out for a tour of the city, and everywhere you see hundreds of them in groups, exercising to music. I saw large groups in their parks doing the same, and even individuals walking along the street early in the morning do it. Everything is immaculate. You can eat off the streets. Every spare spot of land is cultivated, and I am sure they are self sufficient. I think that India and Russia could take some lessons in this to offset their cries of famine.

In the morning we went to a formal Hump pilots ceremony up in the mountains of Kunming in



U.S.S. Arizona



Bicycle riders in Beijing, China.



On Great Wall of China, May 28, 1995.



Park in Kunming; people exercising.

honor of the Hump pilots overlooking the "City of Eternal Spring." It was held on our Memorial Day. A Chinese People's Liberation Army honor guard placed a large wreath there.

Attending were Rudy DeLeon, Under Secretary Air force, Gen. Robert Rutherford, CO Air Mobility Command, Consul Gen. Donald Camp, and all top Chinese officials. We had to walk up 100

(Continued on page 8)

CHINA . . .

(Continued from page 7)

steps to get to this monument from the buses which had come up the mountain. It was an impressive ceremony, and afterwards, we toured the fantastic museum in which hundreds of beautifully restored military aircraft are in the museum which is in a tremendous cave in the side of the mountain. This cave was used by the Chinese during the war to store supplies.

After lunch, we departed on a three-hour flight to Beijing. Greeted as usual with VIP dignitaries and hordes of news media, and Chinese civilians, who had never seen so many Americans. All along, I was amazed by the friendly reception we received from everyone, not only the Chinese veterans who had fought in the theater. We had a number of Chinese veterans who were allowed to accompany us on part of the flight.

In the evening, we were hosted by a barbeque reception on the lawn of the Shangri La Hotel, by Consul Gen. Donald Camp. It was a beautiful setting with lamps and decorated pagodas and pond with bridge walkway over it.

The next day we departed for Beijing where we visited the Air Museum and held more ceremonies and had a picnic lunch. After that, we toured the Great Wall of China. It is a fantastic sight to see. Both from the air and from the ground. It is one of the wonders of the world, and covers 6,000 KM. We conducted a very special ceremony on the Wall. One of the young ladies, a 2nd Lt., who was on our trip as a Public Affairs officer for the C-17s, based in Charleston, SC, was to be promoted to 1st Lt. next week.

We got permission from Washington to advance the date a week and allow the ceremony on the Great Wall. This is a first in military history and you can imagine what a thrill it was for her. It is the first time I ever kissed a 1st Lt. She had graduated one year ago from the Air Force Academy and even had her Jump Wings.

In the evening, a formal reception was held for us by the Chinese High Command and there were numerous gifts exchanged. Every two minutes, Chinese dignitary would come to our table and toast us, and according to protocol; you

had to drink and then turn your glass upside down. We also had to toast them. You can just imagine what a problem it was for me, a teetotaler. I had a Chinese captain as my escort, and when I told him I did not want to insult my hosts, he said it would be OK to use water.

As this was the anniversary of the demonstration at Tianenman Square, the Chinese did not want us to go there, but as that was one of the places we did want to go to, after the dinner, we prevailed upon the bus driver and our people, to go there at midnight. It is quite a sight. The largest square in the world, with the palace at one end, and on the side the Hall of Heroes museum. The square was immaculately clean.

The next morning we departed for Kadena Air Base, Japan, which is on Okinawa. We had a buffet lunch at the Officer's Club; hosted by Gen. Bill Hobbins, CO, and had a very nice time with the Marine officers and Air Force officers.

We then left for our return trip to Hawaii. Once again crossing the date line. I have still not adjusted to the many time changes and jet lag.

In Hawaii, in the morning, we were taken on a four-hour tour of the island which is fantastic.

All during the trip, although it looks as though we were on the go all the time, we had plenty of time to be taken on sight-seeing tours, and it was a wonderful experience.

At noon, we had lunch at the

Bellows Air Force Recreation Center, which is a beautiful spot on the ocean where the Air Men go for res and recreation. Wish we had some thing like this in our day. They have a hotel, golf course, tennis courts and pool, and all the amenities.

The C-17 Globemaster that we flew on is a fantastic plane. It can carry 78,000 pounds of cargo, only requires three men to operate it, as it is all automated, with two pilot and a loadmaster. It can land on air fields as short as 3,000 feet and 90 feet wide, and with its reversible engines can turn on a 90 foot wide runway. As a matter of fact, on one recent operational flight, one of the pilots took off in 2,000 feet. It can carry 102 paratroopers with full gear and equipment and attendants and has arms that come out of the wall to be able to carry 48 litter patients and 58 ambulatory. It is the ideal plane for quick deployment.



PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths reported recently

- Name & Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased.**
- RENE GENEST**, 6 Wilson St, Sanford ME 04073, 207-324-6647, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1, Member Board of Directors, Audit Committee, September 2, 1995
- CLEELAND GERALD**, 830 Congaree Dr, Florence SC 29501, 803-662-0264, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1/B Co, July 1, 1993
- GEORGE GRAUL**, 435 Grove St, Apt 6c, Worcester MA 01605, 5307TH, October 2, 1994
- ALFRED NEAL HARRIS**, 2420 Indian Trail, Rock Hill SC 29730, 5307th, October 18, 1994
- JOSEPH SELF**, 48425 Cherokee, Alexandria VA 22312, 703-354-7056, 5307/475, August 28, 1995
- ROBERT L SHEAKS**, 1013 W Spring St, St Mary's OH 45885, 419-394-3540, 5307/2/F CO, July 12, 1995
- CELESTINO P VELARDO**, 25 Plantation Dr #703, Vero Beach FL 32960, 5307/2/F CO; 475/2/E, August 8, 1995
- BEN WEBER**, 7121 Park Heights Av #504, Baltimore MD 21215, August issue reported
- FLOYD L WHITTLE**, 203 Van Buren Dr, Dalton Ga 30720, 706-278-6653, 5307/2; 475/2, August 26, 1995

ASHVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 3)

meeting your wife at a place like this?

BENEDICTION: Father Glavin, **GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING** - Saturday, 9/2/95, Ballroom, 12:45 PM. Meeting called to order by President Piazza.

Roll Call of Officers. All Present except Historian Dave Quaid, reported as ill. At this point we were advised by a lady from the group that Rene Genest, Board of Directors had passed away that morning from a heart attack.

Reading of Minutes: Motion to dispense with reading since everyone had gotten a copy in the BURMAN NEWS.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance 8/24/94	\$7,144.32
Deposits	13,334.15
Interest	181.10
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	\$20,659.57
Checks issued	11,912.56
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Balance 8/21/95	\$8,747.01
Exec. Sec'y Acct	560.53
	<hr/>
	\$9,307.54

Accts Payable - \$921.54 + \$535.37
= \$1,456.91

Merrill's Marauders Association
48th Reunion 1994

Receipts:

Registration	\$4,350.00
Sales	9,329.50
	<hr/>
	\$13,679.50

Expenses

Hotel	314.53
Audio Equip	380.00
UPS	129.82
Gratuities	225.00
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$1,049.35
Gross Income	\$12,630.15

Motion to accept Treasurer's report - Made, seconded, adopted.

Report Audit Comm: All books examined and in good order. Piazza, Hirabayashi & Matsumoto.

Executive Secretary Report:

Ray Lyons
Attendance at Saturday Night Banquet - 411 + 8
Registered at MM desk - 176 MM's, 21 Honoraries

Donations received at this year's Reunion - Thursday; \$1755.
Friday: \$2287. Saturday: \$505. = \$4,547.50.

Last year donations at Reunion \$4,350.00

Expenses year to date, postage stationery, Burman News, etc.: \$6,652.98 Compared to last year \$6,117.74.

Sent out 377 pieces of mail - 7137 copies of B/N - B/N cost \$3,553.04. Plus the cost of printing, the August issue paid by treasurer.

Balance in Sec'y S & L Acc 8/28/94: \$560.53

Compared to last year: \$899.35

Our membership believe it or not is larger than last year. We have lost many of our buddies in the recent year but are still finding others and adding some Rangers. The Honoraries are increasing. Members as of 8/20 are 1487 Honoraries are 335.

We did have a second printing of 250 of "Merrill's Marauders War in Burma Vol I".

There is going to be a BIG WW I veterans parade in NYC on November 11th. It will be part of Weekend, November 10, 11 and 12th, celebrating 50th anniversary of end of War. Ticker tape down lower Broadway. Cynthia Combs is the Veterans Project Director for Canterbury Tours, at 1-800-653-0017. They are running two Package Tours, Number 1 is for 3 days and 2 nights, costs \$199.00 per person (double occ).

The new, improved second edition of the "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma, Volume I" price will be \$15. Senior Citizen rate \$12.

Dave Quaid made the new Videc tape available as of August 1st. It will be a 3 hour and 30 minute presentation in two tapes, boxed. A check for \$50. should be sent to Herb Clofine, Treasurer, 1632 Surrey Ln, Havertown PA 19083. I believe they are available here at reunion.

FATHER GLAVIN is celebrating his 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday Afternoon, 2 PM, October 22, 1995. St Mary's Church is at 156 East Main St, Amsterdam NY. He is extending a general welcome to all to come. In addition to a Mass at 2 PM, there will be a Deluxe Buffet. Reception following.

We have been advised by the Wm Morrow Co that the book, "Marauders" by Charlton Ogburn is completely out of stock.

Reunion Chairman Logan

(Continued on page 10)

FALL IN

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

- JOSEPH E ALBERT, 2233 S Peninsula Dr, Daytona Beach FL 32118, 475/1/B Co
- SCOTT BERTACINI, 288 Lavole Av, Ft Benning GA 31905, RANGER; 75/2
- ITALO P BIGIARELLI, 500 Wilson St, Morgantown WV 25401, 475/2/HQ/COM PL
- RICHARD W DICKS, Rt 2 Box 1208, Spruce Pine NC 28777, 704-765-5256, 5307/3/KCT/HW; Pack Artillery
- GEORGE L KULAS, 1221 Pershing Av, Sheboygan WI 53083, 5307/2/BCT/HW/MRIRS
- MAX MEDERT, 4094 Camellia Cir, Forest Park GA 30050, 5307/1/WCT/C/HQ PL
- HERMAN MILLER, PO Box 541, Iowa LA 70647, 5307/Mule skinner, 582-3125
- HAROLD A PHILLIPS, PO Box 5909, Mohave Valley AZ 86440-5909, 768-2536, 5307/3/KCT/L/4 PL
- JAMES HISER, 2332 Hinds Creek Rd, Heiskell TN 37754, RANGER, 75/G Co
- FRANCIS PONDER, 4627 Richardson Dr, Bay City MI 48706, 517-684-7517, 5307/3/1; 475/3/1
- RALPH PUCKETT, 2024 Country Club Rd, Columbus GA 31906, 706-324-3436, RANGER, 8th RGR CO/KOREA/C.O.
- JAMES RICHARDSON, 459 Island Ford Rd, Jacksboro TN 37757, 605-562-2189, 5307/2/BCT/E CO/HQ
- ROBERT D SWIGER, 6272 Astronaut Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95621, 5307/3/OCT/K&L CO'S
- HERBERT RAYMOND WILLIAMS, 194 Stone Rd, Mayfield KY 42066, 5307/
- CHARLES VON GUNTEN, 634 Hatch Rd, Wadsworth OH 44281, 216-239-1402, 5307/3/1/3; 475/3/1/3

ASHEVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 9)

Weston: Spoke of inconveniences with hotel under repair. Mentioned that inclement weather had interfered with construction schedule. Thanked Lavelle Avery for good work as Reunion Reception Chairperson. Thanked Phil Piazza for his cooperation with Reunion arrangements. Mentioned they were forming a young people's group - "The Splinters" Contact Mike McLaughlin, 2037 Churchill Dr, Anchorage Alaska 99517-1311 or Susie (Weston) Jenkins, 115 W Gregg St, Ft Mill SC 29715.

Phil Piazza - We owe Logan Weston a debt of gratitude for his hard work in making this reunion a success.

President Report: This past year, I made 37 trips mostly to Ranger activities. One of the trips was to China, sponsored by the Defense Department. That was 38,000 miles. A report in detail appears in the Burman News. Met a Sgt. Cavanary while on trip. He would like to hear from anyone remembering his father - Oliver E. Cavanary.

We have provided awards to the NCO of the year. Kukri knives to

Ranger Rgt. and Brigade. Father Glavin will have a Mass at 4 PM to commemorate the Deceased Marauders in Burma as well as our Deceased Members. We will place a plaque on the side of our Ft Benning Ranger Monument honoring the Niseis.

Report Liaison Officer, Dave Richardson, Next Reunion Chairman.

Was requested by Exec. Sec to contact Chinese Embassy about the availability of the China Medal. They agreed to reserve fifty medals for our men. Spoke to Ranger Group in WDC. They are interested in joining our Association. Attended Ranger activity in July at Ft Benning. Also Hall of Fame Ceremony in which a Medal was awarded to Col Beach, 3rd Bn, 5307th. Phil Piazza was also awarded one. He was nominated by the Ranger Training Brigade. It was noted that we, as an organization hold our own at these affairs compared to other Veteran groups. There will be a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during our Washington Reunion. Suggest those of you wanting to attend, plan on coming early. Register for room, by Wednesday.

Historian Report: Quaid is ill but he has mentioned on the phone that he met with Chinese Government representatives concerned with the Stilwell Museum and has made Merrill's Marauders donations of books, photos, charts, etc., which were worth at least \$600.

New Business: Ed Mc Logan reported that he had been in touch with Charlton Ogburn and that he has been in the hospital and is still ill.

NY City Parade - Dag Syvertsen grandson of Col Combs, of Canterbury Tours is handling the arrangements for the Marauder representation at the Parade. This is to be the Official Closing Ceremony for the end of World War II activities. It will be on 11/11/95.

Col Puckett: Mentioned that the Rangers are sponsoring a Credit Card to obtain money for the Ranger Foundation. Contact him for details.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:10 PM. SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:

VIET NAM RANGERS - BLACK TIGERS - SGT. POLK

(Continued on page 11)

INDIA-BURMA CAMPAIGN (1ST CAMPAIGN)

5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV.)
Company Command - SGT. COL. THOMAS P. FERRILL
Squadron Commander - COL. CHARLES H. BOUTER
Ray Lyons
Tom Martins
John Richardson
John H. Jones

1994 ASHEVILLE, N.C.

Company 1st Group
Company Officer
MSG. LEON J. WILLIAMS
Ray Lyons

Company 2nd Group
Company Officer
MSG. RICHARD J. BROWN

Company 3rd Group
Company Officer
COL. HAROLD E. GATTS
George F. Dancy Co. A
John Richardson
William Ruppel
Ted Jankowski
Julius Mitchell
Bob Stewart

Company 4th Group
Company Officer
MSG. EDWARD T. HANCOCK

1ST BATTALION
Company and Officer
LT COL. WILLIAM L. ORENCE
Earl L. Royer
Thomas L. Kerley
Harold J. Allen

2ND BATTALION
Company and Officer
LT COL. GUSTAV A. MOORE JR.
Paul Harper, Headquarters
Dick Salmons Co. G
Ray H. Peterson
Ray B. Bost
Thomas D. Raynham
Joe Pirogotta
J. E. Fengel

3RD BATTALION
Company and Officer
LT COL. CHARLES P. BOWEN
Julius V. Verardo
Tom Delaney - HQ
Seymour Lawl
Clayde E. Day

Red Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. RICHARD J. BROWN
Leslie J. McKie
MSG. MARTIN
T. G. Zamboni
Glen H. Boush
Glen R. Boush
Jim Collins
Ralph G. Smith
Joe R. G. Smith
Harvey J. G. Smith

White Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. CHARLES H. BOUTER
Joseph Kowalski
William C. Gaskin
David Robinson
Denny Dicks
Robert E. Bassanis
William Ruppel
Tom Roberts
Bob Ketchum
Ken Gumbel
Albert E. King Jr.
Bob Spink
Cecil L. Cox
James J. Carthan

Blue Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. EDWARD T. HANCOCK
Head Clifton Reed
William Van Saal
Robert L. Nixson
Cord D. Coffey
Harold J. Bost
Claris G. Olson
Glen Young
Paul Bradley
John Richardson

Green Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. THOMAS P. FERRILL
George M. Madford
Joe Leslie
Robert Fatten
Paul C. Fatten
Robert T. B. B. B.
Edward C. Fatten
Clayde Miller
Ed Zaino
Paul Bingham
Robert Taylor
Ervin J. Frenck
George H. Johnson
Lester Hollander
Robert Smith
Ralph Ruppel
Fred Bosters
Albert J. Tenth
Mac McLeod
J. T. Tidwell

Orange Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. RICHARD J. BROWN
Leon Williams
John Tompkins
John B. Hesk
Lester Jankowski
Pat Fadden
George B. Lowe
Joseph J. Cro
William Kutz
Frank Cromwell
John J. Gately
Richard Schuler
Robert B. B. B. B.
Robert A. Mitchell
Gail T. Hunt
John E. Grant
David Birch

Yellow Combat Team
Company Officer
MSG. CHARLES H. BOUTER
Ralph J. G. Smith
Ernest S. G. Smith
Philip L. G. Smith
Charles A. G. Smith
Mike G. Smith
Ferdinand H. G. Smith
(Head of)

All present and counting for. Daily

- K Force 3rd Assault
John H. Clonker
1st Group Base Co. Co.
Stan Maloney
Company 2nd Platoon
Raymond L. Johnston

ASHEVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 10)

I'm Sgt Daniel Polk, I'll be your narrator for the first part of your activities. During the Viet Nam era, the United States Army under the command of General Westmoreland authorized the use of Alert Rangers in Southeast Asia. There were 13 Long Range Patrol Ranger companies operating throughout Viet Nam. Operating in 4 to 6 man teams, these units conducted deep, long range intelligence tasks, such as area recons, point recons, observation point missions, prisoner snatches and hunter-killer operations. Out of the 2.5 million individuals who served in Southeast Asia, only 3,700 volunteered and were accepted to conduct these clandestine missions. Recon and or Special Forces trained, wearing camouflage painted faces, these men were so feared by the VC and NVA that the North Vietnamese Military Command using Russian and/or Chinese advisors began training and implementing anti-Alert Ranger Teams. The only mission of these NVA/VC teams was to conduct search and destroy operations against the American Alert Rangers.

Since the war, it has been stated by the VC/NVA veterans that they feared two things; B-52 air strikes and the "men with painted faces". The men with painted faces are the United States Army Alert Rangers. Within the tradition of the brotherhood of Alert Ranger and operating under the code of Alert Ranger; one man out, everybody out, and never leave an Alert Ranger behind.

Several vets formed the first formal Alert Ranger Honor Guard known as the Black Tigers. The term "black" represents the black beret worn by the Army Ranger and the term "Tiger" represents the style of camouflage uniform worn by the Alert Rangers in Viet Nam.

Shortly after the Black Tigers were formed, a code of tradition formed the foundation of who they were and who they are. The Code of the Black Tigers comes from within each man's heart. To honor brings honor. Nothing is more important to a Black Tiger than to honor a fellow veteran. In the beginning, the Black Tigers were formed by members of one Ranger Alert Company. Now the Black Tigers ranks include the veterans

operational elite of all military branches: Army Alert Rangers, Army Special Forces, Navy Seals, Marine Force Recon, Air Force Air Commandos, and, men of special honor. Today only the Black Tigers have been authorized by the finest, Merrill's Marauders, to wear the Merrill's Marauders patch on a sleeve of honor.

Standing before you are the men with painted faces. During the Viet Nam war, the painted faces was a special trademark of the Alert Rangers which carried fear to the enemy. The war is over and the need for the Viet Nam Alert Ranger to color his face for battle is now lost in time. But, on this evening, tradition lives on. The painted faces of the Black Tigers is a call to duty and honor. A duty to remember the honor of the battle cry. Today the painted faces is in memory of our fathers, the great Merrill's Marauders, who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of this nation. May our faces echo these words: "We shall not forget".

Standing before you and holding the folded American flag and one purple streamer guidon is a Black Tiger Memorial Team. Now the team will advance at which time a beret in honor of the fallen Merrill's Marauders as well as a rose in honor of the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all Americans who lost a grandson, son, husband, father or brother in time of war will be placed on the wreath.

INVOCATION: Father Glavin

Piazza: Thanks to all these fine men who came a long distance at their own expense to honor us and are proud to be here because they think so much of the Marauders and the fact that they wore the Marauder insignia in Viet Nam.

Before we do anything else, I would like to thank on behalf of the Marauders, Dorothy King. She is the one that painted this terrific Marauder insignia and presented it to us. In the future we will have it on our lectern during reunions. She has also told me she will make a small plaque for me to put on our wreath when we present it at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier next year. Thank you.

At this time it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce my friend, Colonel Ralph Puckett, our guest speaker this evening. He graduated from the USMA at West Point in 1949. He holds a Bachelor

of Science degree in Engineering from there. He has a Master of Science degree in Personnel Administration from George Washington University. He's completed the Branch and Material Basic Course, Infantry Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College. In 1950 he commanded the 8th Army Ranger Company in Korea during the Korean War. In '70-71, he commanded a brigade of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson CO.

* * *

Editor's Note: Asheville A Smashville will be concluded in the next issue of the BURMAN NEWS.

**OFFICERS ROW****PRESIDENT - PHIL PIAZZA**

Dave Richardson and I will be meeting with the Hyatt Regency - Crystal City, people in mid October to discuss the contract arrangements. People coming to this reunion should be aware that they **must** get their reservations in by the hotel's deadline. Every year we have a few problems with last minute attempts to get a room or purchase banquet tickets. The Best Ranger Competition will be April 29-May 6th at Ft Benning. Anyone interested in coming should contact me to make hotel and other reservations.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - RAY LYONS

There is going to be a BIG WW II veterans parade in NYC on November 11th. It will be part of Weekend, November 10, 11 and 12th, celebrating 50th anniversary of end of War. Ticker tape down lower Broadway. Cynthia Combs is the Veterans Project Director for Canterbury Tours, at 1-800-653-0017. They are running two Package Tours, Number 1 is for 3 days and 2 nights, costs \$199.00 per person (double occ).

(Continued on page 12)

OFFICER'S ROW . . .

(Continued from page 11)

We have been advised by the Wm Morrow Co that the book, "Marauders" by Charlton Ogburn is completely out of stock. There are no plans by the publisher to reprint it. We have been given permission by Charlton Ogburn to put it in the computer and make the material available at whatever it costs us to do it. We have been working on reproducing "Galahad" and it is a slow painstaking job.

We have been provided with a news clipping referring to a Buddy Cianfrani, South Phila, stating that he was a member of the Merrill's Marauders. Anyone recalling him as a member of one of our units, please advise any detail you can remember and we will contact him to become a member.

HISTORIAN - DAVE QUAID

I would appreciate comments from those who purchased the new video tape - Merrill's Marauders War in Burma. Usually a project like the tape would be reviewed by the entire organization, then comments would be obtained from the group. This procedure was not possible for the new video tape. For those who care to comment, please drop a line to DAVID L QUAID, 282 TROTTING PARK RD, EAST FALMOUTH MA 02536, 508-457-4406

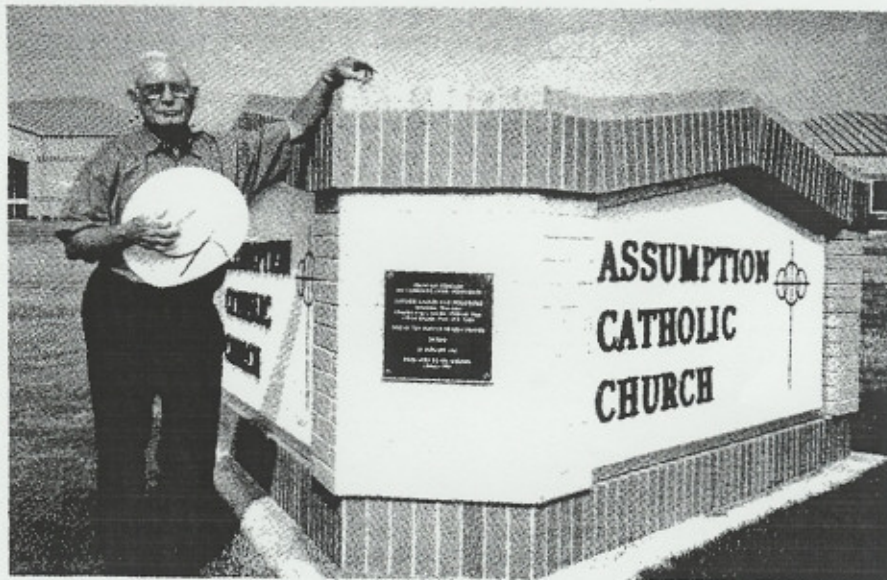
The three hour and thirty minute tape is available through our Treasurer, Herbert Clofine, 1632 Surrey Ln, Havertown PA 19083. Make check for \$50 to the

Merrill's Marauders Association. Postage is covered.

Through a misunderstanding, someone took home from the last reunion at Asheville, the Album that had all the 5307th, Second Battalion photos. Looking through them is an invaluable part of our reunion activities. They cannot be replaced. We would appreciate a prompt return of the album. Otherwise we may have to replace the Executive Secretary and Historian due to Loss of Mind.

REUNION CHAIRMAN - DAVE RICHARDSON

See notes on reunion elsewhere.



Story which appeared in the last issue of Burman News pertained to the above photos of the lighted sign and monument dedicated in honor Father Polewski at the Catholic Church in Decatur, TX.

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

RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

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