



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

February 1996

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MM'S REUNIONS COMING SOON

GENERAL SINGLAUB REUNION SPEAKER

Maj. Gen John K Singlaub, U S Army (Ret), one of America's top experts in unconventional warfare and covert missions for four decades, will be the Friday Night Speaker at the 50th Annual Reunion of Merrill's Marauders Association in Washington DC, August 30-September 1.

Starting as an OSS officer in Nazi-occupied France in World War II, General Singlaub fought behind enemy lines in Europe and Asia, helped start the CIA and headed its operations in postwar Manchuria, led troops in Korea, managed the secret war along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and worked with the contras in Nicaragua.

General Singlaub's autobiography, "Hazardous Duty: An American Soldier in the Twentieth Century", published in 1991, was praised by critics as an "exciting, forthright story" and "an important contribution to the public understanding of secret operations." Arrangements are under way to obtain a high-ranking Pentagon official as the speaker for the Saturday Night Banquet, befitting the Army's recognition of the Association's Golden Anniversary. The name of this speaker is expected to be announced in the next issue of THE BURMAN NEWS.

Correcting an article in the last issue of *The Burman News*, the Washington Reunion will open at 10:05 AM Thursday August 30th not Wednesday, August 29th, with a visit by Association members and guests to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a wreath-laying ceremony. That will be followed by a visit to the Museum behind the Tomb, which displays insignia from Army units, including Merrill's Marauders, and a short walk to the Merrill's Marauders Association Monument and Tree.

All 50th Reunion events thereafter will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, (2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22202), close to the National Airport and overlooking the Nation's Capital from across the Potomac River. The hotel provides free shuttle-bus service to and from the National airport and 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 Hyatt Regency Crystal City has 685 rooms, two bar lounges and two restaurants--one of each on the roof overlooking the Capital--a health club and spa, an outdoor swimming pool and free indoor parking.

The package rate for two persons is \$325 including two nights lodging, four meals, taxes and gratuities. The package rate for a single person is \$275. Additional nights lodging costs

\$94.

Reservations for the Washington 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, and giving dates you wish to reserve and number in your party. Deadline for reservations will be **July 29, 1996**. Any Marauder wishing to invite guests, relatives or friends for certain meals, must notify the Banquet Manager at least two full days ahead. **No last minute reservations for banquet.** Parking is free for those attending the Reunion, including that for RV's just down the street.

Further details on the Golden Anniversary Reunion will follow in the next BURMAN NEWS, including suggestions for sightseeing. For answers to any questions, meanwhile, call Dave Richardson at 202-364-4617 or Phil Piazza at 803-972-3239.



Lt. Cynthia Combs, daughter of Lt. Col. Combs killed in Myitkyina, marched with us. Front: W. W. European Ranger; right, CBler.

Ashville A Smashville . . .

(Continued from November issue)

COLONEL RALPH PUCKETT:

Thank you, President Piazza, Mrs Piazza, Marauders and ladies. I have never been in a more distinguished group of warriors in all my life. This is a very proud moment for me. Thank you Phil for your introduction. Anything I have ever accomplished was because of the outstanding support which I have received from the very fine soldiers with whom I was associated. But for their help, I would have accomplished very little and I would have been nothing.

To be asked to speak to the Marauders is a great honor and a humbling experience for me. Every time I've heard the word, Marauders, I can feel a thrill and a chill run up and down my spine. You are and have always been an inspiration to me. I don't know many of you personally. I've met many of you this weekend. But, I've read about you. The names of Merrill, McGee, Matsumoto, Piazza, Briggs, Weston, Ogburn, Osborne, Wilson, and many others put me in awe. I am very proud of all that you have done. I recall with admiration your raid on Myitkyina Air Field. Every time I think about it, one word comes to mind. And that word is impossible. It can't be done. But you were not, and are not, ordinary men. You are a special breed, you are worthy descendants of those who went before you and who chose and volunteered for the toughest, dirtiest, most dangerous missions that our army had. You volunteered for the Marauders, you

made your day. What you did added glory and honor to the history of the American Fighting man.

When I think of Merrill's Marauders, I often think of Alexander the Great, who was a tactical and strategic genius. He is a logistician without parallel. Alexander cut himself and his army off from his base of supplies. He traveled with a minimum of necessities. They conquered the known world. You cut yourself off from your base of supply. You traveled with the minimum of necessities. Whether you won or lost was determined by how well you performed, how well you did your job. You had no one else on whom to depend. Alexander and his army were the greatest of his day. Merrill's Marauders were the greatest of their day!

The Myitkyina Campaign, in my opinion, is the greatest Ranger mission in history. The soldiers of today can learn a lot from you. I commented on that last night. I passed out a hundred questionnaires. I hope all of you will take a few moments and write down a few suggestions. Things which our soldiers of today need to know and can learn from no better teachers than we have right here in this room. I wish I had the opportunity to talk to you, to learn from you before I took command of my first assignment. You certainly could have helped me do a lot better job than I did.

Phil Piazza suggested that I tell you something about the Eighth Army Ranger Company. There are some similarities and a lot of differences between the way we were organized and the way we trained and the way you were organized

and trained. Turn it back, if you will, to June 25, 1950. On that day, the North Koreans invaded South Korea and rapidly pushed southward, pushing the US forces and their South Korean Allies toward the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula. The Commanding General decided to establish his defensive position near the southern port of Pusan. That defensive line became known as the Pusan Perimeter. He chose that position for several reasons. There was some defensible terrain there. The southern port of Pusan was a way through if he could bring in reinforcements and supplies. It was also a way out of Korea in the probable event that he was forced to withdraw.

Almost immediately, the North Koreans punched a big bulge, a big salient, into that Pusan perimeter. The bulge was near a small village by the name of Pohang and it became known as the "Pohang Pocket." The Commanding General of the Eighth Army was very concerned. What's happening in that bulge? Are the North Koreans massing forces? Are they bringing in supplies? Are they going to mount a major offensive that would drive our forces into the ocean? He concluded that obviously he had to know what was going on in that bulge. He also concluded that defense was not the only way of determining that, but by sending in combat and reconnaissance patrols. The CG concluded that he had no unit in his army capable of carrying out that mission. Now, that should come as a surprise to all of you because we both know that combat and reconnaissance patrols are the bread and butter of any qualified infantry unit. That the CG felt he had none is a good indication of the true state of readiness of the Army of Occupation.

He decided to organize a special unit for that mission. And that was the start of the Eighth Army Ranger Company, the first Ranger unit organized after World War II. Incidentally, it was put together by then Lt. Col. John McGee, who is the brother of your Marauder, George McGee.

The company was very small. It had a TO&E of three officers and 74 enlisted men. It was organized, formed, activated on August 25, 1950, two months after the Korean

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Left: British "Burma Star" Veteran, middle: Joe Tulman, MM Mars Medic, right: Antiaircraft artillery observer.

ASHEVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 2)

War had started. Believe it or not, I was selected to bring this pick up company together under Colonel McGee's supervision, train it and lead it into combat. And I was a brand new second lieutenant, no troop experience, just out of the basic course and jump school. If that doesn't give you an idea of how fully prepared the Eighth Army was, I don't know what does.

The Company was committed on October 5, 1950. We were attached to the 25th Infantry Division and then to the 25th Recon Company. We had to be attached to somebody because we had no mess, no administrative support. We had no vehicles.

The mission for which we had been organized no longer existed. When the Inchon landing was made on September 15th and the Eighth Army broke out of the Pusan Perimeter, the Pohang Pocket disappeared. However, there were tremendous numbers of derelicts and straggler units and North Koreans that were behind our lines. For the first month, the Ranger Company was committed to an area where no American forces had ever gone before without being ambushed and almost decimated. We were very fortunate. We patrolled, ambushed, set up trail blocks daily, nightly. And, fortunately, we were successful. We made contact on almost every mission. We had no casualties.

On November 22, the Company moved forward and joined Task Force 5, which was a task force built around a tank battalion. Task Force 5 was the lead element in the 25th Infantry Division, part of the Eighth Army. If you remember your history of that time, General MacArthur said that this was the end of the war offensive and he would have the boys home by Christmas. I remember being briefed on November 22nd and being told that in front of the 25th Division were 25,000 enemy troops. I thought that was a little significant because our doctrine, and I was just out of Benning School for Boys, had taught us that whenever the US Army attacks, it wants to outnumber the enemy three to one. And they outnumbered us three to two. I guess they didn't tell Merrill's Marauders that either, that you needed to outnumber the enemy

three to one.

But, I didn't need to worry about that because nobody else did. And, it seemed to be our job to continue. There's a little thing which I think is interesting and significant. I knew that there were four Corps of Chinese between us and the Yalu River. That is no secret. It had been broadcast over the Armed Forces Radio on various occasions. So, the information was there and all you had to do was listen to the radio to know what was ahead of you.

Well, the company had two days of what I would consider fairly normal attacks; nothing particularly significant. On the third day, November 25, we had the mission of attacking across a frozen rice paddy cleared and about 800 yards wide and seizing a hill. When we jumped off with the attack, my company present for duty strength was 47 Rangers. We took our objective, had about 42 men when we reached the top of the hill. Set up our defensive positions, things that you people have done dozens and dozens of time. And prepared ourselves for expected counterattacks that night. We didn't have to wait long. As soon as we got back, we began to hear the Chinese bugles and whistles blow, that was the signal that the Chinese were on the way.

During that night, during the next several hours, the company of 42 men withstood five attacks from what was officially determined to be a 500 man Chinese battalion. On each one of those attacks, the enemy advanced to within hand grenade range or right up to the perimeter. And, on each one of them, we had some casualties. On the sixth attack, the enemy overwhelmed us. I'd been wounded three times by then and I ordered the company to withdraw. As I lay there, I could see about 15 yards away, the Chinese who were swarming over the hill bayoneting my wounded Rangers who were just a few yards away. Fortunately, two of my Rangers, Billy G. Riles, David L. Pilot, bless their hearts and souls, fought their way back to the top of the hill, killed a Chinese ten yards away and over my orders to leave me behind, dragged me to safety.

I've always appreciated what they did, but what would you expect. They were Rangers. They were the best that our country

produces. They were brave men. And when America is no longer the home of the brave, America will no longer be the land of the free.

I was evacuated, the company had been decimated. It was reconstituted and put under the command of John Paul Band, a legendary individual in Viet Nam days. I believe he was there about eight years. The company did normal operations until March 27, 1951 when it was deactivated.

I want you to know that this is a very proud evening for me. I am honored that I have been asked to speak to you tonight. You have been and are an inspiration to me and everyone in our country who knows who you are and what you have done. I appreciate all that you have done for this great country in which we live. God Bless You and God Bless America.

BENEDICTION: Father Glavin.

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - PHILIP PIAZZA

We have been in touch with the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington DC. They wanted to charge for parking which we had not agreed to in the original contract. I had them extend a couple of extra days for the special room rate. They are easy to get along with and I am sure we will have a good time. The facilities are excellent and convenient to everything. You can see the National Airport from the hotel.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - RAY LYONS

A reminder again about moving. If you change your address, please send us a postcard letting us know.

We have been advised by the Wm Morrow Co that the book, "Marauders" by Charlton Ogburn is completely out of stock. We have received permission to put it in the computer and make a rough draft copy.

The Airborne and Special Operations (includes us) Museum has been designated as an official part of the Army Museum System. They are now authorized to collect military artifacts. If you are interested, write to Airborne & Special Operations Museum, PO Box 73919, Ft Bragg NC 28307-5307, or call Bob Anzuoni at 910-483-3003. They are also asking for donations for a building and to maintain the association

Paving the Way for Future Rangers To Be Remembered

PROVIDED BY DAVID L. QUAID, HISTORIAN

Photographer Quaid ran out of film before he could complete the job. If he has not shown your brick purchase, let him know and he will bring more film next time and be sure to get a photo of it.



Marauders watching mass jump.
Top row: Don Jr. & Don Delorey, Dick Gillette. Second row: Phil, Emma Piazza, Dee & George Rose. Bottom row: Roy Matsumoto, Tom Raymond, Dorothy & Ralph Smith.

RANGER FRANK D. MERRILL MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER GRANT HIRABAYASHI MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER CAIFSON JOHNSON MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER FRANCIS MARION MARION'S RANGERS	RANGER RUSSELL R. FULLER MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER ROBERT ROGERS ROGERS' RANGERS
RANGER LAWRENCE L. LEW MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER MAURICE C. FORTIN MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER WILLIAM T. TOOMEY MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER THOMAS D. RAYMOND MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER NATHAN HALE KNOWLTON'S RANGERS	RANGER LOGAN E. WESTON MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER WARNER KATZ MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER FRANK CAMERA MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER ABRAHAM LINCOLN ILLINOIS RANGERS
RANGER ROBERT W. LANDIS MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER CECIL LEO COX MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER WILLIAM H. COMBS MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER STANLEY W. DRAKE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER JOHN S. MOSBY MOBBY'S RANGERS	RANGER ANTHONY COLOMBO MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER VERNON R. WHITE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER RAYMOND V. LYONS MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER MONSIGNOR GLAVIN MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER CLARENCE J. WEBER MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER DAVID L. QUAID MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER ROBERT E. PASSANIEL MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER JOHNNIE B. HOLMES MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER DAVID HURWITT MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER DOMINIC A. PERRONE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER ARTHUR W. WILSON MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER WILLIAM N. KAUFMANN MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER LARRY STEPHENSON MERRILL'S MARAUDERS
RANGER JAMES J. ORLANDO MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER JOSEPH BERNARDI MERRILL'S MARAUDERS	RANGER MELVIN R. BLAIR MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



Ranger Memorial showing walk of Ranger bricks. The Memorial has become the most popular tourist attraction at Fort Benning.

RANGER COLUMN

COL BEACH & PRESIDENT PIAZZA WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD.

On Monday, July 20th, 1995, at the Ranger Hall of Fame Award Ceremony, two more Merrill's Marauders were presented with the Distinguished Medal. Lt Col Charles E. Beach, CO of the 5307th, Third Battalion, nominated by the Merrill's Marauders Association, was awarded the medal which was presented to his wife and Son Robert. Later in the ceremony Philip B Piazza, HW Platoon Ldr, 5307/2/BCT, nominated by the

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Mass drop of the entire Ranger Regiment. 1700 men participated.

RANGER COLUMN...

(Continued From Page 4)

Ranger Training Brigade, was also awarded the Ranger Hall of Fame Medal.

Other distinguished soldiers awarded the Ranger Hall of Fame Medal were First Sergeant Anders K Arnbal, 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions; Master Sergeant Aubrey M Batts, many units including Rangers; Colonel Robert W Black, Ranger Korean and Vietnam Wars; Sergeant William C Clark Jr, a Ranger Medic on D-Day and later battles in WW II; Major Gerard M Devlin, Ranger Adviser with 44th Vietnamese Ranger Bn; Lt Robert T Edlin, 2nd Ranger Bn; General John W Foss, Ranger Instructor; M/SGT Gary I Gordon, Task Force Ranger; 1st Sgt Randall Harris, 4th Ranger Bn; Senator J Robert Kerrey; General Fred K Mahaffey, Vietnam War; CSM Michael N Martin, 1st Ranger Bn; Brigadier General John Hugh McGee, 8th Ranger Company; S/MAJ Fred M Shepherd, 173rd Airborne Bde; Brigadier General Joseph S Stringham, Special Forces A Detachment, Vietnam War; CSM Patrick Tadina, Co N, 75th Ranger Infantry.

The Merrill's Marauders Association members present were Phil Piazza, Dave Quaid, Ray Lyons, Johnnie Johnson, Don Delorey, Dick Gillette, Tom Raymond, Roy Matsumoto, George Rose, Dave Richardson, Ralph Smith, Bill Kaufman, Grant Hirabayashi, Jim Collins, Vince Melillo, Joe Konopacki, Mrs George Beach and Son Robert, Jim De Salvo.

**BACK TO BURMA
WITH TED ZAKOTNIK**

The sightseeing in and around Yangon (Rangoon) was simply fantastic and beautiful.

However, it was not the Burma as I knew it. I was familiar with Northern Burma Mountains with rain, mud, mules and fighting Japs.

The visit to the many different Buddhist Temples and especially the Allied Armies Cemetery, where we laid a wreath at the monument was so emotional.

A few days later, we proceeded to Mandalay by tour bus with a noon meal stop at Pagon, more sightseeing and Buddhist Temples and some shopping.

At Mandalay, we visited the famous Mandalay Hill, where the British made the Japs surrender Burma. We left Mandalay by military aircraft, landed on an airstrip at Myitkyina. One that we had taken from the Japs, May 17, 1944. This was very emotional to me, standing on the airstrip which has since been improved. We could look off to the right and see the Kumon Range, a distance of seven miles, that we had climbed, slid and slogged to the top for 3 days. Then did the same on the other side climbing down for two more days.

As they drove us into town, it was a sight to behold, men, women and children standing at attention. Some saluting us, even vehicles came to a stop, in honor to us. Signs reading "Welcome Back Jungle Fighters" and "Welcome To Myitkyina".

While at Myitkyina, we were

taken on a boat ride up the well known Irrawaddy River. At both Myitkyina and Lashio, we were wined, dined and entertained like Royalty by the Government.

Upon our return to Yangon, we were presented with the Government's highest decoration, "The Medal of Liberation". Also we each received a Beret which the Paratroops/Infantrymen wear.

At our last dinner in Yangon, we had the privilege of having as our guest a surviving Burmese nurse who had served with Dr Seagraves.

The Trip back to Burma, after fifty years was the Highlight of my life. Ted Zakotnik, 5307/1/RCT; 475/1, 10624 S Dunmoor Dr, Silver Spring MD 20901-1501, 301-593-8074

Experience: Something you stumble across while looking for something else.

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

- WENDELL CRAMER**, Rt 2 Box 431, Clymer Pa 15720, 5307/3/KCT/33 QM PK TR; 475/2/33 QM PK TR, November 20, 1993
- FRANK A FEASLER**, 2824 W 26th St, Erie PA 16506-3091, 5307/2/BCT, February 6, 1993
- HERSCHEL FULK**, Box 117, Nova OH 44859, 5307/3/HQ; 475/HQ, 1987
- GLENN GILMORE**, 1117 N Water St, Uhrichsville OH 44683, 475/1/B/2/2, November 1995
- REUBEN A HOLDEN**, 112 Rhododendron Av, Black Mountain NC 28711, 475/HQ/S-2, November 29, 1995
- JOSEPH KAMAY**, 223 Neil Dr, Watertown CT 06795-1768, 5307/1/WCT/I&R, November 8, 1995
- MICHAEL KOVALCHIK**, 707 26th St, Windber PA 15963, 5307/2/HQ, February 25, 1985
- STEPHEN KUBICKI**, 2755 WESTPHALIA Rd, Mattituck NY 11952, 475/1/B Co, January 2, 1991
- JOHN LADOMIRAK**, 136 E Fifth St, Wyoming PA 18644, 5307/2/OCT, November 1, 1984
- JOHN L LESLIE**, 3 Woodland Terr, Merrick NY 11566, 5307/2/GCT, December 26, 1995
- PAUL RAZIEN**, 401 Willow Branch Rd, Norman OK 73072-4510, 405-360-2861, 475/3/K/4, November 15, 1995
- HAROLD D RAMBO**, 168 Bear Run Rd, McMinnville TN 37110, 5307/3/OCT, December 1992.
- JOHN SANICHAS**, 1024 Cucamonga, Chula Vista CA 92011, PO Notice Nov 95 B/N
- JOE STANLEY**, 11702 Bellflower Blvd Apt B, Downey CA 90241, 310-869-0136, 5307/1; 475/1, August 13, 1995
- EDWARD J WARTA**, 5873 Clearview Dr, Parma Hts OH 44130-2136, 5307/HQ/HW; 475/HQ/HW, November 29, 1995
- LUMMIE S WATSON**, 403 Williams Rd, Rolla MO 65401, 476-8441, 5307/2/BCT/E/1, September 4, 1995
- HARRY WHALEN**, 1631 Ingram Rd, Penn Yan NY, 5307/1/A/HW; 475/1/A/HW, May 7, 1995
- WILLIAM E WOOPER**, 394 S Main St, Pleasant Gap PA 16823, 5307/3/OCT/HW, November 23, 1995



On occasion of Father Glavin's 60th anniversary of ordination, left to right: Phil Piazza, Bob Passanisi, Ken Gumaeri. Msgr. Glavin in front.

MONSIGNOR GLAVIN'S 60th ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

On Sunday, October 22, 1995, our Chaplain Very Rev Monsignor Edward R. Glavin celebrated his 60th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. There was a solemn Mass in St Mary's Church attended by a full congregation of priests, sisters, parishioners of St Mary's, relatives and friends from Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Massachusetts, Nevada, Kansas, California, North and South Carolina. Phil Piazza and his wife, Emma were present and Phil had a prominent part in the Offertory Procession. Other Marauders

present included Bob Passanisi and his wife, Ken Gumaer and wife, Ted Zakotnik, and Jim De Salvo, and possibly some others. There were also present about 50 members of the China/Burma/India Veterans Association. There was a Deluxe Reception after the Mass which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. At the Mass, a letter was read from James Cardinal Hickey, Archbishop of Washington and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American College in Rome in which he praised the 60 years of priestly service of Monsignor Glavin, and in particular noted his important contribution to the American College in Rome.

SHARING THE STORY

AN OUTLINE OF FRANK D MERRILL'S LIFE, AS REMEMBERED BY LUCY D MERRILL, WIDOW.

FRANK DOW MERRILL was born December 3, 1903 in Woodville, Massachusetts. The family soon moved to Amesbury, Mass. They came originally from England to Newbury Mass. in the 1600's.

At age 15, Frank spent the summer as a wireless operator on a United Fruit Company freighter. He graduated from Amesbury High School in 1920 and enlisted in the Army after changing his age (up a bit).

He went to Haiti with a special detail and was later stationed in

Panama. He tried for several years to get into West Point - passed the exams - flunked the physical because of a slight astigmatism, and flat feet.

For diplomatic reasons, the troops who went were asked to resign from the U.S. Army and join the Haitian constabulary and then restored when the incident was over. During this time Congress passed a bill that affected army pay. Years later this group had some sort of a pay problem for a time because they were not in the Army on a certain date.

During this time he held every enlisted rank and had a special promotion to Second Lieutenant. Finally he was accepted to the Military Academy at West Point;

N.Y. with a Presidential Appointment for the Class of 1929.

He graduated in 1929 and was stationed at Ft Ethan Allen, near Essex Junction, Vermont. We were married in Cincinnati, Ohio in November 1930. He was later stationed at Ft Eustis near Lee Hall, VA with the new Mechanized Cavalry.

In the Fall of 1931, he went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge Mass. for a full year of intensive study. He received a Bachelor's degree in 1932 and was sent to the Cavalry School at Ft Riley, Kansas, near Junction City, KS. He was there for six years attending the Cavalry School and then teaching a small arms course. He played polo and attained a one goal handicap in the Army Polo Association.

Stationed at Ft Riley at the same time were: General George Patton, then a Major; Generals Jonathan Wainwright and Terry Allen. The latter two were Colonels.

In 1938, Frank went to Tokyo for a four-year language course, cut to three years by WW II. During this time, language officers were attached to the Military Attache's Office of the Embassy and took turns taking the diplomatic pouch to and from Peiping.

In 1941, Frank was attached to a Japanese regiment stationed in Aomori for some months. The Japanese Colonel told him he would make it his personal responsibility to see that Frank got to his Embassy in Tokyo if the war started while he was with their Regiment. It did not.

When Frank came back from Aomori (his family had been sent home), he went to Manila to report to General MacArthur. Then with some other officers he went to Chungking by "China Clipper" to go down the Burma Road to find out why supplies were not coming up. They were in Rangoon when the Japanese attacked Burma. The American group destroyed supplies and headed for India by truck, while trucks, gas and roads lasted, and then went on foot over the mountains. Frank said he arrived in India in shorts and half a blanket.

This was at Easter time of 1942. Clare Booth Luce was there and sent all the families a wire to let them know the men had made it

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SHARING THE STORY...

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from Rangoon.

WW II, Burma, Okinawa and the Ryukus, the Ryuku surrender, the Japanese surrender on the Battleship Missouri. Frank was with General Stilwell on the Missouri for the surrender.

After the Ryuku surrender, Gen. Stilwell and Frank went to Tokyo, borrowed a Japanese jeep and drove about Tokyo and down to Kamakura. No incidents.

In January 1946, Gen. Stilwell was in charge of the Western Defense Command Headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco. Frank was sent there too. Gen. Stilwell died during that tour of duty.

Frank went to Manila and there his heart condition worsened. He was sent to Walter Reed Hospital and was then retired.

His family had lived in North Woodstock and Lincoln NH during the war, so he went there. Sherman Adams, also from Lincoln was now Governor of New Hampshire and appointed Frank as Commissioner of Public Works and Highways - which position he held for one six-year term and part of a second.

Frank went to the annual

meeting of the American Association of Highway Engineers in New Orleans, LA in December 1955 where he was elected President, and quietly celebrated his 52nd birthday. On the way home on December 11, he died of a massive heart attack at Fernandina Beach, Florida.

A funeral service was held at the Old Chapel at West Point and he was buried nearby in the cemetery there. His grave is near that of General Stilwell.

Personal Notes: Frank learned to play the piano and accordion by ear, and was very fond of musical theater. He read very fast, reading two or three light novels or mysteries in an evening.

Mrs Lucy Merrill, April 1995.

**VETERANS DAY PARADE
NEW YORK CITY
NOVEMBER 11, 1995**

By Joe Tulman

There were more than 500,000 people that lined Fifth Av, NY City, to watch 3000 WW II and 23,000 other veterans march in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of WW II's end. Having been born in Manhattan Borough, it was a thrill to return 50 years after discharge and to participate in this parade.

The weather was reminiscent of the monsoon season, high winds, and then a drenching rain, but we survived. Just about every nation that took part in the the war had a veteran participation including a few Chinese units. Photos are enclosed, showing Joseph Tulman carrying CBI flag, also Miss Cynthia Combs, a CBI vet from an Aircraft Artillery unit and a Canadian Engineer from the Burma Star group.

**FIRST BOATLOAD
MULES SUNK**

As you know, the first boatload of mules sent to us was sunk. While they were getting the second load to us, they brought in a British Pack outfit, so we could use their mules to get on with our training. We had a mule assigned to our MG section and even though we did not train with the mule on Sunday, we still had to go down to the river and take care of it. We had to take it to the river for water, groom and exercise it. The mules were tied in little openings in the brush around a small field. This particular Sunday morning when I got to where our mule was tied, it was already gone to water. I just walked on down the line until I found one, walked in, untied it and headed for the river. As I passed British soldiers coming back from the river, they all moved to the side of the trail as far as they could get. The same thing happened on the way back. I tied the mule back where I had gotten it and went to where our training mule was tied. The fellows were all back including the British soldier who was in charge of our mule. I asked the British soldier what was wrong with the mule I had just taken to water. When I told him, where I had gotten it, he said, "Yank that is BOXER! There is only one man in our outfit that can do anything with him. If anyone else gets close, he stands up on his back legs and strikes out!" He could have knocked my head off. Ralph W Pollock 5307/1/WCT/B Co, Rt 1 Box 1494 Mount Union PA 17066.

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After making plans to buy a larger house, the couple told their 7 year old they had to move because another baby was coming. "Aw that won't work." frowned the youngster. "He'll just follow us."

FALL IN

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

- RICK COLLIER**, 65 Willet Ct, Zwolle LA 71486, RANGER
WILLIAM DICKEY, 404 Park Av, Fox River Grove IL 60021, RANGER
WILLIAM DRESCHER, 17 Bontecou View Dr, New Paltz NY 12561-1004, 96TH Signal Bn/C CO
WILLIAM Z DUNCAN, 5612 E 36TH ST S, Tulsa OK 74135, 918-622-4391, Plat Ldr
DR U MAUNG GYI, 23 Strathmore Blvd, Athens OH 45701, 614-592-2027, Gurkha Rifles/3/10; 111 Chindit Bde/3/9
ALBERT HAGLOCK, 2718 Eoff St, Wheeling WV 26003, 5307
GLENN A KENDRICK, 2134 N Travis, Springfield MO 65803, 5307/1
ROBERT KLIMP, 4531 W 128th St, Alsip IL 60658, RANGER
GEORGE J LINNBAUM, 1966 Poplar Ridge Rd, Pasadena MD 21122,
ALBERT J LUSARDI, 138 Elm St Dover NJ 07801-2223, 475/2/HQ/I&R PLAT
FRED J MITCHELL, 234 Hart St, Houston PA 15342, 5307; 475/2/HQ
HARRY PALMER, 1680 Atherton Av, Elmont NY, 11003, 516-775-1051, 5307/3/KCT
JOHN PATRICK, 5009 Shady Dell Tr, Knoxville TN 37914, 615-525-3505, S O FORCES
THOMAS D RIZZO, 284 Mott Av, Lawrence NY 11559, 5307
ALBERT C ROBLES, 4813 Glenhaven Dr, Oceanside CA, 92056, 519-630-1543, 5307/209 Engrs/C/2 Plat
HARRY R SANDERS, Box 135, Darlington PA 16115, 5307; 475/2/F Co
JOHN STARNES, 180 Blenville Dr, Fayetteville NC 28311, RANGER/LRRP/51 INF/E CO
RICHARD B YORI, 48 W Oak St, Hazleton PA 18201, 5307

SOME OF THE EDITORS RECALL ABOUT MYITKYINA

We can add some general information about your cousin, Paul Factor. I was the Acting Sgt Major of the 5307th at Myitkyina. Of course, if he was in L Company he was not in the Company that was ambushed. That was E Company, as I recall. Later they were reformed as F Company. To the best of my knowledge there were no replacement troops killed getting out of the airplanes. There was a tendency on the part of the plane crews to exaggerate the conditions and a desire to get the troops out of the plane as fast as they could unload them so that they could turn around and fly out. The first couple of days, we had C-47's running into one another on the ground in their haste to depart the scene.

Eventually, they acquired radio teams to control the in and outs at the field. Though they never did notice the Jap Zeros until they were overhead shooting at us.

About the book. We sold out of them and just recently had them reprinted. We added some more photos and the list of men on GO #5. All together it will now cost you \$15. Check to Merrill's Marauders Association. A better book about what happened at Myitkyina was Colonel Hunter's book Galahad. Currently it is out of print but I am trying to work out a system where I can reprint it. Nothing fancy but the idea is that we can redo it to make the material available. Keep in touch about a year from now. Or drop me a card maybe in six months. Don't expect a reply unless I have it all together. I don't want to make a promise about the time it will take me to figure it all out.

I can also tell you that our HQ was moved to a Road Junction called Rhadapur, North of Myitkyina Air Strip. We had a Portable Surgical Hospital across the road from us. A Col Sazama was the

Surgeon in Charge. When someone died or was brought into them dead for attention, they had some natives dig a grave on our side, the east side of the road, then they would call us and Col Hunter would order me to take charge of the burial. We had no Chaplain. I would get a detail from the I & R Platoon and pick up the deceased. I believe that Vito Yazzo was one who remembers that job.

They had a system wherein they stuck bamboo about five inches thick into the ground and then cut the top end to make a notch so that they could place the stretcher on them. This made a crude operating table, with the man on an Army Blanket. If he survived they moved him by jeep or ox-cart to the air field for further treatment at Doc Seagraves Hospital or evacuation by plane to a bigger hospital somewhere North. If he died, we were called to bury him.

The detail would carry the man over to the impromptu gravesites. As I said above, we had no chaplain nor any chaplain materials, so I would read a prayer out of personal prayer book. Then I would get down in the grave and the detail would lower the man in the blanket down to me so that I could lay him out and cover him decently.

One day, I had the unfortunate experience of the soldier at one head end, let slip his grip on the blanket and the casualty came sliding down on me. He had been cut open at the stomach, so that I wound up soaking wet from his blood. To say the least, I was very unhappy. My recollection was that since we had rain every day, I hung my clothes out and kept wringing them out until they were clean. We then switched to a system where we used two parachute cords to lower the man down slowly into the grave. And so I did this with about 37 men. We would leave one dog tag around his neck and the short one we would place on a rude cross at the head of his grave. I did not keep

any records of this. The Hospital obviously had medical records.

At one time, I wrote to the army and asked if I could have the names of these men because a widow was asking about the disposition of her husband. They either could not or would not provide the information.

But it is my understanding that after the Battle of Myitkyina ended, and we all went our several ways, that the Army Graves outfit moved them all to the Cemetery outside of Myitkyina that you visited. It is also my understanding that they all were moved back to the States or to a Military Cemetery in Hawaii or the Philippines. Ray Lyons, 5307 HQ Forward Echelon.

+++++

On a more fundamental lever, GI Jack Belden in STILL TIME TO DIE summed up an abiding lesson of war - its spirit of self-sacrifice: "It is just those men whose lives are most miserable, the very toughest soldiers, those whose job is to kill, maim and destroy, it is just those men who are the most gentle, considerate and moved by feelings of sympathy for others. War binds men more tightly together than almost any other branch of human activity...To undergo shame, fear, and death with scores of others of your age and mental coloring - who, indeed, would trade these comrades of the battlefield for friends made in time of peace?" Sent in by Jim Gilbertson. 9/91

READERS RETREAT

THE GREAT RAID ON CABANATUAN, Rescuing the Doomed Ghosts of Bataan and Corregidor, by William B Brewer, John Wiley & Sons, 605 Third Ave, NY NY 10158, 1994, \$27.95. A chronicle of the accomplishments of the Alamo Scouts and the 6th Ranger Battalion in conducting a highly successful raid and prisoner rescue operation thirty miles behind the Japanese lines on the island of Luzon. (The 6th Ranger Bn was composed in part of former members of the 98th Pack Arty Bn. The same unit from which we acquired 125 soldier volunteers.)

LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS?

MAIL RETURNED BY PO AS UNKNOWN:

ROGER CIAFRE JR, SCOTIA PL 102, LAKEHURST NJ 08733

JAMES W HARPER, Tolono IL 61880,

THOMAS W BUFORD, #10 Trillium Cir, Dothan AL 36301 -

Insufficient address

HARRY VAN LEUVEN, 419 East Reliance Rd, Telford PA 18969 Fwd

Order Exp

JAP AMBUSH AT BURMA ROAD

You mentioned in your last letter about an Adolph Aros being in my platoon. I can't recall anybody by that name, but I'm quite familiar with the incident you mentioned because I was there and probably close by to Aros.

It was rumored that the Japs had captured an 150mm gun from the British. It could not be spotted from the air, so Lts Eugene Ryan and Jordan (Baldy) Adkins went out on their own attempting to locate it. Adkins was ambushed about 80 yards from our perimeter. Col Harrold became worried about them and sent Lt Delorey out to look for them. Delorey brought Ryan back with a leg wound. Delorey went back after Adkins but was also hit in right leg by tracers. I saw two men carry him back, judging by the blood, I thought he was hit in both legs. One of the men may have been Aros in that platoon. Adkins body was brought back in four days later. He was stripped of all his personal possessions by the Japs. Austin W Huber, 5121 FM 446, Victoria TX 77905-4214, 578-7545, 475/3/HQ/I&R PLATOON

1ST SGT RECTOR REACTS IN ACTION

Picture this: We attacked and chased the Japs on one side of an elevated road (about 7 feet high) until we ran out of ammo. We were so far forward that it was apparently impossible to quickly replenish our firepower. So we were ordered to fall back to the ditch parallel to and below road - and fix bayonets!

We waited, and waited, and sure enough the Japs counterattacked. I could see them coming in the low grass, rather slowly but steadily. Suddenly, Sgt Rector appeared from the rear with four mortar squads. He positioned them hurriedly and, with field glasses in hand, he knelt on top of the ditch, fully exposing his upper body, peering into the glasses, he began calling the changing ranges to the mortar squads as the Japs advanced steadily toward us. As the shells burst amongst them, I saw the Jap bodies fly into the air. What a tribute to Rector's expert range calling. As the Japs advanced, the flying bodies advanced.

To us, it was a joyful sight, because it meant our salvation.

Needless to say, Rector single-handedly broke up the Japs counterattack, and when our last mortar shell was fired, we were immediately ordered to "get the hell out of here", a hasty retreat to safer ground!

A tribute to Sgt Rector, an exceedingly brave guy, who in my mind was the personification of courage. I can still see him kneeling; fearlessly, on that ditch to calmly, loudly, call the changing ranges for a good, long ten minutes. John Scheifele, 5307/3/1; 475/3/1/3 Platoon, 3540 River Rd, Mount Bethel PA 18343-9633.

WASHINGTON 1996?

Let us help convince your family to come.

Many of us bring our families to reunions. Some of us would like to but have trouble convincing them to attend.

A number of us "next generation" folks would like to help you convince those reluctant family members to come to the 1996 reunion by letting them know how much we enjoy your reunions, too. We'd like to let them know that there will be others like themselves attending, tell them about your C.B.I. service, and let them know there will be lots to do in Washington for every interest.

If you send us the names of those you'd like to invite, we'll send them a letter telling them about the Association, its reunions, and extend them an invitation for 1996.

The 1996 reunion is the 50th and we'd like it to be our best ever, so let us help you get those reluctant family members to attend!

Drop a line to either:

Mike McLaughlin
2037 Churchill Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517-1311
or
Susie (Weston) Jenkins
115 W. Gregg St.
Ft. Mill, SC 29715

+++++

The elderly driver was concentrating on the traffic, but he felt he'd forgotten something. He stopped, checked his packages and his wallet, but couldn't decide what he'd forgotten. When he reached his destination, his small grandson ran to the car and said, "Hi, Grandpa. where's Grandma?"

Letters

EDITOR

You asked about the outfits I was in. I was with the 5332nd Brigade, 612th FA Bn, Headquarters and Service Battery. I was a lineman (laid down telephone lines to the batteries for phone contact). I shipped out of New Orleans on the USS Henry Dearborn with about 300 mules. We almost lost men and mules coming out of the Suez Canal. We collided with a British ship. The British ship went down. We went back to Egypt for repairs. They landed in Calcutta, from there to the Burma Road. We had contact with the Japs at Tonkwa, Lashik and the Burma Road. Joseph Di Francesco, 1956 59th St, Brooklyn NY 11204-2340

EDITOR

I was a Liaison Officer with the 1st Bn, 64th Regt, Chinese 22nd Division during the entire North Burma Campaign. The 22nd Div. drove down the road trace of the Hukawng and Mogaung Valleys during the Spring months of 1944. I was at Maingkwan when the Marauders surprised and defeated the Japs at Walawbum. Your success there made our task at Maingkwan much easier. It also built up the confidence of our troops that they could meet and defeat the Japs. Many thanks to all the outstanding men of Merrill's Marauders Association. It makes me happy to be with all of you at your reunion. Raymond L Denaux, 1843 Capri Dr, Charleston SC 29407

EDITOR

I was on KP till midnight Christmas Eve in India. When I got off, I found my friends had drunk my share of the rum ration (gift of the British). Charles Beck, 4642 Monroe St, Riverside CA 92504, 5307/3/OCT/L CO

EDITOR

The name Mc CAMMON is mentioned in several places in "The Stilwell Papers" as edited by Theodore White. On several occasions, I have been asked if I am the Mc Cammon referred to. While I served two years in India and

(Continued on page 10)

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

APO 218

16 October 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

:)
NUMBER 9)

AWARD OF COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

1. Under the provisions of WD Circular No. 186, dated 11 May 1944 Combat Infantryman's Badge is awarded the following officers and enlisted men of this organization effective as of 20 February 1944, for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy during the North Burma Campaign. All officers and enlisted men indicated by an asterisk (*) hereon are authorized this award effective as of 1 June 1944.

APOSTALOKAS, James 31290362 Pvt *	HARROLD, Arthur KO, 0-334828 Maj *
ASKEW, Olin D., 34200705 T/Sgt	HAZLETT, William H., 20304887 Pvt *
BAILEY, Thurman Jr., 35630437 Pvt *	HEATH, Roscoe 20606425 Pfc
BALDWIN, Henry E., 7005853 Pfc	HOLCOMB, Fred 6986649 Pvt
BARRINEAU, Mose C., 34543583 Pvt	HOLDEN, Reuben A., 0-453059 Capt *
BLOMBERG, Clarence P., 17005019 Pfc	HOLMES, Lawrence 35697808 Pfc *
BORDERS, Lewis Jr., 31193342 T/5	HUTCHINGS, Wade W., 35392680 Pvt
BOSTICK, Bruce B01 34666879 Pvt *	JAMES, Charles K., 35697202 Pvt
BRACCIO, Arthur 32736179 Pfc	JARJOURA, Mitchell 0-1312935 2nd Lt *
BREAULT, Abraham 36339031 Pfc	JOHNSON, Calfson 0-337085 tt Col
CAUBLE, Earl D., 34187375 Sgt	JONES, John M., 0-338547 Maj
CHAN, Robert J., 0-1321994 1st Lt *	KEELER, Charles H., 35016169 Pfc
CHESBRO, Frederick B., 12002752 S/Sgt	KELLY, Garwin C., 14020438 Cpl
CLARK, Harold C. 19020789 S/Sgt	KOSEK, Walter T., 31298553 Pfc *
COLOMBO, Anthony C., 32708385 Pvt	KRASA, Frank J. 33270561 T/5
CONNER, Bryant L., 0-1321399 1st Lt *	KRETCHMAR, Harold H., 37623874 Pvt *
DAUBERSPECK, Allen R., 6377355 T/4 *	LANAHAN, Robert J., 32893745 Pfc *
DEROUIN, William G., 31324119 T/5 *	LATHAM, Frank O., 6270661 Sgt
DIDLER, Joseph T., 34152331 Pvt	LOWDER, Reece H., 34851892 Pvt *
ELLIS, LeRoy C., 37028069 Pfc	McCRACKEN, Joseph W., 38348050 Pfc
ELSON, Overille K., Pvt	McLAUGHLIN, George M., 0-1283812 Capt
FAIRCHILD, Sam E., 0-347615 Capt *	MAFFIA, Donilnick D., 7070664 Sgt
FAULKNER, Duane S., 31325108 Pfc	MAHMOOD, Albert 17107651 Pfc
FEDERLINE, John R., 0-362611 Capt *	MATHIS, Henry 35507166 T/3
FEILER, Donald C., 20649015 Pvt	MATNEY, Thomas H., 13018166 Pvt
FISHER, George Jr., 20506472 Pfc	MEYER, Vernon J., 35866763 Pfc *
GABBETT, Michael F., 6981255 M/Sgt	MILLHOLLEN, Lloyd F. Jr., 0-329582 Maj
GETTER, Robert E., 0-347457 Lt Col	MOLL, James M., 36155140 Pfc *
GETZ, Seymore 35008175 Pfc *	MORENO, Melquades M., 38214639 T/5
GIBSON, Joe Jr., 38274568 T/5	NEALON, Frederick J., 20149772 Pvt
GIGUERE, Roland H., 31005529 Cpl	NICHOLSON, William E., 35697001 Pvt *
GOFF, Estell Jr., 35725590 Sgt	
GRAY, Harold 20145452 Pvt	ORTH, Franklin L., 0-307198 Lt Co
GRIFFIN, John D., Jr., 0-1170760 2nd Lt *	PAIN, Joseph A., 33288044 Pvt
HAIN, Ralph E., 33586340 Pfc *	PERRY, John G., 38128686 Pfc
HALL, James 13017562 Pvt	PHILIPP, Ben L., 38244476 T/5
HARNEY, Patrick J., 32174023 Pfc *	PHLEEGER, Robert A., 16150361 Pfc

(To be continued)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

(Continued From Page 9)

Burma in command of a QM Truck Co. operating on the Ledo Road, I never had the honor of serving on General Stilwell's staff. I do not know that Col Mc Cammon was in command for a few days at the Battle for Myitkyina. And friends who attended West Point tell me that he was never enrolled at the USMA.

As a matter of family interest, as well as to satisfy my own interest in the history of the Burma Campaign, I would very much like to know more about Col John Easton McCammon - I assume that he must be a lost "cousin" in some connection. (We have provided Mr McCammon with the applicable notes that were in Col Hunter's book - Galahad ED.)

Perhaps you could tell me something of the Colonel's background

and life following the war. Or maybe you could put me in touch with a living relative of the Colonel.

I would appreciate any help you can give me. Lewis B. McCammon
105 N Cordova St, Alhambra CA
91801, 818-284-4535.

EDITOR

On 14 March 1995, I retired after 32 years of Erie County Government service. The last seven years as Director of Veterans Affairs. I

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

(Continued From Page 10)

bought a cabin in the Allegheny Mountains and spend two to three days there a week.

After I left the CBI, I stayed in the military, serving as follows: CIC agent and instructor at Fort Holibird, MD, and 2nd Rangers until March 1951, then Guerrilla Warfare School and cadred the 1st Special Forces.

John Fuller (F Co, 5307th/F Co 475th) and I were the only two transferred to Germany service since we both had two tours in the Far East. John went to a Line Company and I was Assistant G-2. John and I parted ways in Germany, having served about eight years together. John stayed in and had three tours in Nam. I retired to civilian life, became a County Commissioner for twenty years, then Director of Vet Affairs.

I am in contact with Fuller and have visited him twice in Ohio. He is all crippled up with arthritis (as I am) from jumping, over the years.

I finished my book of essays and poems, had it copyrighted and it soon will be published. It will not be sold, but, will be donated to VA Hospitals. It will be printed in Braille for blind Vets. I am dedicating it to the men of Merrill's, Mars and Special Operation Personnel who served in the Armed Forces. William Hill, 1387 Davison Rd, Harbor Creek PA 16421, 5307/2/BCT; 475/2/HQ/I&R PLAT, 814-452-3333

EDITOR

Fay and I flew to NYC for the Veterans Day Nations Parade. To my knowledge there were 3 or 4 CBIVA and one Burma Star veteran - a British Engineer. It was a thrilling experience and I am sorry more Merrill's Marauders Association members could not have been there. The Parade ran from 11 am to 4 PM. We left before 2 PM as we got a drenching rain. We both and my Burma Flag got soaked, but it was worth it. Joseph Tulman, 9789 Troon Ct #7, Cincinnati OH 45241, 124/3/MED

EDITOR

My husband, Kenneth Boggs, has had long time problems with head seizures. It goes back to an incident in the army when a log chain broke and wrapped around his head. He also came back from

overseas with traumatic stress syndrome. He says he was never sent to a hospital overseas for treatment but that he was given treatment at aid stations. I think there has been something wrong with his mind in the 46 years we have been married. We need a doctor to say they treated him for seizures while overseas. Nancy Boggs, PO Box 298, Fallston NC 28042. Kenneth Boggs, 5307/3; 475/3.

EDITOR

I am rather sad about a death this past year of one of our finest officers. Lt Rothschild was my Platoon Leader and he had a heart as large as his body. I remember that first day of hiking the Ledo Road, when we were taking a break, and we were very tired. A Doughnut Dolly Cart came by and they were throwing apples to the men. He got up and went along the road to collect them. He then came back to the platoon to distribute them to the men that had not gotten one.

He may not have been the best Infantry soldier but he was our heart and soul and the morale of Khaki's Weapon Platoon. Arthur Werner, 5307/3/KCT/WEAPONS, 6016 Nyanza Park Dr SW, Tacoma WA 98499

EDITOR

I am writing in regard to my Dad, Harold D Rambo. I never knew much about his military history, because my parents separated when I was about three years old. I have over the past few years, received most of his records, medals and uniform and hat. And lots of photos of him and his pals, and would like to know more about him. My Dad passed away in December 1992 in Lima OH and is buried in his hometown, Ada OH in Hardin Co. I would appreciate any information from friends of his he served with. John Rambo, 168 Bear Run Rd, McMinnville TN 37110

EDITOR

In the May '95 issue of BURMAN NEWS, Page 10, you published a request from Robin Nilands, an Englishman who is writing a book on "The History of Special Forces". I sent him some information I had written for our local newspaper, and he sent a gracious thank you note. In the letter he mentioned a book, "Quartered Safe Out Here" by George Macdonald Fraser. He is an

excellent writer who was a noncom in the British 14th Army during the time they drove the Japanese all the way out of Burma, after Mars had gone to China. The publisher of the Burma books is Harvill. My library did not have it, but was able to obtain it for me on interlibrary loan. I think our member would be interested in knowing about the book, as it puts a fresh perspective on the whole Burma campaign, at least to those of us who realize that we did not single-handedly drive the Jap out of Burma! Fraser's introduction to combat was at a place he called "Temple Wood", north of Mandalay. Reading it, I had this eerie feeling that he was relating to my own first experience at Tonkwa. Although they had air support and some tanks, the infantry action was almost identical. Another interesting book I was loaned recently was called "Sittang, the Last Battle". It relates the fate of the last Japanese holdouts in the Pegu Yonas mountains north of Rangoon. The author is Louis Allen, published by Ballentine Books. Finally, all of this prompted me to go back and reread the late John Masters' "The Road Past Mandalay", about the Chindits. Masters, of course was the prolific author of books about India and WW I, the most famous of which was "Bwohani Junction", since it was made into a movie. Richard Hale, 1196 Sandcastle Rd, Sanibel FL 33957, 475/3/1/HW MG.

EDITOR

My father, Sgt Bernard J Farrell, was a member of the Merrill's Marauders, who died on August 4, 1994. I would appreciate hearing from any member who recalls him and can tell us something about his military service. Mrs Jean Griggs, Rt 2 Box 625, Brevard NC 28712, his daughter.

EDITOR

Both my dad and I enjoyed the newsletters very much. I got some more information from my dad. He doesn't like to talk much about the war. You guys went through a lot of misery that many young people today don't know about. You saved not only the United States but the entire world as well. My dad's full name is George L Kulas. His service number was 36260482 and he was a PFC Mortarman with the
(Continued on page 12)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

(Continued From Page 11)

Blue Column Combat Team. He believes his commander was Major Healy and he thinks he was in the 2nd Bn. He was at NHPUM GA Hill when they were surrounded for 13 days. He remembers how the late Father Barrett helped get him and others through some difficult times. As I said, my father doesn't like to talk about the war. In fact, he has been married to my mother for 50 years and she just now found out about NHPUM GA Hill.

I would like to request that my father be made a member of your great association. George S Kulas, Sergeant Major, US Army, Retired, N7595 Eagle Ln, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, 414-922-5514

Tribute to the INFANTRYMAN

The average age of the Infantryman is 19 years, a shorthaired, tightly muscled kid who, under normal circumstances, is considered by society as half man, half boy, not yet dry behind the ears, but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work and would rather wash his own car than wash his father's, but he's never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent high school graduate and was probably an "average" student, pursued some form of sports activities, driven a ten year old jalopy, and has a "steady" girlfriend that either broke



up with him when he left or swears to be waiting for him when he returns from half a world away.

He listens to rock and roll music, or jazz, or swing - and 155 mm howitzers.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dark. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until told to stop, or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues, he washes one, wears the other one. He keeps his

canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothing, and fix his own hurts.

If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you, if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands as weapons and his weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it - because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies...and helped to create them. He has wept in private and public for his friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. Just as did his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not he is no boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He asks for nothing in return except our friendship...and understanding.

Remember him...always...for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

He is an Infantryman.
By James E Freeland & Chuck Taylor. Submitted by James De Salvo.

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

RAYMOND V. LYONS

Editor

11244 N. 33rd St.

Phoenix, AZ 85028-2723

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