



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1996

COME ON - ONE MORE TIME

FINAL CALL FOR WASHINGTON REUNION - Dave Richardson, Reunion Chairman

(Please see map on page 12)

Preparations are well under way for the 50th Annual Reunion of Merrill's Marauders Association, to take place just across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. August 29 - September 1 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City.

The Golden Anniversary event will kick off at 10:05 o'clock Thursday Morning August 29 with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Cemetery, followed by a visit to the Tomb Museum, where the Marauder Insignia is displayed along with those of other distinguished units of all wars, and by a short walk to the Marauder Monument and Tree.

Registration for the reunion will start later that day and the speaker at the Friday Evening Dinner will be Major General John K Singlaub, U. S. Army (Ret), a legendary figure in unconventional warfare who led covert missions in three wars.

For the Saturday Night Banquet, arrangements are under way to obtain a high-ranking Pentagon official as speaker, in recognition by the US Army of this landmark event in the half-century history of Merrill's Marauders Association.

The scene of the Reunion, the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, is located at 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22202, near National Airport and overlooking the Nation's Capital. For those coming by car, directions to the hotel are given in an adjoining column of this edition of BURMAN NEWS. The charge for parking HAS BEEN WAIVED BY HOTEL - NO CHARGE. There is parking just down the street from the hotel for RV's.



For those arriving by air, you can use a free hotel shuttle bus service by telephoning from the airport, the number is 1-800-346-0102. The same free bus service is available to take you 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 D.C.

The Hyatt Regency Crystal City has 685 rooms, two bar lounges and two restaurants---one of each on the roof overlooking the Capital--in addition to a health club and spa, an outdoor swimming pool and free indoor parking.

The special Reunion package rate for two persons is \$325 and includes two nights lodging, four meals, taxes and gratuities. The package rate for a single person is \$275. The meals include Friday Night Dinner, Saturday morning - full breakfast, Saturday Evening Cocktail Party - open bar and Banquet, Sunday morning sumptuous buffet. Each additional night's lodging is \$94, including taxes. For those wishing to invite guests only

to evening events, the Friday, August 30 dinner is \$31 per person; the August 31 Banquet is \$33.

Reservations for the Washington Reunion may be made by calling 1-800-233-1234, saying that you wish to reserve at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City for the Merrill's Marauders Association Reunion next Labor Day weekend, giving the dates you wish to reserve and the number in your party. Ask for river view rooms.

Deadline for reservations will be July 29. Those wishing to invite guests, relatives or friends just for certain meals must make arrangements at least two days ahead. At this point we are still negotiating with Hotel Management over details of these ticket sales. No last minute orders for extra meals can be taken. This is your last notification on Reunion Reservations; no mail in reservation cards will be sent out.

GUIDE TO CAPITAL SIGHTS

Those attending the 50th Anniversary of Merrill's Marauders Association have a great opportunity for sightseeing in and around the Nation's Capital. Here are a few choices:

WHITE HOUSE - For special guided tours, telephone or write the office of your Senator or local Congressional Representative, asking for reservations for a specific day. These tours take place once a day, early in the morning. Those lacking reservations must wait in line, may not get in at all.

CAPITOL BUILDING - Again, the best bet is to contact your Senator or local Congressman, although Congress will not be in

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REUNION . . .

(Continued from page 1)

session in August. Those without prior arrangements should still be able to get on a Capitol tour by waiting in line.

MOUNT VERNON - This is easy to get to by car or tour bus. Another popular way is to take a Potomac Cruise from a landing across the river from the hotel. The cruise ships offer light meals. The hotel concierge has details.

BUS TOURS - There are three different sightseeing lines - two with double-decker buses - passing or stopping at such sights as Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Holocaust Museum, National Zoo, FBI, Supreme Court and various Galleries and Museums. Tickets can be purchased from hotel concierge in lobby.

METRO SYSTEM - Washington has an excellent subway system by which you can visit most sights from a station near the hotel reachable by hotel shuttle. Ideal for those wishing to visit only particular places without the hassle and expense of parking, etc. There is a visitor's pass for unlimited travel on the Metrorail. A one-day pass costs \$5. The concierge will provide you with a Metro Map and details.

POTOMAC RIVER TRIPS - There are four different lines offering cruises day or night, some with full meals and dancing. Ask the hotel concierge for details and tickets.

DC DUCKS - These are amphibious vehicles that take 90-minute tours of the sights both by land and sea, leaving from Downtown Washington. Again, see concierge.

SHOPPING - The closest place is the Fashion Center at Pentagon City, with more than 100 stores. The hotel bus will take you there for free.

HOTEL CONCIERGE - To reserve tours ahead, call at Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 1-800-233-1234.

CONGRESS EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR VETS TO GET DECORATIONS

Thousands of war veterans could receive long-denied decorations under expanded eligibility rules approved by Congress - S1124, the 1996 Defense Authorization Act - P.L. 104-106. The expanded awards categories are open to veterans from WW II to the El Salvador civil war. The services began accepting applications February 10, the date the act was signed into law.

ARMY- Military Awards Branch, ATTN: TAPC-PDA, 200 Stovall St, Alexandria VA 22332-0471.

Another category of war veterans who could be eligible for decorations includes nearly 10,000 service members native to the Pacific Region who received the Distinguished Service Cross or Navy Cross during World War II. Those awards could be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. The largest category of possible award recipients may be Prisoners of War before the Vietnam War. They may now be eligible for the Purple Heart.

The legislation requires a POW's injury to be a direct result of enemy action or the service members combatant status, excluding accidents or illness. Generally, applications from veterans or their families for an award or upgrade should include verification and documentation. Service officials said requests should be supported by accounts from comrades, unit documents, or photographs. Awards officials said veterans and their families will have to do their own research rather than depend on the services to do it for them.

Application windows are open for combat veterans in six categories: The Purple Heart for Prisoners of War before April 25, 1962.

Valor awards for service during the Vietnam War. Awards will be for valorous acts while engaged with the enemy. Requests for

(Continued on page 3)

Directions to the Hyatt Regency Crystal City

From Georgetown

1. Take M Street across Key Bridge
2. Turn left at second light (Lee Highway)
3. Go through light for I-66 East, take Exit 75 for Rt. 110 South
4. Rt 110 South for four (4) miles, turns into Rt 1 South
5. Rt 1 South to 4th stop light (27th Street)
6. Turn left onto 27th Street, hotel is on the left

From Dulles Airport and I-66 West

1. Take I-66 East
2. Take Exit 75 (Rt 110 South)
3. Rt 110 South for four (4) miles, turns into Rt 1 South
4. Rt 1 South to 4th stop light (27th Street)
5. Turn left onto 27th Street, hotel is on the left

From Richmond

1. Take I-95 North to I-395 North
2. Exit 7A (Glebe Road South)
3. Glebe Road South to 5th stop light (Approx, two (2) miles)
4. Turn left onto Jefferson Davis Highway (Rt 1 North)
5. Turn right at light onto 27th Street, hotel is on the left

From Baltimore and I-95 South

1. Take 95 South over Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Virginia
2. Exit 1 (first exit off of bridge). This is a three-part exit
3. Take Middle Exit (Rt 1 North)
4. Travel approximately five (5) miles north
5. Turn right at 27th Street, hotel is on the left

From Maryland and I-270 North

1. Take I-495 South across American Legion Bridge into Virginia
2. Exit onto George Washington Parkway
3. Travel about ten (10) miles south
4. Exit at National Airport, stay I right lane: follow signs to Crystal City Rt 1 South
5. Take Rt 1 South Exit; turn left at first light (27th Street), hotel is on the left

Congress . . .

(Continued from page 2)

consideration must be received by Feb 9, 1997.

Members of the Intelligence community who were prevented from receiving recognition by secrecy requirements. This applies to members who served from Jan 1, 1940, through Dec 31, 1990. Request should be based on documented operations officially sanctioned to secrecy. Applications must be in by Feb 9, 1997.

World War II veterans who received valor decorations but could be eligible for the Medal of Honor. This applies to Asian-Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders who received the Distinguished Service Cross or Navy Cross.

The service will review the records of all recipients of these decorations to determine whether any given to Pacific-region natives should be upgraded. Anyone with knowledge of a person with the qualifying background should contact the appropriate service.

Armed Service Expeditionary Medal for service in El Salvador. This applies to U.S. service members assigned to support the El Salvadoran army in its battle

with rebels from Jan 1, 1981 through Feb 1, 1992.

Veterans who missed the deadline to apply for an award. Most awards have two- or three-year deadlines. Anyone who missed the application period, and who can make a case that they qualify for an award or an upgrade, must apply through a Member of Congress.

Above material provided in part by Hiro Nishimura, Mercer Island Wa and from the Manchester Union Leader.

MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY ASSN, REUNION - GEORGE WASHINGTON INN & CONFERENCE CENTER AT WILLIAMSBURG VA THURSDAY SEPT 19TH THROUGH SUNDAY SEPT 22ND. Contact Hiram Boone, 3016 Cross field Rd Richmond VA 23233, 804-360-1165

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION, REUNION - HYATT REGENCY IRVINE, 17900 JAMBOREE RD, IRVINE CA SEPT 4, 5, & 6TH, 1996. Contact Lee Chalifour, 131 SE Colonial St, Port Charlotte FL 33952-9106.

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These Health Clubs are making a profit at our expense.

RANGER COLUMN

The Best Ranger Competition will be held at Ft Benning GA - May 2-6, 1996. The Marauders will be staying at the La Quinta Motel 3201 Macon Rd in Columbus GA. The phone number is 1-800-531-5900. Tell the operator that you are with the Merrill's Marauders group.

The following Ranger affair will be the Ranger Rendezvous and Hall of Fame Induction, also at Ft Benning GA August 13th to 15th, 1996. Medals to be awarded on 14th. Same hotel and arrangements as noted above.

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - Phil Piazza

Anyone who is planning on attending the Best Ranger Competition and/or Ranger Rendezvous, please call or write to me. We will be staying at the La Quinta Motel again, as usual. To make reservation, call 1-800-531-5900 and state that you are part of the Merrill's Marauders Association group. The La Quinta address is 3201 Macon Rd, Columbus GA 31906-1717. The Macon Rd exit from the Freeway. If there is a financial problem, we would prefer that you come to our Marauder Reunion in Washington DC.

BEST RANGER COMPETITION - FT BENNING GA - May 2-6, 1996

RANGER RENDEZVOUS & HALL OF FAME INDUCTION - FT BENNING GA - August 13th, 14th(Medal), 15th, 1996

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - Ray Lyons

Note the list of men in the Lost, Strayed or Stolen section. This is getting to be a big problem for whatever reason. I would appreciate hearing directly from you when you move.

My oldest son, a Computer expert has made a CD for us to reprint any or all of the BURMAN NEWS issues. We can supply a printout of the list of the issues providing date and number of pages for each issue. Temporarily, until we figure it out, we are charging 20 cents a page. At the beginning, we had four or six pages, then expanded to eight, then ten, one was sixteen and then we had a series of twelve pages. Total package -460 pages. We are also

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. 218,
15 November 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 11)

Awards of the Purple Heart.....I Section
Amendments to General Orders Awards..... II

I. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL:

Under the provisions of par 16, AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1945 and par 2c, Cir #55, HQ, USAF, CBI, APO 885, dated 29 May 1944, the EM indicated below are awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds and injuries, sustained in combat on dates indicated, against the enemy in the North Burma Campaign.

ROBERT E PASSANISI, 12064098, S/Sgt., 1 July 1944
FRANK M GUTH, 32766387, Sgt., 28 July 1944

II. AMENDMENTS OF GENERAL ORDERS - AWARDS:

1. So much of Sec I, GO #9, this Hqcs, dated 15 October 1944, as pertains to award of Purple Heart Medal to DENNIS E HALL, 35093103, Pfc, is hereby revoked.

By order of Colonel EASTERBROOK:

OFFICIAL
TJ DALTON,
WOJG, USA
Asst. Adjutant

EDWIN A ROTHSCHILD
1st Lt, Infantry,
Adjutant.

Officers Row . . .

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close to having a CD for Col Hunter's book - Galahad. At this point we have the pages done but not the photos at the beginning of the book. Patience is the word.

Order Blank for Past Issues of Burman News

(To preserve this issue of BN, make copy of this form for your order)

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BURMAN NEWS	11/1/79	6
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BURMAN NEWS	6/1/80	4
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HISTORIAN - David Quaid

Due to persistent health problems, I am reluctantly tendering my resignation as Historian to take effect upon the close of the next, Washington DC reunion.

I will continue to be available to provide help to the next elected Historian, if needed. My lifelong training is in handling special projects. I would like to help out in this area in the future.

Last year, the new video tape was completed. It represents three years of intensive work. The last five weeks were spent in a cutting room in Boston during the hottest summer on record. We edited six days a week, ten to twelve hours a day and the commute by car to my home on the Cape, another four hours. The day after completing the job, I ended up in the Emergency Room and began eight days in the Hospital.

(See Video Info on page 5)

About a year ago, a delegation from the Stilwell Foundation visited my home and asked if I would mount an exhibition to be permanently placed in the new Stilwell Museum in Chungking, China. The delegation consisted of the Chinese Curator of the Museum, the former Ambassador to Vietnam, and a representative from Suffolk University in Boston. All this came about when Nancy Stilwell Easterbrook attended the opening of the museum with Defense Secretary Perry and found that there were exhibits lauding the Flying Tigers, building the Stilwell Road, etc., and nothing about my Father's Infantry! After consultation with our officers, I took it on. It is a huge project, more than half completed. Before it leaves for China, the Stilwell Foundation with Suffolk University will finance a major exhibit in downtown Boston on or

about Columbus Day, 1996.

A Texas PBS TV station asked for our assistance in their documentary project concerning the 124th Cavalry. I re-photographed over a hundred of our still photos of the Mars Task Force and provided all the information necessary for them to order motion picture film from the National Archives. Peter Faggion supplied his beautiful colored map of the road block area on the Burma Road. The completed tape was shown recently on some PBS stations. When we receive a copy, we have permission to duplicate the 57 minute tape for our members.

There will be a new set of six maps of the first campaign for sale at the reunion. All of the trails as well as all of the battle sites are shown.

It was a busy year. DQ

MEMORIAL DAY

He fought the battles years ago,
But some old memories are hard to go.

Like sloshing through a jungle rain,
Or struggling up the steep terrain.
Of comrades sharing lonesome years,

With blood and sweat and hidden tears.

He listened to the cannon's roar,
A sound he'd never heard before.
And with bullets in the air,
He bowed his head and said a prayer.

"Dear God, please make this madness cease,
And grant us soon a lasting peace."

Now he's old and still he prays
For other sons, for better days,
So that young men nevermore
Will have to fight another war,
"Dear God, please make all hatred cease,

So we may live in blessed peace."

Ruth Theile, PO Box 349
Hebron IN 46341-0349

FALL IN

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

RAYMOND W CHUBBIC, 1108 Samantha Way, Paso Robles CA 93446,
805-238-5738, 5307/3/KCT/I&R

THOMAS A DU BOIS, 106 Freedom Cir, Grants Pass OR 97527, 5307

JOHN A PUGLIESE, 2300 W Ina Rd, Apt 6366, Tucson AZ 25741,
502-575-6559, RANGER 75/1

JOSEPH S SERANSKY, 15045 HIWAY 76, Pauma Valley CA 92061,
619-742-1585, 5307/3/KCT/MEDIC; 475/ /I&R/MEDIC

PAUL R WARD, 801 Riley Rd New Castle IN 47362, 5307, 475/HMC

WARING THE STORY

MYITKYINA AMBUSH

The Company that was ambushed was G Company. The next day, they had us survivors lined up and count off by 2's. All 1's took two steps forward and were sent to E Co. The rest including Lt Jones were sent to F Co. About 77 men in memory is right. Walter J Travis, 5307/2/G CO; 475/2/E CO, 1097 Shelp Lake Dr, Delton MI 49046.

actions and disease and were in grave danger of being annihilated.

After a stay of about a week at Ramgarh, 2600 of us were loaded onto DC-3 transports and flown to the airstrip at Myitkyina. A large number of these men had been trained as clerks, truckdrivers and many other specialties. Most of them had absolutely no training in infantry weapons such as rifles, mortars, machine guns, B.A. R. 's, etc. Those of us who had had such training were given the task of teaching these skills, such as loading, firing and maintenance of these weapons.

MEMORIES BY LURIE - MYITKYINA & CHINA BURMA CAMPAIGN

After all these years since the end of WW 11, I am finally coming to terms with the memories of those years and I feel that it is time that I put down on paper the story of my experiences.

After basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, and a 10 day delay enroute to visit my family, I was then sent to Ft Meade MD for reassignment. From there I was sent to a staging area at Newport News to await shipment overseas.

Before long, we embarked on a Liberty Ship, the USS General Buckner, April 23, 1944 for a thirty day voyage which took us across the Atlantic down the African coast to Capetown, South Africa, May 10, 1944, where we received an overnight (12 hour) shore leave. I was fortunate enough to be able to contact the Polliack family and spend some time with them before re-embarking. We arrived Durban, South Africa on May 13th. Left same day. Arrived Mombasa on the 15th and left next morning. We sailed up the Indian Ocean to Bombay, India, arriving May 26th. We disembarked there.

From there we traveled on the Great India Peninsula Railway in box cars with wooden benches which could be likened to cattle cars, for about three days to an army camp, Camp Ramgarh. We arrived here on May 31, 1944.

We were billeted there for several days without being given any information as to our destination or assignment. At about this time there was an emergency call for reinforcements for the 5307th Composite Unit [Provisional] Force also known as the Merrill's Marauders. They had been in action in Burma for months and had been decimated by enemy

When we arrived at the Myitkyina airstrip on June 3 we were told that we would be disembarking under fire as the Japanese controlled one side of the airstrip and the Americans the other. As a result we were instructed to hit the ground running and dive for cover.

Once we assembled at Myitkyina, we were organized into companies and platoons. I was assigned to Company F. Our company was assigned to a reserve area for several days while we became somewhat organized. But this did not last very long as we were ordered to relieve one of the weary units on the front line which in this type of battle was not really

a line but rather an area which we were trying to control. As we were taking our positions we came under artillery fire and I had hardly managed to get a slit trench dug before a 75 mm shell hit a tree near me and shrapnel shattered the butt of my rifle which was next to me.

I can remember being on one patrol when we ran into an ambush and all of us quickly hit the ground. I happened to be assigned as a machine gunner on this particular patrol. As quickly as I could I set up the machine gun and started firing in the general direction that the firing had come from. Unfortunately I raised my head slightly to get a line as to where my bullets were going and at that moment a Japanese 25 caliber hit my helmet. Fortunately for me, although the bullet penetrated the helmet, it lost its velocity and was deflected along the top of the liner, just grazing my skull. The worst damage was caused by the force of the helmet strap catching under my chin and choking me as the helmet flew off. The Lieutenant in charge of the platoon was not as fortunate as he had foolishly elected to try to stand up just as the Japanese began

(Continued on page 6)

"MERRILL'S MARAUDERS WAR IN BURMA"

3 HOUR & 20 MINUTE VIDEOTAPE {2 CASSETTES}

PRODUCED BY

THE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION

THESE TAPES ARE AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE EPIC 5 MONTH 1944 CAMPAIGN IN NORTH BURMA OF THE 5307TH COMPOSITE UNIT (PROV.)
DUBBED BY THE PRESS MERRILL'S MARAUDERS.

INCLUDED IN THE TAPES:

- *THE PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF 42 MARAUDERS.
- *58 MAPS WHICH DETAIL EACH STEP OF THE CAMPAIGN,
- *THE GLIDER LANDINGS AT MYITKYINA > JAP ZEROES STRAFING THE FIELD; THE AIRSTRIP FLOODED BY MONSOON, FIGHTING AROUND THE TOWN.

Boxed presentation set of two tapes \$50.00

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION,
HERBERT CLOFINE, TREASURER, OAKWYNN HOUSE, APT. 710,
1209 WEST WYNNEWOOD ROAD, WYNNEWOOD, PA 19096

Sharing . . .

(Continued from page 5)

firing again and received an entire volley in his midsection.

Another time, I can recall that we were resupplied by air and received ten-in-one rations instead of C rations. These rations were designed for troops in rest areas since one case carried a days ration for a group and were not individual rations. As we were heading out on patrol again, we had to divide the rations among the members of the patrol until we could get together at the end of the patrol. However, when that time came several of our patrol were missing and we found that about all that was left of our rations was a large can of bacon. This was a rather unsatisfactory meal.

Another memory is of standing in a foxhole overlooking the

Irrawaddy River at night trying to see if any Japs were floating down the current and having my vision practically obscured by a cloud of mosquitos. Another vivid memory is the time one of our platoon sighted a green turtle in the Irrawaddy and shot it. The meat from this turtle was a welcome relief from the steady diet of C and K rations. Another vivid memory was an airdrop of field baked bread which tasted like manna from heaven.

One of the last memories, possibly the most bitter of them all was the time that we were trying to dig out a group of Japs at Myitkyina and were pinned down by their underground machine gun emplacements. We were in fox-holes within one hundred feet or less from the Japanese positions. We called for closeup support by P-51 dive bombers and let off smoke

bombs to outline our positions. But despite these precautions, the planes dropped the 500 lb bombs on our positions burying the platoon next to ours. I can still remember the horror as we tried to dig these men out in the vain hope of finding some of them alive.

After the Burma Road Battle, I remember being reassigned to a Headquarters unit in Chungking, China after a stay in the hospital recovering from Malaria and Jungle Rot. I had been offered a Commission as a Second Lieutenant but was turned down when I was unable to pass a physical due to poor eyesight. As a result of this physical I was considered no longer fit for combat duty and was reassigned again. I was flown over the Hump in a DC-3 and can remember flying through the mountains and looking out on each side of the plane and seeing mountain peaks towering above us on each side of the plane. As we flew through the passes, the motor began icing up and it appeared for a time as though we were in great danger of crashing. As there were no parachutes aboard, we were all naturally frightened. However, the pilot managed to descend low enough to get the engines restarted and we arrived at our destination safely.

Our service in China was relatively uneventful and toward the end of the war, we were moved to Shanghai where we were billeted in a modern hotel and were actually living very well. It was from there that I returned to the United States for discharge after the war ended. Isadore Lurie, 808 N Mc Kean St, Kittanning, PA 16201, 5307/2/R 475/2/F CO.

PASS IN REVIEW (Deaths reported recently)

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

- JOHN R ASCHENBACH, 260 RED FIR RD, HOPE ID 83836, 5307/2 /BCI/P&D, January 1996
- JOSEPH J BONFIGLIO, 922 S BROAD ST., ASHLAND, OH 44805, 5307/2 BCT; 475/HQ, November 24, 1995
- WARREN R COBILL, 6 MAIN ST APT #10 SPENCERMA01562, 617-885-4755, 5307/HQ, January 4, 1996
- WALLACE H DICKINSON, DELMAR DE, 5307TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1996
- HAROLD G FARTHING, PO BOX 1403 BOONE NC 28602, 704-264-8315, 475/2/HQ CO; September 13, 1995
- C WILLIAM JOHNSON, 646 W RIO SAN PEDRO, GREEN VALLEY AZ 85614, 5307/2/H CO; 475/1/D, November 16, 1995
- RALPH KOUROYEN, 296 BLUE BEARD DR. NO FT MYERS FL 33903, 5307/1/WCT, March, 1996
- LAVERNE KRESSIN, 4230 45TH AV, KENOSHA WI 53142-1934, 5307TH, PO NOTICE, February 1996 B/N
- ELMER J KUCZOR, 2120 W ROGERS ST, MILWAUKEE WI 53204-3625, 414-383-9151, 5307/3/ OCTOBER 24, 1994
- JAMES LARRABEE, 8422 ADOREE ST, DOWNEY CA 90242, 475/3/1 CO, March 1996
- JOHN H LATTIN, COL, US ARMY RET, MASTER PARACHUTIST - OVER 1100 JUMPS, 475/2 BN/HQ/COMMANDING., 878 SW KINGSWAY CIR UNIT D-3, ARCADIA FL 33821-7539, 813-627-9794, MARCH 16, 1996. BURIED ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS, MARCH 20, 1996
- WARREN R LEE, 5814 NO LAKEWOOD DR. PANAMA CITY FL 32404, January 4, 1989
- ROBERT T REANEY, 11 NARRAGANSE'IT ST, DORCHESTERMA02122, 475/3/- Date Unknown
- WILLIAM D ROYCE, ZION IL, 5307; 475, DECEMBER 1, 1993
- JOSEPH K SCHUBERT, 6147 SO RIDGEWOOD AV LOT 40, PORT ORANGE FL 32019, 5307/2/HQ; 475/2/F/3 PL, July 31, year unknown
- GERALD T SILVEY, 122 CLEARFIELD DR, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94132, 5307/1/A CO; 475/1 /A CO, 1986
- LEO B WILDMAN, 1836 WILD RIVER DR ROSEBURG OR 97470, 5307/3 /OCT/RADIO OP, DIED 1/25/96 @ST MARY'S HOSPITAL, TUCSON

LIFE

LIFE IS LIKE A JOURNEY
TAKEN ON A TRAIN,
WITH A PAIR OF TRAVELERS
AT EACH WINDOW PANE.
I MAY SIT BESIDE YOU ALL
THE JOURNEY THROUGH,
OR I MAY SIT ELSEWHERE
NEVER KNOWING YOU;
BUT, IF FATE SHOULD MAKE
ME, TO SIT AT YOUR SIDE,
LETS BE PLEASANT
TRAVELERS. IT'S SO SHORT A
RIDE.
COURTESY OF AL FEDDER

- Letters -

EDITOR

Enclosed is a check for \$52.00. This sum represents one dollar for each year since we were freed from Nhpum Ga on Easter Sunday, 1944. It is still very vivid in my mind. Phil Christner, 5307/2/BcT/I&R PLAT SGT, 499 Darwin Dr., Cheektowaga NY 14225-1013.

EDITOR

I would like to find out if there are any officers of Merrill's Marauders who came over from the Chinese Combat Command, Y Force, or Z Force during the desperate days in Central Burma.

I was part of Z Force but was on detached duty in the United States at the time these Infantry officers were shipped from China to Burma. I would like to secure the names and addresses of any of these officers who might still be around. Robert S Zigman; , 10246 N Westport Cir, Mequon, WI 53092, 414-241-4144.

EDITOR

As for Merrill's Marauders becoming a "Last Man Club," it is inevitable that at some future date the last one of us will finally pass away! However, it won't be the same fate as the Fighting 69th of brief WW I fame, or the legendary Flying Tigers. As magnificent as they were in battle, they never became a post war parent unit.

As you know, when the 75th Ranger Regiment was reactivated after WW II, the search for a worthy parent unit began. The criteria was that the unit had been composed entirely of volunteers, had operated behind enemy lines in time of war, and had never been defeated. It boiled down to two units; Jeb Stuart and his gallant men of Civil War fame, and Merrill's Marauders. Merrill's Marauders met that criteria with a couple of pluses.

Our victory at Wawabum was called "an astounding success!" We covered 500 miles entirely on foot through what Winston Churchill described as "the most forbidding jungle imaginable!" Our crossing of the Kumon Mountain Range was hailed by Lord Louis Mountbatten as "the epic infantry advance of the war!" The highest possible accolade that any fighting unit can

receive is one comes from the enemy himself. During an interview after the war, General Tanaka stated that at the time, he was convinced that the Americans had fielded a full strength Division, and that it wasn't until after the war that he learned he had been facing only a single American Regiment!

Since the Rangers proudly trace their heritage to Merrill's Marauders, we will live in memory for as long as there is a single Ranger in the U. S. Army! Knowing this, I for one shall rest in peace. John Devine, 6360 Day St, Tujunga CA 91042, 5307/3/Km

EDITOR:

I am a Merrill's Marauder. I seined in Burma with the 5307th. I came from Company E, 35th Infantry, 25th Division, when I got word to go on a secret Mission that was for the Burma Campaign. I heard about you from Lester Hallenback of Deltona FL. Would also like to know if you have any information about James E Mc Cure and Doc Stelling? They were in my unit. Thomas A Du Bois, ASN 16014271, Sgt, 106 Freedom Cir, Grants Pass OR 97527.

EDITOR:

As a former member of the "Ranger-Type" Company E (LRP), 51ST INFANTRY (Airborne), in the Vietnam Conflict, I can truly say that we tried to live up to the Marauder standards during the Conflict.

The Merrill's Marauders were the first modern Ranger-type Long Range Penetration Group (Special "LRPS" unit). We, E-51st LRP just

want to be recognized as being the same type of unit.

Many of our veterans were almost forced out of the picture when the unit changed to Ranger in lieu of LRRP or LRP's. At one time the Ranger tab was only to be issued to the the men that served in the Vietnam Ranger Companies from February 1969 to November 1972. The LRRP and LRP's from 1965 to 1969 were not included although they were a (Provisional) Ranger-type element that proceeded the lettered Ranger Companies. The Tab was promised to us during the Vietnam Conflict.

When we straddle the fine line called Ranger and Ranger-type in January 1969, it suddenly got hazy in the US Army hierarch and the Ranger School, as to who was a Ranger.

My question is this, "Why is it so hard to understand that the Ranger Tab was earned by both 'Ranger type LURPS' and the 'Lettered Ranger' companies with their record and performance within a combat setting?"

It is impossible to explain to a man that served as a LURP or a Ranger in the same organization, doing the same job as a LURP that the Ranger can get the Tab but not the LURP. Who taught the new Ranger how to perform his job on the battlefield? The LURP.

That is why the LURPS are unhappy. From the beginning nobody wanted to do this type of work. Yet, they are telling him he is not Ranger enough. John "Gunner" Starnes, 180 Bienville Dr, Fayetteville NC 28311, RANGER; LRRP/51 INF/E CO

LOST, STRAYED OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THESE GUYS? MAIL RETURNED BY PO AS UNKNOWN:

- PATSY CLARK, 6892 Kenay Dr, Tallahassee FL 32311, No such number?
DONALD G FOWLER 2365 West 134th Av, San Leandro CA 94577, FWD
ORD EXP
LAWRENCE E LINDSAY, 8 Kent Rd, Salisbury NC 28144, No such
number?
CECIL D COGHILL, 14 N Ridgeland, Oak Park IL 60302, No such number?
WARREN G HARDY, PO Box 313, %Blanton, Mooresville NC ATT DEL
NOT KNOWN.
HENRY E FRANKLIN, RT 3 Box 186H, Oxford NC 27565, FWD ORD EXP
PHIFER PR CRAWLEY, RT 1 Box 482, Morganton NC 28655, FWD ORD
EXP
JOHN SCHLIEGELMEYER 301 Rosary Villa Rd, Ponchatoula LA 704454,
505-294-5768, NO SUCH NUMBER
HARRY HERMAN, 557 Sheridan Dr, Lexington KY 40503, MOVED NO
FWD ORD
CHARLES W PELTIER 4009 E 900 N, N Manchester IN 46962-8435,
FWD ORD EXP

Return to Myanmar

A veterans' group revisits Burma after 50 years

By Kitty Delorey Fleischman (Don's daughter)

"Welcome Jungle Fighters"

From the perspective of 50 years down the road, many things had changed, but the beauty of the people remained much as they remembered, and the signs of welcome were everywhere.

A half-century changes a lot. Soldiers who had gone into battle as teens and young men, returned as grandfathers. Even the name of the country had changed--Burma is now Myanmar. Myitkyina has gone from a village of 10,000 to a thriving city of over 1 million. The airstrip that saw the comings and goings of a buzz of Allied planes has now been replaced by a modern airport.

For the first time in a half century, veterans of the World War II China-Burma-India Theatre stood on the soil where many of them had served with Merrill's Marauders. A flood of memories brought to life comrades who had perished 50 years earlier and turned the peaceful countryside back into the battlefield of long ago where the cream of the Japanese Army--including the famed Chrysanthemum Division of the Emperor--was turned back, in a rout as complete as it was unexpected.

Popular opinion was certain the Japanese Army couldn't be defeated. The forces that were sent to fight them were a throwaway force sent merely to delay the Japanese. But the military genius of Gen. "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, Gen. Frank D. Merrill and Col. Charles Hunter, as well as the sheer bravery, determination and grit of

the troops which followed them, proved to be decisive advantages for the Allies.

In a February 1995 tour arranged by B/Gen. Robert L. Castorr, to commemorate the end of the second Burma campaign, a group of 25, including American veterans and survivors of veterans, made the pilgrimage to retrace the steps of the famed Merrill's Marauders, as guests of the Myanmar government.

Three weeks later, on the Big Island of Hawaii, as we sit next to a golf course on a warm, sunny day, I asked my father, retired Capt. Donald W. Delorey, to tell about the trip back in time when the tour arranged by Castorr took them to the place where, as young men, they had repelled the Japanese Army and changed the course of history.

For me the trip has double importance. Not only was my father in Merrill's Marauders, my mother, Mary Jane Healy Delorey was a nurse who served with the 44th Field Hospital and the 69th General Hospital. He was also retracing the steps of their courtship as they crossed paths in India and Burma.

Delorey first heard about this trip at a meeting of the Burma Star Association. As the group assembled, he was pleased to find several of his friends among the travelers.

Roy Matsumoto, a former Marauder was named as a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, for his gallantry in the battle of Nhpum Ga

Ted "Zak" Zakotnik was a member of the First Battalion of "Old Galahad."

Richard Gillette was a machine gunner in the first campaign. He was 20-years old when he complained to Lt. Delorey that he hadn't made corporal yet. Although he was a fine soldier, Delorey kidded him, "I wouldn't make you a corporal if you were the last man in the squad." TWO days later, he came back to restate his claim, saying that he was the last man in the squad.

Lloyd "Cheeseburger" Hackenberg served in both campaigns with the 5307th and 475th. When the 17-year old first showed up in camp, Delorey told him to go and shave. It was his first time.

Dave Quaid served the Marauders as a photographer during both campaigns. He also serves as the Historian for the Marauders, and is a constant source of accurate information on the unit.

Many of the other travelers went either because of their interest as veterans, or in some cases, as sons and grandsons of men who had served.

Although time had changed many features of the land, peace had made the biggest differences. Rice paddies the Marauders had waded across knee deep in water and under fire from the Japanese looked much smaller during the dry season and without the constant rat-a-tat of machine gun fire.

But, that is another part of the story.

The tour started off with an elegant dinner in Washington, D.C. at the home of Ambassador & Mrs. U Thaung from the Embassy of the
(Continued on page 9)



Ted Zakotnik with Kachin girls, Myitkyina



Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin, commander of Northern Command with Roy Matsumoto, Myitkyina

Myanmar . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Union of Myanmar.

It was the first of many parties to which the group was treated. After their arrival in Myanmar, as they went from town to town, it seemed almost as though each town was vying to outdo the festivities in the town before it.

Dancers, singers and children in beautiful, lavish costumes greeted the group wherever it went. Signs welcoming the veterans' entourage were posted at the gates of the cities and often along the roads. The veterans were a staple on the nightly newscasts and in the daily newspapers.

Major General Saw Lwin, commander of the Northern Command, took the group on a boat tour down the Irrawaddy River, followed by a sumptuous dinner with entertainment provided by students from the university at Myitkyina.

Major General & Madame Aye Kyaw of the North East Command at Lashio hosted a trip to baths at a hot springs and presented the group with lavishly hand-em-

broidered vests and carvings of elephants.

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, presented each veteran with the Myanmar Government's Medal of Freedom, the highest award they had, thanking them for their assistance in fighting off the Japanese invaders. They also were presented with green berets, the symbol of Myanmar's own elite forces.

At Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, the veterans were joined by Esther Puo Ja Naw, a 73-year old nurse who had served with Dr. Seagraves and had traveled with his hospital into India as they had fled the advancing Japanese. Gary Layton had located her and invited her to join the group.

Following the liberation of Myitkyina, Seagraves' medical team followed Stilwell back into Burma to reestablish the hospital. Esther Po Ja Naw was presented with a Bronze Star by General Stilwell for her work. Her husband found the decoration and with pride had asked her to wear it to

the dinner with the veterans.

In town after town, the group was warmly welcomed. As they toured the temples and marketplaces, Buddhist monks, grandmothers and little children let their pictures be taken with the veterans. "Everywhere we went, we were treated with such courtesy and respect," Delorey said. "The people were so warm and so kind to us. One 94-year-old man who had served with the American forces came 50 miles to see us.

The trip also had personal aspects for each. As sons and grandsons tried to re-capture the images that were sometimes the last seen by their fathers or grandfathers, my father had his picture taken on the rocks on the banks of the Irrawaddy River where he and my mother had first planned their lives together. He found the site where her hospital used to stand. And he sat at the spot where they used to watch "Bedcheck Charlie," a Japanese airman with a notoriously bad aim, try each night to unsuccessfully unload his bombs on the airstrip.

(Continued on page 10)



Art Wilson at Lashio



Lloyd R. Hackenberg, Ted Zakotnik
Charles Hattaway



Roy Matsumoto and Don Delorey
Barani Hotel, Yangon



Richard Gillette, Barani Hotel,
Yangon

Myanmar . . .

(Continued from page 9)

For 50 years, we younger Deloreys heard the story of "Babu," a little girl, around six years old, and Dad hoped to find out the fate of little Babu.

As the Marauders had approached Myitkyina, they arranged with the village leader to allow the residents an opportunity to escape the coming clash of the armies. The village people were to walk straight down the middle of the road in the morning so they could be certain no Japanese soldiers were hiding in their midst.

Fearing for their safety, the villagers had instead come through the jungles. Thinking it was a Japanese ambush, the Marauders had opened fire. Several people were injured before the soldiers realized what had happened, and a grief-stricken grandfather carrying the injured little girl, calling her "Babu" as he went, etched a place deep in my father's heart.

He hoped to find Babu, but at least, through a man from the village who had been 16-years old at the time and remembered the incident, found answers to several of his questions, and received some assurance that at least she probably was alright as the group of villagers was rushed to the hospital for care.

Outside of Yangon the group toured an international cemetery for Allied soldiers. Even a half-century later, there were tears for fallen heroes. "Tommy, we love you even through you're buried far away. Mom," the brass plaque read. It was a message that could have been signed by many mothers whose sons never returned.

After leaving Burma, the group entered Thailand and was taken to the site of the Bridge on the River



**Kenneth I. Gumaer,
Barani Hotel, Yangon**

Kwai. Again, even time can't heal all wounds as many who had suffered during tough years of war saw testimony of the terrible suffering that was endured by the prisoners who were forced--many for up to four years--to live on a handful of rice each day while they toiled to build the bridge that would have supplied the northern railhead into Burma for the Japanese Army.

Frequent bombings kept the bridge from being as useful as it was intended but did nothing to relieve the suffering of the prisoners who then had to begin re-building it.

The trip to Burma was a trek that took the group entirely around the world and 50 years back in time as well.

Speaking for myself, it was wonderful to even hear about the trip. My father is no longer a young man, but to us "kids" he still is every inch a hero. I know it meant the world to him to be able to go back to Burma, a place he has always loved.

Shortly before my mother died, my parents were returning from the grocery store one snowy winter afternoon in Michigan. As my dad struggled to hold my increasingly-frail mother's arm and manage a number of packages as well, he finally decided to leave the packages for a subsequent trip and help her first. Turning to him, she said, "When I first met you, you acted like you owned the jungle, and now look at you, you've turned into a whimp!" Offended at first, my father, who fought in both campaigns with the Marauders and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, a Presidential Citation and a personal letter from Harry S Truman, finally decided that at age 75, he had a right to be a whimp if he wanted.

As for my dad, he still can scarcely believe that he was back in Burma. It was a wonderful experience. In his own words: "It was a real privilege to be with such a the group of men, to be part of a group that was able to do the things Gen. Castorr arranged for us to do.

"It was the trip of a lifetime."

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During a political debate one heckler's nonstop verbal abuse was irking candidates and audience alike. The loudmouth met his match, however, when he interrupted a speaker with a raucous, "I wouldn't vote for you if you were St Peter!" "You couldn't!" shot back the candidate. "If I were St Peter, you wouldn't be in my district."

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"I like the wife I've got, but I'd never get another one," the man said. "It's a lifetime work getting used to one person."



Castorr, Matsumoto and Kachin girls, Myitkyina



Ted Zakotnik with four Kachin veterans in Myitkyina

Sharing the Story

Recollections from Myitkyina Battle

I often have men stop by to talk. Many times, they have difficulty recalling what outfit they were in and what they did. Jack Gallagher was one of these. Then, Jack Gallagher turned up at my home on June 1, 1990, with his finally remembered stories. One of the items that helped him remember was a small 2%5" notebook with a Red Cross on the front which he had used as a diary. Here are his notes:

John J Gallagher, ASN 33585880, Co M, 5307th Composite Unit, Left States on USS General Butner, on April 23, 1944. Left from Newport News, VA. Arrived Capetown, South Africa, May 10, 1944. Had 12 hour leave. Left May 11. Arrived Durban, South Africa, May 13th. Left same day. Arrive Mombasa on 15th and left next morning. Arrived Bombay, May 26th. Embarked on four-day train trip to Ramgarh, India. May 31, arrived at some airfield in North India. June 1 flew in to Myitkyina Air Strip.

June 3rd, went forward to front lines. During this time, June 1st to July 1st we were constantly under slight shelling and sniping. However, attacks and counterattacks were bloody. Jap mortar and machine gun fire were murderous. Casualties were heavy every time. Immediately after, our battalion forced a road block to the river in North Myitkyina, cutting off Jap supplies in that area, I sighted about 20 Japs crossing the road 750 yards away. We hit the spot with all the artillery we had and the next day attacked. I remained with a machine gun at the CP and did not participate in the actual attack. They found the Japs dug in a 6 foot under ground and we took an awful beating. Time after time, we attacked and the same thing happened each time. I had moved up in the meantime to another squad that had been suffering severe casualties.

During the time at the CP, I had a funny experience. At night, every two fellows stood guard, one hour on and one hour off. At 3:15 one morning, I heard a light swishing noise. I could not see to the rear or side of my foxhole and it had been raining. Four men glided by my foxhole about 12 feet away and turned behind a clump of bushes. It was

only in the last second that I recognized them to be Japs. Since it had been raining, I had my rifle and grenades on the side out of reach and I had no chance to get any of the four. I regret it to this day. I was in quite a bit more action before returning to the air strip on July 1st. Maybe that wasn't a hell of a march.

On the 26th of July, our Battalion again went to the front. I was there for six days. Five days we attacked. Five days we caught hell. I believe our casualties were at least 65% then and they were still pushing.

We, the fellows who came over on the boat with me are called the 5307th Composite Unit. We are the Second and Third Battalions of the Marauders. We are supposed to be experienced jungle fighters but I don't believe there are 400 left of the original men. Their training came from Panama. Half of the men aren't even Infantry men. Engineers were fighting when we got there, and we have Field Artillery men, QM, Horse Cavalry and Medics fighting. Somebody ought to be court-martialed for this blunder.

When we came to Myitkyina, we were only to stay four days and no one had equipment and what we had, we lost. Most could not be replaced. I finally got a tooth brush.

On July 31, at 10:00 in the morning, I was standing in I Co CP when a sniper hit me in the left back. The bullet passed through the left side causing little damage. One hour and a half later, I was operated on and slit from one hole to the other and dead skin cut out. I don't believe the Jap was more than 100 or 150 yards away. I was flown from the field hospital to the air strip in a cub plane, transferred to a hospital plane and flown to Ledo. I was there on August 1st.

August 2nd. Move to another ward and feeling fine. Can stand but I am cut for five inches and it has to heal. Have two of our Lieutenants in ward with us. I found that one company has 20 men left out of 220. I believe there is a day coming when someone will shoot the Battalion Commander.

Today received secondary sutures. Received novocain local. Quite some pain. Probably more when local wears off.

September 11th. Leaving hospital for convalescent 1300 hours. Still slight drainage and would slightly open.

September 21, 1944. Still draining and might have infection. Will probably see Doctor in day or two.

October till November. Convalescent hospital.

November 13 - Returned to Camp Landis, Myitkyina.

November 16- Started Second Campaign.

December 8 - Marched 165 miles with several day breaks. Mission changed four times so far. Moving out tomorrow.

December 25 - Arrived at Tonkwa three days ago. Plenty of packages and plenty of Japs. Am going on another patrol.

January 1, 1945. On trail behind Jap lines moving east toward Burma Road.

January 16 - Been on trail for quite some time.

January 25- On 16th we walked all day and night and got short breaks. On 17th we walked all day and night to get in position to hit Burma Road.

January 18 - Hit hill overlooking road. Light opposition. There had been heavy artillery and quite a few casualties.

January 26 - Other Battalions holding. Second had heavy casualties. Enright (friend from St. Joseph College) went off to hospital. Cavalry lost heavily by foolish move. Bayonet charge.

May - In China. All fighting over for us. JOHN J GALLAGHER, 6443 Yank Ct, #C, Arvada, CO 80004, 5307/3/HQ/HW; 475/3/HQ/HW.

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My doctor told me to cut down or red meat, so, I stopped putting ketchup on my hamburgers.

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At one time everybody thought the world was flat. Then they decided it was round. Today we all know it is crooked.

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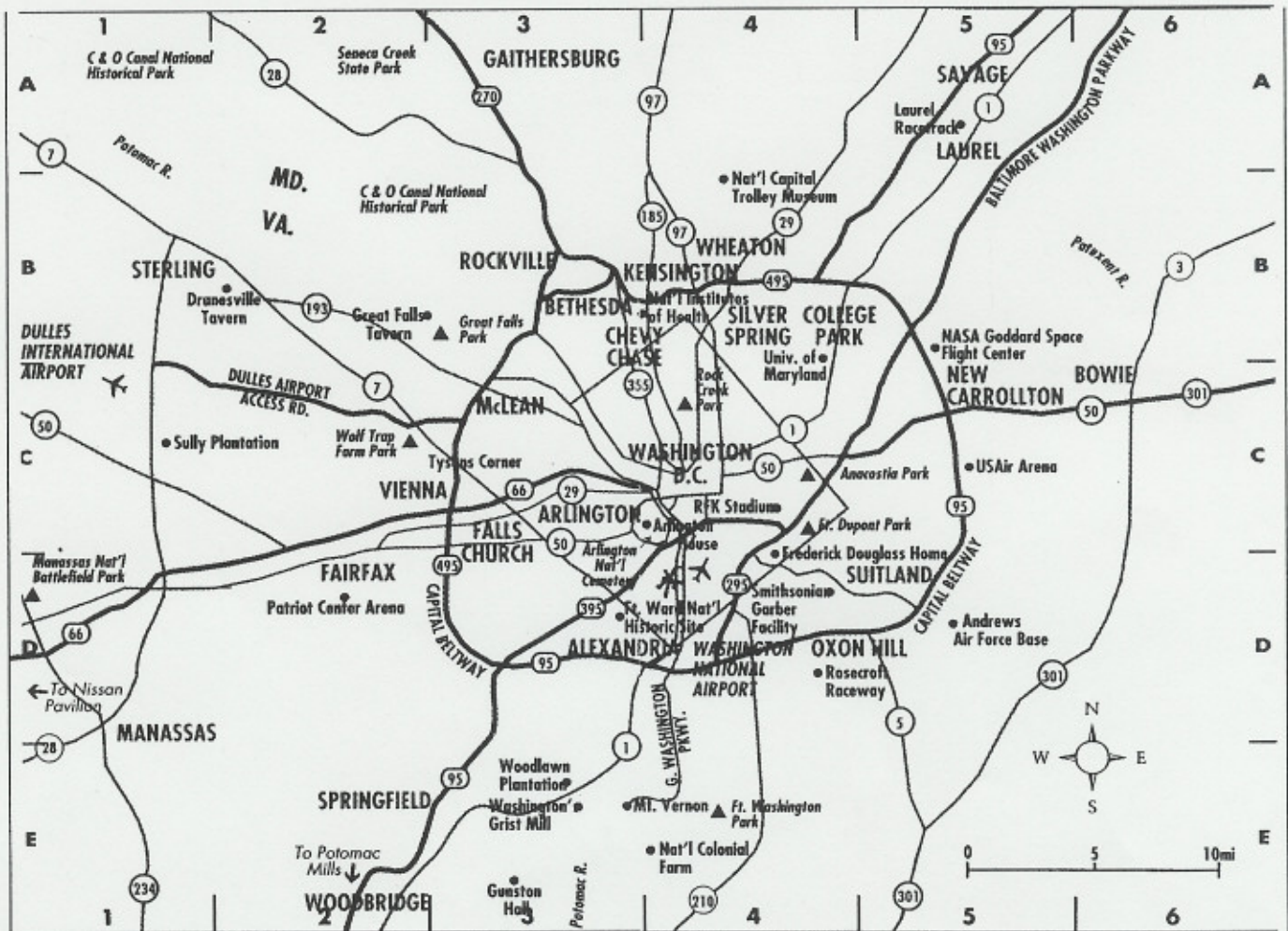
Class Reunion: That's where you meet the people that used to be the same age as you.

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Another grandchild joke: Where do the fish keep their money? - In river banks! Which musical instrument do dogs like best? - A trombone.

Area Map of Washington, DC

The Hyatt Regency is on Route #1, north of Alexandria where the airport symbol is seen.



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

RAYMOND V. LYONS
Editor

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