

ledo WALAWBUM inkangawtaung nhpum-ga shaduzup MYITKYINA



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November, 1996

Fiftieth Reunion - The Biggest So Far Hyatt Regency Crystal City VA Reunion

We had a big crowd. Perhaps the most ever. We had new members and old members and young people as well. The young (a relative term) appear to be getting interested in the family business.

Friday Night we had an address by Maj. Gen John K Singlaub (Ret). During WWII, he jumped into occupied France to organize, train, and lead French Resistance groups against the Germans. Then he went to China to train and lead Chinese guerrillas against the Japanese. Just before the war ended, he led a parachute rescue mission against the Japanese behind enemy lines which resulted in the surrender of an enemy Prisoner of War camp and the release of 400 Allied prisoners. After the war, he served 3 years as Chief of Military Liaison Mission to Mukden, Manchuria. He served two tours during the Korean War, one in the CIA and the other as an Infantry Battalion Commander. He was CO, Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force and later served as Assistant Division CO, 8th Infantry Division in Germany.

Saturday Night we had another excellent speech by Brig Gen David Grange. Platoon Leader 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne, and 75th Infantry in Viet Nam. Served in many capacities in the 5th Special Forces Group and Delta Force. Served in Korea as CO 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, Delta Force. Operations Officer in Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. CO of 75th Ranger Regiment, and Deputy CO US Special Operations Command, Assistant Division CO 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Army, Germany. Presently Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization Office, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Washington DC.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the Membership was held in the Regency Suites, E & F, starting at 12:50 PM on Saturday, 8/31/96. Msgr Glavin gave the Invocation.

Motion to dispense with the Reading of the Minutes because they are printed in the BURMAN NEWS by Stephens, Sec by Passanisi. Approved without objection.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Herb Clofine: Merrill's Marauders Association 49th Reunion 1995 - Receipts from Registration \$4547.50.

Sales	\$ 7845.50
Total	\$12393.00

Expenses:

Hotel	726.43
Band.....	400.00
UPS	135.38
Misc.	28.00
Total Expenses.....	1289.81
Gross Income.....	\$11103.19

Balance 8/21/95	\$8747.01
Deposits.....	22821.81
Interest.....	142.10
	\$31710.59
Checks Paid	23730.77
Balance 8/21/96.....	7979.82
Executive Secretary Acct.....	\$211.04
	8190.86

Accounts Payable.....	1971.52
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Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Made, seconded and unan. approved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Attendance at Saturday Night Banquet - 515

Donations received at this year's Reunion:

Thursday:\$2725; Friday: \$2128; Saturday: \$245. = \$5,098.00.

Last year donations at Reunion: \$4,457.50

Mail donations received during the year - 127 - Amount : \$3,212.00

(Continued on page 2)



475/1 Co/3rd Platoon at Washington, DC reunion. Back row, left to right: Gary Snedegar, George Koppel, Francis Ponder, Henry Kennedy, Charles VonGunten, Edward Manzi, John Schetfele, Gordon Griffith. Front row: Jim Stevens, Bill Mohr, Joe Bernardi, Bob MacDonald, Eliseo Fernandez, Richard Hale.

Reunion . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Last year mail 157 donations:
3,394.00.

Expenses year to date, postage, stationery, Burman News, etc \$5,055.99. Compared to last year: \$6,652.98.

Sent out 666 pieces of mail + 5,238 copies of B/N

Balance in Sec'y S & L Acct 8/22/96 - \$211.04 Compared to last year: \$560.53

Members 1425 - Honoraries 326

We have finally printed and assembled copies of "Galahad" by Col Hunter. They are available for \$30 per copy. We have also assembled the BURMAN NEWS in two volumes. The first one from 1979 to May 1990 - 240 pages will cost \$48. The second half from Nov 1990 to May 1996 - 248 pages will cost \$50. Individual copies of B/N issues are still available at \$.20 per page.

A new Television Documentary, THE LAST HORSE SOLDIERS, has been produced by a PBS TV Station in Harlingen TX. Dave Quaid helped provide them with film material and sources. He has reviewed it and says it is not bad. It has to do with the 124th Cavalry, part of the Mars Task Force. Currently a copy costs \$24.95. He will provide the name and address to order the copies.

We understand that the Army has created a Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk LA to teach the tactics of small unit sized penetrations behind enemy lines and Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols. For information write DAVID S BINGHAM, HISTORIAN/CURATOR, FORT POLK HISTORICAL HOLDING, PO BOX 3916, FT POLK LA 71459-0916. They are looking for one of the Original patches to display at their museum.

We have learned from Chaplain Jim Davis that there is a program underway to provide scholarships to members of the Chin/Kachin people to obtain a U.S. degree. Money is needed for the program to cover travel, maintenance at universities and incidental expenses. Anyone interested should contact Kenneth A Rogers, Associate Dean and Director Office of International Services, Franklin Hall 306, Bloomington IN 47405-2802, 812-855-9086.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Audited

the books of the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary. Satisfactory results.

HISTORIAN DAVE QUAID.

The mantle should be passed on to someone else. I am video taping all of our photos, every bit of material. (Phil Piazza - At our Board of Directors meeting it was decided to nominate Bob Passanisi to replace Dave and to appoint Jackson Pokress as the Public Relations Officer and Leo Laferriere to be Deputy Historian.

LIAISON OFFICER: DAVE RICHARDSON. Norman Janis and Clarence Branscomb were both elected to the Ranger Hall of Fame. Janis principally because of his sharpshooting ability. On one occasion at Walawbum, the Japanese were setting up a machine gun to shoot at the Logan Weston I&R Platoon which was retreating across the river. Janis picked off four men one shot at a time. Branscomb was picked to do the nighttime Recon patrol of the Myitkyina Air Strip. He started out with seven men but cutdown to two men and himself when they reached the airstrip. They covered the entire strip and determined that the work crews had left and the field had no defenses set up. He then radioed this information to Col Hunter, which permitted the early morning attack and capture of the field without any opposition.

We obtained letters from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Army Chief of Staff and the President which will be distributed at the Banquet. There will be an Operation Overlord '97 for all of the Ranger Veterans. It will cover England - Normandy - Paris, from June 2 to 11, 1997. Cost approximately \$2,000. Contact Ranger Art Silsby USARA, Operation Overlord '97, Box 341, Gordon GA 31031-0341, Phone 912-628-2406.

PRESIDENT - PHIL PIAZZA

We kept up with the many Ranger affairs during the year - Change in Command, Best Ranger Competition, Ranger Rendezvous. We placed an inscription on the Merrill's Marauders Monument for the American Niseis - cost was absorbed by an individual donation. The Ranger Memorial has turned out to be a beautiful attraction. We raised \$550,000 to build it within the Ranger fraternity. Now raising money to

establish perpetual care of the grounds. Donations \$500. The School of the Americas Building is to be taken over for Ranger/Special Forces Museum at Ft Benning. A Ranger Credit Card is available.

We award two Silver Compasses to each of eleven Ranger Training Classes. It is the most treasured award. Previously donated \$150 to the various camps. Now given to NCO and EM of the year. Kukris given out one to each unit. Donations used for that purpose. It is requested that members do not conduct sales programs in the reunion hotel that conflict with our sales, such as selling coffee cups.

CHAPLAIN**MSGR EDWARD GLAVIN**

It would be good if we notify the officers when someone dies so that they in turn can attempt to have nearby members attend funerals.

Tony Bushur - Report on plastic card program. We received 2326 letters and sent out 1168 with plastic cards. It cost us \$1802.58. Received \$1808.50 in donations to pay for program.

From floor - WW II Magazine issue of Jan 1997 will have article on Mars Task Force.

Mike Mc Laughlin - The younger group of Honoraries has agreed to provide help at Lobby Desk and at Airports with luggage and other problems.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS-

By Dave Quaid.

Nomination of **Executive Secretary** - Ray Lyons, nominated and seconded. Nominations closed motion, seconded. All in favor - unanimous.

Nomination of **Historian** - Robert Passanisi by George Rose. Unanimously voted.

SELECTION OF NEXT**REUNION SITE:**

PROPOSALS: #1 - HILTON INN, Huntsville AL - Space Station by Jim Collins. Package Rate two persons - \$276. Single package \$225. Rooms European rate \$64. single, \$69 double. Free parking.

#2 - HOLIDAY INN - UNIVERSITY PLAZA, Springfield MO - by Tony Bushur. Package rate for double - \$277, two nights, four meals. Single package rate - \$209. European room rate - \$\$71. Total Meal Package - \$67.50 Proposed date be changed to August 3rd.

#3 - MYRTLE BEACH HILTON,

(Continued on page 3)

Myrtle Beach SC - by Phil Piazza.
 Package Rate for double \$373.
 European room rate \$98.50.

#4 - HILTON GATEWAY,
 Orlando FL - by Charles Ketcham.
 Route 192. Package rate for double
 (King size beds-mini refrigerators)
 \$289. Two nights, four meals
 (Friday supper, Saturday Brunch,
 Saturday Banquet - Free Cocktail
 Hour before Banquet, Sunday
 Brunch). Single package rate -
 \$199. European room rate - \$57.
 No parking charge for cars. Yes -
 charge for RV's. Charge for
 transport from Airport \$25. Deli
 bar. Two pools. I mile from
 Disneyland. Handicapped rooms.
 Free transportation to nearby
 attractions. Walking distance to
 nearby shops and restaurants.

Vote results for Reunion sites:

- #1 - Huntsville AL 4
 - #2 - Springfield MO 51
 - #3 - Myrtle Beach SC 10
 - #4 - Orlando FL 54
- Chuck Ketcham Reunion Chair-
 man.

Adjourn meeting 2:20 PM.

LETTERS . . .

EDITOR

My Uncle, Harold Joseph
 Weldon (Chick), ASN 31019484,
 was Acting Staff Sgt from Lt Abe
 Weingartens Platoon, 5307/3. Can
 anyone in the Association tell me
 anything about the incident at
 Walawbum, Burma where he and
 his squad wiped out a machine gun
 emplacement? Ray Weldon, 4055
 W 129th St, Apt 1, Hawthorne CA
 90250, Phone # 310-679-9655

EDITOR

I was in the 2nd Bn, Green Ct
 since the Marauders inception. My
 rank was Staff Sgt. I was wounded
 at Nhpum GA and sent to a
 Ledo Hospital. Marty Auerback,
 1005 Hampton Ct, Mc Henry IL
 60651.

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A swanky seafood restaurant
 that caters to the elite society
 advertises: "Our fish come from
 only the best schools."

QUEEN OF BATTLES!

Infantry is Queen of Battles, and
 far reaching is her fame
 As the guardian of Liberty, the
 Keeper of the Flame.
 From Lexington to Yorktown, in our
 early history,
 The fate of our young nation rested
 on the Infantry!

"Independence" was the watchword
 in the musket fire and smoke,
 As freedom loving Minute Men
 threw off the foreign yoke.
 Devising special tactics as they
 fought from tree to tree,
 They founded a tradition of the
 U.S. Infantry!

Now our mortar teams give fire
 support with well directed
 rounds,
 As rifle men with bayonets move in
 to take the ground.
 And when the final war is fought, it
 will be proved again,
 That victory in battle still depends
 on rifle men!

Infantry is Queen of Battle, and far
 reaching is her fame.
 As the guardian of Liberty, the
 Keeper of the Flame.
 Unfurl the flags of Freedom's might
 and all the world will see,
 The Regimental colors of the
 U.S. Infantry!

- John Devine, 5307/3/KCT

HEADQUARTERS 475TH INFANTRY

A. P. O. #218
 21 November 1944

GENERAL ORDER)
 :
 NUMBER 12)

Awards of the Combat Infantryman Badge I
 Amendments to General Orders - Awards II

I. AWARDS OF THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE:

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.

- BAGLEY, Edgar S.**, 19101573 T/3
- COBB, Stanley G.**, 6146967 S/Sgt
- CURCIO, Frank D.**, 32805899 Pvt *
- JOHNSON, Robert Allen.**, O442409 1st Lt
- KIRSTEN, Marvin J.**, 13129811 T/4
- LATTIN, John N.**, O451634 Major
- STILL, Daniel E.**, O19510 Lt Col

II. Amendment to General Orders - Awards

So much of Par 1, GO #3, this Hq, cs, dated 25 August 1944, as per-
 tains to MOLDER, Harold R 38107034, Pfc, is hereby corrected to read:
 MOLDER, **Carroll R**, 38107034 Pfc

By order of Colonel EASTERBROOK:

OFFICIAL:
 T. J. DALTON
 WOJG, USA
 Asst Adj

EDWIN A ROTHSCHILD
 1st Lt., Infantry
 Adjutant

NEW BOOK

**Faces of War -
 Korean Vignettes**

by Art Wilson.

An excellent well done version of
 what happened to the American
 Soldiers in Korea. 201 Korean
 Vignettes tell part of their story.
 Loaded with pictures which dram-
 atize the war. Order from Artwork
 Publications, PO Box 25105,
 Portland OR 97298, Hardcopy.
 Cost \$21.00 + \$4.00 S&H if check
 or MO.

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Everybody can be done without,
 but at the same time they are
 missed.

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT - Phil Piazza

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - Ray Lyons

We understand that the Army has created a Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk La to teach the tactics of small unit sized penetrations behind enemy lines and Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols. For information write DAVID S BINGHAM, HISTORIAN/CURATOR, FORT POLK HISTORICAL HOLDING, PO BOX 3916, FT POLK LA 71459-0916. They are looking for one of the Original 475th patches to display at their museum.

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There is an Army Quartermaster Foundation, Inc., PO Box A, Ft Lee VA 23801, 804-734-4339. They are interested in hearing from any of our former QM Troopers. They have a program to enroll former QM soldiers in a computer based data system named "Roll Call" which is located at Ft Lee. It has a touch screen computer terminal located in a special kiosk where visitors can search for individuals enrolled in the system. Contact the above for an application blank.

Letters

EDITOR

I'll never forget many of the happenings at Myitkyina, landing there beside the Airport on May 23rd and my birthday being the 26th. Helped bury the first one killed, in a grave right beside the air strip where you found us when you came up to replace Lt Flatley. Dr Seagraves and his nurses set up there beside the air strip where we were.

I sure did feel alone when you carried me from Pamati to work

with the Infantry at Charpate and was so saddened when I got back with the Company to learn of Donald Givens getting killed. Do you know if his body was ever recovered? He, Robert Howard, Thomas Burkett and I were the best of buddies. Roy R Appleton, 504th Engr Co, 2400 Pickle Dr, Nashville TN 37210

EDITOR

I was one of the first of the Marauders to be wounded at Nhpum Ga. We were ordered to stop the Japanese coming up the hill. We were only a squad of six men. They must have been in the hundreds. I took shrapnel and we retreated toward the top of the hill,

where the guys were frantically trying to set up the C.P. and an aid station. I was in the lost battalion #2, Green Combat Team (I think), if I am wrong, please let me know. Thomas A Du Bois, 106 Freedom Cir, Grants Pass OR 97527, 5307/2/GCT

EDITOR

I served in HQ Company, 475th Infantry in the Mars Task Force. When I originally served under Col Osborne, I believe that it was the 5307th that later became the Mars Task Force in Burma. Hope to attend the reunion. Robert R Anderson, 140 S Walnut St, Belle Plain MN 56011-2127, 612-873-2860

FALL IN

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

ROBERT R ANDERSON, 140 S Walnut St, Belle Plain MN 56011-2127, 612-873-2860, 5307; 475/HQ CO

ANDY ANGELOZZI, 988 Clements Bridge Rd, Barrington NJ 08007, 475/3/K

ROY R APPLETON, 2400 Pickle Dr, Nashville TN 37210, 504th ENGR LT PONTON CO

MARTY AUERBACK, 1005 Hampton Ct, Mc Henry IL 60051, 5307/2/GCT

N G AUSTIN, HC 30, Box 314-1, Durant OK 74701, 5307/236/C Co

EDWARD A BAILEY, 163 Pensacola Av, Battle Creek MI 49017, 365-9601, 475/2/G Co

HAROLD BENTLEY, 14020 SE Mc Laughlin Blvd, Milwaukee OR 97267, 475

WILLIAM BURNS, 2550 Rosewood Dr, Bethlehem PA 18017, 613/HQ/MED DET

FRANCIS CIOTTI, 911 Bayard St, Bristol PA 19007, 475/3/K Co

WILLIAM COUSINS, 708 Bancroft Cir, Cincinnati OH 45246, 513-772-1958, RANGER

THOMAS A DU BOIS, 106 Freedom Cir, Grants Pass OR 97527, 5307/2/GCT

JULIUS GORDON, 62-41 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston NY 11362, 5307/2/Co F, 475/2/F

REV CHARLES KEOGH, 5796 NDCB, Taos NM 87571, 101 DIV/75 RANGERS/L CO

EDWARD MANZI, 739 Cornell Av, Drexel Hill PA 19026, 610-626-3091, 5307/3/1 CO/3 PL; 475/3/1/3 PL BAR MAN.

FRANCIS MC GOLDRICK, 3729 Clarendon Av, Philadelphia PA 19154, 5307; 475/3/K Co

EDWARD LEE O'NEAL, 8223 Camp St, Douglasville GA 30134, 5307/2/GCT/HW

STANLEY RODRIGUEZ, 2002 Balta Pl, Costa Mesa CA 92626-3517, 5307; 475/3/K Co

CARL STOCKDALE, 9409 67th St N, Pinellas Park FL 34666, 5307; 475

JERRY H STONE, 28905-138, PO BOX 1000, Butner NC 27509-1000, 75 RANGERS, CO C

SCOTT TAMM, 708 Bancroft Cir, Cincinnati OH 45246, 513-772-1958, RANGER

BRICE TARLETON, 1425 Sterling Rd, Charlotte NC 28209-1543, 704-333-3521, e-mail: 102554,2760@compuserve.com, 475/2/F/3 PL LDR

JAMES WHEATLEY, Rt 3 Box 302, Rich Hill MO 64779, 417-395-4695, 475/1/A/PL LDR

CHARLES ZAPPOL, 16 Cherry St, Glassboro NJ 08028, 609-863-1621, 5307/3/I; 475/3/I Co

SHARING THE STORY JAP AMBUSH AT BURMA RD PART TWO

I just read the B/N, the Feb/96 issue. I recall the incident. As I remember it, Lt Atkins our 3rd Bn, I&R Platoon Ldr and the Assistant Plat Ldr, Lt Ryan left our cover position, to check the next ridge to watch one of the companies from 124th Cavalry, making a day time attack to the Japanese position, and just fifty yards from our position were ambushed.

Lt Ryan managed to return, but Lt Atkins was killed. Then the 3rd Bn, I&R Platoon went out with Lt Delorey in charge, to look for Lt Atkins.

We were ambushed just a few yards from our position and Lt Delorey was hit above his right knee. I was just a few feet behind the Lt when he was wounded. I was the Medical Aid Man with the I&R Platoon. When the word was passed that Lt Delorey was wounded, I crawled forward and found him with one of the head scouts. I placed a first aid pack on his wound and gave him 1/4 grain of Morphine and then started to crawl back with him on my back. Then three men rushed in with a litter and carried the Lt back to our position.

All three Lieutenants were hit by a Japanese Nambu, a Japanese automatic weapon from the adjoining ridge. The Lt Atkins body was finally found three days later and was brought back to our aid station for burial. SFC Richard J Socobasin, US Army Retired, PO Box 314 Pleasant Pt, Perry ME 04667-0314

EXTRACT: HQ USF INDIA BURMA THEATER, GO #96, APO 885, 17 MAY 1945. PAR IV, AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.....

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD J SOCABASIN, (Army Serial Number 31331455), Medical Dept, USARMY. For heroism in action near Nawkam, Burma, on 20 January 1945, when the commanding officer of a patrol was wounded and pinned down by heavy enemy fire, Private SOCABASIN left his covered position at the rear of the patrol and crawled forward in the face of heavy machine gun fire. Reaching the officer Private SOCABASIN, administered treatment and with the aid of several other enlisted

men succeeded in removing the officer to safety. The courage and bravery displayed by Private SOCABASIN reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces OF THE UNITED STATES. BY COMMAND OF LT GEN SULTAN: VERNON EVANS, MG, GSC, Chief of Staff.

WHITE COMBAT TEAM - I & R PLATOON AT MYITKYINA

To Clarence Branscomb: I don't know if you remember me or not, but I was in the WCT I&R with you from India to Myitkyina. My mind skips some points of the campaign. I think you were my squad leader and Allen Tidwell was second in command. We had Cecil Cox, Smitty the Indian, Ewey Lewis, Auten, Pelletier, Pop Bemish, Bush, Perlee W Tintary, Weatherford, Ahern, Albert King, Stafford, Jones, Harold Mortimer, John Gray, Snyder, Joseph Robinson, and of course, Lt Sammy Wilson and Sgt Ammon. Two Allens were killed at Shadazup.

I know when we got to the airfield at Myitkyina it was foggy as the dickens and they sent out to the airstrip a patrol of seven men of which I was one. You were in charge of the patrol. I remember they passed around a bottle among us before we left.

Anyway, after some time I was

sent back (flew out) to the hospital in India with malaria, dysentery, leech infections. Then they sent me back to Myitkyina and we were clearing out a place for Camp Landis, I think they called it. I got sick again and they sent me to a Field Hospital. I was there about a week and they sent me back to Camp Landis. When I got there this time, they were forming the 475th and were going to attach me
(Continued on page 6)

RANGER COLUMN

At the Ranger Rendezvous, on Wednesday, August 14, 1996, the Rangers awarded Hall of Fame Medals to Norman Janis, Rifleman, 5307/3/Orange CT/I&R and to Clarence Branscomb, S/Sgt, 5307/1/White CT/I&R.

Present from the Merrill's Marauders Association were Logan Weston, Grant Hirabayashi, George Ward, Leo Laferriere, Phil Piazza, Roy Matsumoto, Dave Richardson, Ed Zaino, Don Delorey, Edward Kohler, Ray Lyons and of course, Norman Janis and Clarence Branscomb.

The Ranger Olympics will be the last weekend in April 1997 at Ft Benning. Contact Phil for arrangements. The next Hall of Fame / Ranger Rendezvous expected to be in July 1997.

"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, OAKWYNNE HOUSE, APT. 710,
1209 WEST WYNNEWOOD ROAD, WYNNEWOOD, PA 19096

Sharing . . .

(Continued from page 5)

to another outfit. I asked to stay in the I & R which was 1st Battalion then I think. Anyway, the I&R was on outpost up the river towards Fort Hertz. So they put me on a supply truck and I went up and joined you guys again. Lt Proper, I think, was in charge of the Platoon then. We left from there and it is all mixed up for me from then on.

I do remember being on top of a hill overlooking the Burma Road on an outpost. We were in a little one basha village dug in a little garden spot with mustard greens and little tomatoes. I remember

the Japs used to shell us at the time we would be eating, with an antitank gun or some type of gun that was a whiz-bang. I remember the time they hit the table on which we had opened some 10 in 1 rations and they blew the beans all over. I don't ever remember leaving that hill.

The next I can remember is getting off a train or truck in Calcutta. We just had coveralls and shoes at that camp. When we arrived there I remember the flag was flying at half mast and I asked what was going on. They said President Roosevelt had died. Jack Waggoner, 3807 E 39th Ct, Des Moines, IA 50317, 262-7770, 5307/1/WCT/I&R; 475/1/I&R

Letters**EDITOR**

Has there been any more thought about changing the time of year for the Reunion? Having been retired for twenty years, there are certain Holidays of the year that I avoid like the Plague.

You asked me if Roy Appleton should be on our Rolls. Absolutely, along with about a dozen others. Four of the original eight men that landed at Myitkyina on May 23rd were absolutely terrified at having to go out on the Irrawaddy River, at night, chasing down Japanese. I shipped them back to Ledo one at a time and my C.O. sent me the ones I requested.

Don Givens had taken a beautiful jeweled sword from a Jap officer, and when he was killed, I put it away until Roy Appleton got back to us from Charpate. I gave it to Roy but I have no idea if he still has it.

When we were down at Mawlu we had a Sergeant named Charles Conti turn up missing one day. Our entire company plus all of the natives of Mawlu searched for him for two days and never found any sign of him. Last Christmas, I asked my Nephew, who is in the Naval Investigative Service, to see what the Army had found out. They carried him as Missing in Action for a couple of years, then listed him as K.I.A. Some really strange things took place on that drive down the Corridor with the British 36th Division. James L Watson, 5307/504th Engr, 1101 Kendall St Amory MS 38821

EDITOR

Does anyone know anything about Paul Jerome Treusch from the Detroit area. He drowned in Hawaii about 20 years ago. Bill Haberman, 610 Crocus Dr, Rockville MD 20850, 301-762-5463.

A LONESOME MARAUDER:

Timothy T Buckley, 5307/3/OCT is quartered in the VA Medical Center, Nursing Home Care Center, Unit 1C-133, University and Woodland Ave, Philadelphia PA 19104. Has recovered from Tuberculosis but cannot walk at the present time. Would like to have company.

PASS IN REVIEW

(Deaths reported recently)

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

- SAMUEL LEE BREWER**, 601 N 35th St, Ozark AR, 5307; 475/3/Co L, April 16, 1996
- ROBERT K CLINE**, 1827 Mustang St, Amarillo TX 79102, 5307/Platoon Ldr; 475, November 22, 1995
- VERNON E CLUBB**, 5207 Halley View Run, Ft Wayne IN 46804, 5307/3/KCT/I Co, February 1978
- RICHARD DICKS**, RT 2 Box 1208, Spruce Pine NC 28777, 704-765-5256, 5307/3/KCT/HW/PACK ARTY, March 16, 1996
- THOMAS A EMANUELSON**, 1301 Dominion Av, Pasadena CA 91104, 5307IH, 1989
- PATRICK J FANNING**, Windsor CT, 475th, 1996
- BOBBIE L FRICKE**, 10152 E County Rd 275N, Seymour IN 47274, 812-522-3845, 475/2/E/1 PL, August 25, 1996
- WARREN G HARDY**, PO BOX 313, Mooresville NC 28115-0313, 5307/3/OCT, February 1984
- AARON HAWES**, Box 35, 308 Martin, Larned KS 67550, 475/3/L Co, Years Ago
- RALPH KEASLING**, Rt 1 Box 89, Bicknell IN 47512, 5307/HQ & HQ CO; 475/HQ & HQ CO, February 26, 1960
- CHARLES E MANSELL**, 87 River Terr, Dahlonga GA 30533, 5307/3/OCT, March 17, 1996
- ROBERT P MAXON**, Penthouse K, 190 Bradley PL, Palm Beach FL 33480, 5307/2/F CO C.O., 475/2/F CO C.O., 475/2/EX OFF, March 16, 1996
- JOSEPH P MERINO**, 945 Burns Dr SW, Atlanta GA 30310, 5307; 475, April 20, 1996
- ANGELO M PAPPALARDO**, 105 Roxbury Rd, East Hartford CT 06118, 5307, June 10, 1996
- CHARLES W PELTIER**, 4009 E 900 N, N MANCHESTER IN 46962-8435, 5307/1, March 9, 1994
- JOHN SCHLIEGELMEYER**, 301 Rosary Villa Rd, Ponchatoula LA 70454, 5307; 475, April 1981
- SEYMOUR SCHOENFELD**, 56-46 207th St, Bayside NY 11364, 212-229-7885, 5307/3/KCT; 475/1/A CO, February 28, 1996
- PAUL L TOBEY**, 34 Summer St, Rehoboth MA 02769-2222, 617-252-6892, 5307/3; 475/2/HQ, August 26, 1996
- HAROLD A. TOLLEY**, 11298 Fifth St., Punta Gorda, FL 33955; 704th MG BATT (AA), June 13, 1996
- STEPHEN C WARE, MD**, 6909 9th St S Apt 353, St Petersburg FL 33705-6258, 5307/2/MED; 124TH, September 4, 1996

Letters

EDITOR

Just getting home from a successful reunion in Washington DC. There are a few items I must address.

FIRST, I wish to thank all who voted for the '97 Springfield MO reunion proposal. We came close, being defeated by three votes. At this time, I will say, if the Lord is willing and the creek doesn't rise, I will give a repeat performance for '98. "Before going to the Pearly Gates, go to Springfield in '98". I still want to call it a "Victory Reunion", using the date Myitkyina fell as the date of the reunion and I must add the proposed Hotel is far cheaper than anyplace we have been to in the last 10 years.

To the Marauders who did not attend the reunion, this report on the Lifetime Membership card program is for you. Betty and I closed out the program in July '96. We mailed out 2326 letters of which 1164 had cards in them. The cost was \$1802.58. Marauder donations totaled \$1805.50. UNBELIEVABLE, a nonprofit labor of love with a profit of \$5.92. We thank you.

SECOND, My proposal to perpetuate the Marauders in some manner met with a positive response, but nine letters, very well written nearly swayed my thoughts toward dropping the idea. BUT, I stumbled on a group of young people gathering in a hall at the Washington Reunion. They appeared to be led by a Mike McLaughlin. Their main topic was "How can we help the Marauders?". Sorry Marauders Devine and Binter, your well written letters almost convinced me we should become a "Last Man Club", but no longer. I now think we should help these young people. With this thought in mind, I wish to throw out this idea for you Marauders to mull over in your mind. Our present officers are needing relief. We lost David Quaid this year, fortunately a capable replacement stepped forward. The rest of the group also need to stop a while to smell the roses.

Ray & Sally, Phil & Emma, Tony, Herb and Dave, work as long as you feel comfortable, but when you tire, maybe a title could be made for you such as Senior Officer, or con-

sultant of your office. Phil would be invaluable as a Liaison with the Rangers. At this point, officers could be elected from the young group. In this manner the Marauders could continue to function with the splinter group of Marauders siblings at the helm. Yes, I think the Egans, Matsumotos, Westons, Mike and the other unnamed young people are our future. I think we, original Marauders should encourage them. I offer my support of them, and will help them in any way possible.

THIRD: One last comment on our reunion. Only 75 minutes was allotted for the membership meeting in our schedule. This is far from enough time considering we meet only once a year. After all the official business was taken care of there was not sufficient time for discussion of new business or presentation for the next year reunion.

Phil did not enough time for an adequate review of the Ranger program and no one had time to question any of the programs we perform in their behalf. The term "For the sake of brevity", was really overworked during this 75 minutes. I feel we need an open-end time slot for the membership meeting. Genuine discussion on current pressing topics may well extend into 3 or 4 hours. I hope any future scheduling will consider this in some manner.

FINALLY: I have a personal desire to hear from anyone who can describe your experience during the last few days, including the day that Myitkyina fell. Another Marauder I wish to contact is the person who was with me on the boat from Oran to Bombay, sorry but I lost your name. Please write.

Thanks to all who helped make the Washington DC a good reunion. Kermit Bushur, 441 Vandegrift Dr, Ocoee FL 34761.

EDITOR

My Father, Vernon E Clubb was a member of the Merrill's Marauders. He came aboard at New Caledonia from the 172nd Infantry. He was aboard the USAT CALVIN COOLIDGE when it was sunk by friendly (?) mine in Segond Channel, Espiritu Santo Island. He served at the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Rendova Campaign, New Georgia. He was a member of Casual Detachment 1688 C, Co B. Left New Caledonia October 5th,

1943. Stopped at Brisbane and Freemantle Australia.

Arrived at Bombay, India 28 Oct 43. Subsequently assigned to 5307/2/E Co. And later reassigned back to Co I, 3rd Bn on 20 Jan 44. Arrived in Burma 15 Feb 44. Left Myitkyina 29 May 44. Arrived 14th Evacuation Hospital, India, with Dysentery. Released from Hospital 30 Jun 44. Assigned to 475/1/A Co on 10 Aug 44. Departed Assam 18 Sept 44. Arrived in Caulcio, India 1 Oct 44. Left there. Arrived Miami Florida 8 Oct 44. Arrived Jefferson Barracks MO 16 Oct 44. Discharged 24 Nov 44.

I would like to hear from any members of the Merrill's Marauders Association who knew my Father and could give us further details of his service. Michael L Clubb, 5207 Halley View Run, Ft Wayne IN 46804, 219-625-3698.

EDITOR

In reading my May/June issue of the DAV Magazine, I noted the reference to your association reunion. In doing so, the thought struck me that your association and the men belonging to it, are the Forefathers of two organizations to which I belong, i.e. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association and Company C (Rangers), 75th Inf (ABN), Company E(LRP), 20th Inf (AB). As a former Ranger Team Leader (Team 1-1 Charley Rangers 1969-1970 Vietnam), I would like to wish you the very best and to thank you and all the members of Merrill's Marauders, for giving us (The Rangers of Vietnam and of today) such a proud heritage to carry forth. I hope our actions in time of war and in time of peace cause YOU to feel as much pride in us as we feel for you. Have a great reunion! Sua Sponte! Jerry H (Rocky) Stone, Charley Rangers, 75th INF ABN, 28905-138, PO BOX 1000, Butner NC 27509-1000./

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

- Don Marquis

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

Letters . . .
EDITOR

Now, about George Hearn; he was the Khaki CT I & R Platoon Ldr and one who received very little credit for his leadership. He joined our I & R Platoon at Walawbum replacing, I believe, a Lt Thomas, who disappeared during the action there. Someone said at the time that it was "brain fever" whatever that is. Hearn, I think, came out of a Heavy Weapons Missouri National Guard Unit. I do remember him saying, when he joined us that he didn't know anything about jungle fighting or scouting but that he would try his damndest if we would show how. And, I do recall that every morning, he would say, "Whoever feels lucky take the point." At other times, he took the point himself.

He, like Weston, Brown, Applegate, myself and some other Marauders stayed in service after

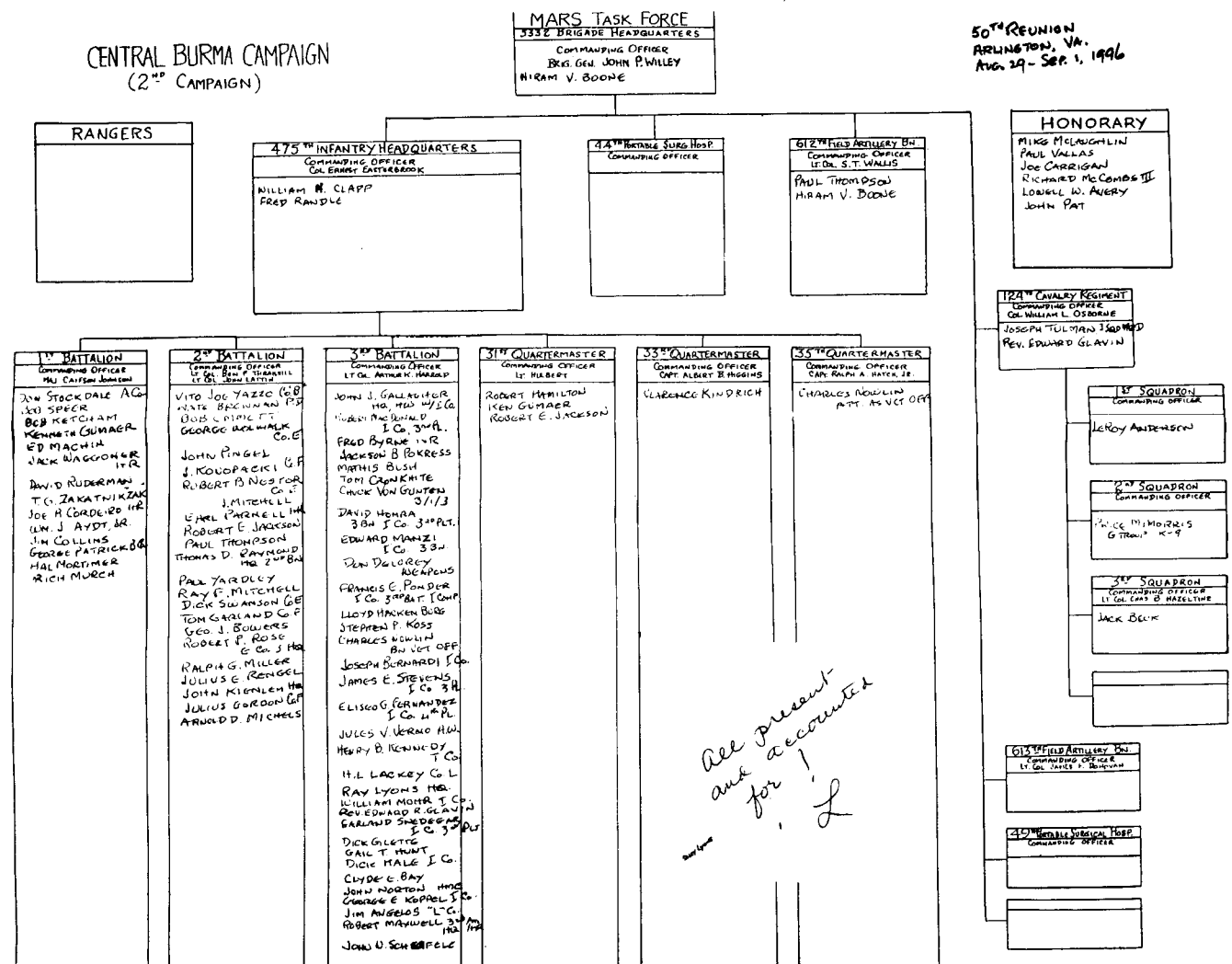
the war. During the Korean War, while stationed with I Corps, I heard that he had been awarded a second Silver Star by Uncle Joe's boy. So I headed up front with a bottle of VO to help him celebrate the award. He was now a Top Kick...I don't know what happened about his commission...and he was directing his company operations from a foxhole near the front with a case of Blue Ribbon close at hand. His first words were, "Come on in, I'll show you how we run this damn unit." At the time, I believe, he was on his second tour of duty in Korea during that war. He said he had a problem with drinking and felt much safer in Korea than in the States where drinking would get him into trouble. That was the last I saw of him although I managed to hear about his retirement from a Marauder from Rend Lake who reported that he was living in a small town outside Ft. Leonard

Wood and that he was very ill.

Hearn, like most of us who stayed in service, never heard of the Marauder Association until years after the reunions began because, often times we were on lengthy overseas assignments. I first heard of the Association after I returned from Okinawa in the early 1960's and was assigned to the Military District of Washington with duties at the White House. While there, I appeared on a Howard K. Smith National Veterans Day television special to answer questions regarding how the Army had changed since the days of the Marauders.

Shortly after that program, I received a call from the Pentagon asking if I would go to Dearborn, Michigan to represent the Army at a ceremony dedicating a monument to General Merrill. I accepted and rode to the ceremony with

(Continued on page 9)



LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Governor Romney who drove his own car (a little black Chevy) while his driver rode in back. And there, for the first time in years, I met up with many old friends I had served with so many years ago. Since then, I've attended a good many reunions and hope, the good Lord willing, to attend the 50th. Ferdinand M Stauch, M/Sgt, USA Retired, 5307/3/KCT/I&R, 2840 D Crossroad Bend, Indianapolis IN 48227, 317-897-2158

EDITOR

I was in the 475th and believe that it was Company A. Lt LA Pye was my second in command. You mentioned Paul Bouchard and that name rings a bell for me. I do remember a few and have no way of contacting them. A few names I remember are: Bishop, Byrd, Sexton "Shot gun". I had a letter from Pye and he said a Lt Dumsha was the Executive Officer of A Co. That name also rings a bell. Jim Whitely, Rt 3 Box 302, Rich Hill MO 64779

EDITOR

I was with G Co of the 475th and was with them at Mong Wing, and Shwego and the Shweli slide and then went into China for four months and back to India. We were finally broken up into small groups and I got to work with the Red Cross and three GI's and 32 Red Cross women until I had the points to come home. After I got back, one of the fellows that was with us, who lived in Illinois, shot himself working for the police in a small town called Skokie IL. I would like to find out about you all since I got out in Jun 1946. Cpl Edward A Bailey, 163 Pensacola Av, Battle Creek MI 49017, 365-9601

EDITOR

My name is Edward Manzi. I was in 5307/3/I Co, 3rd Platoon, BAR MAN and also 475/3/I/3. Jim Blocker was Company C.O. Jim Applegate was my Platoon Leader. We landed at Myitkyina Air Strip. I don't remember the date. My Lt said when we land, form a column of two's. I ran and jumped into an Ausie Ack Ack Bunker. He was killed that day. He was a new man. Then we went on down to

Central Burma. Here are a few names of men in my Company. I do not know their addresses. Maybe some one can find them in the phone book. Pat Rossi, Buffalo NY; Nick Rossi, Mt Vernon NY; Dick Liston, Buffalo NY; Sam Cecoro, Ohio; Blackie Clark, Gastonia, NC; Lumb Mc Fadden, WV. Edward Manzi, 739 Cornell Av, Drexel Hill PA 19026

EDITOR

My father, Ralph Keasling was a member of the Merrill's Marauders Association.

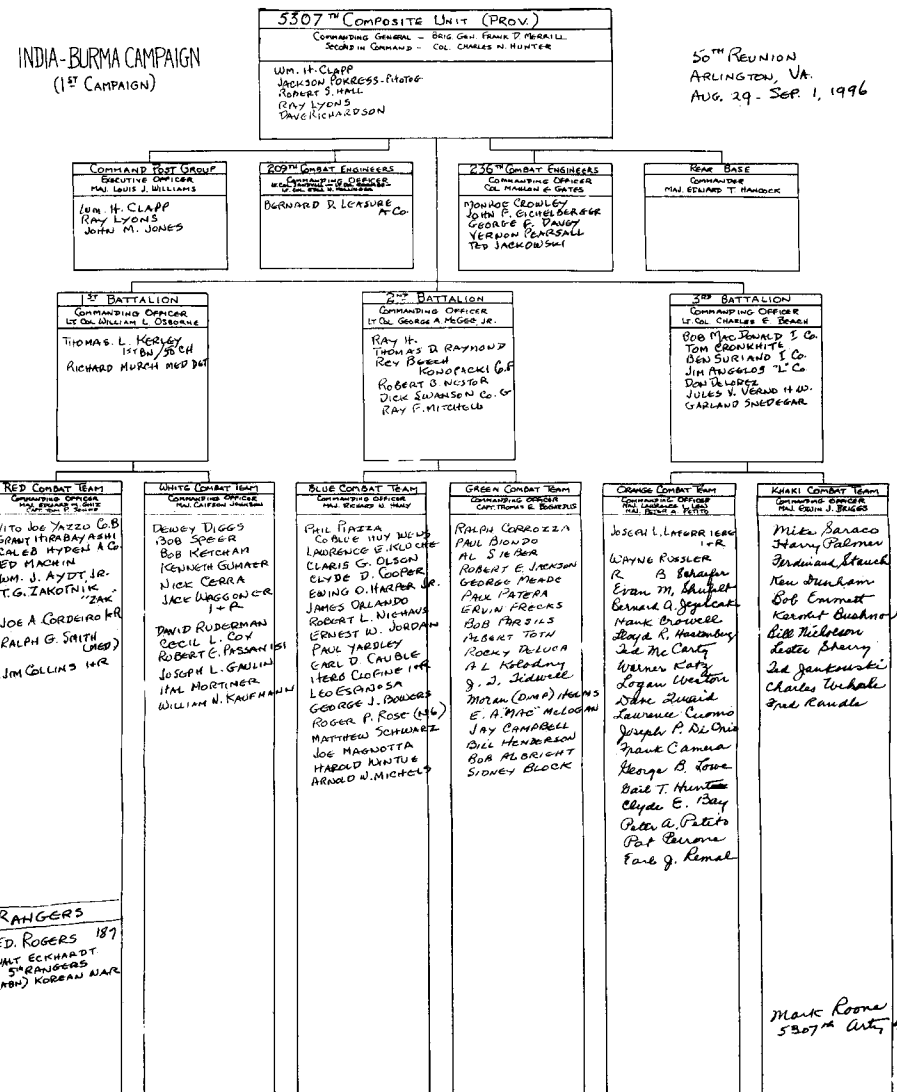
His last known unit was as a PFC with the HQ & HQ CO, 475TH INFANTRY. I understand he went by the nickname of "Cookie". I was eight years old when he died. So much of my knowledge of his wartime experiences are sketchy to say the least. I know he was sent to India from Panama. He had an

army foreign language Booklet for India, China and Burma. The Burma booklet had a map inside with penciled areas of battles. It starts in Ledo, India and runs past Bhamo to a dot on the map that has no name. I would appreciate hearing from any men that knew my Dad in the Merrill's Marauders and can tell me about it. Ralph L Keasling, Jr, Rt 1 Box 89, Bicknell IN 47512.

LOST, STRAYED, STOLEN

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GEORGE W WRIGHT, 3005 TURNER WARNELL RD #5L, ARLINGTON TX 76017.



LETTER . . .**EDITOR**

I finally found something on the Internet which appealed to me. When I searched through "MILITARY" down to "Infantry Associations", the first item that came up was the reference to Merrill's Marauders and the 475th Infantry. I was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in mid-December 1942. My first assignment was to the 166th Infantry which was doing guard duty for the Esso refinery on the island of Aruba. From Aruba, I moved to Trinidad where I was assigned to the 33rd Infantry. I was a Platoon Leader in Company "C" and my company commander was 1st Lt Robert Maxon.

One day, the regimental S-3, (a Major Webb), asked me if I would like to do some staff work. He told me that he could have me transferred to regimental headquarters as his assistant. When I asked Lt Maxon for his opinion, he suggested that I make the transfer. Shortly after I transferred, part of the 33rd moved to India and Burma. The headquarters did not make the move, and I returned to the States where I was married and assigned to an Infantry Replacement Training Camp in Arkansas. One day there was a request for volunteers on the Bulletin Board. It looked interesting, and I volunteered.

Next I went to Ft Riley where I received training with mules and

the equipment which would be used with special forces operating as a unit, supplied by airdrop and possibly operating behind enemy lines. I then moved to Ft Ord for additional information on Japanese forces. From Ft Ord I went to Richmond CA where I boarded a troop transport. Thirty days later I arrived at Bombay, 13 days across India to Ledo, truck convoy to Myitkyina (where I had Thanksgiving Dinner). Took a C47 to a grass strip at Tonkwa, put on my pack and marched a short distance to an opening in the jungle, and the first person I saw was Bob Maxon.

Maxon asked the Battalion Commander, Col Thraikill, to attach me to his company. When he persuaded the Colonel that I would be a liability rather than an asset until I learned how the unit functioned, Col Thraikill agreed, and I was simply attached to the 3rd Platoon. After the Chinese Divisions which the Mars Task Force had been working with were moved back to China, we were ordered to move to the East and cut the Burma Road. This was quite a march. After we had taken our objective, the 3rd Platoon Leader was flown out to take care of some of his medical problems, and I assumed command of the platoon. We took quite a lot artillery fire from the Japanese, and one of the shells landed on top of my manhole. I suffered a minor wound which entitled me to a Purple Heart.

Battalion headquarters took a

hit from one of the 150mm shells which the Japanese were using and the disaster created movement of personnel in the battalion. Col Thraikill was killed along with other members of his staff. Bob Maxon moved to headquarters (I believe to Executive Officer). When his replacement moved up, it turned out that I am the senior of the remaining officers, so I became the Executive Officer of Company F. We finally attacked the dug-in Japanese, overran their positions and the campaign was declared over. We then flew into China to assist the various Chinese armies. I established a camp east of Kweiyang, China and maintained it with one platoon while the remaining platoons were in the field. I did not see any additional action, and I was headed back to Kunming for a new assignment when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. I had enough points so that I had an option of returning to the States by air or by ship. When they told me that if I flew, I would be back in Miami in three days, I naturally elected to fly. I actually arrived in Miami 31 days later. Brice Tarleon, 1425 Sterling Rd, Charlotte NC 28209-1543, 704-333-3521, e-mail: 102554,2760@compuserve.com

MSGR GLAVIN - Please consider notifying the officers of the Merrill's Marauders Association of Marauder deaths so that we can try to get some attendance at the funerals. Directors names and Phone numbers in the Directory.



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

RAYMOND V. LYONS
Editor

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