



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

February 1998

Big Bash in Boston

Close to 400 people turned out in Boston on Veterans Day, last November for the opening in the Massachusetts State House of a major photo exhibit chronicling the World War II exploits in Burma of Merrill's Marauders and the Mars Task Force.

This was the first public showing of the exhibit, titled "General Stilwell's Infantry -- A History in Photographs", which was put together at the request of the Stilwell Foundation of Andover Mass., a co-sponsor of the show along with Suffolk University.

After its Boston appearance, the exhibit will go to Milwaukee, Wisc., where it will open on May 21st, 1998 at the War Memorial Center, 750 North Lincoln Memorial Drive. Memorial Day will fall on May 25th. The exhibit will then move on to the Hoover Institute, Stanford University, Palo Alto Calif. Its final destination is the Stilwell Museum in Chungking, the World War II capital of China, a museum that was established by the Chinese Government to honor the American

General and his U.S. Forces in the wartime CBI, who the Chinese hail as "Liberators" of their homeland.

All told, the exhibit traces the Marauders and Mars campaigns through 275 photographs, maps, historical materials and quotes from individual officers and men. It represents a labor of love for David Quaid, Marauder Historian Emeritus, who spent more than two and a half years, seven days a week, assembling it from his own photo coverage and that of others from the 164th Signal Photo Company, who accompanied the mission. He came across some film that had never been seen before. "It all started this way," said Quaid. "About three years ago, the Chinese opened the Museum, with American Defense Secretary Perry and Stilwell's daughter, Nancy S. Easterbrook, there to cut the ribbon. They were then taken on a tour of the facility, passing exhibits memorializing the Flying Tigers, the Hump pilots and others. When Nancy came to the end of the line, she said, "But where is my father's Infantry?" Neither the

Marauders nor the Mars Task Force were represented. I was asked to fill the gap.

Fifteen members of the Marauders and Mars Task Force showed up for the opening ceremony in Boston, coming from as far away as Minneapolis, Minn., and they were besieged with questions from people attending the exhibit.

A picture of one Marauder, Warner Katz, in the next day's "Boston Globe", along with television coverage of the event, drew several telephone calls from other Marauders and Mars Task Force veterans, friends and families in the New England area.

Quaid expressed a hope that more Marauders and Mars Task Force vets will turn out when the exhibit reaches Milwaukee and Palo Alto.

David B Richardson, Military Liaison Officer, MMA

We arrived at the Exhibit about ten minutes late due to traffic problems in Downtown Boston. And found a sizable crowd already there. The exhibit was presented in a large hall and the photographs were displayed on both sides of a half dozen free standing partitions. It gave the people present there, many of whom knew very little about W.W.II, let alone the Marauders, a sense of what it takes to preserve freedom. I was happy to find that more than a dozen Marauders were also in attendance at the exhibit and were able to answer the questions that were asked by the children and grandchildren of Marauders that attended. The exhibit included a ceremony where the attending Marauders were televised and photographed. Complimentary speeches were given by David J Sargent, President of Suffolk University, Jack Williams, (WBZ News anchor) and our own David Quaid. A brief display of the Marauders was shown on Boston's TV Channel 4, but the commentator
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Left to right: Ken Gumaer, Dan Movak, Warner Katz, Dave Richardson, Dave Quaid, Marvin Kirsten, George Davey, Bob Passanisi, John Buttarro.



(Continued from page 1)
referred to us as 64th Infantry (?). Bob Passanisi, Historian

It is a very good showing and records very vividly the events of your Burma Campaign. You most likely have seen these photos before but most Americans haven't, so it's a deserved reminder of the sacrifices and hardships that were expected of Merrill's Marauders. Pictures of my Uncle, Father Jim, were prominently displayed, so it had extra meaning for me. Of course, there were none of those rigors at Dave's Bash as we were served comforting glasses of beer and wine and hors d'oeuvres by passing waiters and waitresses. The usual art show stuff but a nice distance from jungle mud. There were about thirteen of the Original Marauders there. I hope you recognize them. Thomas J Stuart, Torch Carrier, 23 Bonnet Av, Larchmont NY 10538, 914-834-2370

In addition to Suffolk University, Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Raytheon Company, State Street Corporation, and the Stilwell Foundation of Andover Mass presented the exhibit.

Bits and Pieces

CINCINNATI REUNION

September 4-6, 1998. Labor Day falls on Monday the seventh this year, so we will be having our reunion at the later date. Package rate applies to Friday to Sunday Morning. Single @ \$225. Double @ \$290. No phone reservations this time. No registration card will be provided either. In the May issue we will print a reservation form for you to cut out and mail. Hotel is Radisson Inn Airport at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. It is located on

the Airport premises across from the terminals. Shuttle phone in baggage area from 5AM to 2AM. Outdoor complimentary parking. Children - maximum age for free 17. For

additional information on E-mail; <https://www.radisson.com/mainframe.html>

The Mountain Artillery Assn. (612th & 613th FA BN (PK) of the Mars Task Force will hold their 1998 Reunion the last weekend of August at the Drawbridge Inn, Ft Mitchell KY. This Inn is very close to the MMA 1998 Reunion Hotel in the Cincinnati Area. All members of MM and Marks Task Force are invited to attend this reunion. For further information, contact host Bob Bredenberg, 439 Swan Circle, Elsmere KY 41018, Phone 606-342-9926.

Carrying the Torch!

Torch Carriers some new and some old. Honorary Members that are in touch.

MARK DELOREY, SON/DON, 6114 Van Vleet Rd, Swartz Creek, MI, 48473-8598, 810-635-7117

DON DELOREY, SON/DON, 1350 Fox Rd, Wales MI 48029

PAUL DELOREY, SON/DON, 2031 Brookview Ct, Neenah WI 54956

CHARLES DELOREY, SON/DON, 38361 Metro Villa Dr, Harrison Twp MI 48045

TIMOTHY DELOREY, SON/DON, 619 Adeline Dr, Webster NY 14580

DEBBY FLANIGAN, 89 Dummer St, Bath ME 04530, 207-443-9533,

Niece/Philip William Daye, 5307/2/G Co, KIA 7/1/94 - Myitkyina

CATHERINE DELOREY FLEISCHMAN, Dtr Don Delorey, 409 Old Quarry Way, Boise ID 83709-0548, 208-376-2148,

FRANCES D LEW, 2117 Glasgow Dr, Ceres CA 95307-1628, 538-6471, Widow/Lawrence CO/3 Bn/OCT

PATRICK O'DONNELL, PSC 78 BOX 3989, APO AP 95326-8301, Rel/Mc Conville

MARK ROWAN, PO Box 2147, Eagle River WI 54521, 715-479-1807, Historian-Viet Nam Vet; 4th Div.

FRANK R SMITH, 4202 Keefer Rd, Chico CA 94973-9710, 342-8600, Brother/Johnnie/KIA

LORANZO D SMITH, 1413 Soplo Rd SE, Albuquerque NM 87123, Brother of Johnnie, KIA,

LOST, STRAYED, STOLEN

Burman News copies returned by Postal Service for some reason to these men at addresses shown:

HAROLD K CHAPPEL, 5307/1/WCT/I&R P, 475/1/I&R, 1530 Ackley St, Westland MI, 48186-4404, ADELAIDE

MRS FREDDA LEE CULBRETH, 714 Marshall Ave, Anderson SC, 29621-5829

FRANK KVOCAK, 200 Pierce Av, Sharpville PA 16150-1218

WILLIAM PANETTA, 515 Plymouth Rd, Plymouth Meeting PA 19462-1611

EARL PARNELL, 5307/2/HQ, 475/2/HQ/I&R, PO Box 117 # C, Irwin PA, 15642-0117, 412-523-5001

Sharing the Story

**Col. William Lloyd Osborne USA Ret.
13 December 1913 - 17 February 1985**

Ranger, Citizen-Soldier, Battle Tested Leader, Regular Army Officer via ROTC, Lloyd Osborne could well have been the main whence came the slogan, "Rangers Lead the Way."

The 25-year army career of Colonel William L. Osborne, Lloyd to his friends, is a saga of quiet heroism in combat and of unswerving devotion to his country and his comrades. Slight and wiry in physical stature, a giant in leadership, loved and respected by his men, Cadet Captain and ROTC Honor Graduate from UCLA in 1936, he was in 1940 commissioned in the Regular Army as a second lieutenant of infantry. His first assignment was to the 7th Division at Fort Ord. On Sept. 1, 1941, he was transferred to Luzon where he served as company commander of Philippine Scouts. On outbreak of WW II, 7 Dec. 1941, he was given command of 2d BN 51st Infantry, Philippine Army, a unit of the Filipino Reserves called to active duty. Bataan surrendered on 9 April 1941. Although knowing it to be certain death if later captured, he and three of his few surviving men, deciding that being a Jap POW was a fate they did not wish to hazard, played cat and jungle mouse with the Nips for weeks, working their way toward the beach to obtain a canoe.

Hidden in a Nipa hut for the next two months by Filipino partisans,

he eventually linked up with an AF pilot with similar ideas, Damon Guase, who had soldiered as an infantryman until the surrender of Corregidor. Osborne had located a 22 foot sailboat with an auxiliary one-cylinder Swedish diesel engine. Using a mixture of coconut oil and kerosene, with a National Geographic map and an army field compass as navigational instruments, they set sail for Wyndham, Australia. In the newly christened 'RuthLee' (in their wives honor), they began a two-month journey through 3000 miles of Jap patrolled open sea. Stopping at every island for food, water, and coconut oil for the one lung engine, they also logged detailed notes of Jap troop dispositions, enemy shipping, names and serial numbers of US servicemen who had not surrendered, and the state of Filipino morale.

There were no Filipino Quislings. They were fed, hidden and advised of Jap patrols wherever they stopped. Sailing in pretense of a Filipino fishing boat, they were strafed twice, apparently used for target practice by a Jap patrol boat, and then by a circling Jap scout plane. Buffeted by

storms and later by a typhoon, they laid up in British Borneo for three days to recaulk the leaking boat hull. The boat was pulled ashore by an ox supplied by friendly natives who camouflaged the work area while the caulking was accomplished. They pushed on for Australia at an average speed of four knots.

1 Oct. saw them about 500 miles from their destination. With supplies depleted, and under cover of darkness, they put ashore at Soemba Island in Dutch Borneo to scrounge water, food, and coconut oil for the last leg of the journey. The native people of these islands had been badly used by the Japs. Nevertheless, they were aided on their way in spite of the executions sure to follow if they were discovered aiding American escapees.

Arriving off the coast of Australia, they were lost for four days in a maze of shallow waterways. Discovered on the fifth day by an Aussie motor launch, they were mistaken for spies until contact with American Army units in Brisbane established identity. There they were debriefed by American intelligence and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General MacArthur in person, who declared their intelligence highly valuable. They were the first Americans to arrive in Australia from the Philippines since the surrender of Corregidor some six months earlier.

Sent stateside on leave and promoted to major, he volunteered for a "dangerous and unknown" mission, joining some 950 other highly trained men from US training camps in what became 1st Bn of 5307 Composite Unit (Provisional). The 5307 was transported to India on the SS Lurline, picking up 2d Bn in San Francisco and 3d Bn in New Caledonia and at Brisbane, Australia, while en route to Bombay. The unit trained in India at Deolali for three weeks, then moved on to Deogarh in late November for two months intensive training.

Leaving Deogarh in early January 1944, 5307, under command of BGen Merrill with Col. Hunter as second in command, was organized into six combat teams, Red & White in 1st Bn under command of Lt. Col. Osborne, Blue & Green of 2d Bn under Lt. Col. George McGee, and Orange & Khaki under command of Lt. Col.

SHARING THE STORY

COMPONENTS OF THE MARS TASK FORCE

475TH INFANTRY - Strength 3257

Combat Commanding Officer - Col Ernest F Easterbrook

612th FA Battalion (PK) - C.O. Lt Col Severn T Wallis, 27 Officers, 1 WO, 438 EM

31st Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Lt Hurlbert, 2 Officers, 53 EM.

33rd Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Captain A. B. Higgins, 2 Officers, 53 EM

35th Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Captain R A Hatch, 2 Officers, 53 EM

44th Portable Surgical Hospital - C.O. Major Wm C King, 4 Officers, 30 EM

124TH CAVALRY - Strength 2173

Combat Commanding Officer - Col William L Osborne

613th FA Battalion (PK) - C.O. Lt Col James F Donovan, 25 Officers, 2 WO, 442 EM

37th Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Capt M Peery, 2 Officers, 70 EM

252nd Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Capt Wm E Worrall, 2 Officers, 70 EM

253rd Quartermaster Pack Troop - C.O. Capt H F Torrence, 2 Officers, 70 EM

49th Portable Surgical Hospital - C.O. Major S Posner, 4 Officers, 30 EM

Beach. General Merrill was given a date of 7 February to launch from Ledo in northern Assam a campaign against the 18th Japanese Division in northern Burma. A ten-day march from Ledo put trail hardened 5307 at Ningbyen ready for the Northern Burma Campaign in support of Stilwell's two Chinese Divisions, the 22d and 38th, in their thrust to clear the Hukawng Valley of the Japanese 18th Division. That accomplished, American combat engineers could construct the Ledo Road from India into Burma and thus to reopen the Burma Road into China.

Col. Osborne, with Red Combat Team initially under the commander of Major Ghiz, later under Capt. Tom Senff, and White Combat under Maj. Caifson Johnson, had proven his mastery of tactical leadership in a series of operations that began with the maneuver action at Tanja Ga through the Walawbum attack and the Kamaing Road blocks. Late arrival at Shadazup due to terrain difficulties required a change in plans not anticipated by Col. Hunter. These were carried out by 1st Bn without endangering overall operations, the 1st Bn drive, diverted from Inkangahtawng to Hsamshingyang, assisted in the relief of the 2d Bn at Nphum Ga on Easter Sunday. The 1st Bn, in an enveloping movement against the Jap rear south of Nphum Ga, was effective in spite of the tremendous difficulty imposed by terrain. The final action of the campaign, the drive to Myitkyina on 17 May and complete capture of the town on 3 August, ended with 217 men of the 1st Bn still on their feet, confirmed his reputation as a tactical commander and leader of men in war.

On 10 August 1944, 5307 Composite Unit (Provisional) was reorganized as the 475th Infantry Regiment. Col. Osborne was placed in command. On 4 October, he fell ill and was evacuated to hospital. Col. Ernest Easterbrook was then appointed to command of the 475th, continuing in command throughout the Central Burma Campaign. The 124th Cavalry (Dismounted) newly arrived in Burma, was incorporated into Mars Task Force, 5332d Brigade, in which 475th Infantry was the other major component.

Shortly after his return from hospital, Col. Osborne was

assigned to command of the 124th Cavalry replacing Col. Thomas J. Heavy of the 124th who had been evacuated at the Shweli River slide crossing in early January 1945. Battle tested leadership was now in command of both American regiments of the 5332 Brigade for the remainder of the Central Burma Campaign. The third combat team of Mars Task Force, the First Chinese Regiment (Special) never saw action with Mars, it was later attached to the Chinese 50th Division operating in northern Burma.

The war in northern Burma was unlike other major campaigns of WW II. It was not a war of mass armies, but rather a war of smaller units using guerilla tactics in mountainous terrain where it was often difficult to locate the enemy. It was a war where leaders of combat teams, battalions and regiments were on the cutting edge of battle as they had not been since our own Civil War of 1861-1865. Unit leadership at all levels meant the difference between success and failure. Seldom has the American Army been as successful in its leadership choices as it was in the two Burma campaigns of 1944/45.

A typical example of that premium grade leadership, honed to a razor edge through three years of war in combat and training, was an incident that took place on 1 February 1945. For almost two weeks, a Jap 150 mm howitzer had been lobbing shellfire into positions of the 475th and the 124th as they closed the ring around the Jap fortified area on Loi-Kang Hill which commanded the Burma Road. Taking a rifle platoon from the 124th and two 75 mm pack howitzers from A Battery of the 613th Field Artillery, Col. Osborne and his men manhandled their 75's to within 1000 yards of the Jap howitzer which had caused dozens of American casualties. The big Jap howitzer was knocked out in point blank line of sight fire. Improvisation in surmounting

obstacles is one of the hallmarks of leadership that stops lesser men. Col. Osborne always rose to the challenge, it was his signature.

In the aftermath of WW II, Col. Osborne returned to duty in the Philippines, serving in troop command there, and in Germany, where he was transferred in 1951. He returned to the ZI in 1956 where he was stationed at the Pentagon. During this period he attended the National War College. In 1960 he was sent to Saigon in Vietnam where he was assigned duty as military advisor to the South Vietnamese Army. In 1962, he retired with 25 years service, living at Pebble Beach, CA, until death by cancer took him 17 Feb 1986.

His family epitaph, voiced by his wife, Lee, in benediction at his memorial was, "A Man of honor and integrity, one who set high standards for himself as well as others. He loved life, he had a great sense of humor, he was incredibly even tempered, his life had been so lived that he I don't believe he ever regretted anything he had ever done. He was a 'man's man,' truly admired, respected and loved by his fellow soldiers because he could always be trusted and relied upon."

Col. Osborne was a leader, he "led the way!" Sua Sponte, Ranger!
Art Wilson,
A/5307 at Myitkyina
A1/1475, P&D Hq/1/475

Ranger Column

For your information. I recently was provided with a copy of the Ranger Regiment Association newsletter, THE SCROLL, Volume 1, Issue 2, March 1997. In the newsletter was an item indicating that many addresses of Lifetime members had been lost. If you paid dues to become a Lifetime member and did not get the above cited newsletter, we suggest that you write the President, The Ranger Regiment Association, PO Box 55843, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-5843, and bring it to their attention.

FALL IN

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

HOLLIS G ASHLEY, PO Box 143, Windsor NY 13865-0143, 475/2/HQ
CO/P&D Platoon

JIMMIE R DAVIS, 205 North E St, Poplar Bluff MO 63901-6013, 785-6013,
5307/2/31 QM PK TR; 259TH QM CO/AIR DROP

HERBERT J FAHR, 319 SW C Av, Lawton OK 73501-4016, 355-0324,
5307/2/BCT/MEDIC.

OFFICERS ROW

Executive Secretary - Ray Lyons

We have discovered to our dismay that somehow the telephone number for Dave Quaid is wrong in the 1997 Directory. His correct phone number is 508-457-4406. Please make necessary correction.

Have been told by several men who attended the Photo Exhibition by Dave Quaid at the Massachusetts State House, that it was a glorious affair. Estimated 400 people in attendance, about a dozen MM's. It appeared on several local television news stations and on CBS Morning News.

Dave Quaid advises that the next showing will be at the War Memorial Center, 750 North Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee WI, 53202, 414-273-5533, May 21 to June 21, 1988. There will be a Reception. Contact Margaret Mulligan, 414-273-5535. Details to follow in next B/N.

We have watched Art Wilson make an appearance on TV. The Discovery Channel - a Video about the Korean War - on November 16th. It was on night time. This will arrive too late for that date but watch for a replay. Stayed up late Sunday night to watch it. Title is "Our Time in Hell - The Korean War". Art did a fine job of expressing his feelings, with emotion, about his experiences. Including the final statement of the movie, to the effect - "What more could the Americans do?"

Historian - Bob Passanisi

THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 1996.
Public Law #104-262

This law requires that the V.A. establish provision for hospital and medical care through an annual patient enrollment. This means that all

veterans must be enrolled in the V.A. Medical Care System for treatment. **ANY VETERAN WHO IS NOT ENROLLED BY OCTOBER 1, 1998 WILL BE DENIED V.A. MEDICAL CARE.** It seems that the Federal Government will be funding the V.A. Hospitals on a per capita basis, so it's very important that you enroll now. There are many good things in this law that can help many veterans; for example, veterans with 10% or greater disability are eligible for hearing aids if necessary. If veterans don't enroll, benefits will be decreased.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

EDITOR

From a letter to the Editor of the CBI Roundup. I enjoyed the article by Ralph Baird in the February issue. There is very little written on the Mars Task Force, then only to name the 475th Infantry and 124th Cavalry. Baird did give credit to the 612th and 613th F A Bns (PK). He did not name the six Quartermaster Pack Troops nor the two Portable Surgical Hospital Units that were with the Mars Task Force. The 31st, 33rd and 35th QM PK Troops and 44th Portable Surgical Hospital were attached to the 475th Infantry. The 37th, 252nd, and 253rd QM PK Troops and 49th Portable Surgical Hospital were attached to the 124th Cavalry. The above eight units were all small but played a big part in the operation of the Mars Task Force. The two hospital units were really great. Without these two hospital units there would have been a large number of wounded men that would not have survived. So, we of other units, salute these Portable Surgical Hospital Units. Randall Colvin, Gunner 4th Gun Section, 612/C, 252 Flesher Dr, Ellisville MO 63011-3035

EDITOR

Received the copies of the B/N last weekend I enjoyed them very much. It brought back many memories. I was with the Original 5307th. I was in the 2nd Bn at Nhpum Ga and Myitkyina. At Nhpum Ga a tree burst sprayed our fox hole with shrapnel and blew my Jungle first aid kit off my

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At Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony, Ft. Benning, GA. L-R: Roy Matsumoto, Phil Piazza, Don Delorey, Moran Helms, Grant Hirabayashi. Far right: Vince Mellilo.



Marauders marching in to Hall of Fame Ceremony, Fort Benning, GA 1997.

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths Reported Recently
Name and Hometown (where known), Organization
Where, When Deceased

- WILLIS S BATES**, 825 Julian Dr, Broderick CA, 95605-2113, 372-3012, 5307/3/KCT, December 7, 1997
- GERALD J BEAUPRE**, PO Box 9, 300 Main St, Douglas MA 01516, 508-476-1385, 5307/1/I&R Platoon, July 21, 1997
- DESERA BICE**, 2608 Seventh St, Muskegon Heights MI 49444, 5307/1/WCT, December 1, 1997
- FRANCIS CIOTTI**, 911 Bayard St apt B, Bristol PA 19007-6426, 475/3/K, March 25, 1997
- JOSEPH R CORDEIRO**, 1451 E Jarvis Av, Mesa AZ 85204-2341, 602-844-3732, 5307/1/RCT/I&R; 475/1/I&R, November 22, 1997
- LEWIS DAY**, 4837 Nugent Dr, Columbus OH 43220-2957, 5307/3/I CO; 475/3/HQ, November 14, 1997
- PHILIP WILLIAM DAYE**, 5307/2/CO E, 89 Dummer St, Bath ME 04530, KIA Myitkyina Burma, July 1, 1944
- STANLEY J EDING**, 428 Hanover St, Concord, MI, 49237-9779, 517-524-8222, 5307/33 QM PK TR, December 18, 1997
- JOHN J GATELY**, 12 Prince Av, Winchester MA 01890-1330, 729-4532, 5307/3/OCT/I&R, May 20, 1997
- DONALD W DELOREY**, 6114 Van Vleet, Swartz Creek MI 48473, 810-635-7117 (Son Mark), 5307/3/M/MG PL LDR; 475/3/HQ/HW PL LDR, November 5, 1997
- DONALD L. HALE**, 206 Gray St, Jacksonville, AR, 72076-4416, 5307/3/OCT/MEDIC, July 6, 1997
- LOY F HENNINGTON**, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM, 5307/3/KCT/Muleskinner, December 14, 1994.
- ELMER KUCZOR**, 2120 W Rogers St, Milwaukee, WI, 53204-3625, 414-383-9151, 5307/3/OCT, October 24, 1994
- LEROY S, MANSELL**, 139 Crossing Way, Lindenwold, NJ, 08021-6916, 5307/209/CO A, August 1, 1997
- JAMES F MCGUIRE**, 4542 E Timrod St, Tucson AZ 85711-4256, 5307/3/KCT, January 1997.
- ROBERT C MULLIGAN**, 118 Aucila Rd, Cocoa Beach FL, 32931-2766, 5307/1, September 15, 1997
- EARL E. NELSON**, 3925 N Woodbine Dr, Marion, IN, 46952-1021, 317-662-3613, 5307/2/E CO, 475/2/E,
- JOHN PALLER %PRESSANO**, 19 Bradley Dr, Hopewell Junction, NY, 12533-5817, November 22, 1997
- MICHAEL D SARACO**, 34 Farrow St, Winchester MA 01890-1509, 5307/3/KCT, December 2, 1997
- CARL SCHERMERHORN**, 8613 N 84th St, Scottsdale AZ, 85258-2426, 602-991-6026, 5307; 475, November 2, 1997
- ROYAL E SOVIE**, 413 Judson St, Ogdensburg NY, 13669-2839, 315-393-1803, 5307/1/MEDIC, 475/1/MED DET, July 17, 1997
- JOSEPH SPADOLA**, 26345 73rd Ave, Glen Oaks, NY, 11004-1003, 5307/1/HQ/HW/81, 475/1/HQ/HW, July 1, 1997
- JOSEPH J VIDA**, 2327 44th Ave, San Francisco CA, 94116-2042, 5307, December 23, 1993

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ammo belt. My fox hole buddy, Jim Mc Dougal and I never got a scratch. I wasn't so lucky at Myitkyina. Took a hit in the head from a Jap sniper, 6-1-1944. When I regained consciousness, the doctor standing over me was Col Seagraves. Then the Japs started shelling that area. I saw holes being blown in the top of the tent. Don't remember much after that until I was in a hospital in Ledo. I was in the hospital in the USA for 18 months. I still consider myself lucky. A lot of Marauders didn't make it back. Hope to make it to the next reunion. I would like some information about James Mc Dougal, my fox hole buddy in Burma. He was from Milwaukee WI. Norman V Moen, 5307/2/CO E/BCT, PO Box 264, Chetek WI 54728-0264

EDITOR

I remember Col. Osborne with a great deal of appreciation. He, at the head of some 124th Cavalry Troopers and men from the 612th FA knocked out a Jap 150 that had been shelling the hell out of us at Loi-Kang. Just the day before, one round had hit some few feet from a two-man bunker, another guy and I had dug as our home away from home (See B/N May 1997 issue, ref. Jan. 30th). It collapsed the roof logs down on top of me, ruined my M-1, scrapped my helmet and tossed a C ration of meat and beans and canteen cup of coffee I had been brewing into the fire. Took the guys about five minutes to dig me out. The gun continued harassing fire on us until Osborne took care of the situation. So, you can see why I was a member of his fan club. He stopped the shelling. I think he should be nominated as a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame.

But, long before that, before we left on the second campaign, and while he was Regimental CO before Col. Easterbrook came in as CO of the 475th, he had been the conversational topic among old hands as the epitome of a good commander. We were all sorry to see him go to the 124th, but all knew that the green officers and men of the 124th needed some proven combat guidance - which he sure as hell gave them. Arthur Wilson, 5307/1/RCT/A; 475/1/A, 8335 SW Fairway Dr., Portland, OR 97225-2755; 503-297-2045.

EDITOR

I was in L Company, 475th Infantry Regiment. I seem to remember some of the boys from the company. Capt. Pappy Clark, also the Lt. Swartz that were killed on the hill we attacked at the Burma Road. Also Eddie, a Polish boy from New York who was killed by a sniper when we went up that hill. But, I can't remember his last name.

I was one of the cooks when we were camped on the Irrawaddy River. Also, I took a few patrols out when Pappy Clark had the Corporal, that was in as a replacement, to take us out and he could not read a map. So, Capt. Clark asked if anyone knew where to go and I said, "Yes." So, I had a lot of patrol duty.

Also, when the boys on the 2nd Bn Hill got blown up with artillery, I had the job of taking a lot of our company for litter duty to take out the wounded. Remember the Portable Surgical Hospital was across the paddies on the 1st Bn Hill. Do you remember when Pat O'Brien came? Also, Ann Sheridan. Also, Lord Mountbatten gave us a talk before we left. Some things I remember but the names have almost left me by now, not having anyone to talk to about the experiences we had.

When we left Burma and went to China, I went back to cooking for a while. Also drove a 6x6 truck. I ended up in Nanking, China, working for a Colonel, was one of the two cooks we had. We were attached to a liaison unit with the Chinese 5th Army. We had about 12 radio operators and about six officers. It was good duty there in Nanking. Mike J. Virus, 1334 Sherman St., Hammond, IN 46230-2265.

EDITOR

I just got back from a funeral in Rockport, IN. The deceased was a fellow Marauder. He belonged to the Second Bn and Sgt. D'Angelo was his sergeant. See details of Wathen in Pass in Review in the Nov. 1997 Burman News. I met his daughter, sons and son-in law. They were all glad that I had attended his funeral and I told them if they had any questions, I would try to answer them. He was one of the men injured when the truck carrying supplies to us wrecked on the Burma Road. We were walking in to Burma at the time. I forget how many were injured in that

wreck but he was one of them. Then, after we were rescued from Nhpum Ga and fell back to Hsamshingyang and regrouped, they called some men back from the hospital. He rejoined us then. He did go on to Myitkyina. Joe Magnotta, 3 Jonick Rd., Tell City, IN 47586; 812-547-2602; 5307/2/HQ.

EDITOR

In the February 1997 Edition of your publication, it is difficult for me to get over fascination with the article "Sharing the Story". While reading that long and excellent article, I thought to myself, "I am going to suggest to Ray today what the occupation of the writer or such an outstanding story is." Then at the end the answer was disclosed. The author of such a well-written story is a retired teacher, not a slightest surprise.

The unit that I went overseas with to Calcutta from Bombay, the 331st Engineer Depot Base Company, probably traversed the same railroad route across India as Sergeant Gordon's F Company did. At the moment, the name of that Railroad escapes me. The Carrier was Bengal & Assam, North of Calcutta. I recall that at the station, Nagpur Junction, near the Midpoint of the continent, a church group of Ladies from the Methodist Church Mission, I believe, came to the Station with swell home-baked cookies and cold lemonade. Was that ever a tremendous treat to all of us! Sergeant Gordon speaks of the locomotive on their train having a wood-fired boiler. On our train, it was a coal-fired boiler. Other than that, the description sounds the same with slat benches, which the men had to sit on and sleep on.

However, our coaches did have windows and not the boxcar type. We officers, got to use an apartment at the end of the coach. But I don't recall whether we slept of boards or in hammocks of some kind. However, while the board slats were no doubt uncomfortable for the men, they were nothing to compare with the horrendous conditions that prevailed on the Indian Ship, "The Taklina". Isn't that something that I still remember that ship's name? From Bizerte, North Africa, through the Suez Canal, to Bombay. The men were crowded in below deck. Some of them even threw up while eating, our

1st Sgt told me. The Officers Dining Room was on the top deck with open windows on the deck side. The men up on deck, to get out of the dungeon-like conditions below, where they spent much of their time, could lean on the rigging and look through these windows at the Officers eating so comfortably compared to what they were getting. I found it very embarrassing. I got to making sandwiches with whatever meat we might have gotten, and passing these sandwiches out the window to our men. They were standing outside watching us other bastards eat so well. I did this much to the disapproval of the Hindu Waiters. But they didn't have enough guts to say anything.

Before the War, I had spent a couple of years as a steam locomotive fireman on the Burlington Railroad. So to relieve the very tiresome tedium of the trip, I got to climbing up over the coal tender at the back of the locomotive and sitting on the top of the coal pile to watch the Fireman shovel coal and to look around from the Engineer's viewpoint. The Fireman didn't look like he was used to any plentiful rations in his eating. We had plenty of "C" rations in cans. Because I had heard about the Sacred Cows of India, I didn't know whether to offer the Fireman some of these rations or not. So I climbed down into the cab of the locomotive and asked the Engineer, who could speak English, whether I should offer the Fireman some of our Beef "C" rations. The Engineer said it was up to the Fireman whether he ate it or not. So I gave the Fireman a can and did he ever gobble it up! He probably had no idea of what the meat was in the ration. After riding up and down on the coal tender a number of times, that became tiresome, too. So I decided to try something else. So I went down through the cab onto the walkway which runs along the side of the locomotive up to the front. I walked up to the front and sat down on the cowcatcher and crossed my legs something like a Potentate. What a view that was! Pretty soon the Fireman came up the walkway to indicate that I could ride in the Cab. Calling me Sahib, of course. So I waved him off, and sat there until it was time to eat again.

(Continued on page 8)

LETTERS TO EDITOR

(Continued from page 7)

This procedure was so attractive, that I did it several times across India. I expect the Engineer no doubt sent the Fireman up to try to get me to come back into the Cab to ride. He might have been thinking of the possibility that the Engine might run into an elephant or cattle, crossing the tracks. But like Sergeant Gordon said, the Train moved so slow I figured there would be adequate time to get out of the way if some animals did cross the track up ahead.

On the morning we approached Calcutta, I was there on the Cowcatcher again. From about fifty or so miles out, I debated with myself whether to stay right up there into the station. This station was a large metropolitan one. I forget the name of that subdivision of Calcutta. It was on the West side of the Hoogley River (One of the mouths of the Ganges). Of course, I had no idea of the size of the station, figuring it was probably a humdrum affair. But after beating my brains out against the head end of the locomotive in my debate with myself, I finally concluded I wouldn't take the chance of getting into some unknown situation, and returned to the "relative safety" of the coach.

Then the eye-openers loomed. The Station looked somewhat like the La Salle Street Station in Chicago. And there on the large concrete platform

was a large contingent of military personnel. Including General Cheves, the Commander of the Calcutta Base. The Engineer Warehousing Setup was in a mess. We were the first trained Engineer Base Depot Outfit in Calcutta. Thus all the attention from the Commanding General and his retinue. You can use your imagination as to what kind of impression I would have made riding into the City on the locomotive cowcatcher with my legs crossed. You don't suppose I would have got my ass eaten out, do you?

After the football and basketball seasons ended at Grinnell College, I often rode the blinds of the Rocky Mountain Limited of the old Rock Island Railroad into Des Moines to attend plays and concerts. I even rode into Chicago three times or so for the same purpose. I had always wanted to ride the cowcatchers on that passenger train, but didn't have the guts because of passing through a sizable city, Newton, where there were usually railroad dicks around. But I got to do it in India!

Like Sgt Gordon, I am a retired Teacher after a fashion. During the Great Depression, I served 4 years as a High School Principal. But it is obvious I was not a teach of the caliber of Sgt Gordon, in view of the masterpiece he wrote for the BURMAN News. HOWARD MACY, PO Box 157, Lynnville IA 50153-0157, 475/1/S-4



Phillip William Daye
5307 Composite Unit
Co. "E" Infantry, 2nd Battalion
Myitkyina, Burma

EDITOR

Looking for men who knew my Uncle Philip William Daye, a member of the New Galahad, 5307/2/E Co, who died during the Battle of Myitkyina on July 1, 1944. We believe he got his Basic Training at Camp Swift Texas and may have gone overseas on the USS Butner. We are very much interested in learning of his experiences in Burma. Photo enclosed. Debra Mixer-Flanigan, 89 Dummer St, Bath ME 04530, 207-443-9533

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