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The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May, 1999

EAST TO EAST

From the East Coast to the Far East. The Quaid Photo Exhibit has ended its journey.

A Gate Crasher in Chongqing By Dave Richardson

It was a long, hard struggle, but the photo history of the Merrill's Marauders campaign in Burma now lines the walls of the Stilwell Museum in Chongqing, China -- on permanent display for future generations to see. It was my good fortune to represent the Marauders when the exhibit opened in that city.

The struggle by the Marauders to present our story in China started with many months of painstaking effort to mount that exhibit by Marauder Historian Emeritus Dave Quaid, in response to an invitation from the General Joseph Stilwell Foundation.

Difficulties first surfaced last year with wrangling over the contents of picture captions between a Stilwell heir and Quaid. Then, at a preview exhibit in Palo Alto, CA, the Marauders found some captions to have been changed and many hard to read.

Finally, Stilwell representatives

for some reason refused to give us an opening date for the exhibit in Chongqing. This challenged our Association officers to learn it some other way, along with how to get there. How we did both will come later.

In early March at a ceremony in Chongqing's Memorial Hall —where the exhibit opened prior to moving to the Stilwell Museum -- the Marauders had the day we had long waited for. I pulled the curtain to open our display of more than 150 photos, maps and captions, and served as principal speaker to the largely Chinese audience.

In my talk, I told how the Marauders overcame rugged terrain, widespread disease and a stubborn enemy to spearhead the offensive that opened the first land route to China. And I paid our respects to the memory of the tough and dogged Chinese soldiers we had fought beside.

"We are proud that Merrill's Marauders are to be enshrined in this historic city," I said, "in a museum that celebrates such stellar forces of World War II in Asia as the Flying Tigers, the Hump pilots who flew your vital

supplies across the Himalayas, and the engineers who built the Stilwell Road. I thank you for honoring the Marauders on behalf of us all, living and dead."

More than 200 people attended the opening ceremony, including top local Chinese officials, an American business executive representing the Stilwell Foundation, three Army representatives from the U.S. Military Attaché office in China's capital of Beijing and three diplomats from the closest American consulate in Chengdu. Five of these spoke briefly before me.

My talk, which an interpreter translated into Chinese, paragraph by paragraph, got a rousing round of applause from the listeners, among whom were many young people.

Following the ceremony, I was asked to escort leading Chinese officials around the exhibit. Many people came up to besiege me with questions about the Marauders, some of them as wide-eyed as though the Marauders were men from Mars. Few had been alive 55 years ago when we fought in Burma. And few, young or old, seemed to know anything about our role in the war.

That evening I was guest of honor of the local Chinese government at a banquet at which toasts were exchanged in rice wine. A plate was presented to me as the representative of "our brave liberators," embellished with a picture of the city of Chongqing's main public building.

The road to Chongqing for this exhibit had been a long one, but one that enabled hundreds of Americans in cities from coast to coast to view it before it went to China. It opened in Boston in November, 1997, traveled next to Milwaukee in May, 1998, and made a final appearance in Palo Alto last October.

Yet the Marauders turned out to be gate crashers when the exhibit



Dave Richardson at entrance to Stilwell Museum, Chongqing, China.

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NASHVILLE REUNION NEWS

COL. KEEN - DR. HOPKINS TO SPEAK AT NASHVILLE

Col. Ken Keen, who takes over as commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment in July, will be the principal speaker at the Saturday night banquet at the 53rd Annual Reunion of Merrill's Marauders Association in Nashville, TN, Sept. 3-5.

The Friday night dinner speaker at the Reunion will be Dr. James E. Hopkins, who served as chief surgeon of the Third Battalion of the Marauders throughout the unit's combat operations in Burma.

Col. Keen has had 25 years of commissioned service in the Army including posts in Special Forces and Airborne outfits, and as Commander of the First Battalion of the 75th Rangers. "Doc" Hopkins has written several accounts of Marauder battle actions for The Burman News, and is finishing a book about the Marauder campaign for publication soon.

The site of the 1999 reunion will be the Nashville Airport Marriott, five minutes from the famous Opryland and ten minutes from downtown Nashville via Interstate 40. The Reunion package for two persons is \$326.59 for two nights, covering Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast-cocktail party-banquet and Sunday brunch, including all gratuities and taxes. For one person, the package rate is \$210.59. Extra night lodging will cost \$84 plus tax.

All reservations must either be guaranteed with a major credit card or accompanied by a first-night room deposit. Reservations should be made by telephoning the toll-free Marriott number, 1-800-228-9290, or writing the Nashville Airport Marriott, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN 37214-5010. In either case, be sure to say your reservation is for the Merrill's Marauders Reunion at the Nashville Airport Marriott, Sept. 3-5.

Nashville Attractions

Nashville -- "Music City" -- is the Country Music Capital. But even if you're not a country music fan, the pageantry is great fun, and Nashville's attractions make it a great place to visit!

Five minutes from our hotel are Opryland and Music Valley. The Grand Ole Opry is the world's longest running radio show, terrific for everyone. The best perform here. Advance tickets? (650) 889-

3060 (no toll-free number -- shows on weekends only -- performers announced that week). Outside are the Opry Museum and Starwalk, documenting the stories of legendary Opry members with displays and memorabilia.

North of the Opry is the lavish Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, worth a stroll-through enroute to the Music Valley shopping and entertainment area. The Nashville Trolley Company operates shuttle busses here and downtown and all-day passes are only \$3 so there's no need to walk.

And there are great things to see: the Music Valley Wax Museum of the Stars, with life-size sets of country music figures. Sidewalk of the Stars, with more than 250 stars' handprints, and, nearby, the Music Valley Car Museum, with Cars of the Stars.

For kids of any age, there's the Nashville Toy Museum, which includes thousands of antique toy cars, boats, soldiers, stuffed bears, dolls, and one of American's largest collections of operating model trains! For shoppers, there's Factory Stores of America Outlet Center, with more than 60 outlet shops. From Opryland's river landing, you can cruise the Cumberland River -- day or live-entertainment dinner cruises on sternwheeler showboats -- or take water taxis downtown!

Downtown Nashville

Downtown is just eight minutes by car. Once there, park: most attractions are close or reachable by trolley. There's historic Ryman Auditorium, the Opry's former home. It's a recently-restored and still-used performing arts center whose past includes Sarah Bernhardt, Enrico Caruso, Mae West, and W.C. Fields. See past stars' costumes and memorabilia displays, or catch a current stage show!

There's plenty of shopping available in pedestrian-friendly downtown, and great places to eat, including the Hard Rock Café, NASCAR Café, and Planet Hollywood. Or, at the Wild Horse Saloon, you can eat, hear live country music, or practice dance steps on Nashville's biggest dance floor.

Tennessee's fabulous history is on display at the great Tennessee State Museum. There are acres of

exhibits from Pre-Columbian times to today.

There's one of the best Civil War uniform and weapons collections in America. And at the frontier life exhibit see Daniel Boone's rifle, Davey Crockett's powder horn, and Sam Houston's guitar. Walk to Tennessee's beautiful nearby State Capitol, built in 1859, which includes statues of Sgt. York and Andrew Jackson, and the tomb of President James K. Polk.

Downtown's Music Row

West of downtown, on the trolley route, is Music Row, headquarters for Nashville's recording companies. The superb Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum here is great fun, even if you're not a music fan: there's Elvis's "Solid Gold" Cadillac; Hank Williams's Packard; an outlandish convertible with "long horns" on the hood, "six-shooter" door handles, and cowhide upholstery; an extensive collection of classic musical instruments; and those elaborate stage costumes country stars wear. There's a great gift and music shop. Included is a visit to historic RCA Studio B, where you'll see the Nashville recording process, and maybe catch a recording session or a glimpse of a star.

Twelve studios are within a two-block radius, so who knows? Other attractions include the Hank Williams Jr. Museum, chronicling the lives and careers of Hank Sr. and Hank Jr.; the Music Row Car Collectors' Hall of Fame (displaying TVs Batmobile and Batcycle); the Country Music Wax Museum; and the George Jones Gift Shop.

Centennial Park

Can't afford Greece this year? Nashville built an exact, full-size replica of the Parthenon in 1896, right down to the friezes and a 42 foot statue of Athena, to house its art collection. The only full-size duplicate of the original, it's in Centennial Park one mile west of downtown, and includes a small restaurant.

For Younger Children

The Cumberland Science Museum is a great place for little ones, just two miles west of downtown. There are hands-on displays, a 19th Century Country Store, a recreated Japanese living room; and live animal shows. Kids

(Continued on page 3)

OFFICERS ROW

PRESIDENT: Phil Piazza

The past six weeks have been pretty hectic with three trips to Ft. Benning, Camp Merrill and five days in Savannah at 1st BN for ceremonies, meetings, graduations etc. LTC Chan changed command of 4th RTB with LTC Hutchings, who will now become XO of the 75th Regt. I wish that all of you could have been present for the five days we spent in Savannah for the celebration of the activation of 1st BN. For its 25th Anniversary on Wednesday, I walked the three mile parade route of the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Ranger BN and seven other veteran Rangers. Savannah goes wild during that week. I still have not acquired the taste for green grits which was in abundance. On Thursday the BN outdid itself with a ceremony honoring the activation, at which seven of the Rangers received awards, and former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Glen Morrell gave a stirring speech. We then had a super supper in the dining facility with the troops and in the evening attended a very pleasant social at the home of LTC and Mrs. Votel, CO of the BN. LTC Votel and his people should be complimented for the wonderful job they did in arranging all activities. The highlight of the week was Friday night's formal ball. The traditional punch bowl ceremony was very impressive with each Ranger dressed in the uniform of the era represented as he poured the significant drink relating to that period. It was wonderful that evening to renew old friendships with former COs of the BN and Regt. who attended, including Lt. Gen. Buck Kernan, now CO of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg, Brigadier Generals Joe Stringham, Wes Taylor, and Bill Lisczinsky, all friends of the Marauders. Also in attendance were Col. Stan McChrystal, CO of the Regiment, and Col. Ken Keen, who will be changing command with Col. McChrystal on July 22nd at the Ranger Rendezvous. It was wonderful seeing them all together that evening, although I do see them individually, periodically. The highlight of the evening was the speech by Gen. Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who delivered an impressive talk, which was a fitting windup to a memorable week.

EXECUTIVE

Ray Lyons

I do not plan on leaving this job but at this date, I expect that Sally & I will not be in attendance at the reunion. Those that are willing to fill in please contact Mike Mc Laughlin. 301-439-0183.

SECRETARY:

NASHVILLE . . .

(Continued from page 2)

see a Planetarium show or dive to "Pelican Bay" in the Museum's virtual submarine.

There's also the Nashville Zoo, a ten minute ride from our hotel, with over 600 animals on 100 acres, a Petting Zoo, African Savannah, and a Reptile House.

The Hermitage

Nashville abounds in historic mansions open to the public. The best is the 1830s home and plantation of President Andrew Jackson, The Hermitage, five miles east of our hotel. It has many original furnishings, nearly all of President Jackson and his wife's personal effects, a museum, visitor's center with cafeteria, an excellent gift shop with historic reproductions for sale.

Nearby Day Excursions

For those heading for a mid-life crisis or seeking to recapture it, there's the Chevrolet Corvette Final Assembly Plant an hour away in Bowling Green, Kentucky. There are one-hour plant tours on weekdays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. If that doesn't get it out of your system, see the National Corvette Museum across from the Plant. Can't afford one?

Then go two hours' south of Nashville in Lynchburg, TN, and to Jack Daniel's Distillery instead.

Organized Tours

Gray Line Sightseeing, 1-800-251-1864, offers Nashville-area tours, from half-day downtown tours (including Ryman Auditorium and the Country Music Hall of Fame), to nightlife, Opryland/Music Valley, Lynchburg, and Hermitage tours.

Prices include admission to attractions, and can be an excellent value, and Gray Line picks passengers right at our hotel!

So this year's a great year for the reunion - the hotel's beautiful, there's plenty to do - and we hope to see you there!

Mike McLaughlin, son of George

RANGER RENDEZVOUS

The 75th Ranger Regiment and the Ranger Training Brigade will conduct Ranger Rendezvous 99 at Fort Benning GA July 19-22, 1999. The Regiment will conduct a mass tactical parachute assault on Fryer Drop Zone followed by a brief tactical operation. The Regiment will then transition into a series of unit competitions and other *esprit de corps* events culminating in a Regimental change of command. POC for this event is the RS5 MAJ Buck James at 1-800-648-9511, extension 3790.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 19 July; 1100-1230 - Welcome/SITREP Brief to Alumni (O-Club). 1700-1900 - Regiment (-) Mass Tactical (Fryer Drop Zone)

TUESDAY, 20 July; 1130-1300 - Static displays / Weapons Firing (Farnsworth Range). 1430-1600 - Distinguished and Honorary Member of the Regiment Induction Ceremony (Marshall Auditorium). 1630-1730 - Somalia Print Unveiling (Marshall Auditorium). 1900-2100 - Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

WEDNESDAY, 21 July, 0700-1930 - RR 10K/5K/1M road races open to all (on main post). 1000-1600 - Ranger Skills Competition (on main post). 1830-2100 No Host Barbecue (Hangers #1 and #2 at the airfield). 2000-2100 Championship Combative Bouts (Combative Hanger at the Airfield).

THURSDAY, 22 July, 0600-0830 - Regimental PT (York Field & Main Post). 1900-2100 - Change of Command (York Field).

BITS & PIECES

BURMA STAR BRANCH REUNION

Lee Chalifour wants us to know that we are welcome to come to their Annual Reunion. This year it will be right after ours, September 13th to 15th at the Golden Nugget Hotel, Las Vegas NV. For further information, contact Lee at 131 SE Colonial St, Port Charlotte FL 33952-9106, 941-629-8177.

CARRYING THE TORCH

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

JOHN E EASTERBROOK, 12454 Dover Court, Saratoga, CA, 95070, SON/GENERAL

ELVA R RAINEY, 1245 N Eldredge Rd, Pocatello ID 83201, WIDOW CLARENCE

BITS & PIECES**IN MEMORIAM**

In Memory of Garlie Bledsoe, 1st Sgt, 475/2/E Co; 5307/2/F Co from Harold Bullard.

QUAID PHOTO EXHIBIT - HOOVER INSTITUTE

October 5, 1998

Members of the Merrill's Marauders Association, present at the Dedication: DAVID L QUAID, DAVID RICHARDSON, RAY LYONS, ANTHONY COLOMBO, BOB MAC DONALD, KEN STAGER, RODERICK SHAW, LESCHER DOWLING, BOB EMMETT, ED A MATTHIS, ROBERT BURKE, WM D WINTERS (Hon), ARTHUR WILSON, PAUL BOUCHARD, HAROLD MORTIMER, JOHN MC COLLUM, ROY MATSUMOTO, PAUL SWOGGER, ROBERT D SWIGERT, JOSEPH F MEDEIROS, JEANNE GOSHO (Hon), MARION (GOSHO - Hon) FUKUME, V R ROLLO, MILTON KOFF, BEN WOLF, RALPH DEFFENBAUGH, STANLEY RODRIGUEZ, FRANK R SMITH (Hon-JOHNIE), MARIAN ADAMS (Hon-KOORE HANSON), TOSHI UESATO, STANLEY RODRIGUEZ, MIKE MC LAUGHLIN (Hon-SON GEORGE), LAURIE CUNNINGHAM (Hon)

Other later visitors whose names sound familiar to us: ROBERT JONES (96TH FH), LAURA RASMUSSEN, JAMES C STOVER (HON), GERALD & KITTY FLEISCHMAN (DTR DON DELOREY), JAMES D HOLLAND, 5307/3; 475/3/HQ, BUCK & JAN ANDERSON, K CO/ 75 ABN RANGERS, RICHARD YOUNG, (PALO ALTO CA. NOV 6, 1998, Excellent exhibit - brought back old memories! May all of Merrill's Marauders rest in peace after a job well done!! Dick ((believe this was Stilwell's Aide in Burma)), T JOSEPH MARIEN, (Hq Tr 124th Cav, Hugo MN. A heart warming experience to relive some of the action of 124 Cav. Would recommend visit to CBI vets). DONALD, SARAH & LEAH LUBIN, (Very nice exhibit - L) (I very much enjoyed seeing this exhibit. Many of the photos were the work of my Father, Lt David Lubin. Thanks very much for hosting the exhibit - Don Lubin) DICK DAVIS, (S/SGT, 699 PIPE LINE OUTFIT, STATIONS 6, 7 AND 8, 708-377-1678) DELMAR SWANSON, 5307TH, (SAN JOSE CA 246-1915), MERRILL GOSHO, (Seattle WA),

DONALD WEST, (HQ 475TH INF), RONALD YARDLEY (Meadville MO), RICHARD POLLOK, (12 BG), H JOHN YAMODA, MARILYN C HAGERMAN SANDERS, MICHAEL F HAGERMAN (HON), LORENA & ALVARO CASTANEDA, ADRIENNE FAZIO, NORMAN ROSENTHAL, ADDISON D DAVIS IV, (MEMBER 1/75 RANGERS - '80-'82), SARAH GOSHO MATT GOSHO, CATHLEEN GOSHO (Seattle WA), JEANNE GOSHO, CAROL GOSHO (Belmont CA)

LETTERS TO EDITOR**EDITOR**

I was a replacement at Myitkyina. In the 475th I was in G Company, 2nd Bn as a 300 Radio Operator. I would not take \$1,000. for what I went through but would not want to do it again. Went through Heart Bypass a year ago. I have had four by-passes so far. Robert C Wildasin, 820 McAlister St, Hanover PA 17331-4139

PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths reported recently. Names and Hometowns (Where Known), Organization, Where and when deceased.

- HORACE J ALLEN**, 5307/1/HQ/COMM; 475/1/HQ/COMM, ME 040643044, CAROLINE, Easter, 1996
- CHARLIE S ATKINS**, 5307/3. PO Box 134, Mooresboro NC 28114-0134, March 21, 1999 @obit Mrs Jerry Atkins
- GLENN C AXE**, 5307/2/BCT;475TH, 48 E Broadway # 58, Red Lion PA 17356-1402, 717-244-1134, November 19, 1998 @SON MICHAEL
- GARLIE W BLEDSOE**, 5307/2/F; 475/2/F, 313 Spring St, Whitmire SC 29178-1413, October 6, 1998, @ Bullard
- CARL BURKE**, 5307/3, Lowell MA, February 28, 1999, @ Obituary from B Henderson
- MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO**, 5307/2/MEDIC, 2379 Huntington Tpke, Trumbull CT 06611-4017, January 16, 1999 @ WIDOW/JEAN
- JOSEPH P DI ORIO**, 5307/3/OCT, 6208 Highland Rd, Cleveland OH 44143-2111, 216-461-0183, DELMA, December 20, 1998, @Mary Weston
- FRED F FESSELMEYER**, 5307/1/WCT/AIR LO; 5332 BDE/AIR LO, 2656OYLE ST, Bellmore NY 11710, May 5, 1998@Son Eric
- DANIEL FUSILLO**, 5307, 475, 616 Flamingo Dr., Apt 202, Venice, FL 34285-3013, MARIE, March 25, 1999 @ML Chalifour
- ELMER GOSSAGE**, 5307/2/GCT/I&R/R, 3543 S 57th St, Milwaukee, WI 53220-1408, VERA, OCTOBER 13, 1998 @WIDOW
- THOMAS C HARRIS**, 475/1/B, 5838 25th Ave S, Gulfport FL 33707-5036, January 27, 1999, @DTR/Rebecca Christians/727-544-33782
- ROBERT E JACKSON**, 5307/2/GCT, 31 QM PK TR, 311 83rd Ave NE, Saint Petersburg, FL, 33702-3831, 813-577-5166, MARTHA, March 28, 1999, Call Geo Rose
- DONALD J MAGUIRE**, 124TH CAVALRY, 3048 SE Overbrook Dr, Port Saint Lucie FL 34952-5711, January 17, 1999 @ Katherine Koci
- THOMAS F MC CARTY**, 5307/1/WCT/B CO, 1610 Carolina Ave, Lynn Haven FL 32444-3663, 265-5807, ALICE, January 24, 1999 @DTR/ANN
- PETER MC DOWELL**, 5307/1/C/3/PL LDR; 475/1/C/C.O., 27 Robert Rd, Cornwall NY 12518-1612, JANUARY 26, 1999@ WIDOW/MARGARET
- PETER PETITO**, 5307/3/OCT/C.O, 6333 Bright Plume, Columbia MD 21044-3749, 410-997-0761, November 16, 1998
- PAUL PETRUS**, 475th, 2359 Knollwood Ave, Poland OH 44514-1525, August 6, 1998 @WIDOW LORETTA
- JAMES H PHILLIPS**, 5307/2/GCT/I&R, 2667 W 28th Pl, Cleveland, OH 44113-4715, November 1998
- JUNIOR E POTTER**, 5307/1/C CO;475/1/C CO/3 PL, 457 E Bernard Ave, Greeneville TN 37745-5122, 638-5825, February 13, 1999 @obit/GREENEVILLE SUN
- BRONIS A PUZAS**, 5307, 475/3/I CO, 807 Washington Ave, Waterbury CT 06708-3605, 754-1721, February 22, 1999@ Massari
- THOMAS D ROBINSON**, 5307/1/WCT/I&R, PO Box 63, Westfield IN 46074-0063, January 18, 1999@DTR/PATRICIA TAYLOR
- WALTER I SONDEY**, 1027, 475/MEDIC, 140 Woodhouse Ave, Wallingford CT 06492-4926, November 27, 1997, @ WIDOW ELEANOR
- RICHARD H THOMAS**, 5307/2/GCT/G CO, Cook, e-mail JEFF THOMAS/SON - <DUDLEY61@aol.com>, October 26, 1985
- EDGAR S WISDOM**, 5307/2, 327 Linkhaven Dr, Duncanville TX 75137-4309, PO 2/99 B/N

EAST TO EAST . . .

(Continued from page 1)

reached its final destination in Chongqing.

Our Association officers had decided that we should be represented by a Marauder at the historic opening in China. But for some inexplicable reason, the officers of the Stilwell Foundation - which had invited Dave Quaid to speak at the exhibit's final Stateside showing in Palo Alto -- suddenly turned uncommunicative about the exhibit's final unveiling in Chongqing.

In answer to inquiries over several weeks from officers of our Association, the Stilwell people repeatedly denied knowledge of when the exhibit would open in China. They said that in any event they knew of no plans for a ceremony — even as one Stilwell heir was busily arranging for Quaid to provide a Kukri knife and other battleground artifacts to embellish the exhibit.

Our Association's officers refused to believe such denials. We did believe that as one member put it: "To open our exhibit in China without a Marauder present would be like putting on Hamlet without the Prince."

But time was running out — in February we learned that at least one Stilwell representative was going to Chongqing "on business in early March." That was enough to convince us to move quickly if we were going to be there in time.

A telephone call to the State Department in Washington yielded the fax number of the closest American consulate to Chongqing, in Chengdu. The consular officials promptly faxed us the news that yes, there was to be an official opening of the Marauder exhibit -- on March 3, which they were attending. They looked forward to meeting the Marauders attending the event.

The next step was to find how to move a Marauder there fast. I recalled that I had accumulated a lot of United Airlines frequent flier miles over the years. United Airlines said it could reserve a round-trip flight to Asia right away for a price -- a stiff price of 90,000 frequent flyer miles. Our Association agreed to bear other costs.

So that's how your Marauder representative got to China.

There, suddenly, I enjoyed



Dave Richardson addressing the audience at the opening of the exhibit, with officials in the background

wonderful cooperation and hospitality. Chinese employees of the Stilwell Center in Chongqing had rushed through a visa and booked me into a fine hotel. Upon my arrival, they met me at the airport, and provided an interpreter, a car and chauffeur for my entire visit.

The Center's chief, a genial and efficient gentleman named Donghui Zhang, staged a party on a dinner boat in the Yangtze River, then one in a leading restaurant. He collected for us the best of many photographs taken of the event -- and two clippings from the Chongqing press with pictures of me in Marauder beret.

Aside from taking part in the ceremony, my main concern was to see the Stilwell Museum, where our exhibit was to have its final home. The exhibit was to stay in downtown Memorial Hall for only ten days.

The Museum, which was Stilwell's headquarters in China in World War II, turned out to be a long one-story structure — a former small factory located on one of the city's many hills. The rooms that were to house the Marauder exhibit, occupying one entire wing, were spacious, well-lit, empty and waiting. A big sign outside announced our exhibit.

In addition to the Stilwell Center and Stilwell Museum, the Stilwell imprimatur showed up on

other thriving activities in Chongqing. One day I agreed to go to the city's university to meet and talk to a hundred or so students studying English at the Stilwell School of International Studies, all headed for later study at a U.S. university.

Another day I spoke with younger students of the Stilwell Foreign Language School. Many of them hoped to continue studies in America some day. They were so interested in what I said about the Marauders, the war and America that they continued peppering me with questions for another half hour in the schoolyard.

All in all, it was a memorable trip for an old Marauder, and a proud time to be one — even if your representative did have to crash the gate to make it to our own exhibit in China.

Talk by Dave Richardson on March 3, 1999, at a ceremony opening an exhibit in Chongqing, China, of "Stilwell's Infantry, A History in Photographs," documenting the Merrill's Marauders campaign in World War II, prior to its move to permanent display in the Stilwell Museum in that city.

It is 54 years since I last set foot in China. I did so in January 1945, from a Jeep as a member of the first land convoy in history to travel from India to China.

We came in more than 100

trucks and Jeeps, driving all the way through jungles and mountains in Northern Burma and Southern China over the new Stilwell Road from Ledo to Kunming. And I still remember how Chinese villagers everywhere along the road greeted us—with ceremonial arches, with cheers, with food and with repeated toasts of fiery rice wine.

Your hospitality was so wonderful and so plentiful that it was truly a miracle that, after so many toasts to so many leaders and so many things in so many villages, we were able to see straight and drive safely to the end of each day.

To clear the way for that historic convoy, Chinese and American troops in World War II had fought a long and arduous jungle campaign to oust the Japanese from the pathway to China. The Stilwell Road suddenly opened up a greater flow of supplies to help your country oppose the Japanese occupiers in the East. And within six months the war was over and China was free.

Today I return to your great nation as a veteran of Merrill's Marauders, the American infantry force that spearheaded General Joseph Stilwell's offensive in Northern Burma, along with its successor, the Mars Task Force.

We Marauders were a unique force in the history of the U.S. Army. There were 2800 of us—not counting 700 mules—who all had volunteered for "a hazardous mission in Asia," and we certainly found it all of that.

We walked more than 500 miles

through the rugged jungles, streams and mountains of Northern Burma—mostly behind Japanese lines to block the enemy's roads and thereby choke off his supplies, and finally to capture his main airfield in that region. Within months after that fighting began our force was reduced, through battle actions and jungle disease, to a few hundred men.

Actually, many more of our high casualties were caused by malaria, dysentery and typhus than by Japanese bullets. Yet the Marauders exacted a far heavier toll on the enemy—700 dead in the first battle alone—to speed the Japanese retreat.

On behalf of my fellow veterans in Merrill's Marauders Association, I thank you for asking us to prepare this photo exhibit. As you will see, it traces our entire combat record as we fought to help liberate your homeland in that war.

Let us take a moment to pay our deep respects to one Marauder, Dave Quaid, who put this whole exhibit together. As our Association's Historian Emeritus, he spent months of his time and much of his own money to complete the project. Unfortunately, he was unable to come here for health reasons. Dave, we salute you.

We are proud that Merrill's Marauders are to be enshrined in this historic city, in a museum that also celebrates such stellar American forces of World War II in Asia as the Flying Tigers, and the pilots who flew your vital supplies across the Himalayan Hump, and

the engineers who built the Stilwell Road. This is a great honor, and we accept it with deep gratitude and high emotion.

At the same time, Merrill's Marauders wishes to pay a special tribute to your own Chinese forces in that campaign. We will always remember them as brave and dogged soldiers who battled the Japanese in Northern Burma in numbers far greater than our own, as we fought side by side against the common enemy. We signify our respect for them in the exhibit you will see today.

May that experience of Chinese and Americans standing together in a common cause a half century ago betoken an ever closer and lasting relationship between our two countries.

I thank you again for honoring the Marauders here on behalf of us all, living and dead.

"Will Live in Our Hearts Forever" by Dave Richardson

With the opening of the Merrill's Marauders exhibit in Chongqing, a new generation of the Chinese people has the opportunity to learn about our role in liberating their country - and is beginning to express their appreciation of our efforts.

A class of Chinese students visited the exhibit soon after its opening. These are samples of their reactions as written in reports assigned by their teacher:

"America is very far from Asia and was hardly affected by war. If these men had stayed with their families, they would not have been wounded or even die. So we can learn a lot from the Marauders."

"Compared with the length of history, the five months of the Merrill's Marauders campaign was short. But their success will exist forever. I think our Chinese people will not forget the friends who helped us when we were in trouble. Those American friends who lost their lives in the battle of China against Japan will live in our hearts forever."

"The Marauders showed their love not only of their own people but also of the Chinese People

The students' teacher said: "I was delighted to read their reports and see how much they learned. They showed they went not only to finish the assignment but also learned a lot."



A group of students outside the Stilwell Foreign Language School question Dave Richardson following his classroom talk.

RANGER COLUMN

Sir,

I just read The "Rangers" column in the Feb. 99 edition of The Burman News. The 4th Ranger Training Battalion helped sponsor and coach a youth football team of 9-11 year old boys. 4th RTBn got lots of support from the Merrills Marauder Association in the form of uniform patches and decals for their helmets. It was a tough season for the "Marauders", who went winless in five games. The good news is that over fifteen little boys received some great coaching and mentoring from SSG James Kaup and LTC Eric Hutchings. We truly appreciate the association's efforts to provide distinctive patches and decals for the boys. We intend to field another team next year, hopefully with some wins for the Marauders. Thanks again for your support.

Rangers Lead the Way! CPT Fred Wintrich Commander, A/4th RTBn DSN 784-6701 Comm 544-6701

LETTERS TO EDITOR

EDITOR

I want to thank you for printing my letter regarding my Uncle in the BURMAN NEWS. Two members of the 209th contacted me because of your thoughtfulness. One member, Frank De Santis, even sent me the copies of the Burman News with articles about the 209th. I now understand the events leading up to my Uncle's death. Although his body was never returned home, I feel a lot better knowing he had wonderful friends with him during that horrible time. His name is listed on the tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. I sent flowers to be placed on his name at the memorial. It was a wonderful feeling, after all these years to be able to do so. They even sent me a picture of it.

The Army also sent me a Memorial to put in the family graveyard. We plan on placing it next to my Grandparents graves.

As you can see, I got to keep my promise to my Mother, about trying to find out what happened to her Brother. Thanks to you and the members of his unit, 209th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Company B.

I am going to try to come to your next reunion in Nashville TN.

Brenda Spickard, 6940 Scottsville Rd, Alvaton KY 42122, 502-843-9445.

EDITOR:

I wish to correct an error in the recent issue of the B/N. The correspondent stated, "I had gone through the New Guinea Campaign with the 129th Infantry Regiment. The 32nd Division as you may know was a NY Division" This statement is not true. The 32nd Infantry Division was a former National Guard Division from Michigan and Wisconsin. I have a friend here in Mass who served with the 129th Infantry Regiment in New Guinea. If you will check

Stanton's book "Order of Battle WW II", you will find this correct. The nickname for the 32nd Div is the "Red Arrow Division". On situation maps of the ground war in France during WW I, breakthroughs of the enemy lines by our forces were marked with a red arrow. The 32nd accounted for many of the arrows -- hence the nickname.

James Buckle, 36 Standish Woods Cir, East Harwich MA 02654-14710, Editor of the Americal Division newsletter.

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If at first you don't succeed, try looking in the wastebasket for the instructions.



Thanksgiving Dinner, Myitkyina, Burma, 1944. By Emory Wilcox.

FALL IN

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

ROY R APPLETON, 5307th/504th Engr Lt Pont Co. 2600 Pickell Dr., Nashville, TN 37210-5024

FRANK N BLACK, 475th Infantry, 714 Mc Kinley Av, Morgantown WV 26505

RUSSELL E DODGE, 5307/3; 475/3L CO; RANGER, 734 Mayflower Av, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3175, 850-862-6708

JESSE HAAG, 475/2/Co F, 8314 Sagamore Rd. Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-1544

ALBERT C MAILE, 9th Bn, The Royal Sussex Regt, 72nd Bde, 36th British Div, 54 Kirkgate St, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 3QZ, England.

ARTHUR NAFF, 613/HQ/COMM, 3 Oriole Cir, Felton PA 17322-9212

LOST, STRAYED, STOLEN

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DEZERA E BICE, 5307/1/WCT/A CO, 2608 7th St, Muskegon Heights MI 49444-2036, UNDEL AS ADD 2/99 B/N

ARNOLD T GEISSLER, RR 6, Menominee WI 54751-9806, 5307/1 WCT; 475/1 - No such number

THOMAS W HANSEN, 1955 Dallas Hwy NW Apt 605, Salem OR 97304-4488, ATT NOT KNOWN

CHARLES E RAIMEY, PO Box 182, Norway ME 04268-0182, 5307; 475, Att Not Known

GEORGE R WENTZEL, 1013, 5307/1/WCT, 200 Maplewood Ave, Mohnton PA, 19540-1510, 215-775-3030, BETTY, FWD TIME EXP

LETTERS TO EDITOR

EDITOR

After two years of a terrible illness, I am sorry to say I have the task of informing you all of my precious fathers' death. I am proud to say I am the youngest daughter of M/SGT THOMAS F MC CARTY. We wanted you all to know that he died on January 24, 1999. I had wanted to do something for him (All of you) in our local newspaper but am not sure how to go about it. You all were so very important to him. I can't believe there are so many people in this country that do not know who the MERRILL'S MARAUDERS were. It truly breaks my heart. My sisters and my brother know how important you all were (and still are) and Daddy told all of our children the stories about each and every one of you. We have all the books, the papers, and the pictures. We wish we could have known you all more personally but Daddy introduced you all to us through all his wonderful stories of your experiences. We all are so proud to say he is and always will be a "Marauder". If there is anything that anyone could send me to do a nice write up in our local paper, for all of you, not just my Dad, it would be greatly

appreciated. You all are a rare breed and we think the rest of the country should know more about you. If anyone has any tapes or letters of any kind, I promise I will copy them myself and treat them as if they were gold (which I am sure it is to all of us) and I will promptly send them back Special Delivery. I would appreciate anything you could do to help me. I truly want to celebrate my Dads' life as well as the others that went before him and the ones he has left behind. He did not receive a Purple Heart and Bronze Star and all the other awards for nothing. Nor did any of the rest. Thanks so much for anything that can be done. I look forward to hearing from you all. We remain with much respect and devotion, Mrs Ann Mc Carty Rocher, 2309 Grand Oaks Lane. Panama City FL 32408, 850-234-5627.

EDITOR

My name is Roy Appleton and on 17 May 1944, I was a member of the 504th Engr Lt Ponton Co., stationed near Ledo, India. Early that morning the Company was alerted and told to draw their assault boats and motors and proceed to the Ledo airfield for air transport to an unknown destination. We loaded the first C-

47 with six assault boats and three motors, eight E.M. and one 2nd Lt. (I was one of the E.M.). As soon as we took off, orders came through to abort the mission. The plane we were on did not receive the word, so we went on and landed at Myitkyina much to the surprise of Col. Hunter. He seemed rather upset, and told us to dig in next to Col. Seagraves Med. station. Then we buried the first Marauder that had been killed at the strip. We stayed at the strip for a short time, then 2nd Lt Jim Watson, who was our officer, took me and two assault boats over to S. Charpate and left me there with an Infantry Platoon. For the next month and a half I took patrols across the Irrawaddy River and went with them on the patrols. I was actively engaged in the Battle for Myitkyina until its fall. Lt Watson, who is a member of the Merrill's Marauders, took the rest of the men and equipment to Pamati, on the Irrawaddy River, and relieved an Infantry Platoon that was holding a river block there. Roy S Appleton, 2400 Pickell Dr, Nashville TN 37210-5024.

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

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Editor

RAYMOND V. LYONS

ASSOCIATION, INC.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

