

ledo WALAWBUM Inkangawtaung nhpum-ga shaduzup MYITKYINA



# The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

May 2001

## ALL ABOARD FOR 55th ANNUAL REUNION

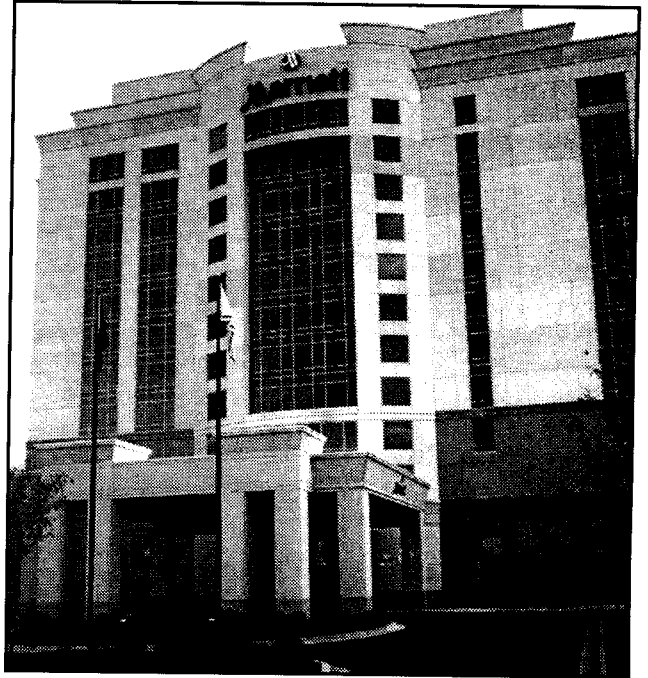
The 55th Annual Reunion will be held Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 2, at the Indianapolis Marriott North Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. This hotel is at 3645 River Crossing Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

**Rates and Reservations** - For a couple for the two nights, Friday, August 31 and Saturday, September 1, the package rate is \$330; for one person, \$260. The package provides two breakfasts per person, two dinners, a Ladies Tea, and two drinks per person before the Saturday banquet, all including tax and gratuity. Extra night's lodging, from August 29, is \$79, plus tax. Reservations may be made by telephoning 1-800-228-9290 or fax, 1-317-819-1055) and advising that you are part of the Merrill's Marauders group. The block of rooms reserved for us is reserved until August 10, after which the package rates will apply as long as rooms are available. You may pay either by credit card or check equivalent to one night's stay.

**Hotel Location** - The Marriott North lies on the North Side of Indianapolis, 25 minutes from the airport and 20 minutes from downtown. Driving there, from the direction of Chicago, take I-65 to I-465E to exit 33 and turn right. Go to the 86th St.-Nora exit and turn left. Go to the 3rd stoplight and make a left onto River Crossing Blvd. Follow River Crossing Blvd straight back. The Marriott is on the right. From the East, either I-70 or I-74, go to 465 W, take exit 33 and turn left. Go to the 86th St.-Nora exit and turn left. Go to the 3rd stoplight and make a left onto River Crossing Blvd. Follow River Crossing Blvd straight back. The Marriott is on the right. From Louisville in the south, take 65N to 465E to exit 33 and turn left. Go to the 3rd stoplight and make a left into River Crossing Blvd. Follow River Crossing straight back. The Marriott is on the right.

**Parking and Transportation** - Indianapolis International Airport, the largest in the US managed by a private firm, is served by 18 airlines. There's a shuttle bus operated by Casey Indiana to and from the hotel. To call for the bus to pick you up when at the airport, use the phone at the airport's ground transportation center. Or you can save time by making reservations on the shuttle in advance of your flight by telephoning 317-241-7100. Often referred to as the "Crossroads of America," Indianapolis is intersected by more segments of interstate highway than any other metro area in the nation. The Marriott North provides free parking, the same bus company, Casey Indiana, can provide a van to take a group around the city by telephoning the same 317 number from the hotel. A tourist agency reachable through the hotel concierge offers tours of the city's main attractions.

**Hotel Facilities** - The Marriott North, a new 11-story high rise, contains 300 guest rooms, 10 of which are specially



equipped for the disabled, and many with a lake view and balconies. All rooms have a hair dryer, full-sized iron and ironing board, and coffee maker. General facilities include a concierge, business center and soda, ice and vending machines. Downstairs, there's a first-class restaurant with Mediterranean cuisine and a lobby lounge with outdoor terrace for food and beverage service. The hotel has an indoor pool, whirlpool and fitness center

**Nearby Attractions** - The Marriott North is situated on a lake within a walk or short drive from "Keystone at the Crossing," one of the largest and most prestigious shopping malls in or around the city. The mall contains a number of fast food places and several fine restaurants in addition to more than 100 shops, department stores and places of entertainment.

**Indianapolis Highlights and Landmarks** - In and around the city itself are such attractions, for young and old alike, as the Indianapolis Speedway which hosts the annual 500-mile Memorial Day auto race and has its own museum (and golf course), the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument with a Civil War Museum, the American Legion Mall, the Hall of Champions of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, a major zoo and the largest Children's Museum in the world.

## PASS IN REVIEW

Deaths reported recently. Name and Hometown (Where Known), Organization, Where, When Deceased.

**PAUL BOONE**, 17102 Country Road 132, Caldwell OH 43724-9403, April 28, 1999 @ Glenn Slay

**ALFRED CLIFFORD**, 5307, BOWDOINHAM RD, Sabattus ME 04280, (207) 375-6947, February 11, 2001 @ widow/Jeanette

**JAMES F DILLON, CPL**, 5307/HQ/OPERATIONS, December 12, 1977 @ Dtr Diana D Watters, <dianawatters@earthlink.net>, 28 Terry Plains Rd, Bloomfield CT 06002

**STANLEY W DRAKE**, 5307/2.MED; 475/2/MED, PO Box 96, Saint Clair MN 56080-0096, February ?, 2001

**MICHAEL F GABBETT**, 5307/HQ/RE; 475/HQ 1st SGT, Designer of Merrill's Marauder Patch, 10413 Walker Dr NE, Albuquerque NM 87112-4981, 505-298-4981, Friedel, January 26, 2001 @ Son/Tom

**JOHN GARLEWSKY**, 5307/2/I&R PLAT LDR; 475/2/I&R, 3 Roland St Enfield CT 06082-5770, September 28, 2000 @ Dtr/Marlene Hoginski, <mhoginski@iopener.net>

**ERNEST J HOLCOMB**, 5307/HQ/SGT, 603 W Fairground Ave, Hillsboro IL 62049, 217-532-3405, January 26, 1985 @ Son Bruce

**GEORGE W JOHNSON**, 5307/2/GCT, 1500 S Muldrow St, Tishomingo OK 73460-3256, (405) 371-9233, 0860, November 20, 2000 @ Widow/Ramona

**LEON J KLUNK**, 475th Infantry, Dallastown PA, July 2000 @ CBIVA SOUNDOFF

**WILBER LITTLER**, 5307/2/BCT/CO E, 36213 Stone Rd, Nashwauk MN 55769-4038, March 4, 2001 @ Son Gregory

**EVERETT PELFREY**, 5307/2/GCT, 941 S Walnut St, Saint Albans WV 25177-3953, (304) 727-274, 1997 @ G A PELFREY

**DOMINIC "PAT" PERRONE**, 5307/3/OCT/HQ, 1567 Heather Way, Kissimmee FL 34744-2807, February 27, 2001 @ Niece Laurie Whitt, 1804 North State St, Big Rapids MI 49307

**LT COL FRANK RUSSELL**, 5307/3/KCT/I CO, 9 Lake Dr, Florence KY 41042-1923, January 26, 2001 @ Son Robert, 561-790-7132, <robert\_russell@jetaviation.com>

**PAUL E SAUNDERS**, 5307; 475, 17240 E Grande Blvd, Fountain Hills AZ 85268-3225, (480) 837-3228, February 2, 2001, @ Widow Joyce

**EMMETT J SHEA**, 5307/1/WCT, 6 Main St Apt 205, Lenox MA 01240-2340, (413) 243-0561, November 21, 2000 @ BARBARA

**HARVEY E SHEPPARD**, Mars Task Force, Winter Park FL, October 30, 2000 @ CBIVA SOUNDOFF

**STANLEY SOKOLOSKI**, 5307/2/GCT/G Co, Philadelphia PA, August 8, 1965, @ Phyllis Sokoloski, 4348 Paul St, Philadelphia PA 19124

## SHARING THE STORY

### BEHIND THE SCENES, HERE'S HOW IT HAPPENED!

I have read the book SPEARHEAD, and enjoyed it very much. Dr Hopkins certainly wrote a lot of detail. It must have taken him and Jones a long time to research. He made one comment that I can help with. I believe he said that he did not know how the 5307th came under the command of Gen. Stilwell, and I know the answer to that.

When the unit was established at the Quebec Conference, to join Wingate's Force, I was at the Pentagon, in the South East Asia section of DCSOPS ((Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations). I was walking along the hallway, when Little Abe Lincoln (that name is too long a story to explain here) stopped me and said, "Weren't you in Panama? Don't you know about the jungles?" When I said I had been in Panama, and yes, I did know about the jungles, he said "How would you like to go with Wedemeyer to be in Mountbatten's Headquarters?" I said I would love it, and he took me to see Wedemeyer. I was the third man to join Wedemeyer's staff, and I became the U.S. Secretary to the General Staff in Mountbatten's Headquarters. After Wingate was killed in an airplane accident, Mountbatten received a radio message from Gen. Stilwell, saying, in effect, "Now that Wingate has died, these American troops belong under MY command!" I was at the meeting when Mountbatten read the radio to his assembled staff and commanders, and said, "Well, if he wants them so badly, why don't we give them to him?" Nobody disagreed, so we sent a radio back to Stilwell transferring them.

*Additional comment:* When the Marauders were disbanded, I stayed on to help the new command, Mars Task Force, become established. When I left that job, on orders to return to Mountbatten's Staff, I stopped temporarily in Southern Area Combat Command, commanded by B.G. Boatner. He stood me up in front of himself and said, "The Marauders were a bunch of lily-livered yellow cowards. The Chinese were a lot better!" I was a Lt Col, and so couldn't talk back. But I had my revenge later.

Years later, I was again back in DCSOPS. Again Little Abe Lincoln came to me and said, "Come quickly - they're talking about putting Boatner in charge of DCSOPS!" He and I ran to the Chief of Staff's office, whom I knew from earlier contacts, and I told him about Boatner's attitude as C.O. of the Southern Area Combat Force. Boatner became the Provost Marshall General instead. Thanks be to God! Keep 'em rolling.

Col James L Muir, Jr. (USA RET),  
5307/HQ/S-3, SEAC HQ, 300  
Woodhaven Dr, Apt 2307, Hilton  
Head Island, SC 29928-7539

### **ALONG THE TRAIL - AUCHE TO NHPUM GA**

During the morning hours, before daybreak, Major Healy and Capt. Ashby, informed me that my platoon would be the "POINT" on our way to Nhpum Ga.

Japanese troops were reported close by, therefore I was instructed to move my men out quickly and keep the column marching at a fast pace. At exactly 0700 hours, I was to call for a "break" in order to permit the rear guard to catch up, which is what I did.

However, at that instant, the Japanese began to shell our main column. The order double time was echoed, and we began to run to our destination which was a little over four miles away. At approximately 0830 hours, what seemed to be days later, we finally arrived at the village.

General Merrill, whose command group had spent the night at the "Hill", asked me what happened. Being out of breath, he realized my predicament and sug-

gested that I sit down until I was able to explain the situation to him -- which I did many minutes later.

I was then instructed by General Merrill to gather up all men available and report to Capt William Scott. We were to go back down the trail and set up a delay-action maneuver in order to allow the main body sufficient time to dig in at Nhpum Ga.

We returned to the trail, Capt Scott then instructed me to "dig-in" on the East side. With all of my men in place, I told Horace Rieger to position himself to protect the B.A.R. flank. At that very moment, a "knee mortar" round exploded a few feet to his right, causing serious injury to his entire side. I immediately helped him to the Medics which were stationed on the "Hill"

Upon my return to the original area, all "HELL" broke loose with more incoming mortar fire. As I turned to observe from where it had been coming, I saw Capt Scott running in my direction with his face hidden with blood. I hurriedly threw my arm around him and managed to get him to the Medics up on the "Hill". After that, I returned to the trail and was told to "dig-in"

S/Sgt Clarence Matlovich,  
5307/2/.BCT/3 PLATOON, 2073  
SW Idaho Ln, Port St Lucie FL  
34953-2373

### **TANK TARGET**

I was with the 475th, 1st Bn, Hq Co and remember a few things that happened to us. I was almost blown up. As a routine assignment, I would take my mule down from the top of the hill to pick up mortar ammo. Which was air

dropped by parachute on to the rice paddy field. We would pile up the ammo in about 3 foot piles, and then load the mules. The Japs hid a small tank in a cave on the side of a hill. They would bring it out and fire three rounds. Then back it in to the cave again.

This day, I was standing alongside the pile of ammo when they fired one round long and one short round. I thought that was the end. I hit the ground and buried my head in a ditch on the hillside. The next round came but Thank God it landed short and knocked out a little bridge and killed about 8 or 9 mules..

We finally had a gun air dropped that could shoot point blank and the guys blew that tank up.

I sure would like to hear from any guy who was with the 475th and remembers the rodeo we had with the mules. We were told that we would be in this camp ground area for a few days. So we built a corral with bamboo trees and we had a great rodeo. John (Jack) K Hafen, 511 Transverse Ave, Pittsburgh Pa 15210-2441.

*EDITOR-* I had a similar experience except that I was with the 3rd Bn Hq. On one occasion, I was ordered to take a detail with mules out to the drop field to pick up supplies for our unit. So we wandered out onto the paddy and proceeded to pick up the supplies and load the mules. Next thing we knew, an artillery round whistled over our heads and hit into the side of a paddy about 20 yards beyond us. We all ducked down against the side of the paddy walls and awaited our fate. But apparently our artillery up on the 1st Bn hill was waiting for that tank and they

immediately started counter battery fire and the tank did not fire at us again. Whew! Lost a chance for a Purple Heart. Ray Lyons)

## CARRYING THE TORCH

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

**BRUCE HOLCOMB**, 603 W FAIRGROUND AV, HILLSBORO IL 62049, (217) 532-3405, SON/SGT ERNEST, HONORARY, JUDY

**MRS MARGARET OLLILA**, 8907 Grandville Ave, Detroit MI 48228-3058, HONORARY

**FRANK R SMITH**, 4202 Keefer Rd, Chico CA 95973-9710, 342-8600, BRO/JOHNNIE, HONORARY, SUE

*The Internal Revenue Service really believes in its citizens. They know we have what it takes.*

## WANTED: NOMINEES FOR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors is seeking nominees to run for President of Merrill's Marauders Association in an election to be held during our next Annual Reunion.

The Presidency is open following the decision of longtime President Philip B. Piazza to resign from the post earlier this year for the newly created position of President Emeritus, in which he will continue his liaison work with the Ranger organization. None of the other present Association officers wishes to be considered for the Presidency.

The new President will preside over Annual Reunions, and over the selection of hotel sites for these, and will perform such other duties as set forth in our Constitution. Like other offices of the Association, the Presidential term is for one year, renewable.



The portrait and other artifacts of General Sun are now on display in a special booth in VMI Museum on VMI campus in Lexington, Virginia.

Any member of this Association is eligible to run for President. To place a name in nomination, a member needs simply to advise Executive Secretary Raymond V. Lyons in writing, either by letter at 11244 N 33rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028-2723, or by E-mail at marauder@gte.net. All nominations must be in Ray's hands by July 1, and will be printed in the August issue of BURMAN NEWS.

From the 1686 *Gazette*, Feb 2001: PHONE SCAMS. It told of getting phone calls from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T technician who was conducting a test. He would ask you to enter nine (9), zero (0), the pound (#) sign, and then hang up. This gives the caller full access to your telephone line, enabling them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number. So, beware, and never press 90# for anyone.

## FALL IN

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

**LAVERNE GREENACRE**, 5307/1/WCT/C CO, 711 OLD CANYON RD #78, FREMONT CA 94536-1766, 510-792-7706, Audrey

**HOLLIS HUGHART**, 5307; 475/HQ CO, 4683 KELLYKRISS DR, ST LOUIS MO 63304

## LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

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

**OLIVER L EICKSTAEDT**, 5307/1/WCT/MED, 15 Alfred St, East Wareham MA 02538-1226, BARBARA, MOVED, NO FWD ORDER

**ELWOOD A PIKE**, Ridge Ave, Williamson PA 17270, (717) 369-4328, NO FWD ORDER

**LOUIS M QUINN**, 5307/2/BCT/M CO, 4235 Pinehill Dr, Harbor Spring MI 49740-9302, NO FWD ORDER

**BENNY QUINTERO**, 124; 475, PO Box 311, Leipsic OH 45856-0311, NOT DEL AS ADDR

**OTTO SCHULTZ**, 5307, 301 E Walnut St Apt 6A, Dickson TN 37055-1809, Refused, Return to Sender

**STANLEY T WYKA**, 12 Lakeview Ave, Rochelle Park NJ 07662-3102, ATT NOT KNOWN

**BURRELL YOUNGBLOOD**, 5307, 7827 Oakland Dr, Portage MI 49024-4933, UNKNOWN

## OFFICER'S ROW

### PRESIDENT EMERITUS - Phil Piazza

Since our last Reunion, I have been on the go constantly. I have been to three military balls, attended three Ranger graduations, innumerable meetings at Ft. Benning, and on the average of twice a week have been asked to be the guest speaker at various Clemson ROTC affairs, high schools, service organizations, veterans meetings and civic clubs. It is really amazing the amount of interest in our campaign after all this time.

In October, I was on a one-day panel discussion at Ft. Benning with Generals. Leur and Grange, Col. Puckett and Lt. Col. Dixon. Our topic was the Mongoday warriors, and the tactics of Genghis Khan. We were asked to compare the tactics, stress under combat conditions, food, etc. It is amazing when you study it, how those old-time warriors compared so to our conditions, and even used similar tactics - although, with the use of different weapons, every year a large group of company commanders undergo this rigid training, and discuss the tactics, etc.

During the panel discussions in October, I had the pleasure of attending Gen. Lisczinsky's retirement party and then retirement ceremony. I hated to see him retire, as we are losing so many of these fine young officers in the Ranger ranks, such as Gen. Grange also. On the other hand, we have seen Gen. Buck Kernan get his fourth star, Gen. Spears get his second star, and Gen. McChrystal get his first star. It is always wonderful to see our good friends do so well. It speaks very highly of the quality of the Ranger officers, and also of the non-coms, who have also done so well.

Next I will be attending the selection committee for the Ranger Hall of Fame.

The Ranger Camp at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida will be holding its anniversary April 19-22, the Best Ranger Competition will be April 24-30, Camp Frank D. Merrill will be having its anniversary May 19-22, and the Ranger Rendezvous will be held at Ft. Benning July 24-28. As you can see, it will be a really hectic time as I will be attending all of them.

If any of you Marauders would like to attend any of these events, please contact me and I will send you all the finite details.

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-Ray Lyons

We were told by Martha Jackson, Widow of Bob that it was possible to get the VA to pay for a Headstone marker indicating our unit for the grave of soldiers. After some investigation, we found that you have to obtain VA Form 40-1330- General Information Sheet, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery. It is also possible to get a Headstone or Marker for the Federal Veterans Cemetery. Contact the local VA and ask them about that. When burial or memorialization is in a national, post, or State veterans' cemetery a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin. When burial is in a private cemetery, VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery, must be submitted by the next of kin, funeral director or cemetery representative, along with a copy of the veteran's military discharge documents, to request a Government-provided headstone or marker. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.

VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery and additional application information may be obtained at any VA national cemetery or regional office by calling 1-800-827-1000. This form is available on the Web Site; however, it may not be filled out and submitted electronically or by fax.. Government-provided headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the decedent, branch of service, and the year of birth and death, in this order.

Headstones and markers may be inscribed with certain optional items including an authorized emblem of belief, and space permitting, additional text including grade, rate or rank, war service, complete dates of birth and death, military awards, military organizations and civilian or veteran affiliations. Terms of endearments that meet acceptable standards of good taste may also be added with VA's approval. Most optional inscription items are placed as the last lines of the inscription on a Government-provided headstone or marker.

All completed applications should be mailed to:

Memorial Programs Service (403)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420-0001

Another item of frequent interest is Medical records. By this time, we all should be aware that there was a big fire in the Personnel Records building in St Louis, which destroyed most of our service records. However, the question of medical records is a different matter. If you are looking for support for a Purple Heart, disability compensation, etc., you should write to: **CHIEF, RECONSTRUCTION BRANCH, NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, (MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS), 9700 PAGE AVE, ST LOUIS MO 63132-5100.** When writing to them, it is important to provide as much detail information about your unit and dates involved so that they can search for them.

### HISTORIAN - Bob Passanisi

The Merrill's Marauders Webpages, that my son John Passanisi has generated are getting more and more visitors. We have received and answered more than 4,000 e-mails to date. Many of the e-mails are from Marauder's family members that are looking to get additional information. Some are from non Marauders; those are the most difficult to answer.

In-between e-mails I have been working on trying to complete a list of all the men that fought in Burma, such as the 475th Inf., the Combat Engineers, the 124th Cavalry and the many others that supported the effort. To help in this effort I would appreciate receiving any information that anyone has that includes, name, rank, serial. No. and unit.

I have started to generate sets of Marauder Photographs for CDs. Finding or generating captions seems to take forever, which makes for slow progress, but hopefully I'll have something for the reunion. As Reunion Chairman, I will be visiting the Indy Marriott during the first week in May, in order to finalize the details.

I am also in the process of collecting, categorizing and storing Memorabilia for the proposed Merrill's Marauders Museum, that will be a part of the Ranger museum, at Fort Benning GA.

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### EDITOR

Information on my service time. I was sworn into the Army of the United States on November 14, 1942. I went first to Camp Joseph T Robinson, in Little Rock AR. Then to Ft Sill OK, where we finished Basic Training in March of 1943. Then on to Ft Bliss TX where I was assigned to the 33rd QM PK TR, until October when we arrived at New Orleans LA. There we boarded a Liberty ship by the name of SS Hosea Naverro, on October 31st. We left that port on November 1st and headed to Newport News VA. We were there ten days, then across the Atlantic to the Suez Canal. After going through the canal and either in the Red Sea or Indian Ocean, at 0415 hours on the 27th of December, we took a torpedo. It hit between the first and second hatch. On the ship were 75 army personnel, a Navy gun crew to man 3 large guns plus some 20 mm and a crew of Merchant Mariners.

We all got in rafts and boats and only one person got hurt in one of the boats, lowering it into the water. The ship did not go down at first but was almost vertical, so we stayed close to it, (1/2 Mile) to await rescue. When it got dark the submarine put another torpedo into the ship. We had tied all the boats and rafts together during the night. We cut loose from one another and it was everybody for themselves.

The sub surfaced and tried to locate us but he did not get any of us. We rowed all night and the next morning when it was light enough, we saw that we were still close to one another. That evening a British destroyer arrived at 1530 hours and picked all of us up. They took us to Cochin, India. We stayed there in a British Army Post for two weeks. Then a coastal passenger ship took us to Bombay. We then went by train to Deogarh where we met up with the 5307/ 3rd Bn. We shortly boarded another train for a ten day trip to Ledo.

I put my foot into my mouth (Ha!) and was put into the Pioneer &

Demolition Squad. My Squad Sergeant was Sgt Braden. I stayed with them past Walawbum. Then I went over to I Company from K Company and stayed with that group until I left Myitkyina on or about May 28th. I went to the 20th General Hospital at Ledo for a short period. Then to a Rest Camp near the Hospital. After a short stay???, I rejoined the 475th in a Rifle Platoon. After we left Camp Landis and crossed the river, I became ill. (From what I do not know yet). I went back to the 20th GH for 3 days. Then upon discharge from the 20th, I was told I could not go back to the 475th. So they sent me to a place called Chandler Gore, India. I was there 2 or 3 months in a Replacement Depot (20 miles from Calcutta). While there I was put on the shipping list for the U.S. I was Discharged from the Army at Fort Sill on November 2nd, 1944. I will always remember Nhpum Ga and Walawbum. JAMES B PHILLIPS, 9920 Paula Dr, River Ridge LA 70423-4820,

### EDITOR

I was in Co G, 475th Infantry and walked from Camp Landis to Loi Kang Hill. Got sick with Typhus and was flown back to the 69th General Hospital for about 3 months. Then I went to NCAC near Lashio. I was assigned to a Chinese Trucking Company, hauling rations to Hsipaw for Chinese troops till the "A" bomb was dropped. RALPH G MILLER, 10 Gloucester St, Harrisburg PA 17109, 717-545-1978

### EDITOR

I was a Marauder myself. I am going to start from the beginning. I enlisted in the Army Infantry. I was stationed in Hawaii in 1941 when the Japs attacked. Was with the 25th Division when it left to go to Guadalcanal, New Georgia, and the Solomon's. I and William F Toomey. We were shifted to New Caledonia, a third of the regiment in the 5307th. When we were up at the Burma border, I told Bill Toomey that I wanted to go to a Rifle Company. He stayed and I went to L Company, Orange CT.

About one third of the way, I was supposed to be promoted to S/Sgt but never made it official. As far as I know, it is now water under the bridge. I went all the way to Myitkyina Airfield. But before I got that far, I had malaria three or four times. They never took me out. They took my gun, everything but water and said, "When you feel better, you can catch up." I bought the book "Merrill's Marauders" by Turner Publishing Company and put my photo in. It's on Page 89 on the right bottom. I lived in York PA. They put it in as York GA.

Anyhow, when I got to the Myitkyina Airfield, I was tagged "Unfit" and sent out to a hospital. They told me "Too bad, Bill Toomey was killed." When I was in the hospital, Gen. Merrill told the 3rd Bn not to sign up to go to Rangoon. When Gen. Merrill came back, all the 3rd Bn, what was left, came back to the U.S.A. In Feb 1986, you said John Keslik had these names, 1st Company 148 men, the 2nd Company 130 men, total men 278. I still have a copy of the 2nd Co. which is only 68 men on it, including me. This is why I am writing this letter. All these names should be in the book, SPEARHEAD, under the Bronze Star, because everybody that came home got one of these medals.

It seems to me, the Privates and PFC's got the screws put to them. That's what I wanted to get off my chest.

Anyhow, when I got back to the States, they put me in the M.P.s and kept me for another year. I would have been all right if I had the Staff Sergeant rating. They told me you always got your rating in war time. I am still p\_\_\_\_\_ off that my name wasn't in the SPEARHEAD. I got the shaft so many times anyhow, I feel better. RICHARD LEEPER, PO Box 104, East Prospect PA 17317-0104.

### EDITOR

I would like to mention about my hometown, Ossining NY (Home of Sing Sing State Prison). From this small town of 18,000 people, we had nine members in the group. Starting with the original outfit - Jerry Demilo,

we had two KIA, Sgt Jack Wright and Taeon Yost. Other members were Sgt Herbert V George, Edward M Kane, Bud Vecardo, David Demedio, Robert C Hoffman, Cpl John Lupetin. Along with these we had two Ossiningites at the Airstrip, Elton Henning, Photo



Recon and Tony Tarnelli, Air Force. As I write this, I wonder about the whereabouts of my machine gun crew. They were Cleo Hicks, Charles R Hart, Chester G Martin, "Pop" Popejoy and Anthony De Basio. Enclosed is a photo taken in China of 5307/475th men - Left Cpl John Lupetin (Machine Gunner) Sgt Albert Glock, Cpl Virgil Boeskin, (deceased). JOHN LUPETIN 5307/2/E Co; 475/2 I Co,

#### EDITOR

I am reading "SPEARHEAD" by James E.T. Hopkins and John M Jones. This is the best about the 5307th. I was one of the many New Galahads who didn't know what was going on or if anybody cared. Landed at Myitkyina Airfield during the last week of June and went back to airfield by oxcart on July 16. Ended up at 20th GH in Ledo. Spent the rest of my time in New Delhi, C.B.I. Headquarters - guard duty, mail carrier. Arrived home February 1946. DONALD KEENE, 5307/209th Engrs, PO Box 35, West Poland ME 04291-0035.

#### EDITOR

I am looking for any information that I can find about my Uncle a Marauder. His name is Charles W Cole, ASN 14047497, 1st Bn, B Company, Red Combat Team. This is as much information as I have been able to obtain. I would like to

talk or hear from someone who may have served with him and knew him or would know the circumstances when he was killed in late 1944. CHARLES TALLEY, 607 Bert Garner Dr, Maryville TN 37803, e-mail <jatke@icx.net>, phone 865-982-3232 collect.

#### EDITOR

I would like information, if possible on a soldier named - Fred Marchetti, who served with Merrill's Marauders. He was killed in Burma and his body was returned to Memphis, TN for final burial. He was my uncle on my Mother's side. I served with the 29th Infantry Division in WW II as a Scout - (S/2), Intelligence. As you probably know our Division made D-Day on June 6th, 1944, Omaha Beach, France.

Any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated. ALBERT BARTELLONI, SR, 1829 N Turquoise St, Wichita KS 67212-1461, 316-722-9485.

#### EDITOR *From Website*

Thank you so much for creating and maintaining this web site. Through it, I have learned more about my uncle than I ever knew before. My uncle was Staff Sgt. Stanley J. Bethke, who was KIA June 5, 1944 at Myitkyina.

As a little girl, I remember visiting the family cemetery plot on Memorial Day every year. I was told that, although his name appeared on the headstone, Uncle Stanley was not buried there - he had served with Merrill's Marauders and had died in the war; his body never came home. It made me so sad to think that he was so far away from his family. Even though I never knew him, he always felt special to me.

When I first found your website, it was a thrill to finally learn about the unit Uncle Stanley served with. It made me want to learn more about this man and his life. My mother (his youngest sister) recently sold her home, and while clearing out the house, I came across the first pic-

tures of Uncle Stanley I had ever seen, and began to learn more about him. Stanley Bethke served a total of 14 years in the Army, going in and out of the service during the Depression. He was also a fine boxer, known as "Battling Bethke".

Would any of the Marauder survivors remember my uncle? Can anyone tell me about him or how he died? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

I'm also trying to find out if his Purple Heart or Bronze Star were ever awarded. My mother is 84, and doesn't remember many details. Uncle Stanley was the "real man" of her family, was greatly loved, sadly missed, and so typical of that generation, rarely spoken of after the shock and grief of his death.

Whether I learn more about him or not, I want to thank you again for keeping alive the story of the Marauders. The grit, determination and courage of this magnificent band of men should never be forgotten. VIRGINIA A. NELSON, 41 Morgan Street, New London, CT 06320, <Bill1008@msn.com>

#### EDITOR

I am looking for someone that may have information about Staff Sgt Jack Ruby. He was a Squad Leader in Co G, 2nd Battalion. They were ambushed crossing a rice paddy to contact a unit of Chinese Army near Myitkyina. The Japanese were dressed in Chinese uniforms and they did not know it until it was too late. Jack and I were very good buddies. We trained at Camp Swift, Texas, Co K, 386th Infantry, 97th Division. We were sent to Burma together. After that I didn't see him until we were sent to Kunming, China. We never got to talk about the battles we were in. Jack's wife and son Jack, Jr. would like to know anyone that have any information about him to contact them or send it to me, James E Stevens, PO Box 142, Middlebranch OH 44652 or to Jack Ruby Jr., 812 Fairway Dr, Fayetteville TN 37334. JIM STEVENS.

# RANGER COLUMN

Gentlemen,

Attached is an invitation to conduct a Ranger Link Up at Fort Benning, GA on 19 May 2001. We welcome any Ranger Veterans to get an update on the Regiment, have lunch at 3/75 Ranger Dining Facility and observe a Company Live Fire Raid conducted by 3/75 Rangers. The events run from 1130 to 1800 that day. Only cost is the lunch for \$3.20. Please provide widest dissemination.

Rangers Lead the Way!

MAJ Marcus F. De Oliveira, Regimental S-1, 75th Ranger Regiment; deolivem@soc.mil, (706) 545-5669 (DSN 835-), Red: 835-1017

This is a revised schedule for Ranger Rendezvous 2001 (as of 30 1430R Mar 01)

## Sunday 22 July

1700-1900 Regimental Mass Tac (Fryar Drop Zone) (P-Hour to be determined late May)

## Monday 23 July

0600 Registration for 10k/5k Race and 1 Mile Fun Run (Stewart Watson Field)

0630 Soldier and NCO of the Year APFT

0700 10k/5k Race (Stewart Watson Field)

0700 Start Warren Evans Team Test (TBD)

0830 1 Mile Fun Run (Stewart Watson Field)

0900-1700 Ranger Competitions (Basketball, Softball, Flag Football, Soccer)

1000 Soldier and NCO of the Year Board (RHQ Conference Room)

1300 Welcome and State of the Regiment Brief (Building 4, Room TBD)

1500 Engagement Skills Trainer OPD (Tentative)

1500 Tug of War Competition

## Tuesday 24 July

0600 Key Leader Rehearsal for Change of Command (York Field)

0700 Full Dress Rehearsal for Change of Command (York Field)

1000-1100 Key Personnel Rehearsal for DMOR/HMOR Ceremony (Marshall Auditorium)

1300-1900 Ranger Competitions (Boxing, Combatives)

1300-2100 Best Shot Competition

1900 Combatives and Boxing Finals

## Wednesday 25 July

0600-0800 Regimental PT (Sand Hill)

0930-1130 Static Displays and Open House (3/75 Compound)

1030 Veterans and Associations Tan Beret Ceremony (Tentative--COA 1) (3/75 Memorial)

1130 DMOR/HMOR Rehearsal (Marshall Auditorium)

1300 DMOR/HMOR Ceremony (Marshall Auditorium)

1600 Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony (Marshall Auditorium)

1800 Barbecue (Lawson Army Airfield)

2100 Awards Ceremonies for Competitions (Lawson Army Airfield at BBQ)

## Thursday 26 July

0930 Soldier and NCO of the Year Ceremony (Ranger Memorial)

1300-1400 General Kernan OPD (Tentative)

1600-1700 Veterans and Associations Tan Beret Ceremony (Tentative--COA 2) (Ranger Memorial)

1800 Awards Ceremony (Ranger Memorial)

1830 Tan Beret (Tentative) and Change of Command Ceremony

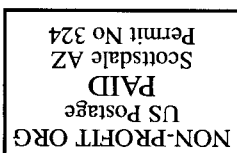
## Notes:

The Regimental Command Post and Ranger Visitors' Bureau will be established at Peden Field and operate 24 hours. Phone numbers will follow.

Expect future updates and slight shifts in times or dates for events.

RLTW!

MAJ Marcus F. De Oliveira, Regimental S-1, 75th Ranger Regiment, deolivem@soc.mil, (706) 545-5669 (DSN 835-), Red: 835-1017



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