



The Burman News



Official publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

November 2002

VALLEY FORGE – GEN. WASHINGTON’S TROOPS SUFFERED, WE ENJOYED

General Business Meeting: Saturday August 31, 2002

The Meeting was called to order by Historian/Reunion Chair Passanisi at 2:20 p.m.

Presidents Report - Phil Piazza

Phil reported that he made 45 trips to Ft. Benning and other Ranger functions and expressed his thanks to all who attended the Ranger Hall of Fame induction. He will serve as co-leader of a 13-week seminar on World War II at Anderson College, dealing with Merrill's Marauders

Phil will be proposing The Columbus Wyndham Hotel at Columbus GA as the site for the 2003 reunion, to take place on August 8-10, 2003, this date to give members the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony at the Ranger School.

A debate issued about holding a reunion in August when the By-laws (a 1991 amendment) state reunions are to be held in September. It was pointed out that we were already in violation of the By-laws, because the present reunion is being held in August, even though ending the morning of September 1. So the ruling was waived by the Board of Directors, allowing Phil Piazza to present his site proposal

Vice President's Report - Jackson Pokress

Jackson reported that he attended the Ranger Rendezvous and the Ranger Hall of Fame. He had good words to say about the organizations and their comradery. He also spoke about the Nassau County NY Retired Officers Association and said our reunions are better than most.

Executive Secretary's Report - Ray Lyons,

Donations received at this year's Reunion: Total - \$3,945.00

Last year's Reunion donations: Total - \$3,899.00

Expenses, year to date - \$13,751.48

Last year's expenses \$9,427.21

Expenses include postage, stationery, BURMAN NEWS printing and mailing, book purchases for resale, etc. We paid for two printings of the DIRECTORY this past year. You will recall that we were authorized to print and mail copies of that directory to folks who had been in attendance when it was not printed. We purchased 200 copies for resale of a third edition printing of book "The Merrill's Marauders War in Burma" and 30 copies of a new printing of Ogburn's "The Marauders". We sent out 770 pieces of mail the postage cost us \$2,511.83, and 6,727 copies of the BN.

Income this year from donations and sales - \$12,471.50;

Income last year from donations & sales - \$13,590.22

Balance in Exec Sec acct last year - \$4,096.38

Balance in Exec Sec acct this year - \$1,187.76

Membership totals: Regular members - 1152. Honorary members - 575.

We almost had another two visitors from the Stilwell Museum in Chungking, China. They had problems with passports and visa arrangements and could not get it resolved in time to be here. They are talking of coming next year to do interviews with Marauders, and hope to acquire memorabilia for the newly expanded Stilwell Museum. You will recall Mr. Tao, the Chinese New First Army veteran who joined us last year. He made available two commemorative coins for his Marauder friends that were handed out at this Reunion. He is now in the hospital for a heart operation, but at last report was doing well and sends his Best Regards to the Marauder Veterans Association. He sends his best regards to the Merrill's Marauders Association. (Since then we have received a message from the Stilwell Center that Mr. Tao passed away from a Heart Infarction on August 20th. ED). We also acknowledge receipt of a nice letter from the director of the Museum and Research Center. It now has five distinguished researchers on its staff.

Hansel Haycox, nephew of William Haycox, an Honorary Member, has started to make a complete index of all BURMAN NEWS issues dating back to 1979. It is an enormous task, but it will be extremely helpful in doing research now and in the future.

Treasurer Report – Herbert Clofine

Merrill's Marauders 55th Reunion 2001, Indianapolis IN

Receipts: Registration \$3899.00

Sales 4879.50

Total \$8778.50

Expenses: Hotel \$ 957.34

United Parcel Service \$328.65

Total \$1285.99

Net Income \$7492.51

Balance 8/28/01 \$16,883.75

Deposits 9,998.44

Total \$26,882.19

Checks issued \$12,549.49

Balance 8/24/02 \$14,332.70

Exec Sec Account \$ 1,187.76

Total \$15,520.46

Accounts Payable \$ 1,121.81

Motion by Bob Passanisi to accept Treasurer Report. Seconded by Jackson Pokress. Approved by Members

Historian's Report - Robert Passanisi

Bob Passanisi reported that he responded to more than 100 e-mails per month and that the Merrill's Marauders Web Pages have had more than 45,000 visitors. It also led to 25 new attendees who found out about the Reunions from the Web Pages. He sold over 100 of the History Channel tapes. He now intends to sell memorabilia on the website.

Historian Emeritus Report - Dave Quaid

Dave Quaid reported that he retaped 200 copies of "The Shooting War" and sold over 30 copies. He devoted 2-3 months in cleaning up and transcribing John Jones's 110-page diary of the 5307th. He is assembling it into a booklet with maps and photos and is taking advance publishing orders. At this Reunion, he did a five-minute interview with a local TV station in Wilmington DE arranged by Dave Richardson.

Liaison Officer Report - Dave Richardson

As a backstop in case no other Reunion Sites are proposed, in accord with Board instructions, Dave Richardson reported that he researched and found three acceptable reunion sites that met all our requirements for next year in Charlotte NC and two in Charleston SC. He passed these on to the Chairman to reduce for Reunion Site visits.

We were involved with the producers of the History Channel Documentary and again before the Reunion generated press releases and calls to local TV and radio stations and newspapers to offer Marauders for TV and interviews and news articles.

Reunion Chairman Report - Bob Passanisi

Bob reported that he had a great deal of trouble with the Hilton hotel management due in part to multiple changes of personnel. Only after getting the Valley Forge Convention Bureau involved did the hotel attitude change. We expect 270 attending the Friday Banquet and a few more for Saturday and 130 rooms have been booked. Bob has surveyed three possible reunion sites in Charlotte NC for our 57th reunion, The Adams Mark, The Omni and The Executive Center Marriott and felt that the Marriott was the best.

Election of Officers

Do to an anticipated debate on the election for the position of Vice President and the knowledge that there would be a number of reunion site presentations for 2003, reading of the previous minutes was dispensed with and Old Business were bypassed.

The order in which officers generally are elected was also by passed in favor of holding the election for the office of Vice President.

Ferdinand Stauch Jr. was nominated and seconded, to run against Jackson B. Pokress, who was also nominated and seconded for the position of Vice President.

On the discussion Harry Palmer had some strong words to say about a letter that was sent to selected members. The Chair read a statement by the Board that it found nothing libelous in the letter. The voting was held and Jack Pokress was elected. The rest of the Officers were unanimously re-elected.

Selection of reunion site

Robert Passanisi presented a proposal for the Executive Center Marriott in Charlotte NC. The Package Rate for two people will be \$300. for two nights lodging. For one person the package rate will be \$250. The room charge for extra nights will be \$79.+ Tax. The hotel is ten miles from the Airport. Hotel parking will be complementary. There will be a complementary shuttle from the hotel to airport. A Mall is two and a half miles from the Hotel. There is a nearby Outlet Mall as well. This is planned for the usual Labor Day weekend.

Phil Piazza presented a proposal for the Columbus Hilton whose new name will be the Columbus Wyndham, in Columbus GA (Ft Benning). It is in the center of the city. The Package Rate for two persons will be \$299.28. The Package Rate for one person will be \$235.14. The room charge for extra nights will be \$79. + Tax. There are seven restaurants nearby and a Historic Section two blocks away. There is a free shuttle bus from the airport. The Convention Center is across the street. We will be able to attend a Rangers in Action Demonstration and a Rangers Graduation. It is scheduled for August 8th & 9th.

The membership voted by a show of hands and selected the Columbus GA Hilton.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was accepted and passed.

OFFICERS ROW

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Ray Lyons

A different History Channel documentary about the Merrill's Marauders is now showing under the heading *SECRETS OF WORLD WAR II*.

We have been advised that the photo on Page 6, July 2002, B/N, that was taken in China has Caleb E Hyden in the front row, left end. Any other identities?

HISTORIAN EMERITUS: Dave Quaid

At our recent reunion in Valley Forge, I lost track of some Polaroid photos that had been loaned to the MMA by Paul Patera. They were in a 9"x 6" brown manila envelope. They were originals taken at the Flag transfer ceremony from the MMA to the Rangers at Eglin AFB FL many years ago. They are the only existing photos we know of from that unique event and we hope they will be returned.

TORCH CARRIERS

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

**BILL DRENNAN & EVELO BECHTEL,
RUTH SCOTT FAMILY, JANE & MILFORD HARP
LOYETTE A OLSON, MARTHA J KING,
RONALD & SALLY SCOTT** In Memory of Lawrence Myers, 530711/WCT/C CO; 47511/C CO

FONTELLA J HAWS, 923 So. Highway 17, Othello WA 99344-9763, (509) 488-2528, WID/VANCE, HONORARY
JACQUELINE SCHMIDT, 25 Orchard Ln, Wheeling WV 26003-4911, DTR/ ALBERT HAGLOCK, HONORARY
LEE CHALIFOUR, 131 SE Colonial St, Port Charlotte FL 33952-9106, HONORARY

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, think how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

RANGER COLUMN

RANGER HALL OF FAME 2002 INDUCTEES

Ranger Battalion Association World War II

CPT Lester E Kness

Ranger Infantry Companies (ABN) of the Korean War

MSG Edward L Posey

SFC Edward W Pucel

Ranger Training Brigade

CSM James H Collier

BG Charles E Getz

SGM Dennis L Thompson

75th Ranger Regiment

CSM Austra Cobb

1SG Charles R Laws, Jr.

LTC Kenneth W Stauss

75th Ranger Regiment Association

CSM Glenn H English Jr

CSM Harris L Parker

SGT Victor D Valeriano

United States Army Ranger Association, Inc.

Honorable Ronald E. Ray

CPT Marvin J Roberts

MSG Michael H Smith

Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc.

SGT Robert L Carr



Sergeant Robert L. Carr is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for valorous service to his country while with Merrill's Marauders in Burma. He volunteered for the Marauders as a muleskinner in a Pack Artillery unit while waiting in Australia to take part in the New Guinea fighting. While in Burma, Japanese Forces trapped a Marauder Bn and under severe attack for several days, two 75 mm artillery pieces were parachuted in to aid the rescue units. Sergeant Carr volunteered to leave his position as a lead scout in an Infantry Platoon to serve as Forward Artillery, two of his fellow Infantrymen were wounded. Sergeant Carr left his radio to drag each of the wounded through heavy fire to an aid man. Then he crawled forward throwing grenades toward Japanese

lines to draw fire upon him so as to expose enemy positions and radioed back range and azimuth data for establishing fire. At that point, Sgt Carr radioed, "Move in 10 yards and if you don't hear from me, you'll know I got too close". Instead, Marauder shells wiped out an enemy heavy machine gun nest only 30 yards away from him, and were able to dig the enemy out of their holes all across a hill that had been their strong point. Marauder soldiers then drove through to free the trapped Marauder unit after a 10-day blockade that had exacted heavy American casualties forcing Japanese forces to beat a broad retreat. Sergeant Carr returned as a Lead Scout with the Marauders until their closing Battle at Myitkyina, where he was evacuated with Scrub Typhus requiring a long hospitalization. Two officers told him they had put him in for a Silver Star for his role in effecting the breakthrough. But a mule carrying the records fell off a cliff en route over a 5,800-foot high mountain range to Myitkyina and all records were lost. When he was discharged after World War II, SGT Carr worked in a steel mill, then as a passenger boat captain, and in heavy construction, rising in 30 years to supervisor of major projects and retirement as a company vice president. Sergeant Carr's determination and remarkable bravery in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds exemplify the Rangers resolve to complete the mission.



CPT James E Hopkins

Dr James E Hopkins is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his outstanding conduct and actions while in combat with the Merrill's Marauders during the China-Burma-India Theater in World War II. When War was declared, he left his surgical practice at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and volunteered for military duty in the Army Medical Corps. While serving in the Fiji Islands and seeing the many battle casualties in Guadalcanal, Dr Hopkins left his plush assignment and volunteered for duty with a forward combat unit in various Solomon Island battles where he served as a Battalion Surgeon with the 148th Infantry Regiment, Ohio National Guard. When the call came from the President for experienced combat troops for a dangerous and hazardous mission, he volunteered again and went with the unit that would eventually be known as the Merrill's Marauders, where he gained the highest respect from the men in his battalion. During this entire campaign he marched step-by-step with the men ministering to their many needs and although unarmed, repeatedly exposed himself to care for the wounded by documenting all his medical records during the entire operation during a period of 7 months behind enemy lines. He worked with the War Department and was instrumental in the improvement of the helmet to protect head and neck. Dr Hopkins concern for the safety of GI's was instrumental in the development of the lightweight combat vests. Dr. Hopkins is a true patriot and well deserving of this award. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Combat Medical Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal and American Defense Medal.



L to R: RGR TNG BDE, CDR, Col. Hazen Baron, CSM Bobby G. Lane, Vicki Carr Hupp, Olga Carr, 75th RGRS, CSM Walter Rakow, CDR, Col. Joe Votel



L to R: RGR TNG BDE, CDR, Col. Hazen Baron, CSM Bobby G. Lane, Dr. James E. Hopkins-Merrill's Marauders 75th RGRS, CSM Walter Rakow, CDR, Col. Joe Votel

RESPONSE BY VICKI CARR HUPP, Daughter of Robert Carr

For my loving Father:

How many miles had these old, tired worn out feet taken him. He said with a laugh, "All around the world, thanks to the army."

Tonight would be one of the finest hours of his life. Honored by the past – his comrades of Merrill's Marauders and honored by the present – the 75th Rangers of today.

Our family's wish tonight is to convey our sincere thanks and gratitude for acknowledging Robert Lee Carr's contribution to the Marauders.

We wish he could have lived long enough to receive this medal himself. He passed away February 12th, 2002. He spent his last days trying to muster one last time. We wonder what he might have said tonight. Probably a simple, Thank you. The Marauders who didn't make it back had made the ultimate sacrifice and in their memory he would accept this medal with pride and tears.

This is an unbelievable tribute to a man who lived his life as a brave, honorable, dedicated and proud Ranger, humbled by the extraordinary men he fought beside.

He left his family a legacy that includes Ranger attributes: Fortitude, stamina, strength, and courage to survive.

He believed a man is not finished when he is defeated; he is finished when he quits.

It's not the size of the dog in the fight it's the size of the fight in the dog.

He told us what counts in the end are your name and your word, and nothing succeeds like reputation.

Dad was an Army Ranger not just during his time in the military, but for the rest of his life. He never told many people, he just was.

I saw this man tried in every way that a man could be tried, and I never saw anything superior to him. If you

are brave so often, people will come to expect it of you. He learned in the Army that courage isn't for the moment you are stuck, but for the long uphill climb back to sanity, faith and security.

He taught his children love isn't just doing good things, love is the spirit wit which we do good things.

Now this man, a Ranger has left us and we miss him. Other Rangers will follow because someone has to be courageous, patriotic. Men who America can depend on to carry out a purpose without regret. Army Rangers are respected and held in high esteem because they are everyday heroes and heroes everyday.

America holds its heroes in grateful remembrance.

The Carr Family thanks the 75th Army Rangers and Merrill's Marauders for inducting Robert Lee Carr into the Hall of Fame. I hope he knows how proud his family is of him. Thank you and God bless you for this special evening. He was our Dad and we loved him and he loved being a Ranger.

A special thanks to Yank War Correspondent, Mr. Dave Richardson and to Mr. Phil Piazza, President of the Marauders Association. Thanks

WORDS EXPRESSED BY OLGA CARR, widow of Robert Carr at Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

"Hello Rangers! Thank you for honoring my husband, Bob Carr. We were married for 59 years and I was proud to be a Ranger's wife. This prestigious medal is for you, Bob!" She held the medal up towards heaven.



PASS IN REVIEW

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

LEROY ANDERSON, 124/1/HQ TR, 8000 Bass Lake Rd # 1EAST, New Hope MN, 55428-3118, 1-877-664-5860, SUMMER 2002, PO RETURN Aug issue B/N

RICHARD DURFEE BATES, 5307/3/OCT, 930 20th Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960-4368, January 7, 1993@Widow/CLAIRE

ROBERT T BERTER, 5307; 475/3/K/HW, 4221 ENDEAVOR DR APT 301, Cincinnati OH 45252-2314, SUMMER 2002@WIDOW/NOTE

EARL D BUFORD, 5307, 116 30th St, Tuscaloosa AL 35405-2228, 1993 @WIDOW/Orie P.

CLARENCE E CARTER, 475/3/CO K, 12 Camelot Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12601-5915, August issue B/N, PO

JOHN E CHOSAY, 475/1/A CO, 3147 S Huron Rd, Bay City MI, October 31, 1997 @ Linda Chosay, DtrinLaw, <TLadyharley@aol.com>

WILLIE E FORD, 5307/2/BCT/E CO, February 23, 1979 @ Dtr / Ladema Ford McDaniel, 1644 Dianne Dr, Jackson MS 39204, 601-373-4103, <green@kopower.com>

BILLY L FULLER, 5307/HQ DET, 5307/2/MED, 3117 Chelsea Dr, Lexington KY 40503-2743, October 7, 2001@Dtr/Jacobs, <jacobsj10@insightbb.com>

ALBERT HAGLOCK SR, 5307/HQ DET, 25 Orchard Ln, Wheeling WV 26003-4911, March 25, 2000 @DTR/JACQUELINE SCHMIDT

JAMES W HEINECKE, 5307/1/RCT/A CO, 243 Meredith St, Pittsburgh PA 15210-3946, February 1, 1988@Widow

WILLIAM H HENDRICKS SR, 5307/1/RCT, 291 Joe Wright Rd, Klamath Falls OR 97603-9596, June 16, 2002@Widow/EMMA

ANTHONY IULIANO, 475th, 7 Circle Dr, Riverside RI 02915-1412, July 8, 2002 @ Widow/Rose

CAPT PAUL JACOBS, SURGEON/5307, Myitkyina, Burma, June 1945, September 27, 1988 @ Son John Jacobs <john@sailorjohn.com>

LAWRENCE MYERS, 5307/1/WCT/C CO; 475/1/C CO, 1123 N Union Ave, Shawnee OK 74801-5020, August 16, 2002 @Dtr/Paula Wolfe, Widow/EARLETA

ROY NAKADA, 5307/2/NISEI INT, 1538 Kaweloka St, Pearl City HI 96782-1515, July 20, 2002 @ Widow/Betsy

GEORGE A OLS, 5307/1/WCT/B CO; 475/1/B CO, Richmond, September 28, 2002 @ <BakerK@aolcom>

CLARIS G OLSON, 5307/2/BCT/E CO/Runner, RR 2 Box 3129, Miles City MT 59301-9107, 406-232-2614, September 12, 2002 @Son /Mark, Heart Attack at Airport, returning from Reunion.

JOHN E PECK, 475/2/HQ/HW, 501 Buttonwood St, Bastrop TX 78602-2903, (512) 321-0723, PO RETURN, AUG ISSUE B/N

LYLE B PORTEOUS, 5307/3/OCT, 241 W Austin Ave, Libertyville IL 60048-2838, WIDOW/DOROTHY, February 24, 2002 @ Hank Kinder

THOMAS D RAYMOND, 5307/2; 475/2/HQ/COMM, 1300 S Farmview Dr Apt I13, Dover DE 19904-7772, (302) 734-1788, TOMR216@EZOL.COM, September 25, 2002 @ Dtr Ruth

FRANCIS J SANDERS, 5307TH, 475TH, 800 Randolph St, Apt 54, Hanover PA 17331-1721, August 18, 2002 @ Widow/GERALDINE

CHARLES V SEDLMEYER, 5307/1/WCT; 475/3/L Co, 409 CHAPEL CIR, BERA OH 44017-2343, (216)826-0710, July 2, 2002@Widow/RUTH

EVAN M SHUFELT, 5307/3/OCT/I&R, 23130 W Watkins St, Buckeye AZ 85326-3842, 623-386-4747, <coutslinda@mail.EVInet>, WIDOW/ARBUTUS, July 8, 2002 @Dtr/LindaCouts.

JOHN W STEVENS, November 11, 2000@Dtr/Judy Boyer, 285 MONTCLAIR RD, GETTYSBURG PA 17325-7948

ZAI LIAN TAO, CHINESE NEW 1ST ARMY/NCAC HQ, August 30, 2002 @ %STILWELL CTR 33 SHI XIN RD, NIN JIAO TUO, CHONGQING, CHINA 40001-5000, <zailiantao@hotmail.com>

WILLIAM P THOMPSON, 5307/3/K; 475/3/K, 733 Capel Mill Rd, Ellerbe NC, 28338-8386, (910) 652-5167, August issue B/N, PO RETURN

EDWARD D THORPE, 5307/2/GCT, 88 CENTRAL ST, BATTLE CREEK MI 49017-3704, October 10, 2001@Dtr/B Hogue

PERLEE W TINTARY, 5307/1/WCT/I&R; 475/1/I&R, 503 CONSTITUTION AV APT 2, WASHINGTON DC 20002, July 13, 1987 @WIDOW/ RUTH

FALL IN

JAMES ANGELOS, 5307/3/L CO; 475/3/L CO/HQ, 468 FORESTVIEW DR, ATLANTIS FL 33462, (561) 964-4690.

GEORGE GREEN, 5307/3/I CO; 475/3/I CO, 4425 HIGHWAY4415 EAST, LOT 113, OKEECHOBEE FL 34974, (863) 467-0924

WILLIAM L ROSEN, 124th Cavalry, 778 Bradford Terrace, Springfield PA 19064

LOST, STRAYED, STOLEN

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

JOSEPH W HENRY, 5307/1/WCT, 2 Logrien St, Sanford ME 04073-2018, (207) 324-1745, UNDEL AS ADDRESSED

DAVID RUDERMAN, 5307/1/WCT; 475/1, 281 Summit St, Plantsville CT 06479-1124, Not deliverable As Addr

LETTERS TO EDITOR

EDITOR: MERRILL'S MARAUDER HONORED IN BOOK



Vincent Melillo, 84, a member of Merrill's Marauders Blue Combat Team, I & R Platoon, 2nd Bn, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), talks about his experiences in WW II and the Korean War in the recently released oral history book, "Voices of America - Boonton," by Arthur Rabin. A native of Boonton, New Jersey, Melillo was one of five men on the patrol where the first Merrill's Marauder, Pvt Robert Landis, was killed. Melillo has lived in Columbus GA for 41 years.

EDITOR:

I do hope the Marauders Reunion was a very huge success and with a large attendance. I'm writing as one who is interested in all of you for I met and took care of many of you Marauders in 1944 -1945; in the 20th General Hospital @ Ledo, Assam, India. We opened many wards to receive you and we did with tears in our eyes and thankfulness that you made it to the 20th GH. I shall never forget the sight of you (all). You had beards, were ragged and determined to not use our beds because they were clean and white. We said, "to never mind, you'll be cleaned up before you get into them and taken care of also". I won't run on any longer- but I thought you'd be interested to know that nurses do not forget - very often. And especially, such patients as all of you. You got along well for the most part and we enjoyed every minute we helped you. Those days hold so many memories. The very best of health and happiness to all of you. Nellie Kimlin, 15 West Princeton Cir, Lynchburg VA 24503. I was an Army Nurse. NK

SHARING THE STORY

ARTILLERYMAN'S ACCOUNT (cont'd)

In the jungle, that means directly over the target, instead of over the gun position. Sergeant Summy and I hit it off and became good friends. He even taught me to fly the L5 - he said he wanted to be sure that whoever was with him could get the plane back to the airfield. I made some rough landings but we were able to walk away from them. At that time, I had a Thompson sub-machine gun that we always carried with us. Some times we used it to strafe the enemy. Once in the early morning we spotted one of those bashas on stilts, in which some Japs were eating breakfast. We flew below the roof line and used my Thompson. Last I saw, the Japanese were diving off the basha floor, and jumping into foxholes.

We developed good rapport with the Air Corps. Often, in the air, they would call on us to identify targets for them. One, a Captain Allred, did this frequently. We developed the system that he would drop a small smoke bomb, and we would make necessary adjustments to get him directly on target. We both thought it a very effective system. Also the Air Corps had found and dismantled some small anti-personnel bombs. I got hold of some, which I would carry on my lap to drop on enemy positions. One time we saw some river barges that we attacked with these bombs; I got a direct hit and sunk one of them.

Then there were the normal ground FO duties. On one trip to the front, my radio operator was a soldier named Edward Aloysius Shadd. We had fired at several targets and were resting, leaning back against an embankment. There came a loud "Thump". An enemy round had hit between us - and was a dud. We moved out smartly. Another time, I was with Colonel Osborne, who later became CO of the 124th Cavalry. Suddenly we were pinned to the ground by several bursts of enemy fire. That is about as scared as I ever was; but, when I looked over at the Colonel, he was calmly cleaning his fingernails with a trench knife. He was a very brave and competent officer.

As the battle for Myitkyina was winding down, our advance once was held up by enemy in a reinforced concrete pillbox. Col Hunter asked us if we could knock it out. We used his jeep to tow one of the 75s into position. We placed it behind a rice paddy wall, and cut a gap for the tube. I bore-sighted the gun on the opening in the pillbox and fired. The round fell several yards short and to the right. Calling back to mind a bit of schoolbook lore from Fort Sill, I bore sighted on the spot where the round had hit; then again sighted on the pillbox, using the correction gained from the second bore-sighting. This round went in the opening of the pillbox. In our sector that just about wrapped up the battle for Myitkyina.

The Infantry used a concept called the Final Protective Line (FPL), when in a defense, and our "Artillery Battery" also applied it. This called for all weapons to lay down continuous fire, along designated lanes, so planned and co-coordinated as to create a near-impenetrable wall of fire, around our perimeter. At the command to "Fire the FPL", each man fired his lane until the "Cease Fire" was given. One night a strange noise suddenly arose outside the perimeter. I crawled over to one of our Gurhka guides and asked him what he thought it was; he answered "mans". I hollered "Fire the FPL". The firing roared for maybe five minutes, while we heard the sound of crashing around out in the brush, as if from some person or persons running. Finally, came the "Cease Fire". Next morning, we went out to count the enemy dead, expecting to find a goodly number. There

were five – of the biggest water buffaloes I ever saw. The local Burmese people were already busy with the skinning knives. Once we were visited by General Stilwell. He was accompanied by Col Hunter and an Ordnance Officer. Happened that was a day for me to be the Battery Exec., and I was in my usual uniform – a pair of GI shorts and two .45 pistols. When I recognized the General, I barely had time to pull on a pair of pants. The Ordnance Colonel, it turned out, was there to inspect our howitzers. In the States the Ordnance inspection of heavy weapons is a big deal, before any range firing is permitted, and periodically during firing. This includes inspection of the “Gun Book”, into which all rounds fired must be entered. Best I recall, we had no gun books; and there certainly had been no Ordnance personnel around to check our howitzers, as far back as anyone could remember. The Ordnance Colonel began his inspection and immediately condemned all four of our howitzers. He said they had been fired so much that the lands were coming out by inches; the tubes were burned out. It was highly dangerous to fire them, and a wonder someone had not been killed. I turned to Col. Hunter and asked what I should do. He said, “Do what you normally would do”. I hollered out the proper command, “Battery Adjust”. The gun crew turned to, as additional fire commands were repeated down the line. At this the Ordnance Colonel departed the area at a high rate of speed. However, Col. Hunter and General Stilwell stayed and observed the fire mission.

When Myitkyina fell, one group of Japanese were found still holding out, on an island in the midst of the Irrawaddy River. Either they did not get the word, or they just refused to surrender. The solution to this problem turned out to be a detachment of our Nisei interpreters. These men were of Japanese descent, but were Americans to the core of

unquestioned loyalty to the USA. They swam out to the island, where one of the Nisei pretended to be a Japanese Colonel – and ordered the remaining enemy to surrender. He used the name of the Emperor, and finally convinced them. Though this did not happen in my presence, I know it took place; I think it was written up in the “Stars and Stripes”. This was only one occasion when the Nisei, with their fluency in the Japanese language plus their unique blend of courage and imagination, rendered extraordinary service to the Marauders, and later on to the Mars Task Force.

Soon after Myitkyina was secured, I and others were evacuated to Ledo for some needed rest and recuperation (R&R). Shortly afterward, and before the next phase of the campaigning got under way, there arrived in Theater the 612th and 613th Field Artillery Battalions (Pack). These brought a full complement of fresh mules, and 24 (count them, TWENTY-FOUR!) brand-new 75 mm pack howitzers. Artillery had proved its worth, in the Burma jungles. A force which had begun with no artillery had progressed through a two-gun platoon, then a four-gun improvised battery, to two full battalions: six firing batteries with full headquarters and service support, fire direction center, communications, liaison, instrument and survey, two aircraft per battalion, reconnaissance, logistics, and maintenance – all the comforts (and necessities) of home. Oh, yes – and 24 gun books, all entries complete.

Someone at HQ discovered that we three lieutenants were Field Artillery Branch, so off we went, transferred to the 612th and 613th. No longer were we Infantry, but none of us would ever forget our time with the 5307th CUP. Edward L. Seagraves, 5307th HQ.