



Official Publication of Merrill's Marauders Association, Inc. • March 2013 • No. 113

You are invited ...
**67th Merrill's
Marauders Reunion**

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites
Minneapolis/ St. Paul International Airport Hotel
3 Appletree Square (I-494 & 34th Avenue South)
Bloomington, MN 55425



Welcome back to Minneapolis/ St. Paul for our **67th Merrill's Marauders Reunion**, sponsored by the Proud Descendants, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2013. If you attended the 63rd and 64th reunions you were at this location when it was a Holiday Inn & Suites.

Now, Crowne Plaza has purchased and upgraded the whole facility. Per Nancy Solinger, Crowne Plaza Senior Sales Manager, "We have significantly improved this hotel since the last time you were here." Some of these changes include: New microwaves and refrigerators in every room; 37" flat screen TV's, all new bedding, higher service standards with the new Crowne Plaza brand, and complimentary shuttle buses to the airport and Mall of America.

This year's Friday morning excursion will be a guided tour of Historic Fort Snelling.

After 1944, the fort was the location of the Military Intelligence Service Language School, where Nisei, Japanese-Americans learned Japanese, in preparation for service as interpreters, interrogators and intelligence workers. These soldiers played an important role during World War II and the occupation of Japan. Tour cost is \$12 per person, and will include transportation. The Proud Descendants will pay for all Marauders who attend the tour. Be sure to plan your arrival to take in the tour and **indicate along with your payment the number that wish to attend the tour.** We may not be able to accommodate last minute decisions to join us.

Highlights of the reunion will be **The Mens' Gathering**, which will take place on Friday afternoon at the same time as the **Ladies' Tea**. This will give the men an opportunity to socialize. Just like the Ladies' Tea, the Mens' Gathering will have prizes and the big draw is a raffle for a \$105 gift to cover the meal package. Only Marauders will be in the drawing for the meal package, and you must be present to win.

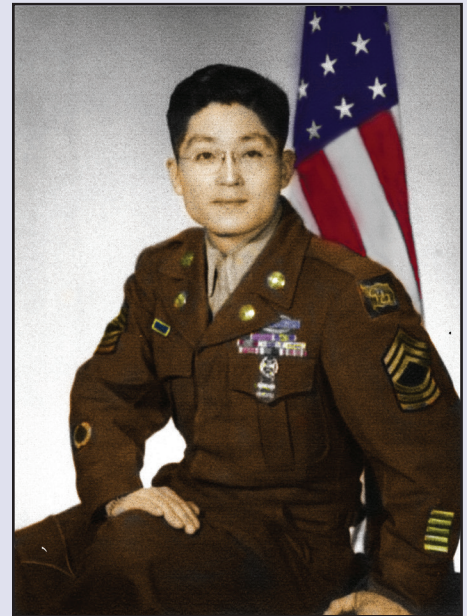
The Ladies' Tea will be a wine and cheese reception. While this activity remains free, we do need to know how many plan to be there. Space is limited, so be sure to let us know you plan to attend. Prizes and gifts will be part of the reception program. ★

Happy 100th Birthday!

Roy Matsumoto May 1, 2013

Roy Hiroshi Matsumoto (born May 1, 1913) is a decorated American soldier of World War II. A Nisei, Matsumoto was born in Laguna, California. When he was 8 years old, his parents sent him to live with his grandparents in Hiroshima, Japan. He returned to California nine years later, attending and graduating from Long Beach Polytechnic High School in 1933. He remained in Long Beach when his parents took his brothers and sisters back to Hiroshima.

Happy birthday Roy, from all the Marauders, their families, and loved ones. Thank you from the Proud Descendants for your extraordinary efforts that made it possible for so many more of our heroes to come home. ☆



A Message from the MMPD President



More and more descendants of Marauders have discovered the magnificent camaraderie that develops when we gather at the reunions. Common bonds develop when you discover that your Marauder was in the same unit as another descendant that you meet, or that your Marauders had become friends at previous reunions. You not only strike up a conversation with your new-found descendant, but you make a long lasting connection throughout the years.

If you haven't yet been to a reunion, you are really missing out on a great experience. If you haven't been to one in awhile, it's time to come back.

Our Historian, Hansel Haycox, has been dazzling descendants by providing them with backgrounds

on their Marauders. Come meet him and learn more about your Marauder than you ever thought possible.

And please, when you get requests from Jerrie Daly to contribute to our association, rest assured that we are trying to use that money to provide as many free amenities for our attending Marauders as possible, such as free Friday excursions, free gifts, and reunion and travel expenses.

Paying them back is the least we can do.

Please, I implore you to make every effort possible to attend the reunion. You'll be glad you did.

Thank you,
Bob Menta

Scholarships Available to Marauders and Descendants

The National Ranger Memorial Foundation has \$49,000 in \$1,000 scholarships available to Marauders and descendants.

The National Ranger Memorial Foundation (NRMF) and the Ranger Battalions Association of WW II (RBA WW II) are seeking qualified candidates to compete for up to 45 NRMF and 4 RBA WW II \$1,000 scholarships. Applications are accepted each year from January 1 through June 1 of each calendar year. Winning applicants will be notified by email in July. The scholarship monies will be sent to the applicant's address, but the check will be made out to the applicant's educational institution and can only be used for educational purposes.

To apply, please visit www.rangermemorial.org and complete an online application. Applicants must upload their latest transcripts and two letters of reference from non-family members. Applicants must also list leadership activities, future goals, honors and awards.

For additional information, please call 706-687-0906 or email the executive NRMF secretary at rangermemorial@gmail.com. Please visit the website at www.rangermemorial.org to learn more about our non-profit organization. The NRMF is the foundation that maintains the National Ranger Monument at Ft. Benning, where more than 7,000 names of Rangers, including Merrill's Marauders, are engraved on individual stones.

To learn how you can purchase a stone, please visit the web site above or call the NRMF secretary at the above phone number. ✪

World War II Historical Re-enactment Society

"S/Sgt" Todd Hintz and his partner, Marty, will be tour guides for our Friday morning tour of Fort Snelling. They told me they would be *dressed* for the occasion in their WWII uniforms. They are members of a very active Minnesota World War II Historical Re-enactment Society and *have volunteered their time* to guide us on our Friday morning tour.

As the veterans of World War II pass away, the 105th Re-enactors are losing the living link to that

time in history and the memories of those who helped shape events of the Twentieth Century.

The Re-enactors unit was organized to authentically portray the combat engineer soldiers in the World War II European Theater of Operations, and thus to honor these courageous men. The goal is to keep alive the memory of their deeds and sacrifices through education, demonstration, and preservation. ✪



Meritorious Service Award Presented

SSG Jorge F. Calise (above center) was presented with a Meritorious Service Award during a January ceremony at the Camp Merrill Winter Ball. Calise was presented the award by LTC Robert A. O'Brien, Camp Merrill commander (R) for his "commitment to excellence" in building on his own time a new battalion flag stand honoring both Merrill's Marauders and WW II Rangers along with hundreds of wooden centerpieces for each table at the Camp Merrill Winter Ball. Standing with Calise and O'Brien is CSM Frank James. Calise received the award for "exceptionally meritorious service while serving as the Battalion repairs and utilities non commissioned officer." Along with enhancing the success of the ball, Calise's "dedication to duty and professionalism are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Rangers and reflect great credit upon him the Ranger Training Brigade and the United States Army." ✪

Merrill's Marauders 2013 Reunion

Hosted by Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants

August 29 – September 1, 2013 – Bloomington, Minnesota

Name: _____

Spouse/Companion: _____

MARAUDER or Relationship to: _____ BN: _____ Co.: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Email: _____

Use back for additional space to list all names, addresses and relationship to Marauder

Make Checks Payable To: Merrill's Marauder Proud Descendants (MMPD)

Mail To: Jerrie Daly, Treasurer, 4373 Victor Path #1, Hugo, MN 55038

Need Assistance/Have a Question?: Contact Jerrie Daly mmpdtreas@gmail.com, or call 651-204-5002

Room Reservations Call: Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites, Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Hotel, 3 Appletree Square (I-494 & 34th Avenue South) Bloomington, MN 55425 <http://www.cpmspairport.com>. Please reserve your room(s) directly with the hotel by calling at 952-854-9000 or toll-free at 1-800-227-6963 and referencing Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants. Rates are \$85 + tax per night. Rooms accommodate up to 4 guests. Suite is \$100 + tax per night.

Rates are good up to noon August 16, 2013. Reservations made after that date are subject to availability. Rates are good 3 days pre and post reunion dates.

All meal packages include Friday and Saturday Dinner and Saturday and Sunday Buffet Breakfast

ACTIVITY	NUMBER ATTENDING	PRICE PER PERSON	TOTAL
MEALS – Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		\$105	
MEALS – Kids 4-12 years <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		\$75	
MEALS – Kids 3 yrs. and under <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian		FREE	
Fort Snelling Tour — Friday AM		\$12	
Fort Snelling Tour — Friday AM Marauder		No Charge, Tour is FREE for all Marauders	
Ladies Reception — Saturday		No Charge	
Men's Gathering — Saturday		No Charge	
Donation		Suggested \$25/per family	
TOTAL DUE			

Reunion Schedule of Events

SCHEDULE	Thursday, August 29	Friday, August 30	Saturday, August 31	Sunday, September 1
Morning	Arrival/Check-in Registration/Setup	9 - Ft. Snelling Bus Tour (\$12 per person; Marauders are free)	8 - Breakfast 10 - General Membership Mtg	8 - Breakfast Check-out/Depart
Afternoon	Hospitality Room Memorabilia Room	Hospitality Room Memorabilia Room 3 - Ladies' Wine & Cheese Reception 3 - Mens' Gathering	Hospitality Room Memorabilia Room 3:30 - Church Svcs (RC followed by Protestant)	
Evening	(7 - MMPD BD MTG - Officers) Dinner on your own	6 - Happy Hour 7 - Banquet	6 - Happy Hour 7 - Banquet	

We are looking for a host for the 2014 reunion. If you are interested in hosting the reunion in your home town contact Jerrie Daly, mmpdtreas@gmail.com, or call 651-204-5002. We will make the hosting responsibilities as simple as possible. As host you will act as our eyes and ears. Host communities need to have an airport served by major airlines. If you have a particular hotel you would like us to contact let us know. Once we have hotels respond to our request for a proposal, we will have you visit them and tell us which one you think will best meet our needs. We will help you put together a proposal to bring to the 2013 reunion. If your site is selected you will be asked to be our local contact and help us select a Friday excursion. Let us know if you are interested by May 1, 2013. ★

Marauder gets Bronze Star decades later

CUMBERLAND — One of the last surviving members of the famed World War II guerrilla force known as “Merrill’s Marauders,” 88-year-old Stanley M. Sasine of Vinings, was presented with the Bronze Star, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Ranger Tab on Monday, decades after he was authorized to receive it.

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), who presented the honors, said Sasine was authorized, but never received the Bronze Star Medal.

Sasine earned the decorations, Chambliss said, “during a campaign in 1944, very deep behind Japanese enemy lines, and he was a member of a very select group called Merrill’s Marauders that made a huge difference in the campaign in Burma, China and India.” ★

Editor’s Note: This information was taken from an article in the The Marietta Daily Journal.



Stanley Sasine of Vinings, right, receives his overdue Bronze Star along with his Combat Infantry Badge and Ranger Tab from U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) on Monday morning. Sasine served in Merrill’s Marauders during World War II.

ACTION OF THE 209TH ENGINEERS 10-17 JUNE

Excerpts from Spearhead

Editor's note:

After the capture of the Myitkyina Airfield in North Burma, the 209th Engineering Battalion was pulled from its road building operation and without any combat training was sent into Myitkyina to help with the capture of the town of Myitkyina. In many cases the Engineers had never used the arms issued to them and had to rely on on-the-job training, which naturally resulted in unnecessary casualties. At this point they were ordered to attack the entrenched enemy in the town of Myitkyina.

After the 209th Engineers advanced four hundred yards toward the town, the Japanese closed in back of A Company — which had led the advance. 1st Lt. Henrich was killed, Bucky Morris was listed as missing, and there were numerous other casualties.

During this same attack, B Company was under fire for an hour from mortars and machine guns. Slater and Rainwater were injured by enemy fire, and Cofill was hit when he set off one of the unit's booby traps. This was the first time A and B Companies had taken offensive action against Japanese who were so well entrenched. Fortunately the two companies were able to withdraw back to their original line.

It rained all night. The men rested until noon, 11 June, by which time men and equipment had dried out. The general attack, coordinated with the Second Battalion (New Galahad) on the left and Chinese on other fronts, began for the second day. During

the advance the engineers hoped to capture a well that lay in their zone of advance. Now C Company was leading with B Company following. The men were encouraged by supporting mortar fire and several planes strafing and bombing ahead. Enemy fire was intense, and in spite of their courageous effort they were pinned down most of the afternoon. Their casualties and continued heavy opposition left no alternative but to withdraw for the night. The units on either side fared no better.

While eating their breakfast K-ration on the 13th, the 209th began to take very active artillery fire. T/Sgt. Bodziak, T/Sgt. Roonan, and Private Poobi were seriously wounded. In the afternoon 1st Lieutenant Stefi brought orders for B Company to move out in the morning. They were to infiltrate behind the enemy lines and establish a roadblock in back of the Japanese. The rest of the battalion was to follow.

In preparation for the move the men were to take their weapons,

ammunition, and one meal of K-rations. All tracers were removed from machine-gun belts.

The company moved out at 0400 with Colonel Combs in command. Under cover of darkness they moved about one-half mile. Here they were hit by machine-gun fire, and T/Sgt. John Nealaton was killed.

The position on the road was reached at dawn. Before the men could dig in, Pfc. Willie Jordan, Bullard, and Newfarmer were hit, and other casualties were increasing. Japanese small arms, machine-gun, and mortar fire was intense. Without adequate cover the men took up firing positions. Two machine guns were moved to give cover to the wounded, some of whom were trying to cross the road. Machine gunners Korzenowski, McGarey, and Tillema were hit almost immediately. The guns were immediately taken over by three other engineers.

Sgt. John McNiff, T/Sgt. Kurowski, and Pfc. Marshall, located on the other side of the perimeter, saw a reed-and-bamboo basha filled with Japanese. These three men volunteered to knock them out with hand grenades. They each made several trips to get and throw grenades. The three men were wounded.

The battle continued for several hours, and it was decided that the platoon on the other side of

the road had to be brought across to the perimeter where A and B Companies were continuing the battle. Staff Sergeant DeShane, Technician Birrer, and Private Avant crossed the road, which was still under heavy fire, to help bring back the wounded. The courageous action of these men was successful.

Near the end of the day, Japanese activity slackened, and the men were able to dig in. The two companies now reported a total of eight men killed and fifteen wounded. The two medics, Private Literio and Technician Maegho, continued to do a great job with their limited material. The former carried on in spite of his wounds. The misery of all, especially the wounded, was compounded by rain.

Word had reached the battalion C.P., before communications were cut off, and they made several nearly disastrous attempts to reach the two companies. They finally had to give up any rescue attempt.

16 June brought more rain and misery for all, but especially the sick and wounded. Staff Sergeant Kumcha was killed, and several were wounded. A Japanese officer called for their surrender and was always told to go to hell. Enemy fire continued, and the mortars were especially accurate and deadly. Artillery was also hitting the perimeter. The situation was beginning to look quite hopeless, as the Japanese were mortaring the daylight's out of the unit at point-blank range. Casualties were increasing, and many of the wounded were again hit by enemy fire. Hunger and rain added to the misery of the men.

Three Piper Cubs attempted to drop food and medicine. One parachute landed in the middle

of the road, between Robbins's machine gun and the Japanese. Recovery was impossible. One Japanese tried, and he was killed. The Japanese then destroyed it with mortars. Artillery and mortar fire continued to cause casualties.

At dusk on the 16th, sixty hours after these men of the 209th Engineers had become trapped, enemy fire slackened and the two companies pulled out — carrying some wounded and helping others. Intense darkness and heavy rain were both a great help as they worked their way toward their battalion. Several wounded only made it back due to the heroic action of three men. Staff Sergeant Shockley and Privates First Class Osman and Miller swam back and forth across a swollen creek several times to bring them out. One man, Private First Class Bartley — who had a leg wound — drowned. Privates James, Pam, Pavone, and Sutherland were at the end of the perimeter and were not notified of the withdrawal. They soon realized that they were alone and made it back safely.

The hungry and exhausted men were greeted with considerable emotion as they came out of the misty and flooded paddy fields in the early morning. They would not recover quickly from this brush with death and the loss of the twenty men killed and twenty-five wounded in Company B, as well as the losses in Company A. One of the outstanding deeds was that of Private Rogers in staying with Technicians Birrer, Marshall, and Tillen while helping these wounded men return to safety. They expressed great admiration and respect for Lt. Colonel William H. Combs, who had been their leader until he was mortally wounded

after he had killed three Japanese with his .45. He was posthumously awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross for this and other actions (Romanus and Sunderland 1956, 245).

The wounded were evacuated as quickly as possible. There being no Jeep roads, they were hauled six miles on ox carts to the airfield and then flown two hundred miles to the 20th General Hospital.

The change to hot meals was a welcome one. Nearly all of the men got a complete change of clothes and shaved for the first time in two weeks.

The 209th Engineers moved back to Radahpur for several days' rest and were replaced on the offensive line by the 236th Engineer Combat Battalion, which had also been pulled from their construction of the Ledo Road. Since their arrival by air several days after the 209th, they had been sent to Namkwi and other hot spots to gain combat experience against small groups of nonaggressive Japanese.

The Second Battalion of New Galahad was on their left flank. The 209th was put on the right flank of the 236th on 23 June. The Chinese were on their right flank.

Progress was slow along the Americans' front during the rest of June, but small gains were made during most days. Casualties continued to mount — both from battle and disease. Dysentery and skin ulcers were serious problems. By the end of the month, only forty men were left in B Company. Everyone agreed that the Japanese were beaten and their end was only a matter of time.

Lt. Colonel Harold Greenlee of New Galahad, Third Battalion, took over the combined engineers, *(continued on page 9)*

Another Burma hero called by the Supreme Commander

In general, our newsletter does not pay special homage to any particular one of the deceased Marauders, for doing so would neglect the many other equally special heroes. Yet, once in a while, due to a newspaper article or other items of interest, we will publish a story on the deceased. So be it in the case of Lieutenant Edward (Ted) McLogan.



Ranks of Merrill's Marauders thins: Ted McLogan, war hero and public servant, dies at 92

By freelance reporter Janet Miller
(This article has been edited for length.)

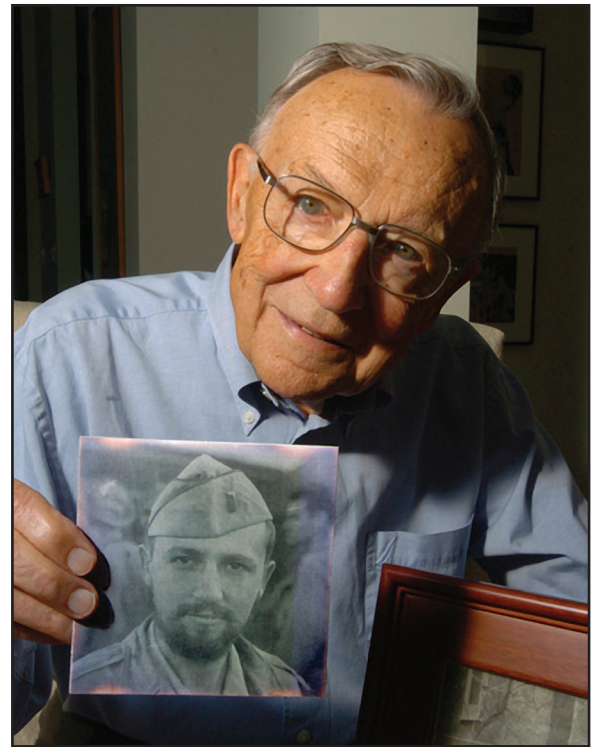
Flint native Ted McLogan was a young, handsome ROTC graduate from U-M when he joined the 25th Division in Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands as a second lieutenant. He soon volunteered to join a campaign behind enemy lines in Burma, known today as Myanmar, to wage guerilla warfare against the occupying Japanese forces in the mountainous jungle. This group of soldiers became known as Merrill's Marauders, after Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill, who led them. More than 70 years after the campaign, only a handful of the Marauders remain.

"They penetrated hundreds of miles behind enemy lines to frustrate the Japanese supply line. But their own supply lines were not good. There was massive starvation and terrible illness. The deprivation of the campaign was legendary," Matthew McLogan said.

"Of the nearly 3,000 soldiers in the unit, roughly 200 survived to the end. Many were wounded or fell ill and were evacuated. Many died of malaria, typhus and dysentery, while others were killed in battle. The enemy was only part of the problem," said Robert E. Passanisi, historian for the Merrill's Marauders Association. Passanisi was 19 years old when he fought in Burma.

"There was near-constant fever, skin conditions, gastric problems. There was a rule: you had to run a fever of 103 degrees for three days straight to be considered sick," he said.

Every soldier who served was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Near the end of the five-month campaign, Ted McLogan was wounded by shrapnel. ★



Ted McLogan shows a photo of himself taken during his service as a Marauder.

(Editor's Note: Matthew McLogan is the son of Ted McLogan.)

Action of the 209th Engineers ...
(continued from page 7)

and they fought effectively and bravely until they were taken out one week before the city fell on 3 August. At the end they were said to be as ill and as worn as the Marauders.

The 209th personnel had won a DSC, several Silver Stars, a half-dozen Bronze Stars, and 260 Purple Hearts. This brief summary of the brilliant combat record of the two engineer battalions does not do credit to these gallant and courageous Americans. Trained primarily as engineers, they were suddenly taken from noncombat and thrown into bitter offensive infantry battle. They fought in the tropical heat, rain, and mud with inadequate food, shelter, and contaminated water. Ammunition was in short supply, and artillery and air support were inadequate at all times. Transportation of the wounded from the front lines to the airfield was primitive, poorly planned, and inadequate. Early surgical care was inadequate and below standards that should have been expected.

During later action of the 236th Engineers, Sgt. Fres N. Coleman threw himself on a Japanese grenade and saved two comrades. He and S.Sgt. Alvin O. Miller of the 209th Engineers both received the Distinguished Service Cross for heroic action. While on patrol activity late in the campaign, Pfc. George C. Presterly of the engineers won the Distinguished Service Cross when he moved out ahead of his patrol to assault a Japanese strongpoint. He was killed while firing his weapon during the lone attack. ★

Merrill's Marauders can have FREE membership in U.S. Army Ranger Association (USARA)

Merrill's Marauders are being invited to join "FOR FREE" the U.S. Army Ranger Association, Inc., USARA.

There are several Ranger associations, and USARA is not to be confused with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, which John Chester invited Marauders to join a few years ago.

When a Marauder joins USARA, he is sent an attractive certificate with gold edging suitable for framing; a decal with the USARA logo, a pin and a plastic, wallet-sized membership card. All will be sent to the Marauder's home address in a timely manner by USARA vice president Arthur Silsby.

"The mission of USARA is to promote and preserve the heritage, spirit, image and service of U.S. Army Rangers," said association president Butch Nery. USARA achieves its objectives in a variety of ways.

In addition to its website, www.ranger.org, USARA publishes a quarterly newsletter, the *Ranger Register*; and conducts national and regional events with the Annual Ranger Muster being the highlight of the year.

USARA works closely with the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment to give meaningful support to active duty Rangers. USARA cooperates with the Ranger veteran associations of the Ranger Battalions of WWII, Merrill's Marauders, the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War, the LRRP, LRP, Rangers, and Ranger Advisors of the Vietnam War, and other recognized Special Operations associations.

You must have proof that you are a Marauder. This can be done by emailing or sending a copy of your DD214, special orders or general order awarding the Ranger Tab to Art Silsby, VP personnel, rangersilsby@gmail.com, 478-628-2406. His street address is: PO Box 341, Gordon, GA, 31031. If you don't have the appropriate documentation, you can contact Merrill's Marauder historian Bob Passanisi 631 957-9634, who can assist you. ★



Ed Kohler ... A Marauder Remembers

WAPAKONETA (Dec 21 2012)— Ed Kohler has enough memories during his time with the Army National Guard to fill a book.

Kohler, 92, said he served for four years, 11 months and 27 days during World War II. During that time, he traveled through Fiji Islands, Guadalcanal, New Georgia and then India. He joined Merrill's Marauders, a special-operations unit that went behind Japanese lines fighting against the Japanese Imperial Marines in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations.

"They ordered 3,000 men. We went to Burma, fought the Japanese behind the lines for about eight months," he said from the dining room table of his Wapakoneta home.

His wife, Beth, chimed in from the living room, sitting on a recliner.

"When they had put you in Burma, they had no plans for getting you out," she said.

"Yeah, they had no plans to get us out of Burma at all," he said. "They figured 98 percent casualties. ... We would hit it and go. We never stayed in one place more than 24 hours."

One night in India he even had the opportunity to meet and speak with Mahatma Gandhi.

"We talked to him. He was a regular guy, really nice. He was a smart man," he said.

There were about 30 minor battles and five major battles in Burma, Kohler said. A platoon sergeant, he and the men he was with often lived off the land, eating anything from snakes, monkeys, lizards, fish and cabbage palm. Other supplies were brought to them by parachute. They were often exhausted when they traveled, walking up switchback trails like zombies.

There were several instances when he feared for his life.

The Japanese, at one point, "They trapped us for two weeks on top of a hill in Burma. We had nothing to eat, no water to drink, but we were fighting every day for two weeks. And we broke out on Easter Sunday 1944, they finally got us broke off the hill," he said.

On one occasion, he carried his battalion commander for five miles after he became wounded in both knees. Kohler was sick with malaria and had a 104 degree fever that day.

Kohler's interpreter also saved the group.

"If it weren't for him, we probably wouldn't be here today," Kohler said. "We found a wire that he could tap into and he found out what the Japanese were planning on doing. They were going to squeeze and move in on us. They were trying to get our communication and supply

line busted. They found out where we were, so they were going to come from both sides and hit us, but instead, we pulled out. Then they hit what they thought was our flank. They got to fighting one another. One of the guys went back in later and said Japs were laying everywhere. They just killed one another. They thought they were killing us.

Of course, living that way certainly wore on him after a while. He pulled up his pant leg to show the darkened patches of skin he called jungle rot.

"They get dark and then they break out again in an open sore," he said, which can still happen to this day. "It's from being wet. You were wet all the time."

Once he was finished, he also had malaria, dysentery and a swollen liver. "Besides that, I was a nervous wreck after being on the front lines after so long," he said.

At home, Kohler has a display case with more than a dozen honors and awards, including two Bronze Stars.

After returning to the United States, he married his wife, Beth, and they've been married for 63 years. He was born and raised in St. Marys. He still goes to Merrill's Marauders reunions, including one that was in Louisville, KY, this past Labor Day weekend.

Editor's Note:

As many of you are already aware, Gavin Mortimer, a British author, is writing what promises to be a great book about the Marauders. I thought it would be of interest for readers of the *Burman News* to see some of the recent emails I have exchanged with Gavin Mortimer.

From Gavin Mortimer:

I have recently spoken to Ed Kohler of the 2nd Bttn. I was reading *Spearhead* and he was mentioned briefly, bravely going back for a wounded buddy during the scramble under artillery fire from Auchee to Nhpum Ga. I saw he wasn't listed in the 'Passing' section of the website, I Googled him, and found an article about him. *(The article appears at left.)*

From Bob Passanisi:

The Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants and of course the Marauders strongly feel that the movie "The Marauders" didn't do the Marauders justice and would like to see a more realistic movie produced. Any thoughts in that area?

From Gavin Mortimer:

Regards movies ... I was thinking of that just the other day. My book about the SAS has been optioned (contracted) by an LA film company. The producer, who's worked with Martin Scorsese a few times, is English and enthusiastic about it. The problem is finance, and trying to persuade Hollywood to bankroll a film about Brits. The Marauders, on the other hand, could be much more appealing. I'll email my contact in London and see what he thinks. The good thing about these people is their vision for the project — it wouldn't be a Hollywood bullshit fairy tale, it would be authentic and honest, and in a similar format to *Band of Brothers*.

From Bob Passanisi:

Your information and thoughts on the possibility of a movie is encouraging, especially if your book gets good reviews and makes the best seller list. I probably don't have to say this, but leaning it toward that goal, would be great. Also you already know that there are many people that would cooperate to whatever extent necessary. ★

Many Thanks To Editor **Sheila Fredrickson**
*Whose talented help has made it possible to publish this
enhanced version of our newsletter.*

Our Heroes Forever

PVT. RALPH ATHERTON, 5307/475/1/HQ WCT, 6929 S Talman Ave., Chicago, IL 60629, Final Roll Call December 19, 2011.

HAROLD F. CLAUSEN, 124/2 TROOP G, From Grandson Jason, Final Roll Call June 26, 2006.

T/5 JAMES S. DOUGHERTY, 5307/3/I OCT, From Son Ray, Final Roll Call December 31, 2003.

PFC. RICHARD GILLETTE, 5307 55TH CHIN DIV, 5132 Parker Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075, From Widow Jessie, Final Roll Call November 17, 2012.

CPL. PERRY E. JOHNSON, 5307/3/HQ/RADIO OP, GROTON, MA From sister-in-law Margaret, MargJ247@aol.com. Final Roll Call December 19, 2012.

PFC. RICHARD L. KEELING, 5307/475/2/HQ, From Grandson Hill Brodey, Final Roll Call June 13, 2010.

PFC. PAUL E. KOLP, 5307/475/2/E, From Nephew Bryan Smith, Final Roll Call January 2, 2013.

SGT.- CAPT. LESLIE J. MCKIE, 5307/475/A RCT, 2801 S KING Drive APT 1718, CHICAGO, IL, From Widow C.C McKie, Final Roll Call October 18, 2012.

Lt. EDWARD (TED) A McLOGAN, 5307/2/F GCT, 854 ASA Gray Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, From Daughter Jennifer, Final Roll Call January 25, 2013.

PFC. ROBERT W. MITCHELL, 5307/3/K OCT, From daughter Terry Krautkremer, PO Box 1457, Congress, AZ 85332, Final Roll Call July 23, 2012.

PFC. GEORGE W PATRICK, 475/1/B, Richlands, VA, From Son John, Final Roll Call December 29, 2012.

S/SGT. RICHARD D SLATER, 475/2/G, From Widow Dorothy 930 LINCOLN ST, WOOSTER, OH 44691, Final Roll Call May 20, 2012.

PFC. PETER SPANELLI, 5307/1Hq RCT, RR 3 Box 158 Tyrone, PA 16686, From Dot Spanelli, Final Roll Call September 27, 2011.

PVT. TEDDY T. SWIETT, 5307/475/2/G, Everett, MA From Return Mail, Final Roll Call February 13, 2011.

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