

WORLD WAR II CHRONICLES

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CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THE FORGOTTEN THEATER

BY BECKY APPLIEDORN

With the 60th anniversary of D-Day in the forefront of people's minds it is important to remember another front in World War II. Sometimes referred to as the "forgotten theater" of the war, the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater played an integral part in the victory of the Allies in the Pacific. Even before Pearl Harbor, when the United States entered the war, President Roosevelt knew the success of the Allies depended greatly on whether or not China could remain in the war and continue to fight the Japanese. The primary American goal in CBI was to keep the Chinese actively involved in the Allied war effort, thereby tying down Japanese forces that would otherwise be deployed against Allied forces in the Pacific. The Japanese quickly tried to destroy all of China's army and blockade its ports and rivers. After ten long years of fighting, the Japanese gained a major advantage because the Chinese lacked modern military equipment and strategies. CBI was important to the overall war effort due to early plans to base air and naval forces in China for an eventual assault on Japan. Units like Merrill's Marauders, the

Flying Tigers and men such as Joseph Stilwell, Claire Chennault, and Orde Wingate led the Allied mission to success, but were rarely mentioned in the papers back home.



Beginning of American Involvement in the War

In 1941, President Roosevelt issued a secret executive order to organize a volunteer group charged with helping the Chinese to defend their capital from the air. The volunteer

group was called the American Volunteer Group (AVG) and consisted of 74 pilots and 20 planes. The AVG fought as civilians; the Chinese government paid them \$500 for each Japanese aircraft they shot down. The commander of the division was Texas native Claire C. Chennault, Air Advisor to China. The AVG's, later known as the Flying Tigers, were responsible for shooting down the first Japanese aircraft, and became immediate heroes in the United States. Even though the Flying Tigers fought for only six months, they were responsible for shooting down 286 enemy planes. After the U.S.

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

HEROES OF THE BURMA JUNGLE

BY SCOTT WENTLAND

Stopping every hour along the sweltering trails of Burma to burn the leeches off their legs with the ends of cigarettes, these men fight through extreme exhaustion to complete their mission. The unit hears the enemy within spitting distance as they march quietly, single file through the narrow paths of the jungle, up and down steeply inclined hills. Forgetting they were in a remote corner of the world, they have one thing on their minds: victory.

Known as "Merrill's Marauders," the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) fought under some of the most grueling conditions ever endured in warfare during their 1,000 mile march through the punishing terrain of China, Burma, and India. Often overshadowed by the more high-profile units of European and Pacific Theaters, the 5307th Composite Unit was called to carry out a long range penetration mission aimed towards disrupting Japanese communication and supply lines in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater. While President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill declared Germany the "first priority," the Japanese were not to go unchecked, and Merrill's Marauders were among the most notable forces to give the Japanese hell before the focus was shifted to the Pacific.

At the Quebec Conference in 1943 President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and other Allied leaders decided that the Japanese military must be met with force in Southeast Asia. As a result, some 3,000 rugged soldiers were assembled as the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), and given the code name: GALAHAD. Later the unit would be called "Merrill's Marauders" after its commander, Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill. Merrill's Marauders were to

be closely coordinated with the Chinese 22nd and 38th Divisions to engage the veteran Japanese 18th Division in Burma, around the strategically important Burma Road to China. From February through August 1944 the Marauders fought five major battles (Walawbum, Shaduzup, Inkangahtawng, Nhpum Ga, and Myitkyina) and 30 minor engagements.



Brigadier General Frank Merrill.

Many volunteers were eager to fight the Japanese. Former Medical Officer with Merrill's Marauders and author of *Spearhead*, James E.T. Hopkins, M.D. remembered that Merrill's Marauders "looked upon the enemy as a murderous subhuman species." Bitter resentment resided in the hearts of many American soldiers fighting the Japanese because of the events at Pearl Harbor. Moreover, the Chinese and Burmese suffered deeply under the tortuous Japanese military occupation. Their suffering

translated into an equally resentful outlook on the Japanese at that time. Hopkins said, "The men were fighting for their country and their comrades."

Their foes were not limited to the Japanese 18th Division or other axis forces. The men of the 5307th faced terrifying terrain laced with some of the most deadly creatures earth has to offer. Merrill's Marauders fought disease with as much tenacity as they fought the Japanese, ranging from amoebic dysentery, typhus fever, to malaria, and even psychoneurosis. Few if any Marauders escaped the CBI Theater without falling prey to some form of tropical disease.

Sgt. David Richardson, former YANK Staff Correspondent and the only reporter to march with the Marauders for their duration in CBI, remembered "you could go to bed at night, and you look at the guy next to you and he might be dead the next morning."

The Japanese became a mere battle in the war of survival; conquering disease proved to be the toughest hurdle.

Merrill's Marauders embodied the notion of 'doing more with less.' The size of the unit was numerically small relative to their missions and enemy. The average weight loss per man was approximately thirty-five pounds, attributed to both disease and malnutrition. James E.T. Hopkins, M.D. recalled that medical supplies were both limited in type and quantity. Furthermore, the Marauders were poorly equipped due to monsoon conditions that made air re-supply challenging and unreliable. Oftentimes limited supplies and malnutrition bred more disease within the unit.

Unlike Special Forces now, Merrill's Marauders were not hand-picked. At reunions, some Marauders joke that they would not have survived some of the Special Forces training of today. When facing such conditions David Richardson said, "They knew they weren't hand picked. They volunteered, so they picked themselves. When you knew you volunteered, you couldn't complain." Merrill's Marauders were not trained as elite forces are trained today; they were mere volunteers answering their President's call. These men personified toughness, and toughness supercedes any amount of training.

Merrill's Marauders' missions largely revolved around outflanking the Japanese behind enemy lines. The strategy envisioned by Supreme Allied Commander of South East Asia Command, General Joseph Stillwell, involved the 5307th Composite Unit flanking the Japanese so as to trap the enemy between American-trained Chinese forces and the Marauders. Many thought General Stillwell was overly ambitious, but the Marauders' success demonstrated pronounced American capability.

The shining achievement of the 5307th Composite Unit was the capture of Myitkyina. Proving to be the Marauders' most difficult mission, Myitkyina stood as the principle Japanese base for defense of Burma from the north, and was central to Japanese military operations in the CBI Theater. Physically exhausted

from fighting the Japanese, disease, malnutrition, and the terrain for months, Merrill's Marauders were granted reinforcements of Kachin and Chinese troops, giving Brig. Gen. Merrill command of some 7,000 troops for the Myitkyina operation. The timing of the assault during that May was essential due to the approaching monsoon season. The inclines of the hills in and around Myitkyina were so steep that some



Sgt. David Richardson,
former YANK correspondent

mules carrying supplies slipped and plunged to their deaths. Hopkins remembers, "the steep slopes, the heat, the lack of water, the jungle, [and the] mud and rain were beyond belief." The combination of the hills and the increasingly heavy rains would make offensive missions nearly impossible in the coming months.

After several days of joint attacks on Myitkyina by Merrill's Marauders and their allies, Colonel Osborne led both his 1st Battalion of the 5307th and the Chinese 150th Regiment to victory as they secured the air strip on May 17th.

Immediately after securing the air strip, supplies and reinforcements were flown in to establish a base for the allies capable of repelling Japanese counter attacks. General Stillwell ordered the Marauders not to take the city of Myitkyina itself until further notice. One Marauder remembers the sound of Japanese supply and transport trucks arriving by the dozens as the Allies would be asleep in their foxholes. Because of their close proximity, they could literally hear their enemy arrive, who would fight them the following day. The nights of anticipation were brutal.

The days preceding the capture of the Myitkyina air strip were not easy for the defending Marauders and Allied forces. The last weeks of May saw several counterattacks by Japanese forces. Merrill's Marauders became increasingly malnourished and ill as the days ensued, creating harsh conditions under which they fought. Grant Hirabayashi recalls, "The unit strength was cut in half due to tactical operation, exhaustion and disease by Myitkyina's end". At that point the Marauders had fought in five major battles and some thirty minor engagements. Reinforcements were brought in as a large percentage of the 5307th

GENERAL CLAIRE CHENNAULT

LEADER OF THE FLYING TIGERS

BY ALEEA SLAPPY

He was a leather faced Texan- a great American aviator, known for his unorthodox ideas about fighter tactics and a cantankerous relationship with his superiors in the US Air Force. He was also a leader - a wise and humble man that led by inspiration. He was the man that led the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG) in China to victory. Although they only lasted six months in China, in that short time, the AVG shot down 286 enemy planes under the leadership of that one man- General Claire Lee Chennault.

In the early days of July 1937 on the Marco Polo

Bridge, eight miles west of Beijing, Japanese troops were performing a nighttime marching drill. During the drill shots rang out, allegedly fired by a small band of Chinese insurgents. As a result, the Japanese troops threatened to forcefully enter the town of Wanping and begin an invasion of China. They had already conquered Manchuria and planned to use it as a launching base for their troops.

Months earlier, in April 1937, before Japan entered into war with China, Claire Chennault retired from the US Army. Madame Chiang Kai-shek asked Chennault if he would accept a three-month contract to survey the Chinese Air Force at a salary of \$1,000 per month plus expenses. China provided Chennault with air and motor transportation; an interpreter and permission to test fly any of the planes in the Chinese Air Force.

“Even before China, he was a great aviator,” said Chennault’s widow, Anna Chennault, who met General Chennault at the age of 20 while working as a reporter

in China. Claire Chennault learned to fly in the army after WWI. He was born Sept. 1893 in Commerce,

Texas but he spent most of his childhood in Louisiana. Chennault graduated from college at Louisiana Normal School and became a teacher. Upon the entry of the United States into World War I, Chennault enlisted in the Army. He was commissioned as first lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve following Officers Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana.

Chennault’s theories on military aviation, while advanced, were unlike any previously used, earning him

the nickname “Radical Chennault.” In the 1930’s he was given the position of U.S. Army Air Corps Chief of Pursuit Training. Although Chennault was very active, he suffered from health problems. Often ill with bronchitis, his flight surgeons ordered that he be grounded and no longer fly. In Feb. 1937 the Army suggested that Chennault retire with his rank of captain. Two months later, on April 30th, Chennault retired from the US Army Air Corps. The following day he left from Louisiana to San Francisco and was soon en route to China.

The Chinese, prior to Chennault’s arrival, were able to offer little organized resistance against Japan. While speaking at a gathering of China’s leaders, Chiang Kai-shek complained that the only way for China to maintain peace was to allow the Japanese troops to come on Chinese soil whenever they wanted and to allow the Japanese to shoot at the Chinese without the Chinese shooting back.



A Chinese soldier stands guard in front of a line of American P-40 fighters, painted with the shark-toothed emblem of the Flying Tigers.

Within five months over one million Chinese lived under the control of Japan. By the end of 1937, all of the major Chinese cities were under Japanese control. In November 1937, Shanghai, China's most important port fell. A month later in December 1937, Chiang Kai-shek's capital of Nanjing was captured.

China was in desperate need of help. Within three years of the outbreak of war, Japan had stationed approximately one million troops to maintain control of the seized Eastern China Territory. In the summer of 1938 Claire Chennault went to the capital of Yunnan Province in Western China at the request of Madame Chiang to create a new Chinese Air Force from an American mold.

While in China in self-imposed exile, Chennault laid the foundation for the American Air Force. He convinced the leader of China, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, that American B-17 bombers would force the Japanese out of China. Chennault documented the tactics that would strengthen the American fighters such as interception, avoiding dog fighting, making a diving pass and diving away when in trouble.

In October of 1940, Claire Chennault proposed a strike by American forces in China against the Japanese. He proposed that the strikes would be paid through a private corporation funded by the United States government. Chennault convinced President Roosevelt to send United States aircraft and volunteer pilots to help China several months before the U.S. was at war.

By December of 1940, President Roosevelt approved a secret order to form the American Volunteer Group (AVG). The AVG was a group of American pilots and support crews from the Navy, Army, and the Marine Corps. The job of the AVG was to protect the Burma Road from Japanese attack. Roosevelt approved

Chennault's proposed strike on July 23, 1941 and officially signed off on the attack.

Though the plan for the AVG received approval from the president, there were still obstacles to overcome. To ensure that the operation would be a success, there were two companies set up. The first company was the China Defense Supply. The China Defense Supply Company was set up to manage the American aid going to China. The other company was the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO). The purpose of the CAMCO was to recruit and pay the personnel of the AVG. CAMCO

recruiters went to Army and Navy stations to enlist volunteers to work for CAMCO in China for one year; afterwards they would be allowed to join the military without a loss of rank.

The US government knew it needed to take action to help China and protect the Burma Road. America granted one hundred Curtiss P-40 Warhawk planes to China. Though these planes lacked the speed and range of other planes during that time, they were better than the planes Chennault received from the Chinese government. The Japanese planes were more maneuverable than the Warhawks, had more speed in a dive and superior firepower.

"The media in China had great admiration for Chennault," says Anna Chennault. "There was a lot of publicity for what he had done. Although the US wasn't in the war the AVG still bravely helped China."

Although the US government made efforts to keep the operations a secret, they were leaked and reported on in the June 23, 1941 issue of Time Magazine. The magazine filed a report when the 100 P-40s reached Burma; it also noted that American pilots would fly the patrols over the Burma Road. The first group of



General Claire Chennault



The famed Flying Tigers insignia made into a banner and presented to the American forces by the Chinese government.
(Courtesy of the US Air Force Museum)

joined the war, the Flying Tigers became part of the 10th Air Force, and continued to defend China from the Japanese.

Japan takes Burma

In 1942, the Chinese Nationalists were busy fighting off Communism within their country. When the Chinese 55th division in the east broke up, the Japanese Army quickly trained its sights north, snuck in behind the retreating Allies, and closed off the Burma Road. This strategic move cut off the land route by which the Allies could deliver aid to the Chinese Nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek. Before Burma could be recaptured, several initiatives had to be undertaken. Chennault's air force had to stay and protect the Chinese capital and ground troops. Soldiers needed to be airlifted out of China and into India to be trained with U.S. troops to advance into Burma. Most importantly, supplies and troops needed to get into China—and a land route was now out of the question.

The Hump

With Japanese troops occupying Burma, an air route across the country from India to China proved very dangerous. Allied forces had to find a way to get across the country safely. To avoid Japanese anti-aircraft fire from Burma the only route possible was over the Himalayan Mountains, dubbed the "Hump," with altitudes of over 20,000 feet above the jungles of Burma and snowy mountain peaks of China. The organization of the Hump operation began in 1942 with the 10th Air Force taking responsibility for getting gasoline to the Doolittle Raiders, who were to land in China follow-

ing their attack on Japan. Several months later the Air Transport Command (ATC) took over and flew the Hump through 1945, when the Burma Road

finally reopened. The severe weather during monsoon season made this the most dangerous air route in all of the operations of the Allied Air Force. The planes suffered through heavy attacks from Japanese fighters in their attempts to fly over the Himalayas. There were several occurrences of the planes dropping cargo to make it over the steep mountains. Twice planes were forced to drop bales of Chinese paper money into the sky over Chinese villages.

Those crews that survived the crashes in the jungles of north Burma faced little chance for survival in a region full of snakes, tigers, disease and the Japanese. The longest Hump operation lasted 93 days. Over one million tons of supplies and 1.3 million troops were brought over the Hump. Along with flying supplies to China, the ATC supplied ground forces fighting in Burma. The ATC saved a large British force along the Indian border near Imphal by flying in more than 10,000 reinforcements and more than 20,000 tons of supplies after the force had been encircled during a Japanese offensive. Using gliders and C-47's, they transported 9,000 British "Chindit" raiders

under Major General Orde Wingate. In the north, Merrill's Marauders fought through the Burma jungle and were sustained mainly by airdrops by the Hump flyers. By war's end nearly 600 aircraft and 1,000 men were lost flying over the Hump, but the impact of the flyers was immense.



Poorly equipped Chinese soldiers attempt to repel a charge of 50,000 Japanese along the Salween River near Burma.



General Joseph Stilwell with Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek in mid-1942.

General Joseph Stilwell

“Vinegar” Joe Stilwell, as he was nicknamed for a blunt and often harsh personality, was regarded by many as the best field commander in the U.S. Army when he was dispatched to China in 1942. A Chinese linguist, he had direct contact with Chiang Kai-shek. Stilwell was given the task of overseeing the implementation of the Lend-Lease program between the U.S. and China. The Lend-Lease was a \$280 million dollar U.S. promise to China to train and equip all 30 divisions of the Chinese Army to help fight the Japanese. Chiang Kai-shek quickly gave Stilwell the control of the Chinese military, a power never before held by a foreigner. Stilwell soon became the Supreme Allied Commander of the Southeast Asia Command, in charge of all U.S., Chinese, and British forces. In the beginning of 1942 Burma was still controlled by the Allies. Unfortunately, Stilwell’s troops were soon defeated and forced to retreat out of Burma.

In 1942, following defeat and an eight-day trek through the Burmese jungles, General Stilwell told a group of reporters that his Allied troops received a “hell of a beating.” To top off the ego shattering defeat by the Japanese, Stilwell’s troops—a combination of Chinese, British and Indian soldiers—were ordered out of Burma. General Stilwell refused a cargo plane sent to transport him to safety in India, choosing instead to lead his troops out of Burma. Stilwell headed north with 100 people following behind. The ragged group was made up of American, British and Chinese officers; as well as civilians, doctors, and two female nurses. After two days of walking, many of the Americans began to suffer from heat stroke. General Frank Merrill, who would later come to fame as the commander of



Lt. General Joseph Stilwell confers with the leader of the GALAHAD offensive, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill.

Merrill’s Marauders, suffered severely from heart problems. It was discovered later that Merrill had two heart attacks during his time in Burma. The group undertook a hard trek across rivers and steep mountain passes, fighting off heat and disease; not to mention the Japanese. It took eight days to get out of Burma, but the war was far from over for Stilwell, who had used this time to plot his next move against the Japanese.

Stilwell’s plan was to train Chinese troops in India to fight off the Japanese in Burma. This plan was opposed by General Claire Chennault, who wanted to use U.S. air power, Chiang Kai-shek, who wanted direct control of the Chinese Army in Burma, and the British, who wanted all the men and supplies sent to Europe. By 1943 Stilwell was able to start his GALAHAD offensive, an attempt to reform the Chinese army. Stilwell’s plan proved successful and in 1944 the general commanded all his troops, under Brigadier General Frank Merrill, to fight the Japanese in north Burma with the goal of capturing Myitkyina. This would remove the threat of enemy fighter planes attacking Allied forces flying the Hump.

Now called Merrill’s Marauders, the GALAHAD offensive quickly struck Japanese outposts all along the Burma front. After four days of relentless attacks, the Japanese finally retreated. Merrill’s Marauders were not done yet; they slogged through over 700 miles of Burmese jungle and pushed the Japanese 18th division out of Myitkyina. The remaining Marauders, after receiving medical treatment for a variety of diseases, were sent back to Burma with the Texas National Guard to join the Mars Task Force.

Now that the Allies had cleared northern Burma, Stilwell could begin leading construction of the

Ledo Road and a fuel pipeline from India to China could begin. After the road was complete, Chiang Kai-shek convinced President Roosevelt to recall Stilwell, due to a clashing of ideals between the two men, in 1945. Stilwell departed China and became Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces in the U.S.

General Orde Wingate

In 1943 Major General Wingate of the British Army was sent to form the “Wingate Raiders,” better known as the “Chindits,” to lead the British front in northern Burma. They used guerrilla tactics against the Japanese who up until 1942 had not seen this type of warfare. Now they had to fight an enemy they could not see. The Chindits were especially successful in causing damage to Japanese supply lines. The Chindits sent information back to the British Royal Air Force to assist their operations. Because the Chindits were silently moving through the jungle at night, and traveling deep in the Burmese jungle it was difficult for them to receive supplies. The U.S. put together a unit to help supply the British, who were making great strides in weakening the Japanese front and developing new fighting tactics. The U.S. unit started as the 5318th Provisional Unit (Air), and eventually became the 1st Air Commando Group. Along with getting supplies to Wingate’s Chindits, the 1st Air Commando Group evacuated wounded soldiers from areas of combat.



Major General Orde Wingate, the charismatic and often controversial leader of the Chindits.

Wingate would be killed in February of 1944 when his U.S. Army transport plane crashed in India. As the remains of those on the plane were unidentifiable, and most were American, it was decided to bury the all of the men, including the British Wingate, at Arlington National Cemetery.



A U.S. convoy slowly ascends the famous twenty-one curves at Annan, China, along the Burma Road.

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Wellington flew with the group and helped support the British by evacuating many of their wounded. Wellington remembers that despite the Chindits being deep in the Burmese jungle they suffered far more casualties from Japanese combat than disease, unlike the other fronts moving through Burma at this time. Wellington recalls the many different nationalities of passengers he picked up, including British, Indian, Gurkha, and Australian. Exemplifying the risks involved with flying planes over Burma, Wellington’s aircraft was frequently fired at by pockets of Japanese resistance. The Japanese were also able to infiltrate the 1st Air Commando Groups encampment and damage their planes.

The Ledo Road

In December of 1942, the Allies decided to build a new supply road from Ledo, Assam, India, to bypass the previously cut off Burma Road. The British had begun to build what was then-called the Burma Road in the 1920’s, and the Chinese often used a mule path that snaked through the mountains. The Allies decided to use both these existing “roads” to form a passageway into China. Many thought this task was impossible due to the tough terrain and harsh climate in the areas through which the road was to be built. The builders faced jungles, gorges, rivers, swamps,

SPEAK OUT

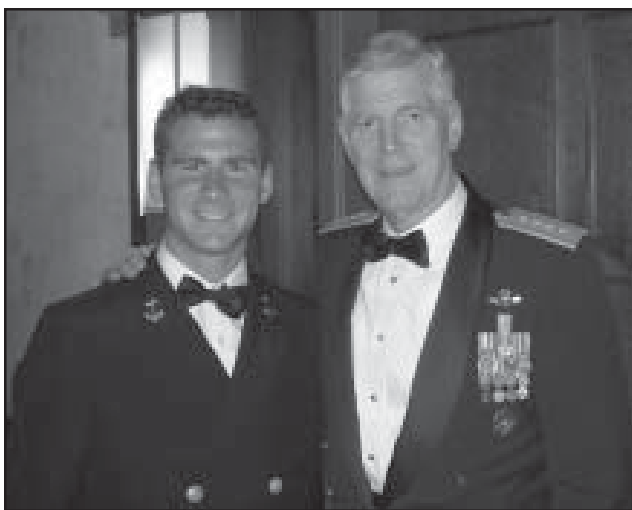
BY HUNTER SCOTT

World War II Veterans Committee National Youth Representative

I recently read an article by Ben Stein entitled “E-Online Final”—his last article for the E-Online web site. “On a small scale, Morton’s, while better than ever, no longer attracts as many stars as it used to,” he wrote. After a few sentences on celebrities he has spotted there recently, he continued. “A bigger change has happened. I no longer think Hollywood stars are terribly important...A real star is the soldier of the 4th Infantry Division who poked his head into a hole on a farm near Tikrit, Iraq. He could have been met by a bomb or a hail of AK-47 bullets. Instead, he faced an abject Saddam Hussein and the gratitude of all the decent people of the world. A real star is the U.S. Soldier who was sent to disarm a bomb next to a road north of Baghdad. He approached it, and the bomb went off and killed him. A real star, the kind who haunts my memory at night and day, is the U.S. Soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street near where he was guarding a station. He pushed her aside and threw himself on it just as it exploded. He left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad.”

Ben Stein is right. A big change is happening. The “American Icon” is now shifting away from the movie stars and pop singers to the true heroes—our military and veterans. Sure there is still some excitement when the occasional celebrity wanders through Morton’s, but few things give many Americans more pride than watching the crew of the *USS LaSalle* return from the Mediterranean after six months deployed, or the excitement of a young wife with two

kids who sees her husband for the first time in a year because he has been serving in Iraq. The truth is, widespread appreciation for our military and veterans is growing faster than ever. Regardless of political views, Americans realize that we are at war and that our troops need our support. Finally, the true heroes are being recognized for their service to the greatest nation in the world—the United States of America.



Hunter Scott (left) with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers prior to the Committee’s Seventh Annual Edward J. Herlihy Awards Banquet in May.

Still, each day there are fewer and fewer remaining veterans of the *Greatest Generation*, and the time is coming when soon there will be none. It is important, now, that we do what we can to preserve the stories of America’s true heroes. Many stories remain to be told, and it is up to the “*Latest Generation*” to carry on the legacy of those who have come before.

A particular story of interest to me that not many people my age are aware of is the

story of the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater. During WWII, the Allies’ goal in this particular field of action was to help the Chinese fight the Japanese, who had taken over many ports and airstrips, to disrupt the supply routes. Oftentimes battling the heavy wind and rain from the monsoons, American troops would press on to win back the Chinese ports. Stories from the CBI Theater, and other theaters of operation, are an important part of our history and there is a growing desire to learn about and tell these stories before time runs out.

Another story that has been preserved recently is the story of the *USS Indianapolis*. Following a series of

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At 0900 on February 19, 1945, thousands of United States Marines stormed the volcanic sand beaches of the tiny island of Iwo Jima. Within minutes, the island would be engulfed in one of the bloodiest battles in history. Over 28,500 Marines and Naval Personnel were awarded Purple Hearts for the battle, with over 20% of those killed. Of the original Japanese garrison of over 21,000 men, only 216 would be taken prisoner. The rest would die in battle, or were buried alive in the tunnels and caves that wound underneath the island.

Throughout the years, the legend of the heroes of Iwo Jima has grown, aided by the most famous image of the war, Joe Rosenthal's photo of the flag raising atop Mt. Suribachi. In the decades since Iwo Jima was returned to the Japanese, it has become a tightly secured military installation with no tourist infrastructure.

This is your one opportunity to see one of the world's most hallowed and preserved war sites.

Coordinated by Military Historical Tours of Alexandria, Virginia, the 60th Anniversary Tour of Iwo Jima will take place March 7-14, 2005. This is your one and only opportunity to honor the brave men who sacrificed everything in this devastating assault on the Japanese empire at the site where it all happened. Join tour hosts and veterans of Iwo Jima Lt. Gen. Larry Snowden and Maj. Gen. Fred Haynes, USMC, for what will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



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QUESTIONING THE QUESTIONERS

INTERROGATION TACTICS OF WORLD WAR II

BY JORDAN MICHAEL SMITH

Intelligence-gathering is by its very nature secretive. It involves putting together pieces of a puzzle that don't always fit. In fact, it quite often involves putting together pieces of a puzzle that are not *meant* to fit. Sometimes the information is naive, other times deliberately misleading; sometimes the information is insufficient, other times so abundant it becomes contradictory. Perhaps most frustratingly of all, the intelligence officer never knows what the story is supposed to look like. He has only his instinct and training to predict just what it is exactly that the enemy is planning.

But if intelligence is the meal, then interrogation is the after-meal drink. It is a world of shady characters with hazy experiences. The information gathered from a captured enemy is always suspect: how does the interrogator know when the prisoner is telling the truth? How does the interrogator know when the enemy is truly devoid of information? When he is spitting out half-truths? Even if he is sincere and forthright about his knowledge, is he correct? Is his information accurate? Interrogation is incurably untrustworthy-but it is still vital.

There is an added degree of difficulty for the interrogator operating in wartime. He is forced to work with an additional sense of urgency he is unburdened with in a peaceful environment. He must supply his superior with the necessary information in a timely manner. His effectiveness can often quite literally mean the difference between life and death for his fellow soldiers-and he knows it. Quickly providing his

military commander with clear and accurate information can-and indeed has-influenced the outcome of decisive battles.

There are three classifications that methods used in interrogation fall into: psychological, physical and mental coercion, and torture. Psychological interrogation is completely legal under international law and is widely accepted and practiced in the international community. It refers to attempts to gather information by simply talking to the prisoner. Now, the interrogator may outsmart and deceive the prisoner-as we will see later-but there is never any physical contact involved and the prisoner is never in any pain.

In the *Atlantic Monthly* last year, journalist Mark Bowden listed the methods involved in mental and

physical coercion, a category that is informally referred to as "torture-lite." "These include sleep deprivation, exposure to heat or cold, the use of drugs to cause confusion, rough treatment (slapping, shoving or shaking), forcing a prisoner to stand for days at a time or to sit in uncomfortable positions, and playing on fears of himself and his family," he wrote. The distinction between torture and mental/physical coercion, Bowden felt, was that "although excruciating for the victim, these tactics generally leave no permanent marks and do no physical harm." The Geneva Conventions, he added, make no such distinction. Both the 1929 Conventions and their expanded 1949 counterpart explicitly prohibit any type of interrogation more intense than the psychological approach outlined above.



An American soldier guards three captured Germans prior to interrogation during the Battle of the Bulge.

The final category, torture, is distinguished as being intentional. Indeed, the notion of intent is the defining characteristic of torture. When the interrogator is deliberately inflicting pain on the subject, he is engaging in torture. Human beings have been torturing each other for as long as history reaches back to. Our methods have advanced, of course, and technology's advances have been utilized to maximize the pain a prisoner experiences. The odd thing about this is that, speaking pragmatically, any coercion which created such fear that the prisoner would need to lie to avoid the pain would be counter-productive to the interests of the unit seeking information. Torture will not necessarily reveal what the prisoner knows. What it will reveal is that human beings will say anything to relieve themselves of excruciating pain.

The U.S. Army field manual describes seventeen different psychological approach techniques and variations. There are fourteen main approaches and four sub-approaches.

1) **DIRECT APPROACH:** The direct approach is simply the interrogator asking his subject straightforward questions.

2) **INCENTIVE APPROACH:** This is a method of rewarding the source for his cooperation by satisfying his needs. For instance, a properly-answered question would be rewarded with a cigarette.

3) **EMOTIONAL APPROACH:** The emotional approach overrides the source's rationale for resisting by using his emotions against him. The main emotions of any source at the time of capture might be either love or fear. The interrogator would direct inflammatory questions at the subject in the hope of arousing anger in him, making him more likely to reveal important information.



Countless German POW's march through ruined streets following the Allied capture of Aachen. American interrogators would put to use a variety of methods to gather important information on German tactics and strategy.

4) **INCREASED FEAR UP APPROACH:** This approach is most effective on a younger and more inexperienced source. Sources with something to hide, such as the commission of a war crime, are particularly easy to break with this technique. There are two distinct variations of this approach: the fear up (harsh) and the fear up (mild). In the former, the interrogator behaves in a heavy, overpowering manner with a loud and threatening voice. The interrogator may even feel the need to throw objects across the room to heighten the source's implanted feelings of fear. The latter is better suited to the strong, confident type of interrogator as there is generally no need to raise the voice or resort to vandalism. It is a more correct form of blackmail when the circumstances indicate that the source does indeed have something to fear.

5) **DECREASED FEAR DOWN APPROACH:** This approach is used primarily on a source who is already in a state of fear due to the horrible circumstances of his capture. This technique is

really nothing more than calming the source and convincing him that he will be properly and humanely treated, and that for him the war is mercifully over and he need not get into combat again.

6) **PRIDE AND EGO APPROACH:** This approach uses flattery or abuse to coax a prisoner into talking. It is effective with a source who has displayed weaknesses or feelings of inferiority which can be effectively exploited by the interrogator. There are two sub-techniques in this approach: the pride and ego up approach and the pride and ego down approach. The former approach is used on stupid sources, or those with low self-esteem. The subject is delighted at being praised, and keeps supplying information as attention is lavished on him. The latter approach is effective

fought beyond physical exhaustion. Some 200 of the original 3,000 Marauders survived the CBI jungles, with approximately two-thirds of total casualties lost to disease alone. Hopkins remembered, "Even now many years after the battle for Myitkyina, I find it hard to believe how horrible the conditions were. There were many failures and problems but they were not the fault of the American and Chinese soldiers or officers." The conditions were 'dangerous and hazardous,' and the men knew it going in, but the extent to which they knew of the conditions was probably vastly understated.

Strategically, the capture of Myitkyina was the Marauders' most important victory. Hopkins noted, "If Myitkyina and its airfield had not been captured, then the two oil lines from Calcutta to Myitkyina would have been completed to allow Japanese planes to land and refuel." Capturing the all-weather airport resulted in dramatic increases of supplies by air to China from the south. Myitkyina would give its occupier access to the Irrawaddy River as well. Some 13,686 tons of supplies were flown into Yunnan in May 1944. With the capture of Myitkyina, supplies to the area rose to 39,000 tons by November. It became a major supply base and crucial to the reopening of the Burma Road on January 27, 1945.

Merrill's Marauders were not only of tangible importance, but symbolically crucial for Chinese involvement. The Chinese forces suffered substantial defeats in Burma in 1942, and were reluctant to fight in the theater until they saw significant involvement by their western allies. While the United States provided nearly half of all air support in the CBI Theater, the 5307th Composite Unit was the only American ground force operating on the mainland of Asia when their mission began. They were the first American ground force in Asia in some forty years. Seeing American forces take on the experienced Japanese forces on equal terms in the jungle convinced the Chinese that they were not alone.

The Allies believed China's sheer numbers were extremely valuable to the overall war effort in Asia. Richardson remarked, "The main strategic point of this operation was to keep the Chinese in the war." General Stillwell maintained that the Chinese soldier

was as good as any American soldier, though their limited training proved otherwise. Richardson said the Chinese "were terribly officered. They had many more casualties, but the Marauders admired them in a way. They were dogged." Absent a Chinese alliance and assistance, the American war effort against the Japanese would have been far more difficult. At the time, some thought China was to be a future jumping ground for invasion of Japan. Hopkins noted, "Without the Chinese involvement in the war effort, the course of history could have been changed in a dramatic fashion." Though the Chinese troops themselves were by no means elite, China remained invaluable to the Allies.



After a string of broken promises by Stillwell, over-ambitious mission objectives, and unbridled exposure to disease, Merrill's Marauders had plenty of reasons to break. Richardson said, "With

all the things that happened to them, another outfit would have broke. They never broke. They never broke under stress and they stayed together to finish the job." Merrill's Marauders had an unrelenting mindset, with the saying 'All we can do is fight; all we can do is our best.' David Richardson understood, "Wanting to come out alive meant that you wanted not only to live on but prevail. You wanted to be proud of what you're doing. You wanted to win." Pride in themselves and their country will not be forgotten.

Merrill's Marauders had character. Colonel Logan Weston, the highly decorated 'Fightin' Preacher,' joined the Army during his third year of theological school at Transylvania Bible School in Freeport, Pennsylvania, and volunteered to fight with the Marauders. As Richardson notes, Weston would say to his fellow Marauders: "I'm sorry I had to kill those Japs, fellas, but today it was a case of either my getting them or their getting me." Weston and the men he officered fought brilliantly. There were several other great personalities of the Marauders, too numerous to name in a brief article, who are described in more detail in the various books written about the Marauders, including *Spearhead* by Dr. James E.T. Hopkins, *The Marauders* by Charlton Ogburn Jr., *GALAHAD* by Charles Newton Hunter, *The Fightin'*

Preacher by Col. Logan E. Weston, and many more. The Nisei, Americans with Japanese ancestry, accompanied the Marauders and played a crucial role in the Marauders' successes. Richardson said, "The Nisei were invaluable to us." Because they were fluent in Japanese, they were originally intended to be interpreters. Grant Hirabayashi, a Nisei and former Marauder, said among his duties were, "translating captured documents, maps, diaries; interrogating POWs and, under more dangerous conditions, crawling within earshot of enemy position to intercept enemy conversations or oral commands." Nisei soldiers tapped into Japanese communication lines and reported directly back to Merrill on the enemy's strategy. In battle, Nisei soldiers shouted out orders in Japanese and confused the enemy. Merrill's Marauders would booby trap foxholes near the Japanese forces and the Nisei would shout orders to retreat to their nearest foxholes. Sure enough, the enemy unit would be devastated by the explosions.

The American 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) earned an awe-inspiring respect from their Chinese, Burmese, Indian, and British allies as jungle fighting, front line soldiers in Asia. Domestically, the unit received little popular recognition relative to the units in Europe and the Pacific, though it was one of the most decorated and respected units of World War II. The 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) itself was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation. Among its numerous decorations, six members of the unit were awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service Cross, five members awarded the Legion of Merit, and 14 awarded the Silver Star. To date, 21 former Marauders have been inducted in the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, including Merrill himself.

As Richardson says, "we don't pretend that our notoriety or fame matches the notoriety of those of D-Day," but the men who served in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) are as deserving of recognition and awe as any soldier in World War II. All volunteered for a duty; many made the ultimate sacrifice; some returned home to their families; every one of Merrill's Marauders will be in America's heart.

For more information on Merrill's Marauders, visit www.marauder.org

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and oceans of mud. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill thought the project mad and useless. American engineers brought in bulldozers, cranes, power-shovels, caterpillars and steamrollers from 12,000 miles away in the U.S. It proved to be an extremely difficult task, but the Ledo Road was completed by Army Engineers in early 1945. In addition to building the 465 mile long Ledo Road, Army Engineers also upgraded about 600 miles of the Burma Road. Both roads covered 1,079 miles from Ledo, India to Kunming, China. The U.S. Army spent over \$148 million dollars and took two years to construct the Ledo Road. Today, the completion of this road is seen as a wartime and military engineering miracle.

After the completion of the road, Chiang Kai-shek named the passage that included both the Ledo and Burma Roads "Stilwell Road" in honor of his former Chief of Staff. Though the war ended just six months later, more than 34,000 tons of supplies were transported from Ledo into China across the Stilwell Road.

Like many aspects of the CBI Theater, the Ledo Road was quickly forgotten when the war ended. Today only small parts of the road remain. To be sure, many aspects of the CBI Theater have been forgotten due to the greater amounts of manpower and material used on the other fronts in WWII. However, this theater cannot be forgotten. Chinese involvement in the war dominated American thought at all Allied Councils, beginning even before Pearl Harbor. The obstacles faced in Burma and the military strategies used there had never been seen before. The experience on land in Burma trained our military to handle the punishing jungle terrain and climate. The Hump flyers invented new ways to transport soldiers and supplies that would benefit the military in years to come. The completion of the Stilwell Road proved an engineering miracle. As Donovan Webster said in his book, *The Burma Road*. "The (CBI Theater was the) wettest, muddiest, most-unknown, most-disorganized, lowest priority corner of World War II." It was also one of the longest campaigns of WWII, where the greatest defeat on land of the Japanese Army was seen; and where heroes were made out of many men.

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AVG pilots left San Francisco on July 10, 1941. Before they left, Chennault received Presidential approval for a second group of bombers with pilots and gunners to arrive in November 1941.

In August 1941, the AVG began their training in Toungoo, Burma, 175 miles north of Rangoon. Every pilot that arrived before September 15th received six hours of specialized flying and 72 hours of lecture. By December 1941, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the AVG was already in the midst of combat training. On Dec. 20, 1941, the AVG saw their first battle when ten Japanese bombers were spotted heading toward Kunming, where the AVG was based.

The first battle was Chennault's opportunity to prove that his military tactics had merit. Chennault's military ideas had been criticized in the past, and if his military techniques were unsuccessful in this first mission, he would not get a second chance to prove himself. The AVG downed four bombers and disrupted the Japanese bombing raid on Kunming. On Christmas day, eight Japanese bombers and 48 fighters hit Rangoon. Twenty-three were knocked down by the AVG. The AVG didn't suffer the loss of a single plane.

In the AVG's first 11 days of fighting they had officially knocked 75 Japanese aircraft out of the sky. Meanwhile, the AVG had only lost two pilots and six aircraft. By January 24, the Flying Tigers had claimed 73 of Japan's planes while only losing five of their own.

"They were doing a great job, they knew nothing about this part of the world," said Anna Chennault. "They were so young and willing, and many went to China and never returned home."

The AVG was known across the world as the Flying Tigers. The AVG pilots copied a shark tooth design on the noses of the P-40's. The design came from an illustration in the India Illustrated Weekly. The design

depicted an R.A.F squadron in the Libyan Desert with shark nose P-40's. Walt Disney animators in Hollywood designed the Flying Tiger insignia at the request of the China Defense Supplies corporation. The insignia consisted of a winged tiger flying through a large V that stood for victory.

The Flying Tigers were comprised of three squadrons.



Members of the "Panda Bears," one of the three squadrons that made up the Flying Tigers.

The first squadron was known as the "Adam & Eves," the second, the "Panda Bears" and the third squadron was called "Hells Angels." Each time a member of the Flying Tigers accounted for a Japanese plane, China credited 100 pounds sterling to the pilot's account. When a Japanese plane would crash into the ground, the pilot's account was enriched by 200 pounds sterling.

Through the middle of February 1942, the Japanese advances continued. During the spring of 1942, Claire Chennault struggled to keep the AVG an independent air force. At that time the AVG reported directly to Chiang Kai-shek. There was pressure for the Flying Tigers to join with the Chinese Army or the regular US Air Force.

On July 3, 1942, the AVG was disbanded and the 23rd Fighter Group took over their responsibilities. Five of the AVG pilots joined the 23rd Fighter Group. On their final day in the air, the AVG knocked down five enemy fighters over Hinyang. The official count of enemy planes shot down was two hundred ninety-seven, with more than fifteen hundred Japanese Airmen killed in the process. The AVG only lost twenty-one pilots. Under the leadership of General Chennault, the AVG defeated the Japanese Air Force in over fifty battles without a single defeat.

Chennault turned average military pilots into legends. The Flying Tigers and General Chennault were admired throughout China. One of the largest displays of affection took place on the day that Chennault was leaving to return to the US. On August 8, 1942, he was led through the city of Chongqing as

over two million people wished him a farewell. During this time, Chennault received China's most prestigious award, the "White Sun and Blue Sky."

"Chennault was a leader, wise-yet very humble. He led by inspiration, he had the ability to show that he cared," said Anna Chennault.

Chennault spent a total of eight years in war against Japan, and remained in China until August 1945. He died in Louisiana in 1958.

"He was a great American, he fought but he loved peace. He was a citizen of the world," said Anna Chennault. "I considered him my husband, my companion, and mostly my teacher." WWII

MEETING...

ANNA CHENNAULT



Anna Chennault, widow of General Claire Chennault, found great success in the United States following the

conclusion of World War II. Madame Chennault (pictured above with World War II Veterans Committee interns Jordan Smith and Alea Slappy), joined China's Central News Agency at the age of 20, where she was assigned to cover the United States military. It was during this time that she met General Chennault.

Following Gen. Chennault's death in 1958, Madame Chennault moved to Washington, where she quickly gained a reputation in academic and social circles, earning her the nickname, "The Hostess of Washington." Because of her knowledge of Far-Eastern culture and politics, she went on to serve as an advisor for every Administration since Kennedy. Still, her first love has always been writing, and she has published over 50 books in both English and Chinese. She still lives in Washington, DC.

naval mistakes that lead to the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis*, their Captain, Charles B. McVay III, was made the scapegoat and court-martialed unjustly. The crew of the *Indianapolis* never saw the recognition they deserved. For fifty years they tried to tell their story and exonerate their captain, but even in the late 90's few people had heard about the *Indianapolis* or knew its role of delivering the first atomic bomb to its launching point. Today, their captain's name has been exonerated and honor has been restored to the final crew of the "Indy." With thanks to many people who worked to fight for justice for the late cruiser, the stories of the survivors have been preserved and the *USS Indianapolis* is now one of the best-known ships of WWII.

It is stories like that of the *USS Indianapolis* and the CBI Theater of Operation that need to be preserved. The true heroes are finally being recognized and we must do what we can to record their stories. As Mr. Stein said, "I no longer think Hollywood stars are terribly important." The true stars are our veterans and those who serve in the military fighting for our freedom. These are the people we rejoice to see upon their return.

About a month ago I was returning from my 3/C MIDN cruise and I was wearing my "Summer Whites" aboard the Delta Airlines flight. After I sat down the flight attendant came over and whispered that there were seats available in 1st class if I would like to move up after takeoff. Sure enough, once we reached the proper altitude, she came back and escorted me to my new seat. As I was walking through the aisle I noticed another man in uniform being escorted to his new seat too. I was filled with joy, not because I was sitting in first class, but because our military is really being appreciated and treated like *stars*. We must celebrate and record the stories of yesterday and embrace those of today. The men and women of the military are the stars of America.

(Hunter Scott is National Youth Representative for the World War II Veterans Committee. He was instrumental in persuading Congress to pass legislation to overturn the court martial of Captain Charles McVay of the *USS Indianapolis*. He is often asked to speak of his role in clearing the name of Captain McVay, and has spoken at numerous conferences throughout the summer, including at: World War II History Fair and Presentation in Logan, Utah; *USS Indianapolis Search and Rescue Organization*; *American Legion Boys Nation*; and numerous high schools across the country.) WWII

with egotistical or prideful individuals. The interrogator attacks the source's sense of pride, such as his intelligence or leadership, and the prisoner becomes defensive and leaks information.

7) **FUTILITY TECHNIQUE APPROACH:** This approach is used to make the source believe that it is useless to resist and to persuade him to cooperate with the interrogator. The futility approach is most effective when the interrogator can play on doubts that already exist in the source's mind.

8) **"WE KNOW ALL"**

APPROACH: This approach convinces the source that the interrogator already knows everything. It is a very successful approach for sources who are naïve, in a state of shock, or in a state of fear.

9) **"ESTABLISH YOUR IDENTITY" APPROACH:**

In this technique, the interrogator insists that the source has been identified as an infamous criminal wanted by higher authorities on very serious charges, and he has finally been caught posing as someone else. In order to clear himself of these allegations, the source will usually have to supply detailed information on his unit to establish or substantiate his true identity.

10) **REPETITION APPROACH:** Repetition is used to induce cooperation from a hostile source. In one variation of this technique the interrogator listens carefully to a source's answer to a question, and then repeats both the question and answer several times. He does this with each succeeding question until the source become so thoroughly bored with the procedure that he answers questions fully and candidly to satisfy the interrogator and to gain relief from the monotony of his method of questioning.

11) **FILE AND DOSSEIR APPROACH:** The file and dossier approach is when the interrogator prepares a dossier containing all available information obtained from records and documents concerning the

source or his organization. Careful arrangement of the material within the file may give the illusion that it contains more data than what is actually there.

12) **GOOD COP/BAD COP APPROACH:** This approach takes advantage of the natural uncertainty and guilt which a source has as a result of being detained and questioned. Use of this technique necessitates the employment of two experienced interrogators who are convincing actors. Basically, the two interrogators will display opposing personalities and attitudes toward

the source. At the time the source acts hopeless and alone, the second interrogator appears (having received his cue by a hidden signal or by listening and observing out of view of the source), scolds the first interrogator for his harsh behavior, and orders him from the room. He then apologizes to soothe the source, perhaps offering him coffee and a cigarette. He explains that the actions of the first interrogator were largely the result of an inferior intellect and lack of human sensitivity. The inference is created that the second interrogator and the

source have, in common, a high degree of intelligence and an awareness of human sensitivity above and beyond that of the first interrogator.

13) **RAPID FIRE APPROACH:** The rapid fire approach is based upon the principles that everyone likes to be heard when he speaks, and it is confusing to be interrupted in mid-sentence with an unrelated question. This technique may be used by an individual interrogator or simultaneously by two or more interrogators in questioning the same source. In employing this technique the interrogator asks a series of questions in such a manner that the source does not have time to answer a question completely before the next question is asked. This tends to confuse the source, and he is apt to contradict himself, as he has little time to prepare his answers. The interrogator then confronts the source with the inconsistencies, causing further contradistinctions.



A dejected German POW awaits interrogation following his capture at Anzio.

14) SILENCE APPROACH: The silence approach may be successful when employed against either the nervous or confident-type source. When employing this technique, the interrogator says nothing to the source, but looks him squarely in the eye, preferably with a slight smile on his face. It is important not to look away from the source, but force him to break eye contact first. The source will become nervous, begin to shift around in his chair, cross and re-cross his legs, and look away. He may ask questions, but the interrogator should not answer until he is ready to break the silence.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the more complex tactics outlined above are the most effective. Strangely, of the techniques, only the direct approach is effective by itself. In fact, the US military found the direct approach effective approximately 90% of the time in World War II and 95 % effective in Vietnam, Urgent Fury (Grenada), Just Cause, (Panama), and Desert Storm (Iraq). The Germans in World War II estimated similar rates of success, saying about 97 or 98 percent of Russian prisoners, officers, and enlisted men alike spoke freely. What was the reason for the success of the direct approach? The most fruitful period for interrogators is the first few hours after a soldier has been captured, when he is shocked, disoriented, and fearful. Most armed forces do not actively train their soldiers, especially lower ranking troops, in resistance techniques; prisoners will usually answer direct questions with little or no hesitation.

The United States has the largest publicly-accessible body of literature on the art and experiences of interrogation in the world. In fact, according to philosopher Paul Fein, as of 1994, the U.S. was the only country in the world to even publicly publish its policies on interrogation of prisoners of war. Fein's 1994 dissertation, titled *We Have Ways...The Law and Morality of the Interrogation of Prisoners of War*, argues that the U.S. has the most developed laws for interrogation in writing and the most extensive treatment of legal protection afforded prisoners of war during interrogation.

The legal definition of a P.O.W. has changed considerably over the years. The contemporary Prisoner Of War is defined as anyone who is captured during a war and for reasons related to the executions of war. This

includes spies, armed prowlers, parole violators, medical personnel and chaplains, civilian internees, insurgents, defectors, refugees, displaced persons, and agents or suspected agents.

There are three purposes of interrogation: obtaining military information, converting the individual, or breaking his will. The former purpose is almost always the reasoning behind interrogation. The interrogation of prisoners captured by Chinese forces in the Korean War from 1950-1953 was unique in that the gathering of intelligence was secondary to 'reprogramming.' The prisoner, once correctly 'reeducated,' was to have accepted the political, economic and social dogmas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Any obstinate soldier who maintained his previous beliefs was labeled as a 'reactionary.' For the Chinese, Allied soldiers were simply misguided; once they saw the absolute truth of Marxist dogma, they would come to join the Communist struggle.

The progress toward the contemporary trained military interrogator (as distinguished from the torturer) is a 20th century phenomenon. It represents an evolution of military science in general and military intelligence in particular. WWII was the first time that trained interrogators appeared in the U.S. military. The creation within the military of permanent corps of professional interrogators is a recent development in military science. Usually, an amateur such as a commander would act as the interrogator. Now, interrogators are chosen from individuals who have an interest in human nature and, contrary to popular belief, are affable, moderate in temperament, and easy to get along with. An interrogator must be able to get a prisoner to cooperate with him. This often involves befriending the prisoner, comforting him, or playing the good cop to a partner's bad persona, as will be elaborated on below.

If World War II was the greatest war, as it is often called, then the interrogators of World War II were the greatest ones. And of all the greats, the "Ritchie Boys" stand out.

The Ritchie Boys were a group of German natives who had fled to America in the 1930's, only to be drafted following Pearl Harbor and involved in interrogation against captured Nazi soldiers. Their

naturally extensive knowledge of the German language, culture, and people made them priceless weapons in the campaign against the Nazi war machine.

The secret Army unit group took its name from its training camp in Camp Ritchie, Maryland. After researching German emigrants led him to discover them, German filmmaker Christian Bauer documented the group's exploits in his film *The Ritchie Boys*. Among what Bauer found intriguing about the men in the unit were their lives after the war. "The war was only one chapter in their remarkable lives. Afterwards, they enjoyed careers in the sciences, politics, or business," he said. The group's ranks included author Hans Habe, Klaus Mann (the son of Thomas Mann), writer Stefan Hyme, director Hans Burger, and David Robert Seymour, co-founded of the Magnum photo agency.

Dr. Guy Stern rose from The Ritchie Boys to become a Distinguished Professor of German and Slavic Studies at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Even though he has a PhD and some post-doctoral work on his resume, "the studying I did at the camp [in Maryland] was the most difficult I've ever done," he says.

The World War II Veterans Committee held its 7th Annual World War II Conference recently, on May 27-29, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Stern was a speaker at the conference on the topic of 'Interrogating German War Prisoners.' Along with his very unique experiences, Dr. Stern's presentation was made distinctive by his humor. After watching a recording of his speech, I was amazed at just how funny the man is. When I spoke to him over the phone, however, I was also struck by how sharp he is

Guy Stern was drafted in 1943 and did his basic training in Texas. His Maryland training utilized 25-30 German soldiers used as guinea pigs for questioning. The captured soldiers were quite willing to help with interrogation training; their alternative was to help with grueling farm work in Kansas. Maryland boasted comfortable quarters, little responsibility, and good food. Their acquiescence proved valuable; Dr. Stern interviewed 7 or 8 prisoners during the training period, so he was better prepared when deployed.



A young Guy Stern

The one term Dr. Stern used over and over in our conversation was "psychological warfare." This was the point, he said: to outsmart the prisoner. It was a battle of minds

between the prisoner and the interrogator-except the prisoner was usually unaware it was going on. This gives the interrogator a huge advantage, opening the possibilities for different approaches.



Guy Stern (far left) is seen during an interrogation of German POW's.

Dr. Stern described three techniques-all of which are among the approaches in the US Army field manual outlined above. He called his first approach, "overwhelm with knowledge." He must be propped full of information about the prisoner. This requires intense training and education on the part of the interrogator. The trainee interrogator must know everything. He must remember thousands of pieces of disparate informa-

tion to call upon during interrogation. He must be able to recognize the prisoner's division by their insignias, often down to the *battalion*. The point of uniform recognition is to facilitate the interrogator's command of control. If an interrogator knows his prisoner's division or even battalion, he can recall the history of the unit the prisoner was in. The interrogator can call upon specific atrocities that

occurred, or battles that were won or lost, to illustrate the extent of the interrogator's knowledge about the prisoner. This often shocks the prisoner, who then becomes so convinced of his interrogator's superior knowledge that he feels it is futile to hold information back or give false information to his master. The approach as depicted here corresponds exactly with the "We Know All" approach outlined above.

The second approach Dr. Stern describes is called "Ingratiation." It involves what he called being "buddy-buddy" with the prisoner. He would assume a role and pretend to befriend the frightened man. It might seem superficial, but when a prisoner is separated from his fellow soldiers, completely disoriented, and unsure of his surroundings, his future, whether he will ever see his family again, and even whether he will see another day, the prisoner usually becomes extremely lonely. The likable and seemingly trustworthy interrogator can exploit this loneliness by befriend the prisoner-perhaps giving him some cigarettes or food-and, when trusted as a friend, explaining to the prisoner why it is in his interest to talk to his captors. The Ritchie Boys were especially good at this technique because their fluency in German meant that there was no language barrier serving as an obstacle to communication. The Boys could ask a prisoner about his hometown and discuss this with him. Dr. Stern tells of one story when a conversation about a soccer player from the prisoner's hometown facilitated camaraderie between him and his subject. This is called the "Emotional Love" approach in the US Army Field Manual.

"Fear." That is the ominous-sounding name of the third approach of Dr. Stern. He is quick to make qualifications: any G-1 operation is taboo. I have no idea what this means. Dr. Stern's use of this technique will be described below.

Ritchie opened in June of 1942, and its recruits went through an intense 8-week course. MacArthur

organized Allied Translation and Interpreter Section (ATIS) in Sept. '42 to be dispensed in Japan.

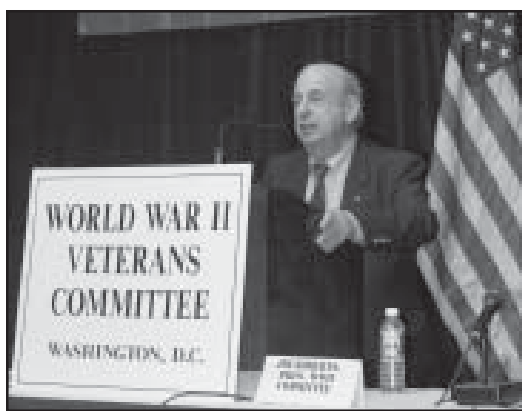
Dr. Stern arrived at Utah Beach in France after stopping in England for some additional training. He was interrogating his first prisoner-who did not seem to be acquiescing-when a mortar shell went off close by. The prisoner, Dr. Stern says, immediately got scared, and he knew it was his time to strike. This was an example of fear working unintention-

ally. Though Dr. Stern had no foreknowledge about the shell going off, he used it to his advantage. The man, temporarily shell-shocked, let his guard down and Dr. Stern was able to pump information out of him.

The most wanted men for interrogation were those in charge of the whole transport: "the pay-off guys," as Dr. Stern calls them. These men would have the top-level information, such as what the routes and means for transforming artillery and supplies to the SS were.

Every soldier is full of good stories and Dr. Stern is no exception. One of his involves working with Sgt. Fred Howard.

"We had taken Russian medals from our German soldiers who had taken them from their Russian prisoners. And we combined them with Russian uniforms that we had managed to piece together," Dr. Stern said. He added that every German soldier was terrified of the Russians. The USSR suffered tremendously in World War II, and the battle at Stalingrad stands as one of the worst battles in history. Moreover, the USSR was led by the ruthless dictator Joseph Stalin, while the US and British forces were led by Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, two very humane men who are rightly regarded by history as gentle warriors. Stalin made no pretense about adhering to the Geneva Conventions, which America had signed in July of 1929. All of this combined for a ruthlessness among the Russian forces, especially when dealing with



Professor Guy Stern relates his experiences to attendees of the recent World War II Veterans Committee's Seventh Annual Conference.

captured Nazi soldiers, that Hitler might have been proud of.

Sgt. Howard was the first to approach the prisoner. “He would say things like ‘I feel sorry for you-you seem like a good guy, just cooperate,’ you know, to try and soften the prisoners up,” Dr. Stern recalled. “We don’t want to have to put you in Russian hands-that sort of thing.”

If the prisoner was unwilling to cooperate with Sgt. Howard, in would walk Dr. Stern-dressed up as a Russian commander! He laughs when he says this: “I would come in and say, oh boy, you look like a healthy specimen. I’m getting annoyed because half of my prisoners are dying on the way to the salt mines.” It was this measure of creativity that made Dr. Stern a great interrogator.

He adds: “I would bring with me a picture of Stalin-signed and dedicated to me as the Russian commander.” It is as if Dr. Stern was assembling props for a skit-which is exactly what he was doing. “Usually the men would crack. If not, I would start yelling at him and telling him I was going to get him.”

The two interrogators would then simulate an argument, with Sgt. Howard playing the humane American, and Guy Stern acting as the vicious USSR commander. Dr. Stern was asking to be left alone with the prisoner, with only the prisoner’s imagination to conjure exactly what would be done to him. Sgt. Howard would interject and protest that the man was still a prisoner of the Americans-and so the commander couldn’t do anything with him. Sgt. Howard would say to the prisoner, “Please, talk to me, I don’t want to do this to you,” appearing as the sympathetic guard. This was the good cop/bad-cop routine that has been so imitated on TV dramas and B movies-and it worked. “Then they would talk. Always.” I can hear Dr. Stern smiling over the phone when he tells me this-and I am smiling too.

It seems impossible to discuss contemporary American interrogation techniques without mentioning the Abu Gharib torture scandal. Dr. Stern was so dismayed and confused about the scandals, for two reasons. “The first is that these violate Geneva Conventions. They were a strict code and we had to

abide by it.” Indeed, the Conventions came up often in our conversations, and it is clear that Dr. Stern was told to outsmart the enemy-never to use coercion or torture, anything that would violate the Geneva Conventions.

“The second reason is practical-torture is ineffective as a technique,” he says. A prisoner is so overwhelmed with pain it is not surprising that he will say anything to relieve himself of the pain, including lying. False information is usually what is extracted under torture. Indeed, top commanders conceded to the *New York Times* on May 27th that they had learned “little about the insurgency” from the torture and coercive interrogation.

“Did you ever cross the line?” I asked. He responds immediately: “Oh sure, we got angry, we were human. We wanted to rough them up. But we never did. Ever. We never touched them. Instead, we gave them unpleasant work assignments.”

It would have violated his ethical and professional objective to get violent, Dr. Stern said.

Newsday reports that a central problem was that, as senior officials have testified, three different sets of interrogation policies were used. Those cited in the Army field manuals above were only one of them-an entirely new set was created for interrogators in Afghanistan and another for those in Iraq. Journalism professor Mark Danner wrote in the *New York Review of Books* that “some of the techniques seem clearly designed to exploit the particular sensitivities of Arab culture to public embarrassment; particularly in sexual matters....the American military, of course, is well aware of these cultural sensitivities.” Dr. Stern too was well aware of German cultural sensitivities-but he never even came close to violations of international law.

Justly awarded a Bronze Star for his important work in WWII, Dr. Stern emphasizes that “this was my war.” Since he was Jewish and German, “I had a dedication even more than most GI’s-this was personal.” Indeed, the Ritchie Boys have retained a close circle, with members of the 5 or 6 teams reuniting for the film based on their lives. “I’m just happy I got to contribute something,” he says.

WWII

WORLD WAR II: SIXTY YEARS LATER

REMEMBERING LIBERATION 60 YEARS OF PARIS' FREEDOM

BY SCOTT WENTLAND

August 25, 2004 marks the 60th anniversary of the Allied liberation of Paris, France, a critical turning point in World War II.

For four long years, the Third Reich cast its callous shadow over the horizons of the “City of Light.” Nazi Germany had conquered Paris on June 16, 1940. Before the United States had officially joined the Allies in World War II, the fight against the fascists, Nazi conquest was literally in the backyard of Parisians. The French fell to an enemy that took a world to defeat.

Though war surrounded Paris for four years, the storied city was seen as too precious to be carelessly destroyed, even to the Nazis.

There was surprisingly little damage to the city’s infrastructure. Paris’ most famous buildings and landmarks were respected by the Nazis, who had shown no such respect for London and other famed cities of Europe. Notre Dame Cathedral was left almost untouched. Napoleon’s tomb, at Invalides Palace, remained undamaged. Hitler had visited there in 1910 with visions of succeeding where Napoleon failed in his global conquest. The Luxembourg Garden area, where the Germans had made their last stand, was the area with the greatest damage.

Adolf Hitler, knowing the grand significance of Paris both strategically and symbolically, demanded Paris to be defended at all costs. He ordered General

Dietrich von Choltitz, the commander of the German forces of occupation, to not let the city fall into Allied hands. Hitler knew Paris’ liberation was eminent due to the fact that the Nazis were spread too thin across Europe and had been undertaking extraordinarily high casualty rates since D-Day, a couple of months before. Hitler then gave the order to destroy the city. General von Choltitz had explosives laid under Paris’ bridges and many of its notable landmarks, but disobeyed Hitler in its execution. General von Choltitz did not want to

go down in history as the man who destroyed the “City of Light.”

The Parisians were not as lucky as the city itself. The Nazis showed little compassion for its citizens. The occupation brought vicious oppression. Curfews were imposed nightly, food was rationed, and there was rampant persecution of the city’s Jewish population. With the Nazis came anti-Semitic propaganda and the execution of a historic evil. In the month of July 1942 alone, the Nazis sent 13,000



An American officer and a French partisan crouch behind an automobile during a street fight following the Allied invasion in 1944.

Jewish Parisians to their deaths at Nazi concentration camps. There were many among the French population who collaborated with the Nazis, some more than others. Charles de Gaulle, after the dust settled from the war, made it a priority to punish those of the Nazi-designated Vichy government who ardently collaborated with the Nazis.

It was thought that Nazi Germany, at the height of its power in the summer of 1940, when it had invaded France, was a permanent global force. Hitler preached the permanence of the Third Reich and its thousand-year reign. Though the French government surrendered to the wrath of the Nazi military machine, there were many among the French population who believed the war was not over. Their fate was not sealed. While insurgents within the mainland of France were active during the years of occupation, the French resistance within the mainland was too sparse and unorganized to make a significant impact. The organized Free French forces, officially known as French National Committee of Liberation, were comprised of troops from free colonial French lands around the world. General Charles de Gaulle refused the French surrender. His Free French troops equipped with American-made armor assisted in Allied efforts in Africa, and ultimately freed his capital on August 25, 1944, along

side the American 4th Infantry Division. French Brig. Gen. Jacques Leclerc commanded the French 2nd

Armor Division as they helped the Americans secure Paris on August 25, 1944.

The fight for Paris itself was little to speak of relative to other major conflicts of World War II. The preceding fighting at Normandy and throughout France was far more fierce than any fighting in and around Paris' city limits. There was moderate resistance for a brief period during the night of August 24-25, but by morning some 20,000 German troops either surrendered or fled back toward Germany. Snipers and stubborn detachments remained fighting in various parts of the city, but the tanks still rolled through the center of Paris, signifying that new leadership has arrived.



American troops drive their tank past the Arc de Triomphe following the liberation of Paris.

The liberation of Paris was historically significant

for a variety of reasons. Primarily, it was a symbolic turning point in the war against tyranny. The Nazis had captured Paris at the height of their power in 1940. By the time of Paris' liberation, the Axis had suffered exhausting defeats in Africa, Russia, and Europe. Nazi Germany was in retreat to defend the Fatherland, rather than being on the offensive and seeking conquest. Paris was the first Allied



Troops from the 28th Infantry Division of the United States Army march down the Champs Elysees, Paris, in the Victory Parade of August 29, 1944.

capital liberated, signifying the restoration of self-government to Allied countries. Current French Military Attaché to the United States Major General

Pascal Vinchon says, “for the Allies, I am not sure *how* strategic it [Liberating Paris] was, but for the French it was extremely important and very symbolic.” Paris had the infrastructure in place for the reinstitution of French government, which could accordingly aid in the remaining war effort and begin the rebuilding process. The Free French forces had been essentially fighting without a government behind it. Morale for the French troops thereafter transformed from uncertainty to certainty of success. Under the leadership of Charles de Gaulle, France contributed some 400,000 troops to the war effort to help the Allies bring down what was left of the Third Reich, ensuring nothing but absolute surrender.

For the Allies, Major General James Milnor Roberts said “[The liberation of Paris] was strategic because it was a communications center among other things. Communications in France revolved around Paris.” Because Paris itself was rarely bombed by either the Axis or Allied forces during its capture, much of its infrastructure had been left intact. It could then be used as a strategic point for communications, and accommodate to the war effort thereafter.

American troops marched through Paris receiving an ostentatious welcoming by a grateful city. General Roberts, one of the soldiers who walked the streets of Paris the day it was liberated, remembers that the Parisians “greeted us very enthusiastically. They gave us bottles of wine, and in some cases flowers. Some entertained us in their homes until we left to go east.”

In one case, the love extended by the Parisians hurt. Maj. Gen. Roberts remembers “one enthusiastic



Punishment for collaboration with the Germans was not limited to government officials. This girl suffered the humiliation of having her head shaved because of her personal relations with the Germans.

person throwing a wine bottle into the jeep, and hitting a guy in the head. He got a purple heart for being wounded in action.” Of course, the gesture was a welcoming one. But it showed the liberating troops that snipers were not the only danger to keep an eye out for. It was said that the city of Paris woke up on August 26, the day after, with a “terrific hangover.”

Men and women lined the streets screaming with emotion until their voices were hoarse, exclaiming, “God bless America! You have saved France.” Though France had its share of Nazi collaborators, the vast majority of the population felt ecstatic and relieved knowing tyrannical rule would no longer assail Parisians. That day, the Tricolor, American, and Union Jack flags would be hung on the Eiffel Tower, then symbolizing a profound friendship among Western nations.

Corp. Michael Tkacsik told The Associated Press on August 26, 1944 that, “I’ve never been kissed by so many women before in my life. Today made up for 2 ½ years I have spent overseas in Iceland, England, and France. It showed me what we are fighting for, and what

liberty means to these people.” The liberation of Paris, moreover, the liberation of Europe from a despotic dictator is consistent with the ideals under which Americans fight: liberty.



Scott Wentland (right) with French Defense Attache to the United States, Major General Pascal Vinchon (left) and Major General J. Milnor Roberts, who was with the American forces as they liberated Paris in August of 1944.

WWII

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

BOOKS AUTHORED BY WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Books written about World War II are becoming more and more popular, as the public seeks to learn more of the heroics displayed by our men and women who served. While the works of authors and historians are valuable and entertaining, a great untapped source of history resides in the stories of the veterans themselves. A great number of veterans have written books on their own stories, with many being published. World War II Chronicles is proud to showcase excerpts of books written by veterans of World War II. To submit a book to be highlighted in *In Their Own Words*, please mail to:

World War II Chronicles
Attn: Editor
1030 15th St., NW Suite 856
Washington, DC 20005

J. Francis Angier was born to fly. Raised on a Vermont farm, trained as a B-17 pilot and later as a jet and helicopter pilot, his aviation career spanned over thirty years. His love of flying was only exceeded by his love of family and country.

Shot down over Germany on his 33rd combat mission in October of 1944, he spent over seven months as a POW before being liberated. His training, air battles capture and survival are part of the story. So too are many of the experiences that positioned and prepared him for his adventures.

READY OR NOT: INTO THE WILD BLUE

by J. Francis Angier

1944 October 25, The Longest Mission

The aircraft assigned to us on October 25 was 42-97899. I conducted the pre-flight inspection with my flight engineer T/Sgt Howard Lang and the ground-crew chief as well as the communications and armament people until we were satisfied with the condition of the plane. It was in excellent shape, nearly new, so we took off and climbed up through 23,000 feet of fog and weather to assembly altitude, where I assumed my position in the formation as leader of the high squadron.



As we approached the island of Helgoland, just north of the German coast, we turned right, according to the briefed route that would take us along the east side of the Weser River estuary. We saw the usual flak coming up from Helgoland, letting us know the enemy was awake, but it was too far away to bother us.

Our penetration of enemy territory was through reported light defenses over a cloud cover—according to weather forecasts—at about 2,200 feet. This cloud cover obscured the coastline, and when I observed the first anti-aircraft fire from the mainland, it appeared to be eight to ten miles ahead and dead level with the groups flying in front of us but considerably to the right of our flight path. Another four bursts of heavy caliber fire appeared dead ahead of our aircraft, and as I was flying to the right of and somewhat higher than the lead squadron led by Capt. Bill Doherty, I moved the squadron slightly to the left to avoid subsequent fire.

Meanwhile we were conducting an oxygen check. I had advised the crew there was flak at our level at 12 o'clock. "Check your flak suits and oxygen and acknowledge, please." Just as the tail-gunner, S/Sgt. Maynard Judson acknowledged, three bursts of flak appeared immediately in front of us and the fourth

burst struck between the No. 3 and No. 4 engines, blowing a large hole in the leading edge of the right wing approximately three feet by six feet and back into the wing as far as the main spar.

A small fire with a peculiar blue-green flame started in the No. 4 engine. We expended our fire extinguisher on the fire with very little effect. I found I had no control over the two starboard engines, with No. 4 revving to the red line and No. 3 shaking violently in the engine supports. The engineer called out, "The whole right wing is on fire." And indeed, the fuel tanks were burning so intensely that we could see the internal structure of the wing glowing red. No. 3 engine was bending down, and vibration soon tore it loose from the mounts.

Realizing there was no way to save the aircraft, I called my deputy leader and asked him to move the squadron above and to the left of us to avoid any of my crew striking the other planes in the squadron as they bailed out. I had just hit the bail-out bell and told the crew to leave the aircraft when the No. 3 engine and right landing gear fell away. Pieces of metal from the debris struck S/Sgt. Osborn, cutting his face as he bailed out the waist door.

Hoping everyone had left the airplane, I attempted to turn out of the formation, but the maneuver turned into a roll and a horizontal spiral due to No. 4 engine running wild and uncontrollable. I pushed No. 1 to full throttle in an attempt to balance No. 4; No. 2 had shut down.

Lack of oxygen was beginning to blur my vision. I no longer had any control of the plane and was attempting to leave my seat when the plane went into a steep climb. This caused heat from the fire in the bomb bay to rise into the cockpit, and although there was no fire around me the heat was becoming unbearable. The paint on the instrument panel was already blistering, and I thought it was all over, for sure.

When the aircraft reached a vertical nose-up attitude, all power stopped abruptly. The plane started falling tail first. Then it exploded—violently.

Approximately two-and-one-half minutes had elapsed since we were hit by the burst of anti-aircraft fire. It was generally agreed that a B-17 would explode in about 40 seconds after being on fire. I lost consciousness from the concussion but had the sensation of being ejected out the right side of the cockpit and remember feeling the intense cold.



The author, J. Francis Angier

After falling about two miles, I came to my senses. My immediate concern was the condition of my parachute; I anticipated that it might have caught fire or been damaged in the explosion. Reaching around to examine the backpack, I was greatly relieved that although my leather jacket and flight suit were badly torn, the chute seemed to be intact. There was a light coating of ice on me, no doubt caused by the sudden change from the intense heat to the minus 50 degrees below 0 outside. The layer of ice began to

fly off in the wind my fast fall was generating. I was bleeding from several cuts and could hear absolutely nothing.

Some people have the misconception a person falling from great heights would "be dead before hitting the ground." The sensation of falling lasts only during the time a body is accelerating. After that it is a feeling of being supported by a strong rush of air. I had missed that initial feeling of falling because of my momentary loss of consciousness.

I was falling "like a log"—on my back, without spinning or tumbling—and, looking about, I could see both the east and west coasts of Denmark on my left and the Zeider Zee and Friesian Islands in Holland on my right. Because the plane had no forward motion when it exploded, the debris was falling with and around me.

The entire tail-section of the plane was tumbling slowly, due to its comparative light weight for its size, about a mile higher. The bright yellow eight-man life raft had inflated and was floating down another half a mile above me.

Directly above was the left wing, with both engines and the bomb bay still attached to it. The bombs,

which had not been armed, were still in the bomb bay. They were completely exposed and formed a pivot around which the wing was spinning quite rapidly, much like a maple seed spiraling down on its own wing.

The control cables, with the bell cranks still attached, were whirling around outside the 200-foot circle transcribed by the wing and would have created another obstacle for my parachute if I opened it. There were also other pieces of the plane that could damage the chute if it was open. The main part of the right wing was falling about a half mile away, still burning, and leaving a long trail of oily, dark smoke.

Remembering we had been briefed that the cloud layer over the coast was at about 2,000 feet, I decided to roll over and look at it, to help judge my altitude and determine how much time I had remaining to safely open my chute. Up to this point, I had had nearly complete control, but in turning over there was some unpleasant tumbling and I had difficulty breathing in the wind rushing past. I was, however, able to see the cloud layer and felt I would have a little more time to give the spinning wing a chance to drift off to one side or the other so my parachute could pass through without becoming entangled in the control cables.

Somehow, I had managed to monitor the time but had mistakenly calculated my time to reach the ground at about two-and-a-half minutes although it actually took less than two minutes. The wing was at this time less than 200 feet above me when, suddenly, I passed through the cloud layer and could see tree branches and a dark brown landscape. I pulled the ripcord with the feeling it was too late, but it functioned perfectly and I struck the ground almost immediately.



The parachute was a backpack that I had worn all the time in the plane. It had a 28-foot canopy, in contrast to a chest type that had to be buckled on when needed and was only 24 feet in diameter. The extra width of my chute, no doubt, saved my life by slowing me down quickly so close to the ground. Although it was instantaneous, I felt the sequence of events as I hit the ground feet first with tremendous force. My shoulders struck my knees, dislocating both shoulders. My face hit the ground, causing a severe and permanent neck injury, while the jolt of the impact did considerable damage to all my joints and caused some internal injuries.

The wing with the bomb bay still attached landed some 200 feet away and was burning quite intensely as fuel drained down out of the wing, which was tilted at an angle against some trees. Other debris was still falling into the three-acre clearing in a woods where trees had been cut and left lying

on the ground. The tail section of the plane floated down with an oscillating motion and landed in the upper parts of some pine trees.

Usually when a large plane exploded, the debris would be scattered over a five- to six-mile path on the ground, due to the forward momentum of the plane and its contents. In my case, the plane had no forward speed as it was falling tail first when it disintegrated, causing the parts of the plane, me and the body of Howard Lang, the engineer, to land in a small area. Had I successfully opened the chute at a few thousand feet, it would have carried me perhaps miles away from the crash site.

The impact stunned me for a time, but the heat from the fire and the realization the bombs could go off when they got hot enough motivated me to begin the painful process of getting out of the parachute harness with two dislocated shoulders. My back pained me so much I believed it was broken, but it was due to damage to several verte-

brate. Somehow, I crawled out and was sliding and rolling toward a little wood road nearby, when I saw a body lying face down in a small space between parts of the wreckage. It was Lang. He had not opened his parachute, possibly due to injuries from shrapnel or not having cleared the plane when it exploded.

After identifying him, I continued my awkward travel away from the burning aircraft, and upon reaching the little wood road completely exhausted, I used my feet to push myself across the roadway into a shallow ditch on the other side. The intense pain triggered my memory enough that I

realized there was morphine in my survival kit. With difficulty, I opened the surret and gave myself a shot. The bombs went off perhaps 10 minutes later, uprooting and knocking over trees. I was unable to breathe for a time, because the blast created tremendous pressure followed by a vacuum as it pushed and rolled me through the underbrush. I experienced excruciating pain in my lungs and stomach. When air rushed back into the vacuum, it dragged me back through the underbrush but, thankfully, enabled me to breathe again.

As I slowly recovered from this second explosion of the day, my hearing returned in my right ear, although I was experiencing a severe headache and considerable distress from my other injuries. Two boys, about 16 years of age, were making their way toward me, one with black hair and the other blond. The blond boy reached me first and tried to shake hands with me. By this time my shoulders, elbows and knees were badly swollen and very painful. Shaking hands was not what I needed at that time.

"I'm a Dutchman," he said in fair English. I knew we were not in Holland, but I asked him anyway, "Is this Holland?" The black-haired boy, probably a member of the Hitler Youth, answered arrogantly, "Nein! das ist Deutschland!"

On a hill about three-quarters of a mile away, was a hospital, a convalescent home for burn victims from

Hamburg. There was an inspection party there that day, and some of them had watched the pieces of the airplane falling into the wood through the overcast. They had not seen my parachute as it had opened at tree-top level, and from experience they had learned not to approach shot-down bombers until the bombs had exploded or until they were

fairly certain there were no bombs aboard.

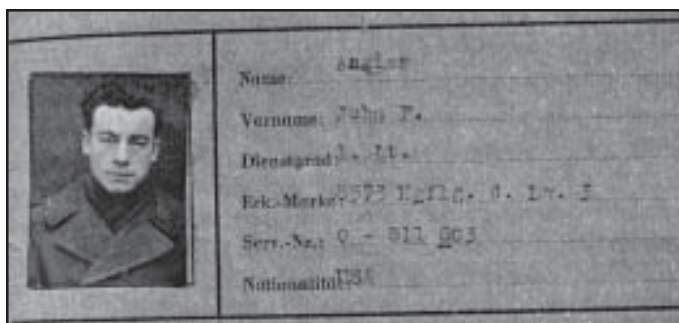
A tall, very homely man in some type of uniform, probably Home Guard, approached me down the old wood road, slowing down as he struggled to get a large pistol out of its holster. He held the gun ahead of him and came up very close to me until the

barrel of the gun was in my face. The man was shaking, obviously quite frightened, and I expected he would pull the trigger either by accident or by intention. "Pistol! Pistol!" he shouted with a trembling chin. I rarely carried my .45 and also advised my crew not to do so. If one crew member shot either a civilian or one of the military it would mean the death sentence for the rest of us. When he was satisfied I was unarmed, he uncocked his gun.

A party of about 20 people started down the hill after the bombs went off. The first people to reach me called me names and yanked me to a sitting position in the road, kicked me repeatedly and when they had knocked me over, stomped on me. Some of them shouted with sarcasm and anger, "Liberator! Terrorflieger! Gangster bastard!" while others kept asking, "Anglis? Anglis?" A woman pushing her bike close by said, "Don't tell them you are English, even if you are, or they will hang you." An old man with a long club struck me in the nose just as some of the military arrived and drove off the civilians at gunpoint. I do not remember the trip up the hill because of the hard blow to the nose, but I do remember my arrival there.

For information on purchasing a copy of *Ready or Not*, contact the author by e-mail at francisangier@earthlink.net, by telephone at 802-879-7215, or visit www.jfrancisangier.com.

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Angier's POW identification card.

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMITTEE INTERNS

From the Greatest Generation to the latest generation...

This is the motto of the World War II Veterans Committee. Following our tremendously successful D-Day: 60th Anniversary Issue this spring, in which the content was supplied solely by the members of the "Greatest Generation" who helped secure victory in Normandy, we have decided to turn this issue over to the "latest generation." Joining the Committee in the summer of 2004 were four outstanding interns, who researched and wrote much of the content in this issue. Each worked very hard to put their stories together, and they all shared in our mission to continue the legacy of the World War II generation.

This summer, the Committee was proud to welcome...

Becky Appledorn is a senior at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, but moved early and often, spending her 21 years living in such places as Minnesota, Washington, Utah, Texas, and for the last three years, Ohio. Becky is majoring in Political Science and Journalism, and is involved on campus with the College Republicans and Associated Student Government. Becky is the author of this issue's lead article, "China-Burma-India: The Forgotten Theater."

Joel DiGrado is a graduate of College of the Holy Cross, and hails from New Orleans, Louisiana. He will soon be enrolling in the MA program at the American University School of Public Affairs. Not only is he working for the World War II Veterans Committee, he is also a producer for our sister organization, Radio America. His article on the Bataan Death March will appear in the Autumn issue of *WWII Chronicles*.

Aleea Slappy is from Philadelphia, PA. She is a junior at Hampton University where she is majoring in journalism and sociology. Aleea is an on-air personality on her campus radio station WHOV 88.1 FM and

is a writer for the campus newspaper the *Hampton Script*. She is the author of "General Claire Chennault and the Flying Tigers," and one of Aleea's future goals is to become an investigative reporter.

Jordan Michael Smith is a 23-year old student/journalist from the city of Thornhill in Ontario, Canada. He recently received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario, where he double majored in Honors Political Science and English. Jordan is

beginning work on his Master's of Arts at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. His program of study is International Relations and he will be writing a thesis on Global Terrorism. Jordan is the author of "Questioning the Questioners," which appears in this issue of *WWII Chronicles*, and well as an article on the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps which will appear in the Autumn issue.

Scott Wentland is also a student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he majors in Political Science and Economics. He is from Toledo, Ohio, and though he considers himself to be a "political junkie," he has no desire to become a politician, but plans on attending law school following graduation. Scott is the author of "Merrill's Marauders: Heroes of the Burma Jungle," and "Remembering Liberation: 60 Years of Paris' Freedom," which both appear in this issue of *WWII Chronicles*.



The 2004 class of interns for the World War II Veterans Committee. From left: Aleea Slappy, Scott Wentland, Committee President James C. Roberts, Program Director Tim Holbert, Joel DiGrado, Becky Appledorn, and Jordan Smith.

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THE WORLD WAR II BOOK CLUB

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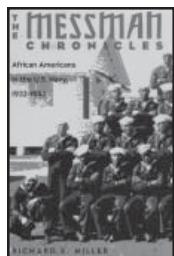
In this edition we feature books available from the Naval Institute Press, the publishing arm of the United States Naval Institute. The Naval Institute has a long and established tradition of publishing important works in the fields of naval, military, and maritime history. These books, as well as other Naval Institute Press books, can be found at bookstores across the country and Amazon.com; or by visiting the Naval Institute Press web site at www.usni.org/press/press.htm or calling 800-233-8764.

THE MESSMAN CHRONICLES:

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE U.S. NAVY 1932-1943

by *Richard E. Miller*

Naval Institute Press; 390 pages \$32.95 (Hardcover)



Despite racial discrimination and second-class status within the enlisted corps, the U.S. Navy's mess attendants, officer's cooks, and stewards compiled a proud legacy of combat service in World War II. The heroism of a few like "Dorie" Miller became well known to the American public, but most have long been forgotten. This book tells the story of those thousands of unheralded sailors of African

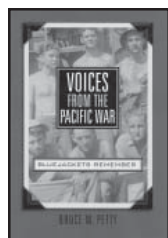
descent who served in frontline combat with fellow "messmen" of Filipino, Guamanian, and Chinese ancestry from the first day of war to the last. Their story begins with recruit training in the racially segregated confines of Norfolk, Virginia's Units K-West and B-East during the 1930s and proceeds through the perilous early months of war. Though long disparaged as "seagoing chambermaids" and worse, they gallantly upheld the honor of their race while shedding their blood in full proportion in some of history's greatest naval battles.

VOICES FROM THE PACIFIC WAR

BLUEJACKETS REMEMBER

by *Bruce M. Petty*

Naval Institute Press; 253 pages \$29.95 (Hardcover)



Although volumes have been written about World War II in the Pacific, very little has been published from the perspective of individual sailors. The Navy enlisted men interviewed for this book fought in some of the fiercest battles of the war, such as Coral Sea, Midway, and the Solomon Islands campaign. Some were eyewitnesses to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and many were part of the island-hopping

campaigns of the Southwest and Central Pacific. Others were witness to or casualties of Japanese suicide attacks, and a few saw it all, from Pearl Harbor to the surrender at Tokyo Bay. These accounts of the men who faced the horror of combat head on vividly portray naval warfare up close and personal.

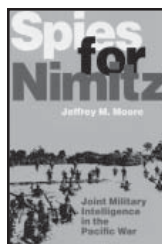
SPIES FOR NIMITZ:

JOINT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN THE PACIFIC WAR

by *Jeffrey M. Moore*

Naval Institute Press; 299 pages \$29.95 (Hardcover)

In this book Jeffrey Moore profiles the history and select operations of America's first effective, all source, joint military intelligence



agency. Known as JICPOA for Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas, the agency's nearly two thousand specialists are credited with giving Admiral Nimitz the intelligence he needed to win the Pacific War. Moore explains how JICPOA evolved and reveals some new facts about the war as he assesses the impact of intelligence on eight amphibious campaigns in the islands of the Central Pacific. He also demonstrates timeless

intelligence lessons, faulty versus effective intelligence techniques, and intelligence-operational planning integration—subjects that continue to be pertinent to today's military operations, including the war on terror.

For this unprecedented look at the little-known but groundbreaking organization, Moore draws on interviews with key personnel and internal documents. He supports his analysis of JICPOA's strengths and weaknesses, its successes and failures, with more than forty maps, charts, and illustrations. With a foreword by the head of Marine Corps intelligence, the book makes an excellent addition to World War II history and professional collections. Intelligence experts and operations planners will find its lessons useful and insightful. Readers with an interest in real-life thrillers will find it a fascinating study of basic intelligence work.

RESURRECTION:

SALVAGING THE BATTLE FLEET AT PEARL HARBOR

by *Daniel Madsen*

Naval Institute Press; 241 pages \$36.95 (Hardcover)



The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is a topic of perennial interest to the American public, and numerous books and movies have focused on the air raid and events leading up to it. This book, however, offers an entirely new perspective.

Aimed at the general reader with an interest in World War II and the U.S. Navy, *Resurrection* looks at the massive efforts following the attacks to save the ships, beginning with damage control aboard the ships that took hits on December 7, 1941 and ending in March 1944 when salvage efforts on the *USS Utah* were finally abandoned.

Dan Madsen tells the story in a straight-forward style, moving from activity to activity as the days and months wore on in what proved to be an incredibly difficult and complex endeavor. Rather than writing a dry operational report, Madsen describes the Navy's dramatic race to clear the harbor and repair as many ships as possible so they could be returned to the fleet ready for war.

Book descriptions courtesy of the Naval Institute Press

COMMITTEE SPONSORS SYMPOSIUM ON CHURCHILL & EISENHOWER

On April 19-21, 2004, the World War II Veterans Committee co-sponsored a symposium on the legacies of Sir Winston Churchill and Dwight D. Eisenhower at the campuses of Miami University. Speaking in front of a packed house at the Hamilton, Ohio and the main campus in Oxford were Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill; Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of General Eisenhower; and the Honorable John E. Dolibois, former United States Ambassador to Luxembourg and interrogator of the Nazi War Criminals prior to Nuremberg.



Pictured above: (Left to right) Committee President James C. Roberts (Miami University '68), Ambassador John E. Dolibois (Miami University '42), Hon. Celia Sandys, Miami University President Emeritus Phillip R. Shriver, Jean Hill, and Michael J. Carafiello, Director of the Michael J. Colligan History Project.



Pictured left: Celia Sandys (left), granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, speaks with Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower during the proceedings at the Hamilton campus of Miami University. The symposium was a part of the Michael J. Colligan History Project and put on in association with Beta Theta Pi fraternity, of which Ambassador Dolibois was a member during his collegiate days.

WWII

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