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Suu Kyi Honored, Remains Under House Arrest

By Brian Ferry

Four days after Tropical Cyclone Nargis destroyed the Irrawaddy Delta region of Burma, President of the United States George W. Bush honored Aung San Suu Kyi, the democratically-elected Prime Minister of Burma who was stripped of her title and placed under house arrest in 1990, with the Congressional Gold Medal. Three weeks after Suu Kyi was honored by the US, the Burmese junta government announced that they were extending her sentence of house arrest, which has gone nearly uninterrupted for over 18 years.

"This is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman who speaks for freedom for all the people of Burma, and who speaks in such a way that she's a powerful voice in contrast to the junta that currently rules the country," the President said after signing the citation bill into law on May 6.

Suu Kyi is daughter of Aung San, who negotiated Burma's independence from the United Kingdom in 1947. Aung San, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of Burma, a transitional government, was assassinated later that same year. Burma remained democratic until 1962 when General Ne Win staged a coup d'état and wrestled power away from the people. While living in England, Suu Kyi returned to Burma in 1988, which coincided with a period of civil and political unrest in the country. Speaking out for democracy in her native country, Suu Kyi helped found the National League for Democracy and won election to the office of Prime Minister as the party's leader in 1990. A new military junta nullified the election results and gave Suu Kyi the option of leaving the country forever or being placed under house arrest.

Since 1990, Suu Kyi has been honored around the globe and world leaders have called for an end

to her captivity. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

"Eventually the Burmese people will destroy the junta, but not for a long time," Detachment 101 veteran Sam Spector said. "There are some existing good potential possibilities. The recent religious revolt, the presence of Aung San Suu Kyi remains a threat to the junta, and the underlying feelings of the people, students and others, can perhaps find the opportunity to overcome the dictatorship."

Approved by the House of Representatives and Senate, H.R. 4286 is "An Act to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma."

An Associated Press report on May 8 cited a neighbor of Suu Kyi's who stated that the roof of the leader's Rangoon home was blown off by the cyclone and that she was living without electricity.

Nargis Exposes Families, Corruption, in Burma

By Brian Ferry

All Photos Courtesy Mohd Nor Azmil

By now many people know all about Tropical Cyclone Nargis, the highly-destructive natural disaster that made landfall at Burma's Irrawaddy Delta and neighboring divisions on May 2. The cyclone carried with it 12-foot waves of water and winds of 120 miles per hour and higher, uprooting trees, destroying entire communities, and wreaking mass devastation on the country's people and infrastructure. For many oblivious yet concerned citizens around the world, the cyclone – and the killing and imprisonment of Buddhist monks months before that – has given outsiders the first glimpse of the



Residents take up the task of removing downed trees from the streets after Cyclone Nargis struck Burma in early May.



Cyclone Nargis interrupted power for millions of Burma residents and is said to have destroyed significant portions of the country's rice-growing infrastructure. Food and clean water have been hard to come by, thanks in part to the junta's refusal to open their borders to democratic countries they perceive as threats.



Businessman Mohd Nor Azmil captured this photo of Cyclone Nargis from the window of his Rangoon hotel on May 2. He explained that palm trees are able to sustain very high wind velocities, while other trees in the area of the cyclone were snapped like twigs.

oppressive junta regime that has ruled Burma (now Myanmar) for more than 40 years.

This domestic baptism by fire is being provided by a global network of media outlets. YahooNews has regularly-featured updates on conditions in the Southeast Asian country. Germany's English-language version of the newspaper Der Spiegel had a brief first-person report from a called only identified as "the Burmese dissident" who reported from Rangoon on May 6, "It looks like the end of the world here. Everything is destroyed; we have no drinking water and nothing to eat. Tens of thousands must be dead. Hundreds of thousands are homeless."

"They're clearing the streets in the rich neighborhoods."

Mohd Nor Azmil, who was in Rangoon on business when Nargis struck, said that the city was without power and that food and water was running low when he left weeks ago. Locals told him that they had never seen a more powerful storm than Nargis, photos of which Mr. Azmil was able to catch on his digital camera and later publish online. The situation in Rangoon was somewhat organized when compared to tiny villages in the Irrawaddy Delta such as Bogalay, Laputta, and Kyauktan.

The Guardian (UK) published another first-person report from a Rangoon resident who explained, "In Shwe Pauk Kan township in Rangoon, most of the houses have either been completely or mostly destroyed. People are crammed into the few larger buildings that remain standing, including a school housing 600 children, 450 women, and 250 men."

Many outlets, including The Australian, reported early on that the junta, led by Senior General Than Shwe, would be very selective when issuing visas to relief organizations. Two days after the cyclone hit, and just days before her daughter's wedding, First Lady Laura Bush held a press conference offering American aid to Burma on the condition that Burma accepts the olive branch on our terms. Some in the international community opposed this hard-line stance, including Burmese political analyst Aung Nain Oo, who told the International Herald Tribune, "This is a cheap shot. The people are dying. This is no time for a political message to be aired." But the First Lady, who's made Burma and their horrendous human rights record her pet project, maintained that such a strong hand was necessary because the junta failed to properly warn its citizens of the coming storm, has dragged the country's Gross Domestic Product down to the lowest number in the region, and because the junta was remaining committed to holding a constitutional referendum vote in the disaster's wake. France and Italy were reported to be among the other nations having difficulty delivering aid to Burma.

Just after the storm, the price of clean water shot up over 500 percent, with the price of rice and oil up 60 percent, according to YahooNews and the Associated Press. The United Nations temporarily halted relief efforts one week after the disaster when it was learned that the junta was taking control of the food and supply shipments with the intention of distributing the aid on their own. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that the five states hit hardest by Nargis produced 65 percent of the



This concrete streetlight was snapped in two pieces close to its base; an indication of the strength of Cyclone Nargis' destruction.



Hope for the future. Outside Rangoon, while adults were busy clearing fallen trees and securing clean drinking water, this boy played with other neighborhood children.

nation's rice, 80 percent of its aquaculture, 50 percent of its poultry, and 40 percent of its pork, according to the Associated Press.

Weeks later, the junta cautiously accepted more shipments of supplies – including those from the United States – and allowed international assistance groups that it deemed were politically-neutral into the disaster zone, yet quality supplies still weren't being delivered to those in the neediest areas. Tales have been rampant of World Food Program rations being stored in military warehouses while spoiled, rotting rice is being handed out to homeless families. Dead, decaying bodies of animals and humans could still be found in waterways and farmland weeks after the cyclone dissipated.

In an indirect admission of their mismanagement of the disaster, the military government acknowledged that more than 133,000 were dead or missing as of mid-May, with unknown numbers of the region's 24 million citizens homeless. International health organizations fear the worst may yet to come, as dysentery, cholera, malaria, and other water- and blood-borne diseases may run rampant in the months ahead. Still, the junta is ready to move on, less than a month after the disaster.

"We have already finished our first phase of emergency relief," state television quoted Myanmar Prime Minister Thein Sein as saying, according to Reuters. "We are going onto the second phase, the rebuilding stage."

"In order to recover, it (Myanmar) will require a massive reconstruction," Australian economist Sean Turnell told the Associated Press. "The regime is ill-equipped to deal with this sort of thing. It doesn't have a development mindset. Its whole mindset is staying in control."

But if reconstruction is ever possible, much of it will be due to the spirit of the native population, who OSS-101 veterans still hold in very high regard.

"Yes, if they get help from the outside," John Dempsey said when asked if he thought the Burmese will ever be able to recover.

"[The] Burmese people were talented, gracious, kind and peaceful. I enjoyed knowing them, viewing their art, temples, monasteries, and restaurants," said Sam Spector, who visited the country most recently in August 2007. During the war, Spector served as a T5 radio operator. "A country and people of fantastic interest and great potential. Very hard working and intelligent."

Web Master Needed

I know a number of readers have visited our web page: www.oss-101.com

And I also know we need your help! This was our first attempt in putting a number of items on the OSS website to encourage visitors. We currently have a wealth of information that needs to be updated and/or added to the website. We are

looking for someone who has the experience and time to help us in designing/creating/modifying our website.

Regrettably, our financial status does not permit us to offer monetary incentives, but if you could help you'd have our utmost appreciation!

Please contact Dennis Klein (contact information is listed on back of the newsletter) if you or someone you know would be interested in helping us out.

Sword Given by Detachment 101er to President Truman rediscovered!

by Troy Sacquety

My research in the OSS records at the National Archives II in College Park, MD, has produced many extremely interesting leads. Until I had finished my dissertation, however, I was unable to track them down. With that now complete, I have a little more time to delve into these aspects. Since I collect Japanese military swords, the following was of extreme interest to me, and I hope to some of you.

While looking through the files of the Detachment 101 X-2 (OSS Counter-Intelligence) Section, I found a small section of papers and letters regarding a gift to President Truman from Lieutenant Colonel Baird V. Helfrich. Helfrich was the head of the Detachment 101 X-2 Section. But, a little background into X-2's activities will provide some context.

The X-2 section, along with the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC), established Combat-Interrogation Teams (CITs) in late 1944. These teams would follow closely behind the Allied advance and root out Japanese collaborators from the indigenous population. In December 1944, while performing this duty, they uncovered the existence of the Anti-Fascist League (AFL) in north Burma.

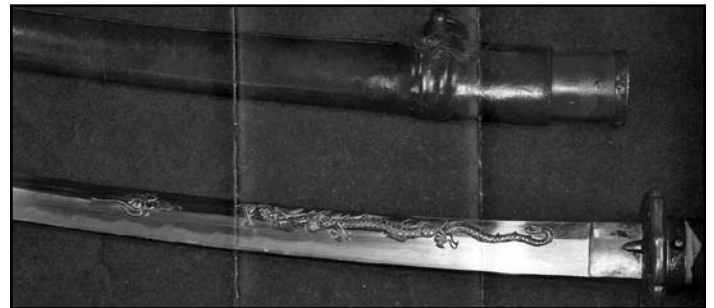
The AFL was a Burman nationalist organization. Although many of its members had previously been Japanese collaborators, they soon realized that the Japanese were not in Burma to give the country its independence. As Japanese oppression grew, small cells of the AFL popped up. The group itself was led by Major General Aung San. Aung San, the father of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and pro-democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi, had helped the Japanese enter Burma in 1942. For his efforts, he was made the head of the Japanese-controlled Burma National Army, and promoted to Major General. However, he came to realize that the Allies would win, and eventually openly switched sides in May 1945.

The X-2 Section, and Helfrich in particular, saw the AFL as a good source of intelligence. Helfrich cultivated his ties with the AFL, even more so as he was sent down from north Burma to the Arakan Field Unit (AFU), then in Rangoon. While there, he was given a Japanese Army Shin-Gunto sword by Aung San with the request that it be presented to U.S. President Harry S. Truman on his behalf. No doubt Aung San, who later helped found the Union of

Burma, was trying to curry favor with the President.

Helfrich tried to forward the sword to President Truman, but met with many obstacles. By then the OSS had been dissolved, so the matter was taken up by its successor, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU). The SSU was reluctant to formally present the sword because Aung San was not an officially recognized leader, and because he proposed Burmese independence (the country was still a British colony). However, they could arrange an informal presentation through President Truman's military aide, Brigadier General Harry H. Vaughan. Vaughan could then ensure that a letter be sent to Aung San thanking him for the gift. The presentation was made some time in mid-1946. It is unknown if Aung San ever received word of this because he was assassinated on 19 July 1947.

Forward to 2008. I forwarded copies of these letters to the Harry S. Truman Library and asked if they had the sword, and if so, if I could have a photo. They responded that they did have such a sword, but until then had been unaware of the background of the weapon. They were quite interested to learn the story, and sent the following photographs. I thought that they might be also be of interest to the group.



Dear Detachment 101 Veterans and Family members,

Although then it was a bit premature, as reported in the last newsletter, I have received my Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. As many of you might have noted, I have been "under the radar" for the past year and have not kept in touch as well as I should have. Hopefully, that will soon change as I am no longer buried in dissertation work.

In April, I completed my 300-page manuscript entitled, "The Organizational Evolution of OSS Detachment 101 in Burma, 1942-1945." It is not so much an operational history, as a focus on how Detachment 101 incorporated various OSS branches

and capabilities into its organizational matrix. It also explores how well some of these capabilities were integrated into Detachment 101, and how the organization adopted various missions and roles throughout the war. Although it is not ready at the present for publication, I hope to incorporate more of Detachment 101's operations into the text and to turn it into a book. As such, I am still collecting as much information on the unit as I can.

I wanted to take time out to thank all those that have helped me learn more about this fascinating unit. Your help has been crucial, and has been instrumental in several other projects. This has included two museum exhibits on the OSS to date, as well as several recently published articles concerning Detachment 101. No other OSS unit was as integral in an operational theater as was Detachment 101. For this and many other reasons, it has been an enthralling journey studying the group and its operations, and serving as the historian for the Detachment 101 Association. Again, my sincerest thank you to all who have helped me along the way.

Troy

Ladies and Gentlemen:

One important way to continue your involvement with the OSS-101 Association and its Kachin school project after your life, is through your estate. There are a variety of ways to make provisions for the Association through your estate, but the simplest is through your will, providing the funds in unrestricted fashion. Below is some sample bequest language you or your attorney can use. (As with any changes in your estate plan, you should always consult your attorney.)

I. To Make a Specific Bequest to the Association:

(This language is the sort used to make a simple specific bequest)

"I give, devise, and bequeath to: OSS-101 Association, Inc., 1307 Crocus Cove, Cedar Park, TX 78613-4267. The sum of \$ _____ to be used by the Association to carry out its corporate objectives and purposes."

II: To Make a Percentage Bequest:

(The advantage of a percentage bequest is that it needs changing less frequently than language with specific dollar amounts, as your estate will increase

or decrease in size because of market fluctuations, general economic conditions, or other changes in your financial situation. It can help ensure the division of your estate reflects the same basic proportions you desire at the moment you write your will):

"I give, devise, and bequeath to OSS-101 Association, Inc. (Address same as above), _____ percent of my estate to be used by the Association to carry out its corporate objectives and purposes."

III: To Make a Bequest of Your Residuary Estate:

(You can also make the Association the beneficiary of your estate after other bequests and required disbursements have been made):

"All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, including real and personal property, I give, devise, and bequeath to OSS-101 Association, Inc., (Address same as above) to be used by the Association to carry out its corporate objectives and purposes."

IV. To Make the Association a Contingent Beneficiary:

(A contingent beneficiary is a beneficiary who takes under a will after a stated condition occurs—usually when one's designated heirs predecease the testator. Because wills typically provide for grandchildren or other family members to take under a will if a child predeceases the testator, or for shares to be apportioned if there are no grandchildren, contingent language should be drafted carefully and with the assistance of an attorney. Here's how such language might read):

"If any of the above-named beneficiaries should predecease me, I hereby bequeath his or her share of my estate to OSS-101 Association, (Address same as above), to be used by the Association to carry out its corporate objectives and purposes."

Sam Spector
Judge Adjutant General
OSS-101 Association Inc.



The wonderful photographs from Fort Bragg in the last issue were taken by Brian Ferry, grandson of OSS 101er Ed Ferry.

National Archives to Develop Detachment 101 Negatives

by Troy Sacquety

One of the many fascinating things I discovered during my doctoral research while looking through the National Archives holdings on Det. 101 was several boxes of photographic negatives. These negatives, estimated at more than 8,000 photographs, were taken by cameramen from Commander John Ford's Field Photo unit that were assigned to Det. 101 from 1943-1945. The photographs are not labeled, which makes identifying individuals and locations problematic. However, they cover some groups in the field, as well as in headquarters. Myself and Det. 101 veterans like Walter Mess, tried to get the Archives to develop the photos and make them available for researchers. However, it was an expensive proposal on the part of the Archives, and nothing happened. That is, until now.

The history office where I work, the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), initiated an action to assist with getting the negatives processed. We sent a letter to the National Archives asking that the photos be made available, and if not, volunteered to scan the images here at Fort Bragg. I am pleased to report that the Archives responded positively. We recently received a letter dated 20 February 2008, saying that the Archives decided to make computer processing the negatives a priority. If all goes well, they should be available by the end of the year. At this time, I do not know what the procedure will be for ordering or acquiring copies once the Archives has finished the project. However, what is important is that this record will be made invaluable to the public. It will add to the legacy of OSS Detachment 101.

OSS 101 – ANNUAL MEETING Members and Friends Cruise RCCL “Freedom of the Seas” September 7-14, 2008

We already have a number of cabins booked on the cruise. Don't miss out on this exciting cruise – 7 wonderful days in the Caribbean. Please contact Linda to make your arrangements:

Linda Hahn - Hahn Blue Sky Travel
106 Lakewood Trail, Leander, TX 78641-9206
Phone 512-259-7911 Fax 512-259-0611
Email: hbluesky@earthlink.net
Toll Free 1-800-357-5952

Should you have additional questions, please contact Dennis Klein – his contact information is located in back of the news letter.

Hope to see you on board.



Seeking Information on OSS Medical Staff

My name is Jonathan Clemente and I am a physician in practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. I am writing a full-length history of the OSS Medical Services Branch. I will devote considerable space to the medical activities of Archie Chun-Ming, Jim Luce, Noah Levin, Charles Hutter and the other medical personnel assigned to Detachment 101.

The names of the 12 pharmacist's mates who worked with Jim Luce were: Ngumla: Howard Ramsey, Glen Dietz, Lyse Wilson and Robert Walters; Hukawng: James Richardson; Shaduzup: Eugene Dumond; Nazira: Ray Reynolds, John Weaver and Ed Wiseman; Fort Hertz: James Cloyd; Assam: Charles Dorman

I am interested in hearing from veterans (or their family members) who have recollections of the medical activities in support of 101. I would be particularly interested in any anecdotes about the medical doctors and any photos that veterans have that depict medical activities in the various areas of operation in Burma and Assam that you would permit me to potentially use in my book. I can be reached by email at jonathan_clemente@yahoo.com or home phone (704) 376-1810.

Taps

I CARL THEODORE “TED” CHADSEY, JR., passed away in Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Ted was born in Huntington, West Virginia on May 6, 1925. He spent his youth with his family in Riverside, CT. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH. Upon graduation at age 18, he enlisted in the Army during WW II. He was sent to Burma with the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.) where he parachuted behind Japanese lines. After the war he attended Yale University, Graduating with the class of 1947. Hew was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Elihu Society. In the 60's Ted founded an organization called the Freedom Fund which was backed by the O.S.S. This group printed American classic books into the Russian language. They were smuggled into the Soviet Union in Grain Ships and dispersed on the piers. They were so effective Khrushchev told President Kennedy he had to stop the operation. However it was a big factor in later ending the “Iron Curtain”.

Ted was president of the Yale Club of New York City from 1988 to 1990. In December of 1994 he married Gene Black, a widow, living in Vero Beach. Ted enjoyed tennis and golf, but the love of his life was his Old English Sheep Dog, “Pepper”. He is also survived by four sons, Bain Chadsey of Indianapolis, Indiana, Carl T. “Terry” Chadsey III of Seattle, Washington, Toby Chadsey of Oregon City, Oregon and Mathew Chadsey of Seattle, Washington and eight grandchildren.

There will be a memorial service at Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, at a later date in May. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to a charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory, Vero Beach, Florida.

I JACOB DESHAZER was a bombardier in the storied Doolittle raid over Japan in World War II and endured 40 months of brutality as a prisoner of the Japanese. He then became a missionary in Japan spreading a message of forgiveness. He died on March 15, 2008 at the age of 95.

On April 18, 1942, crewmen in 16 Army Air Forces B-25 bombers, commanded by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, flew from the carrier Hornet on a daylight bombing raid that brought the war home to Japan

for the first time since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The raid resulted in only light damage to military and industrial targets, but it buoyed an American home front stunned by Japanese advances during the war's first four months. Corporal DeShazer was among the five-member crew of Bat Out of Hell, the last bomber to depart the Hornet. His plane dropped bombs on an oil installation and a factory in Nagoya but it ran out of fuel before the pilot could try a landing at an airfield held by America's Chinese allies. The five crewmen bailed out over Japanese-occupied territory in China and all were captured. In October 1942, a Japanese firing squad executed the pilot and the engineer-gunner along with a captured crewman. Corporal DeShazer and the other surviving crewmen from his plane, were starved, beaten and tortured at prisons in Japan and China and spent most of their time in solitary confinement until their liberation a few days after Japan's surrender in August 1945.

Upon returning home, Corporal DeShazer received a bachelor's degree in biblical literature in 1948. He arrived in Japan with Florence, his wife also a missionary in late December 1948. Mr. DeShazer spent 30 years in Japan doing missionary work. In 2001, he was a guest at the premiere of the movie “Pearl Harbor.”

I KIRK T. ANDERSON, SR., 89, of Olathe, Kansas (formerly of Fort Scott, Kansas) passed away Sunday, May 11, 2008 at the Olathe Medical Center. A memorial service was held at Aberdeen Village on Thursday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. Interment was held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at Ft. Scott National Cemetery.

Kirk was born September 10, 1918 to John & Olive Anderson in Butte, Montana, and soon after the family moved back to Ft. Scott, where he lived most of his life. He was a 1937 graduate of Fort Scott High School, and attended Ft. Scott Jr. College until he enlisted in the service. He was a WWII Army/Air Force Veteran where he receive honors of Sgt. Pilot, recommended for Silver Star, Dist. Flying Cross w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, and Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He married Dorothy Jean Konantz in 1944 in Fort Scott, KS.

Kirk was a manufacturers representative for The Munsingwear Co. retiring in 1988. He continued working in the apparel industry for several years,

until his eyesight failed. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and the V.F.W. in Fort Scott, Kansas. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Helen E. Morrison. He leaves his wife of 63 years Dorothy; children, Mary Jane Purtle of Osage Beach, MO, K. Tom Anderson, Jr. and his wife Sonia of Louisburg, KS, Nancy J. Vesey and her husband Ed of Olathe, KS, and Robert E. Anderson of Galveston, TX; 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Kirk enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and was involved in many activities during his residence at Aberdeen Village.

■ **HERMAN J. BECKER** was born Aug. 17, 1917, in Vancouver, Wash. He was the fifth of six children born to Paul Becker and Wilhelmina Mohr. Like many men of America's greatest generation, manhood came all too soon. He loved and served God, country, family and community in the most selfless of ways. He found peace with the Lord on April 4, 2008, in Ventura.

He graduated from Vancouver High School in 1937 and was a member of the football and swimming teams. He joined the United States Coast Guard in September 1937 and served in the Bering Sea Patrol. He trained as a medical corpsman with specialized education in aviation medicine, boat handling and rescue swimming.

In 1943 because of his specialized qualifications and performance, he was transferred into the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He was assigned to the top secret OSS Maritime Unit that cooperatively developed and implemented covert operations programs across the globe during World War II. This program was the genesis of the U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition and Navy SEALs Teams.

His team trained in secret on the east and west coasts, the Bahamas and Hawaii. Herman mentored other swimmers at training centers on Catalina Island and the Bahamas. His team implemented and proved their programs in the Pacific, specifically Burma and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). He received a special commendation from the Chinese government for meritorious service in that country.

He was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard in September 1947 having achieved the rank of chief pharmacist's mate. In 1998 the surviving members of the Maritime Unit were acknowledged for their intelligence and sabotage efforts. A special stone was laid and dedicated to the unit at Fort Bragg, N.C. The members were awarded honorary

Green Berets with membership in the Special Forces.

While stationed at Port Hueneme, he met his future wife, Gertrude Friedrich. They married on Oct. 28, 1942, at Santa Clara Church in Oxnard. Upon leaving military service he studied agriculture at Ventura College and farmed on the Oxnard Plain for 50 years. His fields are still in production. He enjoyed developing a raspberry vineyard so that he and others could enjoy one of his favorite north-west fruits, although most experts said it couldn't be done.

Of all his accomplishments, Herman was proudest of his family and their accomplishments. Gertrude's music pursuits and community activities were a joy to him. He saw to it that each child was afforded the education of their choice and he celebrated their efforts. His grandchildren were special presents.

He returned to swimming in the late 1970s and competed for Santa Barbara Masters Swim Team for many years. Some of his competitors were mates from the Maritime Unit. They continued to share a lifelong bond of watermanship until the end.

He was a devout Catholic and member of Santa Clara Parish. He was a member of Knights of Columbus, the Legion of Mary and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Some of his greatest joys were helping those in need.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Gertrude Becker; son, Michael Paul Becker; and five brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his daughters, Christine Marie Becker of Oxnard, Katherine Victoria Anderson of Oxnard (husband Frank) and Mary Louise Hodson of Phoenix, Ariz. (husband Kenneth); grandsons, Michael Patrick Becker and Gregory Allan Hodson; granddaughters, Teresa Ann Tellez, Laura Emilie Hodson and Katelin Anne Hodson.

■ **John J. "Jack" Taheny, Jr.** At peace at home in San Francisco, April 23, 2008 with his family at his side, age 84. Beloved husband to Lydia for 57 years; father of Michael (Carol), Ann Marie (Mike) Miller, Brian, Lydia, Rev. Mark, Jeannette (and the late Adil Al-Asfour), Jack, Ted (Blanche), and Mary Ann; grandfather of Alex, Michael, Nicholas, and Samantha Miller; Ann Marie Seefeldt; Renée Gawrych; Katie Kearns; Jacqueline Taheny; Sami, Celina, Ramsey, and Mishal Al-Asfour; Eric Melder; Teddy, Brian, and Stephen Taheny; Jack, Jeremy, Alyssa, and Joseph Taheny; great-grandfather of Andrew and Allison Seefeldt; Justin and Daniel Gawrych; Alexa Taheny;

beloved brother of Rev. Theodore Taheny, S.J., Rev. Robert Taheny, S.J., and the late Eleanor Taheny; brother-in-law of Alice and Ann Marie Karam.

A life-long faithful Catholic, born in S.F., attended Star of the Sea, graduated from St. Ignatius in 1940 and U.S.F. in 1943, then served in the O.S.S. during WWII. Jack graduated U.S.F. Law School, 1948, and retired in 1984 as chief trial deputy city attorney for the City & County of S.F. Member of Knights of Columbus and SIRS. Longtime member of St. Brendan Parish.

Friends visited Sunday, April 27th after 6pm at St. Brenden Church and a vigil service was held at 7:00pm. The Funeral Mass was held on Monday, April 28th at 10am at St. Brenden's Committal at Holy Cross Cemetery.

■ George Edward Albers, Jr. George died peacefully at home on Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 84 years old. Born June 22, 1922 in Alameda, California, he attended Saint Joseph's in Alameda and was an outstanding student and active athlete. After graduating from USF in three years, where he was a member of ROTC, he traveled by train with his ROTC class for induction into the Army in Washington, DC. He served in World War II, as part of the OSS 101. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for service in Burma. Upon his return from the war he married Mary Patricia Silver and he and Patt spent all of their lives in the Bay area. After the war he went to work for Slakey Brothers in various sales positions and would later rise in the organization to become a branch manager of the San Jose facility. After many years of service at Slakey Bros., George and long time partner Everett Welliver founded a very successful company, Avex, Inc., a wholesale heating and air conditioning supply company. George and his partners would later sell their company back to Slakey Brothers. George was an avid water fowler and upland game hunter. He was one of the founders of Almaden Land & Cattle Co. in Los Banos, a privately held duck club in the heart of the south grasslands. He was also a long time member of the Elks Club. George and Patt spent many summers with family and friends at the Circle 7 Ranch on Fall River, which was owned and operated by George and his six partners. He loved to get up early and walk the fields to observe the cattle, birds and sights of early morning. After all was said and done, he was a cattleman at heart.

George was preceded in death by his wife of over 60 years, Patt and his son, Timothy. He is survived by

his sons Greg Albers of San Ramon, CA, Peter Albers of Monterey, CA, Stephen Albers of Soldotna, Alaska and daughter Trisha Carty of Tacoma, WA. He is also survived by daughter-in-laws, Janet, Sheila and Linda and son-in-law, John. He will be missed by his 11 grandchildren, Matt, Mike, Melissa, Thad, Luke, Nick, Anne, Maggie, Cari, Fiona and Dessie, and 2 great-grandchildren, Sophia and Olivia. A rosary was said Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Willow Glen Funeral Chapel, 1093 Lincoln Ave., San Jose, CA. A funeral mass was held for George at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2007 at his long time Parish, Saint Christopher's Church located on the corner of Curtner and Booksin Ave., San Jose, CA.

The family would like to request that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of the Valley, 4850 Union Ave., San Jose, CA 95124 or to the George Albers Student Athlete Scholarship Fund at Saint Joseph's Notre Dame High School, 1011 Chestnut St., Alameda, CA 94501

OSS-101 Association

Susy Wrenn
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