

*This page contains excerpts from two stories in the Feb. 8, 1945, issue of "Roundup" about ceremonies held when the Ledo and Burma roads connected to become the Stilwell Road. Photo did not accompany original articles.*

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE ALL-OUT ON COVERING JOURNEY TO CHINA; "CANTEEN CARAVAN" GIVES SHOW**

By S/Sgt. EDGAR LAYTHA - *Roundup* Field Correspondent

**MYITKYINA (Delayed)** - The bivouac here before the first Indi-to-China convoy rolled towards Kunming was expected to last at least two weeks, but it left after a stopover of only eight days. During that hectic period, while we were waiting for Wanting and Namkham to fall, the entire world in Asia seemed to revolve around the little town of Myitkyina.

Forty-odd war correspondents and photographers - American, Chinese, English, Australian and Indian - besieged the Public Relations officers of the I-B Theater for background information and release dates. Many distinguished correspondents who usually did not make Myitkyina their headquarters flew in for the occasion. You saw T.L. Durdin of the "New York Times," Teddy White of "Time" and "Life," Al Ravenholt from United Press, Jim Brown of INS and the young Australian writer George Johnston - just to name a few.

And there were the soldier-correspondents, three different radio teams, Signal Corps photographers, War Department cameramen, British and Chinese newsreelers and the representatives of the Office of War Information and the State Department.

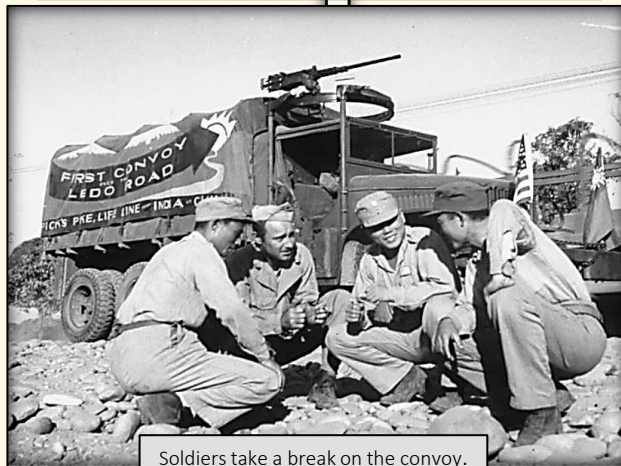
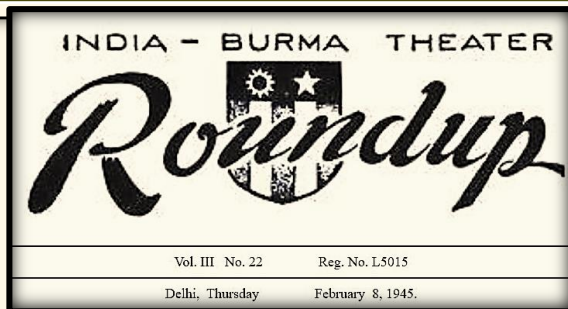
### **ROAD ARTISTS CHINA**

**As the first convoy to China proceeded along the Ledo Road 15 minute breaks would be taken.**

**In these intermissions, enlisted men artists would jump out of their cars with pen and pencils to sketch the G.I.'s and the surrounding scenes.**

**They were T/Sgt. James Zornes, well-known painter, Cpl. Ted Sally, Los Angeles cartoonist and Cpl. Sydney Kotler, commercial artist in New York. Sally did the personalities, Kotler the scenery, Zornes both. The output of the three will be sent to the States for distribution among newspapers.**

*In a closing ceremony, Gen. Lung Yun presented a silk banner to Brig. Gen. Lewis Pick inscribed with Chinese characters, "Sung Li Che Lou," which means "The Road to Victory."*



Soldiers take a break on the convoy.

## **Initial China Convoy Arrives in Kunming**

By SGT John McDowell - *Roundup* Field Correspondent

**KUNMING, CHINA** - Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Pick delivered the first convoy over the Ledo-Burma Roads, now known as Stilwell Highway, to the Chinese in Kunming this week, 23 days after leaving Ledo.

The tall, gray-haired builder of the Ledo Road personally led the convoy over the 1,050-mile route, a large portion of which fringed Jap held territory, without losing a piece of equipment. The General was the hero of the day in Kunming as he led his convoy through the West Gate in the city at noon today. All Kunming turned out for this historic occasion. A solid wall of humanity lined The Road from the West Gate four miles into the city proper, on through the city to SOS Headquarters, at the far side of the city, where the convoy was turned over to the Chinese.

The ride from the West gate, after Gen. Lung Yun, Governor of Yunnan Province and official representative for Generalissimo Chinag Kai-Shek, cut the ribbon officially opening the Stilwell Highway, was an experience no one on the convoy will ever forget.

The crowds were alive with color. Chinese, American, British and Russian flags fluttered on all sides. School children proudly waved vari-colored flags bearing Chinese inscriptions. And each of the convoy vehicles was decorated with Chinese and American flags and red, white and blue ribbons.

The cool air of this 7,000-foot plateau was filled with the colored banners. Occasionally, Roman candles skyrocketed in the heavens. The smoke of burnt powder stung our eyes.

It was a polyglot crowd. Painted prostitutes jostled with merchants dressed in conservative American business suits. Coolies in rags crowded the curbs. Proud mothers and fathers held up tiny children above the crowd to see the convoy. Chinese boy and girl scouts, dressed in near blue uniforms, waved banners. Chinese women in fashionable fur coats and Western dresses mingled with women dressed in long, shapeless garments slit on the sides to their knees.

American drivers, colored and white, and Chinese drivers pushed the convoy carefully through the narrow lane of humanity which was held back by Chinese police of Kunming in gray uniforms and Chinese soldiers with long rifles and gleaming bayonets.

An official ceremony at the West Gate preceded the parade through Kunming. And, before the ceremony began, Lily Pons, American opera star and her husband, Andre Kostelanetz, famous composer, both of whom are touring Army installations in China, Burma and India, were introduced to Pick.