



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
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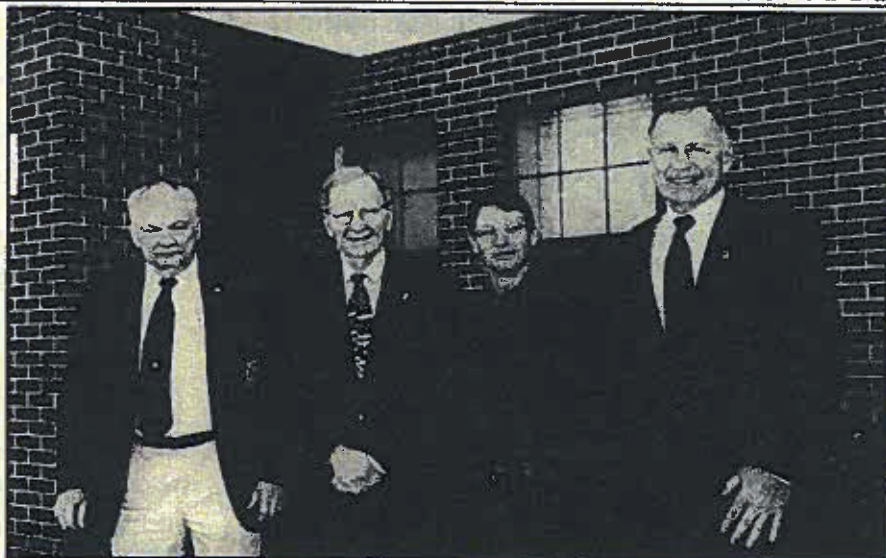
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Get a friend to join MMA today!



USAMU Photo

MMA EXECUTIVE BOARD: New officers for MMA were installed at the February Annual Meeting. (Left to Right) Sam Hunter (Treasurer), Red Mosely (Secretary), Steve Goff (Vice President), and Bruce Meredith (President).

New Officers Installed at Annual Meeting

MMA

Once again the Military Marksmanship Association annual meeting was a rousing success. A huge crowd of members and guests were on hand to witness the installation of our new elected officers and presentation of our Soldier of the Year.

After welcoming remarks by outgoing President, Arch Arnold, USAMU Commander, LTC David Liwanag was introduced. He thanked the Association for all its support of the unit and gave a quick look at things upcoming with USAMU.

Arch then discussed old and new Association business. The MMA website - www.militarymarksmanship.org - continues to do well. He said finances and membership are thriving and hopefully all are getting copies of the MMA Times. We are still looking for a volunteer to head the History committee. He presented Gus Youmans with

mementos for his efforts in support of the tax exempt status and mentioned our first big project would be raising money to renovate the Shotgun Round House on Hook Range.

After mentioning the success of the USAMU 48th Reunion, he then said the 50th Reunion should be an even bigger and better success, to include publication of a 50th Anniversary Yearbook.

Nominees for the MMA Soldier of the Year were introduced with highlights of their past shooting season. After the drumroll, MAJ Mike Anti was announced as the Soldier of the Year..

New elected officers were introduced and Bruce Meredith outlined his goals for the next two years touching on fund raising and the 50th Anniversary Reunion

Again, a variety of door prizes were awarded to several "lucky" ticket holders. The food and drinks were the best we have had in years.

MMA President's Report

Bruce Meredith

Ever since I shot the National Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio with the Second Army Team, as part of the All Army Team, in 1958, I have believed that The U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), or The U. S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU), as it was called during some years, was unquestionably the best organization to ever be assigned for someone that had a passion to be a competitive shooter. As a member of, or on the perimeter of, the AMU for these past 47 years, it is an honor to be elected to serve as President of the MMA for the next two years.

I hope to be able to continue the level of excellence provided by outgoing President, Arch Arnold and all of the previous presidents. Arch will continue to meet monthly with the Board of Directors, filling the chair that has been so successfully manned by Phil Cannella, president prior to Arch. Thankfully, the real wheels that turn the machine are the members: Red Mosely, Carter Berry, Dick Rebidue, Sam Hunter and now some younger blood in Steve Goff as Vice President.

My goals for the MMA are several. First is to grow the membership and strengthen the organization in all aspects, to include financial. As the older members drift away in travel and interests, we solicit your help in reminding them to not let their membership lapse. There was a great turnout by the current AMU people at our annual meeting last month and a steady input stream of those people is required to keep the MMA strong and viable.

Certainly the event of the 50th anniversary in 2006, of the founding of the AMU, should, in my opinion, be a major effort of coordination with the AMU Commander and all of the members of the unit. I want the MMA to play a significant role in that celebration. We will need many of you to come be a part of the activities. I encourage you to contact those you know who are not currently MMA members to join us for something very memorable. If there are grudges, ask them to bury the hatchet and come on back and see the old friends and make new ones. Hell, everybody doesn't like someone. Work around them.

With the new tax- exempt status, the MMA should have the flexibility to increase the number of projects to be supported. I will try to keep you guided in the right direction with input from the professionals. Folks, we really need your HELP. The IRS requires us to have 90 percent membership of veterans in the MMA to maintain our tax-exempt status and to accept contributions that are tax deductible to the donor. We have to be able to prove that if audited. Our

Our proof is only as good as you send in. Each of you was sent a new Membership Application form asking for dates of service, branch, etc. We have NOT RECEIVED back 150 of them, including 34 from the Columbus, GA area. Your 37 cent stamp could help us initially raise over \$200,000 for various projects. Take a few minutes to help, please.

Several projects are already on the burner. One is the renovation of the roundhouse building at the shotgun range. This is possibly the last remaining building of the unit's original occupiable structures. This is not to be a shotgun only thing but a place to conduct special functions. If the new unit headquarters is constructed as planned, the roundhouse would take on even greater significance with the closer proximity.

Those of you who are members should have received a mailer outlining the 50th Anniversary book. You are requested to not be so humble but to submit a bio and photos of yourself and/or someone who is no longer with us or is unable to submit for themselves. The publisher needs this input ASAP. You are not required to buy a book to have your bio included.

A special thanks to Phil Cannella and all who volunteered to make the Annual Meeting on February 4, a success. As usual, Phil cleaned out another corner of his store and the lucky winners walked away with a fuzzy teddy bear or a Jim Bowie Bear Killer Knife. MAJ Mike Anti received the Soldier of the Year Award and is anxious to try out his new pistol donated by Smith & Wesson.

I solicit your input for the improvement of the MMA. Send in your ideas or criticism. This is becoming an electronic world but the postman still delivers the paper mail. Also, continue to send in the photos and articles before you wife throws it in the trash or you kids use it to line the parakeet cage.

Photos needed: If you have a 8" X 10" shooting photo of yourself or a team, please photo copy it, identify the event, date, people and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025. Photos received will be captioned, placed in document protectors & notebook binders and stored in the USAMU Photo Archives.

Stories needed: If you remember a funny, inspiring or interesting shooting experience, please share it with us, so we can share it with the membership through the MMA Times. Please send your experiences or second hand stories to: MMA Times Editor, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Fort McClellan, Alabama. Coats remembers six recruits who joined him in 1st Squad of 3rd Platoon in August 1934. They were all high school graduates. They were assigned to Cpl. Heath because he was a good instructor. Pvt. Harrison and Pvt. Wilson were riflemen. Pvt. Mahan was a rifleman from Arkansas who later made Major in the Adjutant General Corps. Pvt. Miller was a rifleman who made Captain the last Coats heard of him. Pvt. Kirby from Athens, Alabama might have been the BAR man, later became an infantry Major and made the combat amphibious assault on Saipan. Pvt. Woolsey, a rifleman from Birmingham, Alabama made first sergeant the last Coats heard of him. These six men and Coats stayed in Corporal Heath's squad for the next year and one half. They got along very well. They would sit on the back porch where it was a little cooler and talk for hours. Coats would ask questions of them to supplement his studying for an education. Sgt. Gadlusi, the 2nd Platoon Sergeant, sometimes joined the group and was an inspiration to the young soldiers. They often tried to pick his brain about soldiering experiences. Gadlusi was congenial and had a British/Polish accent. He was a veteran of the British Army and World War I. Sgt Gadlusi had a stiff leg resulting from a machine gun wound he had received in the great War. He was a small man with a lot of moxie. He was a very intelligent man and read extensively. He had been born in Poland, and had served with British Military Intelligence in France during World War I. There were sometimes 15 to 20 off duty soldiers on the back porch. Pvt. Ray Orton of 2nd Squad would often join the group on the porch.

Friday nights were preparation for inspection time. Personal gear was squared away and the barracks was cleaned. The barracks windows were washed with Bon Ami which dried to a chalk color. The windows were wiped clean and shiny with pieces of cloth. The latrine sinks, commodes, shower room and floor were scrubbed until they gleamed, then rinsed and dried. Each individual soldier cleaned up after himself on Saturday morning. When he shaved, he cleaned the sink. Saturday morning was the Commanding Officers time. Inspection in ranks, with individual weapons, followed by an inspection in quarters. Every Saturday K Company fell out in class A uniform with weapons. Every soldier and NCO was standing tall, clean shaved and with a fresh haircut. Weapons were free of oil, clean and dry. Cartridge belts and BAR belts were blancoed and the eyelets shined for every inspection. Blanco was purchased in the PX. This green and mud like substance was applied to the web belts with an old tooth brush. The brass eyelets of the web belts were shined with brasso. Some soldiers used a hand drill with a dowel shaped to fit the eyelets to shine the brass fittings. Uniforms were completely quartermaster issue, clean and pressed. All footgear and brass glistened. Inspection in ranks usually lasted one hour. In case of inclement weather, the in-ranks inspection was held on the back porch or canceled. Inspection in quarters

placed the men in their area of responsibility. They stood by their bunks, next to their open footlocker at attention when the Commander approached. They were ready to answer questions or display items requested by the inspector. Clothing items of issue were displayed in their open wall lockers.

A \$300.00 clothing allowance credit was authorized for every soldier each enlistment. A soldier needing new socks, shoe strings, trousers or leggings, etc. would order the items through the supply room. Supply personnel would procure the items from Quartermaster. An announcement would be made by the First Sergeant at Reveille and Retreat "Requisitioned clothing is in, come and pick it up". A list of all available items and their cost was posted on the counter top inside the supply room.

Shoe laces at the time cost 2¢. The cost of the procured items would be applied to that soldiers clothing allowance credit list. One copy of this list was maintained in the supply room, another copy in the orderly room. Soldiers could take good care of their clothing and have money owed them at the end of their hitch. Unexpended clothing allowance funds were paid to the individual soldier in cash upon discharge or reenlistment. Coats reenlisted in 1938 and was paid over \$100 for his unused clothing allowance. He bought a broad brimmed Stetson campaign hat from the PX for about \$10.00. The brim extended one inch wider than the issue Stetsons. These broad brimmed Stetsons were allowed to be worn at Guard Mount and all formations.

One Shot

Weldon M. Griggs

Every shooter has a shot they would like to shoot again, if that was possible. I can recall one shot nearly 43 years later that falls into this category.

During the 1962 CISM Tryouts, I was one of ten shooters competing for the five positions on the U.S. team that would go to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Argentinean Army used the 8 mm Mauser bolt-action rifle at the time; therefore, it was decided that the tryouts would be fired with the Model 70s chambered in .30-06 and equipped with iron sights.

The course of fire was fired at 300 meters with 20 shots slow fire prone, 20 shots slow fire kneeling, and 20 shots slow fire standing. The second part of the course of fire was a repeat of the first sixty shots but fired in rapid-fire cadence for a course total of 120 shots.

We fired four times across the course of fire for the aggregate of 480 shots in the heat of July at Parks Range, Fort Benning, Georgia. On the third day, I shot a miss in rapid fire kneeling. As the targets started down, I tried to skim the last shot over the top of the butts. The shot came up a miss at 12 o'clock—the shot was on paper but outside the scoring rings. Loosing that shot hurt plenty but I did not give up and gave it my best. On the last day, I fired a CISM tryout record of 175 x 200 rapid fire kneeling! However, when the firing was completed and the scores totaled, I had missed the cutoff for a place on the team by a mere three points. Even now, I would like to go back in time and have a chance to shoot that one shot again.

Olympic Medalist Named MMA Soldier of the Year

USAMU

MAJ. Michael E. Anti of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has been selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2004. MMA president, former USAMU Commander retired COL Arch Arnold, made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting Feb. 4 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Arnold presented the Soldier of the Year Award to Anti - a trophy pistol donated by the Smith and Wesson Corporation.

Last month, Anti, 40, of Winterville, N.C., also won the 2004 Army Male Athlete of the Year title. Anti won a Silver Medal in Men's 50-Meter Three-Position Rifle shooting event in the 2004 Olympic Games at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre in Athens, Greece. A three-time Olympian, Anti also finished 24th in Men's 50-Meter Free Rifle Prone in the Athens Games.

Besides Anti, other USAMU nominees for the MMA Soldier of the Year Award were action shooter SSG. Maxient J. Michel, international pistol shooter Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski, shotgun shooter SGT. Mark L. Weeks, service rifle shooter SFC Norman L. Anderson, service pistol shooter SSG Adam E. Sokolowski and Olympic gunsmith SFC Charles P. Gartland.

MAJ Anti thanked the Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit, and the Military Marksmanship Association and gave special recognition to SFC Gartland who perfected the rifle that Anti shot in the Olympics to win his Silver Medal.

MMA Now an Affiliated CMP Club

In an e-mail message to the MMA, Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship, wrote the following:

"I wanted to let you know that when I was at Fort Benning for the MMA Reunion, I spoke with Arch Arnold and Bruce Meredith about making the Military Marksmanship Association a CMP-affiliated club so that MMA members can purchase government-surplus rifles from the CMP without having to belong to another shooting club. There were quite a few MMA members who asked me about being able to purchase CMP rifles.

The MMA is now officially affiliated with the CMP (club #030449) and MMA members can use this affiliation to fulfill the club member requirement that Federal law requires for purchases from the CMP. To purchase a CMP rifle, they can log on to the CMP web site at <http://www.odcmp.com/Services/Rifles/index.htm> to obtain the latest information on available rifles and prices. To be eligible to purchase a government-surplus rifle from the CMP, individuals must 1) show proof of U. S. citizenship, 2) be a member of a CMP affiliated organizations (a copy of an MMA membership card will now fulfill this requirement), 3) have participated in a marksmanship activity (current or past military service fulfills this requirement), 4) be legally eligible to purchase a firearm, and 5) complete a Purchaser Certification and Notification and have it notarized (copies are available on line). Anyone who wants more information should download the CMP Catalog from <http://www.odcmp.com/Forms/catalog.pdf>. It is important to note that purchase restrictions have been largely eliminated and that old restrictions limiting a person to one rifle or one rifle a year no longer apply."

Keeping In Touch

Editor's Note: LTC (Ret) Clyde Chadwick, former MTU 6 Commander, has been battling cancer the past year. The association recently received this update note from his wife.

Dear Friends:

The year 2004 was a hard one for us. Chad was under treatment for cancer of the larynx, specifically, cancer of the right vocal cord.

He had an intensive regimen of radiation and chemo, both at the same time. He lost over 35 pound but is still ticking. The best news came only a few days ago. The pathology report from a recent biopsy showed "no cancer." His voice is husky and raspy but he didn't lose his voice box.

Thanks so much for caring and for all your prayers.

Sincerely, Mary K. Chadwick

The MMA thanks MMA member Rock M. Soike for his generous donation in memory of shotgun shooter Charles "Chuck" Jensen, Challis, Idaho. Rock said, "Chuck had many great qualities about him. He was a truly great person and a straight, honest Soldier. And, of course, a tremendous shot!"

Mike Bach wrote, "I got a call tonight from Mernice Alkire, a shotgun shooter in the 70's. I haven't talked to him or his wife in years. The first item of conversation was the reunion in 2006. We talked for an hour.

You don't know how close some of us are just due to the MMA and those who keep the wheels rolling. Thank you all and God bless you. For most of us, shooting in one form or another has been our life. I am looking forward to the next reunion.

Payton E. "Gene" Ward called on the first of March to get some advice on his biography for the upcoming 50th anniversary yearbook. He said that everything was going along really great for him until several months ago when Mother Nature gave him a terrific rabbit punch - only lower. He has been battling colon cancer the last few months. He had surgery and has undergone the rigors of chemotherapy, etc., which really dragged him down. However, that's all behind him now and he is feeling much better. He is looking forward to one more surgery, about the time this issue of the Times is mailed.

We wish him the best of luck.

Taps, Present Arms

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Master Sergeant (Retired) **Wesley R. Smith**, MSG Smith, a veteran of the Korean War, died in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Thursday, January 13, 2005. MSG Smith was 1960 era Service Rifle shooter and coach. He was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1966 and was a recipient of the President's Hundred Tab at the National Matches. In 1968 he retired and was employed by Montgomery Ward in one of their Auto Service Centers.

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of **Donald D. Nygord** on December 26, 2004. He was a world-class Air Pistol and Free Pistol competitor. Don earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1966 and the U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge in 1979 for his performance at the Pan American Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Don also was a member of a member of the 1984 and 1988 U.S. Olympic Teams.

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of **Elmer W. "Bill" Hilden**, U.S. Boarder Patrol, at Widbey Island, Washington, on December 18, 2004. Bill was long time member of the outstanding U.S. Boarder Patrol police pistol team in the 1950-1960 era. Bill earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1957 and the U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge in 1970 for his performance at the World Shooting Championship in Phoenix, Arizona.

Bill remained active and shot in the Arizona Senior Olympics two years ago.

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Specialist Four **Jay Kerr** on January 4, 2005. Jay shot with the Service Rifle Team National Trophy Group at the National Matches in 1956 and 1957.

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Sergeant First Class (Retired) **Jimmie G. Piercy**, 64, on February 18, 2005, in Columbus, Georgia. SFC Piercy was a Service Rifle shooter with the Third Army MTU and USAMU. He also preformed duty as a Mobile Training Team marksmanship instructor and Assistant Operations Sergeant while assigned to the USAMU Operations Section during the late 1970s. Upon retirement, he owned and operated JP's Small Engines in Phenix City, Alabama.

Sergeant First Class (Retired) **Chester F. "Chet" Hamilton**, 73, died in Virginia Beach, Virginia, August 11, 2004, and was buried in New Market, Virginia.

SFC Hamilton entering the U.S. Army in 1949 at age 17, and served in Germany with the First Infantry Division. During the Korea War, SFC Hamilton was wounded while on patrol in 1953. The action of his patrol was documented in two books: *Pork Chop Hill* and *One Shot, One Kill*. His awards include the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge, and Presidents' Hundred Brassard.

"Chet" or "Mountain Man," as he was fondly called by his teammates, excelled in both small-bore and large-bore competitions. He shot his way to the "All-Army" level in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Chet was first assigned to the Service Rifle Section in 1960 and reassigned in 1966 after an interim assignment with the U.S. Army Europe MTU.

Highlights of his individual competitive excellence include: 1957 All-Army Champion, 1959 National Matches Pershing Trophy, 1962 National Matches-Wimbledon Cup, 1963 National Matches-Marine Corps Cup, 1966 Second Army Champion, 1967 All-Army Champion, 1967 National Matches-Navy Cup, 1967 Oakridge Regional-600 yard Long Range National Record, 1968 All-Army Long Range Champion, 1977 National Matches-Civilian Highpower Champion, 1979 National Matches-Nathan Hale Trophy (Civilian Champion), and 1979 NRA Joe Foss Outstanding High Power Achievement Award.

Chet was also known as a solid team shooter and was a member of several record setting Army teams. He was a team member of the Army team that won the Herrick and Pershing trophies in 1959 and 1960. He also tried his hand at Running Deer competition winning medals at the 1964 Interservice Championships. SFC Chester "Mountain Man" Hamilton was a true champion within the "Home of Champions."

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Specialist Four (Retired) **Nelson J. Kling**, on January 29, 2005, in Hogback Island, Rainbow Lake, New York. SP4 Kling was a Service Rifle shooter and was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge and President's Hundred Tab in 1959.

Shooting Partner - MSG Sam Spradlin 1962

Weldon M. Griggs

After being assigned to the USAMU in June 1962 as a 2LT, I found myself on orders to compete at Camp Perry with the Service Rifle Team in August. As a new member of the team, I wanted to shoot above my ability and be a good team member. During a team match, I found myself on the ready line directly behind MSG Sam Spradlin. MSG Spradlin was a combat veteran of both World War II and Korea, and he was tall, lean, and taunt. To me he looked like Gary Cooper who played Sergeant York in the 1941 movie named Sergeant York. I did not want to be on his bad side at all and certainly did not want to be reported as "uncooperative" to CPT Lang, our OIC.

He turned to me and motioned me forward to him. I hustled up to the line and he said, "Sir, I want you to squat right here (pointing to a spot off his shoulder), don't say anything, and be still." I thought, "I can do that, sounds simple enough." So, I said, "Sure." After he finished firing, he got out of position and out of his sling, he quietly told me, "Lieutenant, you blocked the sun real good." At that moment, I knew I had at least some value to the team!

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Larry Gau had a house in Baltimore. If you have seen pictures of the apartments there, they have a common wall with the next house, most of the time on both sides. Larry had the previously mentioned 220 Swift and a Winchester 52. He had a 10 X target scope and the sight settings for both rifles. He also had a map of the park out front and he had the distances all marked! So many yards to the water fountain, so many to the edge of the flower bed, etc. and sight settings for each spot. He would slide up the window a few inches, set up a rest and shoot pigeons in the park! With all his data he had just about 100% hits. One day he was just gazing out the window and saw a well-dressed matronly woman with a big fluffy cat on about a 50-foot leash. He watched her for a while and just could not stand it. So he put the scope on the Swift, set the range and when the cat was on the end with the woman looking the other way, he busted the cat! In about ten minutes there were several police cars. The woman called the police and told them her cat had exploded and it must have been something it ate in the park! A detective came right up to Larry's apartment and Larry had all his guns on the table cleaning them with Hoppes #9. The detective said, "You SOB, I know you shot that cat and I'll get you some day". The reason he knew Larry was that Larry had talked the Range Sergeant of the indoor police range into letting him shoot a few shots with his "22" rifle and proceeded to shoot five holes in their backstop with his 220 Swift.

USAMU Distinguished Champions



Barbara Hile (Left) and Sallie Carroll ready to take aim in this vintage '70s photo.

Barbara Hile is a triple Distinguished Marksman member of the USAMU Hall of Fame. She was six times National Woman's Rifle Champion and five times National Woman's Pistol Champion. She won a Silver Medal in the 1970 World Championships.

Sallie Carroll is a double Distinguished Marksman. She was four times National Woman's Pistol Champion and won a Gold Medal in the 1970 World Championships. She won 17 International shooting medals.

Information for the "Keeping in Touch" column needed: If you shot for the Army, your old friends want to hear about you. Send us a description of your experiences, when and where you shot, coached, accurized weapons, or other duties. When did you get out of the Army? What did you do? School? Work? When did you retire? What are your hobbies? Please jot down some information about yourself and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.



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