



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



HONORARY MEMBERS

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CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR
SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

January 26, 1995

Dear Club Member,

Welcome to our maiden newsletter. The first thing I'd like to bring to your attention is the subject of a stamp honoring Audie Murphy. For nearly a year I have labored to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp in his honor. All of us are stunned by the Post Office's lack of interest, yet they can justify stamps for Coach Bear Bryant, Wyatt Earp and now Richard Nixon! It seems that their guidelines of "historical interest" and "national perspective" apply only when they wish it to or when it justifies a money maker for them. Stamp decisions are apparently guided by politics and tainted money. Is it not embarrassing to our government that the countries of Sierra Leone and Guyana have issued stamps in honor of Audie Murphy? Such a U.S. stamp is long over due and more than deserving. It is vital that each of you write your respective senators and representatives and urge them to write the postmaster general on your behalf. At the same time, please send a personal letter expressing your views to:

Postmaster General of the United States
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

One reason for the Postal Service's avoidance of this subject is the possibility of opening a Pandora's Box. Allowing a stamp for one Medal of Honor recipient might cause others to champion their favorite. To avoid this, the Post Office issued, on June 7, 1983, their 20 cent stamp with all three Medals of Honor thereby paying symbolic tribute to all 3,400 recipients. But the fact remains that Audie Murphy was destined to cast a longer shadow than most American heroes. Included with this newsletter is a list of *tributes* made in his honor, nearly all after his untimely death in 1971.

(Submitted by Stan Smith)

On 13 June, 1986 FH Reg 672-3 established the existence of the Fort Hood Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Membership in this club is a reward to distinguished noncommissioned officers (NCO's) whose leadership achievements merit special recognition. This elite organization of NCO's consists of corporals through sergeants first class or platoon sergeants. Those NCO's selected are awarded the Army Commendation Medal, presented a Sergeant Audie Murphy Club framed certificate, presented a Sergeant Audie Murphy Coin of Excellence (designed by Don Moore), awarded a 3 day pass, presented the book "To Hell & Back" and given a letter from the Commander, III Corps. Fort Hood, Texas is home to the following units: III Corps, 2nd Armored Division, TEXCOM, 3rd Signal Brigade, 89th Military Police Brigade, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 3rd Personnel Group, DENTAC, MEDDAC, 13th Finance Group, Combat Aviation Training Brigade, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, 6th Cavalry Brigade, 13th Combat Support Command & 1st Cavalry Division. Fort Hood has its own "Hall of Heroes" with numerous tributes to Audie Murphy. Don Moore, recognized military artist, was also commissioned by III Corps to design an appropriate Audie Murphy medal to be worn on civilian clothes and during formal occasions by members of the Fort Hood Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Pictures of the Coin of Excellence and the Audie Murphy Medal are attached.

(Submitted by Stan Smith)

For those of you who have previously visited the Audie Murphy Memorial Room at the V.A. Hospital in San Antonio, you will agree as to its deplorable state. Beginning in October, 1994 both the Memorial Room and the hospital front lobby are finally undergoing renovations. The Public Affairs Office at the V.A. and the curator at the San Antonio Witte Museum are designing an exhibit that will best present the three phases of Audie Murphy's life - boyhood, military period, and movie career. Specially designed museum cases and lighting will be employed so that fragile articles are preserved for many more years. Unfortunately many of the currently displayed items were not properly presented e.g. nails through books and tape that has glued items to the wood. Due to space limitations, they are unable to use all the objects that are in the current museum. This may result in the return of items which cannot be properly stored or displayed. (Submitted by Stan Smith)

Tributes Paid to:
Major Audie L. Murphy - *Medal of Honor Recipient*

- 1) July 16, 1945 Audie Murphy was pictured on the cover of Life Magazine. Only a handful of Medal of Honor recipients were similarly honored. These include John A. Pittman, BGen Joseph Foss, USMC and General Douglas MacArthur, USA.**
- 2) February 12, 1949 during special and unprecedented ceremonies at Texas A & M University, Audie became the first honorary cadet Colonel in the history of the institution, thus making him an Aggie.**
- 3) April 2, 1951, House Concurrent Resolution (H.C.R. No. 46) resolved that the House accept for and in behalf of the State of Texas, the splendid oil painting of Audie Murphy in uniform by Dallas, Texas artist Kipp Soldwedel. Furthermore, it was resolved that this portrait be appropriately hung in a place of honor in the State Capitol Building with the portraits of other distinguished Texans**
- 4) In 1971, the Chamber of Commerce of Decatur, Alabama instituted the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award to take place during their “Spirit of America Festival.” Dignitaries honored included General Omar Bradley, General Alexander Haig, Senator Jeremiah Denton, Colonel Charles Scott and astronaut John W. Young.**
- 5) June 3, 1971, Audie Murphy’s death was entered into the Congressional Record (page 17858) by Congressman Ray Roberts of Texas.**
- 6) October 13, 1971, H.R. 11220 designated that the Veterans Administration Hospital, then under construction, at San Antonio, Texas be designated as the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans’ Hospital.**
- 7) March 2, 1973 the Main Post Gym, Building 2818, at the United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Georgia was designated in memorialization orders as the Audie Murphy Fitness Center.**
- 8) May 17, 1975 an eight-foot, one ton bronze statue was unveiled and dedicated at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans’ Hospital at San Antonio, Texas. This tribute to Audie was designed by artist and sculptor, Miss. Jimilu Mason.**
- 9) November 3, 1984 a six-foot bronze statue of Audie Murphy was dedicated at Camp Mabry, Texas Army National Guard Academy, Austin, Texas. This tribute was designed by noted artist Bill Leftwich of Fort Davis, Texas. After World War II, Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division and eventually attained the rank of Major.**

- 10) August 23, 1985 during the Third Annual Western Stars Awards in Woodland Hills, California, the *Golden Boot Award*, a Special Memorial Award in honor of Audie Murphy, was presented to Mrs. Pamela Murphy.**
- 11) April 23, 1986 Audie was posthumously inducted into the Alamo Area National Guard Hall of Fame during ceremonies in San Antonio, Texas. Audie was the seventh Hall of Fame Honoree.**
- 12) June 13, 1986, Headquarters III Corps and Fort Hood implemented the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club to recognize outstanding NCO's who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership and professionalism. Those NCO's selected receive a Certificate of Membership and a bronze medallion.**
- 13) March 23, 1990 Audie Murphy was one of three Medal of Honor recipients to have a building dedicated in his honor at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The other recipients honored were PVT. Elden H. Johnson and PVT. Joseph F. Merrell. Audie's building is designated as "Murphy Hall."**
- 14) May 14, 1991 the railroad overpass within the City of Greenville (Greenville, Texas) between Crockett Street, St. John Street, Stuart Street and Hamphill Street was designated as the "Audie L. Murphy Memorial Overpass."**
- 15) Dallas, Texas VFW Post 1837 is designated as Audie L. Murphy Memorial Post No. 1837.**
- 16) The AMVETS National Service Foundation in Lanham, Maryland tells the story of Audie Murphy's Medal of Honor action in a two page letter in their quest for donations.**
- 17) October 14, 1991 the West African nation of Sierra Leone issued a set of 12 stamps recognizing key WW II Motion Pictures. One stamp, Le 2 value, honors Audie Murphy in "To Hell and Back" (Scott No. 1409).**
- 18) October 18, 1993 the country of Guyana in NE South America issued a set of 11 stamps in tribute to World War II. One stamp, \$6.40 value, recognizes Audie Murphy's Medal of Honor action on January 26, 1945 (Scott No. 2697).**
- 19) Hill College History Complex in Hillsboro, Texas has a standing exhibit identified as the Audie L. Murphy Gun Museum. The exhibit includes books, magazines, movie posters, photographs and personal affects.**

- 20) **The Society of The Third Infantry Division has an outpost in Canyon Lake, Texas designated as the Audie L. Murphy Outpost # 35. Richard L. Addison - Pres.**
- 21) **July 20, 1995, Nevis Island of St. Kitts and Nevis, one of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies, an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations, issued a souvenir sheet of stamps commemorating the 50th Anniversary of The End of World War II. The sheet consists of eight stamps each with a value of \$1.25. One stamp honors *Audie Murphy*. (Scott No. 2446)**
- 22) **March 16, 1996, the Country Music Association of Texas honored and inducted Audie Murphy into their Hall of Fame during ceremonies which took place at the VFW Post # 3892 in Harker Heights, Texas.**
- 23) **March 16, 1996, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center inducted Audie Murphy into their Hall of Fame during ceremonies in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the “35th Annual Western Heritage Awards”.**
- 24) **May 30, 1996, House of Representatives, Ralph M. Hall of Texas introduced into the Congressional Record statements recognizing the 25th anniversary of the death of Audie Murphy, “most decorated soldier of World War II.”**
- 25) **A Resolution passed by the State of Texas proclaimed June 20, 1996 as Audie Murphy Day in Hunt County, Texas. To this end, the Greenville Area Postal Customer Advisory Council honored Audie with a Special Pictorial Stamp Cancellation during ceremonies and activities in the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, Greenville, Texas. Two of Audie’s sisters, Nadene and Billie, were present for this tribute.**
- 26) **July 1, 1996, A & E Cable station (Arts & Entertainment), for their BIOGRAPHY series, aired the documentary “Audie Murphy - Great American Hero.” Technical advice and input was provided by Audie’s oldest son, Terry Murphy. Public response for ordering this tape was one of the largest requests A & E ever had!**
- 27) **September 3-5, 1996 the Seventy-eighth National Convention of The American Legion, in Salt Lake City, Utah introduced Resolution No. 260 recommending that the United States of America issue a postage stamp honoring the late Audie L. Murphy.**
- 28) **February 21, 1997, the country of Guyana issued a second stamp honoring Audie. The stamp is part of a set honoring movies about war.**
- 29) **May 3, 2000, after many years of urging, the United States government has finally issued an Audie Murphy commemorative stamp. It is one of four in a series known as Distinguished Soldiers.**

MOVIE REVIEW - BEYOND GLORY

For most of his first two years in Hollywood, Audie Murphy was under contract to Cagney Productions headed by James and William Cagney. However, they never used him in a picture.

As some of you may or may not know, Audie's first film was entitled "BEYOND GLORY". The movie was called a "splendid portrayal of life at West Point." Audie was paid \$300.00 a week with a guarantee of ten weeks work - or \$3,000 for this picture. He was given only one line in the film and appeared in several scenes. The line had only eight words but Audie said it was "seven more then I can handle."

Wanda Hendrix, who was a rising star under contract to Paramount at the time, says that she went to the studio Front Office and asked that Audie be put in BEYOND GLORY. The Front Office is a name given to a collection of studio people who make major decisions. While working in his first movie, Audie had another Life magazine layout. The theme covered the Murphy film debut, his romance with Wanda Hendrix, and her recent movie, RIDE THE PINK HORSE. In this motion picture, Wanda, playing a teen-age Mexican girl, was an outstanding success.

Audie always said that he was fortunate in having Alan Ladd as the star of BEYOND GLORY. Ladd told Murphy to relax, do his work, and get away from the studio. He especially advised him not to let himself get upset over the pressures and temperaments found in the movie business. In reflection years later, Audie said: "Alan Ladd gave me the best advice I ever got in Hollywood".

The movie was filmed at Paramount Studio in Hollywood from early October to November of 1947 and released in September of 1948 with a running time of 82 minutes. The director was John Farrow who was the father of Mia Farrow.

Heading the cast was: Alan Ladd as Rockwell "Rocky" Gilman; Donna Reed as Ann Daniels; George Macready as Maj. General Bond; George Coulouris as Lew Proctor; Harold Vermilyea as Raymond Denmore,Sr.; Henry Travers as Pop Dewing; Luis Van Rooten as Dr. White; Tom Neal as Henry Daniels; Conrad Janis as Raymond Denmore Jr.; Margaret Field as Maggie Mahoney; Paul Lees as Miller; Dick Hogan as Cadet Sgt. Eddie Loughlin; Audie Murphy as Thomas; Geraldine Wall as Mrs. Daniels; Charles Evans as Mr. Julian; Russell Wade as a cadet; Vincent Donahue as John Craig; Steve Pendleton as Gen. Prescott; Harland Tucker as Col. Stoddard and Edward Ryan as a cadet.

The synopsis is as follows: Ladd blacked out during a key battle in Tunisia and is convinced that this lapse was responsible for the death of his commanding officer (Neil). After his discharge, the incident continues to haunt him so he visits the widow (Reed) and they fall in love. With her encouragement he enters West Point and is doing well in his studies when he gets involved with a board of inquiry and the old claim is dragged up by the attorney for a spoiled plebe (Janis). Ladd is a good deal older than the other cadets and under pressure from several directions. He leaves the Point and a court martial is called for. With Reed and Travers behind him, he returns to the Academy and the trial continues. Finally a young soldier who was there tells everyone in the court that Ladd was innocent of any wrongdoing and he passed out due to an artillery bombardment when Neal was killed. When a relieved Ladd says, "Why didn't you say this before?" Loughlin (Hogan) replies, "You never asked me!" (Submitted by Sue Gossett)

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the new "Audie Murphy National Fan Club" newsletter. I hope many editions will follow in years to come.

I would like to begin my remarks with a report on Kathleen Bailey and the former Audie Murphy Memorial Fan Club in La Mirada, California from which many of our original members were recruited. It is difficult for any club to successfully exist even when duties are delegated. When only one person tries to oversee the entire operation, the task can be overwhelming. This became evident with the untimely passing of her mother, Lillian, on May 9, 1985. The last newsletter issued by Kathleen's fan club was dated summer 1991. It must be sadly concluded that the Bailey fan club has ceased to exist for some time.

There is no doubt that Kathleen has a beautiful gift for drawing and a heart full of love and devotion for Audie. But it has been reported that she was beset with numerous personal problems which she has not been able to overcome. When last heard from over two years ago, Kathleen was unemployed and had no source of income. For not being able to pay her real-estate taxes she was in danger of losing her home. There are many other problems but no purpose would be served in itemizing them. None of the members from the old club has heard from her or been able to contact her. We owe it to Kathleen and her late mother, Lillian, to keep alive the name and memory of Audie Murphy and I will do everything in my power to see that it happens.

I have loved and admired Audie since I was 13 years old and nothing that has been said or written in the subsequent 28 years has changed for me what made him truly the great American hero that he was and is. My goals for the club are to inform and educate. Inform you where materials on Audie may be obtained. To have part of the newsletter accessible to club members for any information you want to share that is relevant to Audie. To educate all of us on how to bring Audie's name to the public forum in a positive way and to see that he receives the recognition he truly deserves. There are virtually two generations today who don't know who Audie Murphy was.

Two areas that I want to get into in subsequent newsletters are: 1) Finding out why Audie has never been elected to the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and get some action going in that direction. Several inductees made very few westerns in their careers. 2) For the A&E cable network to approve Audie for their "Biography" series. There was an interest from the producer, Lew Reda, but it was placed on indefinite hold. The movie that was planned by TNT was totally dropped. We must become more diligent in keeping his name before the public or he could fade into historical obscurity as the World War II generation dies off. As you will read in the postage stamp review, too many honors have to do with profit now instead of what the person accomplishes in his life. I can't think of a better time to begin these tasks with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II being remembered this year and the 25th anniversary of Audie's death in 1996.

On behalf of Sue Gossett, Stan Smith and I, thank you for your interest in this fan club and I hope all of you will want to join us for the joys and rewards ahead in remembering and honoring a truly great American - Audie Murphy.

Sharon Young - Editor