



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



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SMALL WORLD

by club member Beatrice Castaneda of Alvin, Texas

I had been meaning to ask my uncle if he knew Audie Murphy since July of 1998 when I first heard about Audie on AMC cable. But I put it off thinking there was no way because my uncle served in the Pacific and Audie fought against the Germans. Well, when I got back from the Audie Murphy Days trip to Greenville my sister called. She had asked my uncle, who's name is Able, to sign the stamp petition and he refused. According to my sister he got angry and said "Yes, I knew Audie Murphy. Doggone him, he was always stealing my coats." He refused to sign the petition. It was hard to believe because my uncle is the kindest man imaginable and would never lie about anything like that. Well, my daughter and I just returned from a trip to my uncle's house and this is the story. He met Audie at a hospital in Topeka KS where he was working as a medic. He was a private. He said it gets very cold in Kansas and, my uncle had several army issue fuzzy coats but the one that he liked most was one that he bought and paid for himself. It was a better quality coat with a band or belt across the chest. He said everybody borrowed that coat from him and Audie was the last one to borrow it and did not return it before he "went off to Washington". When asked he said that Audie was a nice guy except he went crazy when he went into town and that he must have been half-crazy to have done all the things he did referring to Audie's' heroics on the battlefield. I showed him the Audie Murphy bumper sticker on our car as we walked outside his house and as we talked he said, "He deserved every honor he received" and that he had signed the petition after all. He says he changes the channel when Audie's movies come on but I think that by the end of our visit he had forgiven Audie.

SPECIAL NOTICE - PRIORITY BULLITEN

Linn's Stamp News, July 12, 1999

"Stamp for Audie Murphy will be issued next year" by Bill McAllister, Washington Correspondent

Expect the United States Postal Service to issue that long-promised Audie Murphy stamp in 2000. Officials said that Azeezally Jaffer, head of the stamp program, has passed the word at postal headquarters that the most decorated soldier of World War II will get his stamp next year.

Among the officials seeking a stamp is Postal Service Board Chairman Einar V. Dyhrkopp, himself a World War II veteran. Dyhrkopp has not hesitated in the past to speak out publicly for the Murphy stamp, long sought by veterans groups and others.

My Visit to Arlington National Cemetery

By club member Richard Ryan, Las Vegas, Nevada

I remember the moment like it was yesterday. I was a junior in high school growing up in New Jersey when I heard Audie Murphy was killed in a plane crash. I was at a party when it flashed on the TV screen as part of the eleven o'clock news. Everyone who saw it KNEW who Audie Murphy was and everyone was quite sad.

I was going to join the Air Force when I graduated and one of my goals was to visit the major World War II sites when I got the chance to travel. I eventually got to Europe, the Normandy beaches, Germany and England. But in the back of my mind, I had to get to Arlington to see the leaders of World War II and Audie Murphy.

I got a chance to visit him, ironically, after I retired from the USAF in September 1996. My wife and I were visiting relatives in Jersey when we decided to visit Washington. Arlington was also at the top of her list. Excitement was not the word for how I felt. When we arrived at the cemetery, the first thing I did was find out where Audie's grave was. It was nice to know that it was listed on the cemetery map. If you have never been there the aura about Arlington is incredible. So peaceful. You can feel the history and you know this place is special.

When we got to the place where Audie is buried, I just stood there and stared at the marker. It is very accessible, unlike many of the other graves. It's by a nice tree with a circular walkway around it. I knew it was his before I saw the writing. Perfect spot. It is a simple marker with no distinguishing marks to say that this was the most decorated combat soldier of World War II. I couldn't talk, I could hardly breath. I just thought about how much all of these people sacrificed just so I could stand there. When it was time to go, I snapped to attention and saluted. And then, I started to cry. My wife, Peggy, asked me why I got so emotional and I told her that I honestly didn't know. I do know that I could not help it. The only other time I cried at a cemetery, other than for a relative, was when I visited General Patton's grave in Luxembourg.

As we walked around seeing the names of some of our country's greatest military leaders, I couldn't help but think how much easier their jobs were because of men like Audie L. Murphy. Arlington is truly Where Valor Proudly Sleeps.

THE 10 BEST AMERICAN MOVIES OF WORLD WAR II: The February/March 1999 issue of American Heritage Magazine listed “To Hell and Back” as one of the 10 best American War movies of WWII! Other titles include “A Walk in the Sun”, “Battleground” “The Best Years of Our Lives”, “Sands of Iwo Jima”, “Twelve o’Clock High”, “The Naked and the Dead”, “Hell is for Heroes”, “The Bridge at Remagen” and “The Big Red One”. Audie is certainly surrounded by war classics. The author, Roger J. Spiller, is George C. Marshall Professor of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Club member Don Meyer of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, who submitted the above story, has his own opinion as to the ten best war movies. They would be, in no particular order: “To Hell and Back”, “Patton”, “Twelve o’Clock High”, “Midway”, “Battleground”, “The Longest Day”, “Bridge on the River Kwai”, “From Here to Eternity”, “Battle Cry”, and “Objective Burma.” And perhaps a notch below those ten he would include: “Run Silent, Run Deep”, “The Cruel Sea”, “Red Ball Express”, “The Enemy Below”, “Devil’s Brigade”, and “The Dirty Dozen.” How does your personal list compare?

TRIVIA: I don't know exactly what would be of interest to fans in the newsletter but I would like to share this with them. I met a woman in Greenville (during Audie Murphy Day April 11, 1999) who has been a fan of Audie since she was five. She and her husband are truck drivers. She has a small dog that she takes with her everywhere whom she has named Audie Murphy. She calls him her son and always calls him by his full name. She called the Chamber of Commerce in Greenville and she bought a ticket on the morning tour bus. She did not know that Audie was a songwriter or a poet. She went into the museum after the bus ride and hopefully learned more about Audie from all the available literature. (submitted by club member Beatrice Castaneda of Alvin, Texas)

Hill College wants to know if you have room on your wall for this fantastic Don Moore signed and numbered lithograph? It is titled “The Soldier” and measures 20 x 26” actual size in **FULL COLLOR!** Only 40 of these prints remain for only \$25.00 each! Shipping and handling: \$5.25

They also have a second print, “The Actor”, 20 x 26” in black & white, also signed and numbered. This magnificent print shows Audie in Western attire from “Kansas Raiders” with two six guns drawn. Two smaller posters are in the back ground. While space would not allow for this print to be illustrated, you can be certain you will not be disappointed. Only 25 prints remain at \$15.00! S & H \$5.25. **Order from:** Hill College Press– PO Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645 Attention: Sandra Rich (254) 582-2555 x256 (sorry no credit cards accepted)

UPDATE: In our Volume 1, No. 2 issue, we listed numerous sources where to locate Murphy memorabilia. Please note that Film Favorites, POB 133, Canton, Oklahoma has moved and NO forwarding address is available. Also, COLLECTORS BOOK STORE, previously located on Vine Street in Los Angles, California has moved to:

6225 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, California 90028
new area code only (323) 467-3296

Many thanks to club member Bette Oller of Las Vegas, Nevada for advising me of these changes.

Greenville, On My Mind and In My Stomach
By Charlotte Rose Gillam, Rutland, Vermont

Realizing full well that you would be getting several stories about the "good times" at the Audie Murphy Day celebration in Greenville, I thought I might write about what it was like for this poor soul who didn't get to go. I don't know about the rest of you, but I sulked! I also ate. You see, when I am in the process of sulking, I eat.

On Saturday, I tried to console myself by watching my own Audie Murphy Film Festival. As my husband was working, my two cats and I cuddled up on the coach and watched tons of movies. Incidentally, I also devoured a bag of Orville Redenbackers Buttered Popcorn. I shared it with my cats. They love popcorn but are not crazy about Audie Murphy films. They do however, love the Pink Panther. At dinnertime I toasted all of you in Greenville, with a glass of White Zinfandel wine and some pasta. Watching some more films, I topped off the evening with coffee and chocolate cake.

Sunday, I went to church. I said a little prayer that all of you would get back safely. I ate a big breakfast and I also made a conscious decision that next year I would be in Greenville having breakfast with Ann, Rita, Stan, Sue, et al. My dietician feels it is absolutely necessary. You see, I lost no weight that weekend. In fact, I gained a 1/4 of a pound. Now, since my doctor thinks I should go, I'm trying to figure out if I can claim the trip on my income tax. (Any IRS people out there?)

By the way Ann, Rita, Stan, Sue, et al how was the food?

TRIVIA: Club member April Conway of West Palm Beach, Florida has advised me that the latest issue of Trail Dust magazine has a reference to Audie and Burt Reynolds. "In Burt Reynolds's 1994 book, *My Life*, he recalls an incident with Audie Murphy (Chapter 18, pages 85 & 86), where Burt claims he DROPPED Audie with a left hook! Yeah, right!"

UPDATE: In Vol. 1, No. 2 (April 1995) we listed VIDEOWEST as a source, under memorabilia, for movies. Sometime later we were advised that they were ceasing operations for a year. They are now back in business and have the following titles for sale:

“Apache Rifles”	92min.	“Posse From Hell”	88min.
“Arizona Raiders”	97min.	“Quick Gun”	93min.
“Bullet for a Badman”	80min.	“Ride a Crooked Trail”	87min.
“Cast a Long Shadow”	82min.	“Ride Clear of Diablo”	80min.
“Cimarron Kid”	84min.	“Seven Ways From Sundown”	86min.
“Columns South”	84min.	“Showdown”	79min.
“Destry”	95min.	“Sierra”	83min.
“Duel at Silver Creek”	77min.	“Six Black Horses”	80min.
“Drums Across the River”	78min.	“No Name on the Bullet”	70min.
“Gunfight at Comanche Creek”	91min.	“The Kid From Texas”	78min.
“Gunpoint”	86min.	“The Red Badge of Courage”	69min.
“Gunsmoke”	80min.	“The Texican”	90min.
“Guns of Fort Petticoat”	82min.	“Tumbleweed”	80min.
“Hell Bent For Leather”	82min.	“40 Guns to Apache Pass”	95min.
“Kansas Raiders”	80min.	“A Time for Dying”	73min.
“Night Passage”	90min.	“I’ve Got a Secret” 9/7/55	30min.
		Ford Star Time: “The Man”	60min.
		Suspicion Theater: “The Flight”	60min.
		Whispering Smith episode	30min.

The cost of the above titles is based on running time. For example, on a T-120 tape at LP speed setting, one could conceivably have three titles on one tape for only \$55.00 plus 4.00 Shipping and Handling. Delivery 3-4 weeks. Please note their new address etc.:

VIDEOWEST
 1312 Stagecoach Road, SE
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123
 Phone: (505) 292-0049
 E-MAIL: vidwest@abq.com
 Attention: Boyd Magers

CLASSIFIED: Wanted to buy: The following film titles in VHS format – “Beyond Glory”, “The Quiet American”, “Trunk to Cairo”, and “The World in my Corner”. Marlee Sodt – 520 North Willis – Stockton, IL 61085. Ph: (815) 947-3675 (sorry, no answering machine)

A STORY AUDIE MURPHY NEVER TOLD

by Michael Paulick, Colonel Infantry

Throughout World War II, from which Audie Murphy emerged the most decorated GI, Colonel Paulick was Murphy’s Battalion Commander in the 3rd Division. Audie saved Colonel Paulick’s life in France’s Vosges Mountains, and Paulick recommended Audie for a battlefield commission. Paulick subsequently earned every decoration earned by Audie - with the exception of the Congressional Medal of Honor - and Audie called Paulick “the finest soldier I know.” Paulick and Murphy were reunited when the colonel served as technical advisor for Audie’s autobiographical film, “TO HELL AND BACK.

In the fall of 1943 American forces were attacking the outer defensive outposts of the German Cassino Line, an action that would develop into one of the toughest in military history. I was the newly assigned battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, and it was on my first tour of inspection that I recall meeting a slight, freckle-faced sergeant of company "B" whom I was destined to know a great deal better - Audie Murphy.

I did not really get to know Audie then, but by the following February at Anzio we had a great deal more in common. It was there that I came upon Audie's company with the company commander wounded, and only two inexperienced lieutenants left. I took command of the company, and we continued the attack for three days. At the end of those three days, fewer than 30 men survived. Audie was the only non-commissioned officer left, and there were no officers except myself. If I had never seen Audie Murphy again, I would remember him from that action. He was a soldier, a born leader, potentially a fine officer.

Soon after this Audie was promoted to platoon sergeant, normally the second-in-command to a first or second lieutenant in a full-strength platoon. But full-strength platoons were not in style that Fall. More often than not there was no platoon leader other than Audie for his platoon.

In the next few months Murphy distinguished himself again and again, was wounded and decorated with two Silver Stars and the Distinguished Service Cross. Most of the time he was operating as a platoon sergeant in command of the platoon.

After the landing in South France late in 1944 and the subsequent drive up the Rhone Valley, we were again fighting in mountainous terrain with a casualty rate daily mounting. The shortage of officers was desperate, and no replacements were available. To meet the crisis the Seventh Army Commander announced a policy designated to speed-up battlefield commissions of enlisted men. I called in my company commanders, explained the situation and the new policy, and battlefield commissions. I told the commander of "B" Company that there was one name I wanted to see on his list, and that was the name of Audie Murphy.

A few days later the list came up, and Murphy's name was not on it. There was no time for questions then, but I made up my mind that the company commander had better have some good answers when I next saw him. The company commander's reason for the omission, as I learned when I did see him, was the best in the world: Audie flatly refused a commission.

With every decoration for valor his country could give him except the Congressional Medal of Honor, and daily commanding a platoon in some of the toughest combat of World War II, Audie did not consider himself officer material. He was embarrassed by his lack of formal education on the one hand. Perhaps more important was the fact that he did not choose to leave the men he had fought with so long. (To simplify the problems of command it was customary for a newly commissioned enlisted man to be transferred out of his old outfit.) No reasoning from the company commander would change Murphy's mind, but he did volunteer the information that he would be happy to continue to lead his platoon - as a sergeant!

It was as a sergeant that Murphy continued to lead his platoon in Company "B", and my next personal contact with him came after our fight through France had led into the Vosges mountains. At this stage the whole division was again short of officers and men. It was the mission of our battalion to defend a densely wooded mountain and to clear out a portion of that same mountain in an attack. A complete battalion could easily have been used on either mission. I had to try to clear that area with Company "B".

Company "B" attacked for several days with no hope of reinforcements to replace casualties and no sign of weakening either of the German resistance or of pressure on me, as battalion commander to get the job done. I decided to take a much closer look at the terrain.

One morning just before dawn I went to Company "B" and asked the company commander for a patrol to take me out to an observation point overlooking Cleurie Quarry - a point we had controlled briefly, but which was lost to enemy counter-attacks. Audie's platoon was directed to supply this patrol for the protection of myself, my operations officer, and the company commander, who would accompany us. Four men were assigned to the patrol, and we moved out.

Dawn was just breaking on the rocky hillside as we approached within sight of the observation point located over a sheer drop of about 50 feet into Cleurie Quarry. We had reached the edge of a wooded area. A clearing approximately 50 yards wide and perhaps 50 more yards of wooded terrain separated us from our objective. We approached the clearing carefully, then, keeping low and moving fast, we started across the clearing and I remember being only yards away from the wooded area when a burst of machine gun fire, coming from a point some 30 yards or so down the hillside, splattered the terrain. We hit the dirt and scrambled into a depression which afforded some cover.

The way to the observation point was clear now, but the route back to Company "B" was closed. A German combat outpost saw to that. Machine gun bullets ricocheted around us and the sound of our guns returning the fire kept our ears ringing. I remember thinking that we must have caught the German outpost asleep, else they would never have missed us with the first burst. I thought, too, that the only way we would ever cross that clearing alive would be when they slept again and that possibility seemed remote.

It was then that I heard a familiar voice over the noise of battle. One by one he called the names of every man in the patrol, waiting for an answer. It was Audie. I realized then that he must have some sort of plan in mind and that our positions had something to do with it. Perhaps half a minute later the first of a series of grenades shattered the outpost. After the last explosions we rushed the position to complete the elimination. We found a machine gun, four dead Germans, and three wounded.

One member of our patrol was wounded, and we formed a circle around him to await the arrival of a litter to evacuate the wounded man. When the litter arrived we all made our way back to Company "B". While we waited for the litter I had plenty of time to think about Sgt. Audie Murphy.

To me the important thing about what I had just seen was Murphy's immediate grasp of the situation, his precise thinking, and his uncanny coolness in action. Since he had said that he did not consider himself officer material, I wondered what he thought the U.S. Army was looking for in the way of officers.

In subsequent action I saw that same alertness and coolness under fire brought into action almost daily against the enemy. The need for officers was still critical. I decided the whole situation was ridiculous and called Murphy in to tell him he had to take a commission.

At the end of my spiel, Audie gave me the same answers he had given his company commander before. He told me that if we needed him in battle he was willing to continue to command a platoon. He knew he could do that. But for administration work of a higher order that might come up later, he insisted that he did not have the background. Besides, there was still the matter of leaving his company.

I told him to forget about administration; my own adjutant would help him if necessary. From the regimental commander I secured a waiver of the policy of moving newly commissioned men to new units, and Sgt. Murphy became 2nd Lt. Murphy.

It was not much later as a First Lieutenant commanding this same Company "B" which he had so long refused to leave that Audie Murphy, the soldier without the "qualifications" to become an officer, earned the nation's highest award for valor in battle, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A HERO – MINE IS AUDIE L. MURPHY

It was a hot, sticky, summer's day in June many years ago. I was traveling through the south post of Ft. Myer, Virginia on my way to work. This route borders Arlington National Cemetery. I remember asking a military guard if he knew where Audie Murphy was to be buried that day. He informed me that the committal service would be behind the Amphitheater (which is located near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier).

At that time I was employed in Civil Service by the U.S. Navy Department – Navy SeaBees (Construction Battalions). When I reported for work, I went to my supervisor and requested annual leave so that I might attend the committal service. He questioned how I knew Audie Murphy. I told him that I didn't know him personally but that I might as well have as he had been "my hero" since I was eleven years old. My request was granted. Since it was within walking distance from my office building, I proceeded to walk through the cemetery and up to the Amphitheater.

Many people were gathering at the area that the Honor Guard had told me about. I sat in the shade under a big oak tree and waited with the others. There was a gentleman nearby who had an album with him in which he had kept precious memories of his hero (Audie), too. He shared the photos with me and we both shed tears.

Soon the riderless horse and the caisson carrying Audie's body arrived along with limousines with Army General Westmoreland, Mrs. Murphy and Audie's sons. The crowd pushed its way for a closer look and I soon found myself near Audie's casket.

How I wished and prayed that I had met him in life. My heart was breaking. I wanted everyone to know how much this man had meant to me. When I was a child, he was my hero. As an adult, he has stayed my hero.

It has been 45 years since I first saw “To Hell and Back” – Audie Murphy’s autobiography. Something clicked with me – not that he was a movie star and not because he was a military hero. Something just clicked.

I still have my mementos, a July 16, 1945 issue of LIFE magazine with Audie’s photo on the cover, the movie publicity photo which he autographed, the news articles of the tragic plane crash in which he lost his life, and the coverage of his funeral. I have the movie video of “To Hell and Back”, as well as any other of his movies which I have taped from TV; books: “No Name on the Bullet”, “Hero”, and especially “To Hell and Back”. I’ll keep these things forever, and his memory will always be in my heart.

I’m really enjoying the issues of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation Newsletter. It is my dream someday to travel to Texas for Audie Murphy Day!

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BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO: For those of you who just wish to rent and not to purchase Audie Murphy films, you should consider Blockbuster Video. Please note that what they list in their inventory is NOT necessarily available from each store. The following is a listing of Blockbuster’s *inventory* of Murphy films:

Arizona Raiders	Stock # 325	To Hell and Back	Stock # 14987
Duel at Silver Creek	“ # 104456	The Texican	“ # 94499
The Guns of Fort Petticoat	“ # 47416	The Unforgiven	“ # 17943
No Name on the Bullet	“ # 104454	Walk the Proud Land	“ # 104455
The Red Badge of Courage	“ # 6570		

FULL CREDIT: Since our first newsletter, I received either credit or criticism for the composition and structure of the publications. I can only accept credit on the subject matter and not on the English grammar and punctuation. My wife, Barbara, labors over each issue and article to insure accuracy and propriety. When she finishes her job, it makes me look smarter than I am. While I do not acknowledge her contributions on a regular basis, I want the membership to know just how much I appreciated her conscientious efforts to make the newsletters the professional success that they are.

Stan Smith