



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



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CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR
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New Publication: "Profiles in Heroism", Volume 1, Number 1, January-February 2000. The first person to be profiled is Audie Murphy. It contains all his military service dates, an itemization of his promotions and appointments, a listing of all his assignments. The most outstanding feature of this printing is that it contains all the citations for his valor and meritorious awards. Back issues of magazines are \$6.00. However, if you mention that you are a member of the Audie Murphy Fan Club, it can be yours for only \$5.00 It is printed and distributed by:

Post Office Box 324
Marksville, LA 71351
Attention: Eric R. Caubarreaux
e-mail: Mach56000@aol.com

Looking for those hard to find Audie Murphy stills? Wayne Cutshaw has located the following firm whose inventory he describes as "Huge". Ask for Buddy Barnett or Tony.

Cinema Collectors
1507 Wilcox Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028-7308
(323) 461-6516

Looking for those hard to find videos of Audie's movies? Wayne Cutshaw has also found a source that has ALL of Audie's films EXCEPT for the following four:

Apache Rifles
Trunk to Cairo
Guns of Fort Petticoat
World in My Corner

The films are processed from original 16mm or 35mm prints by a firm in England. These titles are transferred to the American VHS format. The quality is rated from good to very good. The price for club members is \$29.95 each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. They take all major credit cards. The films are guaranteed to satisfy or they will be replaced with another title of your choice. Contact:

**SOUNDTRACK
Paul Magwood
Post Office Box 800704
Santa Clarita, CA 91380
(661) 296-6843**

On Friday, October 1, 1999, my wife and I flew to Los Angeles to see our daughter and grandkids. That Saturday we went to a collectibles show where I found two Audie items, one being a northern California TV Guide with Audie on the cover. We then met club member Eva Dano at a restaurant and had lunch. After our meal, we got out our Murphy doubles and did some trading. Then she said, "Would you like to see where Audie lived?" (She had met Audie in early 1965.) "Sure", I replied and off we went. We soon arrived and I got out of the car to take some pictures. Just as I got back in the car a man came out. I thought he might be worried so I explained I just wanted some pictures of the house. I asked him if he knew who used to live there? "Sure", he said, "Audie Murphy." And I was not the only one to stop by. On the way back Eva suggested a dealer (see page 1) who had some Audie stills. (That was an understatement!) The dealer had a huge inventory and I ended up with sixty stills.

On Friday, October 8th, my daughter, grandkids, my wife and I went downtown to look around. We found nothing of interest and when I found out how much money I had left over, I told my daughter to "Take me back to the film store. I can't go home with money in my pocket!" I purchased another twenty stills. That night we flew home. You have heard of "gambling fever"; I think I have "Audie Murphy fever". I can't stop buying Audie items.

**Wayne and Margaret Cutshaw
Round Lake, Illinois**

AUDIE'S POEM: The Congressional Medal of Honor Society has its own web page. Within their site is a heading, in chronological order, of departed recipients. Before the itemization of names is Audie's poem: "Alone and far removed from earthly care...." For those of you who wish to see this go to:

<http://www.awod.com/gallery/probono/cmhs/dead.htm>

ODE TO AUDIE

Audie Leon Murphy was his given name,
He would always remain the same.
Pickin' rows of cotton from day to day,
Being a soldier would earn him more pay.

He wanted to serve his country with all the rest,
His bravery would soon stand the test.
He was turned down by the paratroopers and Marines,
But soon he would eat good ol' army beans.

He was promoted as it goes,
He stayed with his men and suffered their woes.
He took orders as an officer should,
He protected his troops as best he could.

Audie had courage we all could see,
He didn't have to prove it to you and me.
He laid his life on the line for his men,
Did all his talkin' with the spitting end of a gun.

He was called "Murph" and "Little Texas",
He ate the enemy everyday for breakfast.
By himself he took on a fight,
With all his courage, he showed them his might.

Whether fighting a war or starring on a set,
You could count on him, this you could bet.
He lost his friends one by one,
He came home to make movies using a gun.

He was a born leader so they say,
He would lead his men to V-E day.
His smile, his eyes and his laughter we can't measure.
He left us so much to hold on to and treasure.

He touched our hearts as only Audie could,
A lasting reminder, we know he was good.
We will always recognize Audie and his deeds of valor,
His courage and honor, he was no failure.

Audie's spirit is alive today,
In all our troops in the U.S.A.
Let's all look and we can see,
He was the best, the best that could be.

So let's say to Texas' favorite son,
A thank you and well done.

By club member Patricia Gabriel of Springfield, MO

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 travelling 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 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). 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 many of his other 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.

By club member Linda Williams Goldrup of Oakland, Maine

NEW BOOK ON AUDIE: Last of the CowboyHeroes: The Westerns of Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea and Audie Murphy by Robert Nott and published by McFarland and Company, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640 (800) 253-2187. The book will sell for \$32.50 and all major credit cards are accepted. Publication date is planned for June, 2000.

In the world of Western films, Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea, and Audie Murphy have frequently been over-looked in favor of names like Roy Rogers and John Wayne. Yet these three actors played a crucial role in the changing environment of the post-World War II Western, and, in the process, made many excellent middle-budget films that are a pleasure to watch.

This account of these three Western stars' careers begins in 1946, when Scott and McCrea committed themselves to the Western roles they would play for nearly twenty years. Murphy would continue his Western career for a few years after his cohorts rode into the film sunset. Arranged chronologically, and balanced among the three actors, the text concludes with Audie's last Western in 1967. Covering both the personal and professional lives of these three Hollywood cowboys, the book provides both their stories and the story of a Hollywood whose attitude toward the Western was in a time of transition and transformation. The text is complemented by nearly 70 photographs and a filmography for each of the three.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS: America's Forgotten Army by Professor Charles Whiting. Published by Sarpedon Press, 49 Front Street, Rockville Center, New York 11570. ISBN # 1-885119-60-7 This book has many Audie references!

MHQ – The Quarterly Journal of Military History published by Horizon Groups Inc. Post Office Box 2879, Clifton NJ 07015. Spring 1993 – Volume 5, Number 3 has a great story on Audie. The cost is \$20.00. Phone 1-800-742-5401. Contact John or Bruce. Many thanks to club member Sandy Jackson, Princeton Junction, New Jersey for this information.

MORE VIDEOS? Flashback Video, Post Office Box 686, Goodlettsville, TN. 37070 has several Murphy titles: "Seven Days to Sundown"; "Gunfight at Comanche Creek"; "Tumbleweed"; and "Gunpoint". These color videos are only \$14.95 each! They also have an Audie Murphy Special: This is a two hour tape of some of Audie's TV appearances. Audie stars with Thelma Ritter in Ford Startime Theaters' "The Man" (one hour show). Then, a rare episode of Audie's only TV series, Whispering Smith titled "Stake Out." Finally, Audie appears on "I've Got a Secret" This tape is only \$19.95. Quality varies on this tape. Order toll free 1-800-992-1373. Many thanks to club member Frank Tamm, Millville, New Jersey.

Comments from Paul Picerni: He co-starred (as Valentino) with Audie Murphy in “To Hell and Back.” Like other members of *the greatest generation*, Paul Picerni served during World War II. He was a first lieutenant bombardier on B-24s and flew 25 combat missions in the China-Burma-India Theater. He wrote: “Audie was a true American hero. It was a thrill to meet and work with him in ‘To Hell and Back.’ I had the pleasure to meet and fall in love with ‘Billie’ Murphy (Audie’s sister) at the Williamsburg Film Festival. My wife is willing to share me – she loves ‘Billie’ too.” In a follow-up e-mail, he wrote: “I never did make another feature with Audie; however, I did a guest shot on his T.V. series ‘Whispering Smith.’ I don't have a copy of it, and I don't believe I've ever seen it. I'm sorry I did not work more with him. He was a great guy; quiet, but a great guy to work with. As for the rest of the cast of ‘To Hell and Back,’ I ran into Richard Castle last October in Pasadena. He's living in the San Fernando Valley and still working on stage around town. It was nice seeing him again. Art Aragon owns a bail bond business in Van Nuys. I've heard his son is running the shop now. There's not many of us left.”

Paul Picerni was very gracious and mailed me a signed publicity photo from “To Hell and Back” and a signed still of himself (I provided a large SASE). I believe he would be happy to hear from other members of the Club. His address is:

19119 Wells Drive
Tarzana, CA 91356-3928

His complete biography is available on his web site at www.paulpicerni.com (where he also offers signed photos and miscellaneous stuff for modest fees). Submitted by club member Commander Stephen Surko, USN, Washington DC.

PEN PALS WANTED: I am interested in corresponding with serious club members: LILIAN M. SMITH - 98 Woodridge Drive - New Canaan, CT 06840-3509

Original vintage move posters:

Design Evolution
Post Office Box 341
Boulder, CO 80306
1-303-443-5542
Toll free: 888-779-3337
<http://www.vintageposters.com>

Many thanks to club member Mike West of Fort Worth, Texas for the lead.

“Top 100 Cowboys of the Century” by Boyd Magers, editor and publisher of Western Clippings, a division of VideoWest, Inc., 1312 Stagecoach Road, SE, Albuquerque, NM. This recent publication placed Audie Murphy as number 16 out of the top one hundred cowboys. With this ranking, he beat out names like Richard Boone, James Arness, Gary Cooper, Tex Ritter, Clint Eastwood, Steve McQueen, Alan Ladd, and Fess Parker. The 1,2, 3 slots go to John Wayne, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers respectfully.

Boyd Magers wrote that “Audie Murphy almost single handedly kept the series westerns alive and thriving in the 50’s and 60’s. Republic, Columbia, Monogram and RKO had phased out their B-units as too expensive to compete with the onslaught of TV. But Murphy's popularity as the most decorated hero of W.W.II along with his easygoing on screen manner endeared him to a generation searching for the last vestige of big screen westerns as we’d known them for the last 40 years, silent and sound. Audie’s films weren’t the Ken Maynard/Bill Elliott B’s we were used to, neither were they occasional big budget A’s from Alan Ladd or Gregory Peck. The plots were neither A nor B. Everything about Audie’s pictures was somewhere in between. Most of all, they were highly enjoyable nonsense ‘some things a man can’t ride around’ westerns. Audiences flocked to Audie’s films in droves. Audie never took his success seriously, commenting, ‘I’m working with one helluva of handicap. I have no talent. I’ve made the same western about 40 times, only each time with a different horse. I don’t mind being an actor, so long as I don’t have to live up to a reputation I don’t have.’ ”

“American Movie Classics ran Audie’s films in the middle of the night or daytime until they discovered the great ratings they rounded up in prime time. Audie’s films are also winners on the Western Channel and he is currently the most popular western star in sales for video tape dealers. Women seem to be Audie’s biggest fans these days. Odd, when westerns have always appealed more to males than females.” (Many thanks to Mary Ferguson of Eden, North Carolina for submitting the publication)

FOR SALE: REPLICA OF AUDIE MURPHY’S G.I. DOG TAGS with the famous W.W.II notch. You can own your own set of Audie Murphy dog tags embossed exactly as were Audie’s. This good luck and conversation piece can be yours for only \$5.00/set plus \$1.00 for shipping. Price includes two chains. Order from:

PAUL M. NASON, Jr. DECEASED
720 6th Street, NE
Minot, ND 58703-2603
701-852-6601 - E Mail: colt45@ndak.net

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How I Learned About My Hero

As was the custom in "my pre-teenage years" in Houston in the middle 50s, my girlfriends and I went to the movie EVERY Friday night. You have to understand that we didn't know or even care what was playing; we just "went to the movies". I really think it was more of a "boy-watching" contest between all of us. I was also a typical 12-year-old, oblivious to the worries and concerns of my parents about the world situation and the future in general.

I'm sure that my mother and daddy knew what movie we were going to see whether we did or not and this night was no different. Before we left to pickup my friends, my daddy sat me down and told me that there was something about the picture that we were to see that he wanted me to know.

This particular night in question he was the designated chauffeur for all the girls. He would go around and pick all of them up and deposit us at the movie theater. Then he'd come back and pick us up and go through the process all over again. We knew that we'd all better be waiting in the front when the picture was over or we'd be in trouble.

He started out by saying that first of all the actor in the film was "a Texan". This was very important to my daddy (my daddy was VERY proud of his state). He said the movie was about W.W.II and that the actor in the film was playing himself and had actually DONE ALL THE THINGS that I would see him do in the movie. I remember him mentioning something called "the Medal of Honor", but that didn't make much of an impression at the time. It's hard to realize now, but W.W.II had only been over 10 years when this movie was released. I think he hoped that I would pay attention and the movie would make an impression. BOY...did it EVER!

Not only was this guy a war hero... HE WAS CUTE, TOO!

I know by now you all know that the movie was TO HELL AND BACK (1955) and the actor...well, he **was** and **is** and **always will be** "my HERO". Other "teen idols" have come and gone, but he has always stayed "constant" in my life.

My daddy is gone now, but I hope he realized how grateful I was to him for telling me about **AUDIE MURPHY!!!!**

Submitted by club member Theresa Edge, Longview, Texas

AUDIE MURPHY DAYS – JUNE 23rd – 25th – 2000

This year's Audie Murphy Day's celebration in Greenville, Texas is expected to be one of the community's highest profiled events in several years. Special guests expected are Audie's sisters, Billie and Nadene Murphy. Also in attendance will be author Sue Gossett. A large turnout is expected. For those out of towners, we suggest that you make your hotel

reservations early at the BEST WESTERN INN – 1216 Interstate Highway 30 – Greenville, Texas (903) 454-1792

FRIDAY, June 23rd at the FLETCHER WARREN CIVIC CENTER. Here is the time table of events:

9AM - 10AM Military band

10AM Opening Day Ceremonies

Color Guard to Advance Colors.

Opening prayers by Cloral Lovell

National Anthem

Judge Joe Bobbitt to introduce numerous distinguished guests and speakers

12Noon - 1:30 PM Lunch at American Legion Post # 17 (4509 Moulton Street, Greenville, TX.)7.50 per person; RSVP by June 10th; contact Diane Thomason

1378 Deer Lane – Quinlan, TX 75474-4816 (903) 883-2211

ALL DAY Booth for stamp sales and memorial pictorial cancellation

ALL DAY extensive Audie Murphy Display by club member Larry Winters

ALL DAY T-shirt sales by club member Diane Thomason

ALL DAY Book signing by author Sue Gossett

SATURDAY, June 24th will take place at the AMERICAN COTTON MUSEUM (600 Interstate 30 East) (903) 450-4502. Here is the time table of events:

9- 10AM Continental Breakfast by American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 17

Flag ceremony by color guard

Opening prayer

21 gun salute

Fly over and/ or sky divers by veterans and active duty personnel

National Guard & active duty armored display

Lunch on your own

1PM Speakers

2:00 – 3:00 Cake and punch

All day stamp sales and pictorial cancellation

6:00 – 7:30PM Hospitality hour American Legion Post # 17

8:00 – 12PM Dance. Donation \$4.00 per person

SUNDAY, June 25th

Celeste, Texas sighting seeing tour. For these details or any other questions regarding Audie Murphy Days, contact Diane Thomason (903) 883-2211

Club member Wayne Cutshaw suggests that members bring their duplicate stills and lobby cards for trading. This trading could take place in the evening in the hotel lobby with others members. Wayne will be bringing his extras. Let's make it like a yard sale.