



## First Merrill's Marauder killed in action was Private Robert W. Landis



Pvt. Robert W. Landis died in a firefight Feb. 25, 1944, the day after the top-secret mission began its history-making march of almost 1,000 miles behind enemy lines to capture Burma's Myitkyina airfield.

He was killed at the village of Lanen ga (green arrow.) Landis was one of five Intelligence & Reconnaissance Platoon scouts, Blue Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

Lt. William Grissom had told Sgt. Joe Freer to take a patrol to check out a village where the firing erupted. The other scouts were Sgt. Stanley Cobb, Pvt. Eddie Eiskant and Pvt. Vincent Melillo.

The next day, Marauder Sidney Savitt was with a second patrol that recovered and buried the body. A camp was later named after Landis, a native of Youngstown, Ohio.

The last of the patrol's survivors, Melillo, died Christmas Eve 2015 at age 97.