

The Back Story, provided by Austin Seay

Here is some background information about the Midshipmen who planned and carried out the attempt to steal the Army mules.

Six of the seven were members of the Sixth Company (including Bo Kearns, who had recently been transferred to the Eighth Company to help replace personnel losses). Ross Anderson was in the Fourth Company. Ross had his 1st class cruise with the NROTC guys mentioned in the account of the raid. I believe Ned Walsh was also on that same ship, with the same connection. The Newberg, NY, connection was very important because they introduced us to "Big Charlie," who was a key asset to our intel sources as he provided maps, electrical diagrams, mule photos, etc. Also, he knew the secluded path whereby we entered the USMA grounds and parked our trailers on the mountain. Big Charlie was glad to assist because, as a worker in the USMA equivalent of our steerage, he had developed a distaste for cadets because the local ladies favored cadets over local guys. So, whatever was on the table to make USMA look bad, Big Charlie was for!!

The "second story" guy and electrical engineer were from Tony Nargi's area that he personally knew. Tony 's younger brother, Paul, assisted with renting the two mule trailers.

The lady driver was my date for that weekend, and she volunteered to drive/pull one of the mule trailers with her car. When it came to sequestering her in the "Brig", she was locked up in a "rest room" as the MP's did not want to incarcerate her with the male "thieves." Hence, they chose a "rest room" to segregate the female from the males. The only problem with that arrangement was that the "rest room" contained a window which opened to the outdoors. When she was left alone and on her own, she promptly opened it and attempted to climb out. So the MP's had their hands full keeping tabs, not only on the middies and male civilians that they had "captured," but they were at a loss

as how to handle their one female "thief." Hilarious chaos ruled supreme, but the MP's were not amused!!

Of all the "thieves" who were put in the USMA brig only Chuck Maclin is left and could possibly tell that saga.

Finally, there was a strong bond between most of the guys in this caper, but we were all 6th Company except for Ross.

-Kearns, Maclin, and Seay entered USNA from Marion Military Institute in Marion, AL, where we prepped for USNA. All were roommates for three years.

- Arvedlund, Kearns, Maclin, and Seay were roommates 2nd class year (along with one other) in a five-man room.

- Arvedlund, Maclin, and Seay were roommates 1st class year when the caper was planned.

-Tony Nargi and Ned Walsh had been roommates before this caper.

-All of us were great friends and networked socially, for four years at USNA.

So the point here is that we were all such good friends that no one would "rat out" the other.

When it came to surviving in an outdoors environment, as a kid from a small country town in MS, I was an eagle scout and member of the "Order of the Arrow" at age 15 and had hiked in the High Sierras and Rockies. So, when we descended the mountain to the mule stable/quarters, I was looking for an escape route in case the "you know what" hit the fan. When it did, I had a plan but that hike (without a trail as detailed in the story), back up the mountain was a ball buster!!

Chuck Maclin's mom and my mom were sisters, and my mom was visiting her in California when the mule story broke. Chuck's mom was a Hollywood movie agent and

one of her clients was one of the producers of the Movie, "Patton." When he was shown a copy of my letter setting forth the detail that you have read in my story, he became interested, and we thought it might make it to the "big screen." Alas, that never happened!!