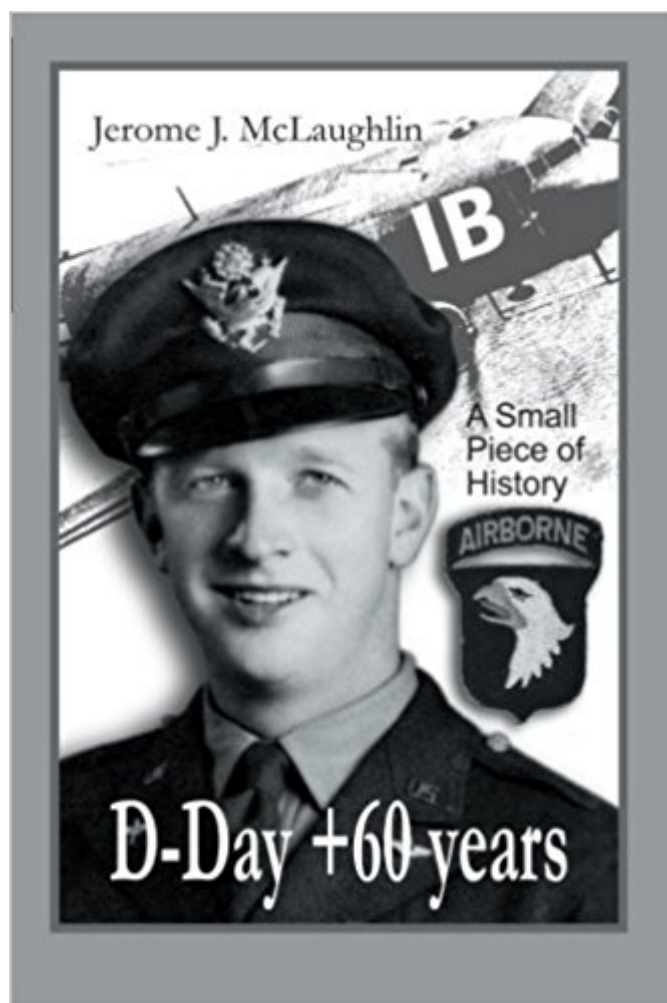


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D-Day +60 Years: A Small Piece Of History



Synopsis

This unique account of D-Day history provides an unusual look into the US Army's preparation of a new type of World War II warfare, that of airborne operations. The book describes, using personal interviews with the veterans involved, how young men who had never even flown in an airplane before the war were trained to fly into combat, or to parachute into the dark of night. The narrative personalizes the events of D-Day for a small group of men of the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron and G Company of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. Most, including the author's uncle, did not survive to see the dawn on D-Day morning. The story then moves forward more than half a century, when research to find out what happened to his uncle led the author to meet some of the survivors of that night, resulting in what is believed to be the first reunion of a D-Day pilot with the men he dropped on that fateful morning, 56 years earlier. Many children of the "next generation" are making efforts to find out what happened to their fathers and uncles in World War II. This story is a classic example of the joy and heartbreak that can result from the success of such a search.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jerry McLaughlin is a native of Queens, New York, and was raised on Long Island, where he graduated from Lynbrook High School and Long Island University. He began a career with the federal government by serving in the US Army from 1969 until 1971, and retired from the Central Intelligence Agency in 2003 as a senior training manager. Mr. McLaughlin began research for this book in 1980, including several trips to Normandy. The most recent visit took place in 2001, when he and other family members and friends dedicated plaques commemorating the bravery of 40

men, including his uncle, who lost their lives on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Mr. McLaughlin and his wife, Denise, currently live in Alexandria, Virginia, along with a Wheaten Terrier who goes by the name of Murphy.

This is one of the best books I've read on this subject. He started out looking for information on his uncle's death on the night of June 6, 1944 in Normandy. During his search he discovered other relatives looking for info on Crashes the same night, He found the three survivors of the crash that killed 43 others. The more he learned the more he shared with others. Never his intent to write a book he in the end had too much material and information that others would want and need he had to write the book. This is written in a first person account as much as he could. He published this book at his own expense because a big publishing company wanted him to change the style, he refused. He and others were able to find the location of 2 of the crashes in Normandy and visited the sights and became friendly with the land owners. 10 yrs. ago, in 2004 they were able to erect plaques as memorials at the 2 farms that can be seen with all the names of the dead listed. This story is on the 77Sqd. of the 435th Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Air Force. The 77th was a combo group of C47 pilots and crews as well as Combat Glider Pilots and planes. The C47 planes known as Tow Planes carried the 101st Airborne Paratroopers on the night of June 6th. The pilots were recognized later for dropping their paratroopers on time on target the best of any others that night. One pilot discovered he had missed his drop zone because of the heavy flak, made a 180 turn flew back through the flak and dropped his troops exactly where they were suppose to be did another 180 and flew back through the flak a third time to get on his heading to get back to England. Later on June 6th he towed a glider loaded with 82nd Airborne troops into another landing zone in heavy flak also in Normandy. My Father was one of those Glider Pilots of the 77 Sqd. and was towed by these pilots into combat that night and flew with them though out the European War. This is primarily written on the C 47 pilots but a great book anyways. I have lent my copy to my brother who is in France as I write this for D-Day plus 70 and he is using it as a guide, plus the author has assisted us in locating people in France my brother should meet. Nice Man Nice Book. Don't miss owning and reading this book.

Excellent book from the perspective of those who fought and survived to tell about it.

At The National WWII Museum conference in November 2016, I met Mr. McLaughlin who graciously gave me a copy of his wonderfully researched book, D-Day + 60 Years. We share a passion for

learning the truth of things in war, of what happened to our loved ones who never returned to tell us themselves, and for incorporating the information we gain into previously untold stories. This book provides all of that being written from the heart. Thank you for finding me in NOLA and sharing this fine book. It adds immeasurably to my library.

Well I just finished reading the book authored by my friend Jerry McLaughlin called "D-Day +60 years". All I can say is wow. What an awesome tribute Jerry gives to the "Greatest Generation" by not only chronicling the service and sacrifice of these men, including his own uncle, but by being the catalyst in reuniting many of these men some 50 years later who had fought together on D-Day. What started out as an effort to solve the mystery of what happened to Jerry's uncle on D-Day, June 6, 1944 turned into oh so much more. This book is riddled with first hand accounts of the exploits of the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron and G Company of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment as they flew into occupied France on D-Day. If you are a WWII buff like me and you appreciate how the men and women of this generation rose to the challenge of their time, then you need to read this very detailed and thoroughly researched book. Jerry is currently retired and living in Savannah with his wife Denise and dog Murphy. I've been honored to be a member of the team of volunteers that Jerry has led over the last six years in his role as project manager for the restoration of the B-17 bomber "City of Savannah" at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. What an outstanding job he has done. I sure hopes he decides to write a book about it!

A plethora of books have been written in recent years about the airborne assaults at Normandy on June 6, 1944, especially about the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, all of which are fine reading. However, little has been written about the Troop Carrier Squadrons who delivered them there. Most of these pilots and crews had never been in combat before and the courage they displayed flying through the dark into torrents of anti-aircraft fire while maintaining as best they could a level flight path in order to deliver those men and equipment needs to be told. These are the forgotten heroes of D-Day. This book is one man's quest to learn what happened to his uncle who was a navigator on one of those planes who didn't return. He served on one of the three planes of B Flight of the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron of the 435th Troop Carrier Group carrying the third platoon of G Company, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Two of the three planes were shot down by enemy fire including the plane carrying the authors uncle. It tells the tale both from the authors research and reminiscences of men who were involved. The authors quest resulted in plaques being erected in France for the men lost on these

planes and a rare reunion of a Troop Carrier Squadron and paratroopers who they carried. I bought this book from Ray Geddes, T4 in G Co., 501st Parachute Infantry, who jumped from the third plane in B Flight and who is quoted and pictured several times in the book. He was selling them for the author at the Maryland Arms Collectors Show at Baltimore, MD in March, 2009. It was a great pleasure to meet and talk to him. He graciously inscribed it for me; the author had previously signed it. It is a fine book full of human interest and I highly recommend it. The subtitle of the book is "A Small Piece of History". It is certainly more than that! I was haunted for days after I finished reading it.

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