

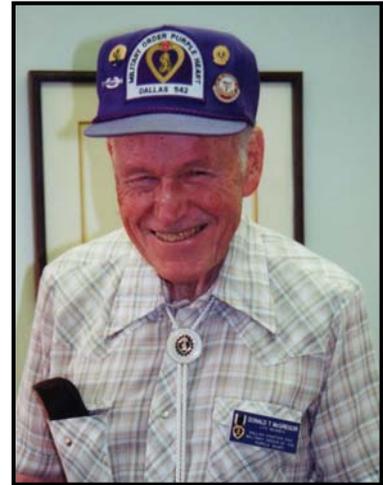
## CPL Donald T. McGregor

D-Co, 409th



Donald T. McGregor was born in a farm house on March 20, 1924 about half way between McGregor and Crawford, Texas. He lived there for four years until his father, M.T. McGregor, entered Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He lived in Waco for 7 years until his father assumed the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Veribest, TX, close to San Angelo.

He lived in Veribest three years until his father assumed the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Mertzon, Texas.



Don was attending Baylor as a 17-year-old freshman when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He volunteered for the Army in November, 1942. He joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps as part of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) to guarantee completion of the sophomore year of college. He was in pre-Engineering at Texas A&I in Kingsville, TX. He took his ASTP basic training at Camp Maxey, TX. As plans for invasion of Europe were developed, the ASTP program was disbanded; in other words, Uncle Sam needed infantry. The entire Texas A&I, ASTP student body reported to Camp Howze, TX in the Spring of 1944. He played trombone in the regimental band in basic training.

Don was assigned to Co-D, 409<sup>th</sup> of the 103d Division as a 'Heavy' machine gunner. He rose to the status of 1<sup>st</sup> Gunner in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> Section. He arrived in Marseille, France on October 20, 1944 via the USS Monticello and served in combat until he was wounded and captured at Selestat on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don spent the remainder of the war as a POW, barely surviving a hard labor POW work camp in Czechoslovakia. He weighed less than 100 pounds when he made it back to American lines after V-E Day.

After the war, he returned to Baylor, majoring in communications. He was the editor emeritus of the Baptist Record, the state Baptist paper for Mississippi. He launched his journalism career in 1948 with the Midland, Texas, Reporter-Telegram. He was also the continuity director for radio station KCRS. He then accepted a job as editorial associate at the Baptist Standard, state Baptist paper for Texas. After four years, he switched to the Dallas Times Herald as make-up editor for the business news department and then served as real estate editor.