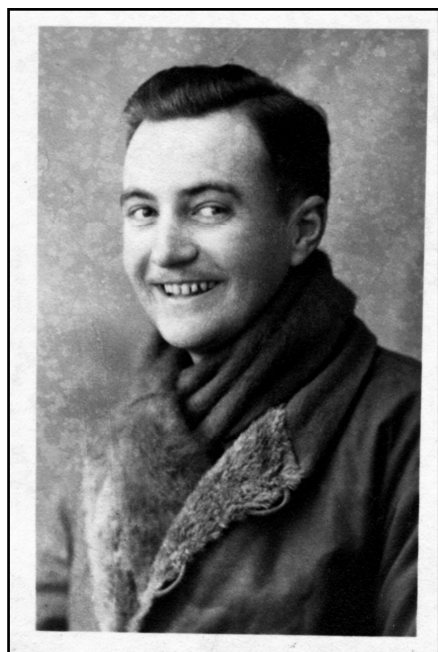




*103d Infantry Division (Cactus)
Company G, 409th Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion, First Platoon*



- Sgt. Gordon Jones Flenniken -



Gordon Jones Flenniken was born on December 26, 1921 in Shreveport LA to Gordon Morgan Flenniken and Blanche Jones Flenniken. In May 1939 he graduated 3rd highest in his class at Lubbock High School, Lubbock, Texas. He then attended two years at Texas Tech where he was studying Petroleum Engineering and was also the “first drummer” in the Tech Concert Band. He was always a member of the band wherever he went. He loved music.

He also loved to fly and completed the Pilot Training Program of Civil Aeronautics Administration in 1941. Soon after, the U.S. Army offered him a chance to continue his career in aviation as a U.S. Army Aviation Cadet. He had applied for appointment with the Army Air Force in June 1942, but was rejected when they discovered he was color blind. He then volunteered as a ‘Class A’ glider pilot and was sent to Randolph Field July 1942, but was rejected because his “chest was ¼” too small.”

After being rejected for OCS, he gave up his dream of flying and enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a private at Lubbock, Texas on September 8, 1942.

From one of Gordon’s letters written in 1943: “I was supposed to have been returned from the Reception Center at Ft Sill, Oklahoma to Lubbock Army Flying School. Eighty-one of us were sent to Camp Luna, Las Vegas, New Mexico by mistake. Here I became a member of the 95th A.A.F. Band – which two months later became famous as the official Air Transport Command Band, by order of Gen. George. I was very proud to be a charter member of such a fine organization. We had an 85 piece band that would compare with the Army, Navy, or Marine Bands. Then, they found me – five months later – and I was returned to L.A.F.S., (Lubbock Air Field) and assigned to the band there. They had too many men – so nine of us – came to Pampa as a cadre to form the 385th. This proved to be rather a successful venture. I was very happy there as we had a very smooth running organization – due to a very young C.O. and a darn swell bunch of fellows.” (He was at Camp Luna from September 1942 to January 1943; then 328th AAF Band, Lubbock Army Air Field January 1943 to February 1943; then 385th AAF Band, Pampa Army Air Field, Pampa, Texas, March 1943 to June 1943)



June 12, 1943 he was assigned to 3rd STU TNG CO., ASTU No. 3800 – College Station (Texas A&M) in the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program). He was studying mechanical engineering and had been promised on completion of this program an officer's rank or at a minimum TSgt. In October 1943 he married Helen Bryans whom he had met at Pampa AAF. He was made a Squad Leader at school and attained the rank of Sgt.

About April 1944, the ASTP program was suddenly cancelled, and he was assigned to the 409th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division, and sent to Camp Howze Texas for combat training.

On September 21, 1944 his unit arrived at Camp Shanks, New York where on October 6, they departed for Marseille France aboard the U.S.S. Monticello. He was in combat in France, Germany and Austria. Soon after VE Day the 103rd members were reassigned or returned to the States for discharge. Gordon did not have enough "points" to be sent home. In July 1945, he managed to get transferred to 61 AGF Band Headquarters, 3rd US Army located in Bad Tolz, Germany. On November 23, 1945 he was transferred to the 42nd Field Hospital at Nancy, France until he was discharged and sent back to the States in January 1946.

Gordon and his wife, Helen, were finally able to live together as husband and wife for the first time after two and a half years of marriage. Gordon worked for his father's business in Texas for a few years. He and his wife had two sons and eventually set up their permanent home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where he started his own successful business manufacturing aluminum nameplates and vinyl decals. He lived in Oklahoma City until his death May 7, 1978. He never spoke of his days in the Army to his family, but he kept all of his letters to his wife and hers to him, as well as all of his military information, patches, stripes, special orders etc. so that his descendants would know his story. He was a very loving husband, father, and grandfather. He suffered for years with emphysema and died far too soon.



If anyone has additional information about Gordon, please contact:

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