

THE MAZE

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

May 2010 Edition

Submitted by Mrs. Jean (Middlebrooks) Shroyer

108 High Plains Trail, Spicewood, TX 78669-8648

IN MEMORIAM

Juedon "Don" Dale Middlebrooks

Born: February 7, 1923
Deceased: March 10, 1978



Juedon "Don" Dale Middlebrooks graduated from Commerce High School in 1941 after which he enlisted in the United States Army/Air Force. He was very proud of his high school days. Known as "Don" by some and "Juedon" by others, he was born on a farm in Texas, near the town of Ladonia, in Fannin County, the fourth of five children born to Claude Finis Middlebrooks and Eva Atma (Eva Mae Jernigan.)

At Commerce High School he enjoyed playing football. In later years, he always made a point to never miss a televised game on the weekends or holidays. His favorite team being the "Froggies" of TCU.

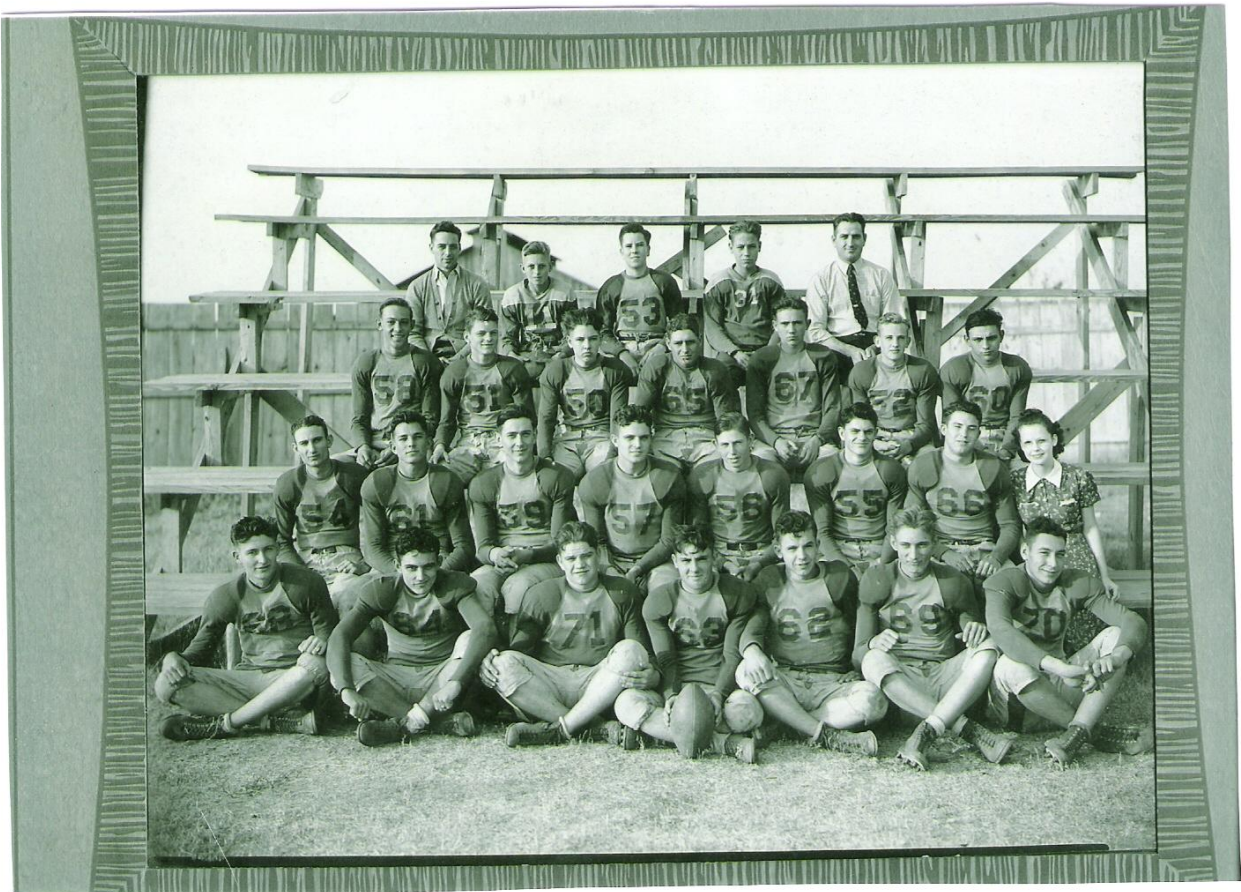
On May 29, 1941 Juedon joined the United States Army. He was sent to March Field, California for training and was assigned afterwards to a bomb wing squadron in the Pacific as a tail gunner flying B-24 aircraft. He had flown 32 missions against the Japanese. On February 10, 1944, just two days after he turned 21, he was decorated with the Air Medal and given two Oak Leaf Clusters for his participation in combat in the islands. While stationed in the Pacific, he paid visits to some of his buddies between missions, one being Leroy Byers, a friend he had known from Ladonia.

On March 16, 1944, he was given the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Oak Leaf Cluster for having flown over 23 missions in a B-24 as a tail-gunner.

He married Tex Yuma Heinrich on December 24, 1942. He had met Tex, as she was called by friends, while being temporarily stationed in Tucson. She was 16 and he was 19. During the fall of 1945, Tex planned a trip to Texarkana to visit Juedon's family, arriving in time to deliver their first and only child, Carol Jean, born on September 26, 1945.

The farm life he knew as a boy seemed to rejuvenate him in the last days before he passed on. He planted a garden and grew vegetables at his home in Crowley, Texas from 1972 to 1977, until his health became worse.

On March 10, 1978 Juedon passed away due to a short-termed illness in Dallas, Texas. His body was laid to rest at Sonora Cemetary in Fairlie, Texas.



Top Row, the student just to the left of the coach is Juedon "Don" Dale Middlebrooks, age 14 yrs. From the early days of playing football for Commerce High School to the time before his death, Juedon loved football and watched it every weekend on his television. His favorite team in Texas was the TCU "Frogs."

My father is age 14 or so in this photo, being born 07 February 1923. When he joined the Army/Air Force in 1942, he was age 16, but lied to be able to join in Dallas, Texas, with the recruiting office. His mother was so upset with him as mothers can be, but he was proud to go and serve his country with others. Later while fighting in the Pacific campaign, his aircraft was shot with many bullet holes and by the "Grace of God" they made it back to the airbase! He called that experience "On a wing and a prayer"! He had served with the 908th Bombardment Squadron out of March Field, California, in 1942, but had stopped over in Tucson, Arizona, at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, en-route to California. He met, by chance of a blind date, "Tex" Yuma Heinrich, a young woman of age 16, who later became his wife and my mother. After his return from overseas (32 missions), he was stationed near Las Vegas, Nevada, and was assigned to guarding the atomic bomb before it was sent on the Enola Gay to its mission in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES IN AUSTIN

The TSLAC (Texas State Library and Archives) in Austin, Texas, are in the current process of moving the genealogy books/materials/films to the new 2nd floor location at the state library building. The Reference section will be on the first floor where the genealogy used to be (Room 101). There are lockers on the first floor for patrons to place their belongings and backpacks, etc. There is a vending machine room on the first floor, also, with a snack machine and drink machine. The Archives portion of the library has remained on the first floor and is where it has been in past times. By July 1st, 2010, all of the materials and departments are hoping to have things back on track and running smoothly. Hours for now are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For any questions you may have, visit the TSLAC website at: www.tsl.state.tx.us.

REMEMBER the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 2010 Meeting/Reunion, September 8, 9, 10, 11, 2010. The hotel is Wingate by Wyndham and is conveniently located in the heart of Georgia, directly off Exit 169 on I-75. Please make your reservations by calling (478) 476-8100 no later than August 8, 2010, stating you are with the Middlebrooks Family Reunion. Anyone with Georgia family information, please contact Joyce Arnold, 2904 Trinity Dr., Pearland, TX 77584, joycenjim@sbcglobal.net, or call 281-485-8044. Thank you.

Have a great summer.

MIDDLEBROOK/S FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ON-GOING PROJECTS

Cemetery.....J.A. Middlebrooks

DNA.....Bob Middlebrooks,
Dave Clark and Henry Middlebrooks

MFA Website.....Dave Clark
and Leonard Middlebrooks

Family Repository.....Jean Shroyer

Family Register Update.....Leonard Middlebrooks

Military Register Update

Michael Kerry Middlebrooks.....mbrooks@gci.net

MFA Web Site: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~midregerrata>

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc. was founded in 2001 for the purpose of assembling and preserving genealogical and historical material for future generations. MFA has two publications, as below.

THE MAZE, issued each February, May, August, and November, is sent to everyone on the MFA mailing list. It is free to both paid and non-paid members. If you want to be removed from this list, please contact the Secretary at joycenjim@sbcglobal.net.

MFA Quarterly Newsletter is published four times a year (December, March, June, and September) by the Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc., 274 Wilder Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029. Subscription is free to paid members of MFA only. Articles for inclusion in the Quarterly, or suggestions for topics, may be sent to Jarrelyn Lang, Editor, at thelangs@hotmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

MFA Membership is \$20.00 per year, September 01 thru August 31.