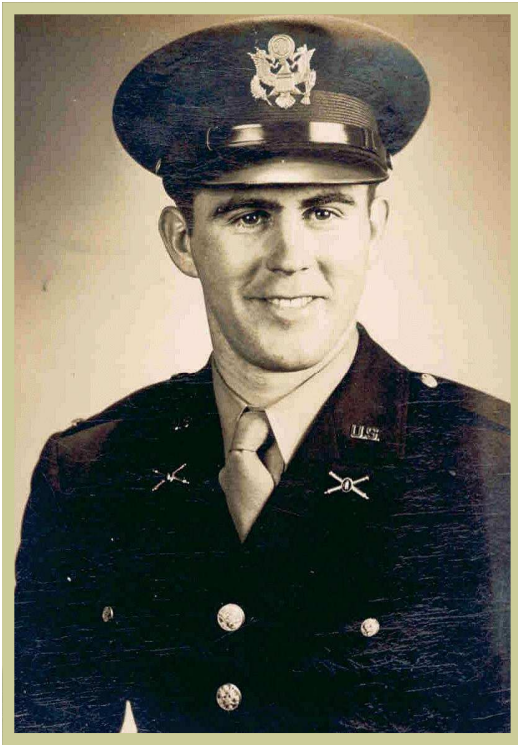


Denver W. Kunz

Army Air Force Anti-Aircraft Artillery



**Denver W. Kunz
Squadron Commander, PTO**

I was drafted in January, 1943 and completed basic training at Palacios, Texas. I graduated as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery in January, 1944. After transferring to the Infantry, I graduated from the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Georgia in April, 1944. At Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas, I trained and retrained infantry replacements until May, 1945 when I volunteered for overseas duty.

In June, 1945, I was transferred to the Army Air Corps and appointed Squadron Commander of the 11 Air Cargo Resupply Squadron. This unit was attached to I Corps, Sixth Army in Luzon, Philippines. The mission of this squadron was to deliver

all supplies needed by our troops fighting in the mountains of Northern Luzon. Supplies were picked up from a ship and delivered via C-47 planes from the Lingayen Airstrip. I was awarded the Air Medal for this action.

Beginning in mid-July 1945, my unit was being trained for the invasion of the Japanese homeland. The A-bomb changed this mission. I attended the signing of an armistice in Baguio, Luzon on September 2, 1945. My unit was moved to Kyoto, Honshu, Japan in mid-October. Our personnel were assigned to administer the railroads in the southern half of Japan during the occupation.

I returned home in September, 1946, however, I remained in the Active Air Force Reserves until September, 1982.

Denver W. Kunz
Lt. Col. AF Retired
Carlinville, IL

Denver's Plane



Denver W. Kunz

Army Air Force Anti-Aircraft Artillery

Illinois Veteran & Community Classroom Project 's Interview with Denver Kunz

Denver was video interviewed by Gillespie High School Student Video Production Class, Mr. Jerry Rosentreter & Mr. Jack Burns—Teachers in June, 2009

The raw footage from that interview was submitted and accepted to the US Library of Congress—Veterans History Project archives.

Students from Gillespie High School then created a documentary showcasing Denver's personal memories.

That digital documentary can be found at the Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Project website at <http://ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/VideoGallery/VideoPlayer/tabid/136/VideoId/31/Default.aspx>



Among the stories that Denver related to the students from Gillespie HS students is the following moving story:

Missions to Air Drop Supplies to U.S. Forces in the Mountains of the Philippines (Paraphrased by V. C. DeWitt)

My first combat assignment was being in charge of troops assigned to “mop up” Japanese snipers and holdouts in the Philippines. Not a pleasant task.

I was next assigned to a group who was airlifting supplies to the Allied troops in the mountains in the Philippines.

I was made Squadron Commander of this unit

shortly after taking this assignment. On my first day, I found out the reason I was put in charge. Shortly before my arrival the previous Squadron Commander while on an airdrop mission had been sucked out of the back of a C47 Cargo plane.

Our group would take 3-5 planes on at least 3



missions a day weather permitting. During these missions we would be receive ground fire from the Japanese. I didn't think much of this small arms fire until one day I walked around the plane and saw multiple bullet holes not far from where I had stood as we pushed airdrop supplies out of the plane. “Some how this made me realize...this is real!”

(Denver related to us that this is when he learned to fly. The pilot “Big Tex” would hand over the pilot's control Denver on a regular basis. Quote from Denver, “I loved it!”)

Denver W. Kunz

Army Air Force Anti-Aircraft Artillery



**Den-
Wayne Kunz
September 04, 1922 - July 08, 2014**

Denver W. Kunz 91, of Carlinville, formerly of Bunker Hill, died at 8:45 am, Tuesday, July 7, 2014, at Phelps County Regional Medical Center in Rolla, Missouri.

Denver was born September 4, 1922 in Bingham, Illinois, the son of Walter D. and Nellie (Greenwood) Kunz. Denver was married on June 30, 1951 to Pauline L. Bennett in Urbana, Illinois and she preceded him in death on March 31, 1985. He later married Dorothy J. Litton on April 21, 1987 and she preceded him in death on August 30, 2005.

Denver graduated Fillmore High School in May, 1940, farmed full time until 1942, and then was a brakeman on the Illinois Central Railroad from August, 1942 until he was drafted into World War II in January, 1943, where he trained troops in Arkansas and Texas.

Denver served in the Pacific Theater beginning in April, 1945, most notably in the Air Cargo Resupply Squadron, flying a C-47 to drop supplies to troops in the mountains of Luzon, Philippines. After

the war, he was transferred to Gen. MacArthur's headquarters in Kyoto, Japan, promoted to an officer and was tasked with administering railway service in the southern half of Japan. Denver joined the active Air Force Reserve in 1947 and retired from the Reserve in 1982 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Denver attended the University of Illinois and graduated with a B.S. in Education in 1949. Denver moved to Carlinville and was Farm Management Field man for the U of I Agriculture Extension from January, 1951 to April, 1961, teaching Cost Accounting and Farm Practices to over 200 farmers in 9 counties in southwestern Illinois. In 1961, Denver moved his family to a farm in Bunker Hill, where he farmed full time as well as serving many of his established clients in Accounting and Management. During the 1970s, he expanded his services to include Estate Planning and Tax Preparation. In 1983, Denver and Pauline moved back to Carlinville where he maintained his business until his retirement in 2008 at age 86.

Denver was a charter member and treasurer of the Illinois Veterans WWII Committee to build the WWII Memorial at Oak Ridge Cemetery. He also initiated the Illinois Veterans WWII Scholarship. One of Denver's proudest achievements was his vision and efforts to start, fund and see to fruition, the Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Project. He was an active member of the United Methodist churches, both in Carlinville and Bunker Hill, and was an active member of Kiwanis International in Bunker Hill. He also had an active interest in political matters.