

## Lippman Family History

Paul Charles (grandfather) arrived in a small town near Minneapolis with an older brother Oscar and a sister, from Berlin, Germany. Paul attended business school in Minneapolis as did grandmother, Edith. They were married at school's end in Minneapolis,

Harold Lippman, our dad, was born in 1903 and was an only child. His family moved to Lemmon in 1907. Paul built the Dakota Implement co. in 1908 and sold Chevrolet, Buick, and John Deere equipment. He and Edith built their home in 1908, also. In 1928, Paul and Edith sold out and moved to Los Angeles. Harold attended school in Lemmon and later married Arleen Swan. They had six children; five survived: Camilla, Phyllis, Gordon, Marlys, and Paul.

Arlene Swan was born in Wisconsin Rapids, WI in 1903. They moved to Redfield, SD and then on to Lemmon. Harold and Arleen built their home in about 1930. They schooled all of us children in Lemmon at St. Mary's Grade School and Lemmon High School. Harold worked for his father in the Dakota Implement Co. Harold and Arlene, along with Marlys and Paul, moved to Hot Springs, SD in 1942 and then on to Igloo, the Black Hills Ordinance Depot. Harold worked for the fire department in Civil Service.

Gordon left the prior summer for Compton, CA. He found work at Smith's Market. Gordon had visited us late summer of 1942. Grandmother, Edith, bought Gordon a Model A, with a rumble seat for \$60. He drove all the way back to Lemmon and returned to California in his Ford. He joined the Army in March of 1943.

Arlene and Harold moved to Hill City, SD in 1947 to retire, however, they owned and operated A & H Grocery there for 28 years.

Gregory, their fifth child, died in Lemmon at six months.

Gordon married and had two sons and one daughter. He was killed in action in Vietnam in December 1965.

Harold (dad) died in Hill City in 1966.

Camilla married and had two daughters. She died in San Diego, CA in the mid 1980's.

Arlene (mother) died in Grandview WA 1996.

Phyllis married and had two sons and two daughters. She died in Boise, ID in 2004.

Paul married and had two daughters. He died in Indio, CA in 2003.

Marlys married and had one daughter. She is alive and well and living in Vista, CA

## REMEMBERING

### Gordon Joseph Lippman



1924 – 1965

Medal dedication for Gordon was July 7, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at  
Petrified Museum, Lemmon, SD

Although Gordon's parents lived in Lemmon, Gordon Joseph Lippman was born at his grandparents' home in Zap, ND on November 25, 1924. Immediately, he returned with his mother to their home in Lemmon, SD where he attended school at St Mary's Catholic Grade School and Lemmon High School. While in high school he was in basketball, football, the camera club, theater, a member of the yearbook staff, a cheerleader, an honor student, and a representative to Boy's State.



17 years



16 years old  
Lemmon H.S.

Gordon enlisted in the Army in March of 1943 and after basic training was sent to the European Theatre with the "517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment Combat Team". In WWII, Gordon was wounded in December 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge, for which he was awarded a battlefield commission of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. His commission was based on these incidents: "On 21 December 1944, the 1<sup>st</sup> BN, was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division and committed against the German break through Belgium near Soy. The BN was ordered to attack at once and clear the road from Soy to Hotten and also to clear Hotten, half of which was held by MP's and cooks from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division and the other half by the enemy. The first attempt to clear the road to Hotten failed. The Battalion Commander then decided that Co. B of the 1<sup>st</sup> BN would continue the attack to Hotten and he, the BN Commander, would take Co A mounted on tanks and halftracks and try to get into Hotten from a rear route. The machine gun platoon was attached to Co. A for this action and as the platoon leader was absent, Sgt. Lippman commanded the platoon. Co. A managed to get into Hotten and attack toward Soy. Sgt. Lippman and six machine guns were with the attacking platoon. They cleared part of the town. Sgt. Lippman then set his machine guns in the captured buildings and held for the rest of the night."

Following the end of World War II, Lippman remained in the service. During an extensive tour of duty in Germany following the Korean War, he and his wife, Lucille, adopted three children.

He was a battalion operations officer with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup>

Division in Korean where he was again wounded and awarded the nation's second highest award for extraordinary heroism, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Lt. Col. Lippman graduated from the National Army War College. He also received his Master's Degree from Georgetown University.

On the night of 11 December 1965, several Viet Cong snipers had infiltrated the perimeter of his camp. Lt. Col. Lippman died from small arms fire in hostile ground action at Lai Khe doing what he had been doing throughout three wars, trying to help his men. He had served 22 years in the service.

Lt. Col. Lippman was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The same caisson and white horses that were used for President Kennedy were used for Gordon. The ceremony was nationally televised. His grave is Plot #4040F Sec. 3, close to General Pershing's. On July 1, 1955, he was admitted to "The Legion of Valor of the U.S."

Along with the Distinguished Service Cross, Gordon was awarded the Silver Star with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster; Purple Heart with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters; Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster; Good Conduct Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 1 silver service star with arrowhead; World War II Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Medal with Japan clasp; National Defense Service Medal with 1 bronze service star; Korean Service Medal with 1 bronze star with 1 silver service star; Vietnam Service medal with 1 bronze service star; United Nations Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device (1960); RVN 5<sup>th</sup> Class Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII; Parachutest Badge – Master; Combat Infantryman Badge 3<sup>rd</sup> Award.

He was written about in the book "No Place to Die" by Hugh Mulligan, discussed on radio on December 30, 1965 by Paul Harvey News, and was a topic of the Harry Reasoner Report for CBS News on December 20 1965. He was also featured in the book, "Fallen South Dakota Sons and Daughters" and "Lemmon – The First 100 Years". More information at [www.legionofvalor.com](http://www.legionofvalor.com).

His name can be found on Panel 04E Line 012 of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.



Gordon and Lucille (Meier) and their children Mark, Lura Lee, and Michael in Vienna, VA. Taken in 1965