

## BIOGRAPHY

### MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE LAFAYETTE MABRY, JR

George L. Mabry, Jr., was born in Stateburg, South Carolina, September 14, 1917. He graduated from Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve. He began his active military service on July 5, 1940, with an assignment to the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia.

He remained with the 4th Infantry Division as a member of the 8th Infantry Regiment from 1940 through 1945. During this period, he rose from the rank of second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, serving as platoon leader, company commander, battalion S3, battalion executive officer, and battalion commander of the regiment's second battalion, as well as the regimental executive officer.

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A veteran of the June 6, 1944 D-Day landing on Utah Beach in Normandy, he fought with the 4th Infantry Division through France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany. In an attack through the Huertgen Forest near Schevenhutte, Germany, Major Mabry won his country's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for conspicuous bravery above and beyond the call of duty when he singlehandedly prepared a path through a German minefield, captured three enemy bunkers, and killed three Germans, shooting two of them and bayonetting another who was attempting to kill him with a pistol.

With his rifle butt he injured another German, putting him out of action, and captured nine more enemy soldiers. England also recognized this action during the Huertgen Forest Fighting and awarded him their Distinguished Service Order.

Following World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Mabry was assigned to Headquarters, First U. S. Army, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He accompanied the Army headquarters when it subsequently moved to Governor's Island, New York. On 7 December 1944 he was integrated into the Regular Army. In 1946 Lieutenant Colonel Mabry attended the Infantry Officers' Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation, in June 1947, he remained at Fort Benning, as a member of the Staff and Faculty of the U. S. Army Infantry School. In 1949 he continued his military schooling by attending the Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from which he graduated in September 1950.

In September 1950, Lieutenant Colonel Mabry was assigned to the 33d Infantry Regiment, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone, and briefly served as Commanding Officer of the 3d Battalion, until he left on a temporary assignment to assist in forming a Replacement Training Center in Puerto Rico. Upon completing this special assignment, he returned to the 33d Infantry and served as Commander of its 1st Battalion and later Regimental Executive Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Mabry became Chief of Operations Branch, Office of the G3 for U. S. Army Forces Caribbean at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, in June 1952, and in February 1953 was named Assistant G3 for that Command. During this period he was instrumental in establishing the U. S. Army Jungle Warfare Training Center at Fort Sherman, Canal Zone.

In July 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Mabry returned to the United States and attended the Armed Forces Staff College, at Norfolk, Virginia. Upon completion of this schooling, he served as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G3, in Headquarters, Continental Army Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia. During this period he was instrumental in developing the M113 and M114 full track Infantry Personnel Carrier and Command and Reconnaissance Vehicle.

Colonel Mabry's next overseas assignment came in January 1956 when he went to Korea and served as Commanding Officer of the 31st Infantry Regiment, Seventh Infantry Division, until October of that year, when he became G3 of I Corps (Group). Upon returning to the United States he commanded the Third Training Regiment at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from January to July 1957, when he attended the National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, graduating in 1958. He then served as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Department of the Army until July 1960.

Colonel Mabry next served with the Operations Directorate (J-3), Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the Pentagon until July 1962 when he was assigned to the Canal Zone as Chief of the Collateral Activities Branch J-3, in Headquarters Caribbean Command. During this period he was instrumental in developing and supervising the Civic Action Program in 21 countries in Central and South America.

In July, 1963, General Mabry was assigned as Director, J-3, of Headquarters, United States Southern Command, at Quarry Heights, Canal Zone.

General Mabry assumed command of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas 1 Aug 65 and continued in that capacity until January 1966.

In January, 1966, General Mabry was selected by the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, to head an evaluation team of 100 officers and civilian scientists in the Republic of Vietnam. General Mabry's team evaluated U. S. Army Combat Operations in Vietnam. The nine volume study is known as the ARCOV Report. After his return from the Republic of Vietnam on 25 April 1966, General Mabry resumed command of the 1st Armored Division.

On 25 July 1966 Brigadier General Mabry became Commanding General of the United States Army Combat Developments Command Experimentation Command at Fort Ord, California.

On 29 November 1966 he was promoted to the temporary rank of Major General.

Major General Mabry commanded the 8th Infantry Division, Bad Kreuznach, Germany, from 7 January 1968 to 1 March 1969.

On 29 August 1968 he was promoted to the permanent rank of Brigadier General.

Major General Mabry returned to the Republic of Vietnam on 14 April 1969 and became the Chief of Staff and Assistant Deputy Commanding General, Headquarters, United States Army Forces Vietnam (USARV). He retained this assignment until 15 Sep 1970.

On 4 December 1970 Major General Mabry assumed command of the US Army Forces Southern Command, Fort Amador, Canal Zone.

On 18 January 1975 Major General Mabry assumed command of U. S. Army Readiness Region V with Headquarters at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

In August 1975 Major General Mabry retired from Active Service and now resides in Columbia, South Carolina.

## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia; Camp Gordon, Georgia; Fort Dix, New Jersey; Camp Johnson, Florida	Jul 40	Jan 44
8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division European Theater of Operations	Jan 44	Jul 45
Regimental Executive Officer, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Camp Butner, North Carolina	Jul 45	Jan 46
G3 Staff Officer, Headquarters First Army, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Governor's Island, New York	Jan 46	Sep 46
Student Officer, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia	Sep 46	Jun 47
Staff & Faculty, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia	Jun 47	Sep 49
Student Officer, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas	Sep 49	Jul 50
Battalion Command and Regimental Executive Officer, 33d Infantry, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone	Jul 50	Jun 52
Operations and Training Staff Officer, US Army Caribbean, Fort Amador, Canal Zone	Jun 52	Feb 53
Assistant G3, US Army Caribbean, Fort Amador, Canal Zone	Feb 53	Jul 53
Student Officer, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia	Aug 53	Jan 54
G3 Staff Officer, Headquarters, Army Field Forces (Later designated Continental Army Command), Fort Monroe, Virginia	Jan 54	Jan 56
Regimental Commander, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, Korea	Jan 56	Oct 56
G3, Headquarters, I Corps (Group), Korea	Oct 56	Jan 57

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Headquarters, US Army Training Center, Infantry, Fort Jackson, South Carolina	Jan 57	Jun 57
Regimental Commander, 3d Training Regiment, USATC (Inf), Fort Jackson, South Carolina	Jun 57	Aug 57
Student Officer, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D. C.	Aug 57	Jan 58
Staff Officer, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, DA, Washington, D. C.	Jul 58	Jun 60
Staff Officer, J-3, Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C.	Jul 60	Apr 62
Student Officer, US Army Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina	Apr 62	May 62
Chief, Collateral Activities Branch, Office of the J-3, Headquarters Caribbean Command, Quarry Heights, Canal Zone	Jun 62	May 63
Acting Chief of Staff, Headquarters Caribbean Command, Quarry Heights, Canal Zone (now renamed U. S. Southern Command)	May 63	Jul 63
Director, J-3, Headquarters, U. S. Southern Command	Jul 63	Jul 65
Division Commander, 1st Armored Division (Old Ironsides), Fort Hood, Texas	Aug 65	Dec 65
Chief, U. S. Army Evaluation Team, Republic of Vietnam	Jan 66	Apr 68
Division Commander, 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas	May 66	Jul 66
Commanding General, USA Combat Developments Com- mand Experimentation Command, Fort Ord, California	Jul 66	Jan 68
Commanding General, 8th Infantry Division, APO New York 09111 (Bad Kreuznach, Germany)	Jan 68	Apr 69

Assignments

From                      To

Chief of Staff, Assistant Deputy Commanding General, Headquarters, USARV, APO San Francisco 96375	Apr 69	Sep 70
Commander, United States Army Forces Southern Command, APO New York 09834	Dec 70	Dec 74
Commander, V Readiness Region, Fort Sheridan, Ill	Jan 75	Aug 75
Retired from Active Service. Now resides in Columbia, South Carolina	Aug 75	-----

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PROMOTIONS

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Temporary</u>	<u>Permanent (RA)</u>
2d Lieutenant	1 Jun 1940	
1st Lieutenant	1 Nov 1941	7 Dec 1944
Captain	8 Aug 1942	1 Jul 1948
Major	12 Jul 1944	2 Jul 1953
Lieutenant Colonel	9 Feb 1945	7 Dec 1961
Colonel	20 Jul 1955	7 Dec 1966
Brigadier General	6 May 1963	29 Aug 1968
Major General	1 Jul 1961	11 Aug 1969

LIST OF CITATIONS AND DECORATIONS

Medal of Honor  
Distinguished Service Cross  
Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster  
Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters  
Silver Star *GAK oak cluster and*  
Bronze Star Medal with V Device and Arrowhead  
Purple Heart  
Presidential Unit Citation  
Belgian Fourragere  
Distinguished Service Order (British)  
National Order 5th Class (VN)  
Gallantry Cross with Palm (VN)

*Was Awarded every Decoration  
For Bravery The US Can Bestow And The highest Award For Bravery The British Awarded A member of Allied Armed Forces.*

## SERVICE MEDALS

American Defense Service Medal  
World War II Victory Medal  
Distinguished Unit Badge  
European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal w/4 Bronze Stars  
National Defense Service Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster  
Vietnamese Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars  
Vietnam Campaign Medal

## BADGES

Combat Infantry Badge  
Department of Defense Identification Badge  
Department of Army Identification Badge  
Joint Chief of Staff Service Badge

PERSONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL - Major General Mabry is keenly interested in sports and enjoys playing baseball and softball and is an avid hunter and fisherman. He is also a strong supporter of youth activities.

## CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Congressional Medal of Honor Society  
Honorary member, American Legion  
Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Active in Boy Scout and Girl Scout Organizations

## RELIGION

Protestant (Episcopalian)

## EDUCATION

Presbyterian College - 1940 (BA)  
Infantry School (Advanced Officers Course ) - 1947  
Command and General Staff College - 1950  
Armed Forces Staff College - 1954  
National War College - 1958  
University of Pittsburg - 1960 (Management Course)  
USA Special Warfare School (counterinsurgency operations course) - '62

PERSONAL DATA

Born: 14 September 1917, Stateburg, South Carolina  
Father: George L. Mabry, Sr (Deceased)  
Mother: Alberta Stuckey Mabry (Deceased)  
Married: Eulena Myers, 16 Oct 1941 at Hagood, South Carolina  
Children: Abigail Eulena (2 Feb 46)  
George Lafayette, III (30 Jun 49)  
Benjamin Myers (18 Sep 54)

Permanent

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Columbia, South Carolina 29204

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MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION  
GEORGE L. MABRY, JR.

General Order No. 77, War Department, 10 Sep 45

Lieutenant Colonel George L. Mabry, Jr., 0390036, Infantry, Army of the United States, was commanding the 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, in an attack through the Huertgen Forest near Schevenhutte, Germany, on 20 November 1944. During the early phases of the assault, the leading elements of his battalion were halted by a mine field and immobilized by heavy hostile fire. Advancing alone into the mined area, Colonel Mabry established a safe route of passage. He then moved ahead of the foremost scouts, personally leading the attack, until confronted by a booby-trapped double concertina obstacle. With the assistance of the scouts, he disconnected the explosives and cut a path through the wire. Upon moving through the opening, he observed three enemy in fox holes whom he captured at bayonet point. Driving steadily forward, he paced the assault against three long bunkers which housed mutually supported automatic weapons. Racing up a slope ahead of his men, he found the initial bunker deserted, then pushed on to the second where he was suddenly confronted by nine onrushing enemy. Using the butt of his rifle, he felled one adversary and bayoneted a second before his scouts came to his aid and assisted him in overcoming the others in hand-to-hand combat. Accompanied by the riflemen, he charged the third bunker under point-blank, small-arms fire and led the way into the fortification from which he prodded six enemy at bayonet point. Following the consolidation of this area, Colonel Mabry led his battalion across 300 yards of position which menaced the enemy on both flanks and provided his regiment a firm foothold on the approach to the Cologne plain. Colonel Mabry's superlative courage, daring, and leadership in an operation of major importance exemplify the finest characteristics of the military service.

