

Mugg Pawless was born August 20, 1923 to William A and Della Pawless in Rosston, Texas, a small community in Cooke County. He was the youngest brother of five and had two sisters. He grew up in a rural farming community in north central Texas and learned survival skills such as working on cars, trucks, and farm machinery as well as growing crops during the depression years. He completed eight years at Oak Valley School east of Gainesville, but he recalled getting his real education at Omaha Beach during the D Day Invasion in Normandy, France, WWII. However, he did study later in life and got a G.E.D. to prove that he could!

At age 19, Mugg enlisted in the U.S. Army in January, 1943 and on February 3, 1943 was sent to Camp Swift, TX for basic training. He was assigned to the 146th Combat Engineer Battalion and was sent to Boston, MA in September where troops were loaded on a ship headed for England. Combat engineers from many other outfits trained together in England for a big invasion on some beach. His company was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division of the 1st Army commanded by Gen. Omar Bradley. This would be the training that would prepare all the troops to be ready at the moment they were called. LT Joe Gregory was in charge of Boat Crew #10 where Mugg made the journey across the channel to the beach. He completed his assignment on June 6, 1944, blowing up land mines with explosives on a fifty yard section of the beach before being shot in the leg. His lieutenant gave Mugg the sulfur drug out of his own pack before Mugg was taken to a ship for wounded men in the channel. (Later he was told that LT Gregory had been killed in action during the combat.) After recovering from his wounds in England, he was rejoined with his company in St. Lo, France where the fight against the German army continued. Mugg made his way through the Huertgen Forest in Belgium, the Battle of the Bulge, and Czechoslovakia before he was discharged.

After Mugg returned to his hometown of Gainesville, Texas, he worked any job he could. He married Hattie Orsburn on July 26, 1947. They had four children, and Mugg and she had a happy life in the community. Mugg worked in road construction, as a pumper for an oil company and retired from maintenance work for the state of Texas. Together with family they built a retirement log house where they lived east of Gainesville farming and raising livestock for many good years. Hattie's life ended in 2016, and Mugg continued to thrive and live at the ranch until he passed away January 9, 2022 at the age of 98.

He never talked about his life in the military until after the unit began to have reunions during his retirement years. His four older brothers, Roy, Joy, Glydell, and George were also in the military with George serving at Utah Beach also during the DDay Invasion. All five boys survived the war to return home.