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JUMP INTO THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

PRESS RELEASE

Announcing Book Publication and Signing

North Texas Veteran publishes book on WW II experiences.

Keller, Texas, September 2006: Years worth of work is realized this month with the publication of *Jump into the Valley of the Shadow*. Northeast Tarrant County resident, Dwayne T. Burns, started the first draft of the book as a way to preserve his experiences as a 82nd Airborne paratrooper in World War II for his children and grand children.

The first copy of the book was compiled on three-ring notebook paper, carefully hand-printed in pencil in the draftsman's style of his trade. Since that time it has been converted to electronic format in order to be more easily edited. Over the years Dwayne Burns was interviewed by reporters and many military writers. He is quoted in the popular works of Stephen Ambrose and Phil NORDYKE. Through some of these writers, Dwayne Burns came into contact with Gayle Wurst, a military book agent, who facilitated a contract with Casemate Publishing.

The publishers were very interested in the book, but wanted the stories presented in a different manner, so Dwayne Burns's son Leland began working on the manuscript in 2004. Many hours of research as well as interviews with his father and other paratroopers were needed to fill the gaps of memory from nearly 60 years of time. Leland completed a draft for the publishers in 2005 and then began work gathering photos and drawing maps of his father's campaigns in the war.

The book was to be released in June 2006, but delayed in order to be a part of the Military Book Club September selection, an honor reserved to a small percentage of military books written. Dwayne Burns saw the final draft of the book cover prior to passing away in August of 2006.

Jump into the Valley of the Shadow captures the memories of a teenager from Fort Worth drafted to fight in World War II when he turned 18. Like many other young men of that day, Dwayne Burns accepted serving in the war as his duty and left his family not knowing if they would ever see each other again. This work provides a fascinating insight into the reality of close-quarters combat and the daily life of the soldier. The story is told from the perspective of a home-town boy who is forced to mature into a man in history's greatest armed conflicts.

The Military Book Club web site comments that "*Jump* is a solid, well-structured, moving war memoir, and the most honest we've seen in a long time. It belongs on the shelf of every WW II buff out there."

Jump is unique in that it is appropriate for younger readers as well as adults. Readers of all ages are drawn into the story of a young Texan training for war and fighting alongside Americans from all walks of life.

The book now is available at major book sellers. A premier book signing is scheduled on Oct. 1 at Heritage Church of Christ in Keller, Texas. Several special guests are expected to attend the event, including WWII veterans and paratroopers, WWII reenactment groups and WWII book authors.

Leland Burns will be speaking on "Community and Country" at several book signings this fall. He served in the United States Air Force from 1974 to 1979. Leland has published articles in BirdTalk Magazine and American Federation of Aviculture Conference Proceedings where he was a featured speaker. Premier book signings with Leland Burns are scheduled at the following locations:

- Sept. 30 at the National WW II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Oct. 1 at Heritage Church of Christ in Keller, Texas.
- Oct. 7 at Keller Friends of the Library in Keller, Texas.
- Additional events will be available as they are scheduled on the book website www.jumpintothevalley.com