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Lt. Gen. Gavin, War Hero, To Be Speaker In Sunbury

Lieutenant General James M. Gavin, principal speaker on the Fort Augusta Bicentennial program, is one of the storied heroes of World War II in which he commanded the 82nd Airborne Division and gained the reputation of always leading his men as they made parachute drops from planes. The record of "General Slim Jim" in the invasions of Sicily and France is among the most brilliant growing out of that struggle.

A native of Northumberland County, Lt. Gen. Gavin has risen from private to his present rank and his present assignment is Chief of Research and Development, U. S. Army. He has figured prominently in the public prints in recent months in connection with the Army's guided missile and other advanced weapons programs.

Born in Mount Carmel March 22, 1907, he enlisted in the Regular Army in April, 1924 and served until June 1925, advancing to the rank of corporal. In July 1925 he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He was graduated from the Academy and commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry on June 13, 1929.

As a lieutenant his service took him through tours of duty with the 25th Infantry in Arizona, the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, the 38th and 29th Infantries at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the 57th Infantry (Philippine Scouts) and finally the 7th Infantry at Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

In 1939 he was promoted to the grade of Captain and in August 1940 became an instructor in the Department of Tactics at the U.S. Military Academy.

A year later he attended the Parachute School and upon graduation was assigned to the 503rd Parachute Battalion. In December 1941 he became Plans and Training Officer of the Provisional Parachute Group at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the following April was designated G-3 of the Airborne Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In September 1942 he was promoted to the grade of Colonel and went to Europe in command of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Under his command the 505th Parachute Combat Team spearheaded the assault of Sicily on the night of July 9, 1943, and he commanded the regiment in the parachute landing on Salerno Bay the night of September 14, 1943.

He was promoted to Brigadier General in September 1943 and in October 1943 was appointed Assistant Division Commander of the 82d Airborne Division while on duty in Naples, Italy. The following month he went to London, England, as Airborne Advisor, to

LT. GENERAL JAMES M. GAVIN

the Supreme Commander. He remained on duty with the Supreme Allied Command until February 1944 when he returned to the 82d Airborne Division as Assistant Commander at Leicester, England.

As assistant Commander of the 82d Airborne Division, he participated in the parachute invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He assumed command of the Division in August 1944, and shortly thereafter commanded the airborne operation in the vicinity of Nijmegen, Holland. He was promoted to Major General in October 1944. General Gavin retained command of the 82d Airborne Division throughout the remainder of the war, participating in the Battle of the Bulge in the Spring Offensive in 1945.

In July 1945 he moved with the Division to Berlin, Germany where he served as American mandantura, in addition to his duties as Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. In December 1945 he returned to the United States where he commanded the 82d at Fort Bragg, North Carolina until March 1948.

He was then appointed Chief of Staff of the Fifth Army at Chicago, Illinois, until April 1949 when he returned to Washington, D.C. as Army Member of the Weapons Evaluation Group in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In June 1951 General Gavin again went overseas where he served initially as Chief of Staff of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe. In December of 1952 he assumed command of the U.S. VII Corps in Germany. He was reassigned from that command to Washington, D.C. in March of 1953 at which time he became the G-3 of the Department of the Army.

In March of 1955 he was designated as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research of the Department of the Army and promoted to the grade of Lieutenant General.

On October 10 1955, General Gavin was appointed Chief of Research and Development with status as a Deputy Chief of Staff.

In addition, General Gavin is the author of a book, "Airborne Warfare" published in 1947 by the Combat Forces Press, and several magazine articles which include: "The Future of Armor," The Infantry Journal and Armor, 1947; "Tactical Use of Atomic Weapons," Infantry Journal, 1951; "Cavalry —and I Don't Mean Horses," Harper's, 1954. He has also written a number of articles on airborne warfare which were published in The Infantry Journal, 1946-1947.

His decorations include: Distinguished Service Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Distinguished Service Medal; Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant; Purple Heart; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with arrowhead and one silver service star (in lieu of five bronze service stars) and one bronze service star for participation in the Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe campaigns; World War II Victory paigns: World War II Victory with Germany Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Parachutist Badge with four combat jump stars, Distinguished Unit Emblem. Belgian: Order of the Crown with Palm, Grade of Commander Croix de Guerre With Palm (1940); France: Legion of Honor, Rank of Officer Croix de Guerre with Palm; Great Britian: Distinguished Service Order; Italy: Order of the Crown, Grand Officer; Netherlands: Ordef of Orange-Nassau, with Swords, Grand Officer; Morocco: Order of Ouissam Alaouite Cherifian, Grade of Grand -Officer; USSR: Russian Order of Alexander Novsky; Belgian Fourragere; French Fourragere; Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

Lt. Gen. Gavin will be accompanied to Sunbury by his wife, arriving Aug. 29 and leaving the following day. They will be guests of the Bicentennial executive committee at dinner during the interval between the afternoon program and the parade Wednesday, August 29.

MISSING PERSON

MEMPHIS (AP)—The head of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Miss Sue Lackey, still wonders about the fellow whose letter of inquiry gave a Los Angeles jail as a home address.

The Bureau's reply was returned after shuttling through several departments at the jail. It was stamped:

"Trusty."
"Not in jail."
"Escaped."

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