

JESSE FAIN SCARLETT "PEE WEE" STORY  
b. 13 April 1920 – d. 14 June 1973, IL  
s/o Franklin Dow Scarlett & Martha Ella Hutchison  
By Jerry Tammer "Gus" Denny



You read the story of dancing and knife fighting about one episode of Pee Wee. In short Jessie Fain Scarlett was a fighting machine. He was raised in a time of struggle and survival of the fittest as was so many others people in that era. Prior to WWII Pee Wee never lost a local street fight while his brother Felix never won one. Once the dad of these boys told Felix if he ever found anyone who he could whip, please bring him home with him and they would take care of him so Felix would have his trophy close by.

*(Pictured left: Jackie Wallace and Jesse Fain "Pee Wee" Scarlett. Jesse was a highly decorated soldier in WWII. He was with the Third Army under the leadership of General Patton. He landed in Normandy on D Day and*

*was with Patton all during the war. He was awarded 2 silver metals and 1 bronze infantry badge for the Battle of the Bulge and was captured for 3 days. Picture and caption from the book: Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 184).*

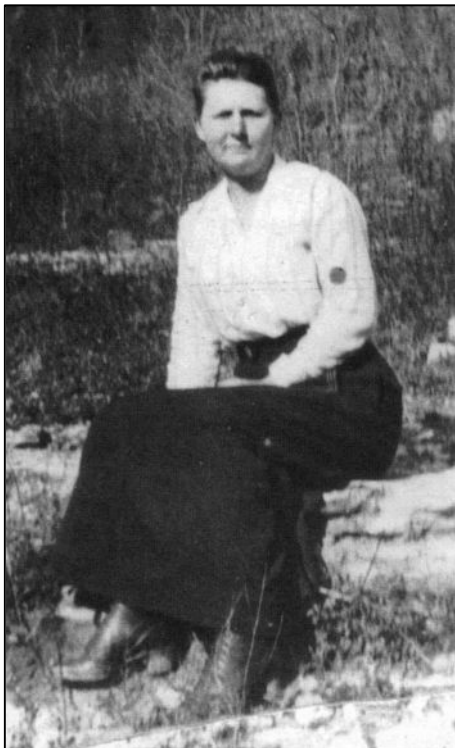
When the U.S. entered the war in 1941 Pee Wee was the first in that town to be drafted into service. (It is an interesting note that the small town of Baxter, TN (Pop 385) and areas around it supplied over 100 people in that war). Goes to show you their parents had very little to do in 1918-1920??? That town produced one Maj. Gen., Majors, Captains, and Lieutenants, but it only produced one Jessie Fain Scarlett. Pee Wee received the letter that read: "your friends and neighbors send you greeting" Pee Wee entered the service in January 1942 and after a few weeks basic training was shipped over seas to North Africa to join the British forces in that area.

Pee Wee fought in the battle of Kiserine Pass in which the British got the hell kicked out of them by Rommel and his Germany Tank Division and was captured. He was a prisoner of war for three days. During the time of his captivity they were contained in "chicken coops" by the Arabs. He was constantly urinated on by one Arab. If you have seen the movie Patton you will recall when Gen Patton arrived in North Africa with the third army he found pretty much an unorganized group of "rag tagged" Americans and confused British. Pee Wee was liberated from the coop and at once grabbed the sword of the Arab and gave a lung at him swing cutting off his ear. He was placed under arrest and questioned why he cut off the Arabs ear. His reply: "Ear, hell I was trying to cut of His f----- head". Court Martial was to be and would have been except that Patton intervned and said hell this is the type guy I want fighting for me instead of being locked up over some damn Arabs ear. From that day until

the end of the war Pee Wee was a Patton man going all the way into Germany with the General. Now it is fair to note that all the way into Germany was not pleasant for Pee Wee. The battles were rough and when there was a lull Pee Wee created battles in his own ranks.

He was promoted six times and busted in rank six time in rank One such event was from 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. to Pvt. was the results of capping a garbage can over a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. head because he felt the Lt. had let his men down. Neither he nor Patton gave up because he was a warrior born with the instant to fight. The ribbons and medal (which were many) meant nothing to him as that was not what it was all about. Kill or be killed fight or not fight. And, if you didn't believe that he felt it was his duty to show you then you had better not cross him. Pee Wee lived but carried the scares, like so many other, of one hell of a war. After the war Pee Wee returned home to marry Bunea Jean Denny and had two beautiful daughters whom he worshiped. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, but his past really never left him. He was still a fighter and not many dared to cross him. He was an American whose spirit made and still preserves this country. The war and a worn out heart took the great Pee Wee away at the age of 53.

\*See Jerry Tammer Denny stories at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



Martha Ella (Hutchinson) Scarlett (1886-1920) she was buried in Jackson Co., but later moved to Odd Fellows Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN. She married Franklin Dow Scarlett (1883-1956), buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Picture and caption from the book: Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 185.



L to R: Martha Scarlett married Elvis Vickers; Lassie Dewise Scarlett married Sam Hutchinson; Franklin Dow Scarlett married Ella Hutchison; Ida Elizabeth Scarlett married John Benton Sutton; James Letcher Scarlett married Frances Lee McHenry and Nevada Frances Scarlett married Sam Houston McHenry. Picture and caption from the book: Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 185.



Franklin Dow “Felix” Scarlett Jr., b. 16 May 1916 – d. 17 December 1959 married Ruth G. Edmondson, b. 29 April 1916 – d. 10 March 1978. Both buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. Also buried there is their son David Urban Scarlett, b. 6 March 1955 – d. 6 March 1955. Felix is the s/o Franklin Dow Scarlett & Martha Ella Hutchison. Picture and caption from the book: Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 185.



Franklin Dow Scarlett home on Highway 70. Shown in the yard is Woodrow Scarlett and his wife Floy Brown Scarlett. Woodrow Scarlett is the brother of Jesse Fain Scarlett. Jesse married Buena Jean Denny. Buena is the d/o George Harold Denny & Emmerline “Lyon” Whitaker. Picture and caption from the book: Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 184.

\*See Chapter 5 at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

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