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Col Donn De Grand Pre Archives



Biographical Introduction

from jacket of *The Serpent's Sting*

Donn de Grand Pre

"If you had been a Middle Eastern ruler in the 1970s in search of American weapons systems, you would have called Donn de Grand Pre, Pentagon arms peddler. These days the former arms salesman farms in Virginia and says weapons proliferation is out of control."

--The Washington Post Magazine (30 Sept 1979)

It had been a long and winding road that led Donn de Grand Pre from the jungles of Burma and China in 1944-45 where he served as an 18 year old radio operator with the 236th Combat Engineers, to his

position as the Pentagon's point man for military sales to the Middle East.

Commissioned in 1950, he served as an infantry troop leader and paratrooper, as well as a combat troop commander and intelligence officer with the 27th Infantry "Wolfhound" Regiment in Korea. He was decorated for valor in combat and seriously wounded in 1953. While recuperating, he graduated *cum laud* from Dickinson State University (ND), with a degree in political science in 1956. He returned to active duty as the deputy chief of the International Division, Office of the Chief of Research and Development. He also served as Commander of Special Troops for the US Army Reserves.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara appointed Colonel Donn de Grand Pre Director Ground Weapons Systems in a newly created office of International Logistics Negotiations in 1967. He and his colleagues were given the mission to negotiate sales contracts with heads of foreign nations for military equipment and weapons systems. They became the world's most successful arms salesmen, with sales totaling nearly 100 billion dollars over a ten-year period.

Photos

Editor's Note: to view more photographs than the ones provided below, please link to the *Rattler's Revenge* [photo section](#) in the "look inside" feature of the America First Books catalog.



Donn de Grand Pre (left) of Dickinson, North Dakota with Paul Hatch of Seattle, Washington, 18 year old radio operators with Merrill's Marauders, Namhkam, Burma, 1944. (photo and caption, page 168, *Rattler's Revenge*)



Donn (19) and his Ghurka Scouts at the railhead in Ledo, Assam, India near the Burma border, 17 December 1945. The Gurkhas, of the warlike Rajput people, originally came from the mountains of Nepal. Their mission is to seal the Burmese border to allow unrestricted movement of the poppy crop to the poppy crop to the opium markets of South East Asia. (photo and caption, page 179, *Rattler's Revenge*)



"Right From the Beginning." Wedding Bells, circa 7 June 1949, Donn and Ursella Carlson, RN with nephew, Donn Patrick Weaver, age 2. (photo and caption, frontspiece, *Rattler's Revenge*)



Ursella and Bruce, Ft. Rucker, Alabama — 1951. (photo and caption, page 271, *Rattler's Revenge*)



Donn, 25th Infantry Division,
Munsan-ni, Korea — 1951. (photo and
caption, page 271, *Rattler's Revenge*)



Newly appointed civilian head of the International Standardization Office, Donn de Grand Pre (Major - U.S. Army Reserve) chats with Major Anne Cummins, Chief of Public Relations, Department of the Army, at the annual ABC Standardization Reception held at the Officers Club, Fort Myer, Virginia. — 8 January 1959. (photo and caption, page 273, *Rattler's Revenge*)



General Trudeau, Chief Research & Development; Donn Grand Pre, Deputy Chief International Division; Mrs. Yates, Colonel Yates, Chief Atomic Division, Ft. Myer — 1962. (photo and caption, page 275, *Rattler's Revenge*)



Colonel Donn Grand Pre,
Commander, Special Troops,
U.S. Army Reserve, Washington,
D.C. — July 7, 1971. (photo and
caption, page 275, *Rattler's Revenge*)

Souvenirs



Best regards to
Col. Donn R Grand Pré
Omar N Bradley
Gen. of the Army

Lt. General Omar N. Bradley, right, and Lt. General George S. Patton, left, as they return from a tour of the Brittany peninsula. General Bradley had been given equal rank with General Montgomery shortly before this picture was taken, August 31, 1944. (photo and caption, page 54, *Rattler's Revenge*)



(page 264, *Rattler's Revenge*)

Flag carried by the 3rd Maryland Regiment  at the Battle of Cowpens, S. Carolina, 1781

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