

Non-Combat Casualty

December 1943. Allied forces are on the offensive around the world. In the Pacific, US Marines have landed on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. In Europe, the Italians have surrendered, but Rome and much of the rest of the country are still controlled by the Germans. The tides of war are surging in favor of the Allies, but there is still much to be done as preparations continue for the major offensives of 1944.

Clyde Wilber Alexander of Anderson is one of an ever-expanding number of young men who have been called to military service. Alexander, a member of the Class of 1946, attended Clemson as a freshman before entering the Army. He is one of six children. Two of his three brothers are also in service, one as an Army sergeant, the other as a Navy sailor.

On Thursday, December 30, 1943, Corporal Alexander is participating in battle condition maneuvers at Fort McClellan, Alabama. As part of his infantry training, Alexander and his comrades from D Company of the 6th Training Battalion are being exposed to live fire. Somewhere, somehow, a shrapnel shell explodes too close to Alexander and he is wounded in the legs and neck. The neck wounds are especially severe and Alexander dies the next day, the final day of 1943.

More than 16 million Americans will serve in the armed forces during the war. Of these, more than 405,000 will die. Clyde Wilber Alexander is one of these casualties. He falls not on the field of battle, even though his wounds result from exploding ordnance. Alexander is among approximately 114,000 service members who succumb to non-battle injuries, wounds and disease. Twenty-eight percent of US military deaths during the war will be the result of non-combat factors.

Clyde Wilber Alexander, a 19 year-old who answered his country's call to arms, is survived by his mother, three brothers and two sisters. He is interred at the Silverbrook Cemetery in Anderson.

Anderson Youth Dies Of Injury In Army Service

Cpl. Clyde Alexander, 19-year-old Anderson boy who was injured in an accident while on maneuvers near Fort McClellan, Alabama, Thursday, died in a hospital there yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, according to word received here last night.

Corporal Alexander, a son of Mrs. Perry E. Alexander, of 2201 South Main Street, and the late Mr. Alexander, was well known here. Mrs. Alexander and her daughter, Mrs. Floyd Thomason, left for Fort McClellan Thursday following receipt of the message that he was injured.

According to information received here, maneuvers were being conducted under battle condition, and a shrapnel shell burst close to Corporal Alexander wounding him in the legs and neck. The neck wounds proved especially severe, and physicians held little hope for his recovery.

Surviving the young man, in addition to his mother, are three brothers, Staff Sgt. Austin Alexander, Homestead, Fla.; Seaman 1st Class Beryn Alexander, Norfolk, Va.; and Charles Alexander, of Anderson; two sisters, Mrs. Floyd Thomason, and Miss Bobby Jean Alexander, also of Anderson.

Cpl. Alexander spent practically all of his life in Anderson, and was a member of the Orrville Baptist Church.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later. The McDougald-Johnston Funeral Home is in charge.

