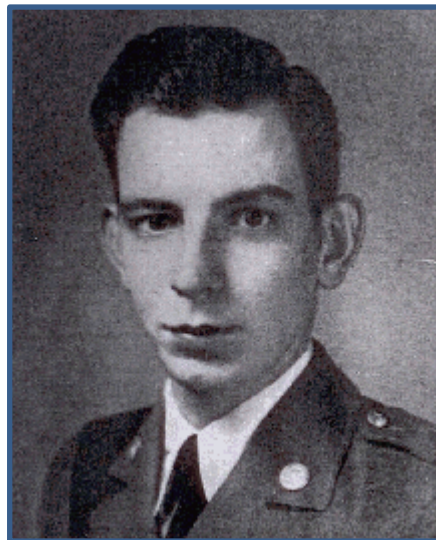


## The War Was Over, But Not the Dying

First Lieutenant Jesse Marvin Baker died on September 19, 1945, five months after V-E Day and more than two weeks after the formal Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay. Baker, a 26-year-old from Hemingway, was serving as a member of the Army of Occupation near war-ravaged Stuttgart, Germany.

Baker graduated from Hemingway High School in 1936 and entered Clemson that fall. As a cadet, he served as the agronomy editor for *The Agrarian*, the publication of the School of Agriculture. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Sigma, the Animal Husbandry Club and the Williamsburg County Club. In the Cadet Corps, he served as a sergeant and later second lieutenant. He attended ROTC Camp at Fort McClellan, Alabama and was commissioned as an Army second lieutenant on his twenty-first birthday.



We know very little about the circumstances leading to Jesse Baker's death, only that his was listed as a "non-battle death," the date and approximate location. We also know that he was serving in the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on occupation duty at the time.

First Lieutenant Baker was among nearly 3,400 South Carolinians who died while serving in the Army during World War II. Of those, 30% died as a result of non-battle actions. These included aircraft and vehicle crashes, deaths in transit, training accidents and deaths from illness. This alarmingly high figure is due in part to the large numbers of personnel involved in sometimes hazardous training, the inherent risks of travel by then available means of conveyance, and the level of medical care available at the time. Among all US military deaths during the war, fully 28% were listed as "non-battle."

First Lieutenant Baker was survived by his parents, the Reverend and Mrs. J. Belton Baker of New Zion, and two brothers.

Jesse Marvin Baker was interred with full military honors at the New Zion Methodist Church.

