

Ileitis

James Harold Bracey was a chemical engineering major from Columbia. Arriving on campus in the late summer of 1935, Bracey achieved academic and military recognition as a freshman. He was an honors student in the classroom and was selected for the Freshman Platoon, a unit composed of the best drilled cadets from his class. Bracey joined the Columbia-Clemson Club composed of cadets from the capital city. He was selected for membership in Athanor, the local chemistry honorary fraternity, which in April of 1939 became the Beta Epsilon chapter of the national chemistry honorary fraternity Alpha Chi Sigma.

As a junior and senior, Bracey was once again recognized for his drill skills, being selected to the Junior and then Senior Platoons. He attended ROTC summer training at Fort McClellan, Alabama and, as a senior, was appointed platoon leader in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment.



Following his graduation on June 5, 1939, Bracey took a position with DuPont Company working in the manufacturing of nylon. In April 1942, following America's entry into World War II, Bracey was called to active duty. He was assigned to the Ordnance Works at Point Pleasant, West Virginia. While there, he met, and in October, married Leah Ann Crites of Ohio.

Bracey was ordered to the Ordnance Training Center at Santa Anita, California. The center featured firing ranges for rifle and pistol as well as small anti-aircraft weapons. Captain Bracey expected to soon be shipped to a combat zone overseas.

In the spring of 1944, Bracey became ill. He was diagnosed with ileitis, an inflammation of the last portion of the small intestine. On June 5, Captain Bracey underwent surgery at the Tournay General Hospital in Palm Springs. The operation was initially judged a success, but five days later, Bracey died.

Captain James Harold Bracey was survived by his parents, a sister, his wife, and their ten-month-old son. Bracey's body was buried in his wife's hometown of Stoutsville, Ohio.

