

All Around Leader

Almo DeWitte Chapman, Jr. was born in Fair Play and raised in Liberty, South Carolina. The son of Almo D. and Ola Chapman, he enrolled at Clemson College as a member of the Class of 1939 and pursued a degree in vocational agricultural education. With so much of the state's—and so many families'—fortunes dependent upon farming, agriculture-related degrees, along with engineering, were among the most popular on campus.

Chapman's extracurricular activities reflected his academic interests. He was a participant in the campus chapter of the Future Farmers of America and the Dairy Club. Chapman was a cadet second lieutenant assigned to Senior Company Number 2, having completed his ROTC summer training at Camp McClellan during the summer of 1938.



Following his graduation, Chapman was called to active duty with the Army. After stateside training, he was sent overseas with the 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. The 27th Infantry Regiment had been established in 1901 and had seen its first combat action while serving as part of the American force sent to quell the Philippine Insurrection on the island of Mindanao. Its World War II missions would lead it back to the Philippines.

When World War II came crashing down on the United States, the 27th Infantry had a front row seat. The regiment, which had been reassigned to the 25th Infantry Division in August 1941, was headquartered at Schofield Barracks on December 7 and was among the first American units to fire back at the Japanese warplanes during the attack on Pearl Harbor. As the United States gathered its forces to seize the offensive, the regiment crossed the Pacific, fighting at Guadalcanal, New Georgia, the Solomon Islands and, finally, the Battle of Luzon.

1st Lieutenant Chapman was killed on July 23, 1945, just two weeks before the dropping of the first atomic bomb. He was one of more than 10,000 Americans to die during the Battle of Luzon.

He is buried in the American Cemetery at Manila. He was survived by his parents; brothers, Odell and Willis Chapman; and sister, Martha Chapman. He was never married.

