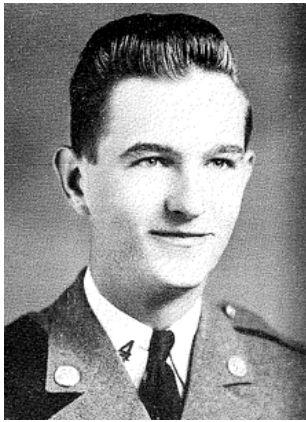


**Clarence Hollingsworth was one of Clemson's last combat casualties in the European Theater and one of the most highly decorated.**



The two photographs are a study in contrasts. The first portrait shows a young Clemson College cadet with clear eyes and an impish grin. His face is slender, unlined and seemingly ready for the next challenge to come his way. The second photo depicts a familiar face, but older and fuller. The eyes are more serious; the grin has disappeared, erased by images of war. The two photographs are of the same man, Clarence King Hollingsworth, a member of Clemson's Class of '41 and a Scroll of Honor hero.

Hollingsworth hailed from the small town of Troy, about six and a half miles north of McCormick. At Clemson, he majored in vocational agricultural education and was a member of the Greenwood County Club. He earned the marksmanship badge during ROTC summer training at Fort McClellan, Alabama and as a senior, served as a cadet platoon leader.

Like more than 400 of his Clemson classmates, Hollingsworth entered military service as a second lieutenant in the US Army. Hollingsworth was one of only two from that group to attain the rank of lieutenant colonel during the war. In July 1944, Hollingsworth, as a member of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, landed in France. Hollingsworth and his battalion, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 28<sup>th</sup>, were part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division which participated in the liberation of France and fought its way into Germany. Hollingsworth and his men participated in a number of skirmishes and battles against the German defenders. He and his battalion were awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge for successfully defending their sector during an early December German counterattack. On another occasion, Hollingsworth had moved his battalion command post close to the front lines. In a nighttime engagement, he and his men captured 45 German prisoners of war.

Hollingsworth himself was captured by the Germans, but later rescued by his own men. He wrote that though unharmed, the incident 'aged me twenty-five years.' Hollingsworth's letters home reflect a deep faith in God and a belief in the cause for which he was fighting.

On April 14, 1945, Hollingsworth was leading his 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion against heavy German resistance near the city of Schwelm. In addition to enemy armor, heavy small arms fire and automatic weapons, the battalion was harassed by sniper fire. Lt. Col. Hollingsworth was wounded and evacuated.

Hollingsworth was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was also the recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, British Distinguished Service Order and French Croix de Guerre. On May 16, eight days after the German surrender ended hostilities in Europe, Clarence Hollingsworth died from his wounds, one of the last Clemson heroes killed in action in the European Theater.