

Moise, part of great Allied breakout, fell at the Seine.

The summer of 1944 was bloody and bitter. Rome had been liberated, yet German forces fought stubbornly to deny Northern Italy to the Allies. In the Pacific, soldiers and Marines fought through island jungles in an increasingly successful bid to roll the defending Japanese back toward their home islands. In the air over Europe, great fleets of heavy bombers darkened the skies, delivering devastating payloads on German industries, military facilities and cities. Yet, it was on the French countryside that eyes were focused in that pivotal summer.

The Allied landings in June had been followed by a period of building up forces. These forces, crammed into the "lodgment area," were to become the juggernaut which would breach the German lines and race all the way to Berlin. Of course the Germans had their own ideas about that!

On August 11, Company B of the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion rolled across the D-Day beaches. By the next day, all of the 7th Armored Division, to which the 38th belonged, was in France and assigned to General George Patton's 3rd Army. Captain Edwin Moise, Jr., one of three brothers serving overseas, was the commanding officer of Company B.

Moise, a Sumter High School graduate, entered Clemson College just before the stock market crash of 1929 sounded the coming of the Great Depression. Moise, a musically-inclined cadet, sang in the Glee Club and was a member of the famed Jungaleers dance band. An architecture major, he was a member of the Palmetto Literary Society and the Minaret Club. He attended ROTC training at Camp McClellan, AL and upon graduation, was commissioned as a second lieutenant.



Moise returned to Sumter and was practicing as an architect when his reserve unit was called to active duty following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Eventually assigned to the 38th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 7th Armored Division, Moise sailed for England in June 1944.

Within days of arriving in France, the division was thrown into combat. Operation COBRA, the long-anticipated breakout from Normandy was underway and Patton threw fresh units into the battle to maintain relentless pressure on the retreating Germans. The division, including Moise's Company B, captured Chartres on August 18 and then advanced to Melun, just south of Paris. As Company B battled to secure Seine River crossing points on August 23, Moise was wounded. He died three days later.



Moise's family was notified of his wounds, but received no further word on his condition until his brother, Lieutenant Colonel Lenoir Moise returned home from France following his own two-year tour of duty overseas. The hospital where his brother had been treated had been bombed and heavily damaged, causing the loss

of many records. It was the brother's sad duty to inform his family of Edwin's death. Another brother, Lieutenant Colonel Harold Moise, was also serving in France at the time.

Moise was awarded the Purple Heart and laid to rest in the Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, France. He was survived by his parents, wife Frances and daughter Martha.

Edwin Warren Moise, Jr. fell in the fields of France, but his sacrifice contributed to a lasting peace in Western Europe which continues to this day.

