

## Casualty of the Heart

More than 113,000 American service members died from disease and non-battle causes during World War II, the first conflict in which US casualties from battle outnumbered those from disease. Among those who fell to illness was John Henry Shroder from Clemson's Class of 1921.

Shroder, an electrical engineering major from Walhalla was described in the 1921 Taps as having "a smiling face and a distinctive stride." Apparently, Shroder, with his piercing eyes and dimpled chin was quite a "heart smasher," as his classmates teased that he needed a private secretary to keep up with his correspondence with the members of the gentler sex. Despite this reputation, Shroder served as the chaplain for his Class of 1921!

As a cadet, Shroder served as treasurer of the campus chapter of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and as vice president of the Oconee County Club. He was also a member of the American Legion.

Following graduation, Shroder headed north to Bloomfield, New Jersey where both General Electric and Westinghouse had constructed facilities. He married the former Annie Gangren of Brooklyn, New York and was still working in Bloomfield when he entered the Navy as an officer in 1942.

While serving on active duty, Shroder was admitted to the San Diego Naval Hospital in April 1943. He died of a heart ailment on May 3 at age 43.

Lieutenant Commander Shroder was survived by his wife; brother Frank Shroder of Walhalla; and sisters Mrs. Charles Stiles of Nutley, New Jersey and Mrs. L. A. Reumiliat of New York City.

Shroder's funeral was conducted on Monday, May 10, 1943 at Saint Luke's Methodist Church in Walhalla. He was laid to rest at West View Cemetery. He is also memorialized on the Oconee County War Memorial and Walhalla High School Memorial Stadium.

