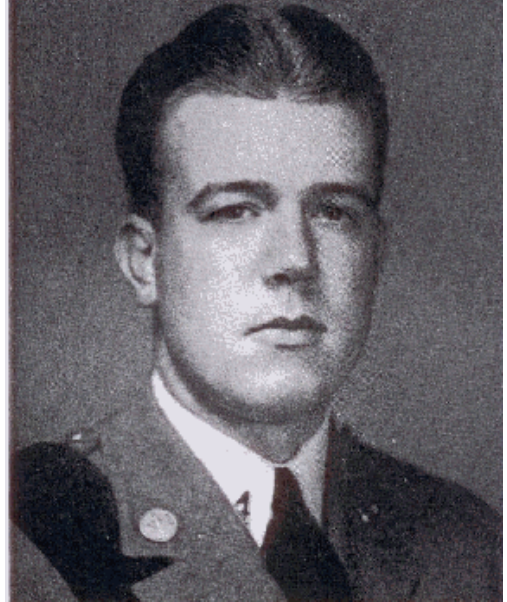


Replacement Officer

Arthur Thomas Simpson shipped overseas in the fall of 1944 as a replacement officer. The young Army captain had spent the previous two-and-a-half years moving from one stateside post to another, helping train soldiers for deployment to battle zones. Now his turn had come.

Simpson was from the Kershaw County town of Blaney, what is now Elgin, about twelve miles southwest of Camden. He was a vocational agricultural education major and a member of Clemson's Class of 1940. He was a member of the Freshman and Sophomore Platoons, being judged one of the best drilled cadets of his class. Simpson was also a member of the Kershaw County Club. As a cadet, Simpson moved steadily through the ranks, beginning as a freshman private in the 1936-37 school year. For his senior year, after completing ROTC summer training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, Simpson was appointed a cadet first lieutenant and the adjutant of 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Cadet Brigade.



Following his graduation, Simpson put his Clemson degree to good use. He took a job teaching agriculture at Lydia High School in Darlington County. Simpson married the former Louise Timms and was still teaching when called to active duty in February 1942.

Simpson was initially assigned to the 86th Infantry Division then training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Subsequent postings carried him to Camp Pickett, Virginia; Camp Blanding, Florida; Camp Howze, Texas; and Camp Livingston, Louisiana. Despite moving from one training camp to another, Simpson served as a company commander for two years. In July 1944, Captain Simpson shipped to England as a replacement officer. With combat operations underway in France, casualties were mounting among company-grade officers in front line units. In one of the war's many ironies, the young officer from South Carolina was assigned to the "Yankee Division," the 26th Infantry.



The 26th had shipped directly from the United States to Normandy, landing on September 7. It had been committed to combat operations a month later and had launched its first attack at Moncourt, east of Nancy, on October 22. Captain Simpson joined the division's 104th Infantry Regiment on November 10. At the time, the regiment was fighting around the village of Wusee attempting to capture Hill 310. Simpson's infantrymen were supported by the 761st Tank Battalion, one of the

racially segregated Army's all-Black units. On November 18, Captain Simpson was killed in action.

Arthur Thomas Simpson was survived by his mother, his wife, and two young sons. He was awarded the Purple Heart and is buried at the Lorraine American Cemetery in Saint-Avold, France.

For more information on Arthur Thomas Simpson see:

<https://soh.alumni.clemson.edu/scroll/arthur-thomas-simpson/>

For additional information about Clemson University's Scroll of Honor visit:

<https://soh.alumni.clemson.edu/>

