



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

BARBER, CHAPLAIN GEORGE RUSSELL '32

George Russell Barber, '32, one of the last surviving chaplains from the U.S. landing at Omaha Beach on D-Day in Europe during World War II, has died. He was 90. Barber died 17 December 2004 in Whittier, California of causes associated with old age.

On 6 June 1944, Allied forces landed in Normandy, and Barber was one of four chaplains at Omaha Beach with the Army's 1st Infantry Division. U.S. forces encountered the fiercest resistance of any Allied force on D-Day from German gun emplacements on the cliffs which overlooked Omaha Beach. According to a son, Barber spent a bloody and chaotic day ministering to the wounded and dying. Then he dug a foxhole near the cliffs and bedded down for the night.

More than 1,500 soldiers had been killed on the beach and Barber spent much of his next few days on European soil readying the dead for burial

and helping select the site for the U.S. military cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Barber continued to serve with American troops through the Battle of the Bulge and was at the Remagen Bridge when Germany collapsed.

He was born in Buckhead, GA, near Atlanta, on 26 August 1914. He grew up in Atlanta attending public schools there, Augusta, and the Cincinnati Bible College, graduating in 1936. The same year, he married Helen N. Koester of Cincinnati.

After the war, Barber was in the civilian ministry in Montebello, CA, but was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. After the war, he returned to serve at several churches in Southern California.

He is survived by two sons, Donald, of Norfolk and George of Macon.
(Los Angeles *Times*, 27 December 2004)

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We find no record of Barber's time at Augusta, but his son confirmed that he did attend. Figuring his age and his 1936 graduation from Cincinnati Bible College, 1932 is our guess. (Click and Bradford)