AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
FORT DEFIANCE · VIRGINIA

Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

MATHEWS, LTC JOHN HUBERT   '27

Army Lieutenant Colonel Mathews was killed in action 6 June 1944 on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. Colonel Mathews was regimental executive officer of the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division and went ashore with the second wave to establish a forward command post.

He was the first person out of his landing craft, and he drew the full effect of a German machine gun. He died at the water's edge. He was the senior officer in the 1st Division to be killed on D-Day. He received both the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross. Interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery Normandy.

"Mathews was in battles of Kasserine Pass [Tunisia] and Troina [Sicily] before Normandy. In January 1943 he commanded the 1st Battalion. In August 1943 he became CO of the 2d Battalion, and on D-Day he was the 16th Infantry Regiment Executive Officer in charge of the advance CP at the Fox sector of Omaha Beach. Colonel Mathews was on an LCM with 102 soldiers, and when they exited the landing craft, he was the first man to be killed." – 1st Infantry Division after-action report.

Mathews came from Cass, WV, for four years at Augusta. First year: Private, Band Company. Second year: Corporal Band Company, Company Basketball. Third year: First Sergeant Band Company, Cadet Orchestra, *Ad Astra Per Aspera Society.* Fourth year: Captain Band, Senior Literary Society, Assistant Advertising Manager *Recall*, Cadet Orchestra.

("World War II KIA's" book, Alumni House)