

Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr.



Buckner was born on July 18, 1886 in Mundfordville, Ky. He was the son of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner. He graduated from West Point in 1908.

Buckner served in World War I. Twice he served as an instructor at West Point, first from 1919-1923, and second from 1932-1936. Before the bombing of Pearl Harbor he was promoted to Brigadier General. He was assigned to fortify Alaska.

In July 1944 he was sent to Hawaii to organize the 10th Army, which was composed of both army and marine units. His 10th Army was sent to Okinawa in April 1945. His men led Operation Iceberg, an amphibious assault on the island.

On July 18, 1945, Buckner was standing between two boulders watching combat operations when he was mortally wounded by coral fragments that had been dislodged by an artillery shell. He was the highest ranking American soldier to be killed by military fire. Upon his death he was promoted to full general.

