

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**MR. ALEXIS SOMMARIPA**  
*U.S. Army, Posthumous*

Inducted April 26, 2024



Born in 1900 in Odessa, Russia, Alexis Ureyvitch Sommaripa immigrated to the United States after earning his law degree at 18 years old. During his civilian career, he earned a master's degree from Harvard University.

Sommaripa wrote 10 technical articles, delivered more than 20 technical addresses to various organizations, worked as a full-time manager at DuPont, and was a part-time technical advisor for field testing for the Army's Quartermaster Board.

While waiting on a Navy commission, Sommaripa went to Fort Lee (now Fort Gregg-Adams), Virginia, to conduct field tests with the Army Quartermaster Board. He executed a 66-mile ruck march with full field pack outlasting others half his age.

The Army sent him to England with the Office of War Information. While there, he transferred to the Office of Strategic Services in the Special Operations branch. Landing on Omaha Beach three days after the D-Day invasion, Sommaripa helped evacuate wounded personnel while under heavy fire in battles at Mortain and Carentan.

Later, Sommaripa transferred to the Morale Operations branch of the Office of Strategic Services to become a psychological warfare specialist. He became a pioneer in the use of tactical loudspeaker systems directed at enemies on the battlefield and developed several techniques that ensured mounted loudspeaker sound transmission above the roar of battle. His psychological warfare methods were effective so that the founder of Columbia Broadcasting System, a deputy commander for the Office of War Information, convinced Gen. George Marshall to support these methods by sending 20 loudspeakers for distribution to other tank units.

Sommaripa remained cheerfully enthusiastic, courageous, and cooperative in engaging in 'bloodless warfare.' In July 1944, his efforts resulted in the capture of 18 prisoners, a capture that was instrumental in breaking the resistance on the Eastern Front. His methods assisted in valuable intelligence extract from surrendered German soldiers such that Gen. Eisenhower praised Sommaripa and his assistants for their work. Other elements successfully copied Sommaripa's tactics.

Sommaripa was credited with capturing thousands of Germans from St. Lo to the heart of Germany.

In March 1945, Sommaripa earned a Bronze Star for his broadcasts that helped capture at least 500 prisoners of war. After capturing 2,000 prisoners on his own in Andernach, Germany, Sommaripa was killed in action when his strafed tank overturned and ejected him.