

Private Edwin Francis Jemison – 2nd Louisiana Infantry



Private Edwin Francis Jemison (December 4, 1844 – July 1, 1862) was a Confederate soldier who served in the 2nd Louisiana Infantry. He enlisted on May 11, 1861 and was killed at the Battle of Malvern Hill in Virginia.

Jemison was born on December 4, 1844, in Georgia to Robert and Sarah Jemison. Edwin was the great-grandson of a hero of the American Revolution and the descendant of a prominent Quaker family that settled in Wrightsboro, Georgia.

By the eve of the War Between the States, Jemison's family had moved to Monroe, Louisiana. Edwin was 16 years old when Louisiana seceded from the Union on January 26, 1861.

Edwin F. Jemison enlisted in the Confederate Service in May of 1861 and was mustered into Company I, 2nd Louisiana Infantry, seven months before his 17th birthday. Because of his age, Jemison was assigned to "special service" under General John Magruder. But by July, he had moved to Company B of the 2nd Louisiana Infantry, in which he remained until April of 1862.

The 2nd Louisiana was one of the regiments sent north to reinforce Virginia as the war escalated between the capitals of Washington, D.C. and Richmond. Jemison's service record shows that he was hospitalized due to illness at Williamsburg, Virginia, in December of 1861.

By January 1862, however, he was back at his post in the cold and snow of Virginia. His regiment became part of the army assembled by General Joseph E. Johnston to oppose the Peninsula Campaign of Union General George F. McClellan in the spring of 1862. By this time, the young soldier had been assigned to Company C of the 2nd Louisiana Infantry.

Jemison's regiment fought and skirmished with the massive Union army as it advanced to within sight of the spires of Richmond before General Johnston suddenly turned on it with a fury in the bloody Battle of Seven Pines. When General Johnston was severely wounded, General Robert E. Lee assumed command, continuing the offensive through what is known as the Seven Days Campaign.

In a critical battle of the campaign, Lee sent waves of Southern troops charging across open ground into the muzzles of Union guns positioned on a piece of high ground called Malvern Hill. It was in this battle that Private Edwin F. Jemison was killed in action on July 1, 1862. He was 17 years old.

A monument to Edwin Francis Jemison has stood at Memory Hill Cemetery in Milledgeville, Georgia, for over 100 years.