

ress, United Press LOUISVILLE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1943 AP Wirephotos, Inter

6 Kentuckians Are Prisoners Of Japs; 2 Are Louisvillians

American Captives Total 804

Two members of the officer personnel of the famous Harrodsburg tank company—first Kentuckians called during the U. S. armed forces' mobilization in 1940—were reported officially by the War Department at Washington yesterday to be prisoners of the Japanese in the Philippines.

These, with four other Kentuckians, were among a list of 336 American soldiers revealed by the War Department as prisoners of war in the Philippines.

Kentuckians Listed.

The Kentuckians are First Lieut. William Gentry, son of James Thomas Gentry, Harrodsburg; First Lieut. George Alger Van Arsdall, husband of Mrs. Esther McNamer Van Arsdall, Harrodsburg; First Lieut. Norman A. Wides, son of Morris Wides, Lexington; First Lieut. Ben F. Van Sant, son of Vernon V. Van Sant, Mount Victory; First Lieut. Marion Leon Daman, husband of Mrs. M. L. Daman, 1621 Edgeland, Louisville; First Lieut. Gerard C. Worthington, brother of Miss Betty Worthington, 2302 Village Drive, Louisville.

The Harrodsburg company numbered sixty-seven officers and men and was recruited by

help but hope that George is a prisoner, too."

Mrs. Thomas said that the last letter she and her daughter had received from the men was written last March 6, but that it wasn't received until last August. She has a son, Maj. Evert S. Thomas, on the Canadian border, and another son, James L. Thomas, who is a warrant officer stationed at Eglin Field, Fla.

Was Geologist.

Lieutenant Worthington, a graduate of Stanford University, held a reserve commission and was working as a geologist at a gold mine near Baguio in the Philippines. He married Mrs. Worthington, a Canadian, two years ago, according to the officer's mother, Mrs. Mollise Worthington, 2302 Village Drive.

Mrs. Worthington said her son and daughter-in-law were eating breakfast in their home when the Japs attacked the Philippines. "The first bomb landed a short distance from their home," she said. Immediately after the attack the Worthingtons left for Manila.

She said that soon after they arrived in the city her son was called into active duty and his wife had to be left in the city.

"We heard not long afterward that she was in a Japanese concentration camp at the university in Manila and that she was being treated well," Mrs. Worthington declared.

Hasn't Seen Son.

Announcement of Lieutenant Van Arsdall's capture came just six months after the birth of the Van Arsdall's son, William Van Arsdall, who was born after the

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also to have been in the Philippines, is a prisoner, too.

Mrs. Thomas is living here with two daughters, Mrs. Daman and Mrs. A. R. Ricketts, whose husband, Major Ricketts, is with the Air Forces in North Africa.

Veteran of Last War.

Major Thomas is a veteran of the World War and has spent most of his life in the Army, serving two periods in the Philippines and much of the time at Newport, R. I.

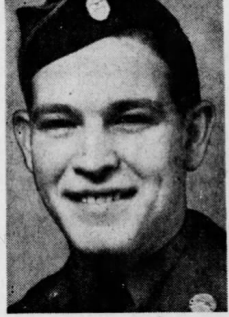
The family's first trip to the Philippines resulted in the marriage of one of the daughters to Daman, a former Army man who was working there for a bus company.

It was after the second trip back that Mrs. Daman and Mrs. Thomas were taken from the island in May 14, 1941, and Mrs. Thomas' son, George Thomas, enlisted in the Army to join his father.

Relieved By News.

The two women came to Louisville to live with the Ricketts, who were stationed at Bowman Field. Shortly afterward Major Ricketts was ordered to leave for North Africa. They reside at 1621 Edgeland.

"We were relieved to hear that our men were prisoners," Mrs. Thomas said. "And we can't



LIEUT. WILLIAM GENTRY.



LIEUT. NORMAN A. WIDES.

the Army in the fall of 1940 from the Kentucky National Guard.

804 Now Are Reported.

Yesterday's list brought to 804 the total of American prisoners in the Philippines whose names have been reported officially to the Army by the Japanese Government through the International Red Cross.

From London, meanwhile, came an announcement that 10,000 prisoners of war—half of them Americans—are interned in Japan, the Associated Press reported.

A Red Cross representative, quoted by the news service, termed conditions "comparatively satisfactory" at the internment camps, but that "medical treatment is handicapped by a lack of medicaments which appears to be general throughout the Far East."

Daman Is 3d In Family.

Louisville relatives of Lieutenant Daman said yesterday they believed he is the third member of his family to fall into the hands of the Japanese. His father-in-law, Maj. Evert S. Thomas, 58, is a prisoner of the Japs, relatives said the War Department has notified them. They added they believed Daman's brother-in-law, Sergt. George M. Thomas, 21, known



Lieut. Daman.



Maj. Thomas.



Sergt. Thomas.



Lt. Worthington.

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6 Kentuckians Held Prisoners By Japs

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father had been sent by the Army to the Philippines.

Mrs. Van Arsdall, now living with her parents at Somerset, said she was not sure her husband knew of the birth of the son, since she had not received word from him since writing Lieutenant Van Arsdall after the arrival of the boy.

The name William, she said, was selected by her husband before he departed. Lieutenant Van Arsdall is a son of the late Riker S. Van Arsdall, former mayor of Harrodsburg.



Lt. Van Arsdall.

Brother In Australia.

Lieutenant Gentry, the other member of the Harrodsburg tank company listed, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Gentry, Harrodsburg. His brother, Lieut. Richard Gentry, is stationed with the forces of General MacArthur in Australia, the family said.

Lieutenant Wides was graduated from the University of Kentucky's College of Engineering in 1939. At the time of his graduation, Wides completed the advanced R.O.T.C. course at the university and received a commission as a second lieutenant.

He was employed by an engineering firm in Maysville after his graduation and later by the Lewis Engineering Company, Louisville.

While working in Louisville, Lieutenant Wides sought and was

granted service with the regular Army in the Philippines. He sailed for the Philippines from San Francisco in May, 1941, and subsequently was stationed at Camp Cabanatuan, approximately sixty miles from Manila.

Attached to an infantry outfit, Lieutenant Wides served with the forces on Cebu and Corregidor.

Morris Wides, Lexington businessman and father of Lieutenant Wides, said yesterday the last message received from his son was a telegram December 21 in which the Lexington youth said he was "O.K. and well."

Lieutenant Wides has two sisters, Mrs. Dan Metzler, Jr., Bowling Green, and Mrs. John Wilson, Louisville, and a brother, Edward Wides, Lexington.



LIEUT. BEN F. VAN SANT.

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