

Capt. Raymond E. Peterson
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Fort. Knox, Ky. 40131

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Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330
Route 8, - 930 Riverside Drive
Nov. 22. 1981

Dear ~~Ray~~ Capt.:-

I went to our V. F. W. Batoon memorial post 6935 today as they were having the 10th District V. F. W. meeting there today.

Our Commander of V. F. W. Cohen Tester gave me your letter you had wrote to him. So I thought I would answer it, as I was one of the men who were in the 38th Tank Company, Ky. National Guard, as I joined them in 1933, and we were called to Fort Knox, Ky. back in 1940 and we were taken out of the 38th Tank Co. and was put in the 192nd Tank Battalion, Company D, which the 192nd was made up from one tank company from (4) different division which Harrodsburg, Ky. was in the 38th, another Company was taken out of a Division from ^{Co. A} Jansville, Wis., another Company was taken out of a Division from ^{Co. B} Maywood, Ill., and the other Company was taken out of a Division from ^{Co. C} Port Clinton, Ohio.

I was 66 of us from Harrodsburg, Ky. and after we were put in the 192nd Tank Battalion, they made a Headquarters Company and they taken some men out of each ~~company~~ ^{company} and made the Headquarters Company. Then each company was filled back with full strength with men who was drafted in the Army or volunteered from each state and put in the Company from the state they were from. until we reached the Philippines and they taken our Company D. out of the 192nd TK. BN. and put it over in the 194th TK. BN. which was made up from 3 other division, and to form a line across Batoon. The 194th TK. BN. didn't have any company D. But I all ways said I was in Co. D. 192nd TK. BN. as we were fighting and never did see many of the men from 194th. We went to Fort. Knox, Ky. I think it was Nov. 25. 1940. ^{192nd} The ship our Tank Battalion was on arrived in Manila, ^{Philippines} just 18 days before the Japanese bombed us at Fort. Stotsenburg, P. I. A army post joined Clark Field, P. I. That was the 1st day we had

The man names Robert Brooks was killed by some pieces of one of the Japanese bombs came from one of the 53 or 54 Japanese planes come over at dinner time as most of the boys were waiting for the mess truck to bring our food out to Clark field as we had our Army Tanks backed off the air field run way, Robert Brooks was from Sodicville, Ky, and was drafted or volunteered and was put in our company W, 192nd TK BN, we were in the mess Hall eating our breakfast heard on the Radio about ~~the~~ ^{Japanese} hitting Pearl Harbor. Back in April 1974, I decided to write the General of Fort Knox, Ky, and ask him about the dedication of naming the parade ground at Fort, Knox, Brooks field.

So the General turned my letter over to the Historian at Fort Knox, Ky. He then mailed me ^{copy} all the special orders, and letters about the Brooks Field, I told the General that Robert Brooks was in my company W, 192th TK BN, I will give you the number and letters on each ^{that letter was dated April 5, 1974} page. ATZ K-Pa-Ag-AR, (one one page.) ^{on} ~~one~~ one page General orders number #3, dated Dec. 22, 1941, Extract from. Armored Force news, Fort, Knox, Ky, Dec. 24, 1941 private Honor in impressive Knox ~~Comm~~ ceremonies, (another page on on it Headquarters Armored Force, Public Relations Bureau. For ~~Immediate~~ Immediate Release. Fort, Knox, Ky, Jan. 13, The news I wrote all the above down, thought you may want to look it up and get a copy of it. about (Robert Brooks).

Our Commander of the 192nd at Fort, ~~KQ~~ Knox, Ky, was Bacon, R. Moore. from Harrodsburg, Ky. But when the maneuvers was over in La, and before we left there, they didn't take Colonel Bacon R. Moore. (I guess because of his age) and they put Major Wickard from Maywood, Ill. in Col Bacon, R. Moore place. Bacon, R. Moore is now deceased, since we returned I heard that Major Wickard had died up at Maywood, Ill.

We had 66 boys from Harrodsburg, Ky. went to Fort, Knox, Ky. And we had 29 of them to die in p.o.w. Comps in the Philippines and p.o.w. Comps in Japan or went down on Japanese ships leaving the Philippines, And 37 of us returned back to Harrodsburg, Ky and Mercer county, and since we ~~came~~ ^{came} back we have had 12 to die, so out the 66 we had it is 41 dead and 25 of us living. But not many around Harrodsburg, as they have moved all over U.S. and we have a few real sick.

you mention William Gentry, he was put over in Company C. 192nd I think I will give you his address. ^{el think he was discharged as a Capt.} William Gentry, 6116 Oakview Drive Lakeland, Fla, 33803. I will give you another officer from Harrodsburg who was put over in the 1st Hq. Headquarters over both 192nd TK-BN and 194th TK-BN. after we got in the Philippines, He ~~was~~ was discharged as a major I think. His name is Edwin. W. Rue, 850 Tremont Ave. Lexington, Ky, 40502.

We had a man who was discharged from army after 20 years as a Master Sgt. He has been an instructor in the Armored Tank School at Fort Knox after he was discharged. He had a Brother to die over in Batavia. But He is a Harrodsburg boy. But name is

Morgan French, Route 2, Pinewood Drive, Radcliff Ky, 40160. Edwin. W. Rue had a brother to die over there in Japan I think, He was ^{Lt.} Arch. B. Rue.

I was a p.o.w. for 3 years and 5 months, I ~~weight~~ weighed 200 when the war ~~started~~ started and when the war II was over I had lost 95 lbs. Went down to 105 pounds, I was a p.o.w. for 1 year and 5 months in the Philippines, the Japs taken me to Japan in Sept 1943 and was at Niigata, Japan for 2 years. I lost the use of one eye, and fell off of a coal tressel where the ships come in loaded with coal and I fell 35 ~~ft~~ feet landed on my feet and marked a Veterana in my back cause both my feet to drop. So I have to wear braces on both shoes to hold my feet up. So I have lost the use of both feet.

I get Cal, George Chinn to help me get a Army tank for a road side PORR on North 122 Highway as seen into Harrodsburg, K. We wrote Washington

V.C.; and at First they wanted to give me a army tank at ~~Texanna~~ Texanna Ark. But I told them, I didn't have no way getting it to Harrodsburg. Then the General at Fort Knox, Ky. Called us and told to come to Fort Knox and get a Army ~~and~~ tank, I told the General I didn't have any money to get it to Harrodsburg. So he said he would let his Men at Fort Knox bring it up here on a low boy. So they did.

Then I had a flag pole made, and got the plaque donated. and got the state to cut the Bank down to set the Tank.

I have one or two things I have a extra copy so I will ~~see~~ ^{send} you one of them. When Bataan fell, I made it over the Corregidor, stayed there for one day and one night, and they ask for a detail to help out on Fort Drum which was a Concrete battleship made on a high rock out in the manila bay. I helped fight and helped fire a 14 inch gun off of Fort Drum it went about ~~20 miles~~ 10 miles or farther and we killed alot of japs when we fired the 14 inch gun. Over in Bataan. So I wasn't on the death march, I was in the p.o.w. camps Capanatuan 1 and 3, Bilibid, Worked on building a run way at Nichols field, then on to Niigata Japan. I haven't been able to work since I was discharged from the Army Feb. 5, 1947.

I was a staff Sgt all the time but when I come out of ~~of p.o.w.~~ ^{the} Army they raise up ~~up~~ one rank. So I was discharged as Tech Sgt. Maurice E. (Jack) Wilson use to be in Company W. 192 Tank Battalion P.O.W. 3 years and 5 months.

P.S.

The Army Tank house at Harrodsburg on Road side park is a M4 Tank.