

JACK WILSON

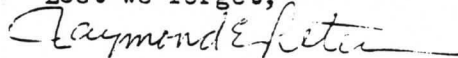
Captain R. E. Peterson
5729 E Dalton Street
Fort Knox, Ky 40121
(502) 942-2756

Dear Veteran;

There is an amazing lack of information on the first GHQ tank battalion organized and trained at Ft. Knox to see action in WW II. Attached is a questionnaire asking for information as you remember it on the 192d Tank Battalion. This information will be used to compile a unit history of the battalion. Additionally pictures, diaries, unit rosters, old letters, award citations, or other memorabilia would be useful in pursuing this endeavor. All sentimental items should be so marked so that special care can be taken to copy and then safely return them to you.

At the completion of the project the history and collected memorabilia will be donated to the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor at Ft. Knox, Ky. I thank you in advance for your time and cooperation. Please return this questionnaire and any other information to the above address. If you have any questions or doubts please contact me at (502) 942-2756.

Lest we forget,



RAYMOND E. PETERSON
CPT, Armor

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name Maurice E. (Jack) Wilson.....

Address Route 8, 930 Riverside Drive
H.O.W.A. 44.4. K.Y. 1.40.3.3.0.....

Date of Enlistment joined 38th Tank Co. Ky: National Guard, in 1933
Nov. 25, 1940 at Fort Knox, Ky.

Service Number 20523425.....

National Guard Unit 38th Tank Company, 192nd Tank Bn. in the 38th Division

192d Tank Bn Unit Company K, 192nd Tank Battalion — But after we got over in the Philippines, Company K was put over in the 194th Tank Battalion.

Ranks and Jobs you held in the unit: initial was a Staff Sgt. & was a Tank Commander in charge of one tank. After I got my eye injured, they made me mess Sgt. after the war II was over all POW, got promoted up one rank. So I was discharged as Tech Sgt.

TANK EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO REPORTING TO FT. KNOX

1. What equipment (type of tanks, trucks, etc;) did you train with? in 1933 in the 38th Tank Company, had a Army Tank just had one driver and one commander, years ago I saw one down to Fort Knox, Ky at the museum. later we got a light tank and use them until we left Louisiana we turned in the light tank and got a longer one.

2. What type of company or unit tactics were practiced at drill or summer camp? We were called out in the 38th Tank Company to the Ky derby, bloods was called to Frankfort to help guard state prisoners, called to Harlan, Ky. to coal miners strikes. We drilled every Monday night, summer camp at Fort Knox. We would go out on the firing range. one summer we went to Wisconsin on maneuvers.

3. Do you have any special comments on this pre Ft. Knox time? at Fort Knox, Ky, when we were in the 38th Tank Company. We would stay in tents, wooden barracks. when we went to Fort Knox, Ky, and put in Company K, 192nd Tank Battalion we were put in new wooden barracks, and it was muddy around the barracks. We had to make our walks out of crushed rocks to stay out of the mud.

Fort KNOX

1. When was your NG unit redesignated to a unit of the 192d GHQ Tank Bn. ? Nov. 10, 1940

2. What equipment did your unit take with to Ft. Knox and how was it transported?

We just had one or two tanks and one truck, I think one command car. We drove them to Fort Knox, I think, we had a machine gun and a gun that shot a shell. we called them one pounder, I think it was a 37 millimeter.

3. When did you report to Ft. Knox for active federal service? Nov. 25, 1940

4. Where was your company area? The Bn area? What were conditions like? *Drove Thru Fort Knox, go pass the old Cavalry Bunkers and go down all the way to Wilson Road, I have answered part of this question on page one only question, it was O.K. After we got it all fixed up with Walter.*

5. Was there any formal activation ceremony for the Bn? If so when was it?
A lot of time all the tank companies would go out to the field where they would run the tanks.

6. What was your initial chain of command? *it was a tank commander,*
Platoon Ldr:

Company Cdr:

Bn Cdr: *Col Bacon R. Moore until we got a dem to go over seas and then Col. Moore out of Battalion of guess he was to hold. They put Theodore Wickard from Maywood, Ill.*

7. Describe what you know about the reorganization of the Bn which resulted in the addition of the HQ Company. Who was its initial Cdr.? *They taken H. Company, Harrodsburg, Ky, A-Company from Jonesville, Wis.) B-Company from Maywood, Ill.) C-Company from part Clinton, Ohio. And they taken a few men out of each company and made the Headquarter Company 1921. Tank Bn. And to full strength company took in full strength they taken men who was drafted as ~~well~~ volunteered for the army from the state they were from they put them in the company from that state.*

8. What equipment was available for company/battalion training? What equipment was authorized? *if just don't remember how many tanks each company had but I think it was around 6 or 7 tanks, a few jeeps, command car, motorcycles, mess truck, maintenance trucks.*

9. Describe the company and battalion training. Did this training help latter?
What unit(s) supported the Bn? *yes I think our training was helpful, and we were pretty well ready. But one thing we didn't have any high explosive shells to shoot from our large gun in the tank, all we had was a shell that didn't explode*

10. What problems did your company/bn have with training? Were they resolved?

Every thing went off pretty good, we were fed good, until we were on maneuvers in Louisiana, and when we were fighting in Bataan as they were trying to sack the food as wasn't any ships coming in Manila after the Japanese hit there.

11. Do you have any comments of interest on your time at Ft. Knox?

Well when I was inside of the Army Tank on the firing range, I was a coach on a machine gun. The tank was making, I was in the Tank all most all day and when I came out of the Army Tank, my eye was all red and ~~the~~ inflamed and had to go to the Fort Knox, Ky. New Hospital at that time was made out of wood, I was in there for 84 days, 20 days I have lost the use of that eye.

12. What was your chain of command as the unit prepared to leave for Louisiana?

Do you have a unit roster? I don't have a roster of the Company when we left Louisiana, because we had men to get out of Companies who were over 28 or was married, so we got some replacement there. But the men got out in Louisiana didn't have a chance to get a discharge before the war started and they were put in different outfits and went to different places.

13. When did the unit leave for Louisiana? How did you travel? How did the equipment travel? I think we left Louisiana Oct. 18, 1941 we were there at Camp Polk.

6 days we turned in our light tanks and got a longer one. We had to put our weapons in Cosmo line so the guns or weapons wouldn't rust. We were busy packing every thing. We loaded our tanks, trucks, jeeps on flat rail road cars. They sent each company on a different route going to San Francisco, I guess so the people wouldn't think the war was going to start. We got to Angel Island for 2 days while they were putting on tanks on ships, and our foot locker on the ship.

LOUISIANA MANEUVERS

1. Describe as much as you can about these maneuvers including the use of tanks and other vehicles, areas where you trained and the kind of tactics which the unit practiced. Was there an exercise in Tennessee during this time and if so where and when?

I was taken out of the Tank and sent me back to Camp Robinson Ark. to a Hospital, stayed there a few days on account of my eye, then they sent me back to Fort Knox, Ky Hospital and when they got ready to go over seas they asked me if I wanted a discharge, I told them what about my eye and they said they couldn't give me any disability. So I wouldn't take the discharge so they sent me back to Camp Polk, Louisiana. So I went on with our company.

2. Do you feel this maneuver prepared the unit for what was to come? I couldn't tell wasn't in it very much.

3. When did the unit arrive at Camp Polk? What did the unit do while there?

The 192nd Tank Battalion arrived at Camp Polk around Oct. 12, 1941 we were busy packing and loading on train to go to San Francisco Calif.

4. When did the unit learn of the movement to the West Coast? *I don't know the dates as we sailed under sealed orders. I didn't know where we were going. I had one foot locker with winter clothes and one with summer clothes.*
5. How many unit members were released from federal service at this time? Where did the replacements come from? *I don't remember how many, but the ones in our Tank Battalion came from Texas and other places.*

6. What did the unit do to prepare for movement? *Worked hard getting ready.*

7. How was equipment packed and shipped? *I have answered the question in the other ones. The men & rode passenger Rail Road Coaches.*

8. When did the unit leave? *We left for Calif on Oct. 18, 1941 and left Fort McH. Conell, Calif (which was Angel Island) on Oct. 27, 1941.*

9. What was the chain of command at this time? Do you have a unit roster?

10. Did the unit get the M3s at Camp Polk or on the West Coast? *We got the Tank. We took with us come from Camp Polk.*

11. Compare the M2A2 tank with the M3. Give your opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of each. *I guess they were all right. But you couldn't fight a war with tanks in rice paddies.*

And the Japanese made us go and cut a tree down and get wood
and put in the other cart and Boys would pull the carts down
town to Niigata Japan and would burn the body up and they would
put the ashes in a small box about 10 inches square with the p.o.w.
number on Box & my number at Niigata, Japan was 431,

They would bring the box back and put in the Japanese office,
there in Camp, I saw the Japanese shoot 4 men from Fort Woom
P.I. at Cabanatuan as they had crawled out under the wire fence
and about 2 or 3 days later they had recaptured them and tied
them up and made them squat on a ~~2~~ 2 by 4 under their knees so it would
cut in their legs, taken their hats away from and the sun was burning them,
after about 2 days there, the Japanese went in behind our barbed
and dug one big hole in ground had the boys blindfolded, lined

them up in front of the grave taken the blindfold off, gave on a drink
of water it taken it and spit it on a zap, one gave a boy a cigarette
he lit it and flit it in a zap face. Then the Japanese looked off
and lined up and shot the boys they fell in the large grave, They didn't
get a good shot on some and the boys was hollowing, so the Japs
walked around the grave and shot the boys again, The boys wanted
me to escape with them but I had the 15 fever and some

So I said no, A lot of the boys went back inside the barbed
and wouldn't watch it, But I said I was going to stay out and watch
it because I could have been one of them, I was a p.o.w. for 3 yrs and 5
months, lost 95 lbs. did weigh 200 and went down to 105 pound,

Look on another page
I have staple to the next sheet,

WEST COAST

1. When did the unit arrive? Where? We arrived in San Francisco, Calif on Oct 24, 1941

2. Where was the unit stationed on the West Coast? Fort M. E. Dowell, Calif,

3. What ship was the unit loaded on? Were there any problems loading equipment?

We were either on ship Hugh L. Scott as evident over on one and came back on one but got mixed up the other ship was President Pierce The bad people on the docks did the loading the ships,

On SHIP

1. Did the unit do any special training on ship during transit? No; Most every body was sea sick, but I didn't. The last 3 grades of the 50th cat, with the officers, Scott would get all the gunst and put in my shirt and give it to the boys, who was sea sick,

2. What stops were made in route? We stoped at Honolulu T. H, and stayed there ~~waiting~~ waiting on another ship by the name of Cookridge we arrived there Nov. 2, 1941 and left on Nov. 7, 1941. We stoped in about 1/2 mile from Quorn out in the water and a small boat taken over mail in to be mailed. We were traveling at night under black out.

3. Where and when did your ship dock in the Philippines? We docked on the port area in the Manila. on Luzon Island P.I., on Nov. 20, 1941

4. How was off loading accomplished? The dock hands did most the work, we drove our tanks and all from Manila to Fort Stotsenburg, P.I near Clark Field,

FORT STOTSENBURG

1. What time and date did the unit arrive at the Fort? It was up in the afternoon on Nov. 20, 1941

2. Describe as much as you can remember of the Fort. What were the general living conditions? The barracks was made of bamboo, some were wood but not many. We had to put mosquito nets over our cot, had one foot locker at the foot of cot and the other end the cot,

And when the women in the S. Army, we didn't know they were in service, so they had us to take the new clothes off and throw them away. They sprayed us with K.V.T. to kill all the lice and we took a shower and put new clothes on. Then some of the real sick got on a hospital ship, and the rest was put in planes and flown to ~~the Philippines~~ ^{for several days} and we slept in tents. Then we ~~at~~ ^{to} flew to Manila P.O. And our plane landed on the same runway it helped build which was a P.O.W. at Nichols Field. Stayed there for about 10 days. They asked each one of us if we could give any information on the Japanese that had beat, killed, or ~~was~~ ^{was} mistreated the ex-P.O.W. I never did try to learn their names, all we called them a nick name. So I wouldn't have been any good to go to court. But a lot of the boys did and some got death, some got 10 years, 20 years, some got 25 years, some was dismissed. I got on a ship in Manila P.O. and went to San Francisco Calif. and stayed at Letterman Hospital at San Francisco Calif. stayed there for 8 or 10 days. And the boys were sent different places. I picked out Louisville, Ky. so we got on train and it had beds 3 high on each side of the aisle and I think it had 8 beds long. We had nurses and cook at the end of the coach and rode it to St. Louis Mo. I got on another train. Rode it to Louisville, Ky. turned in a nickel at General Hospital and stayed there until the U.S. government was turning the hospital over to the Veterans Administration. Those wasn't discharged from service, was sent to other hospitals, they sent me to Percy Jones Gen. Hospital at Battle Creek, Mich. I was there for almost a year. And they sent me out to Fort Custer, Mich. about 4 miles out to be discharged from the army. I got my discharge after I got some days leave. And I was discharged on Feb. 5, 1947. I may go back to when I was in P.O.W. camp in Cabanatuan 1 and 3, when had 30 to 50 to die each day. The P.O.W. was too weak to dig that many graves so the Japanese had us to wrap a blanket around the body and put them all in one hole. Back in Niigata Japan when a boy died they would nail up a box and put the body in the box and put it in one cart.

(on next page)

3. Describe as much as you can about the alerts that Tank Group Held. They had us to put our company 19, 192nd Tank to back our tanks off the main way of Clark Field, after the Japanese had hit Pearl Harbor.

4. What else did the unit do while at Ft Stotsenburg until the time of the attack on Clark Field? They had us to get busy ~~for~~ loading ammunition in fields.

5. Was the unit able to do any recon or other training after arrival in country?

A very little as we were there just 18 days before the Japanese hit us.

6. What position was your unit in on Dec 8th and can you describe it? We had our tanks ready to run out there and run over the ~~any~~ enemy air planes. But it did not work that way, they dropped their bombs.

7. When and how did the unit learn of the impending attack? What time was Clark Field attacked? We were out beside the Clark Field and we let 3 men from each tank go up and meet the mess truck and left one man with each tank.

8. What did your unit do during the attack? After the bombers had dropped their bombs ~~and~~ tearing up all the air plane hangars and the bombers left and the Japanese come in their small fighters and ~~and~~ shot their machine gun bullets and tracers and set all our planes on fire was on the ground. The Japanese bullets fell around us like hail.

9. What did the unit do immediately after the initial attack was over? Where did it move to? We kept moving on under the big mango trees we went to a place near Manila called Montalopa and we heard the Japs were landing by thousands, so they gave us order to go toward Batangas, so we drove thru Manila, and the Japs had all ready dropped a lot of bombs there.

And they would give us a half (antenn) cup of some water
soup, made out of dycon, (the same as our radish) but they were
larger than our ears of corn. ~~They~~^{we} would slice it up fine and a person
would get some pieces in soup. About once a month we got ~~some~~ bones
to boil and the bones looked like they had been shaved with a razor
as no meat left on the bones, we would boil them all night to get some
of the stock in our soup water, we would go out to the garbage cans
and go throw the bones and some time you would run across a soft
one you could eat like a bar of candy or get some of the marrow out of the
center of the bones. They gave us some grass hoppers to eat once in a while
wicker. They had been dried and when you eat them the firm stuff on a grass
hopper legs was like steel wool, would hurt your throat once in a while they
would give us some old snails like come off a ruffle in a mussel. We would
boil them and take the shell off and try to separate the meat from the mud
but I would eat 4 or 5 and almost always get the mud mixed in the meat
and my mouth would have the old mud taste in it. When the red cross man
from Geneva would come in camp. They would give a lot of stuff that
they so the red cross man could see what we were eating but the next
meal would be back like it was before. The boys who were walking back
and forward to work at the coal docks at Mitaka Japan, they would see where
the U.S. ~~bombers~~^{bombers} had come over dropping them in the water, so the Japanese
ship would hit them and the ship would sink. The Japanese would beat us
up, and we could tell the American was winning the war, they had a large
gun on top of the hill behind our camp building and if the American had men
come in with ships and shot at their gun the shells would have landed in
our camp, and killed all of us. When we saw the American ~~bombers~~^{bombers} fly
over our camp. We got some yellow paint and climbed up on top of
the building and put on the roof Camp 5 B - POW. (as the Jap guards
had all recently left our camp. The planes saw the sign on the roof and they
came back to the ships and came back and dropped out food, clothes,
shoes out with parachutes. So we found out the American was in Tokyo
So 300 of us went down town and climbed in the passenger ~~coach~~^{coach} on the
Train with no tickets and we rode it in to Tokyo.

10. What damage and casualties did the unit suffer? What damage was done at Clark?

We lost one man the first day on Dec 8, 1941 out of company G, 192nd. He was drafted in the army or volunteered in Army and he was put in Co. G at Fort. Knox, Ky. He was Robert Brooks, They have named a parade ground at Fort. Knox Ky after him call it Brooks field.

11. When did the battalion move north to the Lingayen Gulf area and what did it do between the attack on Clark and this move? They were all going different ways.

12. Describe the trip north. What was the units destination and when did it arrive?

We were in ahead of the Japanese on our way to Batocan to form a line across from the ocean to Manila bay.

13. When did your unit first make contact with the Japanese? Describe this action in as much detail as possible.

cl was taken out of the tank and put in as a mess Sgt. But we cooked up ^{supper} the ~~the~~ bamboo and trees, they would kill all the caribous or (water buffalo) the work in the rice paddies one day they brought a horse leg in with the hide on it, cl had to take the hide off, couldn't cook it as it was so tough, so cl got out a meat grinder and then cl cooked it.

One day they brought in 4-126 cans of salmon in and one round loaf bread to feed 70 men, so we were all starved to death, cl weighed 200 lbs when the war started and when cl came out of Japanese p.o.w. camp in Niigata Japan cl ~~weighed~~ weighed 105 in Sept. 5, 1945,

over on other side of page.

We had to take the coal out of the ~~whole~~ hole of the ship with a net
then we had to shovel it in large cups on a conveyor went up to a trestle
and we would push these cars around would hold about 1 1/2 or 2 ton of coal
to a car and if it was rail road coal car in we would dump the coal
in the cars, but if it wasn't any cars there we had to dump it on the ground
and when a car came in we had to put a pole on our shoulders with a basket
on each end of the pole with about 3 coal scoops full to a basket walk on
ground up to the top of the rail road car and empty the coal in the rail road
cars, I stopped one afternoon on the trestle to ~~rest~~ ^{urinate} and the boy pushing a car
behind me didn't see me stop, so he hit me, it was so weak I couldn't hold on the
rail tie, so I fell 35 feet to the ground and landed on my feet and I couldn't
~~move~~ the boys made the stretcher out of 2 poles and sacks and carried me
back to our P.O.W. Camp 5 B, they had one ~~long~~ long room they ~~used~~ ^{used} for a hospital
we all slept on the floor as we had no beds, we had a British doctor, but no
medicine, the boys would die later. Night time we had to be quiet, move as I
was paralyzed, the Japanese would come in each morning kick me and wanting
me to get up and go to work, so I had a army web belt, I had the boys to
fasten the belt around the ~~the~~ wooden joist or rafters over where I layed and
each morning I would have the boys to lift me up and I would get a hold the
belt and I would try to work my legs up and down, I did that for 2 or 3 weeks.

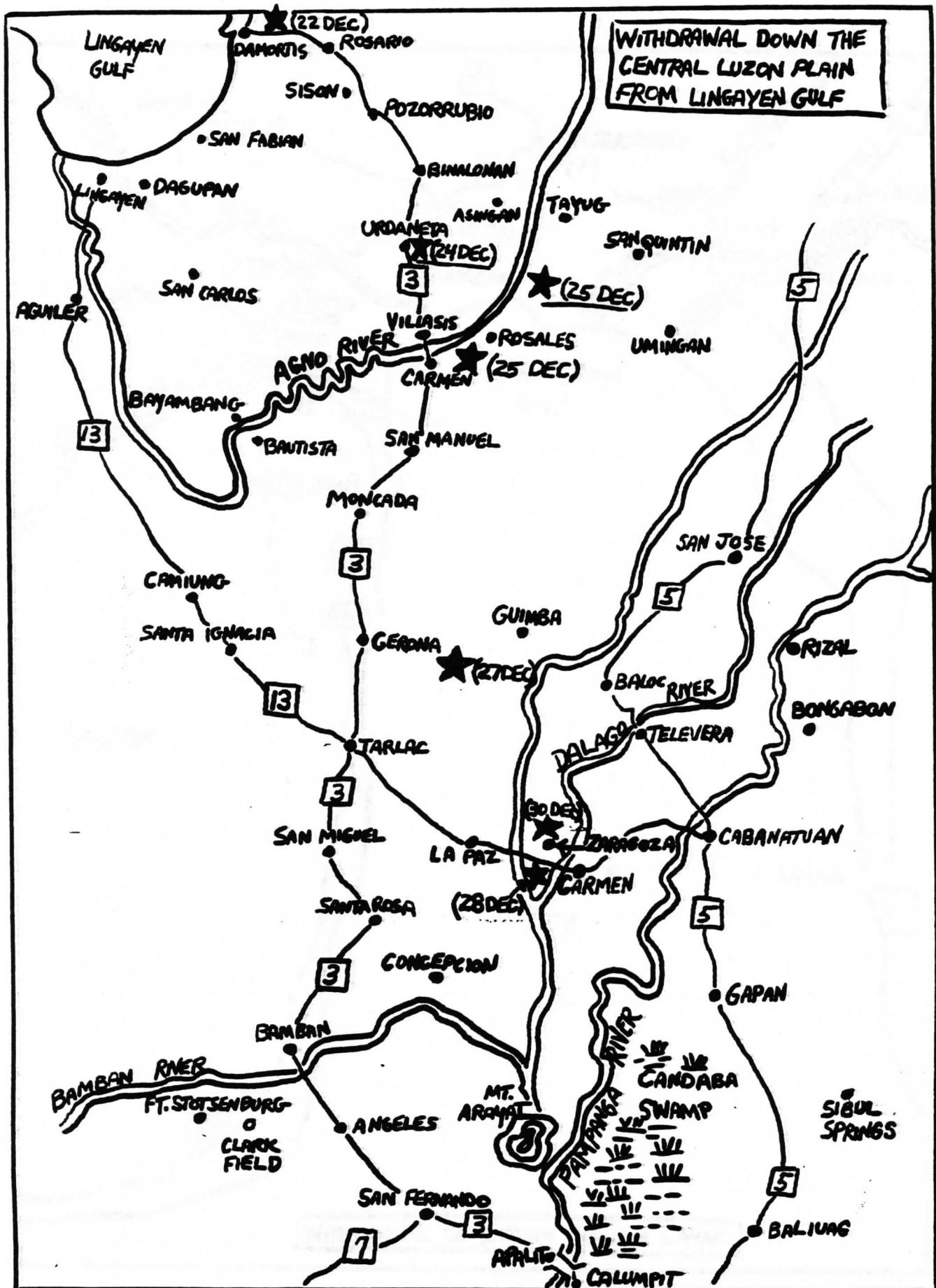
And one day I told the boys I was going back to where I slept in the building
but I was like a person drunk as I couldn't walk straight and I had to learn
to walk all over like a small kid, I wasn't near able to work any more on the
coal detail. But they made ^{me} do work in camp, I would have to make a broom
out of little pieces of limbs of wood to sweep the P.O.W. Camp ground as we didn't
have no walkers or grass on the Camp ground. We slept in large building like
barns, had real large doors at both end of building with a large double way in the
center, men slept on both side the first floor was about 2 ft from the ground and
~~men~~ had to climb a ladder go up on the second floor to sleep, each man just
had enough room to lay on about 3 ft wide, and if you turned over in the night
you would be next to the other man, we had 3 blankets layed on floor and no heat
in building, we cut a 50 gal drum in two long ways and made a stove and made
stone pipe, but the Japanese wouldn't give us any coal to burn, so we had to
stick small pieces and put in our over coat pockets, some time the Japs
would search you and if they found you had coal in your pockets they would
beat you up, they just gave us a small bowl of chop rice a lot of time
it would be sweeping of a warehouse floor. (over on next page)

22 December 1941 to 9 April 1942

On the three pages that follow you will find maps that show the phases of fighting in which the 192d was involved. Various positions are shown by a star and date. Question marks indicate uncertainty about the position or date.

I would like you to look at each of these maps and try to recall as many incidents and experiences that you might have had at any of the towns or locations. I realize that this will be difficult after 40 years but I hope that hearing these names again will help you remember. Write down as much as you can remember. Feel free to write on the maps and to add as many pages as you desire. It is possible that I have left out places you are familiar with, please write what you can about these also. Chain of command is important during this period, as are unit locations and key fights. Additionally try to address logistical problems, tactics used and armor-infantry coordination. Was there special effort to familiarize other branches about armor usage?

C I wasn't in the death march, as when the orders came to surrender to the Japenes, we were down in the for ^{Part} of Batuan across Manila Bay to, so it was about 18 of us didn't stay to surrender, we made it down to the bank and looked over the cliff and saw water, so we walked. Walked the cliff like mountain climbers and we went around the cliff and found a old man half Spanish and half Chinese sitting back in the cave in the cliff - so we walked a fourth and went back to him he had a ~~boat~~ boat with a motor down in the hole, so our Tank ~~Mechanics~~ ^{Mechanics} to work on the motor and get it running and we loaded 2 - 55 gal barrels of gasoline on the boat and we were aiming to travel at night and stop off at places at ~~night~~ in the day time, But it was a officer showed his gun on us which was sitting on the float and said he would shoot all of ~~us~~ ^{us} if we didn't take him and his 10 men, so they wanted go to Corregidor, so we started out to Corregidor and the Japanese tanks began shooting at us one shell would drop beside of our boat and another one would ~~hit~~ Hit on the other side, but we never did get hit, And when we get over to Corregidor they wouldn't let us leave on account the Japanese had their ships out there in the water would sink us, so we stayed there it was there for 1 day 1 night, the shell was hitting all over Corregidor, so they wanted some men to go on detail, it was in a tunnel and couldn't smoke and wasn't room to sit down, so I went on the detail to Fort Krum, a concrete Battleship out in ~~manila~~ ^{manila} over on other side



SURRENDER

1. How did you receive word that there was to be a surrender?

2. Where was your unit located when it received the surrender order. What actions were taken? Describe what happened that day.

DEATH MARCH and POW CAMPS

1. When and where did the march begin for you?

2. Describe your experiences on the march.

3. What POW camps were you kept at and can you describe your experiences at each one?