

Harrodsburg Awaits Word of 42 Believed to Be In Jap Prison Camps

Harrodsburg was quiet yesterday. Anxiety was mixed with expectancy as families tensely waited for official word of the Japanese surrender.

It was four years ago that this oldest Kentucky town sent 66 of its men to the Philippines. Twenty-four of them have been accounted for—five liberated and 19 dead—but 42 are believed to be in Japan proper or camps in enemy territory.

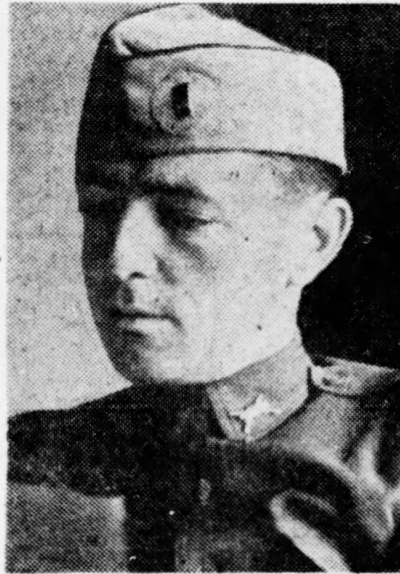
Harrodsburg hearts might have been lifted a mite higher for it's almost a certainty that the 42 will be among the first liberated when peace comes. But even that was no cause for wild rejoicing.

No Wild Whoopee Planned.

Seeing always will be believing, and until the men walk into the homes empty for so long without them, peace will not come to Harrodsburg. Then there'll be thanksgiving; no mild or wild whoopee.

As Mrs. Edwin Rue, wife of the captain who commanded the Mercer unit when Bataan fell, explained:

"Harrodsburg has suffered too



CAPT. EDWIN RUE.
Now in Philippines.

much and too long to celebrate on V-J Day."

Mrs. Rue said that she had spoken to several of the families in the last few days, and they

all felt the way she did. Too many times have their hopes been raised falsely; now they just are waiting.

Heard Via Short Wave.

Many months have gone by since any of the families have heard from the men. Some received messages, and, last February, Captain Rue was heard on a short-wave broadcast.

"He said everything was all right and not to worry," Mrs. Rue related. "But I guess there wasn't much else he would have been allowed to say. I think that was the last message heard from any of our men."

The Harrodsburg outfit was the only tank company of the Kentucky National Guard, and was the first Kentucky Guard unit to be inducted into the Regular Army. It became Company D, 192d Tank Battalion at Fort Knox, and sailed from San Francisco for the Philippines in October, 1941. There, it was in action against the Japs from December 7 to the end of the campaign.

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Wed, Jan 10, 2018