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STAFF PHOTO BY BYRON CRAWFORD


Among members of the 192nd Light Tank Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard who gathered last Sunday were: (front row from left) Kenneth Hourigan, Earl Fowler, Ernest Logan Sampson; (back row from left) Alvin Powelitte, Edwin Rue, Bland Moore and Cecil Vandiver. All but Powelitte, a doctor who now lives in Fort Mitchell, were members of Company D.

Harrodsburg tank is tribute to WW II heroism, tragedy

HARRODSBURG, Ky. — Passers-by often wonder why a World War II Army tank is permanently parked on the outskirts of Harrodsburg, near the American flag and the sign proclaiming the town Kentucky's first settlement.

Most are probably going too fast to notice the bronze plaque encased in a stone marker beside the tank. It is inscribed with the names of 66 members of Company D, 192nd Light Tank Battalion of the Kentucky Army National Guard from Harrodsburg, which, in 1941, became the first American force to engage an enemy in tank warfare in World War II.

The 192nd had distinguished itself in maneuvers against regular Army tankers at Camp Polk, La., earlier that year, and



BYRON CRAWFORD

Gen. George Patton Jr. himself is said to have picked the outfit for mobilization to the Philippine Islands.

The 192nd would later be cited for its outstanding performance in the war, but when the Japanese overran the islands in

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D Co. 1990-1

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D Co. 1990-2

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