

... “On Sept. 19, 1940, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced plans to mobilize 37,000 additional National Guardsmen in November, bringing the total to 133,000 Guardsmen on active duty. Shortly after they returned from training in Wisconsin in September 1940, the 38th Tank Unit was federalized and designated as Company D, 192nd Light Tank Battalion.” ...

Ref: <https://www.harrodsburgherald.com/2020/04/09/honoring-the-sacrifice-of-the-harrodsburg-tankers/>

=====

ALL INFO REF: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

=====

**THE HARRODSBURG TANKERS
Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion,
Harrodsburg’s Kentucky Guardsmen
Who Perished During Captivity
(DIED)**

[The 1st “Harrodsburg Tanker” to die.]

hbt 0.

“Private First-Class Robert H. Brooks (Co. D, 92nd Tank Battalion; "Harrodsburg Tankers", first U. S. Armored Forces casualty of World War II., Dec. 8 1941)
BIRTH 8 OCT 1915 • McFarland, Scott County, Kentucky, USA
DEATH 8 DEC 1941 (1 DAY AFTER "PEARL HARBOR, DEC. 7, 1941) • Died at Clark Field near Fort Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands; Buried at, Angeles, Pampanga Province, Central Luzon, Philippines; Find A Grave # 56764686.” ...

Education; Grammar school.

Civil Occupation; Sales clerks.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164790628/person/162145456592/facts>

(Private First-Class Robert H. Brooks)

... “The first soldier killed in action in the Eastern Theater of Operations, United States Armored Forces in the Far East, was Private Robert H. Brooks from Scott County, Kentucky. Brooks was drafted into service at Cincinnati, Ohio, and processed at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, on 22 January 1941.

He arrived at Fort Knox on 25 January where he was assigned to Company D. According to Maurice E. (Jack) Wilson, when the attack

Robert H. Brooks on Clark Field occurred, Private Brooks was “sitting down in front of his tank looking up at the planes. As the bombs fell, the shrapnel cut the side of his face off and took part of his shoulder.”

Major General Jacob L. Devers, Chief of the Armored Force, learning that Private Brooks was the first American casualty of the war, ordered the parade ground at Fort Knox named in honor of the deceased. A letter of condolence was sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brooks, who were sharecroppers on a farm near Sadieville, in Scott County. Then the Army learned that the light-skinned Brooks was black and may have lied about his race when drafted. One member of Company D remembered thinking that Brooks was of Mediterranean descent. Had it been known that he was black, Brooks would not have been allowed to serve with the 192nd Tank Battalion as the armed forces were not yet integrated.

Preparations for the dedication of Brooks Field were well underway when General Devers was informed that Brooks was black. He promptly ordered that no aspect of the arrangements be changed. In his speech at the dedication ceremony, General Devers stated: For the preservation of America, the soldiers and sailors guarding our outposts are giving their lives. In death there is no grade or rank. And in this, the greatest Democracy the world has known, neither riches nor poverty, neither creed nor race draws a line of demarcation, in this hour of national crisis.” ...

Ref: <https://kyngistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“PVT Robert H. Brooks

BIRTH, 8 Oct 1915, Sadieville, Scott County, Kentucky, USA

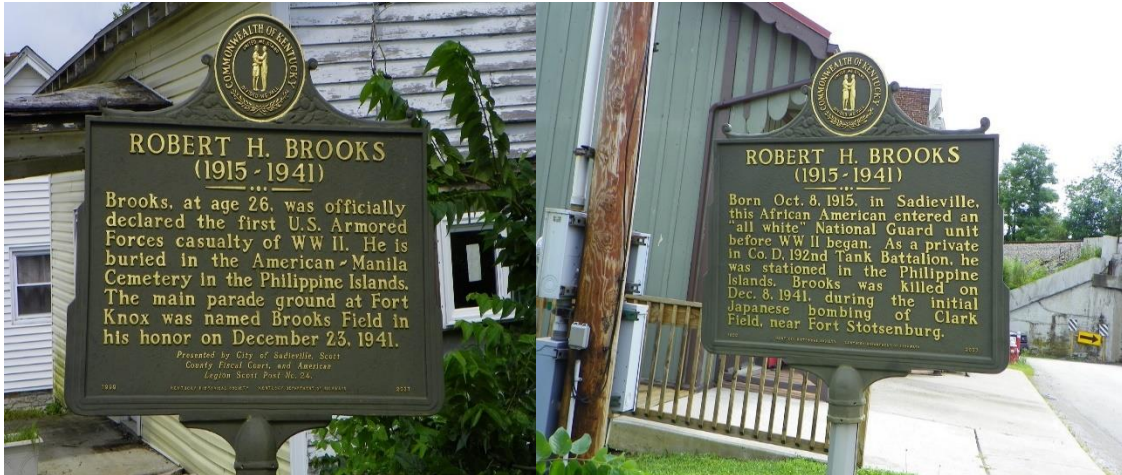
DEATH, 8 Dec 1941 (aged 26), Angeles, Pampanga Province, Central Luzon, Philippines

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

PLOT, Plot D, Row 2, Grave 4

MEMORIAL ID, 56764686





(Robert Brooks in a group photo of draftees taken at Ft. Knox, Kentucky,) & (Adaline Brooks (mother) Roy Brooks (Father))

Pvt. Robert Brooks was drafted into the U.S. Army, while living in Ohio, and sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for basic training. He was assigned to D Company 192nd Tank Battalion since he was born in Kentucky. On December 8, 1941, he was killed during the attack by the Japanese on Clark Airfield in the Philippines. Brooks was the first American tank crew member to die in World War II. The main parade ground at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, was named after him on December 24, 1941.

It was just before the dedication of the parade ground, in his honor, that it was discovered he was an African-American who had been assigned to a White army unit. The commanding general at the base stated his color was insignificant. In 2011, a new, more prominent, memorial marker was placed at Brooks Field. The original marker is now on display at the Patton Museum at Ft. Knox.

For more information, go to: www.bataanproject.com/brooks.htm ” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56764686>

hbt 1.

Sgt. Elsworth "Elzie" Anness (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW-II)
1921–1943

BIRTH 4 AUG 1921 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, United States

DEATH 27 JAN 1943 • died at Camp Tanagawa, Osaka, Japan; buried at Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 66163694

Education: 4 years of high school.

Occupation: Actors and actresses

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164626796/person/302142417134/facts>

...” Elzie E. Anness

Sergeant Elzie E. Anness, Headquarters Company, 192nd Light Tank Battalion joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in November 1940.

He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. It is not known whether he was on the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Las Pinas. He was sent to Japan on the Hell Ship Nagato Maru and he was sent to Tanagawa Camp, Osaka, Japan and worked building a dry dock. He died on 27 January 1943 at Camp Tanagawa, Osaka, Japan of dysentery.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Sgt Elzie E. Anness

BIRTH, 4 Aug 1921, Stringtown, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 27 Jan 1943 (aged 21), Japan

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 66163694



Sgt Elzie E. Anness was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service as a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was reassigned to HQ Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Anness fought on Bataan during the Japanese conquest of the Philippine Islands and took part in the Bataan Death March. He was held as a Prisoner of War at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan and sent to Japan on a "Hell Ship".

He became ill with dysentery while a POW at Tanagawa POW Camp in Japan where he died.

Elzie Anness's final resting place is unknown, so his family had a memorial headstone placed at Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Kentucky.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66163694>

hbt 2.

“Tech. Sgt. Johnnie William/Henry Bottoms (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)
1915–1942

BIRTH 23 SEP 1915 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, United States of America
DEATH 28 MAY 1942 • died at Japanese POW Calauan Camp #3; buried at Richmond Cemetery, Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, USA MEMORIAL ID, 59523938
Highest Grade Completed; High School, 2nd year.

Occupation; Clerk

(He was married with 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627002/person/322143320946/facts>

... “Johnnie Bottoms

Technical Sergeant Johnnie Bottoms joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated. He later was assigned to Headquarters Company. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March arriving at Camp O’Donnell. He went out on a work detail to repair bridges. He died of malaria on 1 June 1942 at Calauan Camp #3. His remains were returned to Harrodsburg after the war.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

Spouse & Children

Anna Mae Spoonamore, 1920–1991

Son; Johnnie William Bottoms, Jr., 1939–2006

“Sgt Johnnie W. Bottoms, Sr

BIRTH, 23 Sep 1915, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 28 May 1942 (aged 26), Philippines

BURIAL, Richmond Cemetery, Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 59523938



T/Sgt. Johnnie Bottoms was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service as a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was transferred to Hq Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

He took part in the Bataan Death March and was held as a Prisoner of War at Camp O'Donnell and Calauan. He died of malaria while a POW. His death bed was a wet concrete floor.

After the war, his remains were returned home.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59523938>

hbt 3.

“Pvt. Vernon H. Bussell (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW-II)

1921–1944

BIRTH 1 JUL 1921 • Harlan County, Kentucky

DEATH 24 OCT 1944 • drowned in the "South China Sea"; memorial at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, PLOT, Tablets of the Missing MEMORIAL ID, 56759295

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 3rd year.

Occupation: Farm hands, general farms.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627101/person/292140940999/facts>

... “Vernon H. Bussell

Private Vernon H. Bussell joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was later assigned to Headquarters Company. They were taken prisoner on 11 April 1942.

They were trucked to Mariveles where he began the Death March eventually ending up at Camp O'Donnell. At some point he was sent to Manila to work on vehicles in a garage. He was later put aboard the Hell Ship Arisan Maru bound for Formosa. He was lost at sea when an American submarine attacked the unmarked prisoner transport on 24 October 1944.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“SGT Vernon H Bussell

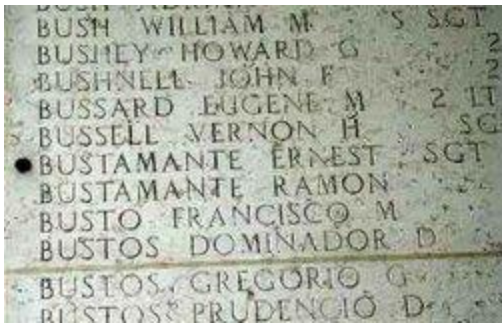
BIRTH, 1 Jul 1921, Harlan County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Oct 1944 (aged 23)

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

PLOT, Tablets of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56759295



Son of Clara Bussell, he was a member of Headquarters Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. Vernon was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 by the Japanese during the invasion of the Philippines. He would survive two and half years of brutality at the hands of the Japanese until he died when the Japanese "Hell Ship" Arisan Maru was torpedoed by an American submarine in the South China Sea on 24 October 1944.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759295/bu>

hbt 4.

“Pfc. Robert Vernon Cloyd (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW-II)

1921–1944

BIRTH 15 FEB 1921 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 24 OCT 1944 • died in the "South China Sea", WW-II; memorial at, MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines *. PLOT, Tablets of the Missing MEMORIAL ID, 56759533

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 2nd year.

Occupation; Semiskilled chauffeurs and drivers, bus, taxi, truck, and tractor

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627208/person/342142989455/facts>

... “Robert V. Cloyd

Private First-Class Robert V. Cloyd joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was then assigned to Headquarters Company. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1941 and survived the Death March.

He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan and was on a work detail building runway at Las Pinas. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Arisan Maru bound for Formosa. He was lost at sea when an American submarine attacked the unmarked prisoner transport on 24 October 1944.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“PFC Robert Vernon Cloyd

BIRTH, 15 Feb 1922, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Oct 1944 (aged 22)

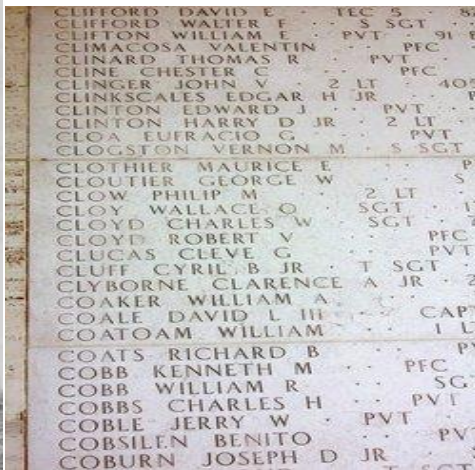
MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial
Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Tablets of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56759533

... “



Died when the Japanese Hell Ship the Arisan Maru was sunk by an American submarine in the South China Sea. Of the 1803, POWs on the ship only nine survived. The Japanese allowed the POWs to drown.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759533>

hbt 5.

“Pfc. Ancel Edgar Crick (Harrodsburg Tankers-WW II)
1917–1944

BIRTH 23 JUL 1917 • Whitley County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 24 OCT 1944 • died in the "South China Sea" WW-II; memorial at
MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District,
National Capital Region, Philippines, Walls of the Missing MEMORIAL ID, 56759694
Education; Grammar school.

Occupation; Semiskilled mechanics and repairmen, motor vehicles.

(He was married and had 1 daughter)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627338/person/282142450334/facts>

... “Ancel Edgar Crick

Private First Class Ancel Edgar Crick joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before they were activated in November 1940. He was transferred to Headquarters Company. He was taken prisoner on 11 April 1942 when they were put on trucks for Mariveles.

He survived the Death March and eventually to Camp O'Donnell and later at Cabanatuan. He was on a work detail for a time at Las Pinas building runways. He was

later put aboard the Hell Ship Arisan Maru bound for Formosa. He was lost at sea when an American submarine attacked the unmarked prisoner transport on 24 October 1944.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“PFC Ancel Edgar Crick

BIRTH, 23 Jul 1917, Whitley County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Oct 1944 (aged 27)

MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial
Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Walls of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56759694 .



Son of Sam and Zetta Mae Smith Crick. As a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion, he was stationed near Clark Airfield in the Philippines when it was attacked by the Japanese on 8 December 1941. He was taken prisoner on Bataan on 9 April 1942 and survived the infamous Bataan Death March, only to die when the Japanese prison ship Arisan Maru was torpedoed and sunk in the South China Sea by an American submarine. Gravesite Details His body was lost at sea.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759694>

hbt 6.

“Pfc. John Lewis Cummins (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW-II)

1921–1944

BIRTH 31 JAN 1921 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 24 OCT 1944 • died on the "Hell Ship Arisan Maru" “as it sank; memorial at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines; MEMORIAL ID, 56759738

Highest Grade Completed: High School, 2nd year.

Occupation: Clerks, general office

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627465/person/192143222812/facts>

... “John L. Cummins

Private First-Class John Lewis Cummins joined the Harrodsburg National Guard's unit some time before it was activated in November 1940. He was later transferred to Headquarters Company. He was taken prisoner on 11 April 1942 and moved in trucks to Mariveles. He survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O' Donnell where he went on a work detail to repair bridges. He was then sent to Cabanatuan and later to Bilibid Prison. He was later put aboard the Hell Ship Arisan Maru bound for Formosa. He was lost at sea when an American submarine attacked the unmarked prisoner transport on 24 October 1944.” ...

Ref: <https://kyngistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

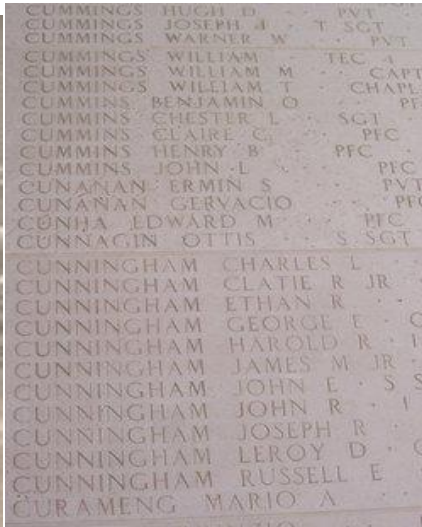
“PFC John L. Cummins

BIRTH, 31 Jan 1921, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Oct 1944 (aged 23), At Sea

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

MEMORIAL ID, 56759738



John's mother was identified as Mary Dennis.

On 25 Nov 1940, John L. Cummins (B: 1921, Kentucky), of Mercer County, was called to active duty from the National Guard as an Infantry Private in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He was described as: single, 5 feet 6 inches, 122 pounds, and an office clerk (WWII Enlistments).

John served with the 192nd Tank Battalion. The 192nd and 194th Tank Battalions defended the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion in what was America's first tank engagement of World War II. Overwhelmed, the 192nd and 194th covered the

retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the tank units received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. John endured and survived the Bataan Death March followed. On 7 May 1942, he was reported as a POW. However, he lost his life while a POW on the "Hell Ship" Arisan Maru. The Arisan Maru was torpedoed by the American submarine USS Shark. POWs not killed by the torpedo were executed as they attempted to climb on Japanese rescue ships or left to drown. Hell ships were unmarked as POW carriers as an effective decoy to protect other Japanese ships.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759738>

hbt 7.

“Sgt. Oscar “Billy” Dean (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW-II)

1919–1942

BIRTH 23 JUN 1919 • Oregon, Rd, Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 20 OCT 1942 • died at a Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, Philippines; buried, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA; PLOT, I, 67-68 MEMORIAL ID, 3298045

Education; 3 years of high school.

Occupation; Farmer

(He was not married)



Oscar Dean

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164627691/person/412140850264/facts>

... “Oscar Dean

Sergeant Oscar Dean joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before it was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1941 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan where he died of

dysentery on 20 October 42. His remains were later returned to Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

(NOTE; He has 2 “Find A Grave Memorials” in his name.)

#1.

“SGT Oscar “Billy” Dean

BIRTH, 23 Jun 1919, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 11 Oct 1942 (aged 23), Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija Province, Central Luzon, Philippines

BURIAL, Cabanatuan Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

MEMORIAL ID, 209885910

Serial No. #20523475

Enlistment Date: 11/25/1940

D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion

NARA War Department records list this soldiers Home of Record as Fayette County, Kentucky...Died Non-Battle.

The Cabanatuan Memorial is located 85 miles north of Manila, within the city of Cabanatuan, Luzon, and Republic of the Philippines. It marks the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where approximately 75,000 American and Philippine servicemen and civilians were held captive from 1942 to 1945, after the fall of the Philippine Island during World War II.

The memorial consists of a 90-foot concrete base in the center of which rests a marble altar. It is surrounded on three sides by a fence of steel rods and on the fourth by a Wall of Honor upon which are inscribed the names of the approximately 3,000 Americans who lost their lives while being held captive. Co-located on the site are the West Point Monument, which pays homage to the 170 American and 6 Filipino graduates of the U.S. Military Academy who lost their lives during the defense of the Philippines or while prisoner of war at Cabanatuan and the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (a Filipino veterans organization) memorial which salutes their American fallen comrades.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209885910>

#2.

“Sgt Oscar “Billy” Dean

BIRTH, 23 Jun 1919, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 11 Oct 1942 (aged 23)

BURIAL, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA

PLOT I, 67-68

MEMORIAL ID, 3298045

Sgt. Oscar Dean died at Camp Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.



Inscription

SGT, US ARMY AIR FORCES WORLD WAR II” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/3298045>

hbt 8.

“Staff Sgt. Walter Wallace Denny (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1918–1942

BIRTH 29 AUG 1918 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 22 JUL 1942 • died in a Japanese, POW Camp, Philippines; buried at Manila

American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region,

Philippines, PLOT, Plot L, Row 2, Grave 96, MEMORIAL ID, 56759872

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 3rd year.

Occupation; Farming.” ...

(He was married; no children)



Ref: [https://www.ancestry.com/family-](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164656358/person/122138352443/facts?_phsrc=Blg6&_phstart=success)

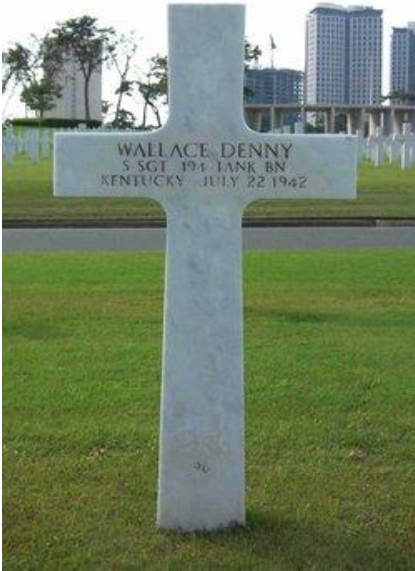
[tree/person/tree/164656358/person/122138352443/facts?_phsrc=Blg6&_phstart=success](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164656358/person/122138352443/facts?_phsrc=Blg6&_phstart=success)
[Source](#)

“SSgt Wallace Denny

BIRTH, 29 Aug 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 22 Jul 1942 (aged 23), Philippines

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines
PLOT, Plot L Row 2 Grave 96
MEMORIAL ID, 56759872



On 25 Nov 1940, Wallace was called to active duty from the National Guard as a Sergeant with the Infantry in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He was described as: single, 6 feet 1 inch, 171 pounds, and a farm hand (WWII Enlistments).

Wallace served with the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. The 192nd covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the 192nd received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks.

On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. Wallace endured and survived the Bataan Death March that followed. However, he lost his life while a POW.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759872>

“Wallace Denny

Staff Sergeant Wallace Denny, born in South Carolina, enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1. He died there of dysentery on 22 July 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

hbt 9.

“Sgt. Ben R. Devine, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)
1919–1942

BIRTH 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 19 MAY 1942 • Died of dysentery at a Japanese POW, Camp, O'Donnell, Tarlac, Philippines; buried, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, MEMORIAL ID, 56759885

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farmer

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164656831/person/432139167762/facts>

... “Ben R. Devine

Sergeant Ben R. Devine enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell where he died of dysentery on 19 May 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

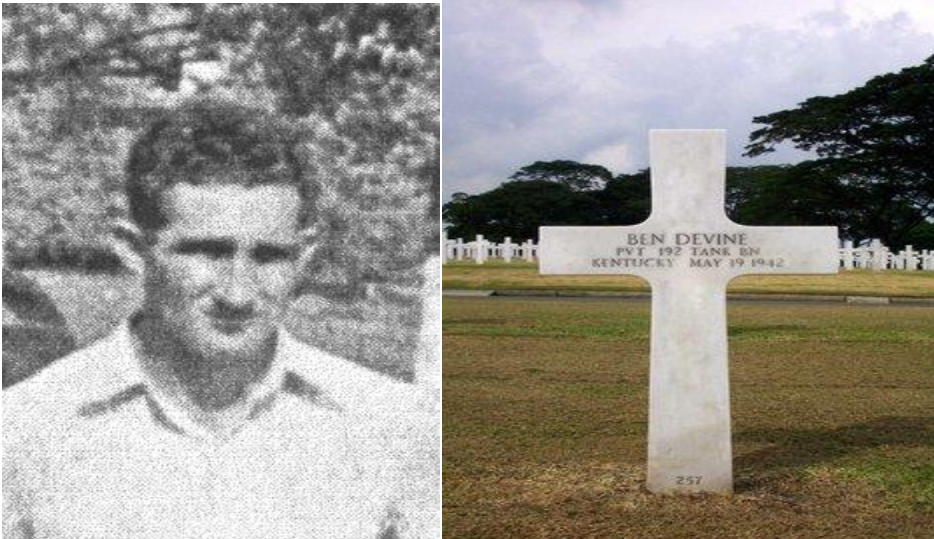
“Pvt Ben Devine

BIRTH, 1919

DEATH, 19 May 1942 (aged 22–23)

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

MEMORIAL ID, 56759885



Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56759885>

hbt 10.

“Pvt. Willard Ermal Foster (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

BIRTH 27 DEC 1923 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA
DEATH 1 JUN 1942 • Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan #1, Philippines. He died of dysentery.

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farm hands, general farms.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164657096/person/362141612699/facts>

... “Willard Emmal Foster

Private Willard Emmal Foster joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1941 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1. He died of dysentery on 1 June 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Pvt Willard Ermal Foster

BIRTH, 27 Dec 1923, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 1 Jun 1942 (aged 18), Philippines

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

MEMORIAL ID, 56760332



Willard's parents were Arthur and Eva Gladys Chilton Foster, and his siblings were Lorraine, Caldwell, and Maxine Foster.

Willard enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard on 20 May 1940 and his unit was federalized into the U.S. Army, 25 Nov 1940, in Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

He trained at Fort Knox and then Camp Polk before shipping out to the Philippines shortly before the Japanese invasion. He fought in the battles for Luzon and Bataan before being ordered to surrender and surviving the Bataan Death March. He was imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1 before dying of dysentery.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56760332>

hbt 11.

“Sgt. Edward Theodore French (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1917–1942

BIRTH 16 AUG 1917 • Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 22 APR 1942 • died In a Japanese POW field hospital, Bataan, Philippines (friendly fire); buried, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, PLOT, Plot L, Row 4, Grave 90, MEMORIAL ID, 56760376

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farmer.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/165235956/person/122145615810/facts>

... “Edward T. French

Sergeant Edward Theodore French joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit, along with his brother Morgan, some time before they were activated in November 1940.

He was injured by shrapnel from Japanese bombing and was in a field hospital on Bataan.

In an attempt to prevent the American guns on Corregidor and Ft. Drum from firing on their artillery, the Japanese placed their guns among the buildings of the hospital. When a shell fired from Ft. Drum fell short and hit the hospital, Edward, along with 24 other soldiers, was killed on 22 April 1942 as a result of “friendly fire.” He was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries received during combat.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Pvt Edward Theodore French

BIRTH, 16 Aug 1917, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 22 Apr 1942 (aged 24)

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

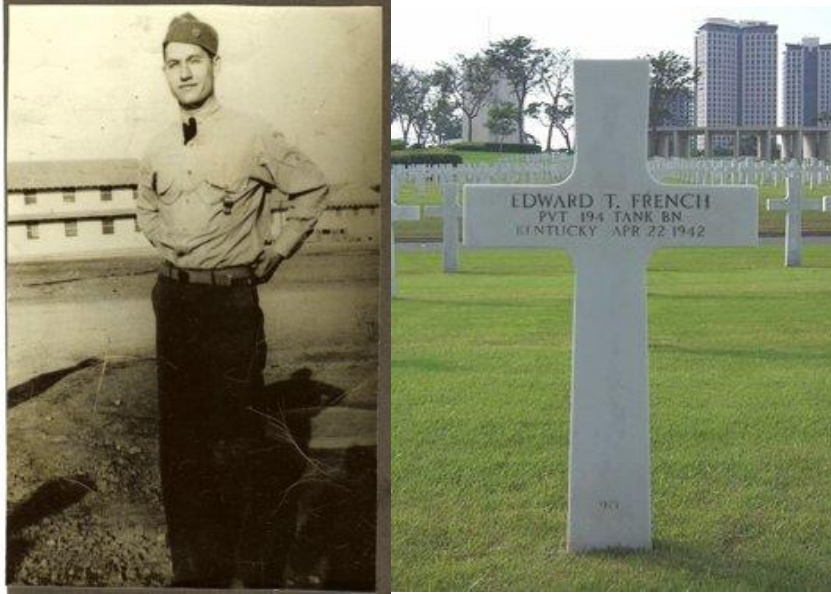
PLOT, Plot L Row 4 Grave 90

MEMORIAL ID, 56760376

196th Tank Battalion

Purple Heart Recipient

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...



Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56760376>

hbt 12.

“Sgt. Roy Edward Goodpaster, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)
1920–1945

BIRTH 4 JAN 1920 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 8 APR 1945 • Japanese POW Hospital, Moji, Japan. He later died of injuries he sustained during the sinking of the first two Hell Ships he was on. His ashes are buried in Yokohama War Cemetery Yokohama, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan, MEMORIAL ID, 161964956

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Laborer.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164657371/person/392142448484/facts>

... “Roy E. Goodpaster

Private Roy Edward Goodpaster enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit just five days before they were activated in November 1940 and was trained as a tank driver. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1.

He was put on three Hell Ships, Oryoku Maru, Enoura Maru and Brazil Maru. The first two were sunk before the third finally took him to Moji, Japan where he was held at Fukuoka #4 and the Moji Hospital. He later died of injuries he sustained during the sinking of the first two Hell Ships he was on.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Pfc Roy Edward Goodpaster
BIRTH, 4 Jan 1920, Madison County, Kentucky, USA
DEATH, 8 Apr 1945 (aged 25), Fukuoka, Japan
BURIAL, Yokohama War Cemetery, Yokohama, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan
MEMORIAL ID, 161964956



Pfc Roy Goodpaster was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was called to federal service from the Kentucky National Guard. In November 1941, he arrived in the Philippine Islands with his tank battalion and took part in the first battles of World War II. On April 9, 1942, he became a Prisoner of War and held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan.

In December 1944, he was boarded onto the Oryoku Maru for transport to Japan. The ship sailed on December 13th and came under attack from American planes on December 14th. As evening approached, the attack was called off. The next day the planes returned and continued the attack. When the pilots saw the large number of men climbing from the ship's holds, they realized the ship was carrying POWs and called off the attack. After the POWs were off the ship, the attack resumed and the ship was sunk by American planes at Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, on December 15, 1944. The surviving POWs were boarded onto the Enoura Maru which sailed on December 27th and reached Takao, Formosa, by the New Year. While docked it was bombed by American planes on January 9, 1945, killing many of the POWs.

The surviving POWs were boarded onto the Brazil Maru which sailed on January 13th and reached Japan on January 29, 1945. In Japan, he was held at Fukuoka #4. He became ill and was sent to Moji Military Hospital where he died. His body was cremated and the ashes were placed in a large urn. After the war, the urn was interred at Yokohama War Cemetery. This was done since the majority of ashes in the urn were those of British POWs.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161964956>

hbt 13.

“Pfc. Wesley Davis Hungate (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)
1919–1942
BIRTH 28 FEB 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 8 MAY 1942 OF DYSENTERY • died at Camp, O'Donnell, Tarlac, Philippines;
Buried at Camp Nelson National Cemetery Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky,
USA; PLOT, D, 0, 150 MILITARY, MEMORIAL ID, 814704

Education; Grammar school.

Occupation; Farm hands, general farms.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164657566/person/302142884506/facts>

... “Wesley Davis Hungate

Private First-Class Wesley Davis Hungate enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell where he died on 16 May 1942 of dysentery. His remains were later returned to Camp Nelson National Cemetery near Nicholasville” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Wesley D Hungate

BIRTH, 28 Feb 1919

DEATH, 12 May 1942 (aged 23)

BURIAL, Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky,
USA

PLOT, D, 0, 150, MILITARY ,

MEMORIAL ID, 814704

D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion - Fought on Bataan and died while a Japanese Prisoner of War.” ...



Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/814704>

hbt 14.

“Tech. Sgt. Berchell Keeling (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

BIRTH, 9 MAY 1923 • Washington County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH, 1 JUL 1942 DIED OF DYSENTERY • Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan, Philippines.

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade. Occupation; Laborer.” ... (He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164657702/person/302142885155/facts>

... “Berchell Keeling

Technical Sergeant Berchell Keeling enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner and held at Cabanatuan. He died of dysentery on 1 July 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

(NOTE; He has 2 “Find A Grave Memorials” in his name.)

#1.

“Tec 4 Birchell Keeling

BIRTH, 9 May 1923, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

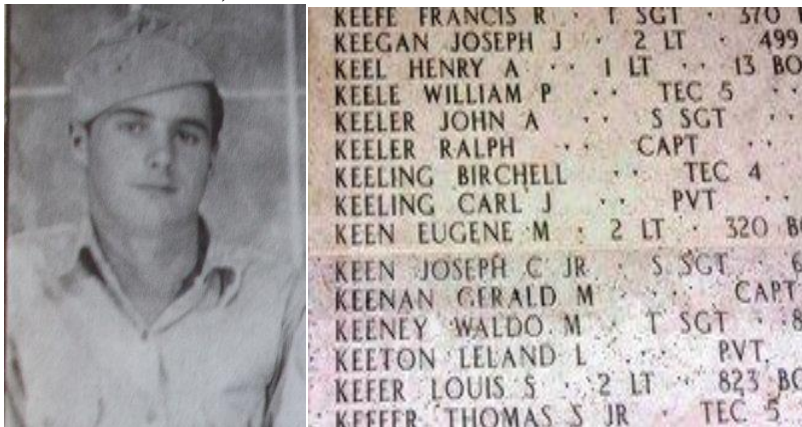
DEATH, 1 Jul 1942 (aged 19), Philippines

MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, * A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Tablets of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56761318



Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56761318>

#2.

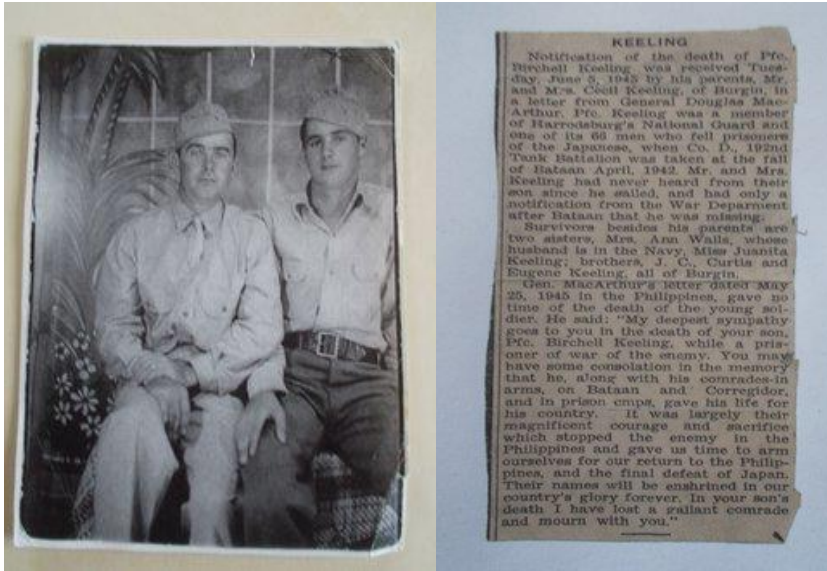
“Birchell Keeling

BIRTH, 9 May 1923, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 1 Jul 1942 (aged 19), Bataan Province, Central Luzon, Philippines

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 140704300



This is a memorial
 Born in Washington county, He was the son of Cecil and Rose Keeling. He was the older brother of Ann Keeling Walls, Juanita Keeling Moss, Curtis and J.C. Keeling, and Billy Eugene Keeling.

Birchell was inducted in the U.S. Army on Nov. 25, 1940, he trained at Fort Knox and Camp Polk, LA. He was sent overseas to the Philippines and was at the Battle of Luzon and Battle of Bataan.

He was a POW, Philippine Island, Cabanatuan. Birchell was one of many from Mercer County, KY, that was on the "Death March." He died in a prisoner of war camp, July 1, 1942 of dysentery. He was buried in a mass grave, to date remains unfound.

This young man was a Christian.

note: The in the photo Birchell Keeling is on the left, the smaller man on the right is his cousin Earl Fowler.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140704300>

hbt 15.



“ 2Lt. Harry Riker LaFon, Jr.

2Lt. Harry Riker LaFon, Jr.

BIRTH, 29 AUG 1918, Perry County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 7 SEP 1944, The Japanese POW "Hell" ship, the Tateishi, Maru, bound for Manila, Philippines.

Education; 2 years of college.

Occupation; Actors and actresses.” ...

(He was married; no children)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164658692/person/342143386825/facts>

... “Harry R. LaFon, Jr.

Second Lieutenant Harry Ricker LaFon, Jr., born in Virginia, joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He arrived at Fort Knox as a Private but quickly rose to Sergeant. After the Camp Polk maneuvers, he resigned from the army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell Cabanatuan. He was later sent to the Davao Penal Colony on the Island of Mindanao to work on a labor detail. He was put on board the Tateishi Maru for Manila. They were then transferred to the Shinyo Maru. The U.S.S Paddle attacked the unmarked prisoner transport off the west coast of Mindanao and he was lost when it sank on 7 September 1944.... “

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“2 Lt Harry R Lafon, Jr
 BIRTH, 12 Feb 1917, Kentucky, USA
 DEATH, 7 Sep 1944 (aged 27)
 MEMORIAL SITE*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial
 Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines; * A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.
 PLOT, Wall's Of The Missing
 MEMORIAL ID, 56761552



Harry served as a Second Lieutenant, 194th Tank Battalion, U.S. Army during World War II.

Even though Harry is shown on the "Wall Of The Missing" as being in the 194th Tank Battalion he was actually assigned to Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion that fought with the 194th Tank Battalion.

(Special thanks to: JimO for the above actual assignment info for Harry)

He resided in Mercer County, Kentucky and was a member of the Kentucky National Guard prior to the war.

His National Guard unit was called into full time active Army service on November 25, 1940, prior to the war, from Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He was noted, at that time, as being employed as a Actor and also as Single, without dependents.

He became a prisoner of the Japanese Army while fighting in the Philippines during the war in 1942.

Harry was declared "Missing In Action" while a POW of the Japanese Army in the sinking of the "Shinyo Maru".

He was awarded the Prisoner Of War Medal and the Purple Heart.

The Japanese ship "Shinyo Maru" was loaded with 750 U.S. POW's in the cargo holds. The U.S.S. Paddle (SS-263), not knowing that American POW's were on board, fired torpedoes at the ship off the coast of Mindanao and sank it. Some Japanese guards shot prisoners as they struggled from the holds after the attack or were in the water.

668 POW's died when the ship sank, leaving only 82 survivors. 47 of 52 Japanese guards also died.

His remains were not recovered.

Service # 0-415563

(Bio by: Russ Pickett)

~~~~~

#### **Soldiers & Sailors who died on the "Shinyo Maru":**

( Last name staring with: [A through D](#) )

( Last name staring with: [E through L](#) )

( Last name staring with: [M through R](#) )

( Last name staring with: [S through Z](#) )

Survivor of the "Shinyo Maru"

[Click Here For Listing](#)

(Above listings created by: Russ Pickett)" ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56761552>

#### **hbt 16.**

"Pvt. Fred Curry Leonard, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1919–1942

BIRTH 12 AUG 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 28 JUL 1942 • Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan, Philippines, Malaria Group, Papua New Guinea; buried at Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County,

Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID,74533002

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 5th grade.

Occupation; Farm Laborer.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family->

[tree/person/tree/164658941/person/112143542038/facts](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164658941/person/112143542038/facts)

... “Fred C. Leonard, Jr.

Private Fred C. Leonard, Jr. joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1. He died on 28 July 1942 at Camp Cabanatuan of cerebral malaria.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

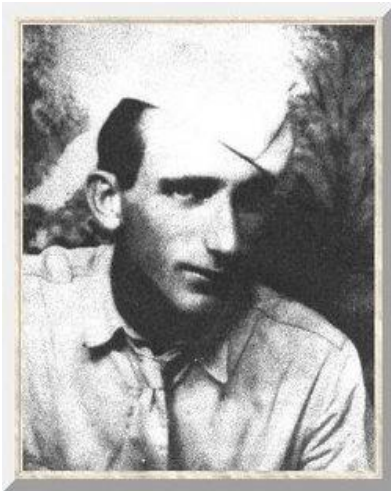
“Fred G. Leonard, Jr

BIRTH, 12 Aug 1919, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 28 Aug 1942 (aged 23), Philippines

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 74533002



Son of Fred G. and Alma Roach Leonard, his hometown was Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard and was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion when it was federalized on 25 November 1940.

After training at Camp Polk, Louisiana he and his unit were sent to the Philippines where they fought in the battles of Luzon and Bataan. Company D surrendered on 9 April 1942. Fred died of cerebral malaria at Cabanatuan #1 POW camp, in the Philippines, at approximately 3:30 AM.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74533002>

### **hbt 17.**

“Pvt. Hugh Jackson Leonard, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1915–1944

BIRTH 31 DEC 1915 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 7 SEP 1944 • Died when the Japanese Ship, Shinyo Maru was sank, off the west coast of Mindanao, Philippines; memorial at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, PLOT, Tablets Of The Missing, MEMORIAL ID, 56761692

Education; 4 years of high school.

Civil Occupation; Semiskilled public service.

U.S. Awards; Purple Heart Medal”.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164659337/person/332140830448/facts>

... “Hugh J. Leonard

Private Hugh J. Leonard enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. He survived the Bataan Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Davao, Mindanao. He was on three Hell Ships, Interisland Steamer, Transport 86 and Shinyo Maru. The U.S.S Paddle attacked the unmarked prisoner transport off the west coast of Mindanao and he was lost when it sank on 7 September 1944.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Pvt Hugh Jack Leonard

BIRTH, 1915, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 7 Sep 1944 (aged 28–29), At Sea

MEMORIAL SITE\*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, \* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Tablets Of The Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56761692

Hugh was the son of Jackson Hugh Leonard and Bessie Walston-Leonard. Identified siblings were: Lowell Byron, John Walston, Benjamin Warren, Elizabeth E., and Lois Mildred.

On 25 Nov 1940, Hugh J. Leonard (B: 1915, Kentucky), of Boyle County, Kentucky; enlisted as a Private in the National Guard Infantry in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He was described as 6 feet, 150 pounds, and in the public service occupations (WWII Enlistments).

Hugh served with the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. The 192nd covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the 192nd received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. Hugh endured and survived the Bataan Death March that followed. However, he lost his life while a POW on the "Hell Ship" Shinyo Maru which was sunk by the US submarine USS Paddle. Hell ships were unmarked as POW carriers to act as decoys. Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56761692>

### **hbt 18.**

“Staff Sgt. Joseph Baxter Million (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

BIRTH 30 JUN 1918 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 14 DEC 1944 • He was burned to death during the Palawan Island, Philippines, Massacre; Buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA, Find A Grave # 46931210.

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year. Occupation; Farm Laborer.” ... (He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164659787/person/412141323293/facts>

... “Joseph B. Million

Staff Sergeant Joseph Baxter Million enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit at some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. He survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan #1, Batangas and Palawan Island. He died on 14 December 44 when he was burned to death during the Palawan Island Massacre. He remains were later returned to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“SSGT. Joe Baxter Million

BIRTH, 30 Jun 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Dec 1944 (aged 26), Palawan Province, MIMAROPA, Philippines

BURIAL, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA

PLOT, SECTION 85, SITE 14-66

MEMORIAL ID, 46931210



JOE B MILLION S SGT USA

Joe B. Million was one of 139 American Prisoners of War who were burned to death by the Japanese on Palawan Island in the Philippine Islands. This was done to prevent them from being liberated by advancing American forces. He was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Palawan Massacre

During World War II, in order to prevent the rescue of prisoners of war by the advancing allies, on 14 December 1944, the Japanese herded the remaining 150 POWs at Puerto

Princesa into three covered trenches which were then set on fire using barrels of gasoline. As prisoners tried to escape the flames they were shot down. Some escaped by going over a cliff that ran along one side of the trenches, but were later hunted down and killed. Only 11 men escaped the slaughter and between 133 and 141 were killed. The site of the massacre can still be visited. The massacre is the premise of the recently published book "Last Man Out: Glenn McDole, USMC, Survivor of the Palawan Massacre in World War II" by Bob Wilbanks, and the opening scenes of the 2005 Miramax movie, "The Great Raid".

Inscription

SSGT, 192 TANK BN WORLD WAR II" ...

Ref:

### **hbt 19.**

“2nd Lt. Everett Rogers Preston (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1917–1945

BIRTH 27 OCTOBER 1917 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 21 APR 1945 • died at a Japanese POW Camp Fukuoka Camp #1-D for work in the Onoda Coal Mine. He died of Acute Enteritis; Buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA; PLOT, SECTION 82, SITE 1B-1D, MEMORIAL ID, 42293992

Education; 4 years of high school. Civil Occupation; Clerks, general office.” ...

(He was not married)



Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660270/person/142142770274/facts>

... “Everett R. Preston

Second Lieutenant Everett R. Preston joined the Harrodsburg National Guard at some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. During his time on Bataan, Everett was assigned to C and A Companies. He was wounded on 2 February 1942 in an engagement against the Japanese and received the Purple Heart. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942.

He survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard the Erie Maru for Davao on Mindano. He was again put on

board a Hell Ship, the Yashu Maru and taken to Cebu to Manila on the Singoto Maru back to Bilibid Prison.

He was put on another Hell Ship, the Oryoku Maru bound for Takao, Formosa. The ship was attacked by Navy planes seventeen times before sunset and six bombs hit the ship. The next day the Navy resumed the attack. The POWs were finally swam ashore near Olongapa, Subic Bay, Luzon as the Navy planes realized it was a prisoner transport and stopped the attack.

The surviving prisoners were moved by train to Manilia and put aboard the Enoura Maru bound for Formosa. The ship was bombed and sunk by American planes on January 13, 1945, while it was still docked. Two days later, he boarded the Brazil Maru enroute to Moji, Japan. By the time he arrived and was sent to Fukuoka Camp #1-D for work in the Onoda Coal Mine. He died of Acute Enteritis on April 21, 1945. His remains were returned to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis after the war.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

(NOTE; He has 2 “Find A Grave Memorials” in his name.)

#1.

“2 LT Everett Rogers Preston

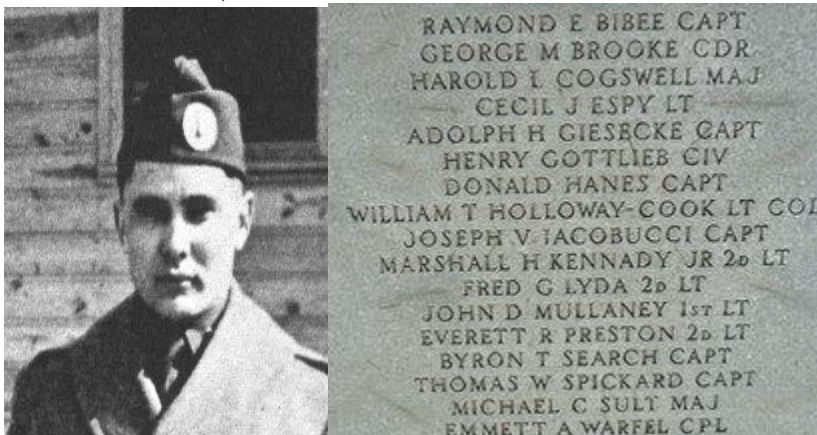
BIRTH, 27 Oct 1917, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 21 Apr 1945 (aged 27), Japan

BURIAL, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA

PLOT, SECTION 82, SITE 1B-1D

MEMORIAL ID, 42293992



2 LT, 192 TANK BN WORLD WAR II

During World War II, Everett served in the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. He became a POW and endured the Bataan Death March.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42293992>

#2.

“Everett Rogers Preston

BIRTH, 27 Oct 1917, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 21 Apr 1945 (aged 27)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 119950323



(\*Note: he is not buried here; this is only a memorial.)

"In memory of Everett Rogers Preston, 2nd LT US Army WWII, October 27, 1917 April 21, 1945, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart - POW".

For another memorial, click on: Everett R. Preston.

He was on the Death March after tortuous trips on ships and died in a Japanese prison camp of enteritis (we think) when he was only 28.

[Source: niece Diane Fallis]" ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119950323>

#### **hbt 20.**

“2nd Lt. Archibald Beatricia Rue (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1916–1945

BIRTH 2 JAN 1916 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 21 APR 1945 • Japanese, POW, Fukuoka, Camp, 22, Buried at, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia, USA; PLOT, Sec: 12, Site: 5220, MEMORIAL ID, 49306151

Highest Grade Completed; College, 3rd year.

Occupation; Caretaker.

(He was not married)



Ref: [https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660425/person/332140883972/facts?\\_phsrc=CGy664&\\_phstart=succesSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660425/person/332140883972/facts?_phsrc=CGy664&_phstart=succesSource)

... “Archibald B. Rue

Second Lieutenant Archibald B. “Arch” Rue joined the Harrodsburg National Guard with his brother Edwin some time before the unit was activated in November 1941. He was taken prisoner on April 9, 1941. He survived the Death March and was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan.

He was sent to Bilibid Prison as and eventually put on board the Oryoku Maru for transport to Japan. The ship was attacked by Navy planes seventeen times before sunset and six bombs hit the ship. The next day the Navy resumed the attack. The POWs were finally swam ashore near Olongapa, Subic Bay, Luzon as the Navy planes realized it was a prisoner transport and stopped the attack.

The surviving prisoners were moved by train to Manila and put aboard the Enoura Maru bound for Formosa. The ship was bombed and sunk by American planes on January 13, 1945, while it was still docked. Two days later, he boarded the Brazil Maru enroute to Moji, Japan.

By the time he arrived and was sent to Fukuoka Camp #22 but soon was ill. He died of Acute Enteritis on April 21, 1945. After the war, at the request of his family, his remains were returned to the United States and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“2LT Arch B Rue

BIRTH, 2 Jan 1916

DEATH, 31 Jan 1945 (aged 29), Japan

BURIAL, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia, USA

PLOT, Sec: 12, Site: 5220

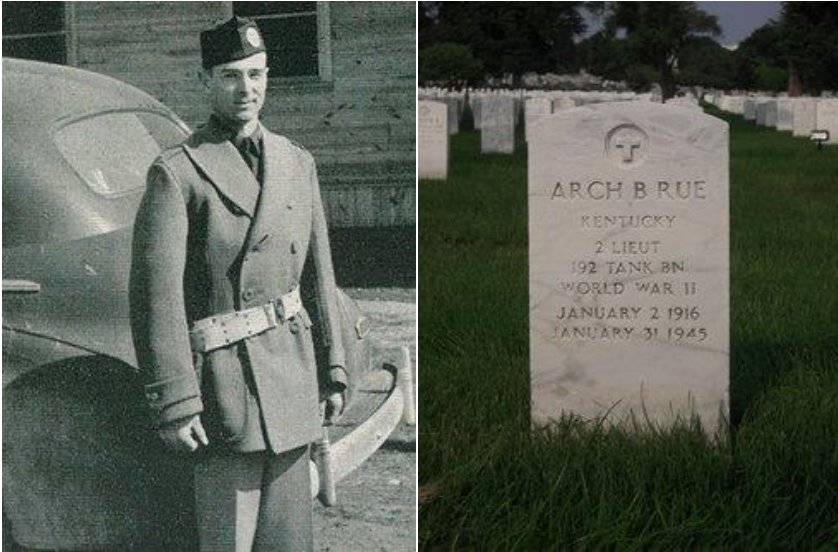
MEMORIAL ID, 49306151

Gravesite Details 2ND LT AGF 1ST TANK GROUP

Second Lieutenant Arch B. Rue, one of Harrodsburg's 66 members of the 192nd Tank Battalion taken prisoner of the Japanese at the fall of Bataan, died January 31, 1945, in Fukuoka Camp, Japan according to a wire from the war department to his mother, Mrs. Insko Rue.

The wire stated that the information was received through the International Red Cross which gave acute colonitis as the cause of death. Mrs. Rue was visiting her daughter, Mrs. Edgar McMurtry, in Glendale, when the message was received. When she arrived home Tuesday, she found in the mailbox an undated prisoner of war form card, in which Lt. Rue said his health was good and he was feeling fine, made inquiries after two younger brothers and others of the family, and added: "Can't say much. Love to all

especially new additions to the family." This indicates to his mother that he had received letters from home. The last card, prior to this, that she received from him was in July, 1944.



Lt. Rue was a member of the Harrodsburg Christian Church and a graduate of the Harrodsburg high school and a splendid young man. He was the son of Mrs. Lottie Williams Rue and the late Insko W. Rue. Besides his mother, the following brothers and sisters survive: Miss Loraine Rue, Chicago; Mrs. Elliott Netherton, LaGrange, Ky.; Capt. Edwin W. Rue, who also fell a prisoner of the Japanese at Bataan, and as yet his liberation has not been announced; Mrs. Fred Oversteet, Bondville, Mercer County; Frank Rue, West Frankfort, Ind.; Mrs. Edgar McMurry, Glendale, Ky.; Leslie Rue with the Merchant Marines; Clarence Rue with Marine Corps at present stationed in Honolulu; Mrs. Hugh Reed, Harrodsburg; Mrs. James H. Ison, with her husband who is in an Army camp in Louisiana; Insko Rue, Harrodsburg; Mrs. Aileen Doeler, who is at home with her mother during the absence of her husband overseas, at present in Germany. (HH Fri Sep 14, 1945)

Gravesite Details: 2ND LT AGF 1ST TANK GROUP" ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49306151>

#### **hbt 21.**

"Sgt. Hezakiah F. 'Heze' Sallee (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1920–1944

BIRTH 1920 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 6 JUN 1944 (FRACTURED SKULL IN A JAPANESE POW MINE) • Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines; PLOT, Plot B, Row 11, Grave 153, MEMORIAL ID, 56763202

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year.

Occupation; Milk Bottler.

(He was not married)

Ref: [https://www.ancestry.com/family-](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660765/person/332140885783/facts)

[tree/person/tree/164660765/person/332140885783/facts](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660765/person/332140885783/facts)

... "Hezakiah F. Sallee

Sergeant Hezakiah Franklin "Heze" Sallee enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit with his brother James at some point before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March.

He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Clyde Maru and sent to Japan in August 1943. He was sent to Fukuoka #17 where he worked in a coal mine. He died on 6 June 1944 from a fractured skull he received in a coal mine accident." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

"Sgt Hezakiah Franklin "Heze" Sallee

BIRTH, 14 Jun 1920, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 10 Jun 1944 (aged 23), Fukuoka, Japan

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

PLOT, Plot B, Row 11, Grave 153

MEMORIAL ID, 56763202



Heze was the son of Heze Sallee and Sally Cunningham. Identified siblings were: Charles Bennett, JD, Anabelle, David, and William.

25 Nov 1940, Heze F. Sallee (B: 1920, Kentucky) was called to active duty as a Private from the National Guard in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He was described as: single, 5 feet 9 inches, and 165 pounds (WWII Enlistments).

Heze served with D Company of the 192nd Tank Battalion. Beginning on 8 Dec 1941, the 192nd and 194th Tank Battalions defended the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion in what was America's first tank engagements of World War II. Overwhelmed, the 192nd and 194th covered the withdrawal to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the tank units received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their

remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. The Bataan Death March followed. Some soldiers were able to make it to Corregidor which had to surrender a few days later.

On 7 May 1942, Heze was reported as a POW. He was eventually sent to Japan to be used as slave labor. In Japan, Heze was sent to Fukuoka Camp #1, Kashii, Kyushu Island. The POWs in the camp were used to extract coal from a coal mine that had been condemned because it had become unsafe. POWs worked in the coal mine with the knowledge that any of them could be killed at any time. Heze died in the mine when the section of the mine he was working in collapsed.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56763202>

### **hbt 22.**

“Pvt. James William Sallee (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
BIRTH 18 MAY 1916 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH 24 OCT 1944 • Hell Ship Arisan Maru, Philippines  
Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year.

Occupation; Laborer

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/170273229/person/152208880766/facts>

... “James William Sallee

Private James William Sallee joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit with his brother Heze some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was put on the Hell Ship Arisan Maru and died on 24 October 1944 when the ship was sunk.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Pvt James W Sallee

BIRTH, 18 May 1916, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Oct 1944 (aged 28)

MEMORIAL SITE\*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, \* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Walls of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56763203



James Sallee served with the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. He lost his life while a POW on the "Hell Ship" Arisan Maru.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56763203>

**hbt 23.**

“Sgt. Jennings Bryant “J. B.” Scanlon, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1922–1942

BIRTH 4 JUL 1922 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 8 JUN 1942 • died in a Japanese Prison Camp Cabanatuan #1, Philippines. (of dysentery); Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 63467498

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 4th year.

Occupation; Sales clerks.

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164661102/person/302142933953/facts>

... “Jennings B. Scanlon

Sergeant Jennings Bryan Scanlon enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1941 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1 where he died of dysentery on 8 June 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Jennings Bryant “J.B.” Scanlon

BIRTH, 4 Jul 1922, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 8 Jun 1942 (aged 19, Philippines)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
MEMORIAL ID, 63467498



"Sgt. Jennings Bryan Scanlon, previously reported missing in the Philippines, died July 8, 1942, in a Japanese prisoner of War camp of malaria and dysentery, according to a telegram from the War Department received Tuesday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Scanlon.

Jennings Bryan Scanlon was 21 when he died. Joining the Mercer National Guard Tank Unit when a mere boy, he was a faithful and interested member for several years before the Unit was called into training at Fort Knox, and later was merged into the 192nd Tank Battalion which sailed for the Philippines in November 1941. He was one of 66 Mercer men taken prisoner of the Japanese at the fall of Bataan in April 1942. He was a graduate of Harrodsburg High School.

Surviving are his parents: J. B. Scanlon and mother Alma Crews Scanlon, 1 brother, Donald Scanlon, and 1 sister, Miss Mary Frances Scanlon, all of Harrodsburg."  
Harrodsburg Herald, Friday, Aug. 3, 1945

Sgt. Scanlon was the grandson of Mr. Archie Wood Scanlon and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Gaines Scanlon.

Mary Frances (b. 1920-d. 1993 in Harrodsburg, KY).  
His parents are buried at Springhill cemetery. Alma Frances Crews Scanlon, b. Nov. 7, 1897 died at age 79, Oct. 21, 1977 and buried in Scanlon family grave plots  
Most likely Sgt Scanlon was buried in a mass group gravesite in the Philippines and was later given a military marker at Spring Hill cemetery.

Information from Bataan soldier's memorial website, [http: www.provisok12.ilus](http://www.provisok12.ilus) Bataan, suggested by Don G. Thank-You Don G. for your suggestion.

" Sgt Jennings Bryant Scanlon, b. 4 July 1922, Harrodsburg, Parents owned a general store. He had 2 siblings, 1 sister and 1 brother. He was a 1938 graduate of Harrodsburg High school and joined the Kentucky National Guard while still in High School. He was inducted in U.S. Army 25 Nov. 1941 with his training held at Fort Knox, KY then onto Camp Polk in Louisiana before being send to the Philippine Islands.

Battle Engagements: Battle of Luxon and Battle of Bataan. He became a prisoner of War 9 April 1942 and was a participant in the Death March.

He was in 2 POW Camps: Camp O'Donnell and Camp Cabanatuana "1.  
His date of death was June 8, 1942 from dysentery at approximately 8:00 a.m. According to Jack Reed, Jennings could not eat the rice that made up the main part of POW's diet. At the time of death, he weighed 80 pounds. A few days earlier Bland Moore and Earl Pratt found Jennings laying partially in the slit trench that served as the Latrine. They bathed him and brought him back to the barracks. He died a few days later.  
Burial in Springhill cemetery was 28 Oct 1949." An Indirect quote from soldier's record." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63467498>

#### **hbt 24.**

“Sgt. Herbert C. Steele (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1919–1942

BIRTH 12 MAR 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 13 JUN 1942 • Japanese POW Camp O'Donnell, where he died of dysentery.

Buried at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, PLOT, Plot L, Row 1, Grave 140; MEMORIAL ID, 56763635

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farm hands, general farms.

(He was married, but no children)



Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164661310/person/342143428951/facts>

... “Herbert C. Steele

Private Herbert C. Steele enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit at some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell where he died of dysentery on 13 June 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Sgt Herbert Steele

BIRTH, 12 Mar 1919, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Jun 1942 (aged 23), Philippines

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines  
PLOT, Plot L, Row 1, Grave 140  
MEMORIAL ID, 56763635



In 1940, Herbert and his bride Sally resided in Harrodsburg, Kentucky with his mother Miranda Watts Steele (1940 Census).

Herbert served with the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. The 192nd covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and supported the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the 192nd received the codeword "Crash", which was the order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, Bataan surrendered and the infamous Bataan Death March followed. Herbert survived the march, but lost his life to dysentery while a POW of the Japanese.

Gravesite Details Headstone erroneously indicates 194th Tank Battalion” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56763635>

#### **hbt 25.**

“1st Sgt. Yandell Terhune (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1917–1942

BIRTH 23 JUL 1917 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 12 JUL 1942 • Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan #1, Philippines

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

\* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT Walls of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56763822

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; New Worker.

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164661806/person/202139979099/facts>

... “Yandell Terhune

First Sergeant Yandell Terhune enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time prior to the activation in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1. He died of dysentery on 12 July 1942 at Cabanatuan #1.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“1 Sgt Yandell Terhune

BIRTH, 23 Jul 1917, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 12 Jul 1942 (aged 24), Philippines

MEMORIAL SITE\*, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines, \* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.

PLOT, Walls of the Missing

MEMORIAL ID, 56763822



Yandell was the son of Alonzo "Lon/Lonza" C. Terhune and Verna Cunningham-Terhune of Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Identified siblings were: Robert F., Ruby Pearl, Lucille, Eugene, Forrest Lee, and William Holman (1920, 1930 & 1940 Census).

Yandell served with Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion of 8 Dec 1941. The 192nd covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches and supported the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the 193rd received the codeword "Crash", which was the order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. Yandell endured and survived the Bataan Death March that followed. However, he later lost his life at Cabanatuan POW Camp. Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56763822>

#### **hbt 26.**

“Corp. Edward Vivion Trisler (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

BIRTH 15 SEP 1921 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 23 DEC 1942 • Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan #1, Philippines.

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 7th grade.

Occupation; Farmer.

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164661995/person/392142522430/facts>

... “Edward V. Trisler

Corporal Edward Vivion Trisler joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time prior to the activation in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O’Donnell and Cabanatuan #1. He died of dysentery at Cabanatuan on December 23, 1942.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“Corp. Edward V Trisler

BIRTH, 15 Sep 1921, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 23 Dec 1942 (aged 21), Philippines

BURIAL, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Capital District, National Capital Region, Philippines

PLOT, Plot N, Row 8, Grave 96

MEMORIAL ID, 56763948



Edward Trisler served with the 192nd Tank Battalion defending the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion. He lost his life while a POW of the Japanese.

The 192nd and 194th Tank Battalions defended the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion in what was America's first tank engagement of World War II. Overwhelmed, the 192nd and 194th covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the tank units received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. The Bataan Death March followed.

Gravesite Details Entered the service from Kentucky.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56763948>

**hbt 27.**

“1st Lt. George Alger VanArsdale (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1912–1945

BIRTH 18 NOV 1912 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 12 JAN 1945 • Japanese POW Ship Enoura Maru; Died when the ship was  
bombed and sank; Memorial, Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County,  
Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 171594156

(U.S. Awards; Purple Heart Medal)” ...

Highest Grade Completed: Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation: Farm Laborer.

(He was married and had a son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164662139/person/132144536635/facts>

... “George A. Vanarsdale

First Lieutenant George A. “Jimmy” Vanarsdale joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the activation in November 1940. In early 1941, he was transferred to Headquarters Company. He was taken prisoner on 11 April 1942 and were put on trucks to Mariveles. He survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was later taken to Bilibid Prison and put onboard the Oryoku Maru for transport to Japan.

Enroute the ship was attacked by Navy planes seventeen times before sunset and six bombs hit the ship. The next day the Navy resumed the attack. The POWs were finally swam ashore near Olongapa, Subic Bay, Luzon as the Navy planes realized it was a prisoner transport and stopped the attack.

They surviving prisoners were moved by train to Manila and put aboard the Enoura Maru bound for Formosa. The ship was bombed and sunk by American planes on January 12, 1945, while it was still docked. He died during the attack and subsequent sinking. After the war the remains of the American soldiers who died in the sinking of the Enoura Maru were exhumed and reburied in the Punch Bowl in Hawaii.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“George Alger VanArsdall

BIRTH, 18 Nov 1912, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 9 Jan 1945 (aged 32), Philippines

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 171594156



1st Lt. George Alger Van Arsdall

2nd Lt. George A. Van Arsdall was born on November 18, 1912, in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, to Riker Van Arsdall & Maude Rose-Van Arsdall. He had four brothers and three sisters and was known as "Jimmy" to his friends and family. George grew up at 108 North Greenville Street and attended local schools.

George joined the 38th Tank Company of the Kentucky National Guard which was headquartered in an armory in Harrodsburg. He worked as a farmer and was married to Alice. He was the father of one daughter and two sons. On November 25, 1940, his tank company was federalized as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Arriving in Philippines, George and the rest of the 192nd were taken to Ft. Stotsenburg. Upon arrival at the fort, George was put into the hospital because he had developed tuberculosis.

He became a POW, Bataan Death March, Camp O'Donnell was a death trap. As many as fifty POWs died each day.

At some point, George was selected to go out on the Nichols Airfield on the Las Pinas Work Detail. With him was Capt. Edwin Rue. This detail quickly became known as a death detail because of the large number of POWs who died from being overworked and abused.

Since George's final resting place is unknown, his name appears on the Tablets of the Missing at the American Military Cemetery outside Manila.

Since there was no second way to confirm the remains were actually those of George Van Arsdall, the remains were buried as "Unknown."

Note; This a summary of the information found online.

Esther Louise (McNamer) VanArsdall of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, daughter of Robert Clyde McNamer and Nettie May Widdig, born 09 July 1916, died Tuesday 02 March 1999 in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, and was buried at the Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. She was the widow of Lt. George Alger "Jimmy" VanArsdall, son of Riker Samuel VanArsdall and Maud Rose, who died at sea in World War II. Survivors in her immediate family include two grandchildren: Elizabeth "Lisa" VanArsdall Reining and Alexander Bertrand VanArsdall, children of Jimmy and Esther's deceased son William Riker VanArsdall and his wife Melena Jacobs (Harrodsburg Herald, Thursday March 4, 1999).

~Died near Formosa, Sunken Japanese ship

Inscription:

George A. VanArsdall

1st LT US Army

World War II

Nov. 18, 1912 Jan 9, 1945” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/171594156>

#### **hbt 28.**

“Pvt. Edward George Willis, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1918–1942

BIRTH 8 MAR 1918 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, KY

DEATH 3 JUL 1942 • Died of dysentery at Japanese POW Camp Cabanatuan; buried, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA; PLOT, SECTION 78, SITE, 1004-06, MEMORIAL ID, 26918226

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Painter.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164664108/person/102137709774/facts>

... “Edward G. Willis

Private Edward George Willis enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before it was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He died on 3 July 1942 of dysentery at Camp Cabanatuan.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

(NOTE; He has 2 “Find A Grave Memorials” in his name.)

#1.

“PVT Edward George Wills, Jr

BIRTH, 8 Mar 1918

DEATH, 3 Jul 1942 (aged 24), Philippines  
BURIAL, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri,  
USA

PLOT, SECTION 78, SITE 1004-06  
MEMORIAL ID, 26918226



Pvt. Edward George Wills, Jr.

Inscription

PVT, US ARMY WORLD WAR II



Pvt. Edward George Wills, Jr. was the son of Edward G. & Susan Bell Mattingly-Wills. He was born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky on March 8, 1918 and was one of the couple's eight surviving children.

Little is known about his life in Harrodsburg. What is known is that he was called, "E.G." by his family and friends, and that one of his sisters died when he was 20 years old.

Knowing that a federal draft act had been passed, Edward joined the Kentucky National Guard in Harrodsburg on July 1, 1940. The tank company was scheduled to be federalized for one year of military service.

On November 25, 1940, the 38th Divisional Tank Company of the Kentucky National Guard was designated D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion and sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky. There, Edward trained with D Company until he was transferred to Headquarters Company when the company was created in January 1941.

After taking part in maneuvers in Louisiana, Edward and the other members of the 192nd learned that they were being sent overseas. Their mission was to train the Philippine Army in tank usage.

Traveling west by train, Edward and the other soldiers were sent by ferry to Angel Island. They were given physicals and inoculated before being sent to the Philippine Islands. The battalion arrived in the Philippines on Thanksgiving Day 1941.

On December 8, 1942, Edward lived through the Japanese attack on Clark Field. The attack took place just ten hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Edward like the other members of his company could do little but watch since they had no weapons to use against planes.

That night, there was one air raid after another. Since they did not have any foxholes, Edward and the other men used an old latrine pit for cover. Being that it was safer than their tents, he and the other men slept in the pit. The entire night they were bitten by mosquitoes. The next morning the decision was made to move the company into a tree cover area.

For Edward, the coming month was a constant, slow, falling back toward Bataan Peninsula. As they withdrew, supplies and food that could have aided in the fight against the Japanese, were often left behind.

During this time, the soldiers were bombed and strafed. The morning before the surrender the Japanese bombed the ammunition dumps which were close to where HQ was bivouacked. That night the sky was lit by the fire burning at the ammunition dumps.

Word reached Edward and the other members of HQ Company that the order had been given to surrender the morning of April 9, 1942. That morning they were supposed to join up with other troops and surrender together. Edward and the other men took their ammunition and weapons and put them in piles in the last tank and half-track they had. They poured gasoline into the tank and on the halftrack. Both were set both on fire.

Captain Bruni took the men of HQ Company into the jungle near their camp site and fed them what would become their last supper. It consisted of Pineapple juice and bread. It was on this day that Cecil became a Prisoner Of War. He said to them as they ate that it was now every man for himself.

HQ Company made its way to Mariveles. At Mariveles Airfield, the POWs were herded. The Japanese soldiers had the POWs lined up for an inspection. The Japanese took the prisoners' jewelry and other items that had any meaning to them.

As the soldiers stood facing the Japanese guards, it appeared that the Japanese were going to execute the prisoners. Out of the car climbed a Japanese officer, the officer gave orders to the soldiers that they were not to kill the POWs. After doing this, he got back into the car and it drove off.

Edward and the other POWs were ordered to move to a school yard where they were made to kneel in the sun without food or water. They soon realized that behind them were Japanese artillery firing on Corregidor. The American guns on the island began returning

fire. Shells from the American guns began landing around the POWs. The men had no place to hide and several were killed. Three of the four Japanese guns were also destroyed.

It was from Mariveles late in the afternoon that Edward began what would later become known as the Bataan Death March. The first night the POWs were marched all night. The first place that they were allowed to stop was near a Japanese machinegun nest. Corregidor was shelling the area and several of the shells landed among the POWs killing them.

What made things worse for Edward and the other prisoners was as they marched, they came across artesian wells and watering holes, but they were denied their request for water. The Japanese would chase the POWs away from the wells. It got to the point that even though the Japanese attempted to keep the prisoners from the water they POWs still went to the wells. This resulted in the deaths of many men who were bayoneted while getting water.

The lack of food and water caused physical disabilities; such as, the prisoners' mouths swelling and their tongues splitting open. If the prisoners drank the water, they were often killed.

At San Fernando, the POWs were packed into boxcars used to haul sugarcane. The boxcars were small and could hold eight horses or forty men. The Japanese packed 100 men into each car. The POWs were packed in so tightly, that the dead remained standing until the living left the cars at Capas.

Edward made his way to Camp O'Donnell. The camp, an unfinished Filipino training base had one water faucet for 12,000 POWs. Men died waiting for a drink, while others died from the diseases that ran wild among the sick POWs. The situation was so bad that the Japanese opened a new camp at Cabanatuan. Being one of the healthier POWs, William was sent to the new camp.

After arriving at Cabanatuan, William came down with dysentery. On July 3, 1942, William died from the disease and was buried in the camp's cemetery.

In 1952, the remains of Pvt. Edward G. Wills were returned to the United States. Since they could not be identified, he was buried in a common grave with seven other POWs at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Saint. Louis, Missouri. Cpl. Raymond J. Graham and Tec 5 Kent W. Hughes, Jr, who share the grave, were members of the 192nd Tank Battalion, In memory of Edward, his parents had a headstone placed at the Berea Christian Church Cemetery about four miles southwest of Harrodsburg off the Mackville Road.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26918226>

#2.

“PVT Edward George Wills, Jr

BIRTH, 8 Mar 1918, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 3 Jul 1942 (aged 24), Philippines

BURIAL, Berea Christian Church Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 38415775



Gravesite Details Died in the Philippines. 192 Tank Co.

Headstone only.

Buried at: Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri

Edward Wills was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service in 1940. His company was assigned to the 192nd Tank Battalion as D Company. He was reassigned to HQ Company.

In December 1941, he was stationed in the Philippines when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. He became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, and took part in the Bataan Death March. He was held as a POW at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He died of disease at Cabanatuan." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38415775>

### **hbt 29.**

“Pvt. Willard Rue Yeast (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

Pvt. Willard Rue Yeast (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)

1915–1944

BIRTH 27 JUN 1915 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 14 DEC 1944 • Burned to death, Palawan Province, Mimaropa, Philippines;  
buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri,

USA; PLOT, SECTION 85, SITE 63, MEMORIAL ID, 19065444 Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 7th grade.

Occupation; Farm Labor.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164664420/person/162143418499/facts>

... “Willard R. Yeast

Private Willard R. Yeast joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1941. He survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Batangas and Palawan Island. He died on 14 December 1944 when he was burned to death during the Palawan Island Massacre.” ...

Ref: <https://kyngistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

“PVT Willard Rue Yeast

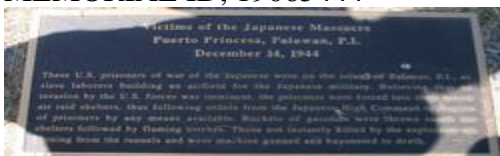
BIRTH, 27 Jun 1915, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Dec 1944 (aged 29), Palawan Province, MIMAROPA, Philippines

BURIAL, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA

PLOT, SECTION 85, SITE 63

MEMORIAL ID, 19065444



Inscription

PVT, US ARMY WORLD WAR II

Palawan Massacre

During World War II, in order to prevent the rescue of prisoners of war by the advancing allies, on 14 December 1944, the Japanese herded the remaining 150 POWs at Puerto Princesa into three covered trenches which were then set on fire using barrels of gasoline.

As prisoners tried to escape the flames they were shot down. Some escaped by going over a cliff that ran along one side of the trenches, but were later hunted down and killed. Only 11 men escaped the slaughter and between 133 and 141 were killed. The site of the massacre can still be visited. The massacre is the premise of the recently published book "Last Man Out: Glenn McDole, USMC, Survivor of the Palawan Massacre in World War II" by Bob Wilbanks, and the opening scenes of the 2005 Miramax movie, "The Great Raid".” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19065444>

---

ALL INFO REF: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

---

**THE HARRODSBURG TANKERS  
Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion,  
Harrodsburg’s Kentucky Guardsmen  
Who Returned Following Captivity  
(Survivors)**

**hbt 1s.**

“Maj. Edwin Wilson 'Skip' Rue (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)  
1910–2004

BIRTH 31 MAY 1910 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 28 NOV 2004 • dies at UK Med Center, Lexington, Fayette, Kentucky; buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 12172891

(He had a wife and 2 daughters.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164660425/person/332140884584/facts>

... “He was former owner and operator of the Rue Hardware Store on Main Street in Harrodsburg and a former salesman for C. Worth in Lexington.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12172891>

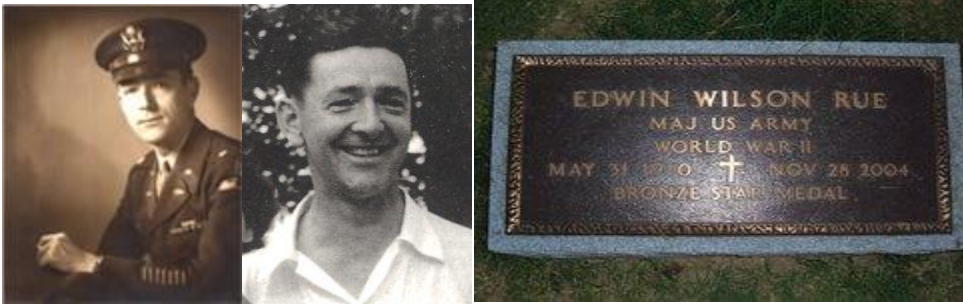
“Edwin W. "Skip" Rue

BIRTH, 31 May 1910

DEATH, 28 Nov 2004 (aged 94)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 12172891



Edwin W. "Skip" Rue, age 94, Tremont Avenue, Lexington, KY, husband of Frances True Brown Rue, died Sunday, November 28, 2004 at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Born May 31, 1910, he was the son of the late Insko W. Rue Sr. and Charlotte Forbes Rue.

He was one of the last seven surviving members of the Kentucky National Guard Unit from Harrodsburg in the Bataan Death March during World War II having received the rank of Major. He survived the Bataan Death March and three and one-half years as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese after which he received the Bronze Star. He was former owner and operator of the Rue Hardware Store on Main Street in Harrodsburg and a former salesman for C. Worth in Lexington.

Survivors in addition to his wife include two daughters: Linda (Jacob Poons) Rue Allen, New York, NY and Joan (Marc Schlackman) Rue, Lexington; two brothers, Leslie Rue, Harrodsburg and Rev. Clarence Rue, Amarillo, TX.; one sister, Aileen Doehler, Littleton, CO; and two granddaughters, Sara Rue Livingston, Los Angeles, CA. and Leah Emily Schlackman, Lexington. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Frank, Insko II, and Arch Rue; five sisters, Lorraine Rue, Lois Reed, Zoe Anna Overstreet, Eula Lee Ison, and Elsie McMurtry, and one grandson, Edwin Brown Allen.

Funeral services will be conducted 2:00 pm Wednesday, December 1st at the Ransdell Funeral Chapel by Dr. Don Chase. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery with Military Honors.

Visitation will be from 12:00 noon Wednesday until the hour of service at the chapel.

The family will receive friends at his residence at 850 Tremont Avenue in Lexington on Tuesday from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Disabled American Veterans.



Notes:

Edwin served with the 192nd Tank Battalion. The 192nd and 194th Tank Battalions defended the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese Invasion in what was America's first tank engagement of World War II. Overwhelmed, the 192nd and 194th covered the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. They defended the air field, the beaches, and provided support to the Infantry. On 8 Apr 1942, the tank units received codeword "Crash", which was an order to destroy their remaining Stuart tanks. On 9 Apr 1942, American and

Filipino forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender. The infamous Bataan Death March followed.: ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12172891>

... “Edwin Wilson Rue

Edwin W. “Skip” Rue joined the 38th Tank Company in 1934 as a Private along with his brother Arch. Skip became an officer at Fort Knox. He began the Death March at Balanga in the south of Bataan. He was put onto a train at San Fernando to Capas for the walk to Camp O'Donnell arriving some five days after beginning the journey.

He was transferred to Cabanatuan. Sent to Japan on the Nagato Maru. Held at Zentsuji in Japan and worked as a stevedore in the rail yards of the Port of Takamasu. In June 1945, was sent to Rokushi Camp. After he was liberated, he was promoted to Major and returned to Harrodsburg and ran his own business and eventually moving to Lexington. He died on November 28, 2004.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 2s.**

“Sgt. Claude Len Yeast Harrodsburg Tankers, survivor, WW II)  
1917–1967

BIRTH 19 FEB 1917 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 17 NOV 1967 • Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 146243602

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 7th grade.

Occupation; Farm Labor.

(He had a wife and 1 son and 1 daughter)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164676684/person/402142866683/facts>

He was a “painter”.

Ref: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/143218257/?article=99c2fad2-86d3-41c9-8d73-f94375785ffa&focus=0.0025502397,0.43946084,0.24769157,0.61535835&xid=3355&ga=2.110757637.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974>

“Claude Len Yeast

BIRTH, 19 Feb 1917, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 17 Nov 1967 (aged 50), Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 146243602



Claude Yeast was the father of a son and daughter. During World War II, he was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion and stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

He spent over three years as a Japanese Prisoner of War. He returned to Harrodsburg after the war and spent the rest of his life there.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146243602>

... “Claude L. Yeast

Cpl. Claude L. Yeast joined the 38th Tank Company prior to the federalization in the fall of 1940 with his brother Willard. Made his way to Corregidor by boat. Taken prisoner May 6, 1942 when the island fortress was surrendered. Claude remained on the island for almost two weeks. then marched through Manila and on to Bilibid Prison for three days and then to Cabanatuan #3 for some five months and then moved back to Manila by train. Put on the ship Tottori Maru and onto Pusan, Korea. From Pusan, put on a train and taken north to Manchuria and camp at Mukden, Manchuria. Worked in a machine shop. After some 18 months sent to Japan and Kamioka #1-B POW Camp where he worked in the Zinc mine running a jackhammer. Claude returned to Harrodsburg.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 3s.**

“Capt. William Henry Gentry Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 19 NOV 1918 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 25 APR 2000 • died, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia; Buried, Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA, Find A Grave # 145168363.

Highest Grade Completed; College, 1st year.

Occupation; Farm hands, general farms.

(He had a wife, 2 sons and 1 daughter)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164676944/person/282143144251/facts>

“William Henry Gentry

BIRTH, 19 Nov 1918, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 25 Apr 2000 (aged 81), Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA



MEMORIAL ID, 145168363



1st Lt. William H. Gentry was a member of C Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service when his tank company was federalized, in 1940, as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Gentry was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the bombing of Clark Airfield. For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. He was commanding officer of the first American tank battle victory in World War II.

Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese. As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He remained

in the camp until liberated on January 30, 1945, by U.S. Army Rangers in what is now called "The Great Raid." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145168363>

... "William Gentry

1st Lt. William H. Gentry joined the Harrodsburg Guard unit sometime between 1934 and 1936. Became an officer at Fort Knox and assigned to Headquarters Company and eventually was assigned to C Company. It was at Baluag that Gentry's platoon of tanks won the first tank victory of World War II against enemy tanks on December 31, 1941. On the 11th of April 1942, Gentry and the other members of C Company became Prisoner of Wars.

They made their way to Mariveles where they would begin the death march. It took him eleven days to complete the march. Suffering from malaria, Gentry was carried for three or four days during the march by his fellow tankers. In particular, 2nd Lt. Jacques Merrifield of B Company carried Gentry most of this time. First held at Camp O'Donnell and then on 26 June 6, 1942 when he was sent to Cabanatuan. In October 1942, he was sent to the Philippine Experimental Farm on the Island of Mindanao where he worked on a rice farm.

In June 1944 he was returned to Manila by ship and then to Cabanatuan. On the night of January 30, 1945, Gentry and the other prisoners were liberated when Rangers of the United States Army raided Cabanatuan. Gentry and the other liberated POWs were lead through enemy lines to American lines. Gentry eventually returned to Harrodsburg and he passed away in April 2000." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 4s.**

"Pfc. Grover Cleveland Brummett (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)  
1920–2002

BIRTH 9 APR 1920 • Lancaster, Garrard County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 5 FEB 2002 • Evergreen Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 184001392

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farm Laborer.

(He was married 2 times and he had 2 daughters and 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164677341/person/172142553161/facts>

He was "a retired salesman for Neil-Laville Company, where he worked for 35 years."

Ref: [https://www.newspapers.com/image/361960449/?article=341dda8d-20da-4fbc-9e21-1d9a98ab013b&focus=0.033089213,0.79629564,0.18769751,0.9694422&xid=3355&\\_ga=2.12733495.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974](https://www.newspapers.com/image/361960449/?article=341dda8d-20da-4fbc-9e21-1d9a98ab013b&focus=0.033089213,0.79629564,0.18769751,0.9694422&xid=3355&_ga=2.12733495.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974)

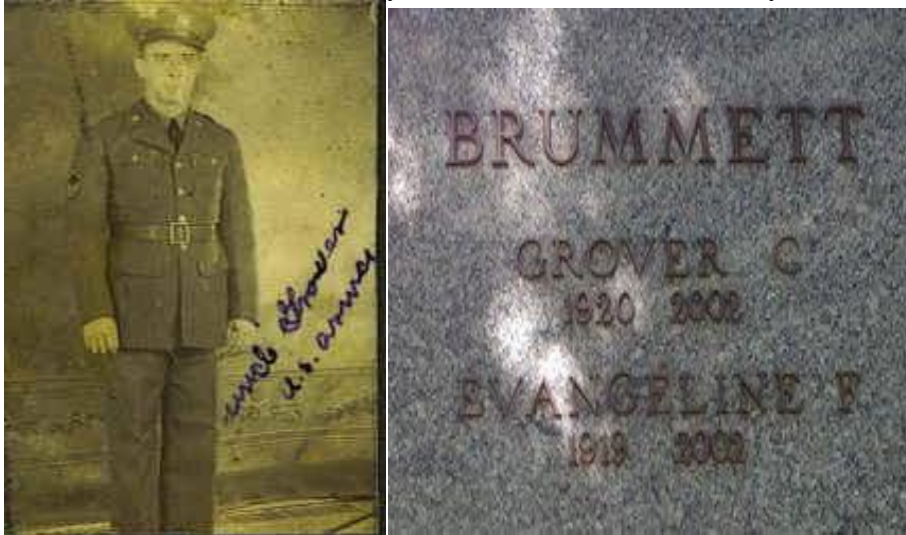
*(Founded in 1881, Neill-LaVielle Industrial Supply of Louisville, Georgetown, and Bowling Green, is a “Just-in-Time” general line industrial distributor)*

“Grover C. Brummett

BIRTH, 1920

DEATH, 2002 (aged 81–82)

BURIAL, Evergreen Cemetery, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA



MEMORIAL ID, 184001392

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164677341/person/172142553161/facts>

&

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/184001392>

... “Grover C. Brummett

Pvt. Grover C. Brummett joined the Kentucky National Guard in Harrodsburg in June of 1940. During the Battle of Luzon, he is credited with shooting down two Japanese Zeros and a reconnaissance plane. He became a prisoner on April 9, 1942 and began the Death March at Mariveles.

It took fourteen days for him to complete the march. First held at Camp O'Donnell where he worked on the burial detail. He also spent time at Camp 8 and then sent to Manila where he worked as a stevedore loading and unloading 55-gallon drums from ships. Later sent to Bilibid Prison.

Put aboard the Nagato Maru in November 1942 for a 17-day voyage to Japan where he was put to work building a dam at Mitsushima and eventually transferred to a carbide plant. Then transferred to Narumi Camp working to produce wheels for the Nippon Wheel Manufacturing Company and were liberated by American forces on September 4, 1945. He returned to the United States in late October, 1945. He passed away in February 2002, in Louisville.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 5s.**

“Staff Sgt. Maurice Edward "Jack" Wilson (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)  
BIRTH 2 MAR 1912 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH 2 MAY 1985 • Fayette County, Kentucky, USA; Find A Grave Memorial ID -  
146282498

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farming.

(He was married with no children)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164677455/person/292141465214/facts>

... “He worked as a cashier at the Farmers National Bank and became the tank company’s official historian.” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/wilson-s-sgt-maurice-e/>

“Maurice Edward Wilson

BIRTH, 2 Mar 1912, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 2 May 1985 (aged 73), Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Unknown

MEMORIAL ID, 146282498



Maurice Wilson was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He fought on Bataan and was a Japanese Prisoner of War. He was held for over three years in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146282498>

... “Maurice E. “Jack” Wilson

Staff Sergeant Maurice E. Wilson joined the Harrodsburg unit before it was federalized in 1940. He did not take part in the Louisiana maneuvers because he was hospitalized at Fort Knox with an eye injury. He was finally allowed to rejoin his unit as they prepared for overseas duty.

During the Battle of Bataan, he was reassigned from a tank commander to a mess sergeant because his commanding officer worried that if he got something in his good eye, he would be unable to command his tank. As a mess sergeant, he attempted to feed the men of D Company with anything he could find. When the order

came for the Filipino and American forces on Bataan to surrender, he and fifteen other members of the company attempted to escape to Australia but instead wound up on Corregidor.

He volunteered to go to Ft. Drum and became a member of a gun crew. He was taken prisoner on May 6, 1941 and marched to Bilibid Prison and eventually by train to Cabantuan POW Camp #3. He was sent on a work detail to build runways at Nickols Field and later returned to Bilibid Prison because of illness and eventually back to Cabanatuan.

He was put aboard the Taga Maru sailing for Japan in September 1943 where he worked as a stevedore. His legs were severely injured in a fall while there. He returned to the United States by ship almost four years to the day that he had sailed for the Philippines. He returned to Harrodsburg and wore leg braces for the rest of his life. He passed away on May 2, 1985.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 6s.**

“Sgt. Morris Stanland Collier (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 15 JUN 1918 • Rose Hill, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 13 NOV 1993 • Maple Grove Cemetery, Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky, USA; Find A Grave # 114033111.

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 7th grade.

Occupation; Laborer.

(He was married with 1 daughter and 2 sons.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164678248/person/402142876336/facts>

... “Employed: Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot, Avon, Kentucky” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/collier-sgt-morris-s/>

“Morris Stanland Collier

BIRTH, 15 Jun 1918

DEATH, 13 Jan 1993 (aged 74)

BURIAL, Maple Grove Cemetery, Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 114033111



Morris Collier was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. The company was originally a Kentucky National Guard Tank Company from Harrodsburg. He was stationed in the Philippines when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On April 9, 1942, he became a Prisoner of War and took part in the Bataan Death March. He was held as a POW at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. Collier was sent to Japan on a Japanese "Hell Ship" and held at Omine Machi POW Camp. He remained there until he was liberated.

Morris Collier, thank-you for your service in WWII. You were truly an unspoken hero. Thank-You for helping William Lee Peavler after his encounter with the Japanese soldier, who used a bayonet to injured his knee or leg. The family is grateful to You. RIP, You earned your rest." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114033111>

... "Morris S. Collier

Sgt. Maurice Stanland Collier joined the Harrodsburg unit before it was federalized in 1940. He was held prisoner in Cabanatuan and was put aboard the Hell Ship Canadian Inventor and was sent to Japan and worked in coal mining at Omine Machi. He was liberated in September 1945. He died 13 November 1993 in Nicholasville." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 7s.**

"Staff Sgt. Joseph Riley Anness, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)  
1914–1976

BIRTH 9 MAR 1914 • Kentucky

DEATH 1 MAY 1976 • He died in in Louisville, Kentucky, from a heart attack. He had been visiting his sister there. He is buried at Springhill Cemetery, Harrodsburg. Sixteen members of the 192nd served as his pallbearers. Find A Grave Memorial #211348578  
Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year

Occupation: Farmer

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164678463/person/172142560232/facts>

... He was retired after 30 years in the military... “ ...

Ref: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/142870637/?article=9ce00a56-a609-48d4-bf91-f6c9bbe981b6&focus=0.04601522,0.08510631,0.16952695,0.26984632&xid=3355&ga=2.110644101.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974>

“Joe R Anness, Jr

BIRTH, 9 Mar 1914, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 1 Jul 1976 (aged 62), Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 211348578



During World War II, he was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion and fought on Bataan during the opening months of the war. He spent over three years as a Japanese Prisoner of War in the Philippines and Japan.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211348578/joe-r-anness>

... “Joe Anness Staff Sergeant

Joseph Riley Anness, Jr. joined the Harrodsburg unit in 1934. His nephew Elzie Annes was also a member of the unit. At Fort Knox he was assigned to supplies for Company D. He escaped to Corregidor when they learned of the order to surrender. He volunteered to go to Ft. Drum where he was assigned to load the big gun. He was captured on May 6, 1942.

He was taken by boat to Manila and eventually to Bilibid Prison and later sent to Cabanatuan Camp #3. He was on a work detail at Nichols Field. He was later sent to Camp Murphy and again building runways. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Noto Maru and sent to Moji, Japan and on to camp Sendai #6 where he worked in a copper mine belonging to Mitsubishi. He was liberated in September 1945. He remained in the military after World War II and retired as a Staff Sergeant. He died on 1 July 1976.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 8s.**

“Pvt. James William Durr (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 2 APR 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 25 NOV 1972 • Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA; Find Grave #78921772.

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year

Occupation; Farm Labor

(He was married 4 times)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164678744/person/262145038957/facts>

... “Jim was promoted to sergeant and returned to the United States on the U.S.S. Hugh Rodman arriving at San Francisco on October 3, 1945. After further medical treatment because of brain damage suffered from beatings while a POW, he was discharged from the Army on April 5, 1946.

It is known that Jim moved to Cincinnati and was married four times. He worked for a railroad and fought a battle with alcohol. On one occasion in June 1951 he was arrested for putting a gun to his former wife’s body and pulling the trigger. It turned out there was one bullet in the gun. He was again arrested by the police in April 1952, in a case of mistaken identity. He went on trial as an accomplice in a robbery that took place at a White Castle. He was acquitted of the charge.

In 1957, he was found guilty of spousal abuse and sentenced to six months in jail. During this time, he was also awaiting trial on the charge of manslaughter in the fatal beating of his mother while he was drunk. He was found guilty and sentenced to one to 20 years in prison.

It is known he resided in Cincinnati after his release until his death on November 25, 1975. He was buried at the Cemetery of Spring Grove in Section 139, Lot G, Space 73, in Cincinnati, Ohio.” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/durr-pvt-james-w/>

“James William Durr

BIRTH, 2 Apr 1919, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 25 Nov 1972 (aged 53), Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA

BURIAL, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA

PLOT, Garden LN, Section 139, Lot G, Space 73

MEMORIAL ID, 78921772



(James William Durr)

James Durr was a private in D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the bombing of Clark Airfield. For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese.

As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was later transported to Japan and held at Kawasaki POW Camp. He remained in the camp until liberated at the end of the war.

Bio by: JimO"

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/78921772/james-william-durr>

... "James W. Durr

Private James William Durr joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before they were federalized in November 1940. He became a Prisoner of War on 9 April 1941 and was on the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan #1, and Bilibid Prison. He worked as a laborer in a ship yard in Kawasaki Japan. He died on 25 November 1972." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 9s.**

"Staff Sgt. Morgan R. French (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 21 AUG 1919 • Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH 24 FEB 2012 • Died, Plano, Collin County, Texas; Buried, North Hardin

Memorial Gardens Radcliff, Hardin County, Kentucky, USA; Find A Grave # 85768256

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade

Occupation; Farmer

(He was married with 2 sons.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164678949/person/272141520061/facts>

He was an ... "instructor at the Armor School at Ft. Knox." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85768256/morgan-r-french>

"Sgt Morgan R French

BIRTH, 21 Aug 1919, Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 24 Feb 2012 (aged 92), Plano, Collin County, Texas, USA

BURIAL, North Hardin Memorial Gardens, Radcliff, Hardin County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 85768256



NELSON-EDELEN-BENNETT FUNERAL HOME OBITUARY – 2012

FRENCH - Morgan, 92, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, survivor of 40 months as an American POW in Japanese custody, loving husband and devoted father, died Friday, February 24, 2012 in Plano TX. Morgan, who lived most of his working life in Radcliff, was born on August 21, 1919, in Perryville KY.

His family worked on various farms around Harrodsburg, KY in the 1920's and '30's. Morgan joined the Kentucky National Guard in 1937 to "get a break from farming." Little did he know then that this was the beginning of a long and distinguished career in the U. S. Army. Morgan participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers in the summer of 1941, and following that, he, his brother, and 64 other men comprising the 38th Tank Company (later designated Company D, 192nd Tank Battalion), a National Guard unit from Harrodsburg, were deployed to the Philippine Islands in November 1941 to provide defense of the Philippines from Japanese forces.

Beginning on December 8, 1941, Morgan and the other men of Company D fought in the delaying action on the Bataan peninsula. Morgan was finally captured at Fort Drum in

Manila Harbor on May 10, 1942. Morgan was taken from Ft. Drum to Bilibid Prison in Manila, and from there to Cabanatuan POW Camp where he stayed 5 months prior to being transferred on the Ship, Nagato Maru, to Japan in late-1942.

He was a POW in Japan from then until he was liberated by Allied Forces on September 10, 1945. Prior to his death, Morgan was the last surviving member of Company D, now known as the Harrodsburg Tankers. Morgan returned to the United States in late-1945 and, after medical convalescence, returned to active duty in the U. S. Army.

He served two tours in Korea, and upon returning home, married Maxine Milby of Greensburg in 1954. From that time until his retirement from the Army in 1962, Morgan served at various Army posts in the United States and Germany. He retired with 23 years' military service, having earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and many other commendations.

Following a short career in the civilian sector, Morgan returned to his favorite work as an instructor at the Armor School at Ft. Knox. He retired from civil service in 1984. Morgan was an active member of the Vine Grove Baptist Church for many years. He enjoyed playing with his grandchildren during their visits every summer. He was a blue-blooded UK basketball and football fan, and enjoyed going to the games in Lexington. In retirement, he enjoyed working on projects around the house and on his property.

Morgan was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Maxine; his father and mother, the late Clifton and Mary Alice French of Harrodsburg, and two brothers and six sisters. Morgan's brother, Edward, was killed-in-action in Bataan on April 22, 1942. He is survived by two sons and their wives, Morgan and Mary Jane French of Houston, TX, and Stewart and Anne French, of Dallas, TX; and two grandchildren, Edward Clifton French and Meredith Holly French, both of Baton Rouge, LA.

Visitation will be at the Nelson-Edelen-Bennett Funeral Home (Radcliff) on Friday, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Following visitation, funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. at the Vine Grove Baptist Church. Burial will follow at the North Hardin Memorial Cemetery in Radcliff. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Vine Grove Baptist Church.

Additional obituaries were published by:

Louisville Courier Journal, Tuesday February 29, 2012

Elizabethtown News Enterprise, Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Lexington Herald-Leader on February 29, 2012

Maywood Bataan Day Organization web site." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85768256/morgan-r-french>

... "Morgan French

Sgt. Morgan French was one of the original members of the Harrodsburg unit. His brother Edward was also a member. At Ft. Knox he became the crew chief of the maintenance section of company D. French escaped to Corregidor and Ft. Drum. He was

taken prisoner on May 10th 1942. He was taken by boat to an area near Manila and eventually on to Bilibid Prison and Cabanatuan. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Nagato Maru for transport to Japan.

He worked building a dry dock and later in a graphite mine and camps at Tanagawa and Tsuruga where he worked as a stevedore. He saw the mushroom cloud at Nagasaki from where he was being held. He was officially liberated on September 10, 1945.

He eventually returned to Harrodsburg after the war. He remained in the military working as an instructor at Fort Knox until his retirement. He now lives in Texas and is the last surviving Kentucky National Guardsman from Company D.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

... “Interview with Morgan French, July 25, 1985

Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries

Col. Arthur L. Kelly, Interviewer | 1985OH185 WW 031

American Veterans: World War Two Oral History Project” ...

Ref: [https://nunncenter.net/ohms-spokedb/render.php?cachefile=1985oh185\\_ww031\\_ohm.xml](https://nunncenter.net/ohms-spokedb/render.php?cachefile=1985oh185_ww031_ohm.xml)

#### **hbt 10s.**

“Pvt. Lyle Collins Harlow (Harrodsburg Tankers, Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 5 MAR 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 12 MAY 1984 • Died, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky; Buried at, Masonic Cemetery, Stamping Ground, Scott County, Kentucky, USA

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 4th grade

Occupation; Laborer

(He was married with 3 daughters)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164679180/person/202140115023/facts>

... “He was a retired sheet metal worker” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/104697603>

“Lyle Collins Harlow

BIRTH, 5 Mar 1919, Mackville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 12 May 1984 (aged 65), Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Masonic Cemetery, Stamping Ground, Scott County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 104697603



Georgetown News Times Georgetown, Kentucky  
Thursday May 17, 1984

#### HARLOW

Kyle Collins Harlow, 65, husband of Loith Harlow, of Owenton, died Saturday, May 13, at the VA Hospital, Cooper Drive, following a long illness. A native of Washington County, he was the son of Mrs. Ida Burns Harlow, Stamping Ground and the late Jim Harlow.

He was a retired sheet metal worker, a member of the Stamping Ground Masonic Lodge, F&AM, the VFW, and the Disabled American Veterans Association. Besides his wife and mother, survivors include: three daughters, Mrs. Connie Hilton, Danville, Mrs. Nancy E. Bartley, Stamping Ground, and Mrs. Patricia Wolf, Virginia Beach, Va.; three brothers, Bobby Harlow, Owenton, Rudy Harlow, Harrodsburg, and Carl Harlow, Columbus, Ga.; and five grandchildren.

Graveside services and Masonic rites were Monday, May 14, at Stamping Ground Masonic Cemetery by the Rev. James R. Fuller. Harrod Brothers Funeral Home, Stamping Ground was in charge of arrangements.

Jim Opolony, who supervises a web site on the 192nd Tank Battalion adds the following on Lyle's military career.

Lyle Harlow was a member of Kentucky National Guard in Harrodsburg. His company was federalized on November 25, 1940, and designated as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. In January 1941, he was transferred to HQ Company.

Harlow's tank company was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the Japanese attack on Clark Airfield. He became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, and took part in the death march. He was held in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan until liberated." ...

Flowers • 5

Lyle was my Fathers Brother Gene Harlow of Harrodsburg KY. I found this grave while recaching the Bataan Death March. I did know Lyle made it and meet him one time He will never be forgotten. (Danny Harlow) (Dana Lister) To are same person

Left by Danny Harlow on 18 Nov 2019” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/104697603>

.. “Lyle C. Harlow

Private Lyle Collins Harlow joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in November 1940. He became a prisoner of war on 9 April 1942 and was part of the Death March. He was held at POW Camps Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan #1 and was later sent to Japan where he worked on the docks as a stevedore and was held at Camp Nagoya #9. He was liberated in September 1945. He died on 12 May 1984.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### hbt 11s.

“Staff Sgt. Kenneth Mason **Born: Isaacs** (later changed his name to: Hourigan)

(Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)

1912–2000

BIRTH 24 DEC 1912 • Marion County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH 19 FEB 2000 • Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID. 50760490

Highest Grade Completed: Elementary school, 8th grade

Occupation: Farm Laborer

(He was married with 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164710702/person/242138519612/facts>

“Kenneth Mason Hourigan

BIRTH, 24 Dec 1912, Marion County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 19 Feb 2000 (aged 87), Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 50760490



“Kenneth Mason Hourigan was born Kenneth Mason Isaacs, to Johnny B. Isaacs (b. abt. 1889 in Ky) and Clyde Belle Rexroat (b. Jan. 22, 1891). Kenneth's mother remarried James Robert Hourigan on May 5, 1915, and Kenneth took the surname of Hourigan.

Pvt. Kenneth Mason Hourigan was one of six children. He was born on December 24, 1912, and grew up in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky. He was known as Ken to his family and friends.

Ken joined the 38th Tank Company of the Kentucky National Guard in Harrodsburg. On November 25, 1940, he was called to federal duty when his tank company was called into the regular army at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

After training for nearly a year at Ft. Knox, Ken took part in maneuvers in Louisiana. It was after the maneuvers at Camp Polk, Louisiana, that the tankers learned that they were not being released from federal service as planned. Instead they were being sent overseas. Those 29 years or older were given the chance to resign from federal service.

Ken traveled west by train to San Francisco. On Angel Island the tankers were given physicals and inoculations. Then they were boarded onto a transport sailing for the Philippine Islands.

On Thanksgiving Day, the 192nd arrived in Manila. They were taken to Ft. Stotsenburg. There, they were housed in tents along the main road between the fort and Clark Airfield. They spent the next two weeks loading ammunition belts and cleaning their guns. It was at this time that D Company was attached to the 194th Tank Battalion but remained under the command of the 192nd.

The morning of December 8, 1941, Ken and the other tankers were ordered to the perimeter of Clark Field. They were told that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor ten hours earlier. Around 12:45 in the afternoon, while they were eating lunch, planes appeared in the sky. When bombs began exploding, they knew the planes were Japanese. For four months the tankers fought to slow the Japanese conquest of the Philippines. On April 8, 1942, over his tanks radio, he heard the order to surrender. It was after he saw the Japanese killing unarmed Filipinos and Americans that he made the decision to escape to Corregidor.

Ken and other members of D Company made their way along the coast. They confiscated a boat from Filipino fishermen. It turned out that the boat was too large for them to control, and they began drifting into the South China Sea. They reached a buoy and tied the boat to it. As they sat there, an American gun boat pulled alongside of their boat. The next morning the gunboat took them to Corregidor.

Ken remained on Corregidor for a month until the island surrendered on May 6, 1942. He remained on the island for two weeks disposing of the bodies of the dead. He was then taken by boat near Manila. He and the other Prisoners of War had to jump into the water and swim to shore.

Once Ken and the other men were on shore, they were lined up and marched through to Manila to Bilibid Prison. They remained there until they were taken to a school house at Cabanatuan. He was then taken to Cabantuan #3.

Ken remained in Cabanatuan #3 for a year and a half. He recalled that there was not much food or water. The POWs food was prepared twice a day in five gallon tins. Illness was also a major problem in the camp; everyone was sick. He watched as members of his company became ill and died.

While he was at Cabanatuan, four POWs escaped from a barracks and were captured the next day. The Japanese tied the men to posts at the front of the camp. They put 2X4's between their legs to prevent them from standing up straight. After several days, they untied them and had them dig their own graves.

The POWs were made to stand in the open graves facing the rising sun. Each was given a glass of water and a half of a cigarette. Each man said, "God Bless America" another said "So long boys." They were then gunned down. The Japanese commander then walked up to each man and shot one bullet into each skull.

Ken was selected and sent to Japan with 480 other POWs. In Japan, he was taken to a camp near Osaka and worked in a steel mill. After a short time only 80 of the POWs were healthy enough to work. The Japanese even realized that they needed to feed the POWs better food and brought in two hogs for the 480 men.

Ken recalled that they really did not know how the war was going. "We didn't know the war was over until a Jap cooking detail got drunk on saki and let the cat of the bag." Not too long after the POWs learned that the war was over when American B-29's appeared over the camp and dropped food and clothing to them. It was the first real food the Ken had had in over three years. "It was like dope. We felt we could knock a building over eating all that good chow."

The POWs waited for three weeks after the food drop for liberation. They finally took the guns away from the guards and went into a town. There, they commandeered a train and went to Nagoya. Upon reaching Nagoya, they met American troops.

After Ken was liberated and declared healthy. He returned to Harrodsburg and married Sally Ann Tyler. He became a father (of an adopted daughter) and spent 28 years as a police officer. When asked if he would have changed anything about his military experience, he said, "I would never want to be in the same outfit again with my friends - people I'd eat chicken off the same bone with."

Kenneth Hourigan passed away on February 19, 2000.

[http://www.proviso.k12.il.us/bataan%20web/hourigan\\_k.htm](http://www.proviso.k12.il.us/bataan%20web/hourigan_k.htm) “ ...

Inscription:

HOURIGAN

Kenneth M.: Dec. 24, 1912-Feb. 19, 2000

Sally Ann: Mar. 6, 1921-Mar. 26, 2002

KENNETH MASON HOURIGAN

S SGT US ARMY  
WORLD WAR II  
DEC 24, 1912 - FEB 19, 2000  
PURPLE HEART  
POW-WWII

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50760490>

... “Kenneth M. Hourigan

Private Kenneth Mason Hourigan joined the Harrodsburg Kentucky National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in November 1940. He heard the order to surrender over the radio in his tank but were able to eventually make their way to Corregidor. He was taken prisoner on May 6 1942 and eventually taken by boat to near Manila and marched to Bilibid Prison and eventually on to Cabanatuan #3. He was later sent to Japan and a camp near Osaka and worked in a steel mill. He was sent to Nagoya #9 and worked as a stevedore on the docks of Iwase. He returned to Harrodsburg and became a police officer. He passed away on February 19, 2000.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

He ... “spent 28 years as a police officer. When asked if he would have changed anything about his military experience, he said, "I would never want to be in the same outfit again with my friends - people I'd eat chicken off the same bone with." ...

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/10214330/person/-678005433/media/408012d4-d7b5-4a11-b7c2-48db52d861c0?destTreeId=164710702&destPersonId=242138519612&phsrc=zOg179&phstart=default>

**hbt 12s.**

“Corp. Stanley Hardin Kyler (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1922–1992

BIRTH 22 SEP 1922 • Cornishville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 15 MAY 1992 • Died at Montgomery, buried at Powers Cemetery, Denniston, Menifee County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 19624835

Education; Grammar school.

Civil Occupation; Farm hands, general farms.

(He was married with no children.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164711309/person/192144351700/facts>

“Stanley Hardin Kyler

BIRTH, 22 Sep 1922

DEATH, 15 May 1992 (aged 69)

BURIAL, Powers Cemetery, Denniston, Menifee County, Kentucky, USA  
MEMORIAL ID, 19624835



Father was Royal Hansford Kyler 1891-1962 (burial unknown)  
Stanley Kyler was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service on November 25, 1941. The tank company was designated as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was later transferred to Hq Company.

His tank battalion was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. He lived through the Japanese attack on Clark Airfield ten hours after Pearl Harbor. On April 9, 1942, Kyler became a Prisoner of War and took part in the death march. He was held at POW camps in the Philippines and Japan until he was liberated.”  
Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19624835>

...” Stanley H. Kyler

Private Stanley Hardin Kyler enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He became a prisoner of war on 9 April 1941 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan #1, Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Clyde Maru and sent to Moji, Japan and was held at Fukuoka #17. He was liberated in September 1945 and eventually returned to Kentucky and died 15 May 1992.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 13s.**

“Mstr. Sgt. William Clinton Alford (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1921–2006

BIRTH 1 OCT 1921 • Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky, United States of America  
DEATH 14 JAN 2006 • Hospice Comfort Care, Ithaca, Tompkins, New York; Buried at Grove Cemetery Trumansburg, Tompkins County, New York, USA MEMORIAL ID.101615719” ...

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 2nd year

Attended School or College; Yes

He was not employed.

(He was married with 2 daughters and 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164711582/person/202140582829/facts>

He was ... “associated with the Chevrolet dealership in Trumansburg (Ithaca, New York) for 27 years” ...

Ref: [https://www.newspapers.com/image/257285660/?article=7879ed04-aabc-4795-98fe-5bdcfa33bd91&focus=0.07492824,0.77164376,0.5350938,0.9604311&xid=3355&\\_ga=2.5793715.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974](https://www.newspapers.com/image/257285660/?article=7879ed04-aabc-4795-98fe-5bdcfa33bd91&focus=0.07492824,0.77164376,0.5350938,0.9604311&xid=3355&_ga=2.5793715.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974)

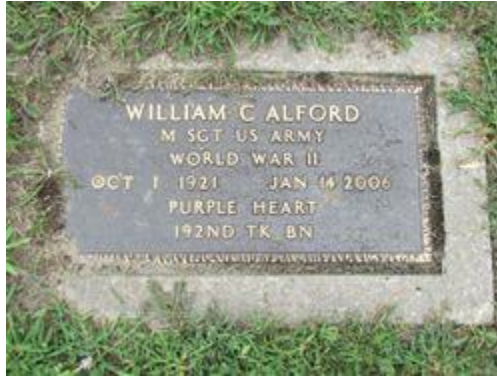
“William C. Alford

BIRTH, 1 Oct 1921, Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Jan 2006 (aged 84), Trumansburg, Tompkins County, New York, USA

BURIAL, Grove Cemetery, Trumansburg, Tompkins County, New York, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 101615719



**WILLIAM C. ALFORD**

**TRUMANSBURG** - William C. Alford of 4380 West Seneca Rd, Trumansburg, passed away at Hospice Comfort Care in Ithaca on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the age of 84.

Born on October 1, 1921 in Danville, Kentucky, Bill was the son of the late George and Sadie (Miller) Alford. After attending high school in Burgin, Kentucky, he enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard in July, 1939 and was inducted into federal service in November, 1940 along with the National Guard Company stationed at Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Bill served four years overseas with the 192nd Tank Battalion and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in April, 1942. After surviving the Bataan Death March and 3 1/2 years as a prisoner of war, he returned to his home in Kentucky after the war. For his military service he received several awards and citations, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Presidential Citation. Bill was a life member of the Arthur E. Bouton American Legion Post #770 in Trumansburg, V.F.W. Post #961 in Ithaca, DAV NY2 and the A.D.B.C. Bill attained the rank of Master Sergeant and was discharged in 1946.

He later moved to Trumansburg, where he was associated with the Chevrolet dealership in Trumansburg for 27 years. In addition to his wife Mary (Jackie) of 60 years, Bill is survived by one son, David (Helen) Alford of Trumansburg; one daughter, Judy (Chester) Houseworth of Ithaca; two granddaughters, Sarah Tomborelli of Trumansburg and Melissa Hamrick in the U.S. Navy, Virginia Beach, VA; two grandsons, Brian and Lucas Houseworth of Ithaca; three great-grandchildren, Devon, Katlyn and Lauren Hamrick; three step-grandchildren, Russell, Wayne and Laurie Weaver; two brothers, Robert

(Frances) Alford of Harrodsburg, KY and John (Ollie) Alford of Harrodsburg, KY; one sister, Nancy (Fritz) McElfresh of Danville, KY; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Graveside services, with full military honors, will be scheduled and announced in the spring of 2006. In keeping with Bill's wishes, no public calling hours have been scheduled. The family has entrusted arrangements to the Ness-Sibley Funeral Home, 23 South Street, Trumansburg.

Inscription

M SGT US ARMY

WORLD WAR II

PURPLE HEART

192ND TK BN” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101615719>

“William C. Alford

Sergeant William Clinton Alford joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit in July 1939 at the age of 17. He was assigned to the Battalion Headquarters reconnaissance platoon. He became a prisoner of war on April 9, 1942 and began the 29 Death March at Mariveles. At San Fernando they were put on a train to Capas and was marched to Camp O'Donnell. He was sent on a work detail back to Bataan to cut up scrap metal and six months later to a motor pool in Manila and eventually to Cabanatuan #1. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Canadian Inventor and eventually arrived in Moji, Japan where he was sent to Fukuoka #5 where he worked in a coal mine. Alford arrived in San Francisco on November 2, 1945. He later moved to New York state. He died on January 14, 2006.

... “William C. Alford

Sergeant William Clinton Alford joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit in July 1939 at the age of 17. He was assigned to the Battalion Headquarters reconnaissance platoon. He became a prisoner of war on April 9, 1942 and began the 29 Death March at Mariveles.

At San Fernando they were put on a train to Capas and was marched to Camp O'Donnell. He was sent on a work detail back to Bataan to cut up scrap metal and six months later to a motor pool in Manila and eventually to Cabanatuan #1. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Canadian Inventor and eventually arrived in Moji, Japan where he was sent to Fukuoka #5 where he worked in a coal mine. Alford arrived in San Francisco on November 2, 1945. He later moved to New York state. He died on January 14, 2006.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 14s.**

“Pfc. Lawrence Ira Martin (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1922–2007

BIRTH 7 FEB 1922 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 18 DEC 2007 • Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA MEMORIAL ID, 23679896 (THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH IS HONORARY PALLBEARER.)

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year

Occupation; New Worker

(He was married with no children)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164712344/person/342144015142/facts>

... “Lawrence would work for International Harvester in Indianapolis. He also worked as a farmer and woodworker.” ...

Ref: [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/2496820/person/6088310833/media/6deb4e45-fdfa-40bd-9e9d-ee71e117adaa?\\_phsrc=zOg183&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/2496820/person/6088310833/media/6deb4e45-fdfa-40bd-9e9d-ee71e117adaa?_phsrc=zOg183&_phstart=successSource)

“Lawrence Ira Martin

BIRTH, 7 Feb 1922, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 19 Dec 2007 (aged 85, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 23679896



SURVIVOR of the BATAAN DEATH March and PRISONER OF WAR  
HARRODSBURG - Lawrence Ira Martin, 85, widower of Hazel Goode Martin, died Wednesday.

Born Feb. 7, 1922, in Mercer County, he was the son of the late Charles F. and Lillie Westerfield Martin. He served in World War II where he drove Army tanks. He was the last Mercer County survivor of the Bataan Death March and a Prisoner of War.

Survivors include his adopted family, William and Sue Ward of Harrodsburg.

A celebration of life will be 3 p.m. Friday at Alexander & Royalty Funeral Home. Burial with military rites will be in Spring Hill Cemetery.

The last survivor of the Bataan Death March is honorary pallbearer.

=====

There is still one living member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion from Harrodsburg. His name is Morgan French.

[http://www.proviso.k12.il.us/Bataan%20Web/French\\_M.htm](http://www.proviso.k12.il.us/Bataan%20Web/French_M.htm)

(Thanks to Jim Opolony--May 17, 2010)” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23679896>

... “Laurence I. Martin

Private First-Class Lawrence Ira Martin was one of the original members of the 38th Tank Company. After his activation, he was assigned to the Battalion Headquarters in tank maintenance and driving a truck and attended cook's school at Ft. Knox. He was taken prisoner on 10 or 11 April and drove a truck to Mariveles where they were held at the air field.

He survived the Death March. At San Fernando he was put on a train to Capas and the final march to Camp O'Donnell where he was a cook. He was sent on a work detail to San Fernando to collect scrap metal. He became ill and was sent to a hospital in Pampang. He was eventually sent to Bilibid Prison in an isolation ward.

He was sent on work details to McKinley Field and Nelson Field and held at Camp Murphy. He became sicker and was returned to Bilibid. He was put aboard a ship and sent to Japan, Hiroshima #4 where he worked in the shipyards. He returned to Harrodsburg and was discharged from the army in April, 1946. He died on December 18, 2007.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 15s.**

“Corp. William Elwood Blacketer (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
BIRTH 5 APR 1920 • Mackville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH "He simply disappeared and was never heard from again by his family."  
Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 7th grade  
Occupation; Laborer  
(He was married with no children.)

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144903734>

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164712509/person/292141781095/facts>

... “Note:

According to Bill Blacketer, his father had worked as a book salesman and was accused of embezzling money from his company. He spent two years in prison. Bill stated that he was in Louisville in December 1969 – just after enlisting in the Air Force – and was walking down the street when he ran into his father. The two talked for several hours before parting company. That was the last time he ever saw his father.

Other members of the family have stated that William was involved in some trouble with Chicago hoodlums. According to them, he disappeared not too long after this and has never been heard from again.” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/blacketer-pvt-william-e/>

“William E Blacketer

BIRTH, 5 Apr 1920, Mackville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, unknown

BURIAL, Unknown

MEMORIAL ID, 144903734



William E. Blacketer was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was reassigned to HQ Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After nearly a year of training, his battalion was sent to the Philippine Islands.

Ten hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he lived through the Japanese attack on Clark Airfield. For four months his battalion fought to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. On April 9, 1942, he became a Prisoner of War and took part in the death march from Bataan.

As a POW he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was later sent to Japan and held at Yodagawa and Oeyama POW Camps until liberated. After the war William's life was not easy. He simply disappeared and was never heard from again by his family.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144903734>

... “William E. Blacketer

Private William Elwood Blacketer enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Nissyo Maru and was sent to Moji, Japan and was held at Oeyama Camp where he worked in a nickel refinery. He was liberated on 2 September 1945.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 16s.**

“Pvt. Albert Bland Moore (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1920–2006

BIRTH 15 JUL 1920 • Mackville, Washington, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH 14 JAN 2006 • died, VA hospital, Lexington, Fayette, Kentucky; buried, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA;  
MEMORIAL ID, 19017018

Highest Grade Completed; College, 3rd year

Occupation; Farm Labor

(He was married with 2 sons and 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164712903/person/152141759136/facts>

... He was a retired sales representative and sales manager for Kentucky Electric Steel Co. and Reliance Steel.” ...

Ref: [https://www.newspapers.com/image/138608274/?article=b86297dc-b410-43ab-990f-990db93477b8&focus=0.01839913,0.5383961,0.18661717,0.90408504&xid=3355&\\_ga=2.75574421.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974](https://www.newspapers.com/image/138608274/?article=b86297dc-b410-43ab-990f-990db93477b8&focus=0.01839913,0.5383961,0.18661717,0.90408504&xid=3355&_ga=2.75574421.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974)

“Albert Bland Moore

BIRTH, 15 Jul 1920

DEATH, 27 Apr 2006 (aged 85)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 19017018



Albert Bland Moore 85, husband of 64 years to Bessie Louise Carter Moore, Nicholasville, died Thursday April 27, 2006 at the V.A. Medical Center in Lexington. Born July 15, 1920 in Mackville, he was the son of the late Robert and Gertie Roberts Moore.

He served in the United States Army during World War II with the 192nd Tank Battalion, received two bronze stars, was a prisoner of war and was in the Bataan Death March. He was a member of the V.F.W., D.A.V., and an active member of Indian Hills Christian Church in Danville for twenty-five years. Mr. Moore retired as a sales representative and sales manager for KY Electric Steel Co. and Reliance Steel and he enjoyed gardening.

Additional survivors besides his wife, include two sons: Gregory B. Moore, Terre Haute, Indiana and Bradley K. Moore and his wife Donna, Richmond, Virginia; one daughter: Sheryl L. Crowe and her husband, J.D., Nicholasville; one sister: Vera Williams, Franklin, Tennessee; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded

in death by five brothers: Marshall Moore, Ancil Moore, C.W. Moore, Cecil Moore and Bob Moore, Jr. and one sister: Mary Lou Powell.

Burial with Military Honors with Cecil Howard Vandiver, Wayne Doolin, Jerry Wade, David Gibson, Amos Sharpe Gary Lane, and Jim Crouch serving as pallbearers. Services were entrusted to Alexander and Royalty Funeral Home.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19017018>

... “Albert B. Moore

Private Albert Bland Moore joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before the activation in November 1940. He was transferred to Headquarters Company when it was formed in January 1941. During the attack, Bland was delivering lunch to members of the tank crews at their tanks. As he drove, his truck was strafed by a Japanese Zero. He shot down one plane with a machine gun. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 the unit’s trucks were used to move them to Mariveles and 30 survived the Death March. At San Fernando he was put on a train for Capas.

From there they marched to Camp O'Donnell. He went out on a work detail and operated a jackhammer. He was later sent to Cabanatuan. He was sent on a work detail to Nelson Field to build runways with picks and shovels. He was later sent to Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Noto Maru and sent to Moji, Japan and was sent to Tanagawa where he worked on the construction of a dry dock for submarines. He was later sent to Mukashima Camp and worked in a coal mine. He was liberated in 1945. He returned to Kentucky after the war. He died on April 27, 2006.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 17s.**

“Staff Sgt. Marcus Arnold Lawson (Harrodsburg Tankers, WW II)  
1922–2005

BIRTH 4 MAR 1922 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 6 AUG 2005 • died at Dunnellon, Marion, Florida; buried at Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 12164999  
Highest Grade Completed; High School, 3rd year

Civil Occupation; Actors and actresses

(He was married with 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164713272/person/102138443593/facts>

... “Marcus returned to Kentucky and married Helen Crews and became the father of two sons. The one lasting effect of his time as a POW was vision problems.” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/lawson-sgt-marcus-a/>

“Marcus A. Lawson

BIRTH, 4 Mar 1922

DEATH, 6 Aug 2005 (aged 83)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
MEMORIAL ID, 12164999

Marcus A. Lawson, age 83, Dunnellon, husband of Helen Crews Lawson, died Saturday, August 6, 2005 at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center, FL.

Born March 4, 1922 in Harrodsburg, KY, he was the son of the late Raymond and Margaret (Newby) Lawson. He was married to Hellen "Jackie" Crews. He served during World War II in the Army. He was a disabled veteran and a member of the EX-POW Club, Blind Vets, American Legion and the VFW.

Survivors include: his wife: Helen (Crews) Lawson, and one son: Vance (Cheryl) Lawson of Dunnellon, FL; one sister: Virginia Yeast of Harrodsburg, KY; 2 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son; Rick Lawson, a brother; William Lawson and two sisters; Elizabeth Rogers and Velva Sanders.

Funeral services will be conducted 2:00 PM, Thursday, August 11 at the Ransdell Funeral Chapel by Bro. Jim Owens. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg.

Pallbearers are: Henry Anness, Dennis Shewmaker, Bobby Newby, Donnie Rogers, Bronson yeast, John Sutton. Honorary Bearers are his fellow EX-POWS: Morgan French, Bland Moore, Earl Fowler, Lawrence Martin, William Alford,

Visitation will be Wednesday, August 10 after 5:00 PM at the Ransdell Funeral Chapel, Harrodsburg, KY.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Stem Cell Research.

Marcus, thank-You for your service in U.S. Army during WWII. You are true hero along with the other soldiers who became POWS in Philippines between the years of 1942-1945. God bless You and keep your family in his care. RIP, Marcus

Left by A grateful Veteran on 25 Apr 2015" ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12164999>

..." Marcus A. Lawson

Sergeant Marcus Arnold Lawson was one of the original members of the Harrodsburg National Guard Company. At Ft Knox he was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant and made a tank commander and instructor. Robert Brooks from Sadieville joined the unit from active duty at Fort Knox and was Lawson's tank driver.

Brooks was killed in the initial attack in the Philippines and Lawson took over his duties. Lawson with others took a boat to Corregidor where he was attached to the Fourth Marine Division. They were taken prisoner and eventually moved to Bilibid Prison outside Manila and then on to Cabanatuan #3 and later Cabanatuan Camp #1. He was put on the Nagato Maru sailed for Moji, Japan and taken to Tanagawa #4-B working

on building a dry dock.

He was sent to a Japanese Army Hospital on an experimental detail and given different pills every day for eight weeks. He was later sent to Osaka #1 where he worked as a stevedore. He was later sent back to Tanagawa #4-B and working on the dry dock. When the war was over, he managed to find his way to an American unit.

After extensive medical stays at various hospitals and was discharged on November 5, 1946, as a Staff Sergeant. He returned to Kentucky. He suffered vision problems for the rest of his life. He passed away in Florida on August 6, 2005.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 18s.**

“Pfc. William Lee Peavler (Harrodsburg Tanker Survivor, WW II)

1917–1978

BIRTH 14 JUN 1917 • Mackville, Washington, Kentucky

DEATH 4 MAR 1978 • Haggin Memorial hospital (Harrodsburg, Ky.) Died while on the operating table for emergency appendicitis surgery. Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 63791706

Highest Grade Completed: Elementary school, 8th grade

Occupation: Helper

(He was married with 2 sons and 1 daughter.)



Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164713631/person/292141828379/facts>

He was, ... “a retired laborer” ...

Ref: [https://www.newspapers.com/image/142899247/?article=27ab7b52-9df7-4d14-87d0-c271396a951c&focus=0.12563659,0.47133055,0.24497692,0.59443337&xid=3355&\\_ga=2.105399811.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974](https://www.newspapers.com/image/142899247/?article=27ab7b52-9df7-4d14-87d0-c271396a951c&focus=0.12563659,0.47133055,0.24497692,0.59443337&xid=3355&_ga=2.105399811.1249785036.1595293914-1083334240.1544192974)

“William Lee Peavler

BIRTH, Jun 1917, Mackville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, Mar 1978 (aged 60), Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 63791706



William Lee Peavler (1917-1978) was the son of Willie J. and Omie Camden Peavler. He was born in a log cabin in Washington Co. KY and died March 4, 1978 at Haggin Memorial hospital while on the operating table for emergency appendicitis surgery. William Lee served in Kentucky National Guard and U.S. Army during World War II. He was held as a Prisoner of War from April 1942 to 1945.

He was a member of 192nd Tank Battalion Unit under the command of Capt. Edwin Rue. The military unit was captured after the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines and was held by the Japanese until the end of the war. During the march William Lee was injured in the knee by a Japanese soldier for no known reason except he was walking to slow.

Everett Collier, a fellow soldier in the 192nd acted as a medic and bandage the wound saving his life. In 1945 when the war was over, William Lee was located in POW camp in Japan.

William Lee married Emogene Holderman in 1946 and became the proud father of several children including the following: Frances, A.J., W.T, Henry, Herbert, Arlen, and Condit. One son, Randall preceded him in death and was buried at Spring Hill cemetery. He was survived by his father, J. Peavler, of Harrodsburg, 3 sisters, Ella, Ovie, and Jewell, all of KY and brothers, J. T. of Missouri, Marshall of Texas.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Omie Lee Camden Peavler Logue, son, Randall Peavler, step-father, Mr. Harrison T. Logue and several relatives.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63791706>

... “William Peavler

Private First-Class William Peavler joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the activation in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison. He worked in sugar cane in Formosa before being sent to Japan aboard the Hell Ship Hokusen Maru

and Melbourne Maru to Moji, Japan in January 1945 to Sendai Camp #3 where he worked in lead and zinc mining. He was liberated on 12 September 1945. He died on 4 March 1978.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 19s.**

“Sgt. John Elmore Sadler (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1914–1968

BIRTH 14 JUL 1914 • Elmwood Place, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA

DEATH 23 SEP 1968 • died in McCreary County, Kentucky; buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; Find A Grave # 179019801 & # 145554007

Education: Grammar school

Civil Occupation: Farm hands, general farms

(He was married 2 times and he had 2 sons and 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164714017/person/412141992714/facts>

NOTE: He has 2 “Find A Grave Memorials” for him.

#1.

“John Elmore Sadler

BIRTH, 14 Jul 1914, Elmwood Place, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA

DEATH, 23 Sep 1968 (aged 54), Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Unknown

MEMORIAL ID, 145554007



John Sadler grew-up in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. With his brother, he joined the Kentucky National Guard. In December 1941, his brother and him were stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. After four months of fighting the Japanese, he became a Prisoner of War and was held at POW camps in the Philippines and Japan.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145554007>

#2.

“John Elmore Sadler

BIRTH, 14 Jul 1914, Ohio, USA

DEATH, 23 Sep 1968 (aged 54), Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
MEMORIAL ID, 179019801



HARRODSBURG (Spl.)-John Elmore Sadler, 54, died at 9 p.m. Monday at his home on Campbell Drive after a long illness.

A native of Ohio, he was a member of the Burgin Baptist Church and was a veteran of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during World War II.

Survivors are a daughter, Mrs. Drury Straton, Harrodsburg; three sons, John Elmore Jr., Robert King and James Keith ....

September 25, 1968

A Publisher Extra Newspaper

The Advocate-Messenger from Danville, Kentucky · Page 6

OCR text" ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179019801>

... "John E. Sadler

Sergeant John Elmore Sadler joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before the activation with his brother Campbell. They escaped Bataan to Corregidor and was sent to the Malanta Tunnel. He later went to Fort Drum. When he was taken prisoner, he was eventually sent to Bilibid Prison and on to 31 Cabanatan #1.

He was put on a truck to be moved to another camp and was reunited with his brother. He was later returned to Cabanatuan #1 hospital. He was put on the Hell Ship Clyde Maru and sailed to Moji, Japan and Fukuoka #17 where he worked in a coal mine.

He ran out of the building he was in and saw a mushroom shaped cloud across the bay over Nagasaki. After a time, the men left the camp and made their way to the American troops. He was eventually flown to the Philippines and reunited again with his brother. John Sadler died on September 23, 1968." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 20s.**

"Sgt. Charles Robert Quinn (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 12 AUG 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 8 NOV 1998 • Died in Curry, Oregon; Buried at; Crescent City, Del Norte, California, USA; Find A Grave Memorial ID 145530347

Education: 3 years of high school

Civil Occupation: Semiskilled chauffeurs and drivers, bus, taxi, truck, and tractor  
(He was married 2 times but no children)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164714724/person/342144029163/facts>

“Charlie R. Quinn

BIRTH, 12 Aug 1919, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 8 Nov 1998 (aged 79), Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, USA

BURIAL, Unknown

MEMORIAL ID, 145530347



Charlie Quinn was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal duty as a member D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the bombing of Clark Airfield.

For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese.

As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He remained in the camp until liberated by U.S. Army Rangers on January 30, 1945, in what is now known as "The Great Raid."

After being liberated, he returned to Harrodsburg. He was approached by **RKO Pictures** to tour with John Wayne and Anthony Quinn for the movie "Back to Bataan." When he finished, he moved to Salinas, California. Ironically, C Company, 194th Tank Battalion, which also fought on Bataan, was originally a California National Guard Tank Company from Salinas."

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145530347>

... “Charlie R. Quinn

Sergeant Charles Robert Quinn enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 6 May 1942 and was held at Cabanatuan. He was liberated on 31 December 1944 by the U. S. Army Rangers. He died on 8 November 1998 in Crescent City, California” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 21s.**

“Staff Sgt. William David Sparrow, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1915–1952

BIRTH 20 MAY 1915 • Boyle County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH 5 MAY 1952 • Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 117400180

Highest Grade Completed; College, 2nd year

Class of Worker; Wage or salary worker in Government work (in the National Guard)

(He was not married)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164715023/person/272141962764/facts>

“William David Sparrow

BIRTH, 20 May 1915, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 5 May 1952 (aged 36)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 117400180



Sgt. William D. Sparrow was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. He fought the Japanese for four months and when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese. He, with other members of his battalion, escaped to Corregidor. On May 7, 1942, he became a Prisoner of War when American forces in the Philippines were surrendered to the Japanese. As a POW, he was held at Cabanatuan on Luzon. He was sent to Japan on a "hell ship" and was held as a POW at Tanagawa #4-B and Osaka #5. He was liberated at the end of the war.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117400180>

.. “William D. Sparrow

Sergeant William D. “Doc” Sparrow, Jr. joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. When Bataan fell, he escaped to Corregidor where he was put on beach defense facing Bataan with the attached to the Fourth Marine Division. They were taken prisoner and eventually moved to Bilibid Prison and on to Cabanatuan Camp #3.

He was later sent to Cabanatuan Camp #1. He was put aboard the Nagato Maru sailed Moji, Japan and taken to Tanagawa #4-B where he worked building a dry dock. He was later sent to a graphite factory. He was sent Tsuruga POW Camp on a work detail as stevedores unloading ships. When the POWs were finally liberated, they were returned to the Philippines. He remained there until it was determined that he was healthy enough to return home to Harrodsburg. He died on May 5, 1952.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 22s.**

“Cpl. Field McLeod Reed, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)

1920–2003

BIRTH 24 FEB 1920 • Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana, United States of America

DEATH 28 AUG 2003 • Died, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky; Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID,

13594366

Highest Grade Completed; College, 1st year.

Occupation; Director



(He was married with 2 daughters, 1 son and 1 step-son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164715394/person/242138566468/facts>

... “He was a retired assistant superintendent for International Harvester, where he worked for 38 years.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13594366>

“Field McLeod Reed, Jr

BIRTH, 24 Feb 1920, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana, USA

DEATH, 28 Aug 2003 (aged 83), Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 13594366

Field M. Reed Jr., 83, of Louisville, died at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. He was the son of the late Field M. Reed Sr. and Merrtie Mae Woodard and was raised in Harrodsburg. He was a retired assistant superintendent for International Harvester, where

he worked for 38 years. He was an army veteran of World War II, serving in the 192nd Tank Battalion, a former POW and a member of the Masonic Lodge, American Legion #201, VFW and the International Harvester Retiree Club.

Survivors include: two daughters, Anita Landers and Susan Jordan; one son, Thomas (Sue) Reed; one stepson, Mark McDonald; one sister, Harriette Ann Butler; 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. A private graveside service was held at Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg.



Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13594366>

... “Field M. Reed Jr

Private First-Class Field McLeod Reed, Jr. joined the Harrodsburg tank company sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was a truck driver for the unit and spent four months attempting to deliver ammunition and gasoline to the tanks, with often only an idea where the tanks might be.

He was taken prisoner on April 9, 1942 and made his way to Mariveles where he began the Death March. A piece of shrapnel wounded Reed during the march from an artillery round fired from Corregidor, in an exchange with Japanese artillery near the march route. He was able to barrow a hidden knife and cut the shrapnel out of his leg.

Near San Fernando, Field was bayoneted by a guard and he continued the march bleeding. He was put on a train to Capas and then marched to Camp O'Donnell. He was later sent to Cabanatuan and then on to a work detail to Las Pinas to work on runways at Nichols Field. Here he received a beating from his captors that resulted in permanent hearing loss. He was later put in a sweatbox for two weeks for breaking a guard's jaw. He was then returned to Cabanatuan. He was still there when the U.S. Army Rangers liberated the prisoners in January 1945 and they made it safely to the American lines. He returned to Harrodsburg.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 23s.**

“Staff Sgt. George Everett Chumley (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1921–1988

BIRTH 24 MAY 1921 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 21 MAY 1988 • Blue Grass Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum, Nicholasville,  
Jessamine County, Kentucky, USA MEMORIAL ID, 58143008

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 2nd year

Occupation; Waiter

(He was married 2 times with no children.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164715678/person/362142221900/facts>

... “He worked as a plumber and was a partner in the company of Cannon & Chumley Plumbing.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58143008>

“George Everett Chumley

BIRTH, 24 May 1921, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 21 May 1988 (aged 66), Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Blue Grass Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum, Nicholasville, Jessamine  
County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 58143008



(He was a) twin to Georgia "Georgie" Chumley.;  
Pfc. George Everett Chumley

-----

The following Biography provided by & credit given to:  
the BATAAN COMMEMORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT...Many thx!!

Pfc. George E. Chumley was born on May 24, 1921, to Wiley Chumley & Lola Taylor-Chumley. He was known as "Everett" to his family. It is known he had two sisters and a brother and grew up on Greenville Street in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He worked as a waiter at a restaurant.

Sometime in the late 1930s, George joined the Kentucky National Guard as a member of the 38th Tank Company headquartered in an armory in Harrodsburg. He was called to federal service when the tank company became D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

George spent nearly a year training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he became a tank commander. In the late summer of 1940, he took part in maneuvers in Louisiana, it was

after these maneuvers at Camp Polk, Louisiana, that the tank battalion learned they were being sent overseas.

Sailing from Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, George with the battalion arrived in the Philippine Islands. He and the other tankers spent the next two weeks loading ammunition belts and readying their tanks for use. It was at this time that D Company was attached to the 194th Tank Battalion. The official transfer of the company to the battalion never took place as expected.

George recalled that the morning of December 8, 1941, the tankers were at their tanks around the perimeter of Clark Field. American planes were in the sky. Around noon, the planes landed and lined up along the edge of the airfield. According to George the all clear signal was given and everyone went to lunch.

George was in the Non-Commission Officers Canteen when planes appeared over Clark Field. He was eating chicken and looking out a window. As he looked at the airfield, bombs began to explode. As the bombs got closer to where he was, he went out and hid behind a tree. When he got up, he saw that everything was a mess.

George saw several dead bodies. Many of the bodies had been burnt. He stated that the worst thing that they had to deal with after the attack was the smell coming from the burnt bodies. It was so bad that he was unable to eat for a week.

When the tanks were given orders to pull out, they soon discovered that without air cover it was unsafe to move during the day. The tanks were moved at night to prevent them from being attacked by Japanese planes.

George felt that driving a tank at night was never safe, but something that a tank driver learned to do. One reason doing this was unsafe was that the tank crews never knew what lay ahead.

Not every moment was hectic. During calm moments the tankers would turn on the tank's radio and listen to Tokyo Rose. Doing this violated a standing order that they had received not to listen to enemy broadcasts. George said that they ignored the propaganda she broadcast, but they enjoyed the music. In many cases, she played the latest songs.

George believed that anyone who said that they were not afraid was lying. He believed that everyone was always afraid. With time, what happened was that the person got to the point that he didn't care. George felt that part of the reason for this was that the soldiers were always hungry, sweaty, nervous, tired and thirsty.

On his last day in a tank, George was driving along a mountain road. In the turret was a young lieutenant who was pretty nervous in George's opinion. George stated that a tank driver drives the tank according to where the commander touches the driver with his foot. If the commander taps the driver on the right shoulder, the driver turned the tank to the right. The same for the left shoulder. There were a series of signals like this.

George said that this young lieutenant kicked him pretty hard in the shoulder causing him to make a hard turn. The result was one track hung out over the edge of the road. The tank was stuck with no hope of moving it. Knowing the Japanese were approaching, the tankers destroyed the tank and made their way on foot. As they walked they saw the tank hit by enemy fire and go over the cliff.

George was walking with another member of the tank crew when they were spotted by a Japanese plane. As the plane came in to attack them, he dove to one side of the road. The other tanker dove to the other side of the road. The plane released a bomb which hit near George. After it was clear, George got up and went to find the other tank crew member. He discovered that the bomb the plane had dropped had blown the man to bits. George could not find anything of the man.

By himself, George made his way to a pygmy village. The villagers fed him and hid him from the enemy. When it was safe, he made his way south. At one point, he saw 150 Filipinos laying in a field. He thought they were resting. He made his way into the field and discovered that they were dead. Not too long after this incident, George caught up to his company.

George recalled that on Christmas Day his Christmas Dinner consisted of a can of pork and beans and a coconut that a Filipino boy climbed a tree to get. He shared both with another tanker.

For the next four months, George took part in many of the major engagements against the Japanese. On April 8, 1942, he and other members of D Company learned that they were supposed to surrender the next morning. He and a number of other tankers made the decision that they would attempt to escape to Corregidor.

After arriving there, George spent a great deal of time in Middleside Barracks, hiding under a pool table during air raids. He decided it was safer to be in a tunnel on the island. When George was given the opportunity to go to Fort Drum, he jumped at the chance. There, they fought on for another month until the island was surrendered on May 6, 1942.

George and the other Prisoners of War had heard of the march made by the Filipinos and Americans made on Bataan. When they were taken by barge to an area near Manila, they feared that they would have the same thing done to them. They marched ten miles through Manila toward Bilibid Prison.

After being held at Bilibid for several days, George and the other prisoners were taken to a railroad station. There, they were packed into boxcars and taken to Cabanatuan.

At Cabanatuan, George worked at the camp farm. The food was supposed to go to the prisoners but much of it went to the Japanese. George recalled that the Japanese did not like the POWs talking to each other. If they caught a man talking when they were supposed to be working, the Japanese would tie the man to an aunt hill and let the red aunts bite the man.

He also said that if a POW was caught stealing the Japanese would put the man into a four by four box until he died. Knowing this was the punishment, the POWs came up with their own punishment. When a member of George's barracks was caught stealing, he was made to run a beltline. It may have seemed harsh, but at least the man was still alive when he had finished.

As his time as a POW went on, George began to wonder if his effort to stay alive was worth it. Because the diet in the camp was so bad, he lost his vision. Another POW led him around. George said that he got his vision back after he was given cod oil that the Filipinos outside the camp smuggled into the camp. Ironically, the man who had helped George when he was blind, lost his eyesight and never got it back.

George was selected to be sent to Japan on one of the first ships of POWs sent there. The ship that George was on was the Clyde Maru. The ship left Manila on July 23, 1943 and arrived at Moji, Japan on August 7, 1943. During the trip to Japan was the time that several of the ships in the convoy had been sunk by American submarines. In Japan, George was sent to Fukuoka Camp #17. The POWs in the camp were used to extract coal from a coal mine that had been condemned because it had become unsafe.

George believed that one of the major problems between that Japanese and Americans was that they did not understand each other. The Japanese army allowed physical punishment. The lowest ranking Japanese soldiers could be hit by those soldiers who outranked them.

These soldiers with the lowest ranks took great pleasure at hitting the POWs because the POWs were the only ones that they could hit. In one incident, George had a small Japanese private hit him in the face with a board while George stood at attention. The result of this was that George's nose was broken. The thing that bothered George was that he had no idea why he had been hit.

In a different incident, George was made to do pushups in the snow until he collapsed from exhaustion. The Japanese then beat him. George was the only prisoner made to do this. Again, he had no idea why he was being punished. He concluded that the reason was that since the Japanese guards had the power to do this to him, they did.

George and the other POWs worked in the coal mine. Since it was unsafe, the men lived with the knowledge that any of them could be killed at any time. Another member of D Company, Heze Sallee, died in the mine when the section of the mine he was working in collapsed.

While working in the mine, George broke his foot in a mining accident. In reality, his foot was almost cut off. Despite his injury, George had to walk two miles from the mine back to the camp to receive treatment from a Japanese doctor.

Life in the camp was extremely hard, especially during the winter. The POWs had only straw mats to sleep on and a couple of military blankets. At night, the wind come up through the floorboards of the barracks and through the mats. George said that working in the mine actually became one of the few places where the POWs were warm. They were warm enough to work only in G-strings.

Being superstitious, the Japanese made the POWs stop at a Shinto Shrine before they entered the mine. The POWs had to bow, clap their hands three times, and say a prayer to the mine gods to keep them safe. One day when the POWs left the mine, they found that while they had been working American bombers had leveled the shrine. He and the other POWs never had to stop there again.

To get out of working in the mine, prisoners paid other POWs to break their arms. The payment usually was several bowls of rice. He was asked on several occasions by other prisoners to break their arms.

At Fukuoka #17, the POWs very seldom got mail. During his time there, George received one letter and one package from home. The letter was from his sister-in-law, and the package was from his mother. In the package was a note saying that his mother was sending him razor blades, a comb, vitamin pills, tobacco, rolling papers, swimming trunks, and shoes. The reason she sent the swimming trunks was that the Japanese claimed that the POWs swam at the beach every day.

When he got the package, it had already been gone through by the Japanese. They kept what they wanted which included the shoes. The shoes were the one thing that he needed since his had worn out and the Japanese refused to give him new ones.

During his time in the camp, George received very little news on the war. George said that the one piece of news that the Japanese did tell the POWs was that President Roosevelt had died. He believed that the Japanese hoped that the POWs would become depressed hearing of it.

George was in camp the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. When the POWs saw the mushroom cloud, they had no idea what they were looking at. They went to work and the Japanese workers were talking about the incident.

George and the other POWs came out of the mine and found that the next shift of POWs was not waiting to go to work. That night, the POWs were made to stand at attention for two hours. They all had their blankets because they believed they were going to be moved. Instead, they were returned to their barracks.

The next day, when it was their turn to go to work, they were told it was a holiday, and they had the day off. George knew something was up because they had never had a holiday off before this.

Finally, the POWs were gathered in the camp and told that Japan and the United States were now friends. They were also told to stay in the camp. Although they were told to stay in the camp, four men left the camp and took a train to Osaka. There, they met American troops.

Before the four left the camp, they found a warehouse which was full of Red Cross packages that the Japanese had kept from the POWs. The POWs distributed the packages among themselves.

When asked if he thought that using the atomic bomb was wrong, George said the bomb saved his life and the lives of the other POWs. Expecting an American invasion of Japan, the Japanese had received orders to kill all the POWs. The Japanese had already dug out the machinegun placements to be used to execute the POWs.

After liberation, George returned to Harrodsburg. He was discharged, from the army, on May 2, 1946. He married Lonnie East, and moved to Nicholasville, Kentucky. He worked as a plumber and was a partner in the company of Cannon & Chumley Plumbing. George E. Chumley passed away after an extended illness on May 21, 1988 in Nicholasville, Ky. He was survived by his wife Lorene, a daughter and two step children and two sisters.” ...  
Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58143008>

... “George E. Chumley

Staff Sergeant George Everett Chumley joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime in the late 1930’s. After the fall of Bataan he made his way to Corregidor in Middleside barracks and later Fort Drum until it was surrendered on May 6, 1942.

He was first sent to Bilibid Prison and later to Cabanatuan working on the camp farm. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Clyde Maru for Moji, and to Fukuoka Camp #17 where he worked in a coal mine where he nearly lost his foot. After liberation he returned to Harrodsburg. He died on May 21, 1988.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 24s.**

“Pvt. Campbell King Sadler (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1916–1972

BIRTH 26 AUG 1916 • Garrard County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 12 NOV 1972 • Died at Muscogee County, Georgia; Buried at Fort Benning Post Cemetery Fort Benning, Muscogee County, Georgia, USA; PLOT, Section A, Site 506, MEMORIAL ID, 46895930

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Laborer.

(He was married with 1 daughter and 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164716822/person/242138582927/facts>

... “Sadler remained in the military and rose in rank to Sergeant First Class. He resided in Columbus, Ohio, and after he retired, he resided in Muscogee County, Georgia. Campbell passed away on October 12, 1972, and was buried at Fort Benning Post Cemetery in Muscogee County, Georgia, in Section A, Site 586.” ...

Ref: <https://bataanproject.com/provisional-tank-group/sadler-pvt-campbell-k/>

“Campbell King Sadler

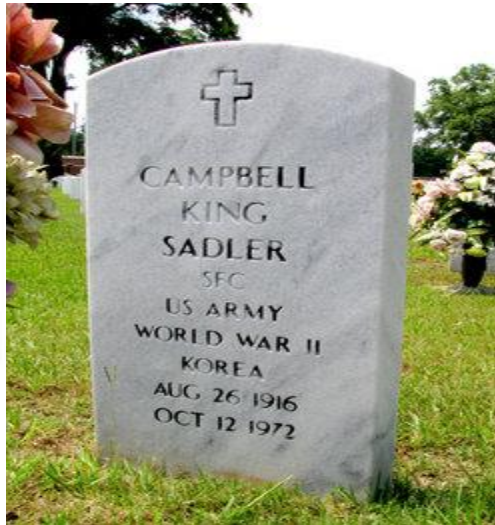
BIRTH, 26 Aug 1916, Garrard County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 12 Oct 1972 (aged 56), Muscogee County, Georgia, USA

BURIAL, Fort Benning Post Cemetery, Fort Benning, Muscogee County, Georgia, USA

PLOT Section A, Site 506

MEMORIAL ID, 46895930



Inscription

SFC USA - WWII, Korea

Gravesite Details Interred 16 Oct 1972” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46895930>

... “Campbell K. Sadler

Private Campbell King Sadler enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before the unit was activated along with his brother John. It is believed that around the time Bataan fell he made his way to Corregidor. He was taken prisoner on 6 May 1942 and was held at Bilibid Prison and Cabanatuan. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Noto Maru for Moji, Japan and he was sent to Fukuoka #8. He was liberated in September 1945. He died on 12 November 1972.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 25s.**

“Pfc. Earl William Fowler (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)

BIRTH 1 JAN 1917 • Thompsonville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 14 APR 2007 • Died at Burgin, Mercer County, Kentucky; Buried at Willisburg Cemetery Willisburg, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Laborer.

(He was married with 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164717096/person/262145554005/facts>

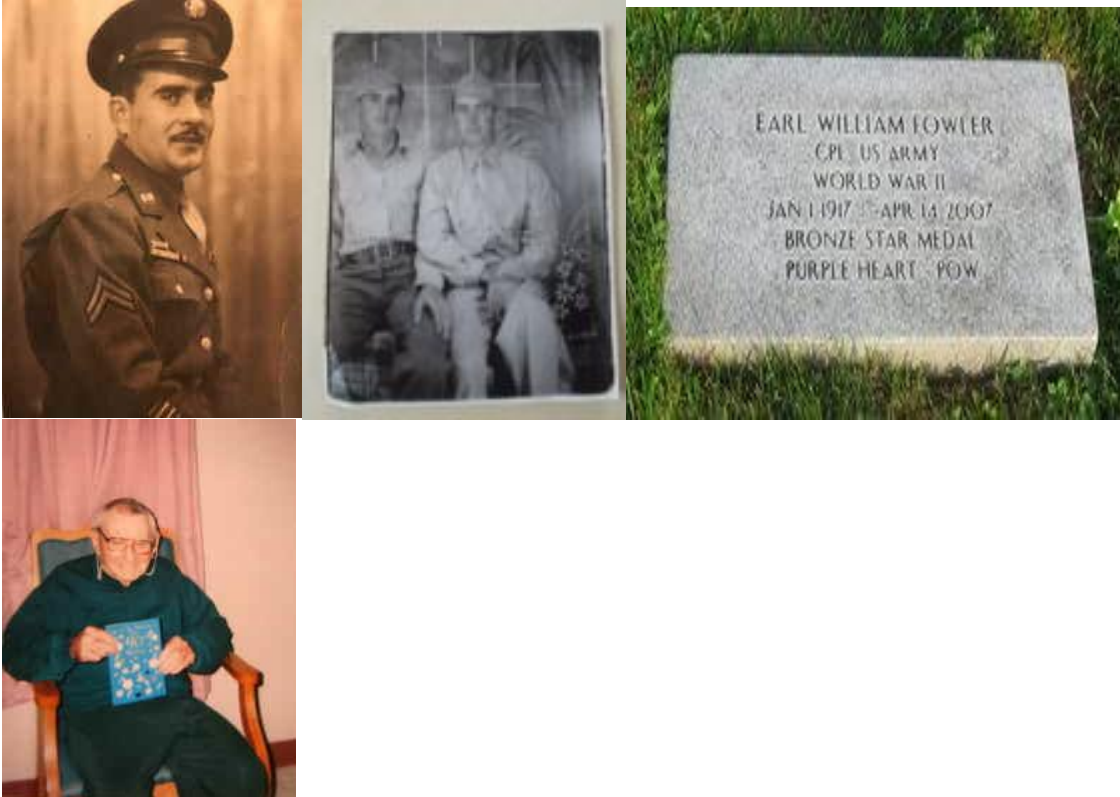
“Earl William Fowler

BIRTH, 1 Jan 1917, Thompsonville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Apr 2007 (aged 90), Burgin, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Willisburg Cemetery, Willisburg, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 128050285



Born in Thompsonville, Washington County, he was the son of the late Richard Clifton and Myrtle Moore Fowler, and the widower of Ethel Viola Sharp Fowler.

He was a member of the Christian Church. A veteran of World War II. He was a prisoner of war and received a Purple Heart.

Survivors include: one daughter, Shirley Ann Middleton of Bradfordsville; two brothers, Harold B. and Garnet Fowler both of Harrodsburg; two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Laverne Flower.

Services were held Tuesday, April 17 at the Ransdell Funeral Chapel with James Harley officiating. Burial with military rites was in Willisburg Cemetery.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128050285>

“Earl William Fowler

BIRTH, 1 Jan 1917, Thompsonville, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 14 Apr 2007 (aged 90), Burgin, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Willisburg Cemetery, Willisburg, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 128050285

... “Earl Fowler

Private First-Class Earl William Fowler enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was federalized in November 1940. He was taken prisoner when Corregidor fell on 6 May 1942 and was held at Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard a ship and sent to Korea and then Manchuria and the Shenyang Sub-Camp. He was liberated in September 1945 by the Russians. He died on 14 April 2007.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 26s.**

“Staff Sgt. Ernest Logan Sampson, Jr. (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, W II)

BIRTH 21 OCT 1914 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 1 DEC 2001 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA (Find A Grave Memorial #17097104)

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 2nd year.

Occupation; Farm Laborer

(He was married with 2 sons.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/109976880/person/140078960382/facts>

“Ernest Logan Sampson, Jr

BIRTH, 21 Oct 1914, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 1 Dec 2001 (aged 87), Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

PLOT Section 17

MEMORIAL ID, 17097104



Veteran of World War II

Company D; 192nd Tank Battalion

Logan served in Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion - otherwise known as the Harrodsburg Tankers.

He was a prisoner of war from May 6, 1942 until September 1945.

The Harrodsburg Tankers, initially known as the 38th Tank Company, were a Kentucky Army National Guard unit stationed in Harrodsburg who were called to active duty prior to World War II. When they entered federal active duty, they were re-designated as Company D, 192nd Light Tank Battalion.

After training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Camp Polk, Louisiana, they were shipped overseas, landing in the Philippines on Thanksgiving Day, November 20, 1941. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and only hours later began an attack on the Philippines.

The Harrodsburg Tankers, along with the allied forces, fought the Japanese valiantly without reinforcements or resupply until ordered to surrender in April 1942. Those who could not escape to Corregidor were in the infamous "Bataan Death March". They were all eventually taken prisoner of war. Only 37 of the original 66 Kentucky Guard Members from Harrodsburg survived Japanese captivity. Information from Kentucky National Guard eMuseum

Logan enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on November 25, 1940, at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. At the time of enlistment Logan was single, with no dependents. He was described as being 71" high and as weighing 170 pounds. His stated education level was two years of high school, and his stated occupation was automobile serviceman.

According to the service information on the Proviso East High School Bataan Commemorative Research Project site, Logan was engaged in the Battle of Luzon, the Battle of Bataan, and the Battle of Corregidor in the Philippines. He was taken prisoner on May 6, 1942, when Corregidor fell.

Logan was imprisoned at Cabanatuan in the Philippine Islands. He was involved with the Bachrach Garage Detail, where prisoners-of-war repaired vehicles for the Japanese. He was on board the Hell Ship Nissyo Maru, which set sail from Manila on July 17, 1944, arriving in Takao, Formosa on July 27, 1944. The ship then set sail from Takao on July 28, 1944, arriving in Moji, Japan on August 3, 1944. Logan was imprisoned at the Narumi Camp in Japan, where he worked in wheel manufacturing for the Nippon Wheel Manufacturing Company.

Logan was liberated in September of 1945." ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17097104>

... "He was a retired farmer and attended Dry Branch Baptist Church." ...

Ref: [http://www.genealogybuff.com/ky/mercer/webbbs\\_config.pl/noframes/read/60](http://www.genealogybuff.com/ky/mercer/webbbs_config.pl/noframes/read/60)

... “Ernest L. Sampson Jr

Private Ernest Logan Sampson, Jr. enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 6 May 1942 when Corregidor fell. He was held at Cabanatuan and was sent to Japan’s Narumi Camp where he worked in wheel manufacturing for the Nippon Wheel Manufacturing Company. He was liberated in September 1945. He died on 1 December 2001.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

**hbt 27s.**

“Sgt. Lonnie Lee Gray (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II & Korean War)

BIRTH 15 SEP 1921 • Garrard County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 10 APR 1987 • Died in Fayette County, Kentucky, USA; Buried in Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Jessamine County, Ky.

Education; Grammar school.

Civil Occupation; Plumbers, gas fitters, and steam fitters

(He was married with 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164729939/person/172143493588/facts>

“Lonnie Lee Gray

BIRTH, 15 Sep 1921

DEATH, 10 Apr 1987 (aged 65)

BURIAL, Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, Jessamine County, Kentucky, USA

PLOT, I, 0, 581

MILITARY, SGT, US ARMY

MEMORIAL ID, 717991



Pvt. Lonnie Lee Gray was born September 15, 1921, in Garrard County, Kentucky to Floyd Gray & Paralee Carmickal-Gray and resided in Burgin, Kentucky, with his brother and sister.

Lonnie like most men his age knew that a federal draft act had been passed, so he enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard. On November 25, 1940, Lonnie's tank company was called to federal duty as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. The company boarded 10 trucks in Harrodsburg on November 28th and its tanks were loaded onto a flatcar and taken by train to Ft. Knox.

The company left Harrodsburg at 12:30 P.M. arriving four hours later at 4:30 P.M. just ahead of a detachment from A Company that had driven there from Wisconsin. In February 1987, Lonnie was admitted to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, and later moved to the Leestown Road VA Facility and admitted to the terminal unit.

It was at this time that he began to share his memories of Bataan with his family. Even at that time, he could hardly bring himself to talk about his POW experiences in the Philippines and Japan. Lonnie Gray died peacefully from a large tumor next to his aortic artery. The tumor caused massive bleeding which resulted in him just going to sleep. Lonnie L. Gray passed away on April 10, 1987, and was buried in Section I, Site 581, at Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Published in The Bataan Project.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/717991>

...” Lonnie L. Gray

Private Lonnie Lee Gray joined the Harrodsburg National Guard sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison. He was sent to Japan and Shinjuku Camp #1. He was liberated on September 1945. He died on 10 April 1987.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 28s.**

“Staff Sgt. Cecil James Sims (192nd Harrodsburg, Ky. Tank Batt'n., WW II  
BIRTH 8 MAR 1917 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH 21 AUG 1990 • VA Center, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, USA; Burial at Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA, Find A Grave # 189782501.

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 4th year.

Occupation; Farm Labor

(He was married with 3 daughters and 1 son.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/162732841/person/112120940854/facts>

#### **NOTE;**

He has 2 Find A Grave Memorials:

#1.

“Cecil J Sims

BIRTH, 8 Mar 1917, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 31 Aug 1990 (aged 73), Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Unknown

MEMORIAL ID, 146651951



Cecil Sims was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service as a member D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was transferred to HQ Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the bombing of Clark Airfield. For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese.

As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was later transported to Japan to Fukuoka #4.

He remained in the camp until liberated at the end of the war. He returned to Kentucky went to college and became a teacher. He later became a school principal until he retired in 1981.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146651951>

#2.

“Cecil J Sims

BIRTH, 8 Mar 1917, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 31 Aug 1990 (aged 73), Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

PLOT, Section 1, lot 72, grave 3

MEMORIAL ID, 189782501



Pfc. Cecil J. Sims was born on March 8, 1917, in Mercer County, Kentucky, to Finas J. Sims and Cora Mae Gritton-Sims. With his three sisters and three brothers he lived on the family farm on Cornishville Road in Mercer County. He graduated from high school and went to work on the family's farm.

A draft act was passed in 1940 and Cecil knowing that it was just a matter of time until he would be drafted, enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard to fulfill his one year of military service. The tank company he joined had been notified it was being federalized for one year and designated as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

On April 9, 1942, James became a Prisoner Of War when the Filipino and American forces on Bataan surrendered to the Japanese.

It appears at some point he was sick enough to be put into the camp hospital. Cecil spent the rest of the war in the camp and was liberated on September 13, 1945.

Cecil was returned to the Philippines and received medical treatment and to be fattened up. He returned to the United States on October 28, 1945, and discharged from the Army on July 16, 1946. He married Mary "Beck" Sims and became the father of three daughters and a son. The family resided at 322 North Fourth Street in Danville.

Cecil went to college on the GI Bill and graduated from Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. Cecil worked as a eighth grade teacher from 1953 to 1955 at McAfee Grade School in Harrodsburg. He next took a job at Jennie Rogers Elementary School in Danville, Kentucky. During this time, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from the University of Kentucky in 1958. He also became the principal of Mary G. Hogsett Elementary School in Danville in 1958 and remained principal until he retired in 1981.

Cecil J. Sims passed away at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, on August 31, 1990, and was buried in Springhill Cemetery in Harrodsburg.



THANK YOU for your great service to all of us. You were my 6th grade teacher at Mary G. Hogsett School, Danville, KY. May you rest in peace now for your sacrifice!

Left by [andy bryant](#) on 27 Jul 2019

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/189782501>

... “Cecil J. Sims

Private First-Class Cecil J. Sims enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Nissyo Maru and sent to Moji, Japan and eventually sent to Fukuoka Camp #4 where he worked as a stevedore loading ships and trains. He was liberated on 13 September 1945. He was discharged in July 1946. He returned to Harrodsburg and was an eighth-grade teacher at McAfee Grade School there. He died on 21 August 1990.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 29s.**

“Pfc. Charles Edmond Reed (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
BIRTH 14 FEB 1919 • Cornishville, Mercer County, Kentucky, United States of America  
DEATH 11 AUG 1967 • Boyle County, Kentucky, United States of America  
Education: 4 years of high school.

Civil Occupation: Farm hands, general farms  
(He was married with 4 sons and 2 daughters.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164731239/person/252142017166/facts>

“Charles Edmond Reed

BIRTH, 14 Feb 1919, Cornishville, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 11 Aug 1967 (aged 48), Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 136179834



Charles Reed was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He fought on Bataan and became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942.

He was held as a POW at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was sent to Japan on a "Hell Ship" and was held at Niigata 5-B until liberated in September, 1945."

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/136179834>

... "Charles E. Reed

Private First-Class Charles Edmond Reed enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard some time before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was trained as a tank driver. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Calauan where he worked on a bridge building detail. He was also held at Cabanatuan and Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard the Hell Ship Taga Maru for Moji, Japan and was taken to Niigata 5-B where he worked as a stevedore. He died on 11 August 1967." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 30s.**

"Pvt. Reid Thompson Shewmaker (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
BIRTH 7 JUN 1914 • Washington County, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH 1 SEP 1983 • Died in Fayette County; Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery,  
Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Helper

(He was married with 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164731467/person/152141934469/facts>

"Reid Thompson Shewmaker

BIRTH, 7 Jun 1914, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 1 Sep 1983 (aged 69), Fayette County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 145594291



Reid Shewmaker was a member D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived

through the bombing of Clark Airfield. For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese.

As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was later sent to Bilibid Prison near Manila. While POWs were transported to Japan, he remained behind because he was considered to ill to be transported. On February 4, 1945, he was liberated at Bilibid Prison by American forces.

Reid Shewmaker returned to Kentucky, married, and became a father."

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145594291>

... "Reid Shewmaker

Private Reid Shewmaker enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unite sometime before the unit was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Cabanatuan, and Davao where he worked an experimental farm.

He was also held at Bilibid Prison. He was put aboard a Hell Ship Yashu Maru and Teiryō Maru. He was sent to Cebu City, Mindano and eventually back to Manila and then Bilibid Prison where he was liberated on 5 February 1945 by the 148th Infantry Regiment. He died on 1 September 1983." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 31s.**

"Pvt. Garratt "Gilbert" E. Royalty (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)

1917–1985

BIRTH 11 NOV 1917 • Bohon, Mercer County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH 5 JAN 1985 • Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 145548827

Education: Grammar school

Civil Occupation: Farm hands, general farms

(He was married 3 times and the father of eight children.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164731694/person/382143187280/facts>

"Garratt Gilbert Royalty

BIRTH, 11 Nov 1917, Bohon, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 5 Jan 1985 (aged 67), Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 145548827



Garratt Royalty was a member D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Ten hours later, he lived through the bombing of Clark Airfield. For four months, he fought, with the other soldiers on Bataan, to slow Japan's conquest of the Philippines. Without food, without adequate supplies, and no hope of being relieved, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942, when Bataan was surrendered to the Japanese.

As a POW, he was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan in the Philippines. He was rescued by U.S. Army Rangers at Cabanatuan on January 30, 1945.

Garratt returned home, married, and was the father of eight children."

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145548827>

... "Garratt G. Royalty

Private First-Class Garratt Gilbert Royalty joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before it was activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on April 9, 1942. He survived the Death March from Mariveles to San Fernando where he was put on a train to Capas for the final march to Camp O'Donnell.

He went out on work details to rebuild bridges. He was later sent to Cabanatuan where he was on the farm detail. He was later taken to Bilibid Prison for medical treatment and eventually returned to Cabanatuan. He was liberated by American Rangers on January 30, 1945. He returned to Harrodsburg, after the war. He died in January, 1985." ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 32s.**

"Sgt. Marvin Dexter Taylor (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1923–1947

BIRTH 21 FEB 1923 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 27 AUG 1947 • He died in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA; buried in Grapevine Christian Church Cemetery, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID,72814276

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Farm Laborer

(He was married with no children.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164731890/person/302143928946/facts>

“Sgt. Marvin Dexter Taylor (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1923–1947

BIRTH 21 FEB 1923 • Harrodsburg, Mercer, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 27 AUG 1947 (DIED FROM A SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND) • He died in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA; buried in Grapevine Christian Church Cemetery, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID,72814276

Marvin Taylor was a Kentucky National Guardsman called to federal service, in 1940, as a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was transferred to Headquarters Company. His unit was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

After fighting the Japanese for four months, he became a Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942. He took part in the death march and was held as a POW in the Philippines and Japan.

Marvin Taylor (72814276)



Suggested edit: Hi Again,

Maybe you'd like to add this to Marvin's memorial. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Carole Major

Pvt. Marvin D. Taylor was born on February 21, 1923, in Graves County, Kentucky, to Raymond Taylor and Nora Cox-Taylor. With his one sister and two brothers, he grew up

in Palmore, Kentucky. Marvin left high school after one year and worked as a sheet metal worker.

A draft act was passed in 1940 and Marvin knowing that it was just a matter of time until he would be drafted, enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard to fulfill his one year of military service. The tank had received orders that it would be federalized as D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Marvin re-enlisted in the military on February 7, 1946, and was promoted to Staff Sergeant and assigned to work in the U.S. Army Recruiting Service. With his wife, he resided at 640 Adams in Memphis, Tennessee.

According to his death certificate, S/Sgt. Marvin D. Taylor died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on August 27, 1947, at home in Memphis. It would seem that his time as a POW took its toll on him. S/Sgt. Marvin D. Taylor was buried at Grapevine Christian Church Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Contributor: KCHM (48016644) • [cmajor4@gmail.com](mailto:cmajor4@gmail.com) “

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72814276>

... “Marvin D. Taylor

Private Marvin Dexter Taylor enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before it was activated in September 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan where he worked in the Manila Port Area Detail. He was sent to Kamioka POW Camp in Japan and was liberated in September 1945. He died on 27 August 1947.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 33s.**

“MSGT. Judson David Simpson (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II & Korean War) 1921–1980

BIRTH 7 MAR 1921 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 19 NOV 1980 • Died in Jasper, Alabama, ; Buried at Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery Sipsey, Walker County, Alabama, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 129573062 Ref: Highest Grade Completed; High School, 1st year.

Occupation; Laborer

(He was married with no children.)

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164732054/person/242138754778/facts>

“MSGT Judson David Simpson

BIRTH, 7 Mar 1921, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 19 Nov 1980 (aged 59), Jasper, Walker County, Alabama, USA

BURIAL, Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery, Sipsey, Walker County, Alabama, USA  
MEMORIAL ID, 129573062



Judson was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the defense of Bataan. He was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart. He was taken prisoner in April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. Left by KCHM on 2 Apr 2020.” ...

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129573062>

... “Judson D. Simpson

Sergeant Judson David Simpson joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit at before it was activated in November 1940. Judson was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the defense of Bataan. He was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart. He was taken prisoner in April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was later sent by ship to Korea and by train to Manchuria and Shenyang Camp where he was liberated by the Russian Army in September 1945. He died on November 19, 1980.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

#### **hbt 34s.**

“Pvt. Cecil Raymond VanDiver (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1919–1999

BIRTH 5 AUG 1919 • Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 27 OCT 1999 • Died in the VA Center, Lexington, Fayette Co., Kentucky;

Buried at Spring Hill Cemetery Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA;

MEMORIAL ID, 23035891

Education; 1 year of high school.

Occupation; Farm hands, general farms,

(He was married with 2 sons and 1 daughter.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164732367/person/312140644805/facts>

“Cecil Raymond VanDiver

BIRTH, 5 Aug 1919, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 27 Oct 1999 (aged 80), Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 23035891



Cecil R. VanDiver, 80, died Wednesday, October 27, 1999 at the VA Medical Center in Lexington. Born August 5, 1919 in Harrodsburg, he was the son of the late Oscar and Susie Cumingo VanDiver. VanDiver was a US Army veteran, having served with the 192nd Tank Battalion at Bataan.

The former prisoner of war was captured April 9, 1942, and forced by Japanese troops to walk about 70 miles with thousands of other U.S. soldiers (several of which were from Harrodsburg) in the infamous march in the Philippines. After the march, which left thousands of dead, VanDiver lived in prison camps, doing such tasks as burying fallen fellow soldiers and mining coal.

He was a prisoner until September 1945. VanDiver was a life-time member of the Disabled American Veterans, was a mason with 777 F&AM, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was retired from the maintenance department at the Kentucky State Hospital. He was a member of the Indian Hills Christian Church in Danville and was a Kentucky Colonel.

Survivors include: his wife, Ruby Hawkins VanDiver, Burgin; two sons, Cecil Howard VanDiver, Carrollton, and Robert Eugene VanDiver, Burgin; one daughter, Betty Jean VanDiver, Burgin; one sister, Mary Della Yates, Indianapolis, IN; one grandson and one great-grandson. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 30, at the Alexander and Royalty Funeral Home with Odis Clark and Lee Cox officiating. Burial with full military rites was held in the Spring Hill Cemetery.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23035891>

... “Cecil Vandiver

Private Cecil Raymond Vandiver joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit in 1939. He was assigned as a cook in Headquarters Company. On April 9, 1942 he was taken prisoner. He survived the Death March. At San Fernando they were loaded into steel boxcars to Capas and then the final march to Camp O'Donnell.

He was later sent to Cabanatuan #1 and was on a work detail to rebuild bridges. He was later put on a Hell Ship bound for Korea but was turned around because of suspected submarine activity. They remained in the ships for days before setting sail again. They finally arrived at Pusan where they were put on a train for Manchuria. At Mukden he unloaded sacks of cement and coal. He later worked in a steel mill. He eventually returned to Harrodsburg after the war. He died on 27 October 1999.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 35s.**

“Staff Sgt. Ralph Lee Stine (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1921–2003

BIRTH 28 JUL 1921 • Washington County, Kentucky, United States of America

DEATH 4 MAR 2003 • Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; MEMORIAL ID, 146640629

Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 8th grade.

Occupation; Laborer

(He was married with 2 sons.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164732625/person/172143508276/facts>

“Ralph Lee Stine

BIRTH, 28 Jul 1921, Washington County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH, 4 Mar 2003 (aged 81), Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

MEMORIAL ID, 146640629



Ralph Stine was a member of D Company, 192nd Tank Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

After four months of fighting, he became a Prisoner of War and took part in the Bataan Death March. He was held in POW camps in the Philippines and Japan.”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146640629>

... “Ralph Stine

Private First-Class Ralph Lee Stine joined the Harrodsburg National Guard unit on December 5, 1939. He was taken prisoner in Mariveles on April 9, 1942. He was in a field hospital but was not moved for some two months when he was sent to Manila and worked on building runways.

He was sent to Formosa on the hell ship Hokusen Maru and was held at Toroku Camp. He was later sent Japan on the Melbourne Maru and was held at a camp near Kobi where he worked in a steel mill. He was later sent to Osaka and Maibara #10-B. He was liberated in September 1945. He eventually returned to Harrodsburg. He died on 4 March 2003.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 36s.**

“Pvt. Grover David Whittinghill (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1919–1980

BIRTH 28 JUL 1919 • Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 7 JUN 1980 • Died, Lexington, Fayette, Kentucky; Buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA; PLOT, Section F, MEMORIAL ID, 141981858

Highest Grade Completed; High School, 4th year.

Occupation; Unskilled occupations in manufacture of textiles, n. e. c.

(He was not married.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164732919/person/392143259450/facts>

“Grover David Whittinghill

BIRTH, 28 Jul 1919

DEATH, 7 Jun 1980 (aged 60)

BURIAL, Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, USA

PLOT Section F

MEMORIAL ID, 141981858



Mother: Lillian B. (Hendren) Whittinghill

Father: James Whittinghill

Brothers: James and Robert Whittinghill

Home: Calvary Road, Harrodsburg, KY

Inducted in US Army November 25, 1941

Overseas duty: Ft. Stotsenburg in the Philippines Islands

Engagements: Battle of Luzon - Battle of Bataan

Prisoner of War - The Death March, April 9, 1942”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141981858>

Liberated: September 1945

Grover died on June 7, 1980, at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky.

A full detail of his US Army service can be found online, this is not a full account.

... “Grover D. Whittinghill

Private Grover David Whittinghill enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit sometime before they were activated in November 1941. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was later sent to Formosa and eventually Japan's Sendai Camp #3. He was liberated in September 1945. He died on 7 June 1980.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

### **hbt 37s.**

“Pvt. Lucien Francis Yankey (Harrodsburg Tankers Survivor, WW II)  
1914–1967

BIRTH 3 JAN 1914 • Boyle County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 28 MAY 1967 • Died in Danville, Buried in Perryville Cemetery Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA; PLOT, USAR WWII MEMORIAL; ID, 22518773  
Highest Grade Completed; Elementary school, 6th grade.

Occupation; Laborer.

(He was married with no children.)

Ref: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/164733141/person/232146334284/facts>

“Lucian F. Yankey  
BIRTH, 3 Jan 1914, Washington County, Kentucky, USA  
DEATH, 28 May 1967 (aged 53), Boyle County, Kentucky, USA  
BURIAL, Perryville Cemetery, Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky, USA  
PLOT USAR WWII  
MEMORIAL ID, 22518773



He is grandson of Annie Roney (1871-1959)  
Lucian Yankey fought on Bataan and became a Japanese Prisoner of War on April 9, 1942. He took part in the Bataan Death March and was held as a POW in the Philippines and Manchuria. He was liberated at the end of the war.

Inscription:

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”

Ref: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22518773>

... “Lucien F. Yankey

Private Lucian F. Yankey enlisted in the Harrodsburg National Guard unit some time before they were activated in November 1940. He was taken prisoner on 9 April 1942 and survived the Death March. He was held at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan and was on Formosa at Karenko and Shirakawa. He was later sent to Hoten in Manchuria. He was liberated by the Russians in September 1945. He died on May 28, 1967.” ...

Ref: <https://kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/BataanCommemorativeBook66thAnnivexecsize.pdf>

---

It has been my honor to research, compile and record the records of all of the “66 Harrodsburg Tankers” PLUS 1 extra who was:

“Private First-Class **Robert H. Brooks** (Co. D, 92nd Tank Battalion; "Harrodsburg Tankers", first U. S. Armored Forces casualty of World War II., Dec. 8 1941)  
BIRTH 8 OCT 1915 • McFarland, Scott County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH 8 DEC 1941 (1 DAY AFTER "PEARL HARBOR, DEC. 7, 1941) • Died at Clark Field near Fort Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands; Buried at, Angeles, Pampanga Province, Central Luzon, Philippines; Find A Grave # 56764686." ...

Each of these brave men deserve all of the Honor and Recognition I can give them.

Completed by:

*andy bryant* (formally from Danville, KY)

Florence, Alabama

July 2020