

Company D, 192 Light Tank Battalion

Company D of the 192nd Light Tank Battalion, began its existence as the 38th Tank Company out of Harrodsburg, Ky. This was the first Kentucky company that was ordered to active duty, on November 28, 1940.

Company D, was sent to Fort Stotsenburg on Thanksgiving Day, November 20, 1941. They were stationed on the Island of Luzon in the Phillipines. They were moved to Clark Air Field, under full alert on December 1, 1941. Eight hours after their attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked Clark Air Field. Private Robert H. Books of Sadieville was the first soldier in an armored battalion to be killed in action. The parade ground at Fort Knox is named in his honor.

Company D, among other allied forces, continued to battle the Japanese until April 9, 1942. Unable to hold out any longer they were forced to surrender. They had suffered 5 months without supplies and they were never reinforced. While they were unable to fight off the Japanese, they were able to delay them for 5 months, allowing the Allies to shore up the defense needed in Australia. Several members of the Battalion were able to escape to Corregidor, and were captured when Corregidor fell. The rest of the unit ended up in the Bataan Death March.

Many of the prisoners did not survive the death march. For those that did they faced miserable conditions in the P.O.W. camps. Several of Kentucky's boys ended up on "hell ships" that took the P.O.W.s to work camps in Japan, Korea, and China.

Kentucky sent 66 men to Company D of the 192nd Light Tank Battalion. Only 37 of those boys ever came home.