

ROLL OUT THE BARREL







DEAR SIR,

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

JAN. 22, 2001

I'm ATTACHING THIS LETTER TO THE BRONZE STAR AWARD LETTER TO EXPLAIN AND PROVE FOR HOW LONG I SPENT IN THE HOSPITAL AFTER MY INJURY IN FRANCE, THE JEEP THAT I WAS IN HIT A LAND MINE AUG. 30 1944 PUT ME INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR THE MONTHS OF (SEPTEMBER OCTOBER AND MOST OF NOVEMBER) I RETURN TO MY OUTFIT EITHER LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER OR FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER 1944

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD (D) W.V. CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL (D) W.V. AND I MADE MANY ATTEMPTS TO GET MY MILITARY RECORDS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO SUCCESS WHAT SO EVER, THE ARMY RECORD OFFICE IN ST. LOUIS CLAIMED THERE WAS A FIRE AND SOME RECORDS WAS DESTROYED. THESE ARE THE ONLY OFFICIAL MILITARY DOCUMENTS THAT I POSSESS.

Thank you
SINCERELY
Bronk Vidovich

602

FILE NO.
ADMITTED TO RECORD

1945 OCT 16 AM 9:00

Ray Watts

CLERK
TRANS.

Army of the United States



RECORDED IN SOLDIERS' DISCHARGE
BOOK No. 5 PAGE 40
RAY WATTS, CLERK

Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that
BRONK VIDOVICH, 15 090 001, SERGEANT,
COMPANY D, 81ST TANK BATTALION,

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at SEPARATION CENTER, FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND.

Date 14 OCTOBER 1945.

Richard C. O'Connell
RICHARD C. O'CONNELL,
LT. COL., AGD.

**ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
HONORABLE DISCHARGE**

47

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Vidovich Bronk		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 15 090 001	3. GRADE Sgt	4. ARM OR SERVICE ARMED F	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION Company D 81st Tank Battalion		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 14 Oct 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Separation Center Ft George G Meade Md		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Box 130 Dehue (Logan Co) W Va		10. DATE OF BIRTH 11 Oct 21	11. PLACE OF BIRTH Zara Yugoslavia		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See 9		13. COLOR EYES Blue	14. COLOR HAIR Brown	15. HEIGHT 5'11"	17. NO. DEPEND. 1
16. RACE X	18. MARITAL STATUS X	20. U.S. CITIZEN X		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Trackman 9-32.20	

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 6 Feb 42	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 6 Feb 42	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 6 Feb 42	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Ft Thomas Ky		
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA X	26. RECLASSIFIED X	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. None	28. COUNTY AND STATE None		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Dehue W Va
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Reconnaissance MCO 761		31. MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS AND DATES (i.e., Infantry, Aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) Mcm Carbine M1 Mcm Rifle M1			
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS GO33WD45 Northern France Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe					
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Bronze Star Medal Purple Heart Medal Good Conduct Medal European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon					
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION France 30 Aug 44					
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN		
SMALLPOX Mar 44	TYPHOID Apr 45	TETANUS Mar 45	OTHER (Specify) Schick May 44 Typhus Apr 45	DATE OF DEPARTURE 7 Jun 44	DESTINATION Scotland
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD Sgt	DATE OF ARRIVAL 13 Jun 44	
CONTINENTAL SERVICE		FOREIGN SERVICE		DATE OF DEPARTURE 30 Sep 45	DATE OF ARRIVAL 7 Oct 45
YEARS MONTHS DAYS 2 4 8	YEARS MONTHS DAYS 1 4 1				
39. PRIOR SERVICE None					
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Convenience of the Govt ER 1-1 Demobilization AR 615-365 15 Dec 44					
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None				42. EDUCATION (Years) 8 0 0	

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MESSING OUT PAY		45. JOLLY DEPOSIT NONE	46. TRAVEL PAY 25.95	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DEBARKING OFFICER 414.74 G A FARSON CAPTAIN FD
YEARS MONTHS DAYS 3 8 9	TOTAL 200	THIS PAYMENT 100					

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE IS WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE X	49. HOW PAID X	50. Effective Date of Actual Discontinuance 30 Sep 45	51. Date when Premium Due (One Month after 50) 31 Oct 45	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH 6.57	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO X
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54. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Bronk Vidovich	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in instructions) Lapel Button Issued No time lost under AW 107 ASR Score 88	56. APPLICATION FOR READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES MADE THROUGH W. V. DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ON Date 11-1-45 Logan, W. Va.
	57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) JOSEPH FILIPSKI CWO USA <i>Joseph Filipski</i>	

WD AGO Form 13-52
7 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 13 and 35 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

4500
7300

2800

580

PREFACE

As one reads through the following pages of the exploits of the 7th Armored Division on the drive through FRANCE, it should be remembered that the Division was ably supported by the attached units shown below, and the success achieved was due to the efforts of these units as well as those of the units that have long worn the "7" patch...

- 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion
- 203rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion
- 446th Quartermaster Truck Company
- 3967th Quartermaster Truck Company

45
73

28



**FROM THE BEACHES
TO THE BALTIC**



THE STORY OF THE
7TH ARMORED DIVISION











Washington, DC 20224

COPY

Honorable Robert C. Byrd
 United States Senate
 Committee on Appropriations
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Person to Contact:

Ms. P. Gallentine
 Telephone Number:

(202) 566-3359

Refer Reply to:

PM:S:DS:P:II

Date:

02 AUG 1982

Dear Senator Byrd:

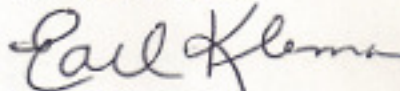
In reply to your letter dated July 8, 1982, we regret that we are unable to assist Mr. David Vidovich of Logan, West Virginia, in locating Woodrow Boles and Lt. Thompson.

Returns and return information, including an individual's address, are confidential and protected from disclosure by Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Internal Revenue Service does have a policy of attempting to forward letters to individuals in humane or emergency situations. However, we are unable to locate an address in our files in order to forward a letter without the social security number of the person being sought.

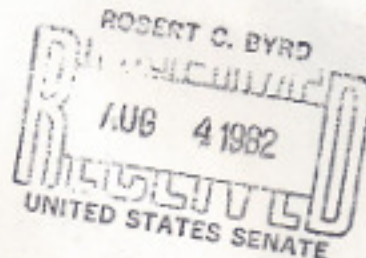
As you requested, Mr. Vidovich's correspondence and a duplicate copy of this letter are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,



R. L. Rizzo
 Director, Disclosure and
 Security Division

Enclosures
 As Specified



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 7TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 257, U. S. ARMY

/lar

GENERAL ORDERS)

15 June 1945

NUMBER.....100)

AWARDS OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, and under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and Circular No. 25, Headquarters Seventh United States Army, 7 November 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to:

CAPTAIN GLEN W. GRIER, JR. (Army Serial Number O1011403), Infantry, 40th Tank Battalion, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, from 11 August 1944 to 8 May 1945. Entered the military service from North Carolina.

CAPTAIN EVERETT ROBERTS (Army Serial Number O374550), Cavalry, 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, from 11 August 1944 to 8 May 1945. Entered the military service from Illinois.

CAPTAIN DAVID J. TRAYNHAM (Army Serial Number O1168954), Field Artillery, 440th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by heroic service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Belgium, from 17 December 1944 to 21 December 1944. Entered the military service from Virginia.

FIRST LIEUTENANT REINHARDT W. BOGER (Army Serial Number O1015082), Infantry, 750th Tank Battalion, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Germany, from 1 February 1945 to 3 May 1945. Entered the military service from Kansas.

FIRST LIEUTENANT (then SECOND LIEUTENANT and FIRST LIEUTENANT) ROBERT E. DAVID (Army Serial Number O1012836), Infantry, 40th Tank Battalion, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, from 11 August 1944 to 8 May 1945. Entered the military service from South Carolina.

FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD N. GILBERT JR. (Army Serial Number O1041560), Coast Artillery Corps, 203d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (SP), United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, from 11 August 1944 to 1 May 1945. Entered the military service from Connecticut.

FIRST LIEUTENANT LEO SHER (Army Serial Number O454790), Cavalry, 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, from 14 September 1944 to 22 December 1944 and from 1 February 1945 to 8 May 1945. Entered the military service from New Jersey.

- 1 -

RESTRICTED

MARK O. HATFIELD, OREG., CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
LOWELL P. WICKER, JR., CONN.
JAMES A. MC ELHINE, IOWA
PAUL LAXALT, NEV.
JAKE GARN, UTAH
HARRISON SCHMITT, N. MEK.
THAD COCHRAN, MISS.
MARK ANDREWS, N. DAK.
JAMES ARENSON, S. DAK.
ROBERT W. KASTEN, JR., WIS.
ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, N.Y.
MACK MATTHEWS, GA.
WARREN HUDNAN, N.J.
ARLEN SPECTER, PA.

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JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.
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DALE BUMPERS, ARK.

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
THOMAS L. VAN DER VOORT, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COPY

August 4, 1982

Mr. David Vidovich
Field Representative
District 17
United Mine Workers of America
P.O. Box 839
Logan, West Virginia 25601

Dear Mr. Vidovich:

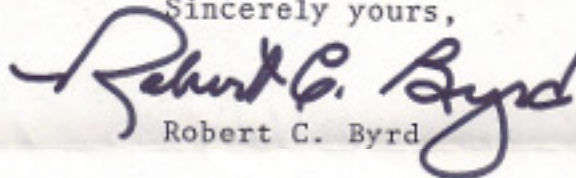
Enclosed is the additional report I just received from the Internal Revenue Service regarding my inquiry into the whereabouts of the two men who served in the military with your father.

For the reasons outlined, these individuals could not be located. I regret that the report is not more encouraging.

As you are aware, I have also contacted the Social Security Administration about this matter, and I will write you further when any information is received from the agency.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Byrd

RCB:pbg
Enclosure



TROOP "A" 87th CAV.

L. Vincent & Leitzschman, Mansfield, Kans.

S/Sgt. Joseph W. Rock — Cranston, Rhode Island

Lt. J. Argente — Whitehall, NEW YORK

Cpl. Rene Hamilton — Humboldt, TENN.

Sgt. Bronk Vidovich — DeHors, West Virginia

PR. HENRY F. GILLISPIE — EASLE, S.C.

TY ELMER W. FRANCIS — WEST WIRWICK R.I.

RA BILLY GIBBS — COLFAY LA.

LLOYD PLOUP — LOUISIANA

Wald P. Blackwell — Biloxi, Miss.

Pat Howard ex. B. 1st — Clarkburg, W. Va.

Fred Wolf, Jr. — Covington, W. Va.

Cercy J. Louviere — Loreauville, La.

Salvatore Lomma — Brooklyn, N.Y.

Kelso, Baltimore, Md. — Toward

Nathan (Capt.) Krasnov — Baltimore, Maryland

James Whitman — Rt 1 Lutz Florida

Les Bennett — 417 S. Village St. Indianapolis Ind.

W. J. W. W. — Smith - Poplar St. Jackson Tennessee

Joseph L. Vicinarro — 510 Lafayette St. Bklyn, N.Y.

Frank A. Foy — 1020 1/2 N. Main St. St. Louis, Mo.

Wm T. Dowd — 1130 East St. Toledo Ohio

Jack Shindel — 4069 Elmhurst Detroit, Mich.

1ST

PLATOON

James Blosset
Blosset & Dolhain
Belgium

HEADQUARTERS 7TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 257, U, S, ARMY

AG 201- Vidovich, Bronk (Eul) (A)

15 June 1945

SUBJECT: Award of Bronze Star Medal

To : Sergeant Bronk Vidovich, 15090001, Cavalry, Troop "A",
87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized,
APO 257, U, S, Army

1. By direction of the President, and under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and Circular No. 25, Headquarters Seventh United States Army, 7 November 1944, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal was awarded per General Orders No. 100, this headquarters, Dated 15 June 1945, to:

Sergeant Bronk Vidovich (Army Serial Number 15090001), Cavalry, United States Army, for distinguishing himself by heroic Achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 12 August 1944 to 30 August 1944 and from 10 December 1944 to 8 May 1945 in France, Belgium and Germany. During his many months of combat Sergeant Vidovich ably performed as a reconnaissance Corporal, and later the duties of Section Sergeant with grace of personal courage, commanding leadership, and individual resourcefulness. On numerous occasions he demonstrated his outstanding ability to lead men in combat under the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. On 20 December 1944 at St Vith, Belgium, Sergeant Vidovich's platoon was forced to withdraw in the face of overwhelming enemy fire, at which time two members of the platoon were wounded. Sergeant Vidovich at once returned to their aid and despite the fact the enemy was closing in rapidly, he calmly gave them first aid and then succeeded in moving them safely to the rear. By repeated performances of similar nature, Sergeant Vidovich made a definite contribution to the combat efficiency of his unit. His accomplishments reflect high credit upon himself and his organization.

BY ORDER OF COMMANDING GENERAL:

ROBERT W. BURNHAM
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General