



MARCH 11-17, 2024



### THROUGH THE LENS

MARCH 16, 1941: Friends and family gather at Union Station in Columbus to say goodbye to Soldiers from the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry as they entrain for Fort Dix, N.J.



### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Negro Troops To Leave For Eastern Camp Today" appeared in the March 16, 1941 edition of The Cincinnati Enquirer and describes the events of Company G, 372d Infantry, on the day the unit would depart Cincinnati for Fort Dix, N.J.

"Company G, 372d Infantry, the only Negro regiment in the country officered entirely by Negroes, will parade through the West End today behind Captain Jay W. Wilkins, then entrain at 6 o'clock for Fort Dix, N.J., and a year of army service.

An infantry company, the unit is composed of 114 men and five officers. Leaving in six coaches, it will be joined by another company of the regiment, F Company, in Columbus, Ohio. Arrival is set for 11:40 o'clock tomorrow morning at Fort Dix.

All equipment has been issued to the men. They will eat their final two meals today at the Court Street and Central Avenue Armory, taking with them on the train any food left over. With other guard units, they will become part of the regular army.

The parade, headed by a Boy Scout band, is expected to proceed from the armory to Richmond Street, to sixth and Mound Streets, to Baymiller Street, to Lincoln Park Drive, to the terminal.

The Colored Elks will march with the troops, many of whom are expected to be initiated into Alpha Lodge No. 1 before they leave."



### HALL OF VALOR

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS  
GERALD E. SHANER**

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,  
2D BATTALION, 148TH INFANTRY  
37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

**MARCH 12, 1944  
BOUGAINVILLE, SOLOMON ISLANDS**



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class Gerald E. Shaner, United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division, in action against the enemy at Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on 12 March 1944. On that date, Private Shaner volunteered to destroy two Japanese pillboxes, fire from which was causing casualties among our troops. Although realizing the extreme danger involved he placed demolition charges atop the strongpoints, blowing them up and killing their occupants. His heroic act permitted our troops the freedom of unhampered movement in the sector. Private First Class Shaner's gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty, without regard for his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



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