**RICHARD W. BROOKS**

Brick Location:

INVASION OF JAPAN WOULD COST MANY LIVES

Richard was inducted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Hayes on September 30, 1944. He was sent to various military bases until he reached San Francisco. He sailed across the Pacific for 39 days without any escorts or convoys to New Guinea. From New Guinea he went to Leyte where he was assigned to the American Division Co. B 182nd Infantry. This was the only division in the United States Army that never had a number. From Leyte the infantry was sent to the Island of Cebu where he would experience his first battles with the enemy. He also found out you never volunteer for anything, but when the lieutenant asked who had training in radio operations, someone quickly pointed to Richard and said “he had radio training.” That is all it took. Richard now had to carry the bulky 50 lb. radio equipment strapped to his back into battle. It is here during a battle that Richard received a Purple Heart for being wounded in battle when he was hit with shrapnel.

Cebu was the training ground for the invasion of Japan. Richard was training to be one of the first four divisions to invade the shores of Japan. After getting to Japan, the infantry did an investigation and they realized that the first divisions going in on the Japanese shores were not going to make it out alive. The Japanese were planning on hanging on and the campaign that would occur on the Japanese shores would be bigger than Normandy. The military brought in troops from all over, including Europe.

Richard remembers thanking God that President Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb, because he had firsthand knowledge of how many American lives it saved. After the bombing the war would soon be over and the occupation of Japan began.

Richard Brooks died on July 5, 2013.

Submitted by:

Gretchen Geckle Brooks