

# Stanley Stonek (D/31AR) Letter from Camp Polk, Louisiana 1 July 1942

[www.7tharmdiv.org/docrep/X-31AR-D-Stonek, Stanley-Letter from Camp Polk-1942-07-01.pdf](http://www.7tharmdiv.org/docrep/X-31AR-D-Stonek,Stanley-Letter%20from%20Camp%20Polk-1942-07-01.pdf)

In 1942, the newly-created 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division (cadred from 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division) trained at Camp Polk, Louisiana with the 31<sup>st</sup> Armored Regiment as an organic element. Stanley Stonek trained with Company D of 31AR. In September 1943, armored divisions numbered 5 and higher reorganized into “light” organization. At that time 31<sup>st</sup> Armored Regiment was broken up into three separate tank battalions. D/31AR became Company A of the 31<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion. The Division sailed for Europe 7 Jun 1944. After further training in England, they went ashore in France in August 1944. They pursued retreating German forces eastward across the flat country of central France. But in September 1944, they reached the very different terrain of the Moselle River valley and the fortifications surrounding the city of Metz, France (although Germany had re-annexed the area in 1940 and considered it part of Germany). On 20 September 1944, with A/31 in the area about 1 mile east of Arry, France, Stanley Stonek was killed in action. His final resting place is the Long Island National Cemetery.

While at Camp Polk, Stanley Stonek wrote the following letter. His niece Jennifer Wolff sent a copy of the letter to 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association Historian Wesley Johnston, who transcribed the letter.



I got blisters on my cheeks  
and poison oak on my  
arm so today I was  
supposed to go to the  
woods again but I went  
to the dispensary and  
when I got back they put  
me on K.P. but anything  
is better than the woods.  
Sorry I can't send you the  
money in this letter because  
I didn't get paid on the  
last of the month but I  
will get paid on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
and will send you the money  
then. That's all for now  
more later

Regards  
Stanley

Camp Polk La  
July 1 1942

Hello Folks,

Well alright if you don't want to write or have you all got broken arms.

Ever since I been in this camp I did not get a letter from you although I wrote you a letter with my address. Anyway heres hoping I get an answer to this one.

Well how is everything in N.Y. is it as hot there as it is here because the temperature down here is never below 98° and that is just warm to these people that live here.

I got blisters on my heels and poison oak on my arms so today I was supposed to go to the woods again but I went to the dispensary and when I got back they put me on K.P. but anything is better than the woods.

Sorry I cant send you the money in this letter because I didn't get paid on the last of the month but I will get paid on the 10<sup>th</sup> and will send you the money then. That's all for now more later

Regards  
Stanley