

## Ralph Lee Peters



Born: 6 Jan 1924 Lenox, GA  
Married: 25 Oct 1942  
Died: 27 Nov 1975 Milton, FL  
Parents: Virgil L Peters & Carrie Hiers

Occupations: Plumber, Pfc. US Army, Insurance Salesman, Electrician, Civilian Employee US Navy.

Family:

Wife: Mildred Hiers

Children:

Donna Lynn

Wayne

Ralph Peters Birth Record

**CERTIFICATE OF VITAL RECORD**

VERIFY PRESENCE OF WATERMARK      HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW

1 PLACE OF BIRTH Cook      GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
 COUNTY OF Cook      BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
 MIL. DIST. OF Dist 1156      REG. DIST. No. \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTER No. 1      FILE No. Per State Registrar Only. **5**  
 TOWN OR CITY OF Dist Ga      15093

2 FULL NAME OF CHILD Ralph Lee Peters      (IF CHILD IS NOT YET NAMED, MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT, AS DIRECTED.)

|   |  |   |  |                                      |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3 SEX OF CHILD<br><u>Male</u>   | 4 TWIN, TRIPLET OR OTHER<br><u>None</u>      | 5 NUMBER IN ORDER OF BIRTH<br><u>1</u>                      | 6 LEGITIMATE<br><u>yes</u>                   | 7 DATE OF BIRTH<br><u>Jan 6 1944</u> |
| 8 FULL NAME<br><u>Virgil Peters</u>   |  | 14 FULL MAIDEN NAME<br><u>Coyie Hires</u>                   |  |                                      |
| 9 RESIDENCE<br><u>Dist Ga</u>   |  | 15 RESIDENCE<br><u>Dist Ga</u>                              |  |                                      |
| 10 COLOR<br><u>White</u>  | 11 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY<br><u>23</u> (YEARS) | 16 COLOR<br><u>White</u>                                    | 17 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY<br><u>23</u> (YEARS) |                                      |
| 12 BIRTHPLACE<br><u>Ga</u>  |  | 18 BIRTHPLACE<br><u>Ga</u>                                  |  |                                      |
| 13 OCCUPATION<br><u>Dist Law Mgr</u>  |  | 19 OCCUPATION<br><u>Housewife</u>                           |  |                                      |
| 20 NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO THIS MOTHER INCLUDING THE PRESENT BIRTH<br><u>4</u> |  | 21 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THIS MOTHER NOW LIVING<br><u>4</u> |  |                                      |

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 1124 P M. on the date above stated, and that I did use the treatment for preventing ophthalmic neonatorum.

(When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc, should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.)

(Signature) [Signature]      Address Dist Ga

Given name added from a supplemental report \_\_\_\_\_

22 Filed 1-12-44      [Signature]      Registrar

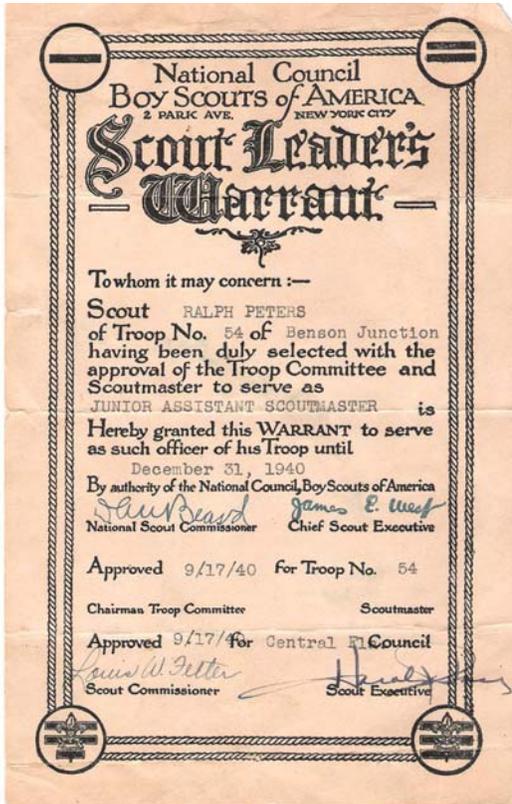
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BY [Signature] Registrar

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181463      MAR 25 2011

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Ralph was involved in Boy Scouts as evidenced by this Scout Leader's certificate. I am not sure when Ralph and his family moved from Lenox, GA to the Enterprise, FL area, but his picture is in a 1942 Deland High School Yearbook as a Junior. (see next page)

He and my mother, Mildred Hiers, married before graduating from High School. It may be that during this time, as WWII was going on, they may have decided to go ahead and marry, not knowing what the future might hold. After their marriage, they lived for a while in Daytona Beach, where Ralph worked for a Plumbing Company. I am not sure if he was drafted, or just decided to join, but in March of 1943, he was inducted into the Army. What few records of his service I could find are included on the following pages. After the war, he worked for a while at Sanford Electric Co, in Sanford, FL, and then as a salesman for Life & Casualty Life Insurance. His last place of employment in Sanford was at the Sanford Naval Air Station, in Sanford, FL.

# JUNIOR *Class* ROLL

Eleanor Allen  
 Katherine Allen  
 Frances Armstrong  
 Dean Atwood  
 Irene Barnard  
 Doris Bragg  
 Jack Bragg  
 Virgie Breaux  
 Virginia Brooke  
 Ella Fay Brooks  
 Betty Brown  
 Ozyleah Brown  
 Gerald Bumgarner  
 Laura Bumgarner  
 Bette Cannon  
 Ray Carroll  
 Dorothy Carter  
 Floyd Cheatham  
 John Christenberry  
 Mary Frances Coggin  
 Alma Cooper  
 Geraldine Cockrell  
 Frank Connell  
 Carolyn Crosby

Jerry Crume  
 Russell Currey  
 Janette DeBella  
 Drew Douglas  
 Juanita Drew  
 Julia Driggers  
 Phyllis Dyer  
 Ludwell Echols  
 Rufus Ellis  
 Robert Ford  
 Evelyn Frierson  
 Ruth Gill  
 Betty Graves  
 Betty Greer  
 James Grovenstein  
 Audrey Hankinson  
 Carl Harris  
 Russell Heptinstall  
 Albert Homer  
 Pauline Jensen  
 Richard Jones  
 Willard Jones  
 Evelyn Kelly  
 Genevieve Kepler

Dorothy Knight  
 Marshall Lane  
 Nick Larweth  
 Eugene Locke  
 Dan Lumpkin  
 Dorothy McCluskey  
 Helen McCluskey  
 Thelma McDaniel  
 Rebecca McDougald  
 Robert McKenzie  
 Dick Mahaffey  
 Abraham Massey  
 Marjorie Merrill  
 Betty Lee Mooty  
 Irene Moreland  
 Charlotte Nordmann  
 Louis Nordmann  
 Hubert Norman  
 Virginia Page  
 Arnold Pancratz  
 Edna Parrish  
 Ralph Peters  
 Beatrice Poirier  
 Rubert Prevatt

Earl Purvis  
 Robert Ragon  
 Mary Lois Rape  
 Carlton Shaw  
 Elton Smith  
 Kathleen Smith  
 Claude Snowden  
 Cecil Stover  
 Roy Swann  
 Margaret Sylvia  
 Edward Talton  
 Connie Tatum  
 Donald Tatum  
 Cortez Tedder  
 Ellen Thompson  
 Carl Tiller  
 Betty Lou Turner  
 Roger Turner  
 Dorothy Ulmer  
 James West  
 Janet White  
 Elsie Witt  
 Dorothy Young

Flower—White Rose. Motto—"Nothing ventured, nothing gained." Sponsors—Miss Horn, Miss Foard, Miss Foster. Colors—Blue and Silver.



Deland High School 1942 Yearbook  
 Ralph Peters is the 4<sup>th</sup> young man from the left, top row

STATE OF FLORIDA

FL

FL

OFFICE of VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFIED COPY

# Marriage License

C. J. No.                     

39103

CENTRAL BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

State of Florida, Seminole County

To any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

Whereas, Application having been made to the County Judge of Seminole County, of the State of Florida, for a license for marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the marriage now sought to be solemnized,

These are, Therefore, To authorize you to unite in the

## Holy Estate of Matrimony

Ralph Lee Peters and Mildred Lea Hiers

and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

Witness, my name as County Judge, and the seal of said Court, at the Courthouse in

Sanford, this 25 day of October, A. D. 1942

R. W. Ware, County Judge.

### CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

I Certify, that the within named Ralph Lee Peters and Mildred Lea Hiers were by me, the undersigned, duly united

in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License. Done this 25 day of Oct., A. D. 1942, at Sanford, 45-511 Florida.

Witness Louise Klein

R. W. Ware  
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF MINISTER OR LEGALLY AUTHORIZED OFFICER  
County Judge  
ADDRESS

Witness Robert H. Bovee

Returned this 10 day of Feb, A. D. 1942, and recorded in Marriage Book 1, Page 224, Sanford County Judge.

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED

C. Meade G. J., State Registrar

Date Issued: **MAY 27 2009**



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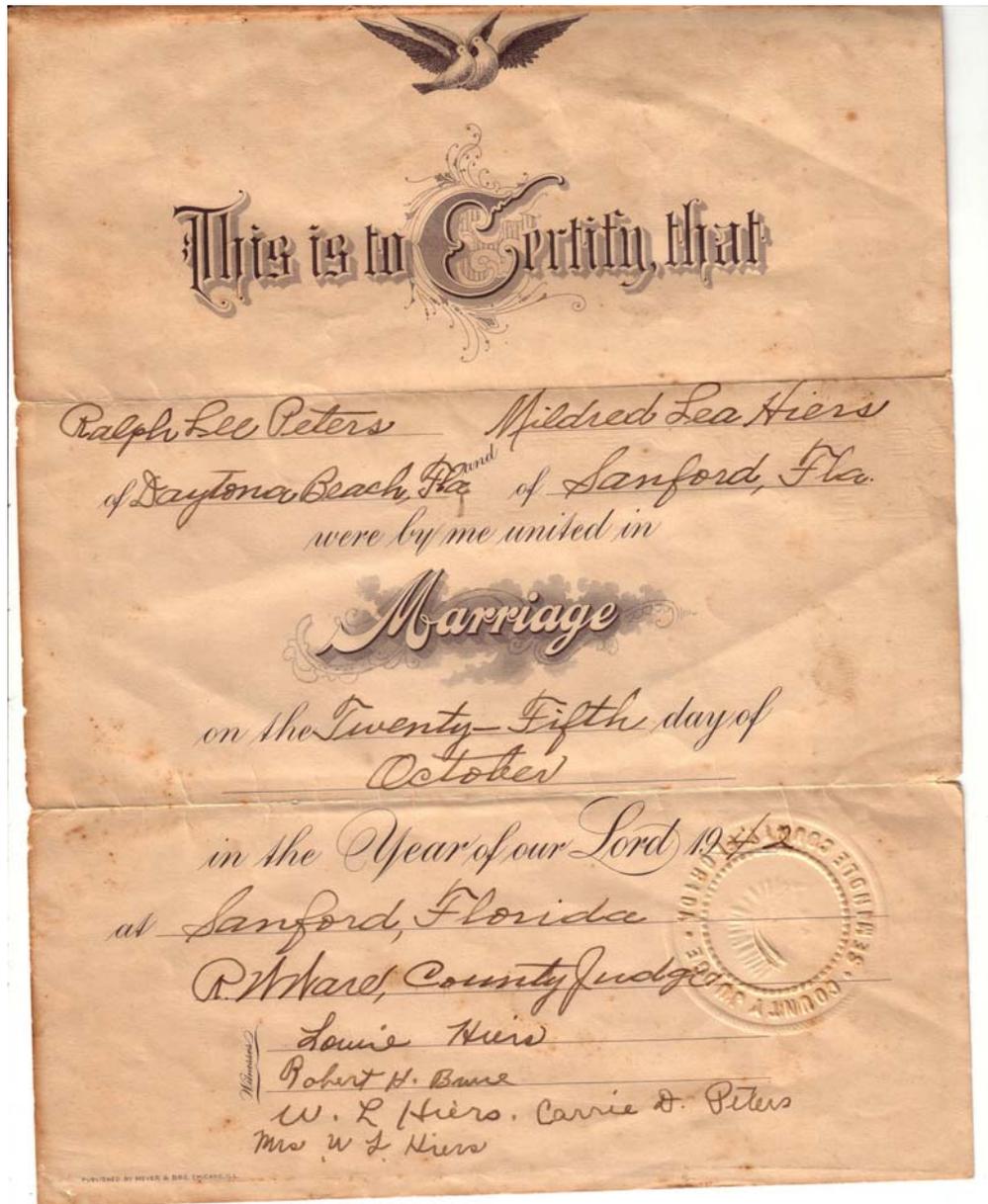
DH FORM 1946 (08-04)

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CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD



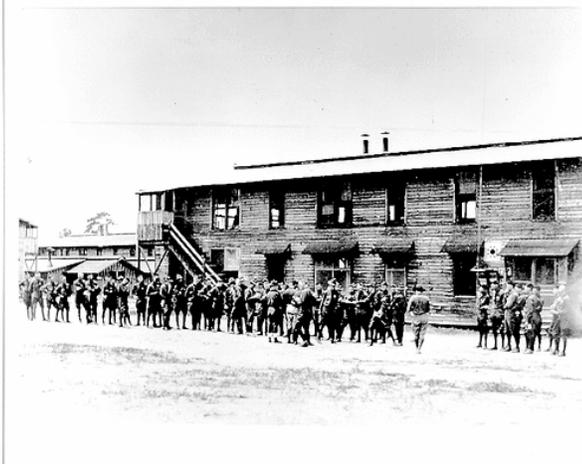
\* 2 5 6 5 9 5 7 5 \*



After their marriage, Ralph and Mildred lived in an apartment in Daytona Beach, FL. Ralph was employed by a construction company in Daytona Beach. Mildred remembers they on Palmetto Ave in Daytona Beach and rode bicycles everywhere they went. Below is a picture of Ralph on a bike and I believe it was taken on a street in Daytona.



Seven months after their marriage, Ralph Peters either was drafted or joined the US Army to fight in WWII.



Ralph was inducted at Camp Blanding, FL.

Ralph went through training at Fort Meade, MD.



Above picture is of the reception center at Ft. George Meade

Mildred was able to live nearby while he trained at Ft. George Meade.

Picture below is of Ralph and Mildred, location unknown, but was taken not too long after Ralph entered the service and may have been while he was stationed at Ft. George Meade.



After Ralph was sent overseas to Europe with the 160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers, Mildred moved back in with her parents. She worked at the H & A Department Store in Sanford until he returned.

### Pfc. Ralph L. Peters Enjoys Riviera Area

With the United States Forces on the Riviera, Nice, France:—Oct. 31, (Special)—Pfc. Ralph L. Peters, 317 Park Avenue, Sanford, with Company A, 160th Engineer Construction Battalion, recently spent a seven day furlough in the U.S. Riviera Recreational Area at Nice.

During his stay on the famous Blue Coast, the "Cote d'Azur", frequented by millionaire cosmopolites before the war, Pfc. Peters enjoyed the many vacation pleasures organized by the U.S. Army to give its soldiers a chance to rest, and relax.

Overseas for 16 months, Pfc. Peters earned five battle participation stars on his European Theater Ribbon for campaigns through France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. His battalion built the longest combat bridge across the Rhine at Mainz.

His wife, Mrs. Mildred Hiers Peters at present lives at Citrus, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Peters live in Jacksonville.



472

*Builders and Fighters*

*The 160th Engineer Combat Battalion built the longest tactical bridge across the Rhine at Mainz, Germany, 23 March 1945.*



Picture of 160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers Battalion, Company A  
Ralph is on the third row from the top, 9<sup>th</sup> man over from the left.

## ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

|  |   |  |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL<br><b>PETERS RALPH L</b>                    |   | 2. ARMY SERIAL NO.<br><b>34 785 256</b>            | 3. GRADE<br><b>SEC</b>   | 4. ARM OR SERVICE<br><b>CE</b>          | 5. COMPONENT<br><b>AUS</b>  |
| 6. ORGANIZATION<br><b>CO A 160TH ENGR C BN</b>   |   | 7. DATE OF SEPARATION<br><b>11 DEC 45</b>          | 8. PLACE OF SEPARATION<br><b>CP BLANDING FLA</b>   |   |   |
| 9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES<br><b>PO BOX 1176 SANFORD (SEMINOLE) FLA</b> |   | 10. DATE OF BIRTH<br><b>3 JAN 20</b>               | 11. PLACE OF BIRTH<br><b>LENOX GA</b>  |   |   |
| 12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT<br><b>SEE 9</b>                       |   | 13. COLOR EYES<br><b>BRN</b>                       | 14. COLOR HAIR<br><b>BRN</b>   | 15. HEIGHT<br><b>5'9 1/2"</b>           | 16. WEIGHT<br><b>141 LBS.</b>   |
| 17. NO. DEPEND.  | 18. RACE<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) |  | 19. MARITAL STATUS<br><input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify) |   | 20. U.S. CITIZEN<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|  |   | 21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO.<br><b>SEAMAN 1</b> |  | 22. MILITARY HISTORY<br><b>7 72 510</b> |   |

|  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 22. DATE OF INDUCTION<br><b>20 MAY 43</b>  | 23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT<br><b>27 MAY 43</b>  | 24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE<br><b>27 MAY 43</b>                              |   | 25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE<br><b>CP BLANDING FLA</b> |
| SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO              | 26. REGISTERED<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | 27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO.<br><b>#1</b>  | 28. COUNTY AND STATE<br><b>SEMINOLE FLA</b> |   |
| 29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE<br><b>1175 BACK AVE SANFORD (SEMINOLE) FLA</b>              |   | 30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO.<br><b>FILTER OPERATOR WATER SUPPLY 727</b> |   |   |
| 31. MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND DATE (i.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.)<br><b>NONE</b> |   | 32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS<br><b>ORMANDY NO FRANCE ARDENNES RHINELAND GULF EUROPE</b>   |   |   |

|  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| 33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS<br><b>ATO MEDAL EAMETO MEDAL GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL</b> |                              |   |
| 34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION<br><b>NONE</b>   |                              |   |
| 35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES  |                              |   |
| SHALLPOX<br><b>22 AUG 45</b>   | TYPHOID<br><b>29 AUG 45</b>  | TETANUS<br><b>14 MAR 45</b>                             |
| 36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN  |                              | OTHER (specify)<br><b>TY 22 AUG 45<br/>O1 23 AUG 45</b> |
| DATE OF DEPARTURE<br><b>27 JUN 44</b>  | DESTINATION<br><b>EAMETO</b> | DATE OF ARRIVAL<br><b>3 JUL 44</b>                      |
| 37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE  |                              | 38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD<br><b>SEC</b>                    |
| CONTINENTAL SERVICE<br>YEARS MONTHS DAYS<br><b>1 1 14</b>  |                              | FOREIGN SERVICE<br>YEARS MONTHS DAYS<br><b>1 5 8</b>    |
| 39. PRIOR SERVICE<br><b>NONE</b>   |                              |   |

|  |                             |   |                                    |
|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION<br><b>7 OF G RR 1 1 (DEM) AR 615 365 15 SEC 44</b> |                             | 41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED<br><b>NONE</b> |                                    |
| 42. EDUCATION (Years)  |                             | 43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES              |                                    |
| Grammar<br><b>8</b>  | High School<br><b>2 1/2</b> | College<br><b>0</b>                         | YEARS MONTHS DAYS<br><b>2 6 22</b> |

|                        |                               |  |                       |  |  |                |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 44. MUSTERING OUT PAY  |                               |  | 45. SOLDIER'S DEPOSIT |  |  | 46. TRAVEL PAY |  |  | 47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER |  |  |
| TOTAL<br><b>\$ 300</b> | THIS PAYMENT<br><b>\$ 100</b> |  |                       |  |  |                |  |  | <b>A E MOTTA CAPT E D</b>                    |  |  |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| INSURANCE NOTICE  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR 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<br>Nat. Serv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Govt. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |  | 49. HOW PAID<br>Allotment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct to V. A. <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  | 50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance<br><b>30 NOV 45</b> |  |  | 51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)<br><b>21 DEC 45</b> |  |  | 52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH<br><b>\$ 6.50</b> |  |  |
| 53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO<br>Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue Only <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |                   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 54.  | RIGHT THUMB PRINT | 55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)<br><br><b>LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED<br/>ASR (2 SEPT 45) 68</b> |
| 56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED<br><i>Ralph L Peters</i> |                   | 57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature)<br><i>Joseph S. Suppans</i><br><b>JOSEPH S. SUPPANS CAPT CE</b>                                 |



SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

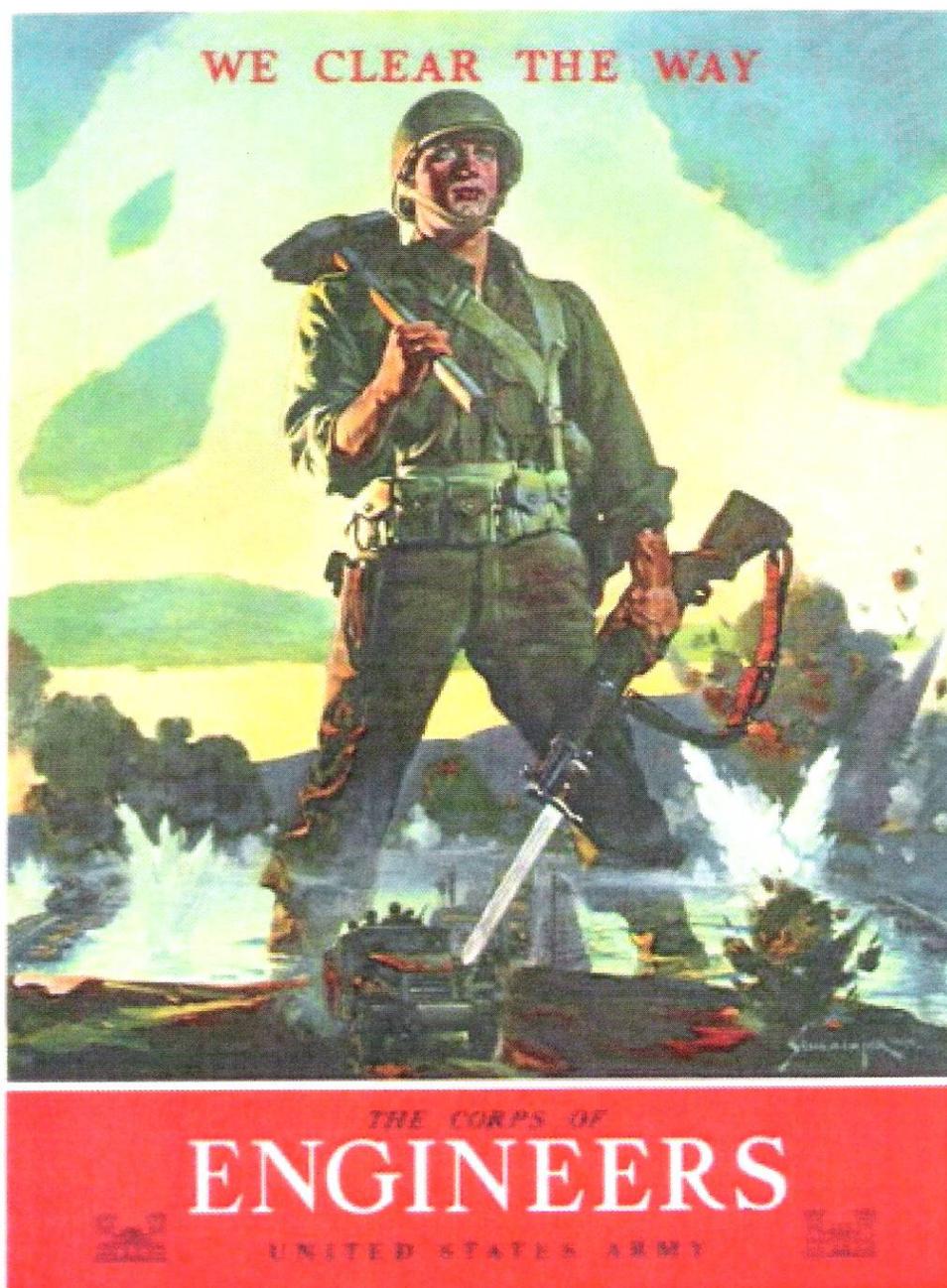
This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

|   |  |                        |  |                                   |            |   |
|---|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|---|
| 1. LAST NAME--FIRST NAME--MIDDLE INITIAL<br><b>PETERS, RALPH L.</b>   |  |                        |  | MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS |            |   |
| 2. ARMY SERIAL NO.<br><b>34 785 256</b>   |  | 3. GRADE<br><b>Pfc</b> | 4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.<br><b>Unknown</b> | 10. MONTHS                        | 11. GRADE  | 12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY           |
| 5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)<br><b>P.O. Box 1176<br/>Sanford, Seminole Co., Florida</b> |  |                        |  | <b>3</b>                          | <b>Pvt</b> | <b>Engineer, Basic Tng. (729)</b>             |
| 6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE<br><b>27 Mar 1943</b>  |  |                        |  | <b>20</b>                         | <b>Pfc</b> | <b>Jackhammer, Operator (188)</b>             |
| 7. DATE OF SEPARATION<br><b>11 Dec 1945</b>   |  |                        |  | <b>4</b>                          | <b>Pfc</b> | <b>Filter Operator<br/>Water Supply (727)</b> |
| 8. DATE OF BIRTH<br><b>6 Jan 1924</b>   |  |                        |  |                                   |            |   |
| 9. PLACE OF SEPARATION<br><b>Separation Center, Cp. Blanding, Florida</b>   |  |                        |  |                                   |            |   |

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

TITLE--DESCRIPTION--RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION  
**FILTER OPERATOR** -- Served with an Engineer Unit in France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. Operated machine which purified water for drinking purposes. Opened valves admitting water to filter chambers. Changed filters.

Most of all Army service records for WWII were burned in a warehouse fire. These were the only ones I could locate.



World War II recruiting poster

## USS West Point

The 160<sup>th</sup> left for the European Theatre on this ship out of Boston Port on 27 June 1944  
While Ralph served overseas, Mildred stayed with her parents.



**Between 15 June 1941 and 28 February 1946, the USS WEST POINT (AP 23) sailed 436,144 nautical miles, and transported 505,020 souls to their destinations all over the world. During that period of time, she never lost a single passenger to hostile action.**

WEST POINT had the largest capacity of any USN troopship in service during World War II. On one voyage, she carried over 9,000 people, including the ship's company of approximately 750 sailors and marines. Affectionately called "The Grey Ghost" by her faithful crew, she crossed the Pacific 15 times and the Atlantic 41 times, almost always sailing alone and depending on her speed and maneuverability to avoid the enemy

. <http://usswestpoint.com/>

April, 1944, was devoted to voyage repairs, overhaul, and a change of command. On April 8, Captain Dyer was relieved by Captain Webb C. Hayes, USNR of Fremont, Ohio. The ship had been underway from San Francisco only three days (April 30, 1944), when orders were received to sail the ship from Sydney, to Milne Bay, to the Panama Canal, thence to Boston. A few other fast transports received similar orders. It became evident a few weeks later that the purpose of this move to the Atlantic was to bolster the D-Day invasion forces with an ever-increasing flow of men and supplies from the time of the invasion until the end of the European war. The task in the Pacific was far from complete, but again the WEST POINT was called to the area where the conditions of large capacity and high speed were most urgent. On D-Day the WEST POINT was 24 hours west of Panama. **She arrived in Boston on June 12, 1944.**

[http://www.trailblazersww2.org/history\\_troop\\_WestPoint.htm](http://www.trailblazersww2.org/history_troop_WestPoint.htm)

Between June 27, 1944 and June 24, 1945, WEST POINT crossed the Atlantic 27 times and carried 140,000 passengers to British ports, Oran, Casablanca, Marseilles and Le Havre. On her Boston-Liverpool crossing of August 9-14, 1944, with part of the 95th Division she had 9,305 people aboard, the most carried on a single U.S. vessel during the war. On westbound crossings she carried wounded or POWs.

In all, WEST POINT had accomplished 145 missions, made 15 Pacific crossings and 41 on the Atlantic, steamed 456,144 nautical miles and carried 505,020 passengers - American GIs, British Tommies, ANZACS, 4,000 WACS and WAVES, 16,000 wounded, civilians, diplomats, officials, USO stars (including Red Skelton, Barbara Stanwyck and Hedylltnzarr), Red Cross workers, evacuees and 14,000 POWs. On a normal trooping run, 20 tons of food were consumed daily and more bottles of Coca Cola sold than in any single land establishment and, it was said, more card and crap games played than on any other vessel! Exemplifying Navy 'Can Do' spirit, she largely operated without escort, experienced numerous close calls, was reported sunk 7 times by Axis Sally, never suffered a mechanical breakdown and never failed to carry out an assignment.

<http://www.ss-australis.com/westpoint.htm>

160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers  
In France  
Timeline

1944

-27 June - left Boston for England

-33 days at Blithfield Hall (July)

-8 Aug – 10 Aug Southampton, Eng marshalling area

-10 Aug – 2 nights and 1 day crossing English Channel to French coast (A-B)

-10-17 Aug – Moved through (C)Carentan, (D)Coutarce,(E) Avranches, (F)Alcencon.

-18 Aug – (G) Chartres: defended a bridge

-19 Aug – (H) Dreux: set up a perimeter defense and returned to Chartes

-21 Aug – (I) Malesherbes: repaired a bridge

-23 Aug – (J) Montereau: constructed and operated a ferry across the Seine River

\* A company of Germans infiltrated their position with mortar and machine gun fire. 160<sup>th</sup> had 7 killed and 27 wounded

-1 Sept – (K) Verdun: constructed a treadway bridge over Meuse River

- 5-6 Sept – (L) Verdun to Etan: repaired railway

- 17 Sept – (M) Moselle: constructed treadway brigde across Marne Canal

- 18-22 Sept– in same area: performed road work

-23-25 Sept – Infantry practice

- For next 6 weeks until 5 Nov- (N) Pagny su Moselle:maintained roads and bridges

-13 Nov – (O) Mallin: constructed treadway bridge

- 15 Nov – (P) Thionville: guarded a bridge

-17-19 Nov – (Q) Metz: constructed a pontoon bridge

\*Letters are referenced on map on next page

This concludes the actions of the 160<sup>th</sup> in France

Above information from Tipton's manuscript found at [www.toto.lib.unca.edu](http://www.toto.lib.unca.edu)



## France

- A- Utah Beach
- B- Pouppeville
- C- Carentan
- D- Coutarce
- E- Avranches
- F- Alcencon
- G- Cartres
- H- Dreux
- I- Malesherbes
- J- Montereau

- K- Verdun
- L- Verdun to Etan
- M- Moselle
- N- Pagny su Moselle
- O- Mallin
- P- Thionville
- Q- Metz

160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers  
In Germany, Luxemborg, and Austria  
Timeline

1944

5 Dec- (A) Lisdorf, Germany: attempted unsuccessfully to build bridge over the Sarr River

22 Dec- (B) Livange, Luxemborg

31 Dec- (C) Munsbach, Lux

1945

18 Jan- (D) Bettendorf, Lux: built a treadway bridge

22 Jan- (E) Medernah, Lux: provided security for a bridge

8 Feb- (F) Echternacht, Lux

24 Feb – (G) Bech, Lux: maintained supply routes

7-18 Mar – (H) Trier, Germany: built a treadway bridge

18 Mar- (I) Weiskirchen, Germany

27 Mar- (J) Mainz, Germany: built the longest tactical bridge in the world while under fire. 1896 ft long over the Rhine river.

1 Apr- (K) Alsfeld, Germany

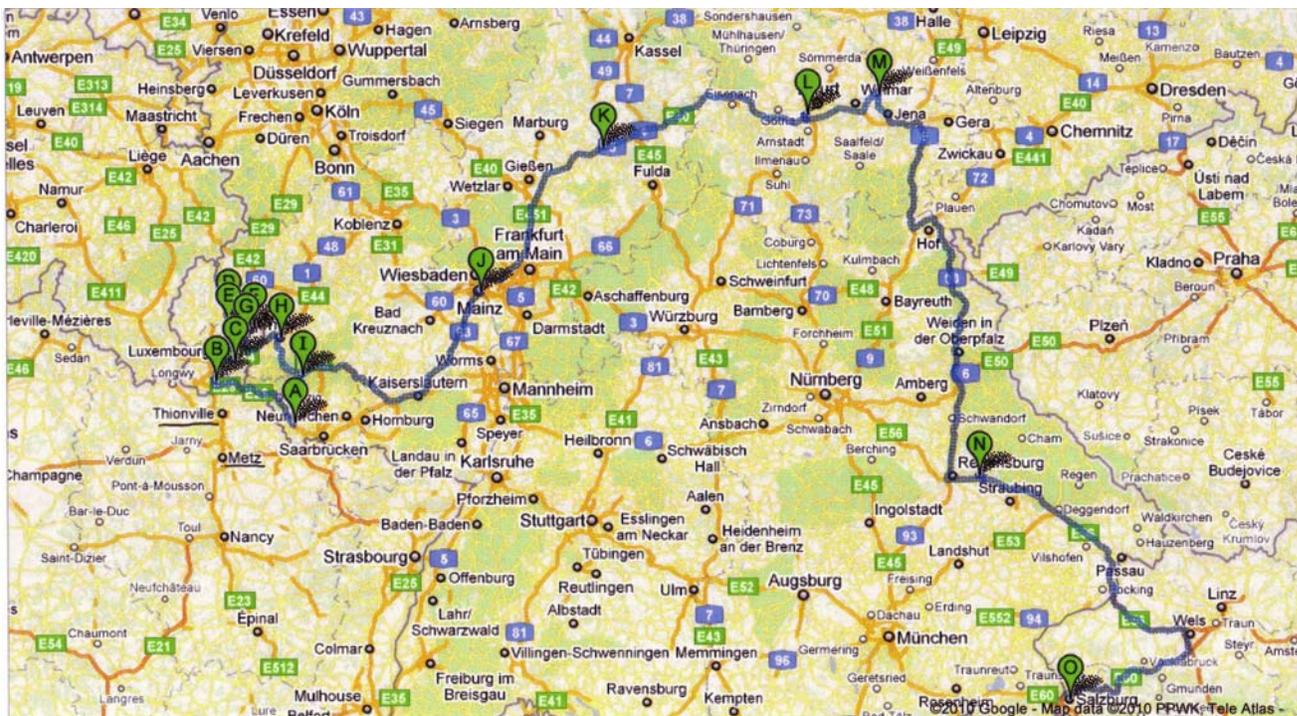
12 Apr- (L) Ingerslehm, Germany: saw Ohrdruf concentration camp

14 Apr- (M) Apolda, Germany: transported 540 German POW's

25 Apr- (N) Frengshofen, Germany

5 May- (O) Salzburg, Austria: stayed in one of Hermann Goering's estates

7 May- Germany surrenders

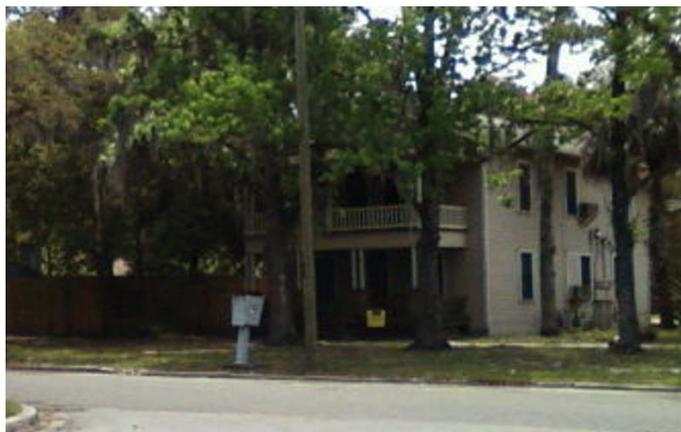


### Germany-Luxurg-Austria

A- Lisdorf, GR B- Livange, Lux  
 C- Munsbach, Lux D- Bettendorf, Lux  
 E- Medemah, Lux F- Echternacht, Lux  
 G- Bech, Lux H- Trier, GR

I- Weiskirchen, GR J- Mainz, GR  
 K- Alsfeld, GR L- Ingersheim, GR  
 M- Apolda, GR N- Frengkofen, GR  
 O- Salzburg, Aus

After Ralph returned from serving in WWII, this is the duplex Ralph & Mildred lived in and is where Donna, my sister, was born in August of 1947. (picture taken in 2011)





This is a picture of a display case that contains Ralph Peters' World War II memorabilia

Included are:

A picture of Ralph in his Army uniform

The army hat he is wearing in the picture

Several patches he wore (IX Army Corp patch & Army Corp of Engineers patch)

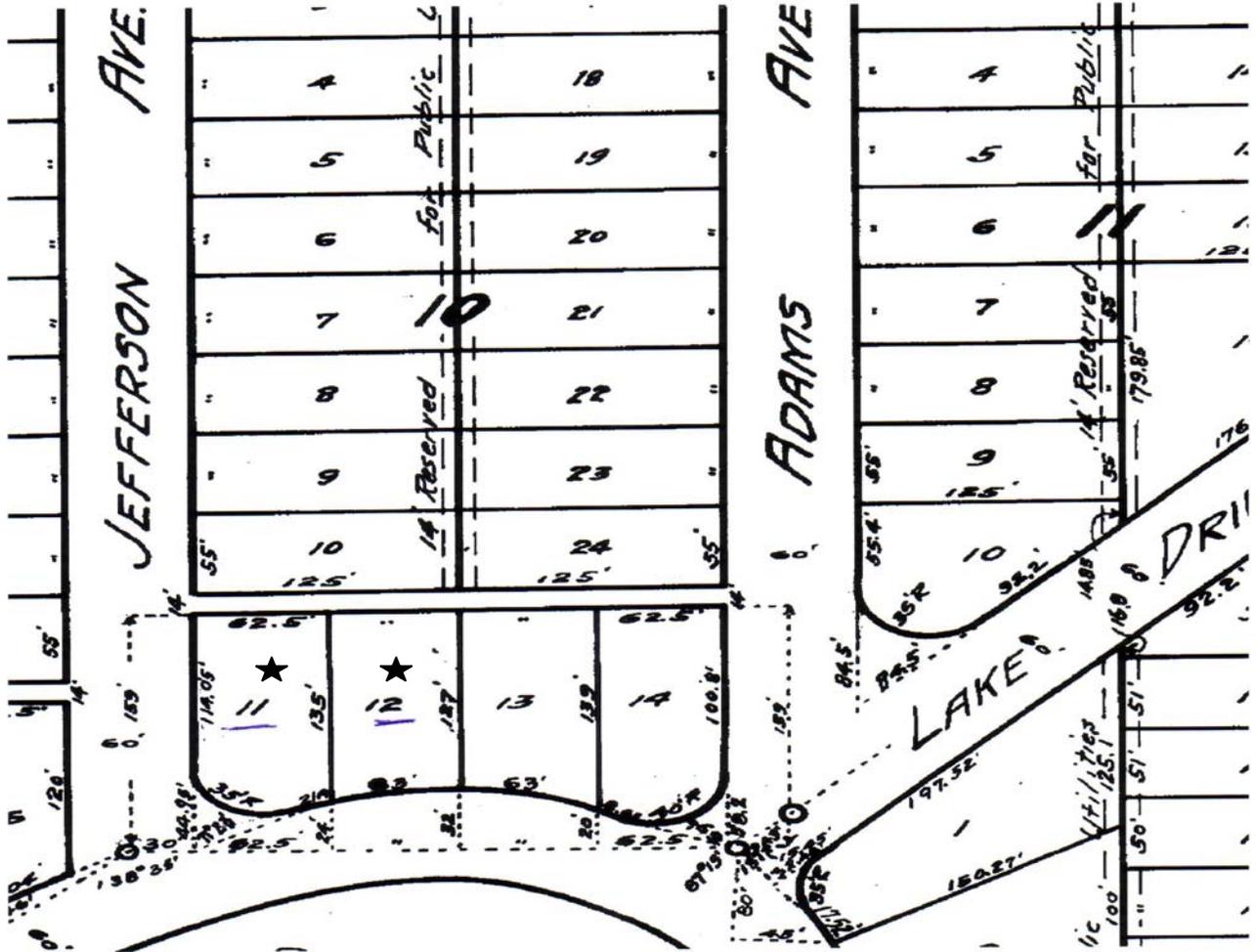
His dog tags

5 medals he earned

Army Corp of Engineer insignia pin

European Theater Ribbon with 5 battle participation stars

On 18 May 1946, Ralph & Mildred purchased lot 11 of Block 10 of Bel Air. Sometime in late 1947 or early 1948, Ralph had a small 1 bedroom apartment built on this lot for himself, Mildred, and their first child, Donna, to live in. While living there, on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1949, they purchased the lot next to them, lot 12. On lot 12 they built a 2 bedroom home for \$7,000 and rented out the apartment next door they had built and lived in earlier. On 3 July 1953, I (Wayne) was born while living in this home.



★ Lot 11 and 12 shown above. Lots 13 & 14 were owned by Clifford and Hazel Johnson. Hazel is Mildred's sister. There was a small wooded area and lake across the street from this home and I remember playing there often as a child. Every Easter we would have a joint family Easter egg hunt across the street.

Left is a picture of the home on Bel Air extracted from an old home movie my father made in 1955. Below is how the house looked in December of 2011. The car port has been enclosed.



Below is picture of the apartment home Ralph, Mildred, and Donna lived in until the house was built next door.



On 8 September 1947, Ralph & Mildred purchased a 1934 Ford Tudor Sedan from Hazel Johnson, Mildred's sister.



Photo of Ralph & Mildred next to their 1934 Ford

Date September 8, 1947 Transfer No. 61434

STATE OF FLORIDA

**TRANSFER OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

License Tag Number 17D-1042

T. C. No. 930259-E Kind of Car Ford Tudor Sedan

Eng. No. 18 888851 Model 40 Cyls. 8

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year Make 1934

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Name of New Owner Mrs. Ralph L. Peters

Address Box 1176, Sanford, Florida

Former Owner Mrs. C. W. Johnson

Application for transfer of For Hire Certificate with remittance of \$1.00 is required on all For Hire tags. This is in addition to transfer of Title Certificate application.

Motor Vehicle Commissioner  
Tallahassee  
Florida

RS

1 ROSE-24027

Transfer of vehicle registration for the 1934 Ford Tudor Sedan

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 1950, Ralph took a loan out for \$1,200.50 from the Sanford Atlantic National Bank to purchase a 1950 Chevrolet Styleline 2-door sedan.

| 1950  |                   | FLORIDA AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION CARD                                   |         | 1950                                      |                       |
|---|-------------------|--|---------|---|-----------------------|
| (THIS IS NOT A TITLE CERTIFICATE)                                     |                   |  |         |   |                       |
| Owner   | Ralph Lee Peters  |  |         | 17- 5046                                  |                       |
| Street Address  | 1406 Bel Air Blvd |  |         |   |                       |
| County  | Seminole          | City   | Sanford | Florida                                   |                       |
| Make  | Chev              | Type   | Tudor   | Date                                      | 7/18/50               |
| Eng. No.  | HAA 787596        | '49 Tag No.  | New     | Cyls.                                     |                       |
| Weight  |                   | Pass. Capacity   |         | T. C. No.                                 | App new               |
| Date Acquired   | 7/18/50           | Year Make  | 1950    | Model                                     |                       |
| Serial No.  | BHTG 11323        | Use  |         | Fuel Used                                 |                       |
| Deliver to  |                   |  |         | Tax Paid, \$                              | <del>15.35</del> 7.50 |
|   |                   |  |         | Service Fee, \$                           | .25                   |
|   |                   |  |         | Titles and Fees, \$                       | 1.25                  |
|   |                   |  |         | Back Tax, \$                              |                       |
|   |                   |  |         | Total, \$                                 |                       |
| ARCH LIVINGSTON<br>MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSIONER<br>TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA |                   | JOHN L. GALLOWAY<br>TAX COLLECTOR, SEMINOLE COUNTY<br>SANFORD, FLORIDA |         | 25¢ SERVICE FEE<br>ON EACH<br>APPLICATION |                       |

Florida Automobile Registration card for the 1950 Chevrolet Styleline Sedan.



Stock photo of a 1950 Chevrolet Styleline Sedan, similar to the one Ralph & Mildred bought.

# Certificate of Past Grand



To the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
of the State of Florida:

This Is To Certify, That Brother ..... RALPH L. PETERS .....  
has been elected and installed Noble Grand of ..... SANFORD ..... Lodge No. 27 .....  
located at ..... SANFORD ..... Florida, and served until the end of the term and  
he is, therefore, entitled to the Past Noble Grand's Degree and the Grand Lodge Degree.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature and  
(L. S.) caused the seal of said lodge to be affixed at ..... SANFORD, FLA. ....  
this the 16 ..... day of ..... JULY ..... A. D., 19 51 .....

Attest: ..... *Ralph L. Spotts act* ..... N. G.  
Secretary

## Grand Lodge of Florida I. O. O. F.

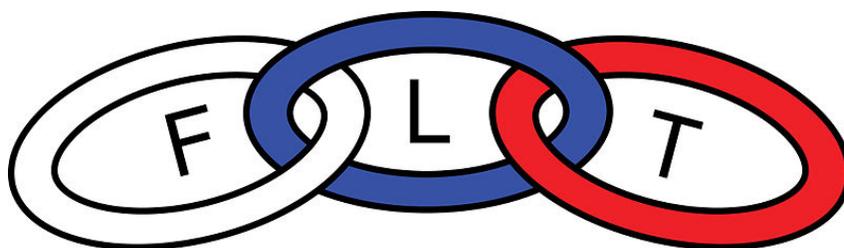
We hereby certify that Past Grand.....  
received the Past Noble Grand's Degree and the Grand Lodge Degree on the.....  
day of..... A. D., 19.....

(SEAL)

Grand Warden

Grand Secretary

This document states that Ralph L. Peters was elected Noble Grand of the Sanford Lodge #27, 16 July 1951.



This is the national emblem for the IOOF. It is 3 rings with the letters, F; which stands for friendship, L; which stands for love, T; which stands for truth.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows began in 18th Century England, it was deemed odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need without recognition and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind.

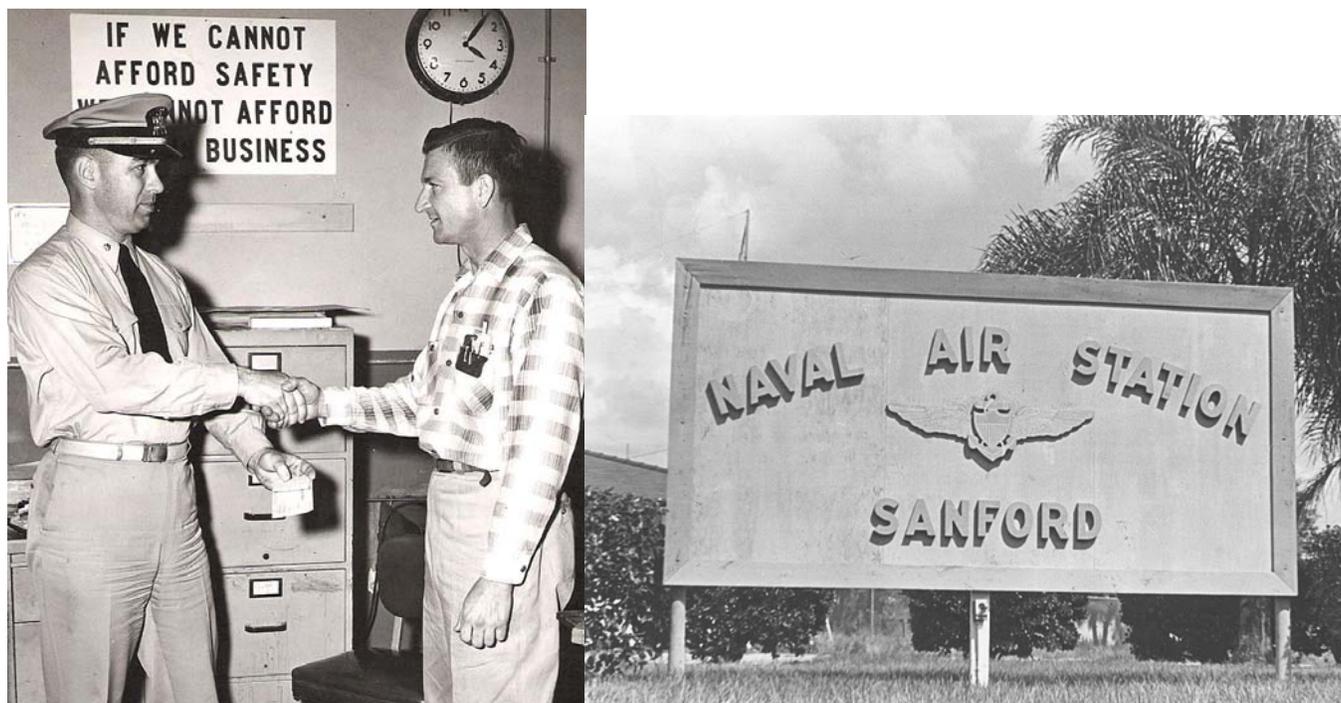


This is the building that the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge #27, Sanford, FL., met in. It is located at 107 South Magnolia Avenue.

Interesting note- Wyatt Earp was a member of the IOOF. Membership card in his name below is dated 3 March 1909.



From around 1955 until around 1964, Ralph was working as a civilian employee for the Navy at the Sanford Naval Air Station, Sanford, FL



Ralph Peters receiving a cash award from the Sanford Naval Air Station on his suggestion about use of ballasts on the base. His suggestion helped the Air Station save on electrical expenses.



Entrance to the Sanford Naval Air Station cir. 1955

Sometime in 1957, Ralph and Mildred sold their home on Bel Air and bought a home at 109 Sunset Drive for \$14,000.

Below is a picture of me standing in front of our home at 109 Sunset Drive in Sanford, FL and a picture of our family standing out in back.



Picture below is of Ralph & Mildred standing in front of our home on Sunset Drive.



My mom still lives in this house today.

# CERTIFIED COPY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE COPY REPRODUCED BELOW TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD ON FILE IN THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

(NOT VALID UNLESS THE SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, IS AFFIXED.)

*John H. Branch*  
STATE REGISTRAR FOR VITAL STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

MAR 24 1986

| DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES<br>DIVISION OF HEALTH<br>BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS |                   |  |  | FLORIDA   |                                  |  |                    | STATE FILE NO. <b>75-076285</b> |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  |                   |  |  |   |                                  |  |                    | REGISTRAR'S NO. <b>1717</b>     |  |  |  |
| DECEASED—NAME  |                   | FIRST  | MIDDLE                                 | LAST  | SEX                              | DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)             |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
|  |                   | <b>RALPH</b>   | <b>LEE</b>                             | <b>PETERS</b>   | <b>Male</b>                      | <b>November 27, 1975</b>                     |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| 1. RACE WHITE, NEGRO, AMERICAN INDIAN, ETC. (SPECIFY)  |                   | AGE—LAST BIRTHDAY (YEARS)  | UNDER 1 YEAR<br>HOURS. DAYS            | UNDER 1 DAY<br>HOURS MIN.   | DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) |  | COUNTY OF DEATH    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>White</b>   |                   | <b>51</b>  |  |   | <b>Jan. 6, 1924</b>              |  | <b>Escambia</b>    |                                 |  |  |  |
| CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH   |                   |  | INSIDE CITY LIMITS (SPECIFY YES OR NO) | HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION—NAME (IF NOT IN EITHER, GIVE STREET AND NUMBER) |                                  |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Pensacola</b>   |                   |  | <b>No</b>                              | <b>West Florida Hospital</b>  |                                  |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| STATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT IN U.S.A., NAME COUNTRY)  |                   | CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY  |  | MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (SPECIFY)                           |                                  | SURVIVING SPOUSE (IF WIFE, GIVE MAIDEN NAME) |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Georgia</b>   |                   | <b>U. S. A.</b>  |  | <b>Married</b>  |                                  | <b>Jeanette Peters Bullard</b>               |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER   |                   | USUAL OCCUPATION (GIVE KIND OF WORK DONE DURING MOST OF WORKING LIFE, EVEN IF RETIRED) |  |   | KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY     |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>265-24-7741</b>   |                   | <b>Civil Service Worker</b>  |  |   | <b>Retired</b>                   |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| RESIDENCE—STATE  | COUNTY            | CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION  |  | INSIDE CITY LIMITS (SPECIFY YES OR NO)  | STREET AND NUMBER                |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Florida</b>   | <b>Santa Rosa</b> | <b>Face</b>  |  | <b>No</b>   | <b>Rt. 2 Box 152</b>             |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| FATHER—NAME  |                   |  |  | FIRST   | MIDDLE                           | LAST   | MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME |                                 |  |  |  |
|  |                   |  |  | <b>Virgil</b>   |                                  | <b>Peters</b>                                | <b>Carie Hiers</b> |                                 |  |  |  |
| INFORMANT—NAME   |                   |  |  | MAILING ADDRESS (STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP)              |                                  |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Mrs. Jeanette Peters</b>  |                   |  |  | <b>Rt. 2, Box 152, Pace, Florida, 32570</b>                                   |                                  |  |                    |                                 |  |  |  |

This Section Contains  
Confidential Medical Certification

|  |  |                              |                        |                      |                                  |   |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM <b>12/14/75</b> TO <b>death</b>   |  | MONTH                        | DAY                    | YEAR                 | WHEN THE BODY WAS VIEWED         | DEATH OCCURRED AT THE PLACE, ON THE DATE, AND, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED. |
|  |  |                              |                        |                      | <b>11/27/75</b>                  | <b>11:45A</b>   |
| CERTIFICATION—MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER, ON THE BASIS OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE BODY AND/OR THE INVESTIGATION, IN MY OPINION, DEATH OCCURRED ON THE DATE AND DUE TO THE CAUSE(S) STATED. |  |                              |                        | HOUR OF DEATH        | THE DECEDENT WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD |   |
|  |  |                              |                        |                      |                                  |   |
| CERTIFIER—NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)   |  | SIGNATURE                    |                        | DEGREE OR TITLE      | DATE SIGNED (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)   |   |
| <b>Robert C Palmer M. D.</b>   |  | <i>Robert C. Palmer M.D.</i> |                        |                      | <b>12/3/75</b>                   |   |
| MAILING ADDRESS—CERTIFIER  |  |                              |                        | STREET OR R.F.D. NO. | CITY OR TOWN                     | STATE   |
| <b>8333 North Davis Highway Pensacola, Florida 32504</b>   |  |                              |                        |                      |                                  |   |
| BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (SPECIFY)   | CEMETERY OR CREMATORY—NAME   |                              | LOCATION               |                      |                                  |   |
| <b>Removal</b>   | <b>Bethlehem Cemetery</b>  |                              | <b>Tifton, Georgia</b> |                      |                                  |   |
| DATE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)  | FUNERAL HOME—NAME AND ADDRESS (STREET OR R.F.D. NO., CITY OR TOWN, STATE, ZIP) |                              |                        |                      |                                  |   |
| <b>Nov. 27, 1975</b>   | <b>Lewis-Sowell Funeral Home, P.O. Box 189, Milton, Florida, 32570</b>         |                              |                        |                      |                                  |   |
| FUNERAL DIRECTOR—SIGNATURE   | REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE  |                              |                        |                      | DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR |   |
| <i>Onnie Howell</i>  | <i>Jay Steward, Deputy</i>   |                              |                        |                      | <b>December 3, 1975</b>          |   |



Ralph Lee Peters is buried in Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Cemetery, Lennox, GA, next to his mother, Carrie. Picture taken 7/19/08

My mom and my dad divorced when I was 8 years old. Within a year, he remarried and he and his wife moved to Pensacola, FL, where he worked at the Naval Air Station there. I only have a few memories of him before he moved, but I do remember going on several trips to New Smyrna Beach just east of Sanford, FL. I remember one trip to the beach, a young child was accidentally hit by a car and I watched as my father ran and scooped the child up and ran with him in his arms to the lifeguard station nearby. I also remember one time there was an air show going on at the Sanford Naval Air Base he worked at, and dad took me over to the pilots of one of the large cargo planes on display and I was able to spend some time talking with them. They offered to take me up with them, but I was too scared to go.

Wayne Peters, son