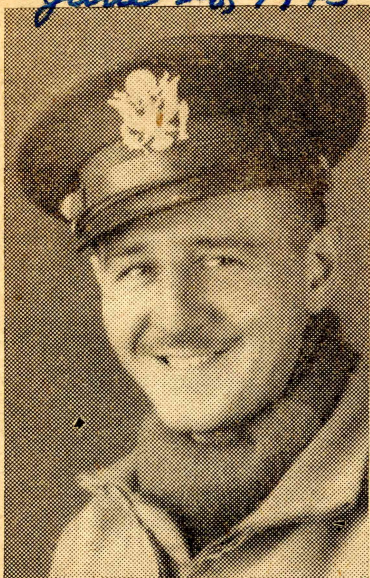


## Former Hidalgo Boy Major In Army

*June 28, 1945*



With the 7th Infantry Division on Okinawa, June 14 — Major Melville L. Combs of Napponie, Ind., believes this home island of Japan is nearly as beautiful as Indiana, but he places a lot of emphasis on "Nearly", so one gets the impression he'd rather be back home in Indiana.

The major, a tank battalion executive officer, recently had a close brush with death while sitting in a combat zone and admiring the terraced landscape. Advised to take cover he neglected to for some time and it was less than a minute after he sought the haven of a hole that a shell exploded near the jeep, ripping a hole in the seat he had been sitting in.

The officer, has been commended for the performances his tanks have turned in during the battle for Okinawa

Major Combs was born and raised in Hidalgo. His mother, Mrs. Maude Combs still lives there.

Major Combs helped to invade Okinawa April 1, Easter Sunday. To date makes 82 days in battle with only 12 days rest. The mud has been about 3 feet deep with so much machinery bogged down.

Pfc. Clyde Jackson of Hidalgo is also in the division.

Major Combs has 110 points towards release but doesn't think he will get a discharge.