



**42** RAINBOW DIVISION  
Veterans Memorial Foundation

# REVEILLE

**VOL. XCII**

**JANUARY 2013**

**NO. 3**

Rainbow Online: [www.rainbowvets.org](http://www.rainbowvets.org)

## Rainbow National Guard Responds to Hurricane Sandy



**LONG BEACH, NY** - Soldiers and Airmen with the New York Air National Guard provide relief support to Long Beach, New York following severe damage caused by Hurricane Sandy on November 2nd, 2012.

(USAF / Senior Airman Christopher S Muncy)



**NEW YORK CITY**- Soldiers assigned to the New York Army National Guard's 3rd Platoon of Company A, 1-69th Infantry rush a patient from Bellevue Hospital on Wednesday night, Oct. 31 after the decision was made to evacuate the hospital. Despite losing power when Hurricane Sandy hit on Monday, Oct. 29, the hospital stayed open using an emergency generator on the roof which was refueled by 1-69th Soldiers carrying five gallon fuel jugs up 13 floors to keep the 1000 gallon tank filled. 150 Soldiers were called out to respond to the evacuation order to move 500 patients after millions of gallons of water were discovered in the basement.

**Lt. Col. James Gonyo, 1-69th Infantry**



## CAMPAIGNS

**World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne**

**World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne.**

**War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle - Operation Iraqi Freedom - Operation Enduring Freedom**

**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE** - Happy New Year!! As we begin the year 2013 I feel a great sense of pride in what we accomplished last year and enthusiasm for what we will accomplish this year. You will note that our mid year reunion and board meeting will be held in early March and I look forward to getting a lot done with our trustees. On our agenda is by-law revision, scholarship management, fund-raising, auxiliary merger and more. We are starting to make more progress on our website. We have the member database in and soon you should be able to set up your own login for members only info such as; The online Reveille and minutes of meetings. Our goal is to have all that plus the online Store up and running before our Annual Conference and Reunion. Speaking of the Annual, we will set the date and location during the mid-year so keep checking the website and/or look for your next Reveille edition to have that information. Remember, whether it's the mid-year or the annual you can sign up online at [www.rainbowvets.org](http://www.rainbowvets.org) Our Foundation is strong and will get stronger in this New Year. Susan and I wish you and your families health and happiness in the New Year.

## God Bless, Rainbow, Never Forget! Joe Taluto

**Joe and Susan Taluto on the 21st St. Viaduct WWI Rainbow Memorial**

**Birmingham, Alabama, November 2012, National Veterans' Day Celebration**

**A Rainbow flower wreath was placed there in honor of the 167th Regiment, 42nd Division.**



**2013 MID-YEAR REUNION NORFOLK, VA February 28, 1-2 March 2013**

**Hotel Registration Information and General Outline of Activities on page 7**

**GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN BY FEBRUARY 7, 2013**

**TO GUARANTEE ROOM RATE OF \$75.00 at the**

**Hilton Norfolk Airport 1500 N. Military Highway, Norfolk, VA 23502**

**Stay tuned to <[rainbowvets.org](http://rainbowvets.org)> for additional information**



## LAWRENCEVILLE, New Jersey -

Staff Sgt. Robert Nieratko, top, and Pfc. Michael McAteer, both with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, fill a water buffalo with potable water in preparation for Hurricane Sandy at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville, N.J., Oct. 26, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne R. Woolley)

**NEW YORK** - New York Army National Guard Spec. Eric Ramos, a member of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry, provides a class on how to use the heater in FEMA emergency rations to volunteers at Confucius Plaza. New York National Guard delivery and distribution of food and water at this one location services two buildings (44 stories and 22 stories) with a population of over 3000 people. The residents are non-English speaking and the videos and presentation will assist volunteers with safety and use as they conduct health and wellness checks daily. **Lt. Col. James Gonyo, 1-69th Infantry**

**Cutoff date March 15, 2013 for April 2013 issue.**

## RAINBOW REVEILLE

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### THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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**Gracious God,** At this time of year, let us acknowledge your gifts to us. We are blessed with clothes to wear. We are blessed with shelter from the elements. We are blessed with enough to eat. For all these things, may we be grateful. May we remember that there are many people who do not have these blessings. May we be grateful enough to help others when we can. In this season, let our thoughts as well, be with our military as we consider those who stand on the front lines to protect and keep our freedom. For this too, may we be grateful. Now may your loving Grace be spread abroad in our hearts, and over Rainbow men and women everywhere.  
**Amen**  
Earnie Owen, Associate Chaplain



### WALTER A. BROPHY'S MEMORY OF THE

**LIBERATION OF DACHAU** – The fourth in a series of speeches from 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWII veterans requested by the "Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners" (FFDP), The Netherlands and coordinated by FFDP representative, Mr. Jaap Mesdag and Frank Burns, President, Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVMF. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact **Frank Burns** for further information: (206) 527-0987 [frankdorothyburns@gmail.com](mailto:frankdorothyburns@gmail.com)

This speech is under copyright to the FFDP and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future.

**I am Walter A Brophy. I was born February 19, 1921, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I was twenty four years old on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1945.** After I was discharged from the Army I spent most

of my life in Portland, Oregon. I retired in 1983 after working for Langendorf & Franz Bakeries. In 1947, I married Esther Gardner. We have four children and three great-grandchildren. My hobbies are family, camping, hunting, and fishing. I am a member of the Rainbow Division's 222nd Infantry and Northwest Chapter, the Disabled American Veterans, and a number of ex-POW organizations. **I did not participate in the liberation of the Dachau prison camp. I was a prisoner of war in the camp.** It was January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1945. We were trying to hold a small knoll just above the Moder River. We found ourselves completely surrounded by Germans. We were cut off. They pounded us with mortars and artillery, everything they had. And then, we ran out of ammunition. We just couldn't hold them off any longer. I, myself, was wounded. Sixteen of us were taken prisoner. There was a lot of confusion. We became separated from one another. I was put on a truck with other G.I. prisoners and taken to the city of Worms in Germany. I recall most of us were wounded. There our wounds were treated, and we were interrogated. Then, we were sent to some Camp which didn't seem to have a name. That was the beginning of a whole series of moves because the Germans were retreating. We went to a place called Hammelburg. I understand that General Patton had sent in some tanks to try to get his son-in-law out of there. I don't know how that all came out. **We were put on a train to Nuremberg. Then, they shipped us to Moosburg. Then, finally, to Dachau.** There were close to two hundred Americans and a hundred British. The Camp was a fenced-in, open area, with just some tents. It was close by to the Concentration Camp. We couldn't see what was going on in there. All we were given to eat was a little bit of soup once a day. Now and then, we would get a piece of bread. We received no medical attention. We had to take care of our own wounds. For the most part, we were disregarded. There was always a great deal of confusion. Since they had to know they were losing the war, I believe they thought of us as hostages. **Fortunately, we were there for only three weeks. And then, on the morning of April 29, we heard the sound of shelling.** This was soon followed by small arms fire. The German guards ran away and escaped. Now, American G.I.'s came in. And they were led by my own outfit, E Company, 222d! What a great moment that was! And the very first one in was Corporal Akins! We had some reunion. Akins was the only one I can remember. E Company had taken casualties the day I left, and after three more months of heavy fighting was now filled with replacements. Very soon after, I was flown to Le Havre and taken to Southampton in England. From there, I was put on a Hospital Ship, which sailed for Camp Kilmer in New Jersey. I'm so sorry I never saw many of my old buddies again.

**I feel that the commemoration of the liberation of Dachau and the end of WWII is important to following generations because we must never let go of what was done to the imprisoned people just because of their race, their political beliefs, religion or anything else that the Nazis didn't like.**

To say that it never happened is wrong.

We must teach our young women and men who are in the service to respect others. Treat them as you would like to be treated. If you have been in combat many things you saw and did need to be blocked out. It is hard and you will have flashbacks. A good home life with children and activities will help you to not think about it. Keep busy.

**Photos have been contributed by Walt Brophy.**



**From Frank Burns** - "We would like to hear your reaction to these speeches. If you are a veteran writing about Dachau might be difficult. However, things such as where you were and what your reaction was when you saw or heard of the Dachau atrocities are valuable additions to the oral history of the liberation of Dachau. If you know one of your buddy's Dachau experience or are a family member and have heard your veteran's stories and reactions please tell us about



them. The more we can add to the oral history the better the chance that the atrocities committed by the Nazis will never be forgotten or repeated.” **From Jaap Mesdag** - If you are a family member or buddy of a 2nd World War veteran and you would like to contribute to our Dachau commemoration speeches project and help a veteran with his speech please follow this script. Please give the name of the veteran, his period of army service and his army job, how he was involved in the liberation of Dachau and the impressions it made on him, why he thinks the 2nd World War and the liberation of Dachau should be commemorated by future generations, and also how he picked up civilian life after the war. If he would have some suggestions to modern veterans on getting back to civilian life again, they are a welcome bonus.”

**A Letter From Ken Kirk, member of the ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS FRANCO-AMERICAINS and co-author with Jean-Jacques Auduc of “Messages in Handlebars/The Youngest Resistance Fighter” - 12/11/2012**

“Jean-Jacques Auduc and 14 of his associates in the Anciens Combattants Franco-Américains recently came to stay with my family and me so that we could tour them around the fine military museums in Georgia. While here they received wonderful recognition wherever they went. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit. **This French Association has as its sole purpose the commemoration of American servicemen’s sacrifices in liberating their country from Nazi tyranny.** It was formed in 1995 by Major John Rodgers, a WWII serviceman. John passed away in 1998, and since then his wife, Marie-France Rodgers has served as the Association’s President. This active Association currently has 430 members.

**“The Association’s activities include the following:** speaking to schoolchildren about how Americans came to the aid of their country; sponsoring school trips for visits to American cemeteries and monuments; hosting and participating in numerous ceremonies such as VE Day where their members wear American uniforms from the era of WW II and carry American flags including flags of the U. S. Army and Air Force; and, restoring monuments originally erected by Americans to their fallen comrades, then inviting families of those who fell to rededication ceremonies where the American families are hosted and honored beyond the Americans’ fondest imaginations.

**“Ken and Claire Kirk of Marietta, Georgia and Malicorne-sur-Sarthe, France, recently hosted 15 members of the Association for a tour of Georgia’s fine military museums including** the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning; the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum near Savannah and the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base. The hope of the tour was to have the group recognized and appreciated for its dedicated activities in commemoration of U. S. servicemen and women. The group was especially well recognized by the Office of Veteran’s Affairs in Atlanta where Commissioner Pete Wheeler presented each member with a certificate recognizing them as honorary citizens of Georgia. (below)



**“Americans should know that many French citizens remember our coming to their aid during World War II, that the French generally hold our country in highest esteem and that this awareness is being passed down to future generations.”**

**Ken Kirk adds: “I have been enjoying an internet radio station that plays music, addresses and reports from the 1930’s and 1940’s with an emphasis on World War II. Their web site is: <http://www.1940sukradio.co.uk/>”**

**NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND WORLD WAR II VETERANS**

**Washington, DC April 28 – 29, 2013**

**Join the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Commemorating Its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

“The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, America’s national memorial to the Holocaust, will honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War II as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.

I’m writing to inform you about our plans for this milestone occasion, which include a National Tribute in Washington DC, as well as a National Tour honoring Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans in four cities across the country. We hope as many veterans as possible will join us at these historic gatherings and request your assistance in sharing this information with your networks. As you know well, World War II was the salient event in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – and its legacy continues to shape the 21<sup>st</sup>. **The values we cherish were threatened by cruel and oppressive ideologies. But the generation that signed up and put on a uniform, which believed in the essential goodness of America, and which unselfishly answered the call to duty, was a generation willing to sacrifice everything to preserve our way of life.** The freedoms we enjoy today were assured by the veterans of World War II. The Museum recognizes this, and thus wishes to reach out to all American veterans of World War II and to accord to them our highest honor and deepest gratitude. At the National Tribute in Washington, DC on April 28-29, 2013 we will bring together the people who lived this history – Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, rescuers, and their families – in the largest number we can – along with U.S. and European officials and Museum supporters and partners, for what will most likely be the last gathering of eyewitnesses on this scale...”

**Stephen Goodell, Director of Veterans Outreach**

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

To receive an invitation and further information, please call **1-866-998-7466** or visit **[ushmm.org/neveragain](http://ushmm.org/neveragain)**

**A Letter from Marnix Verelst, Kessel, Belgium 11/26/2012**

–“My name is Marnix Verelst, 46 years old and I live in Belgium. **The reason I contact you is that I’m doing some research for my father.** After the Belgian Army capitulated my father got in the resistance movement. He was captured while doing sabotage and was sent to prison. **In April 1944 he was in concentration camp Dachau when this was liberated by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division.** In 1995 me and my father went back to the camp for the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the liberation. **During our visit we met a veteran of the 42<sup>nd</sup>.**

I have a foto of my father and this veteran. In those days there was no email and the wide world web was still in construction. Is it possible to send the foto to you and maybe get some info about this veteran? Me and my father have often talked about that special moment.

**He said that there were 2 reasons he survived Dachau.**

1. The Red Cross packets he sometimes received. 2. The Americans who liberated the camp. According to him he was at the end of his strength. That is also the reason why I have so much respect for the USA. If the 42<sup>nd</sup> didn’t liberated Dachau, then I was probably never born. **Thank you, 42<sup>nd</sup>.**”

**If anyone recognizes this Rainbow veteran, please contact the REVEILLE editor (contact information page two).**



## OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS



From Walter A. Brophy, E-222, whose granddaughter, Cassidy McCartney, 2011 Rainbow Scholar, is studying this year in Salzburg, Austria. Photo was taken at the grave of General and Mrs. Harry J. Collins, WWII 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander, cemetery of the Abbey of St. Peter, Salzburg, Austria

**Jimmy Allen Bedgood**, a Veterans' Service Officer with Erie County Veterans Service Agency and Master of Divinity graduate student at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. I am also a Rainbow Division Veterans' Memorial Foundation (RDVMF) Millennium Chapter member and scholarship recipient. I'd like to personally thank you for your care, concern, and monetary support this year. It was much needed and appreciated.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division for this wonderful scholarship. This scholarship will provide a huge assistance in my college education. I am so honored to be chosen to represent the Rainbow Division as a scholarship recipient. This is a tremendous award and I would like to give my grandfather, Robert Haggard, a special thank you for giving me this opportunity. Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship and helping with my college education. **McKinze Cottrell**

I want to thank the Scholarship Committee for making my granddaughter McKinze a \$1,000. winner. She was really glad to be chosen. Yours in Rainbow, **Bob Haggard, 222-B&C**

Dear Rainbow Division Scholarship Committee and Board of Trustees, It was so wonderful to receive word from you that my scholarship application had been approved, and that you had voted unanimously to award me a \$750. Rainbow Scholarship! As a sophomore nursing student at Indiana Wesleyan University, I am required to purchase a number of medical textbooks that are very costly. The \$750. award will pay for all my textbooks, and there are even some funds left over to apply to my tuition. I know my departed grandfather, Rainbow vet Arthur N. Lee Jr., would be so pleased to know how you are helping me to realize my dream of becoming a nurse. It is men and women like him, past, present and future, whose service to our country allows me to be free to go to college of my choice. I am very grateful for your financial support and your kind words of encouragement. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your generosity.

**With much appreciation, Shannon N. Norris**

### RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR 2013

The Rainbow Scholarship Program was established to honor students who have exhibited a commitment to the ideas expressed in the "Statement of Purpose" of the 42<sup>nd</sup> RDVMF: "...to create an enduring commitment to world-wide understanding, permanent peace, and respect for the rights of individuals in all nations."

**Applicants must be:** a person who is a graduating high school senior, enrolled in college, or eligible to attend college in the fall, and who is also (1) a descendant of a former or current member of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division or (2) not a "Rainbow" descendant but who is a student doing outstanding work in an area related to the goals of the RDVMF as described in the "Statement of Purpose." (Nominator must submit detailed information regarding the work being done. Acceptance of the application is determined solely by the scholarship committee)

**Requests for applications must be postmarked (or e-mail dated) no earlier than January 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>** and must contain the following details: (1) Full name of student applicant (2) Address of student applicant where application is to be sent (3) Telephone number and e-mail address of student (4) Name, relationship and full contact information of the RDVMF member who will be nominating the student. (Only current members of the RDVMF may nominate a student applicant.)

**Requests for applications should be sent to:**

**Michael Kelly, 143 Milner Avenue, Albany, New York, 12208-1421 or emailed to <mkelly5993@nycap.rr.com>.**

Application materials are mailed directly to the student applicants during the month of March and all further correspondence will be with the applicant. Requests for applications made at any time other than between January 1 and April 1 will not be processed. Applications must be completed and postmarked no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship winners will be notified in November following the RDVMF annual meeting in October at which time the Scholarship Committee selects the finalists and determines the scholarship amount. (Past awards have ranged from \$750 to \$1,000).

**Applications require a letter of recommendation from a current member of the 42<sup>nd</sup> RDVMF, two essays, and other information standard in all scholarship applications. Award winners are not eligible for additional scholarships.**

### INTRODUCING RDVMF Rainbow Scholarship Committee

**Chairman Michael Kelly** – Military career began in January 1968, served three years on active duty with the US Army. Tours included HHC, Advanced Weapons Support command in Germany and also with the HHC, First Field Forces in Vietnam. Additionally, I served with the New York Army National Guard from 1978-2006 in various assignments with the Headquarters of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the 42 Infantry Division. I participated in support of Task Force Liberty in NYC after 9-11 and deployed to Iraq in 2005 with the HHC of the 42 ID. I retired in 2006 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. My civilian career included a 30 year career in public education as a teacher, chairperson and administrator. Currently I work as an administrator at Siena College in upstate New York. My wife Barbara and I reside in Albany and we raised three children and currently enjoy being involved in the lives of our three grandchildren.

#### **EXCELSIOR COLLEGE – Start To Finish A Course for College and Career Success**

A course, **Success Strategies for Military and Veterans (CCS 112)**, is popular orientation course offered at Excelsior College. This online course provides active duty servicemembers, transitioning military members, servicemembers in reserve or guard components and veterans the tools for college and career success. Judy Reed, Director of Veteran Services and Outreach, and Maribeth Gunner, Career Services Coordinator, combined efforts to create a course specifically for Excelsior students with a military background as an introduction to college and a springboard to career transitioning from the military environment to the civilian workforce. **Students benefit in many ways during this eight week course and earn three college credits.** Students learn about the numerous support services that Excelsior College has available to assist them in being successful students. There is a review and full assessment of their military education and training used to reach degree goals most efficiently. Students participate in self-assessment activities and learn where to access valuable career and education planning resources. The results of assessment activities aid in students researching career fields of interest and corresponding education requirements which culminated into building their personal education plan. Next, students become familiar with additional tools to explore how employment trends, job outlooks, and other factors can influence their career paths. After reviewing decision making models, students build their career action plans that will guide future goals. Military and veteran students also gain knowledge on various job search strategies including those specific to the military and veteran populations. **There is a Success Strategies for Military and Veterans online course convening every other month.** Many of the military and veteran students have found higher level degrees and certificates they are planning to pursue once they meet their current education goals. Both Maribeth Gunner and Judy Reed agree that the course will assist students in adequately preparing for academic success and career planning for both military and civilian careers. The current students are actively engaged in this course learning to use the tools for the achievement of college degrees and the investigation of their future career paths.

**If you would like more information on the Success Strategies for Military and Veterans course, please contact 888-647-2388, ext. 1352 or if you are a veteran, email veterans@excelsior.edu or if you are military, military@excelsior.edu. More information is available on Excelsior College on the web at <http://www.excelsior.edu/military>**

## VETERANS' DAY BREAKFAST SURPRISE

IN ALABAMA November 11, 2012 Jim Schaefer, I-232



The "Egg and I" restaurant gave us a side room for our group. Many of their customers noticed that we were WWII veterans and many of them came in to offer their thanks for our service. Many shook hands with us. As we were eating our breakfast, one man by the name of Barry Thomas came in, thanked all of us, and then stated that he was treating all of us and paying the entire bill! What a delightful surprise that was! We have not been forgotten.

James "Pete" Pettus, Barry Thomas, and Jim Schaefer



Photos/commentary below by Earnie Owen:

Pete Pettus and Marty Allard preparing to carry Rainbow Flag in Veterans Day Parade (Birmingham)



Deuce and a Half loaded with Rainbow Vets and others in our group. There is a group of men in the Birmingham area who have a club that collects surplus Military vehicles. They take them to drive in parades. Being empty, they offered or we asked if we could ride in it. We hung our Rainbow banner on the side and had a great time. The parade was streamed live on the Internet. Evelyn Peirce called her daughter



and told her. When her daughter saw the Rainbow banner come on her screen, she called Evelyn and could see her waving as we went by. (L - R)

Linda Owen, Honorary President, National Auxiliary and Earnie Owen, Honorary Chairman, RDVMF; Shirley

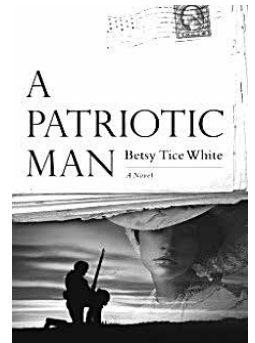


Left to Right - Shirley Kinsey, Joe Taluto, Susan Taluto, Linda Owen, Earnie Owen, Pete Pettus, Henry Kinsey, Jim Schaefer, Evelyn Schaefer, Marty Allard, Vassile Evanoff, Richard Peirce, Esther Peirce, Ricky Praytor, Jackie Praytor, Leon Praytor (seated in front)

## A PATRIOTIC MAN

This novel by Betsy Tice White, WWI Rainbow daughter of Henry K. Tice, Captain, Headquarters Military Police, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division AEF is based loosely on several decades of her father's life, including his A.E.F. service in the Lorraine, Champagne, Château-Thierry, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne sectors during World War I. From the author, "For anyone interested, about a third of the novel consists of letters adapted from actual letters my dad wrote home from France. Some WWI descendants may recall hearing of the never-to-be-forgotten "Valley Forge hike" when the Rainbow had to march 80 miles in a two-day blizzard, many with inadequate boots, and never a complaint in the bunch. Stern stuff, proud Americans. The novel deals with its hero's experiences as a soldier in 1918 France, after the war when he endures what is probably post-traumatic stress syndrome in silent stoicism, and later his life in West Virginia while the United Mine Workers union flexes its muscle in the often violent effort to organize all of W. Va.'s coal mines. The novel is a coming-of-age story, a love story, and a war story." Betsy adds, "I well remember how avidly my dad read the Rainbow Reveille every time it appeared in our mailbox! I think he'd be proud to know I'm doing my best to honor his patriotism and his service."

Big Elm Books, Softcover, 402 pages, \$16.00 may be ordered from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or local bookstores



### A SOLDIER'S SILENT NIGHT

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
And to see just who in this dwelling did live.  
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
And on the wall pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
A sobering thought came to my mind.  
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.  
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home,  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?  
I realized the families that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day,  
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.  
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God, my country, my corps."  
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
As both of us shivered from the cold evening's chill.  
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend, may God bless you, this night."

This adaptation from the original poem by Marine Corps Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt is sent by Herman W. Prescott, M Co. - 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. The original poem was called "Merry Christmas, My Friend." Variations of this timeless poem and audios of its reading may be found online.

## WARTIME MEMORIES (Part Seven)

by JAMES I. MILLER Co. F, 242<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Regt., 42D Division

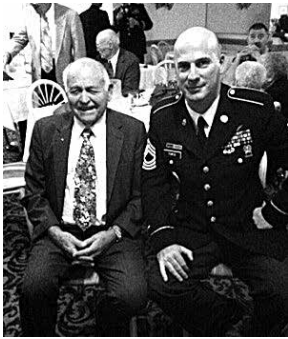
We moved up at one o'clock in the morning. Nothing ever takes place at three in the afternoon when the sun's shining. We were spread out and waiting for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> battalions to do their job. The Germans were shooting artillery at them. We were catching all the overs and were getting a lot of artillery fire. About the only thing you can do is lie down and hope it doesn't get you. **It wasn't too long, probably around noon time, when we got the word we were going to take over the**



**advance.** As we got close to the German emplacements we could see piles of Schu mines that had been located by our engineers. They cleared a path about two feet wide and put white tape on both sides of the path. A Schu mine is nothing more than a small cigar box. It's got about a quarter pound of TNT in it. If you step on it, it will blow your foot off at about the ankle. It is a very nasty weapon in that you can't see it. The engineers had gone through and cleaned those mines out – we hoped! We walked very carefully in between those two tapes and we got through the front line with no casualties from mines. We advanced until we got to a small valley. We were getting ready to cross this area. There was a small stream in the middle. We, Company F, were going to make the assault. Troops that had tried it before had taken casualties. I saw one guy that had a bullet that went right through his neck. It hadn't broken his neck, but he was bleeding pretty good. I wasn't feeling too optimistic on my chances of crossing without getting hit. **We started across this valley and the German machine guns were shooting at us.** I went off to the right flank a little bit. That was when I found out my platoon sergeant, Johnson, had been wounded. Now I'm the platoon sergeant. I found out later how he'd been wounded. I met him in Le Harve, France on my way back to the United States. He said he had crossed the valley in pretty good shape. When he got up close, there was barbed wire and he fell down on the ground and got entangled in the barbed wire. Every time he moved, the German machine gunner shot at him. One bullet went between his big toe and the next toe. One of them went through his hand. Finally he was hit in the arm. He just hung on the wire and pretended he was dead. **By this time, we had crossed over the little stream and the Germans were forced to leave.** He was evacuated and the war was over for him. He was very, very lucky he wasn't killed in that barbed wire. As soon as we got across the little stream and reorganized, we pushed on through some hills until we came to a little town called **Ludwigswinkel** and we stayed there for the night. I can still remember sleeping in a German bed and thinking it was a heck of a lot cleaner than anything we had seen in France. In the morning we moved down the road. The road ran along beside a river. As we moved down the road, some of my men called my attention to the fact that they thought there were Germans across this river. **I reported to the company commander that I thought there were some Germans in positions across the river.** There are some officers that are not about to take advice from anyone of lower rank. He was one of those. I can still remember his words to me, "Sergeant, you run your platoon and I'll run this company." I said, "Yes, sir." And away we went down the road. We continued down the road until we ran into some small arms fire. I was told to take my platoon up around the right flank. I went up on the side of a little hill. The hillside was completely exposed to the positions across the river. As we moved on the hillside, the machine gunner sprayed us with bullets. BRRRP – like paper tearing. I can still remember it was a nice, warm, sunny spring day and the grass was about 12 inches deep. I stayed prone as the German machine gun sprayed the area all around me. I decided to lay still for a couple of minutes hoping he would think he got me. After a short wait I started to crawl forward. He must have seen the grass moving because he fired another burst directly at my area. **The bullets were going all around me, kicking up the dust and debris.** I don't know how he missed since he must have fired 10 or 15 rounds at me. It was quite evident that I was under direct observation by this particular machine gunner and he was still waiting for me to move again so he could finish me off. I decided to stay in place and just wait. The combination of a warm sun and a lack of sleep took effect. I actually went to sleep lying on the side of that hill. I finally woke up after 10 or 15 minutes. I realized that being on the side of the hill was not the place to be, so I decided to run back down to the

road where there was a little bridge across this stream. I ran down there and no shots were fired at me. I was lying next to some new kid and I realized two of us lying together like that would make a pretty good target. I dashed over to the side of the stream. As I got settled I decided to scan my front to see if I could locate the machine gunner. **Just as I was going to poke my head over the edge of the streambed, machine gun bullets just cut everything off the top of the edge of the bank I was lying on.** I looked back at where I had been laying. I could see machine gun bullets going right into that kid that I had been lying next to. I realized that machine gunner was not going to give up. I called out to the boy who was wounded and I asked him if he could move. He thought he could. I told him to try to move down behind a low cement wall that was close by. He said, "Well, I'll try." As he moved, the machine gunner let him have it again. As a matter of fact, I could see the bullets going into his pants. You could see the puffs of dust coming out of his pants. I'll never forget that. **Finally, he lay quiet and I figured he was hurt pretty bad. I started calling for a medic.** Now I've got a problem, too, because I've got to get back with my company as I'm cut off. I finally waded in the stream away from where the machine gun bullets were hitting and made a mad dash up and over the hill and finally rejoined my company. We all laid in the ditch along the road for a while. The company was pinned down and we waited. Our artillery forward observer came up. He had some artillery fired in on the enemy that was firing at us. We finally got the word to pull back because it was impossible for us to advance or move sideways. It was about this time that we began to inspect ourselves. **I noticed my feet were turning black because I had been in the water for several hours.** My first thought was that I had trench foot caused by my immersion in the stream. The medics confirmed my suspicions. So they evacuated me and I was sent back to Haguenau to the regimental infirmary. I stayed back there about two nights. The treatment was to paint your feet with purple magenta (I don't know exactly what the stuff is) and then you had to sleep with your feet outside the blankets so they got plenty of air. I do remember I got two good night's sleep and some warm chow. It was a good break. **I finally rejoined my company and we were getting ready now to go through the Hartz Mountains.** These mountains were quite rugged. There were no roads where we were. We were assigned a mule company to carry machine gun ammunition, mortar ammunition, and water. We went for about two days through these mountains and had no resupply of water. One night about one o'clock, a mule train came up with water cans. Everybody got half a canteen full. When you're up in the mountains and there are no streams or anything like that, water is a very precious item. **The next evening we came to a road. It was called the Haguenau-Bitche Road.** It was a very important road and our mission was to cut that road and take the high ground on the other side. We came down off of our mountain, down into the valley. By this time, my canteen was empty. Just as we got across the road, I found a little, muddy place that the cows had walked in. When they had stuck their foot down in the mud, they had left a little hole with muddy water in it. I filled my canteen with this muddy water and put some water purification pills (they were probably more iodine than anything else) in my canteen. Now I had some water to drink. Didn't taste very good, but it was wet! **We got to the base of this hill and we were going to assault the hill. The Germans were up on there and they were shooting at us.** I was on the right flank of the line. We were getting ready to assault and I happened to notice off to my right flank a flash of a rifle. I didn't know if there were any American troops on my right flank or not! I didn't think so. I thought I was on the extreme right flank of the company and I saw this rifle shoot a couple of times. I knew that some of our men were being hit. I fired my rifle once and shot at the flash. There were no answering flashes. Now the sequel of that story is that after we got back up on top of the hill, the next morning they went down searching for casualties. There were several of our guys lying at the bottom of that hill that had been shot. Nobody knew whether they had been shot by an American or a German. To this day, I don't know if I shot an American or a German soldier because it was dark. All you could see were the flashes and all I knew was somebody was shooting at me and I banged back. **Then we assaulted the hill with a wild scream and we took the hill. So it's one of those things in wartime. That poor soldier might have been killed by my bullet, for all I know, or it might have been a German.**

To be Continued.



## A CLOSE CALL

by MSG Peter K. Towse, 42Div PAO  
from Bud Gahs, A/T Co., 222<sup>nd</sup> Inf.  
photo of Bud Gahs (L) and Pete Towse (R)

Pvt. First Class Lockered "Bud" Gahs loaded the 30-caliber machine gun and made sure it was properly sighted. The 19-year-old anti-tank gunner started his 2 a.m. guard duty in a foxhole just outside a German-occupied village in March 1945. The post was a quarter of a mile ahead of the village his anti-tank company was occupying and was atop a knoll overlooking a road surrounded by vineyards. **"It was a beautiful, but scary night," Bud recalls.** "The moon was shining, but the drifting clouds made seeing down the road impossible at times." Bud started his shift in the 4-foot hole alone. Soon another rifleman arrived, drunk. "He immediately sank to the bottom of the foxhole and passed out," Bud said. **About an hour later, Bud noticed some heads bobbing on the road from the enemy village.** There were no friendly patrols reported in the area. "I kicked my drunken partner, but I got no response," Bud said. "I was on my own." One thing Bud learned during the war was being able to distinguish between the sound of German and American boots.

**"The German boots with hobnails made a particular sound and I could tell the difference," he said. "These boots sounded German."** As the patrol moved closer, Bud tried to see in the moonlight. "I could not determine the helmets, but I could see heads bobbing along the road, getting closer to my position."

**Bud's adrenaline kicked in as the enemy drew near.** "I realized that if I did not get all of them quickly, they would disperse into the vineyards and they would be able to flank me ... and I would be history. I had a good chance of getting all of them if I waited." As the patrol drew ever closer, Bud waited patiently for the right moment, going over his plan, poised to strike as soon as the Germans came near enough.

**The tension increased as the footsteps grew louder.**

"I wanted to wait until the patrol was right on top of me before I fired. It was not until they were about 75 feet away when I started to slowly squeeze the trigger." Just before delivering the 250-round belt of ammunition into the German squad, **Bud froze when he heard one of them yell, "Hey, Joe, hurry up!"**

"I froze my finger and carefully let go of the trigger, swung the gun away, and lay back in the foxhole in a cold, exhausting sweat. I had come a hair away from mowing down seven of our own men!"

**The patrol passed the knoll without noticing the shaken private, or knowing how close they had come to death.**

"I am sure I would have killed them all at that range before they even knew what happened," Bud said. "As far as I know, they never realized I was there. I didn't even have the breath to ask for the password, I was in shock thinking about almost killing those poor souls."

**The Lord was looking out for them ... and for me."**

## MID-YEAR REUNION February 28, 1-2 March 2013

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION for



**HILTON NORFOLK AIRPORT**  
1500 N. Military Hwy  
Norfolk, VA

Cost: \$75.00 Double  
Occupancy per night plus  
applicable taxes  
**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:**  
Call Hilton Norfolk Airport  
direct at TEL: 1-757-466-  
8000 or 1-800-HILTONS.

Please identify yourself

as a member of the RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION (RDVMF) to receive this special rate.

ARRIVAL AIRPORT: Norfolk International Airport  
(Courtesy Bus/Call Hotel on Arrival or Taxi \$10.00)

ARRIVAL CAR: Parking is complimentary

ARRIVAL TRAIN: No Shuttle or Courtesy Bus

(Station: 190 Park Ave South corner, Harbor Park lot D, Norfolk, VA)

## RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST

David K. Ashdown	Co. E-222 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Iddo C. Heinike	Svc. Co.-222 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Lewis Jolly	Co. M-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Elroy H. Klusmeyer	Co. E-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Herbert D. Lehman	42 <sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Co.
Lawrence Linebaugh	142-C-Combat Engineers
Malcom Miller	Co. M-232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Charles T. "Chuck" Perardi	Co. C-122 <sup>nd</sup> Med. Bn.
Billy J. Rice	HQ Co.-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Lawrence R. Rodgers	Med. Det. 232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Medford H. Shively	Cannon Co.-222 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Dale L. Smith	Co. F-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
John J. Taylor,	Co. E-232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
Melvin Umphenour	Co. E-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
William E. Warde	Co. A-232 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry
James R. Warren	Co. B-242 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry

## PRAYER TO OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

Eternal God, supreme commander of us all, Lord of the far-flung battle line, to whom the ranks of life report, we bow before you with reverent hearts and in sublime faith, knowing that you lead us in death as you have in life.

For again, you have ordered a veteran to that realm in the west, beyond the twilight and the evening star, where beauty and valor and goodness dwell forever with the unnumbered multitude.

## MY STORY...THE ORPHAN REGIMENTS

by Victor Lorenzetti,  
Co. L, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 232<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Regt.,  
42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWII

"Under the cold winter skies of Northern Alsace we were unaware a superior force would strike soon. **Spread out over large areas we were left isolated and unprepared.** Our limited resistance offered what it could but it was not enough to prevent substantial casualties and, ultimately, capture."

Trafford Publishing, 2008, 192 pages,  
softcover **Order online:**

**trafford.com/07-2809 \$16.20**

My Story...  
The Orphan Regiments



By Victor Lorenzetti

Under the cold winter skies of Northern Alsace we were unaware a superior force would strike soon. Spread out over large areas we were left isolated and unprepared. Our limited resistance offered what it could but it was not enough to prevent substantial casualties and, ultimately, capture.

## GENERAL OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES

(Hospitality Room Available Thursday 28 February 2013)

**28 February – Day: Travel to Norfolk, VA**

**Evening: Open Evening/informal gathering in  
Hospitality Room**

**1 March – Day: (Beginning at 1000) Full Business Agenda  
Officer and Trustees at MacArthur  
Foundation (Shuttle); (Working lunch)**

**Evening: Open Evening/Hospitality Room**

**2 March – Morn: Business Agenda Officer and Trustees  
At MacArthur Foundation (Shuttle)**

**Afternoon: MacArthur Museum Tour (Colonel Davis)  
And Special Exhibit, "Under the Rainbow,  
42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division The Great War"**

**Evening: Dinner at Local Restaurant**

**Stay Tuned to [rainbowvets.org](http://rainbowvets.org) for additional information**



**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION,  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION October 15, 2012 – December 15, 2012**

**FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND** George Stavros, for Company B, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry – 25.00; Anna Campo, for Gary Tuckey – 25.00; Edwin Mammen, for Elliott Baskin – 50.00 **FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND** Tom and Dianne Maynard, for Charles Perardi – 25.00; Lois Smith – 35.00; Bill Waller, for Frances & Fred Waller (WWI 42<sup>nd</sup> veteran) – 150.00; Charlie Kocher, for Paul Kocher, Jr. – 25.00; Karl Schneider – 100.00; Virginia Harless Cook, for Lee Harless (WWI 42<sup>nd</sup> veteran) – 100.00

**SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND** PNW Chapter Auxiliary – 100.00; Elaine Ground, for Clifford Melikian – 25.00; MG Steven Wickstrom - \$1,000.00; Mort Barrish, for Renee Barrish – 50.00; Alyce Fairchild, for Bob Fairchild – 100.00; Thomas O'Neill, for Men of Company G, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry – 100.00 **SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND** PNW Chapter Auxiliary – 100.00; PNW Chapter, for James Warren – 25.00; Florence Rose, for Jim Rose – 50.00

If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the RDVMF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVMF and mailed to

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Memorial gifts will be acknowledged personally and also in the next issue of REVEILLE. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift to be sent to the family of the person whom you are honoring, please include their name and address when you send your contribution. All are gratefully received and acknowledged. We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org>.

Please send Death notices for Memorial Publication and for our records to Foundation Secretary,  
**Melanie K. Remple 500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1123 <taremp@hutchtel.net (320) 587-1123**

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

Please visit <[rainbowvets.org](http://rainbowvets.org)> to access the information you will need to renew your RDVMF membership either online or by USPS; chapter and national contact information is also online. At-large membership (no chapter), options are \$10.00/annual dues and LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are now available as follows – \$50.00/LIFE for WWII Veterans; \$200.00/LIFE for all others. For multi-year membership payments, please send dues of \$10.00/year to our Foundation Secretary, Melanie K. Remple.

**REQUEST FROM CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL SITE DACHAU**

**12/17/2012** Dear ladies and gentlemen, I am tasked by the Concentration Camp Memorial Site Dachau to make a documentation on the former SS-shooting range Hebertshausen next to Dachau. The main interests we have is on pictures, videos, drafts and personal memories of the area while and shortly after the time of the National Socialism. My documentation will be a basis for the Concentration Camp Memorial Site to reconstruct the area. Since the 42nd Rainbow Division liberated the concentration camp Dachau, it is my hope to find some soldiers, who had been at that shooting range after the liberation and could help me with pictures or their memories concerning that place. Every picture, even with the slightest impression of the area is of great interest for me. Is it possible to get in contact with former soldiers of the 42 Rainbow Division? That would help me so much! I really thank you so much for your help and I am looking forward to your answer.

**Best regards, Julia Rosche <[rosche@kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de](mailto:rosche@kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de)> Alte Römerstraße 75 85221 Dachau Germany  
(or REVEILLE editor, address/Tel. No. on page 2)**

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