

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE



A publication devoted to the interest of Rainbowers from Coast to Coast

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No. 5



MAJOR GENERAL CHAS. T. MENOHER
Former Commander of the Rainbow Division

A Well-Remembered Incident



COL. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN

The Rainbow Division was in the line in the Baccarat sector, alongside of and under the French 7th Army Corps, commanded by General de Bazilaire. Time: the early part of 1918.

The Division had been in the sector long enough for a number of things to happen, among them, some "conduct" by Major William J. Donovan, commanding one of the battalions of the 165th Infantry (old 69th New York.) This conduct was of such nature as to warrant the French, with their usual liberality and promptitude in such matters, in bestowing upon Major Donovan the Croix de Guerre.

At about this same time, the Secretary of War, Mr. Baker, on a very active visit to France, inspected the various elements of the Rainbow

Division. Among those so inspected being Major Donovan with his battalion. The time was so short and the schedule under which we were working was so close that some of the elements of the Division were actually inspected before it was fairly daylight. It is recalled that as the Secretary finished the inspection of one of the battalions, he remarked to the effect that the sun had not yet risen. The sun rose a few minutes later. Yet, the Secretary of War and his party had breakfasted and had travelled some thirty to forty kilometers to the place of inspection.

As the Secretary of War approached Major Donovan in his inspection it was noted that Major Donovan was wearing his brand-new Croix de Guerre. Realizing the prohibition against the acceptance of decorations, etc., the writer deliberately invited the attention of the Secretary to Major Donovan and his Croix de Guerre, and related the circumstances under which it had been earned and bestowed. The Secretary complimented Major Donovan in very gracious terms for his splendid example, and then turned to go.

Still realizing, in a hazy sort of way perhaps, that the question of the meaning of the decoration had not been settled, and still further realizing the priceless value to everyone in the Division of Major Donovan's example, the writer again invited the attention of the Secretary of War, this time to the effect that Major Donovan was wearing the French Croix de Guerre in violation of law, etc.

The Secretary paused for a moment only, returned to Major Donovan and said to him: "Major Donovan, you have my executive authority to wear that decoration. If anyone questions in any way your authority to wear it, please refer them to me, the Secretary of War."

But Major Donovan did not cease to accumulate decorations, nor did he cease, nor has he yet ceased to be a golden example to everyone who essays to wear the uniform. We all know how he came to be called "the fighting head of the Division;" how, when most severely wounded he refused to leave the firing line, but continued to accumulate more decorations; and how finally, he came home at the head of his regiment, *Colonel Wm. J. Donovan*—the man who stopped at nothing and whom nothing could stop.

CHAS. T. MENOHER,

Former Commander Rainbow Division

Major General U. S. Army, (retired)

Selecting the Unknown Soldier

Congressman Fish, of New York, recently enlightened the members of the House with the following narrative:

"A good many members have asked me how the particular body of the unknown American was selected from the battle fields of France. He was chosen in this manner: Four bodies were taken from the four separate American cemeteries in Europe and brought together at Chalons, France, where, under guard of general officers, a Sergeant designated from the American Army of Occupation at Coblenz, walked into the room where the four caskets were and selected one by placing a few roses on one of the four identical caskets, which were closely guarded until interred in front of the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington.

"That was pretty much the way in which the French chose their Unknown Soldier, except that they brought nine different bodies from nine sections of the battle front and conveyed them to a room in the citadel at Verdun, where they were guarded by general officers, in whose presence a non-commissioned officer, representing the rank and file of the French Army, came in and chose one of the caskets by putting roses on it. That casket was again put under special guard and was eventually buried under the Arc de Triomphe. The other eight caskets were buried in the citadel at Verdun. It is claimed that Gen. Maurice Maunoury of the French Army originated the idea of a memorial for the unknown dead of the World War.

"In Italy they took bodies from a graveyard near the Adriatic Sea, and after a night spent in prayer, an Italian Gold-Star Mother selected the casket by placing a white rose on it. The splendid sepulcher of Victor Emanuel in Rome was opened to receive the body of the unknown Italian warrior.

"In choosing the unknown Belgian soldier, a blind veteran was assigned the honor, while four veterans who had lost their left arms and four who had lost their right arms acted as pall-bearers."

Warning On Insurance

Any veteran who believes he is today permanently and totally disabled and who feels that he is entitled to payments on his government insurance should immediately put in a claim for these benefits.

It had been hoped that the recent session of Congress would extend the time during which suit could be brought on these federal policies, but this proposal failed, and as matters stand today, claims must be in before May 29.

There has been considerable controversy in the Veterans' Bureau and the Department of Justice as to the exact meaning of Section 19 of the World War Veterans Act. Some have claimed that May 29 is the final date when suits may be entered, while there are others who feel that this final date is only for those upon whom disagreement had been reached prior to May 29 last, and all others have six years.

But, regardless of which school of thought one follows, all who have studied the section agree the safest move a veteran who is entitled to the benefits may make is to put in a claim for insurance payments before May 29, 1929. By doing this he will be safe, regardless of what the courts may later decide is the real meaning of section 19. The claim should be forwarded direct to the Director, Veterans Bureau, Washington, D. C., by registered mail and request made for acknowledgement as soon as the claim reaches central office.

It has often been explained that courts will not decide insurance suits unless and until the veteran has applied to the Director. The courts have held that decisions in the regional offices and in the Boards of Appeal are not final and it is for that reason that the claim should be filed with the Director at Washington, and a receipt obtained.

Having been warned of the little time remaining for action, any affected veteran who does not now act will have only himself to blame if he waits until June to act and then finds himself out of the fold.

Dis. Amer. Vet.

Rainbow Reveille

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We, the members of the Rainbow (42nd) Division, in order to perpetuate that spirit of comradeship which has been the greatest single factor in the success of the Division, and in order to continue unbroken that spirit of fraternal friendship which has always manifested itself throughout our activities, and to perpetuate the sacred memory of our valiant dead, do establish the Rainbow Division Veterans.

"It is with pleasure that I send a message to my comrades of the Rainbow Division on the occasion of the anniversary number of the *Rainbow Reveille* marking the twelfth year since April of 1917.

"The 42nd Division, composed of units from the various States of the Union, won laurels for success on the Ourcq, fought gallantly at St. Mihiel, and gained undying fame in the Meuse Argonne, thus demonstrating valor as soldiers and real worth to our Country in time of need."

General C. P. SUMMERALL,

Chief of Staff.

A Word From Texas

Editor *Rainbow Reveille*:

Just a few lines to let you hear from Texas and the Ladies Auxiliary.

The reason you have not heard from us is because so many of our bunch, or members of their families, have been sick, and we have not had a meeting since Christmas.

Then, too, I have been quite sick myself and could not get out and work as I have done in the past. I am still confined to bed and expect to be for some time.

Congratulations to Washington, D. C. and Maryland Chapter Auxiliaries on their splendid progress.

MRS. W. E. (Ma) TALBOT,
National President Ladies Auxiliary.

(The following is reprinted from the February, 1927, issue of the *Reveille*.)

UNREST

Why is it, though we try to be the same,
And tread the paths we did in days of old,
A restlessness too vague and dim to name
Still clutches us with unrelenting hold?
Is it that we who "out there" played our hand,
And learned of thirst and hunger, fear and pain,
Shall ever see the sights of No-Man's-Land,
And never be at peace or rest again?

Ah, yes, our homes are dear and life is sweet,
And we are proud of this, our native land,
And yet, of those we know and daily meet,
A few, and only few, can understand.
We cannot tell them of the tongue we learned
"Out there" amid that blazing sheet of hell,
Where shrapnel maimed and poison gases
burned—

A tongue we learned, but know not how to tell.

They feel that we are strange, a race apart,
And different from the lads who went away
With sunny smiles, a song in throat and heart,
Just carefree boys, still young enough to play.

Yes, we are changed, but still we know not how
Or in what manner we are not the same,
Except, to us each game is trivial now
Who played and won or lost that greater game.

Each day to us now means but just a day,
With nothing new to cause one little thrill;
For unrest seems for'er to be the pay,
And restlessness our boon companion still.
Should souls that have departed e'er return,
We know, who have come back from No-Man's-Land,

How they must ever seek to find, and yearn
For one in all this throng to understand.

—Doughboy.

(Continued from page 7)

the present, let it be truthfully said that this Baltimore Reunion is to be the biggest and best in Rainbow history—without exception.

Comrades Screws, Marcus and Colston addressed the business meeting at night and their remarks keyed the Baltimore boys up to a high pitch.

President Screws later addressed the Maryland Chapter Auxiliary and, well—you all know the dapper appearance and gracious manner of Col. "Bill". He fairly captivated them all, and after the meeting had adjourned, many were the complimentary remarks made by the ladies: "Isn't he grand?" "Is he married?" "I hope he comes to all of our meetings!" etc. (Better watch out, Col. "Bill," some of the husbands carry knives.)

ILLINOIS

149th Field Artillery

Our Annual May Party and Dance, scheduled to be held May 10th at the Bal Tabarin—Hotel Sherman, has been changed to Saturday, May 11th and will be held in Louie's Room (Louis XVI) Hotel Sherman, the Bal Tabarin having burned out. This great event, our "coming out" party, has been well attended by Rainbowners, their wives, relatives, and friends and from the advance reports of the Entertainment Committee the attendance will be greater than last year and that will be going some.

IOWA

168th Infantry

Iowa is having its biggest year in paid-up members outside of the year that we held the National Convention in Des Moines. From all appearances to date, Iowa is on top of the heap. We are pushing for the 200 mark before this year comes to an end. Watch Iowa next year, as we are clearing the trenches for a real paid-up membership.

Iowa can boast of having paid-up members in seventeen different states (besides the state of intoxication) and Panama.

Standing of the Chapters

OHIO.....	225
IOWA.....	180
ALABAMA.....	136
ILLINOIS.....	105
INDIANA.....	71
MARYLAND.....	64
VIRGINIA.....	64
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.....	45
CALIFORNIA.....	57
TEXAS.....	34
MINNESOTA.....	33
PENNSYLVANIA.....	3
OKLAHOMA.....	1



The letter from National Secretary Masson, page 4 of the March issue, was intended for you, Rainbow buddy. Get it out and read it again, and see if you can't swell our ranks by at least one more paid-up member.

* * *

The Columbus Reunion went on record as favoring immediate reorganization of the 42nd Division. The President was to draw up a plan and submit it to the Secretary of War, asking that action be taken. Each State Chapter was to appoint a committee to meet the situation in its particular State, and present same upon completion to the Governor of the State.

All this took place last July. May I ask what action has been taken?

* * *

The Ladies Auxiliaries were invited to send in news of their activities, but so far they have been rather shy about it. What is the trouble, ladies? Certainly it cannot be that you have nothing to say.

* * *

I wish I could tell you all of the grand surprises that Colonel "Bill" is planning for the Baltimore Reunion. But I promised to keep quiet until the proper time.

* * *

Have you got your National Rainbow Membership card yet? If not, why not?

* * *

How much have you saved up toward the trip to France in 1930? Don't be caught napping—the time is passing rapidly.

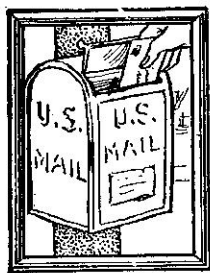
* * *

The editor would greatly appreciate criticism or advice on how to improve both the appearance and contents of the *Reveille*. Remember, it is your paper and you should be interested. Many of you comrades are capable of writing dandy articles—editorials, verses, etc., which would be a step toward making this paper more interesting.

* * *

Many thanks to the several artist comrades who volunteered their services for illustrations for the *Reveille*. Let's hear from some more.

Letters to the Editor



Editor *Rainbow Reveille*:

I'm on the list for the Iowa "Sniper." A copy of the February *Reveille* was enclosed with it. I've often wondered how many of the Chapters that receive large supplies of the *Reveille* see that it gets into the hands of the entire Chapter membership. New York will do it this month and thereafter.

George Webb, of Illinois, may be dead right when he criticizes "Rainbower" as a name for the gang in the division. "Rainbowyer," though probably more correct, is no improvement, in my opinion; "Rainbowman" sounds too long and somehow stilted, to me. And who of us, may I ask George, pronounces it "Rainbore," "Rainboor" or "Rainboar"? We New Yorkers manage to get three syllables out of the word. As a non-New Yorker, you must know that the A. E. F. agreed that we are the most careless speakers in the Union. Surely George didn't intend to tell us that they slur their syllables in Illinois! I do hope that his communication will inspire some Rainbowyer to find us an appellation (as George would call it) that will be satisfactory to all of us.

Please remember me to the gang in Baltimore.

New York, N. Y.

JACK JOYCE.

Editor *Rainbow Reveille*:

I have been receiving my copies of the *Reveille* and wish to thank you for putting me on the mailing list. As I am out of touch with most of my old outfit, it is a pleasure to read it.

It was not my intention, however, to get it for nothing, and if you will let me know the yearly subscription rate I will immediately forward a check for same. I know it costs money to get it out and mail it and I want to do my little bit toward helping.

Norwich, Conn. GORDON HUNTINGTON.

Editor *Rainbow Reveille*:

I have received the two copies of the *Reveille* which you recently sent me. I read these with very much interest and wish to thank you for your prompt attention. I was especially interested in the October issue with

the splendid picture of my old Colonel "Bill" Screws on the front cover. After having been under Colonel Screws' command for nearly two years I can realize all the more what an ideal leader the Rainbow Division Veterans have for this year.

I am not a member of the Association now, but expect to join the ranks at my earliest convenience. This will help me to perpetuate the spirit of comradeship I am sure when I get in one of the various chapters. I hope to attend the convention in July where I will meet many of my old comrades.

I noticed in the February issue that you have asked for sketches to be used in the *Reveille*. In this interest I wish to state that I am neither a finished artist nor an amateur, but I am an art student and wish to offer my services and do what I can to make the publication as interesting as possible. Best of success for the remainder of the year.

Syracuse, N. Y.

LESTER E. HENDRIX.

Rainbow Firsts

Do you know that the Rainbow (42nd) Division was the first complete Division to arrive in France; do you know that the Rainbow Division was the first division to receive a name and insignia, and that the rest of the divisions followed our example; do you know that the Rainbow Division pulled the first attack on the Western Front in which American Troops operated as units; do you know that members of the Rainbow Division were the first Americans to actually fight in German trenches; do you know that members of the Rainbow Division were the first American troops to occupy Sedan, and that a Regular Army division is trying to claim the credit?

The Rainbow Division also made the longest training and change-of-station march from Vaucouleurs area to the Rolampont area in December of 1917.

A proud record of "firsts" we will say, and will also say that none other can match it. There are certain writers of Histories of the World War who can't bring themselves to the point of admitting our glorious record, but when our own Divisional History is published you will find a record that will stand unchallenged by all.

IOWA "SNIPER"

In Memoriam

MAJ. WALTER POWERS, Hdqrs. Co., 165th Inf.
JOHN J. GRIBBON, Co. D, 165th Infantry.
LEROY CLARK, Co. B, 166th Infantry
CAPT. OTTO KINDLER, Co. L, 166th Infantry
HAROLD BROWN, Co. H, 166th Infantry
SANFORD CLIFTON, Co. C, 166th Infantry
KENNETH O. HOY, Battery F, 149th F. A.
HARRY BRITTON, 151st F. A.

CHAPTER CHATTER

NEW YORK

165th Infantry

We are all set for the Big Ball at the Pennsylvania on Friday, May 3rd. The committee has started functioning; and the line-up so far is: General Chairman, Harry McLean; Chairman of Boxes, Fergus P. Mullins; Entertainment, Col. Anderson, Bill Cavanaugh, Bert Shadow; Tickets, Joe Thynne; Floor Committee, Johnny O'Neil, Louis Cornibert; Arrangements, Bill Judge, Jim Finn; Treasurer, Bill Quirk.

The Chairman of the above committees will call upon some other men to aid them, but things will run much nicer if you would volunteer to serve on one of the committees.

Our show this year promises to be better than we have ever had.

Bert Shadow, who was in Headquarters Company and is now playing in vaudeville with his talented wife, has promised that most of the leading vaudeville artists will be with us on the night of May 3rd. Bert says that these vaudeville folks are only too glad to come down and perform for us any time we call upon them.

Then, after the entertainment you can dance to the wonderful tunes of the Pennsylvania Hotel Orchestra.

The tickets will only be one dollar each this year, and you could not see this show for double the price at any leading vaudeville theatre.

It is ten years since we packed away the old khaki—let's have a real old-time reunion with your family and with your Buddies.

Don't forget the date—Friday, May 3rd, at the Pennsylvania Hotel.

VIRGINIA

117th Military Police

Headquarters offers apologies to the Virginia Chapter for misstating the number of paid-up memberships, as printed in the *March Reveille*. We credited them with only 55, whereas the month previous they had 56. We'll blame this on the printer.

Comrade Hitt, president of the Virginia Chapter, writes that they had a very enthusiastic meeting in March and they are planning bigger and better meetings as time goes on—and their wives let them out more often.

Hitt adds that the Virginia Chapter is getting restless awaiting travel orders to the Baltimore Reunion. That's what we like to hear from all the Chapters.

OHIO

166th Infantry

Ohio Chapter is all agog over their State Convention to be held at Mansfield, June 14, 15 and 16.

Recently, State President John A. Brixner, Secretary Sam Lichtenstein, Tom Hardman and Robert Slutz, members of the executive committee, went to Mansfield to complete arrangements for the convention. A big welcome was given to this committee and a greater welcome is promised the entire organization. It is expected that between seven hundred and a thousand Rainbows from throughout Ohio and neighboring states will attend the convention. There is always plenty of entertainment, besides the business. This time, one of the largest privately owned amusement parks in the state has been turned over to the Rainbows.

The Mansfield Chamber of Commerce will broadcast over their own radio station, WLBV, information regarding the convention from time to time.

The Lancaster Sub-Chapter "threw a feed" on the evening of February 21st, attended by a couple hundred Lancastrian Rainbow Veterans and their families. State President Brixner and C. C. Lyons, the latter was a war correspondent during "the late unpleasantness" attached himself frequently to the Rainbow Division, were the speakers.

A Charter was issued during the past month to the Co. G Sub-Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans at Greensfield. The new group has a membership of twenty, which puts it high in the ranking of Ohio Sub-Chapters. This new Sub-Chapter will meet in the near future to elect officers and effect a completed organization.

MARYLAND

117th Trench Mortar Battery

The monthly meeting of the Maryland Chapter on April 4 was a particularly interesting one because of the presence of President "Bill" Screws, Vice-President Manning Marcus, and Walker Colston, President of the D. of C. Chapter.

Preceding the meeting there was a supper and conference at the Southern Hotel of the aforesaid officers and Col Robt. J. Gill, former Commander of the 117th Trench Mortar Battery, and who is General Chairman of the Baltimore Reunion; and the officers of the Maryland Chapter.

A tentative Reunion program was outlined and very soon now a definite program will be agreed upon and made known to all. For
(Continued on page 5)

Report Of Committee On The Grave Marker

The following report was submitted recently to President Screws and is hereby printed in full. For additional information communicate with Comrade Joe Justad, Chairman Grave Marker Committee, in care of the Wyman-Partridge Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

"You have received the report of the committee on Grave Markers from Joe Justad and, as a member of this committee, located in Chicago where the headquarters of the Dirigold Corporation are located (72 E. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois) I am wondering if I can be of any help in carrying on the work of actually getting the markers out and into the hands of the various chapters.

I am constantly in touch with Mr. McCaskey, of the Dirigold Company, who has been instrumental in putting this thing through. I had quite a visit with him a few days ago and he suggested the following plan of procedure in regard to getting these markers out and into service.

He suggests the following steps:

1. Make sample of marker for looking over by President, Secretary, Grave Marker Committee, etc., and, in fact, whoever may wish to see it.
2. Submit to National Secretary or President of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, literature describing and illustrating the markers, giving prices, etc.
3. National Secretary send literature to the various chapters and ask each chapter to buy one marker, sending the man's name and organization, and a check for \$4.70 to cover the cost (as you know, each marker will be individual, that is, it will carry the man's name and organization.) These markers will be sent direct by the Dirigold Corporation to the various chapters which ordered them, and will give these chapters an opportunity of seeing exactly what they are getting and will make it easier to sell them to the families of their comrades. Of course, if the various chapters wish to order a quantity of markers merely upon looking over the literature, they can do so, but it seemed to Mr. McCaskey that there would be a much better chance of selling these in quantity if one of the actual markers had been received.

4. After receipt of one of the markers by various chapters, orders and checks should

be sent to the National Secretary, who should hold these orders until he has collected at least 100, at which time they should be forwarded direct to the Dirigold Corporation, 72 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill., attention Mr. A. S. McCaskey.

After another lot of 100 or more are in the hands of the National Secretary, he again forwards these in the same manner. For your information, the price of \$4.70 each is based upon total order of 1,000 markers,

but this price will apply if orders are sent through in the above mentioned way. As you realize, it is somewhat of a production problem, and the Dirigold Company does not wish to start off with less than 100 orders in hand.

Perhaps you are not ready to go ahead with this matter, but it occurred to me that a good many of the chapters might wish to have these markers for Decoration Day services and, in fact, Joe Justad wrote me that their own chapter would like to have them for this purpose.

It will, of course, not be possible to get any out for Decoration Day unless we step very fast from this time on.

As to paying for these markers, it seemed O.K. to us for members of each chapter to put the proposition up to the families of their comrades who have died over seas, and simply ask them if they wished to purchase one of these markers for the comrade's grave. It would be very nice, of course, for each chapter to donate sufficient markers to take care of all their comrades, but this would run into quite an amount of money which I feel fairly sure none of the chapters now has.

I will be glad to hear from you if there is anything I can do to push this matter along."

Yours in the Rainbow,

HOWARD G. SMITH.

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The face of the marker is shown in the picture. The back of the marker will show the engagements in which the Division participated in. For cemeteries where upright markers are not allowed, this marker can be cased in a plaque, showing both face and back and be sunk into concrete, level with the ground.

