

Rainbow Trail

THE RETURN OF PAUL JARRETT

In 1973 I asked my grandfather one simple question: "Were you in World War II?" He replied, "No, I was too old for WWII." I responded, "You weren't in WWI were you?" He shot back almost immediately, "Hell yes, I was in the Great War as a hand-to-hand combat expert."

I froze. I had never heard of his experiences before this. I was nineteen, a sophomore in college, and he was 78 years old. A kind, jolly and affable man, I had never heard that Paul Jarrett was ever in the military. After several years of interviewing him with a tape recorder I realized why he had never discussed his military career with anyone before: He had killed with his bare hands.

1996: It was twenty-three years later and Paul was seated in a wheelchair. He was now 101 1/2 years old and was only moments from receiving the highest military honor for bravery from the French government: the Legion of Honor. How had this happened?

I had encouraged Paul to remember the memories over all of those years. This is what we all need to do; as children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In order to capture the truth of the world around us by those individuals who were actually there [instead of the history books that are written by those who only read accounts and then put them to paper], we need to take an active part in talking

with our elders. To a lot of us, this sounds simplistic, corny and all too simple. Trust me, I have spent the past several decades checking out this old man called my granddad and it has led me on more trails of adventure than I have space here to tell you about.

1988: Paul, my brother Brad and myself embarked on a trip to France to find those personal battle sites that Paul had been telling me about all of those years.

We found all four that we had set out to find. But more importantly, we were embraced by the French villagers that remember the sacrifice of their American cousins. We were wine and dined by people that we had just met hours earlier. They led us through hill and dale to find WWI sites. They did all of this with the expectation of receiving absolutely nothing in return from us.

1989, ONE YEAR LATER: We returned to France to attend a special ceremony in Paul's honor in the village of Neuville-les-Badonviller. This is the town from which the Rainbow Division launched its first-ever all-American attack on the German trenches in the war, and a village we had discovered the year before.

1996: Seven Years Later: Paul, now 101 1/2 years old received the Legion of Honor for personally carrying back the body of a fellow comrade, Pvt Bryant, after he had been killed in the first attack, on May 3rd, 1918.

On January 28, 1998, at age 102 1/2, Paul Jarrett finally succumbed to old age and passed over the rainbow.

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However, on his death certificate it reads: "Cause of death: pulmonary fibrosis due to WWI mustard gas injury." My question is this: How long would he have lived without breathing the poisonous gasses during his nineteen months in Hell?"

No one will ever know the answer to this question but I can say this without a doubt: the documentary that was produced during these ten years has now won 32 awards and honors. It won't be long before many, many Americans have heard of the Great War and a brave lieutenant named Paul Harrison Jarrett; 1985-1998.

Keep asking questions!
Clark Jarrett

Through Paul and other WWI veterans interviewed, those qualities and sacrifices which characterize all that is good and enduring in America are presented in this video film as an inspiration to Americans of the next century.

-- D. R. Eberhart, WWII
Infantry Veteran

Winner of 32 awards and honors, ten years in the making; archival footage, interviews and computer graphics, this five-part video is the last of its kind. Special Rainbow Division price, \$69.99 for the entire three-tape series. Please make check out to Clark Jarrett, 1723 Amherst Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025; email: CLARKJARRETT@worldnet.att.net

New National Monument to be Unveiled

A new National Monument of interest to Rainbow veterans, family and descendants will be dedicated in Pueblo, CO in September 2000.

Home of Heroes Memorial Plaza located at the SW corner of Pueblo Convention Center will display eight-foot bronze statues of Pueblo's own FOUR Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients. The statues will be surrounded by the more than 3400 names of all Medal recipients since Civil War times. These will be engraved on granite pieces attached to the walls of the Convention Center. In front of the Memorial a flagpole rising from a pool of water will be decorated with three pedestals, each exhibiting one of the three different armed services Medals of Honor. A lectern flanked by two granite benches will face the flag.

As the daughter of a WWII veteran who witnessed the actions of one MOH recipient, Vito Bertoldo, I can't help but feel grateful that the actions of this man in the course of battle contributed almost certainly to my father's continued life and liberty.

The five other Rainbow veterans to be included in the Pueblo Memorial had similar impact on the lives of others. This unique Memorial will permit us an opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks for all men and women who were awarded the MOH...and then, reflecting further, to honor all others who fought for their country and ours!

The six Rainbow veterans who were awarded the Medal of Honor are:

Richard W. O'Neil, Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company D, 165th Infantry, 42nd Division; Place and Date: On the Ourcq River, France, 30 July 1918.

Thomas C. Neibaur, Private, U.S. Army, Company M, 107th Infantry, 42nd Division; Place and Date: Near Landres-et-St. Georges, France, 16 October 1918.

Sidney E. Manning, Corporal, U.S. Army, Company G, 167th Infantry, 42nd Division; Place and Date: Near Breuvannes, France, 28 July 1918.

William Joseph Donovan, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, 165th Infantry, 42nd Division; Place and Date: Near Landres-et St. Georges, France, 14-15 October 1918.

Michael A. Donaldson, Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company I, 165th Infantry, 42nd Division; Place and Date: At Sommerance-Landres-et St. Georges Road, France, 14 October 1918.

Vito R. Bertoldo, Master Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company A, 242nd Infantry Division; Place and Date: Hatten, France, 9-10 January 1945.

CITATION for Richard W. O'Neil

In advance of an assaulting line, he attacked a detachment of about 25 of the enemy. In the ensuing hand-to-hand encounter he sustained pistol wounds, but heroically continued in the advance, during which he received additional wounds; but, with great physical effort, he remained in active command of his detachment. Being again wounded, he was forced by weakness and loss of blood to be evacuated, but insisted upon being taken first to the battalion commander in order to transmit to him valuable information relative to enemy positions and the disposition of our men.

(to be continued next issue)

To view text of the actual citations and more on MOH history:

<http://www.homeofheroes.com>

--submitted by
Suellen R. McDaniel

REUNIONS 2000

National Annual Reunion

Cincinnati, Ohio

July 12-15, 2000

Place:

Regal Cincinnati Hotel
150 West Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2393

Tel: (513)352-2100

Fax: (513)352-2148

Contact:

Mr. Louis J. Hendricks
6609 Mariemont Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45227-4234

Pueblo Reunion 2000

Thursday, September 21

- Dedication/Unveiling of Medal of Honor Memorial.
 - Open House sponsored by Governor Bill Owens
- Saturday, September 23
- Memorial Service

For more information contact
Paulette Stuart
ptstuart@chieftan.com
800-279-6397

The Mailbag:



Ken Carpenter
(editor of The
Rainbow
Reveille) writes:

"Congratulations on the formation of the Millennium Chapter. It makes all of us old timers feel much more comfortable in the knowledge that Rainbow will be in good hands in the future. I received the first issue of your newsletter and though it was great. I would appreciate mention of The Final Crisis. As you know, nine Rainbow men invested in the financing and it now appears we will be able to return the money. We have 70 copies remaining of the 750 originals."

To receive a copy of "The Final Crisis: Combat in the Northern Alsace, January 1945", please send a check made out to Aegis Consulting Group for \$33.95 (\$29.95 for the book and \$4.00 for postage and padded mailer)

to : Aegis Consulting Group
P.O. Box 629 Bedford, PA
15522 Be sure to include
your mailing address and
phone number with your
order.



Greetings from the
National Auxiliary
Rainbow Division
Veterans to
current and
future members of the
RDV Millennium Chapter.

Thank you for your interest and your membership. You are members of a unique organization. The RAINBOW represents one from many and many from one. The symbol spans the country as did the 26 States and the District of Columbia contributing their National Guard units August 1917.

"The Division constituted a complete, compact, cohesive, single unit." (Raymond S. Tompkins, The Story of the Rainbow Division) The "single unit" concept continues the Rainbow today. FOR THE GOOD OF THE RAINBOW defines your goals.

--National Auxiliary President
Barbara C. Eberhart



Art Lee (a volunteer who helps relatives locate information on their Rainbow Veteran) has sent the following instructions for an inquirer seeking unit information for their veteran:

In order to obtain information about a veteran, you will first need the unit identification (company, battalion and regiment) to which your relative was assigned. This can be found on the Enlisted Record and Report of Separation-Honorable Discharge or Form 53-55 Item No. 6.

If you do not have the original copy of this document, you should contact your local regional VA office (you can

call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000 to get the address and phone number of your local office) and make application for a duplicate copy of your relative's Form 53-55. You will need to have your relative's full name and army serial number.

When you have the unit identification of the organization to which your relative was assigned, we can immediately begin the process of compiling the background information you are seeking about your relative.

You can contact Art Lee by writing to him at:

Arthur N. Lee, Jr.
2050 West Illinois Avenue
Apartment 2L
Aurora, IL 60506-1869-31

WWII VIDEO

TRAIL OF THE RAINBOW DOCUMENTARY

by Rainbow Veteran
Sam Dann, 222nd Infantry
Regiment Company H,
and his son, David

This one cassette video has been shown twice by PBS in the New York/New Jersey area. It contains historical combat footage interspersed with interviews with WWII Rainbow veterans.

It is priced at \$19.95 + \$3.95
S&H per cassette
(Connecticut residents add
6% sales tax).

Make check payable to:
Brookside Associates

mail to:
15 Dorado CT.
Wilton, CT 06897.
E-mail: ddann@snet.net



Journey to the Ourcq River Part 2

As we walked away from La Croix Rouge Farm on that Sunday last September, I asked my newfound French friends, Gilles Lagin and Florent Deludet, "Where next?" Gilles replied, "Let's first visit the Oise Aisne American Cemetery."

This is the second largest WWI American cemetery in Europe containing the graves of almost 8000 men. It is located just north of the Ourcq River near the village of Seringes. The director of the cemetery, a retired US Army officer, was just leaving his office but gave me a little background on the cemetery and provided from his computer a list of the almost 400 Rainbow soldiers buried there. He indicated that between 50,000 and 60,000 visited each year. The cemetery land was purchased in 1920 by the French Jewish War Veterans and deeded to the United States as a gift. The dead buried by the Rainbow in 1918 at a nearby location were moved to the new cemetery with a funeral service conducted for each man.

The Oise -Aisne Cemetery with its white marble crosses, large shade trees, and manicured green lawns is a beautiful but sobering place. Gilles indicated the French who work there take great pride in keeping it immaculate. Many of the Rainbow markers are just inside the main arched gate. Joyce Kilmer's grave is just to the right of the entrance about fifty feet.

We walked with hushed voices down the lines of crosses reading the names as we went. Every state in the Union must be represented there. At the far end of the cemetery is a small chapel which is featured in the video "The Return of Paul Jarrett."

Returning to the parking lot Gilles said, "Right next door is the Meurcy Farm. Let's pay it a visit."

The Battle of the Ourcq River

The attack by the Rainbow 167th and 168th Infantry on the German strong point at La Croix Rouge Farm on the night of 26 July 1918 caused the enemy to withdraw across the Ourcq River, covered by continuous shelling from their artillery, and digging into new positions. The Rainbow moved close to the south bank of the Ourcq and formed up for

an assault. The front was about 3000 yards in length with the 168th (Iowa) moving to a point just south and to the east of the town of Sergy. To their left came the 167th (Alabama), then the 165th (New York), and on the far left the 166th (Ohio). Enemy strong points to be taken after forcing a crossing of the river were Hill 212 east of Sergy, the town of Sergy, the Meurcy Farm and high ground around it, and the village of Seringes.

At 5:15 AM on July 28, under the cover of fog, Company L, 168th crossed the Ourcq with orders to take Hill 212. As the fog lifted they were spotted and subjected to heavy fire. Corporal Sidney Manning won his Medal of Honor on this day leading the 35 men in his platoon up the hill and capturing a position with his seven remaining men. He held off a large enemy body only 50 yards away with his automatic rifle until the line was consolidated. Only then did he drag himself to shelter suffering from nine wounds.

As the regimental units crossed the river along the entire front they were met with merciless artillery and machine gun fire. The mustard gas shells exploding in low-lying ground made it almost impossible to use these places for cover. Much of the land was wheat fields and the men spread out in small groups lunging ahead a few yards and hitting the ground...then advancing a few more yards. The German gunners in the fields were covered by snipers who took an awful toll on the Americans. These gunners would only try to surrender when their position was almost overrun. The Americans found that the rifle butt was an excellent weapon...better than the bayonet. Few prisoners were taken.

The then Major William Donovan commanding the 3rd Battalion, 165th Infantry managed to get his men across the Ourcq late in the afternoon of July 28. The next morning he began his advance on the Meurcy Farm about 1-1/2 kilometers to the north. The large farm house and attached barns made of stone were defended by 200 Germans covered by machine gun nests spread out on high ground overlooking the advancing troops. Going was tough and casualties high before high ground just west of the farm, a patch of woods called Bois Colas was attained. Attacks by platoon sized patrols were made on the farm buildings and they changed hands several times. Sergeant Richard O'Neill of D Company, 165th won his Medal of Honor while leading one of these patrols. He sustained severe

wounds in hand-to-hand combat with 25 of the enemy but continued to lead his men.

The famous poet, Joyce Kilmer, was serving as Major Donovan's Sergeant Major, and volunteered to take a patrol to the north edge of the Bois Colas overlooking Seringes. While moving along just inside the woods he was hit by a sniper's bullets and died instantly.

In the 10-day battle spanning July 25 until the enemy retreat on August 3, the Rainbow paid a terrible price, 1410 killed and 5049 wounded.

The regimental history books published after the war and the book "Americans All" contain detailed accounts of this battle and the personal experiences of the men who fought and died. They are recommended reading for those who want to learn the horrors of modern warfare and how the citizen-soldiers of the Rainbow defeated the superior firepower and professional soldiers of the 4th Prussian Guard.

The Meurcy Farm is adjacent to the Oise - Aisne Cemetery and connected to the main road by a long drive which ends in a small parking lot in front of the main house. The house is a huge three story stone structure with two large stone barns extending to the rear of the house and must be at least 150 years old. The land immediately adjacent to the house is beautifully landscaped with large trees, blooming shrubs, and flowerbeds. It sits on high ground overlooking the cemetery and the village of Seringes et Nesles. A truly lovely place which bears no visible scars of the battle fought there some 82 years ago.

As we parked our cars, the curious owner of Meurcy Farm came out the front door and introduced himself. He is Jacques Damery. He invited us in, introduced us to his wife, and settled we five strangers around a table. We learned that he is the Mayor of Seringes-et-Nesles, that the Meurcy Farm has been in his family since 1871, and that he has considerable knowledge and interest in the Rainbow Division of WWI. He is 76 years old which I deduced from a comment that he had met William Donovan who had commanded one of the 165th infantry battalions, and revisited the farm in 1932 when the Mayor was nine years old.

Mayor Damery does not speak English so through my three interpreters I told him something about the RDVA and that there may be an interest in placing a memorial to the Ourcq River battle in the area.