

# RAINBOW TRAIL

*The Newsletter of the Millennium (Rainbow Family) Chapter  
Of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation  
December 2008 Volume 9, Issue 2*

## “To Find, Preserve and Share Rainbow Division History”



### Glimpses Of The Rainbow

**At BIRMINGHAM Nov 2008**, the 61st annual celebration of National Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama.

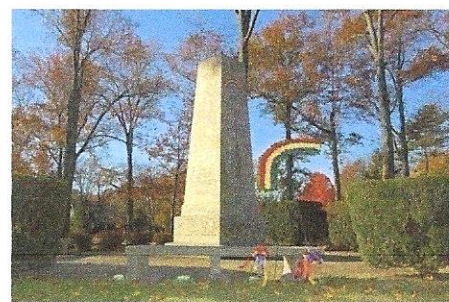
“Each year, we salute those men and women who have served their country in the past as members of the armed services and those today who proudly wear the uniform of the active, reserve, and national guard forces.

We pause to remember and honor those who made the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives so that today we can enjoy peace and freedom.”  
[www.nationalveteransday.org](http://www.nationalveteransday.org)  
[photos by Earnie Owen]

Linda Owen, Mrs. Earnie Owen, is the daughter in law of Arnold (242-M) and Murel Owen. **From Linda’s speech as new RDVMF National Auxiliary President July 2008:** “We in the Millennium (Family) Chapter must accept the mantle of service, not allowing the past and future sacrifices to go unheralded by inactivity. Let us not wonder if we did enough or said enough to keep that heritage alive. Valiant men

and women have served our country, sacrificing lives, limbs, homes, families and friends to grant us the freedom we now enjoy. Make no mistake! Freedom is not free!! It costs some everything!!! Veterans and families, please share with your children what you went through! There is no gender in sacrifice. How can we remember if you don’t tell us? I will remember. I tell my children so they will remember. I tell my grandchildren so they will remember! I wish there was no need of military

presence in our world or the sacrifices made, but as long as there is, I am proud to be an American.” [Rainbow daughters, Millennium Chapter members Shirley Kinsey (VP), Beverly Glosser, (Treasurer); Katherine Timothy (Historian) have also been elected this year to office in the National Auxiliary]  
**photo: L-R Murel Owen, Fran Walter, Linda Owen, Shirley Kinsey.**



“A brief, prayerful and touching Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Rainbow Division Monument, Garden City, NY, site of the WWI Camp Mills, by the William Bradford Turner Post No.265, American Legion, in cooperation with the RDVMF Memorials Officer, Jim Clemons. The magnificent autumn day honors 91 years of Rainbow, 1917 – 2008 and those who have served.” **From Jim Clemons, with photo**

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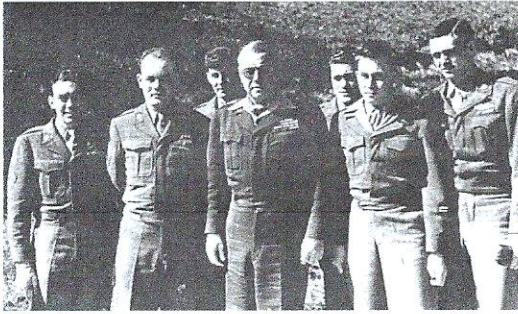
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Earnie Owen <redjackk@aol.com>



## REMEMBERING MAJOR GENERAL HARRY J. COLLINS

From **Dee R. Eberhart, 242-I** (July 2008) "At Salt Lake City last week **Robert Guyton** asked me if I was in touch with any of General Collins' descendants. He handed me copies of a couple of photos for you to forward or use as you see fit (enclosed). Bob Guyton had been in the 66th Division; came to Hq. 242 in August 1945, then was sent to Division M.P.'s and finally became one of Harry Collins' drivers." [ed. The photos and letter were sent to MG Collins' grandson]

"In the group picture, taken in March '46, he identified the people as: Harry Collins in the foreground and then from left to right, Hunt; 2nd man, name unknown; 3rd, David Braun; 4th Gen. Collins; 5th, man in back unknown; 6th, Joe Parzinger; and 7th, Robert Guyton. He wrote: This group headed for home except for Gen. Collins."



From his presentation at his retirement home on Veterans Day, 2008, by **Col. Theodore R. MacKechnie, (U.S. Army, Ret.)**, Junior Aide to General Collins during the war and Senior Aide after the war: "General Harry Collins, known to his contemporaries as "Hollywood Harry" because he was handsome and a natural showman, replete with dark glasses, silk scarf and riding crop. He was an excellent horseman and polo player early on at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also rolled his own Bull Durham cigarettes. He had an innovative mind and promulgated the concept of indirect-fire with machine guns as a Captain of Infantry. General Collins reactivated

the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma in July 1943. Prior to reactivation of the division the general contacted each governor and received the state flag from each of the then 48 states. Being Irish, the general sent off to Ireland for ten or so bag-pipes, and had members of the division band learn how to play them. So when the division had a parade, it was quite a show; flags, bag-pipes and troops. More than a showman, however, General Collins was an aggressive, inspirational leader. In France in January 1945, his three infantry regiments were thrown into the line in an almost desperate effort to stem the German army's plan to flank the U.S. forces and take Strasbourg, France. Even without artillery, tanks, air support and other needed elements, the Rainbowers were given orders to "hold at all costs". And they did; stopped the German advance (they gave up and withdrew) but at heavy cost to our troops in casualties and prisoners. After reconstituting, the division was prepared to attack on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1945. Thanks to General Collins' insistence on aggressive patrolling and day and night reconnaissance, the division crossed the Rhine, assaulted the Siegfried line and in a dawn attack took the walled city of Wurzburg. There on the huge wall around the city were the words "HEIL HITLER". General Collins immediately ordered it painted out, replaced by 42D INF DIV" and on either side had Rainbows painted in color. Thereafter, Rainbows were painted on every town we took. The division had just taken the bombed out manufacturing city of Schweinfurt when word was received of the death of President Roosevelt. The general gathered available troops, broke out the 48 state flags and held a memorial service to honor the President. The division took Nuremburg and Munich and in conjunction with the 45<sup>th</sup> Division uncovered the death camp, DACHAU. VE-Day found the division on the border of Austria and quickly moved to the international ski-resort town of Kitzbuhel. In time the division moved its headquarters to Salzburg and was given a new occupation mission throughout Zone Command Austria. General Collins died in 1964 and is buried in a church site in Salzburg. "Hollywood Harry" was a fine soldier." [ed. A painting by Col. MacKechnie, also an artist of the Rainbow Division, is printed on page 14]

An anecdote from the letters of **Edwin Rusteberg, (Col. U.S. Army, Ret. d. 1990)** who served during the war in H1B-242 and later in 1945 became MG Collins' Chief of Staff:



" HOLLYWOOD IN THE ALPS " As the war clouds disappeared and peace reigned once more in Europe, the city of Mozart and "The Sound of Music" – Salzburg, Austria, became alive again with the celebrities of the day. It was at the Festspiel Haus, the music center of Salzburg, that I sat one evening with the General and his Staff of Zone Command Austria, to hear Grace Moore sing. She had acquired great fame before the war as the star in "One Night of Love", which Mom and I had enjoyed seeing in our neighborhood years before. Gathering at the Generals' villa in Salzburg, after the performance, to meet the prima donna, and for a late dinner with her, as we

heard the approaching footsteps of our host and guest we overheard the General say: "Come out here on the balcony, Sugar, and meet my staff!!" Handsome, "Hollywood Harry", as General Harry Collins was known, was right at home with his famous guest from the glittering capital of his namesake city! Altho the evening was an exciting and pleasant one with our famous and enchanting guest, our spirits were sombered a short time later with the news of her death in a plane crash in Northern Europe. We felt fortunate tho of having had the pleasure of hearing this "Hollywood" Star in song and meeting her personally at "Hollywood" Harry's informal gathering at his villa. It had been a night to remember as "Hollywood in the Alps!!!" [ed. For photos and history of Grace Moore, go to

<http://www.gracemoore.net/pictures.php>] photo bottom left: General Harry Collins (from the personal photo album of Major. J.B. McCahey, 42D Div HQ, Senior Aide to MG Collins, 1945, sent by Mrs. Mary Lou McCahey)







## TRIBUTE TO A RAINBOW SOLDIER YET UNKNOWN BUT TO GOD

His name was **James H. Runyan**, from Evansville, Tennessee, called "Jim" or "Red" by his buddies. He served in Company "H", 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry "Rainbow" Division. He died on March 6, 1945 while a prisoner of the Germans at **Stalag IV-A**, a prison work camp. He was laid to rest with other American POWs in the churchyard of a small town near the camp.

We looked for his name on the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) web site and found him listed there:

James H. Runyan, Service # 34 990 768, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Entered the Service from Tennessee. Died: 6-Mar-45. Missing in Action or Buried at Sea. Tablets of the Missing at

Epinal American Cemetery, Epinal, France. Awards: Bronze Star [photos taken from the pictorial and review book of the men of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division in training in the 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment at Camp Gruber, OK in November 1944]

This summer, we had received a copy of a letter written on August 21, 1945 to "Jim" Runyan's mother by his buddy Richard Peeples, [photo right] and now it appeared that the grave of Pvt. Runyan, still listed as missing in action, had never been found. We asked our friend, Rob Stal, the history teacher from The Netherlands to whom we were introduced in the June 2008 issue of *Rainbow Trail*, if he could help us learn more. Rob and his students regularly visit the grave of another American Rainbow soldier, Robert J. "Bob" Kile at the American Cemetery of Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, and are dedicated to preserving the memory of those who died in the cause of freedom. A copy of Richard Peeples' Letter to the Mother of "Jim" Runyan was sent to him.

### [Richard Peeples Letter to the Mother of Jim Runyan]

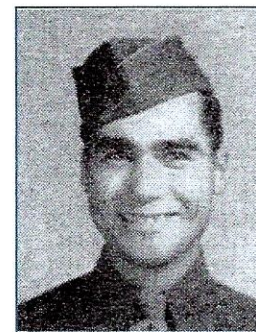
Transcribed by Suellen McDaniel on 08/13/2008 from a copy of the original typewritten letter]

21 August 1945

Dear Mrs. Runyan, It's wonderful to hear from the mother of my good friend, Jim, and to know that I can be of some help.

Your son's young life ended very quickly when on March 5<sup>th</sup> he entered our makeshift hospital in Lager IV A, a prison camp in Lillienstien, Germany. He had caught a severe case of pneumonia and since he was in a very much weakened condition from hard work and lack of food (a condition which we were all in), he didn't have enough resistance to fight off the disease. Jim was one of the first to go. We lost several each month after that. We took care of Jim the best we could. We had a little funeral and buried his body in the churchyard in the small German farming village of Waltersdorf. This is about fifty miles south of Dresden near the Elbe River.

"Red", as we usually called him, came into the Rainbow Division a month or slightly more before we went overseas. A short time in the outfit compared to many of us but I got to know and like him well very shortly. I was an acting Sergeant at the time so it was I who taught him about the machine gun. I suppose that you heard from him after we arrived at Marseilles France on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1944. We were there until the 19<sup>th</sup> when we moved by train and jeeps across the whole of France to Strasbourg in Alsace Lorraine. We arrived in Strasbourg after a long cold trip on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. On Christmas Eve we set up garrison in the town of Graffenstatten – a German-speaking part of Alsace. Here our duties consisted of night motorized patrols with the machine-guns and jeeps. We scouted around the old forts and pillboxes on the Maginot Line looking for trouble. We had fine big turkey dinners here on Christmas and New Year's days. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> we went up to take our places on the lines. We dug foxholes and emplacements near Obernal. The plan was then to take up winter positions in the mountains and wait for the spring thaw to make a big drive. The Jerries had other ideas so on the 5<sup>th</sup> we were moved to Brumath to be in reserve for the 79<sup>th</sup> Division which was then on the lines. Immediately the Jerries broke through the lines and we of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 242<sup>nd</sup> inf., were sent against the "handful of Germans" that had broken across the Rhine. We started from the town of Hoerd in battle formation and soon underwent a heavy barrage of Artillery fire which was to last for two days. We moved against the enemy very rapidly for two days but then found that we had been lured into a trap. The Jerries had us surrounded and now proceeded to throw everything they had at us. We were given the order to retreat but we in the machine gun outfits had to stay to keep the Jerries pinned down with fire so that our rifle troops ahead of us could withdraw. By the time that most of them had gotten back the Jerries were on us with overwhelming numbers of men and tanks. They came up under a smoke screen with fixed bayonets to make us surrender. There were quite a few officers and we Enlisted Men who were caught in a big trench that was formerly an antiaircraft emplacement. Fourteen of us from company H were taken including our C.O. Those who were wounded were then given first aid by the German Medics and we were all marched quickly across the Rhine into Germany. We slept in a schoolhouse in a German town, the name of which I don't remember. We were searched and questioned the next day and nibbled on the small piece of black bread which had been given us the night before. We hadn't eaten for a day before we were captured because we had been moving too fast and the battle had been too hot for the mess personnel to get food to us. We had been captured January 6<sup>th</sup> and on January 7<sup>th</sup> we began a long trek which was to take us deep into Germany. We marched all that day and half the night before we came to a camp of Russian prisoners where we stayed the night. (still no





food). The next morning we were given potato & sauerkraut soup that filled our bellies for a short time. Capt. Kordik, H company C.O., and Lt. Beatty had been with us at the school house and we met again when we were put with the officers the next morning for another long hike. The enlisted men of H company that were still together were Harris, Hornsby, Groves, Smith, Behm, Zickler, Stark, Pruznick, Beeler, Runyan and Peeples. We were piled into a railway station at Baden-Baden to sleep. We had been marching all day through deep snow and cold so were plenty tired. The next morning we were given a small bread ration and a tiny piece of margarine. We were then crowded into boxcars — cold and cramped, where we were to ride for the next three days with little water and one small piece of bread each day. Early on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> we arrived at Ludwigsburg. There was a blizzard howling and the guards marched us around in circles for a few hours before finding the prison camp. They had done the same thing before getting to the Russian camp. The barracks here were huge and cold old cavalry stables. We were given a little bread and cheese the next day. After that day we got a little bread each morning and some thin soup each afternoon. We had to stand still in the zero weather here for hour long roll calls twice a day. We all stuck together and were in good spirits here expecting a speedy end to the war. We wrote a form P.O.W. card in French from here on about the 12<sup>th</sup>. We received one American Red Cross parcel here for each four men. Bueler, Groves, "Red", and I went in together on one. It made a few bites for each of us but we couldn't make it last long. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we started on another boxcar trip and after four grueling days of little bread, no soup, cold and sickness (dysentery and diarrhea were always with us), we arrived at the prison camp at Muhleburg, Lager IV B. The conditions here were terrible. There were poorly constructed shacks that were never warm. The food was as scarce and as bad as ever. Ice formed on the straw on the floor which was our bed. We had no blankets but some of us were fortunate enough to have been captured wearing overcoats, Red and I included. Nobody's health had broken yet in our little group of Co. H men except for Groves and Behm, both of whom had dysentery. There were many seasoned prisoners here of all nationalities from English to Yugoslavian. They had a trading post set up to exchange bits of food and other essentials such as combs, gloves, cigarettes, paper, and socks. Since we received only one Red Cross parcel here to eight men we had little with which to barter. The English prisoners had set up a church here. Red and I and some of the other fellows went. It was a great comfort and gave us hope. We read our little pocket army bibles often. Red said that he had never before gone to church much or thought much of God but that he now could see how much he needed and depended on his help and that he would be a changed man in this respect when he returned home. We wrote a card from here on the 25<sup>th</sup> and I remember that I asked mostly for food on mine to my mother as that is certainly what we were in great need of. My mom didn't receive mine until late in April, however. Due to the confusion that Germany was in at that time none of the many cards that we wrote each week from then on got very far. Groves, Stark, Runyan, and I were the only captured H Co. men left together when we boarded boxcars to leave Muhleburg as the others who were privates had made themselves non-commissioned officers on their papers in order to get out of work. I, among others, thought it best to stay a PFC and work as it was believed by us that the ones who worked would get larger rations. Food was the real problem. The day before leaving here we had been left standing out in the snow in the sub-zero weather for nearly twelve hours while a few of the hundreds of men were taken in a building at a time to be questioned. It was here that I contracted frostbitten feet that hurt me pretty much for three weeks after. There is still some numbness about them. This was January 31<sup>st</sup>. We then took another boxcar trip. There was no water at all on this trip and our rations consisted of ¼ a loaf of bread, a couple of spoonfuls of corned beef, and a small chunk of margarine. I had a bad case of dysentery by this time as did many other of the men. I was almost too sick to move here and Red helped me out a lot by toasting my bread to charcoal (we had a small stove on this boxcar) so I could get rid of my dysentery. My feet were so sore that I had to yell whenever anyone bumped them. The cars were so crowded we overlapped one another's spaces and the bumping couldn't be helped. Red was not sick at this time — but extremely hungry like everyone else. We had all lost a lot of weight by this time. We noticed when we looked at each other in our delousing showers in Muhleburg how thin and bony-looking we were all becoming. We arrived at Lillienstien Germany, a prison work camp, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. We were so thirsty when we got out of the cars that we ate snow by the handful all the way up the winding road that went up the mountain to Lillienstien. We got off the train at Rathmansdorf. The living conditions were slightly better here than they had been at Muhleburg in that we had crude bunks and small stoves in the barracks. The place was newly built and located in a pine woods. We had no water running into the camp until we finished digging a pipeline from Waltersdorf in March. Until then we had to bring it up from town in a big tank on a wagon. Groves and I were unable to work the first week in this camp as we were so sick with frozen feet and dysentery. By the middle of February, however, we were all working. When a man got too sick he was put in a bunk in the Revier (medical dispensary). There were very few medical supplies and only one doctor, a Polish officer who was also a prisoner. A couple of our captured medics helped out. Red and I were assigned to different barracks for some reason or other and so we were on different work gangs. We went out to work under guard in the surrounding towns each day in the early morning dark and came back to the camp at dusk for our soup and bread. We dug ditches with picks and shovels and sometimes moved rocks or dug roads out of the mountainsides. I managed to see Red in the evenings and on Sundays. We received a few Red Cross parcels — none in February, two in March, and one in April. It was never one to a man like they should have been but one box to two, four, or six men. Red and I shared a few measly Polish cigarettes that the Jerries gave to us. Groves gave Red some of his bread when Groves was too sick to eat it himself. Groves went to the hospital (revier) in late February in a very weakened condition from dysentery for a week and a half. We were all examined in February by a German doctor to determine which of those among us were too sick and weak to go on working. Red was selected as one of these to stop working. He had been taken off his work gang and was awaiting shipment back to Muhleburg when he entered the Revier with a terrible case of pneumonia on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The doctor there did everything he could but the case had been caught too late and he had very little medicine or supplies with



which to work. The next morning I learned that our swell friend, Red, had passed away in the night. It might have happened to any one of us and did happen to others after Red because we were all so low in resistance that we were susceptible to any germ that might come along. There had been two young fellows that had died the week before and I had helped as a pallbearer at the funeral but now it had really struck home to us. Our close buddy, Red, had gone from us and his beloved family. We buried him with a white cross above his grave that bore his name, his age, and his army serial number. There are some others of his American buddies resting near him. We made coffins of white pine and wreaths of pine branches. We had church services in the camp and gave Red a funeral with our little pocket bibles to help out. We kept on working and hoping that although others died later, the majority of us lived to be liberated by the Russians in May. I was badly kicked by a guard in April and my spine is still sore but I'm very glad to have gotten off with only that. I lost fifty lbs but have gained that all back in the three months since I've been out. It's wonderful to be home again and, needless to say, my folks were very glad to see me again after I had caused them so much worry. My experiences in Germany now all seem like a bad dream but we'll never forget the pals we left there. Another friend of mine (a man that I had gone all through High School with) died exactly two months after Red --- on the day before the war ended. I had to bring the bad news home to his folks as the war dep't hadn't notified them yet. [ed. this was Robert J. "Bob" Kile, whose story was printed in the June 2008 issue of Rainbow Trail]. Please feel that you can write to me any time, Mrs. Runyan. I've already told you quite a bit. I only hope that it isn't too much for you.

Love from Red's friend, Richard Peeples

[map sent by Rainbow veteran **Ray Essig, 232-G**, who was also at Stalag IV-A. NOTE: Ray has circled in red the location of Stalag IV-A. His story and Richard Peeples' are in the book, Hold At All Cost/42nd Rainbow Division Prisoners of War, pub. 2004, by the RDVMF]

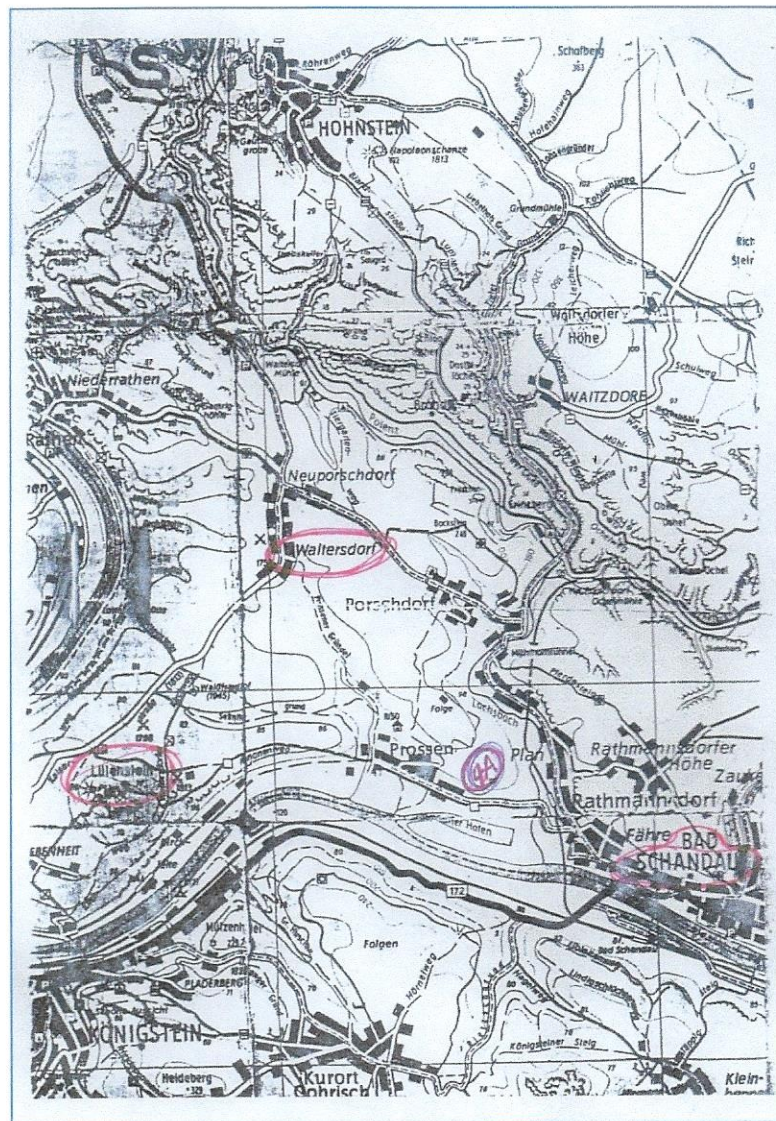
**From Rob Stal (08/07/08):** Today I received mail about Pvt Runyan. It was less than I was hoping. It was a letter telling that ABMC will send me 2 pictures of his name in 6 to 8 weeks. Along with the photos will they send a lithograph about the memorial and a booklet about the memorial. Besides that they send an application form for standard government headstone or marker. This can be placed on any American cemetery. I believe that his family needs to fill in this form so I don't really know what to do with it. The third document in the letter was an order form and cheque for flowers near his grave. I already filled this in and send the cheque back. I will try to email again to Germany since I haven't heard anything from them. I'm sorry I was not able to do more for you at this moment but I will keep on trying.

**From Rob Stal (08/12/08):** I just came back from Henri-Chapelle cemetery. There I spoke with a man from ABMC about Pvt. Runyan. He found it very interesting that a soldier could still be there without anybody knowing it. In his words, "if one of our boys is still there we need to get him back home" He used to work at the grave registration service in Hawaii and is now stationed in Belgium. He will try to help me find his grave.

**From Rob Stal (08/21/08):** From Strassbourg we went to Epinal this morning. I took a picture of the wall of missing where Pvt. Runyan's name is listed. I also got in touch with an amateur historian who lives in Germany and he will help me search for his grave. Finally somebody in Germany who wants to help. Most people did not even reply to my email to tell me that they don't want to help. But hopefully this man can help us further.

**From Rob Stal (09/23/08):** Today I spoke with Dwight Anderson from Henri Chapelle. He said that he can not access the systems for the IDPF. That means that he can't get faster than us and we need to request it ourself. He said that the European ABMC general was very interested in this case and if he has time he will try to talk to some people in Germany. Epinal has no information. In fact, only what we gave them. So our hopes are on the IDPF and on Ulf Bielski, who will try to go to Waltersdorf. Do you think it will be faster if you request the IDPF?

[ed. On September 24, 2008 we requested the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Pvt. James H. Runyan from The Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia and received a reply dated October 1, 2008. "...This Command maintains IDPFs on individuals from all branches of service who died while overseas during World War II and Korea; and for Army





personnel who were killed while overseas in Southeast Asia. The IDPFs contain death and burial information....Please be assured that your request will be processed as soon as possible. [ed. up to 24 weeks]. Sincerely, Thomas M. Jones, Chief, Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Office]

**From Rob Stal (09/30/08):** I just got the following news from Germany: [German letter follows]. In English this means that Annemarie asked her daughter to ask around (she is just as Ulf, an amateur historian). She interviewed the old residents of the town. They told her that in the Liliensteincamp the most people came from Italy, England, France and America. Dead soldiers were brought to a cemetery in Porschdorf. From that cemetery after the war all the Americans were brought back to Epinal except for one. They could not find the body of one soldier because he was buried without a cross on his grave. Probably this is not Runyan since Mr. Peebles wrote that they put a white cross on his grave. If this is correct there are two options, 1) The Americans brought him back but could not identify him (that is strange). 2) He is not buried at that cemetery or not with a white cross. So I don't really know if this is good or bad news or no news at all.

**From Rob Stal (10/14/08):** I just got an email from Annemarie [translation] In English this means that there is no graveyard in Waltersdorf. Soldiers were buried in Porschdorf near the church. All the Americans who were buried there are taken back to Belgium, France or the US. She even speaks of an American soldier buried on the POW camp. Even he is reburied. I guess this must be Robert Kile. I'm very sad to say but I think Mr. Runyan is buried at Epinal or Henri-Chapelle in an unknown grave. Do you know if anything happened to his body so they could not identify him? It is very strange that they knew where he was buried that they listed him in Epinal but nobody knows where his grave is. Maybe the IDPF will help us a little bit more. I will email Ulf and Mr. Anderson again if they have more news but I don't expect a lot. I know that only in Henri Chapelle are at least 6 graves. They have a white cross on them and the text: "Here rests an unknown soldier known only to God."

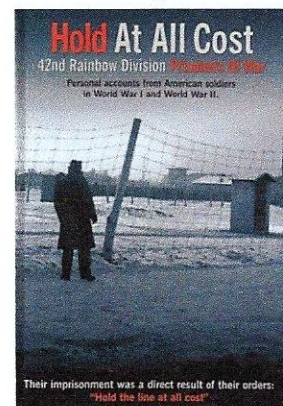
**From Rob Stal (10/15/08):** I received this email from Dwight Anderson from ABMC: "I want to wait and see if the German War Graves people can find something out. They are good folks and have a lot of information we may not know. So I have not given up hope yet. We have something called X-files on the unknowns but there are a lot of them and I only have them for the unknowns here in Henri-Chapelle." So, the German War Graves are still searching and there is information on the unknowns. So perhaps we could see what Epinal has on this. **[To be Continued.]**

**Notes received** from Rainbow veterans ordering **Hold At All Cost**: [this book is still available for ordering. Checks or money orders payable to RDVMF in the amount of \$15.00/copy may be mailed to Suellen McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Dr., Newton, NC 28658-9452. Please be sure to include your USPS address/tel. number.]

**John F. Cioffari, 242-C:** (10/2008) "I received "Hold At All Cost" and shed a tear or two for those young prisoners. I never realized that they suffered so much, lack of food, cold, lice etc. Thank God the war didn't last any longer as they all would have perished."

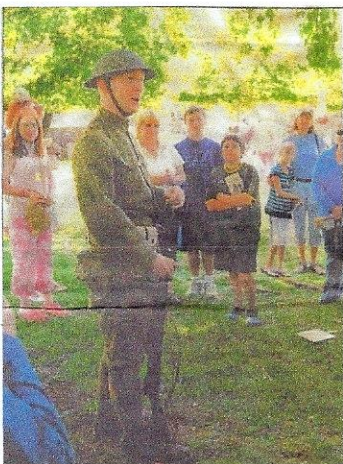
**Sam Gillette, 242-C** (09/2008): "Hold At All Cost" is not what I was told over the field phone in Hatten - I was told, "Hold on, we'll be back to get you." Shortly after I herded a bunch of guys into the basement of the house in front of the small shed where the phone was and I saw the Exec Officer on the phone - at that point a German Tiger Tank pulled up, swung his big gun around and blew the Officer and phone to smithereens. Read "Survival at Stalag IV-B" by Tony Vercoe.

**James W. Powell, Jr., 242-D:** "POW 1/6/45 till 4/25/45 - 111 DAYS!!!"



## THE RAINBOW DIVISION IN THE GREAT WAR -- *Letters from Rainbow Families*

**A letter from John M. Devlin**, son of Matthew Devlin, Co. L, 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry, WWI: (07/09/2008): "I enjoyed very much reading about **Hill 212** in the last issue of *Rainbow Trail*. I never knew any details about where or how my father was wounded during that battle. That story certainly filled in many blanks."



**From Virginia Harless Cook**, daughter of Lee D. Harless, Sr., Co. "F", 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry, WWI (d.): (06/21/08) Virginia has sent us the May 4, 2008 program from the Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll, Huntsville AL, "Encounter a Voice From Huntsville's Past". There are 73 reenactors listed in the program honoring those who lie there. The Huntsville Times, Monday, May 5, 2008 printed this photo of one of them [photo by Ellen Hudson/Huntsville Times]: **Pvt. Turner Mayes, Co. D, 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42D Division**, 1893-1918 [portrayed by Jim Kolacek]. "Member of the famous Rainbow Division", killed in France during World War I." [Ed.] On p. 413 in the book, *America's Own In France* by William H. Amerine, c. 1919, lists Pvt. Mayes' supreme sacrifice. Pvt. Mayes died on **October 16, 1918**. This time period is part of the Argonne-Meuse Operation. The 42D Division Summary of Operations in the World War prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission 1944 describes the action on pp 65-66, on the date **October 16, 1918**: "On the extreme right the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, with Companies F and H, attached, reorganized during the early morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The reorganized battalion attacked at 10 a.m. and the center

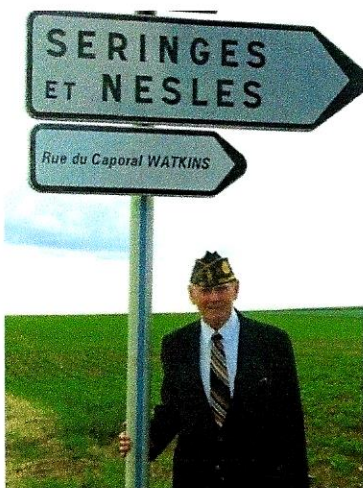


company succeeded in piercing the enemy machine-gun defense. The remainder of the battalion reached the crest of Côte de Châtillon, but was unable to hold its gains, and was forced to withdraw to the foot of the hill. Meanwhile, to the left of the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry, after repulsing a local counterattack during the morning, formed a provisional battalion consisting of Companies E, M and portions of Companies K and I. These troops moved to the right into the zone of action of the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry until their left was opposite La Musarde Ferme, and in the early afternoon, attacked in conjunction with the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry. About 1 p.m. the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry broke up a local counterattack, and about 2 p.m., the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade advanced. [ed. The 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade consisted of the 167<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment; elements of 151<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion]. Company H, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry was held up on the edge of the wood to the west of La Tuillerie Ferme and dug in. About 3 p.m. Companies E and G, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry reinforced the assault Companies to check a counterattack which was forcing the withdrawal of the line. The counterattack having been repulsed, the regiments advanced and seized the crest of Côte de Châtillon, where the front line dug in, in contact with the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry to the left. After getting into the position to the southeast of La Musarde Ferme, the assault battalion of the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry advanced north in one skirmish line and rushed the German lines. A gap was discovered in the wire in the regiment's zone of action and the battalion advanced during the afternoon to the crest of Côte de Châtillon, where it formed a line to the left of the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The front line of the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade for the night extended generally west with its junction with the 32D Division about 400 meters northeast of La Tuillerie Ferme, included the woods on Côte de Châtillon and joined the line of the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry about 400 meters northeast of wood 199. About 7 p.m. the 3D Battalion 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, relieved the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of that regiment in the front line. The **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry** [ed. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion companies included Company "D", the Company of Pvt. Turner Mayes]. began the relief of front line troops of that regiment during the evening, completing the relief about 2 a.m. October 17.

In *Americans All/The Rainbow At War* by Henry J. Reilly, c. 1936, a portion of the action on **October 16, 1918** is described on p. 664- 665: "Here is what happened October 16<sup>th</sup>, the last day of this three day hard combat. The First Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup>, with Companies "F" and "H" attached, attacked at 5:30 hours, "F" replacing "B" and "A", the remnants of which were put in support. Twice during the morning "C" succeeded in passing Tuilerie Farm but each time was forced back again. At 10:30 "F", "H", "C" and "B" from right to left, attacked again. "C" succeeded in making a hole in the hostile machine gun defense, with the result that the rest of the Battalion was able to advance and to reach the crest of the Côte de Châtillon. However, the enemy fire from several directions was so strong that these companies were forced back to the foot of the hill. While this was going on, the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama repulsed a local German counter-attack, then with a provisional Battalion made up of "E" and "M" Companies and portions of "K" and "I", it moved to the right through the gap in the German wire which had been found from an airplane photograph, and formed at its left opposite Musarde Farm. In this position they had the leading companies of the 168<sup>th</sup> Iowa on their right. From this position these companies advanced in one skirmish line. About the time the companies of the 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama formed their line from which they attacked, "C" Company of the 168<sup>th</sup> Iowa broke up a local counter-attack. At about 14 hours the whole line of the 168<sup>th</sup> Iowa and 167<sup>th</sup> Alabama advanced. "H" of the 168<sup>th</sup> was held up on the edge of the woods to the left of Tuilerie Farm and dug in. About 15 hours "E" and "G" Companies of the 168<sup>th</sup> under the threat of a hostile counter-attack, were put in on the right and the left, as the attack was slowly forcing withdrawal of the line. The whole line then advanced, "E", "C", and "B" of the 168<sup>th</sup> taking the crest of the Côte de Châtillon, where they dug in in contact with the 167<sup>th</sup> on the crest to its left. **In other words, the key position of the enemy, the Côte de Châtillon, fell into American hands as the result of a combined attack of the Alabama and Iowa regiments, to whom the division of the honors must be evenly made.**" Thank you, Virginia, for the opportunity to share this moving tribute to Rainbow Division veteran Pvt. Turner Mayes.

**NOTE:** In addition to the two letters below from families of 166<sup>th</sup> Inf. Veterans, and for the history of **Paul Jarrett, Co. M, 166<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., 42D Division** with photos, please visit this fine web site, created by his grandson, **Clark Jarrett:**

<http://www.clarkjarrett.com/PhotoGallery.htm>



FROM **Denny E. Williams** [photo left], a retired history teacher from Wellsburg WV and nephew of William J. Williams and Oliver S. Williams, both of whom served in the Rainbow Division WWI [research underway to determine their unit]: (07/07/08): "...Another reason I thought they were in the 42<sup>nd</sup> is because the American Legion in Follansbee, WV was named after the first soldier from Follansbee that fell in the war. **His name was Emrys Watkins [photo right] and he was killed in the Aisne-Marne offensive on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1918. He was a member of the 166<sup>th</sup> Regt. Of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division [Company F, 2d Battalion].** Emrys joined the Army in August of 1917 in Steubenville, Ohio. The Ohio National Guard is what he first was assigned, but later the Ohio National Guard became the 166<sup>th</sup> Regt. After they were sent to Camp Mills on Long Island. This past May 25<sup>th</sup> I had the honor to help unveil a sign dedicated to the memory of Emrys Watkins who is buried in the Oise-Aisne Cemetery near Fere-en-Tardenois, France. It is called Rue de Caporal Watkins and runs



parallel to the cemetery. The Honorable Craig Stapleton, American Ambassador to France along with Monsieur Jean-Francois  
*Rainbow Trail – December 2008 – page 7*





Colombet, the Prefect of Chateau Thierry, assisted me. Mr. Jeffrey Aarnio who is the Superintendent of the Oise-Aisne thought the road should have a name and since most are named after Presidents or Generals, Mr. Aarnio thought maybe it was time to name it after a common soldier who died in attacking the village the road leads to. Here is a little background on how this all came about. My granddaughter was just finishing up a semester of classes at the American University in Paris on December 16<sup>th</sup> of 2007. She would also turn 21 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. My daughter thought it would be nice if we flew to Paris to celebrate it with her. So we did. My son-in-law, Mark, has a friend in Germany, so Mark thought that we might make a quick trip to Wurzburg to visit his family. He asked me to

check out mapquest for the best way to Germany. It was then I remembered that Emrys Watkins was buried in France, so I went to Google Earth and typed in Fere-en-Tardenois, the cemetery he was buried in. Bingo..., there it was, just 12 miles off the Auto-Route on the way to Germany. I asked Mark on the way back to Paris, if he minded if we stopped and looked for Emrys's grave. So we did. The superintendent Jeffery Aarnio led us to his grave site. Then he did an amazing thing. He took sand and rubbed it in the indentation of the name, then applied a small amount of water. When you take a picture of the tombstone it looks like it's engraved in gold. Very impressive to say the least. The sand is taken from the Normandy Beach, which makes a nice connection to the men of WWII. Three weeks after I returned home, Jeffery sent me an email about his proposal to name the road that runs parallel to the cemetery in honor of Emrys and asked me if I would come and be a part of the ceremony. The rest is history. It was after experiencing this moving event that I wanted to add my two uncles to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Veterans Association. I hope what little information I have passed on will help you identify them." [photo caption: Denny Williams of Wellsburg, far right, was introduced by Jeffrey Aarnio, superintendent of the cemetery where Emrys Watkins is buried, to Craig Stapleton, far left, American Ambassador to France; and facing Williams, Jean-Francois Colombet, the prefect, or state representative, of Chateau Thierry and his wife. They were among many French and Americans who attended a Memorial Day service at which a street named in Watkins' honor was dedicated.]

The 42D Division Summary of Operations in the World War prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission 1944 describes the action on **July 29, 1918**: (p. 27) "The enemy was occupying the heights north of the Ourcq River as a bridgehead position, which was to be held until the night of August 1-2 in order to permit the evacuation of materiel and the preparation of a position on the north bank of the Vesle River. The 42d Division changed the time of attack to 8 a.m., July 29. On the extreme right, the 2d Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, was to lead the advance with the 3d Battalion, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in support. It attacked about 8:30 a.m. from south of Sergy, met stubborn resistance and made no gain. The 3d Battalion, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, moved forward from the vicinity of La Cense with Companies I and L from right to left, leading, and Companies K and M in support. Company I was stopped in front of Sergy and fell back into the woods along the Ourcq River north of La Motte Ferme. Company L drove the Germans from Sergy, passed through the town and reached the ridge to the north. About 5 p.m. it withdrew to the western edge of the town. The 2d Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, placed an outpost along the creek north of Sergy, and organized a line east and south of the town. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3d Battalions, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, remained in the position reached on the previous day. In the right center, the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry did not attack. Companies K and M, 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry, were withdrawn from the front line during the morning and returned to the 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry. During the night of July 29-30 the 2d Battalion, 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry, holding the front line along the sunken road north of the river, was relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry. In the zone of action of the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion moved to the west about 9:30 a.m. to cover Meurcy Ferme ravine and lead the attack, supported by the 2d Battalion. Meurcy Ferme and Bois Colas were captured, but the farm buildings were left unoccupied. The 2d Battalion was echeloned to the right rear to connect with the 167<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Moulin Vert. **On the extreme left, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry, advanced about 8 a.m. and reached the road north of La Fontaine sous Pierre. Stopped by artillery and machine-gun fire, the battalion fell back to La Fontaine sous Pierre. About 4 p.m. the 2d Battalion passed through the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and captured Seringes et Nesles and the eastern portion of Cote 184.** The left of the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry conformed to this advance, Company C taking a position on the slope between Seringes and Bois Colas. To the right of the 42d Division, the 28<sup>th</sup> Division advanced to a line south of Moulin Caranda where contact was established. To the left, the French 62d Division captured Fere-en-Tardenois and advanced to the road south of Cote 184, where contact was established with the 42d Division. In compliance with instructions from the French Sixth Army, the I Corps issued orders at 11 p.m. for the continuation of the attack on July 30 without change in mission." [Denny wrote, in a letter to Barbara Eberhart July 11, 2008, "My grandfather and Emrys father emigrated from the same town in Wales to work in the steel mill at Follansbee. The families were very close and my father who was too young for WWI and Emrys youngest brother were very close friends."]

**From Timothy R. Flood, nephew of Charles G. Flood, [photo right] Co. G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 166<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., 42D Division:** (July 2008): Document from Headquarters 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry American Expeditionary Forces. Germany, January First 1919 - **To Charles Flood, Private, Co. G, 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry.** It gives me great pleasure to commend you upon your gallant and meritorious conduct during the engagement with the enemy in the Aisne-Marne Offensive - July 25 - Aug. 3, 1918. During this operation Pvt. Flood, after delivering a message to Company Headquarters, lost his way and was captured by the enemy. When released from the German Prison Camp, he was given his preference of returning to the United States or returning to his organization. He chose the latter and returned to duty with his company. Your behavior on the above occasion has elicited the



warmest admiration from me, your officers and other comrades in the Regiment. (signed) Benson W. Hough, Colonel, U.S. Army Commanding 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry; Robt. D. Beightler, Captain, U.S.A., 166<sup>th</sup> Inf. Adjutant.

A clipping from the Mansfield [Ohio]News Sunday, November (year missing) accompanied this photo:

**"Stamp of German Prison Has Left Its Mark On Mansfield Soldier With Rainbow Boys/Four**

months of hunger and mistreatment in a German prison camp during the World War have left their stamp upon the memory of Charles G. Flood, who since the war has made Mansfield his home and is now assistant caretaker of the American Legion home. Four months of brutality, unparalleled: of seeing comrades speared on trees; of back-breaking toll on beet-juice soup that would fail to keep an infant alive; such was the experience of Private Flood, messenger in Co. G., 166<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Division. Private Flood was captured July 31, 1918 and was held in prison until Dec. 6, 1918. The occasion of his capture is told in a diary which he kept during the months of his imprisonment [ed. *THE FRIENDSHIP DIARY/presented to the English-Speaking Prisoners of War by The International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations North America/European Headquarters, 10 Effingerstrasse, Bern, Switzerland*], in which he tells casually and without much comment of rather blood-curdling affairs that anyone but a soldier would rave about. "When my company was to move up to the front to join the rest of the company," so runs the memoirs, "as one platoon was already there in the village of Seringes, there were two men missing. Their names were Corporals Searles and Snyder. The sergeant of my platoon asked if anybody knew where they were, and I told him that I knew the way I saw them go. Then, the Sergeant sent me out to locate them. I had seen them go back to a small river, which was called the River Ourcq. I went back to look for them. I searched up and down the river and everywhere I thought they might be. They could not be found, and I returned to where my company had been when I left. Before starting on my search, the sergeant directed me the way to the village where my company would be found when I returned. I followed his directions and thought they were right which he said, went direct to the village. I just kept on walking thinking I was on the right road. Pretty soon I saw a flare go up behind me. Then I thought the village must be on my right. Then, I turned off to the right. Not having my compass with me, and the night dark, I could hardly tell the direction. And all of a sudden I saw about 50 men, rather shadows, and I could hear them talking. As there were French on our left I could not tell whether they were French or Boche. Then I got in a shell hole and listened a while and the shells were dropping very close, both ours and those of the Boche. There was a lot of noise and I could not hear enough to tell if they were French or Boche but knew they were not Americans. I determined to find out who they were, so I whistled twice but they did not hear me, so I waited a little and whistled twice again and they answered. So I thought they must be French, for if they were Boche I felt they would have fired at me. Then I raised up from where I was lying and walked up to the bunch of men, of which I could see the shadows, thinking they were French. Just as I saw who they were, they saw who I was, and one of them grabbed me and one grabbed my rifle. They called me "Tommy" and I said "No, I am an American." Then they said, "Coopute Allas Amerikanos Gefangenen" meaning in English that they kill all American prisoners of war. One of them started to take hold of me to kill me and another German would not let him, so they had a little scrap over me, one wanting to kill me and the other one objecting. I think the one who did not want to kill me was an American spy in the German army."



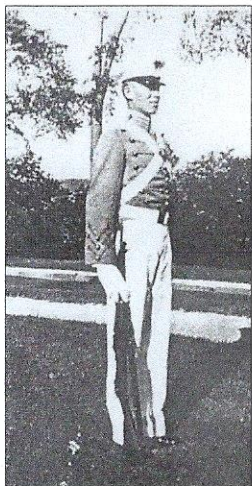
Following his capture, Private Flood was taken to the officers of the regiment and questioned closely. However, he pretended that he knew nothing, but what he didn't know the Germans supplied. According to his diary, they knew more about the American army than the American soldiers themselves. After five days of questioning, they took Private Flood to Laon, France, where he was held for about four weeks. They were compelled to get up about 3 o'clock every morning and have breakfast of a kind of tea made out of weeds. After such a hearty meal, the Americans, British, French and Italians would be sorted out like so many cattle and set to work building roads, railroads, cutting wood and repairing old buildings. Once a day they would be fed 50 grammes of bread and soup made from dried sugar beets, soaked in water for three or four days. Their supper would be hot water. Naturally, the men failed to thrive on such a diet, and when, after the armistice was signed, nourishing foods were given them, many of the men died from over-eating. After four weeks at Laon, the American soldier was taken to Harison, France, close to the Belgian border, where he was kept in a dungeon for 30 days and fed bread and water and a small slice of sawdust bread once a day. At the end of his solitary confinement, Private Flood was taken to Rastatt, Baden, the headquarters for American prisoners, where they received food from the American Red cross and new and clean uniforms. Here he, with other American soldiers, remained for about two weeks, then five of them were sent to Scherzheim to work on a farm. On the same farm, where they ate with the German family, was another Ohio boy, A.J. Orwig, from Bellevue. Just as soon as the armistice was signed, the prisoners were released from work and taken care of entirely by the Red Cross, who provided plenty of good, nourishing food. Although many of the men were ill and had to be sent to a hospital on their release, Private Flood was fortunate enough to go through it all without any serious ill-health, and two weeks of good food put him back to normal. Just the same, Private Flood, lately of the gallant Rainbow Division is not wishing for any more wars nor any more Boche soldiers."

[With thanks to the family of Charles Flood for sending us the photocopied pages of his diary for the archives.]



## THE RAINBOW IN WORLD WAR II -- STORM CLOUDS GATHERING

**"KLAUS"** – by Edwin Rusteberg (Col., U.S. Army, Ret.) Written in the late 1980's to his children, Bill Rusteberg and Suellen McDaniel, this is a story of then-Lt. Rusteberg and his wife, Marjorie, stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in 1938. Lt. Col. Rusteberg became a member of the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Infantry Division in the summer of 1944. (photo left: our Dad at West Point 1932; Class of 1934).



It was in March of 1938 when Mom, as president of the Pan Hellenic Society at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, had the pleasure of introducing the guest speaker of the evening to the members and their husbands at a gathering at the Officers Club there.

It was to be an interesting evening, for the war clouds of WWII were over Europe by then and Hitler's hordes had just invaded and taken over his native Austria in what he called an "Anschluss".

The guest speaker, Mom said, as she presented him to the group, was a native German, and expert in the art of political science and a traveling professor of worldwide experience, currently in residence at the University of Hawaii, in Honolulu.

His subject for the evening had originally been scheduled to be on the political situation in China, where he had been in residence before coming to Hawaii recently. His wife, an attractive American graduate of the U of Cal at Berkeley, was an expert photographer, and was to have shown slides to illustrate her husband's lecture to us. However, Mom added, that because of the Austrian Anschluss, which had taken

place within the week, and the worldwide attention focused upon it at the moment, she had asked the speaker to cover this subject instead. Since he was a native German, and an expert in the field of political science he could express his country's views on the subject for our benefit. He had agreed to do this, Mom said, as she introduced a handsome, blonde, German gentleman of about thirty whose name was KLAUS MEHNERT.

Dr. Mehnert, a very personable and charming speaker captured his audience promptly by his suave and gracious manner and presented an informal but brilliant portrayal of the historical association and ties between Germany and Austria. Although he did not convince his audience, who were opposed to this conquest, they admired his strong conviction that the "Anschluss" was a proper move for both Austria, who welcomed Hitler's troops, and for Germany, who welcomed a member of its family back into the fold. He closed his talk with the assertion that he was only presenting his personal views and knew little of Hitler's doings since he was not a politician, but a professor whose sole goal in life was to teach the young men and women in his classes what he knew about political science.

After the lecture, Mom thanked him for his fine presentation and informed everyone that during the "social hour" to follow, to help themselves to the coffee and goodies on the buffet table. As the evening ended, and as the Mehnerts were about to depart, Dr. Mehnert noticed that the pitcher of cream for the coffee was untouched, and as he was saying goodbye to his hostess, asked Mom if it would be OK if he drank it, since it would go to waste otherwise. With Mom's approval, we all watched in amusement his ecstasy as he tossed his head back and drained the pitcher like a stein of beer. This little episode sort of endeared him to us and we chuckled with him about it at many gatherings, when in jest someone would say "If anyone wants cream for his coffee, better hurry, Klaus is heading that way!"

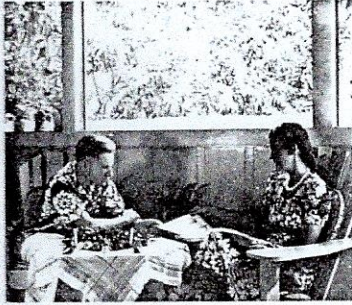
The Pan Hellenic Society was a very friendly, congenial group, mostly young people our age and we enjoyed doing things together. We would meet in different places, toured the exotic places on the island together, and even shared in tragedy together as Lt. Fruchy, a Wheeler Field flyer in our group, crashed into the sea a few days after we had met in his home. Since Mrs. Mehnert was a member of a Greek Sorority at the U. of Cal., she and Klaus became members of our group. In addition to these gatherings, Mom and I saw Klaus and his lady quite often, we liked one another and became staunch friends.

Upon our departure for the mainland in the spring of 1939, Klaus and his lady, along with our other friends, came aboard the "Republic", the Army transport on which we were leaving and moored at the "Aloha Tower". They came to say a special "Aloha" to us, and as we said our goodbyes, before we sailed away, they placed the most beautiful of all the leis around our necks. We hoped that we would meet again, we said.

The years passed and we lost track of them until a few days after "Pearl Harbor", in December 1941, when we were listening to Walter Winchell, the foremost newscaster of the day, on the radio one evening. Winchell, in rapid and staccato voice, always prefaced his news casts with: "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. America, and all the ships at sea, let's go to press!!" On this particular evening we were startled to hear him say that the FBI was closing in fast on Dr. Klaus Mehnert, a notorious Nazi spy, operating somewhere in California, and he advised anyone knowing his whereabouts to contact the authorities at once!!



We never heard whether or not Klaus was ever “caught” but apparently he “escaped”, as many years later in the early sixties when I was in Turkey, I discovered where he was. There, in print, on one of the papers passing my desk, was the agenda of a high-powered NATO meeting in Europe, with all the key figures of the time attending. Listed as the principal speaker at this august gathering was: “Dr. Klaus Mehnert, professor at the University of Aachen in Germany”. When we were in Belgium in the fifties, we passed through Aachen many times, and on one occasion we lunched at the University of Aachen with a gathering of Belgium officials. What a shame we didn’t know they were there! We would have had “Much to Talk About!!!”



Greeting to you both from Klaus and Enid Mehnert.

[ed. Of Interest: articles in 1941-45 by Klaus Mehnert in Shanghai ]

[http://128.171.57.100/libdept/russian/XX/toc\\_vol\\_2.html](http://128.171.57.100/libdept/russian/XX/toc_vol_2.html)

[http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/russian/XX/toc\\_vol\\_1.html](http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/russian/XX/toc_vol_1.html)

Note from Dad: Honolulu, Hawaii, January 1941. Klaus & wife Enid Mehnert. On the back of the picture is the following letter: “Jan. 1941.

Dear Marjorie: Still here we are, though for how much longer is a question. We try to take the days as they come and enjoy them fully. Christmas vacation was cool & crisp for a change! We shivered under two blankets. This last week we stayed in a cottage on the other side of Oahu – Kewala Bay to be exact, & swam and hiked thru deserted pineapple fields. It was so restful. Classes start again tomorrow so we are getting

back to routine. Best wishes to you both for the new year. Enid”

[www.history.navy.mil/.../pearlhbr/pearlhbr.htm](http://www.history.navy.mil/.../pearlhbr/pearlhbr.htm)

(L) aerial photograph of Pearl Harbor, taken during 1940 - 1941, prior to the war with Japan.

Photo #: NH 50930 U.S. Naval Historical Center

(R) Pearl Harbor Attack, 7 December 1941

Photograph taken from a Japanese plane during the torpedo attack on ships moored on both sides of Ford Island. View

looks about east, with the supply depot, submarine base and fuel tank farm in the right center distance. A torpedo has just hit USS *West Virginia* on the far side of Ford Island (center). Other battleships moored nearby are (from left): *Nevada*, *Arizona*, *Tennessee* (inboard of *West Virginia*), *Oklahoma* (torpedoed and listing) alongside *Maryland*, and *California*.

On the near side of Ford Island, to the left, are light cruisers *Detroit* and *Raleigh*, target and training ship *Utah* and seaplane tender *Tangier*. *Raleigh* and *Utah* have been torpedoed, and *Utah* is listing sharply to port.

Japanese planes are visible in the right center (over Ford Island) and over the Navy Yard at right.

Japanese writing in the lower right states that the photograph was reproduced by authorization of the Navy Ministry.

Military and Naval aircraft at Oahu's airfields were second only to battleships among the Japanese target priorities, though the reason was different. While Pearl Harbor's battleships represented American strategic "reach", and had to be eliminated to safeguard Japan's offensive into Southeast Asia and the East Indies, Oahu's aircraft had to be taken out for a more immediate reason: to protect the Pearl Harbor attack force. U.S. fighter planes, if they could get into the air in any numbers, would be a serious threat to Japanese bombers. U.S. Army bombers and Navy patrol planes potentially imperiled the Striking Force's invaluable aircraft carriers. The Japanese first attack wave therefore assigned many fighters and bombers to airbase suppression, the fighters to set planes afire with machine gun and cannon fire and the bombers to wreck them with high explosives. The second attack wave also had airfield strikes among its tasks. Wheeler Army Airfield, in central Oahu, was Hawaii's main fighter base. It was heavily attacked. Of some 140 planes on the ground there, mainly P-40 and P-36 pursuits, nearly two-thirds were destroyed or put out of action. A similar proportion of the B-17, B-18 and A-20 bombers at Hickam Army Airfield, adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, was also wrecked or damaged enough to keep them grounded. Many men were killed at Hickam when the Japanese bombed their barracks. Smaller Bellows Field in eastern Oahu was also hit, destroying several P-40s, including two whose pilots courageously attempted to take off in the teeth of the enemy onslaught. U.S. Navy and Marine Corps air stations on Pearl Harbor's Ford Island, at Ewa to the west of Pearl and at Kaneohe Bay near Bellows Field, also received concentrated attention from the raiders. Ewa's aircraft complement, mainly carrier-type bombers and fighters, was reduced from nearly fifty operational planes to less than twenty. Ford Island and Kaneohe, home to several squadrons of long-range PBY patrol seaplanes, were massively attacked, with Ford Island losing about half its planes and Kaneohe all but a few. These very successful Japanese strikes thus prevented any significant aerial opposition, though the few Army fighters that got airborne gave a good account of themselves. Later on December Seventh, surviving bombers and patrol planes were sent out to search for the Japanese carriers. They found nothing and confronted considerable "friendly" anti-aircraft gunfire when they returned to their bases.



77<sup>th</sup> Congress      SENATE      DOCUMENT  
1<sup>st</sup> Session      # 148  
this web site includes:

## DECLARATIONS OF A STATE OF WAR WITH JAPAN, GERMANY, AND ITALY

Radio Address President of the United  
States Broadcast from the

White House On Tuesday, December 9, 1941  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1941

### WAR WITH JAPAN

Mr. BARKLEY. [Alben **Barkley**. US Senate Majority Leader. 76<sup>th</sup> Congress (1939-1941)] Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the address delivered last evening by the President of the United States [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] over a Nation-wide radio hook-up. There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Fellow Citizens:

The sudden criminal attacks perpetrated by the Japanese in the Pacific provide the climax of a decade of international immorality. Powerful and resourceful gangsters have banded together to make war upon the whole human race. Their challenge has now been flung at the United States of America. The Japanese have treacherously violated the long-standing peace between us. Many American soldiers and sailors have been killed by enemy action. American ships have been sunk, American airplanes have been destroyed. The Congress and the people of the United States have accepted that challenge. Together with other free peoples, we are now fighting to maintain our right to live among our world neighbors in freedom and in common decency, without fear of assault.

I have prepared the full record of our past relations with Japan, and it will be submitted to the Congress. It begins with the visit of Commodore Perry to Japan 88 years ago. It ends with the visit of two Japanese emissaries to the Secretary of State last Sunday, an hour after Japanese forces had loosed their bombs and machine guns against our flag, our forces, and our citizens.

I can say with utmost confidence that no Americans today or a thousand years hence, need feel anything but pride in our patience and our efforts through all the years toward achieving a peace in the Pacific which would be fair and honorable to every nation, large or small. And no honest person, today or a thousand years hence, will be able to suppress a sense of indignation and horror at the treachery committed by the military dictators of Japan under the very shadow of the flag of peace borne by their special envoys in our midst.

The course that Japan has followed for the past 10 years in Asia has paralleled the course of Hitler and Mussolini in Europe and Africa. Today, it has become far more than a parallel. It is collaboration so well calculated that all the continents of the world, and all the oceans, are now considered by the Axis strategists as one gigantic battlefield.

In 1931, Japan invaded Manchukuo without warning.

In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia without warning.

In 1938, Hitler occupied Austria without warning.

In 1939, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia without warning.

Later in 1939, Hitler invaded Poland without warning.

In 1940, Hitler invaded Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg without warning.

In 1940, Italy attacked France and later Greece without warning.

In 1941, the Axis Powers attacked Yugoslavia and Greece and they dominated the Balkans without warning.

In 1941, Hitler invaded Russia without warning.

And now Japan has attacked Malaya and Thailand and the United States without warning.

It is all of one pattern.

We are now in this war. We are all in it all the way. Every single man, woman, and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history. We must share together the bad news and the good news, the defeats and the victories the changing fortunes of war.

So far, the news has all been bad. We have suffered a serious set-back in Hawaii. Our forces in the Philippines, which include the brave people of that commonwealth, are taking punishment, but are defending themselves vigorously. The reports from Guam and Wake and Midway Islands are still confused, but we must be prepared for the announcement that all these three outposts have been seized.

The casualty lists of these first few days will undoubtedly be large. I deeply feel the anxiety of all families of the men in our armed forces and the relatives of people in cities which have been bombed. I can only give them my solemn promise that they will get news just as quickly as possible.

This Government will put its trust in the stamina of the American people, and will give the facts to the public as soon as two conditions have been fulfilled: First, that the information has been definitely and officially confirmed; and, second, that the release of the information at the time it is received will not prove valuable to the enemy, directly or indirectly.

Most earnestly I urge my countrymen to reject all rumors. These ugly little hints of complete disaster fly thick and fast in wartime. They have to be examined and appraised.

As an example, I can tell you frankly that until further surveys are made, I have not sufficient information to state the exact damage which has been done to our naval vessels at Pearl Harbor. Admittedly the damage is serious. But no one can say how serious, until we know how much of this damage can be repaired and how quickly the necessary repairs can be made.

I cite as another example a statement made on Sunday night that a Japanese carrier had been located and sunk off the Canal Zone. And when you hear statements that are attributed to what they call "an authoritative source," you can be reasonably sure that under these war circumstances the "authoritative source" was not any person in authority.



Many rumors and reports which we now hear originate with enemy sources. For instance, today the Japanese are claiming that as a result of their one action against Hawaii they have gained naval supremacy in the Pacific. This is an old trick of propaganda which has been used innumerable times by the Nazis. The purposes of such fantastic claims are, of course, to spread fear and confusion among us, and to goad us into revealing military information which our enemies are desperately anxious to obtain.

Our Government will not be caught in this obvious trap and neither will our people.

It must be remembered by each and every one of us that our free and rapid communication must be greatly restricted in wartime. It is not possible to receive full, speedy, accurate reports from distant areas of combat. This is particularly true where naval operations are concerned. For in these days of the marvels of radio it is often impossible for the commanders of various units to report their activities by radio, for the very simple reason that this information would become available to the enemy, and would disclose their position and their plan of defense or attack.

Of necessity there will be delays in officially confirming or denying reports of operations but we will not hide facts from the country if we know the facts and if the enemy will not be aided by their disclosure.

To all newspapers and radio stations all those who reach the eyes and ears of the American people I say this: You have a most grave responsibility to the Nation now and for the duration of this war.

If you feel that your Government is not disclosing enough of the truth, you have every right to say so. But in the absence of all the facts, as revealed by official sources you have no right to deal out unconfirmed reports in such a way as to make people believe they are gospel truth.

Every citizen, in every walk of life, shares this same responsibility.

The lives of our soldiers and sailors-the whole future of this Nation-depend upon the manner in which each and every one of us fulfills his obligation to our country.

Now a word about the recent past and the future. A year and a half has elapsed since the fall of France, when the whole world first realized the mechanized might which the Axis nations had been building for so many years. America has used that year and a half to great advantage. Knowing that the attack might reach us in all too short a time, we immediately began greatly to increase our industrial strength and our capacity to meet the demands of modern warfare.

Precious months were gained by sending vast quantities of our war materials to the nations of the world still able to resist Axis aggression. Our policy rested on the fundamental truth that the defense of any country resisting Hitler or Japan was in the long run the defense of our own country. That policy has been justified. It has given us time, invaluable time, to build our American assembly lines of production.

Assembly lines are now in operation. Others are being rushed to completion. A steady stream of tanks and planes, of guns and ships, of shells and equipment that is what these 18 months have given us.

But it is all only a beginning of what has to be done. We must be set to

face a long war against crafty and powerful bandits. The attack at Pearl Harbor can be repeated at any one of many points in both oceans and along both our coast lines and against all the rest of the hemisphere.

It will not only be a long war, it will be a hard war. That is the basis on which we now lay all our plans. That is the yardstick by which we measure what we shall need and demand money, materials, doubled and quadrupled production, ever increasing. The production must be not only for our own Army and Navy and air forces. It must reinforce the other armies and navies and air forces fighting the Nazis and the war lords of Japan throughout the Americas and the world.

I have been working today on the subject of production. Your Government has decided on two broad policies.

The first is to speed up all existing production by working on a 7-day-week basis in every war industry, including the production of essential raw materials.

The second policy, now being put into form, is to rush additions to the capacity of production by building more new plants, by adding to old plants, and by using the many smaller plants for war needs.

Over the hard road of the past months we have at times met obstacles and difficulties, divisions and disputes, indifference and callousness. That is now all past and, I am sure, forgotten.

The fact is that the country now has an organization in Washington built around men and women who are recognized experts in their own fields. I think the country knows that the people who are actually responsible in each and every one of these many fields are pulling together with a teamwork that has never before been excelled.

On the road ahead there lies hard work grueling work day and night, every hour and every minute.

I was about to add that ahead there lies sacrifice for all of us. But it is not correct to use that word. The United States does not consider it a sacrifice to do all one can, to give one's best to our Nation when the Nation is fighting for its existence and its future life.

It is not a sacrifice for any man, old or young, to be in the Army or the Navy of the United States. Rather is it a privilege.

It is not a sacrifice for the industrialist or the wage earner, the farmer or the shopkeeper, the trainman or the doctor, to pay more taxes, to buy more bonds, to forego extra profits, to work longer or harder at the task for which he is best fitted. Rather is it a privilege.

It is not a sacrifice to do without many things to which we are accustomed if the national defense calls for doing without.

A review this morning leads me to the conclusion that at present we shall not have to curtail the normal articles of food. There is enough food for all of us and enough left over to send to those who are fighting on the same side with us.

There will be a clear and definite shortage of metals of many kinds for civilian use, for the very good reason that in our increased program we shall need for war purposes more than half of that portion of the principal metals which during the past year have gone into articles or civilian use. We shall have to give up many things entirely.

I am sure that the people in every part of the Nation are prepared in



their individual living to win this war. I am sure they will cheerfully help to pay a large part of its financial cost while it goes on. I am sure they will cheerfully give up those material things they are asked to give up.

I am sure that they will retain all those great spiritual things without which we cannot win through.

I repeat that the United States can accept no result save victory, final and complete. Not only must the shame of Japanese treachery be wiped out, but the sources of international brutality, wherever they exist, must be absolutely and finally broken.

In my message to the Congress yesterday I said that we "will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again." In order to achieve that certainty, we must begin the great task that is before us by abandoning once and for all the illusion that we can ever again isolate ourselves from the rest of humanity.

In these past few years and, most violently. In the past few days we have learned a terrible lesson.

It is our obligation to our dead it is our sacred obligation to their children and our children that we must never forget what we have learned.

And what we all have learned is this:

There is no such thing as security for any nation or any individual in a world ruled by the principles of gangsterism.

There is no such thing as impregnable defense against powerful aggressors who sneak up in the dark and strike without warning.

We have learned that our ocean-girt hemisphere is not immune from severe attack that we cannot measure our safety in terms of miles on any map.

We may acknowledge that our enemies have performed a brilliant feat of deception, perfectly timed and executed with great skill. It was a thoroughly dishonorable deed, but we must face the fact that modern warfare as conducted in the Nazi manner is a dirty business. We don't like it we didn't want to get in it but we are in it, and we're going to fight it with everything we've got.

I do not think any American has any doubt of our ability to administer proper punishment to the perpetrators of these crimes.

Your Government knows that for weeks Germany has been telling Japan that if Japan did not attack the United States, Japan would not share in dividing the spoils with Germany when peace came. She was promised by Germany that if she came in she would receive the complete and perpetual control of the whole of the Pacific area and that means not only the Far East, not only all of the islands in the Pacific, but also a stranglehold on the west coast of North, Central, and South America.

We also know that Germany and Japan are conducting their military and naval operations in accordance with a joint plan. That plan considers all peoples and nations which are not helping the Axis Powers as common enemies of each and every one of the Axis Powers.

That is their simple and obvious grand strategy. That is why the American people must realize that it can be matched only with similar grand strategy. We must realize, for example, that Japanese successes

against the United States in the Pacific are helpful to German operations in Libya; that any German success against the Caucasus is inevitably an assistance to Japan in her operations against the Dutch East Indies; that a German attack against Algiers or Morocco opens the way to a German attack against South America.

On the other side of the picture we must learn to know that guerrilla warfare against the Germans in Serbia helps us; that a successful Russian offensive against the Germans helps us; and that British successes on land or sea in any part of the world strengthen our hands.

Remember always that Germany and Italy, regardless of any formal declaration of war, consider themselves at war with the United States at this moment just as much as they consider themselves at war with Britain and Russia. And Germany puts all the other republics of the Americas into the category of enemies. The people of the hemisphere can be honored by that.

The true goal we seek is far above and beyond the ugly field of battle. When we resort to force, as now we must, we are determined that this force shall be directed toward ultimate good as well as against immediate evil. We Americans are not destroyers; we are builders.

We are now in the midst of a war, not for conquest, not for vengeance, but for a world in which this Nation, and all that this Nation represents, will be safe for our children. We expect to eliminate the danger from Japan, but it would serve us ill if we accomplished that and found that the rest of the world was dominated by Hitler and Mussolini.

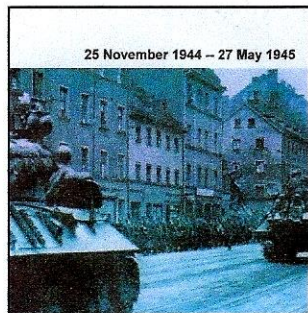
### **We are going to win the war, and we are going to win the peace that follows.**

And in the dark hours of this day and through dark days that may yet to come we will know that the vast majority of the members of the human race are on our side. Many of them are fighting with us. All of them are praying for us. For, in representing our cause, we represent theirs as well, our hope and their hope for liberty under God.



Painting by Theodore R. MacKechnie (Col. U.S. Army, Ret.) in memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Caption of the photo of this service in the 42D "Rainbow" Infantry Division World War II history book reads: "Schweinfurt had just fallen when word was received of the death of President Roosevelt [April 12, 1945]. Throughout the Division there were spontaneous memorial services. In the city men of the 242<sup>nd</sup> gathered for prayers before the flags of all states."



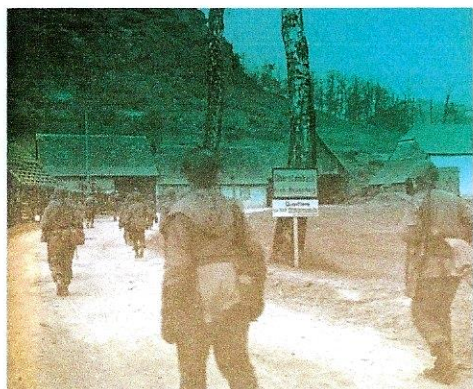


Now available on CD through the RDVMF Millennium Chapter:  
**The NARRATIVE of the 232<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT, 42<sup>ND</sup> "RAINBOW" INFANTRY DIVISION WORLD WAR II**

Text of the NARRATIVE portion of this history was extracted from the monthly Reports of Operations, Headquarters, 232d Inf. Regt. that are on file at the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD and cover the time period 25 November 1944 through 27 May 1945. The content of the 856 added 232D Division Medal Citations interwoven through the official history is taken from The General Orders, 42D Division. Only full text Citations are included in this NARRATIVE. There has been no attempt to include all of the many more hundreds of Citations for medals awarded to individuals of the Regiment;

only those we have found that detail the action for which the medals were awarded, to illuminate the story of the 232D Infantry Regiment during specific times and at specific locations and to tell some of the individual stories of the Regiment; to provide a framework for greater understanding and to honor those Rainbow men who made the Supreme Sacrifice in service to their country. The stories through citations of the men who lost their lives number 52. When possible, citations for units in support of the 232D Infantry Regiment, 42D Division have been included.

The photos of individual soldiers have been taken from the pictorial and review books for men of the 42D Division who were in training at Camp Gruber, OK during November 1944. The eight maps are from the book, **42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II**, written and edited by Lt. Hugh C. Daly, 1<sup>st</sup> printing 1946; and also other photos such as those reproduced below.

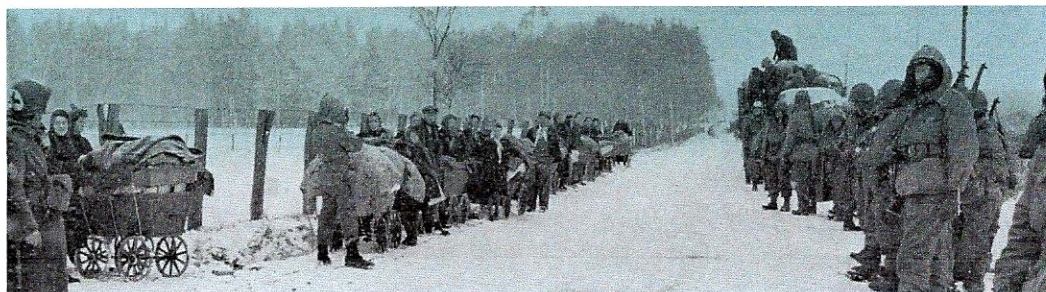


*Photo upper left:*

"Through the Maginot Line, doughs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 232d Infantry, head for Germany, only two kilometers past this town".

*Photo center:*

"A familiar sight – soldiers moving to the front and civilians hurrying to the rear. The men are from Company G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 232D Infantry"



*Photo left:*

"The 3d Battalion, 232d Infantry, marches past the stone marker in the foreground which is on the border of Nazi Germany".



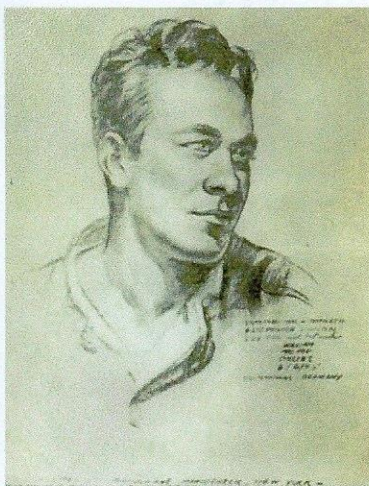
This CD is the first in a planned series that will be made available to Rainbow veterans, their families and descendants upon request as they search for the history of their units. The content holds 241 pages of official history. It is offered at \$5.00, the basic cost of materials and postage. If you are able and also would like to make a small donation that would allow us to continue our work to provide the history on CD of other Rainbow units,

your help would be very much appreciated. The gathering of information from official sources, typing and formatting are the work of volunteers. These CDs of 232D Regiment history may be requested by contacting the secretary/editor of the RDVMF Millennium Chapter, Suellen R. McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Drive, Newton NC 28658-9452, (828) 464-1466, e-mail: [JMAC1400@aol.com](mailto:JMAC1400@aol.com). Checks should be payable to the RDV Millennium Chapter.

## LETTERS

To the Rainbow research team from **Stephanie Fitzgerald**, great niece of Wilbur Evans, Co. E, 2d Bn., 222D Inf. Regt.: (08/07/2008) "I am the great niece of Wilbur Evans who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. You sent me info on him and also told me what awards he was supposed to get but never did. I received a phone call from one of the congressman's assistants yesterday and on August 11, 2008 at 2 PM, Wilbur's sisters will be presented with his medals. They will be doing a ceremony at our local court house. Our local newspaper will be at the courthouse along with a tv news crew. They will be getting 8 medals and they will be meeting Congressman Buyer. I know all I can say is Thank You and I truly mean this. If it wasn't for everybody's help they may not have received the medals that he so truly deserved. I know when I was in school I didn't care for all of the history that we were supposed to read. But as I get older and realize what the veterans have done for me and for the United States, I am truly lucky to have the freedom that I do have. Thank you and God bless each and every one of you."



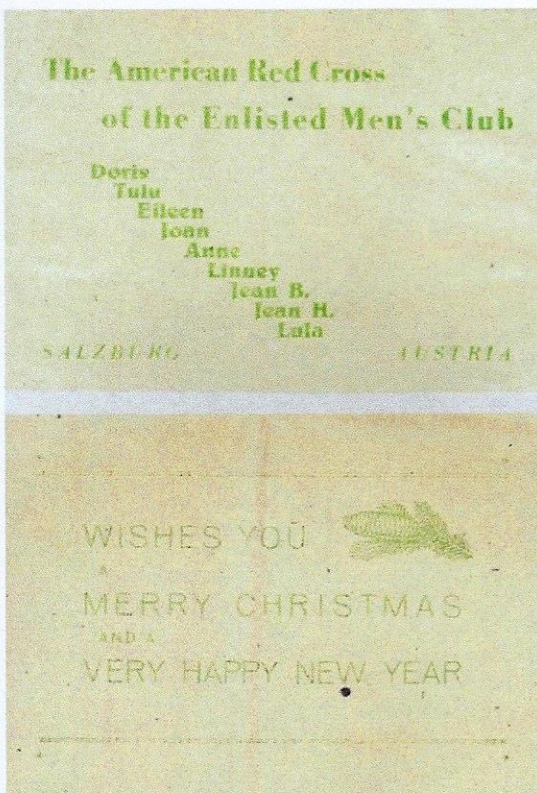


**Charles D. Trifiletti, SSG, Co. B, 1st Bn., 222nd Inf. Regt.** (10/27/08): "I think I also mentioned to you that I had been trying to locate a book that was possibly going to be written regarding wounded soldiers and the only piece of the puzzle that I have is the Graham & Gillies letter I have attached. I'm wondering if you have ever come across anything like this."

Patti has her father's Bronze Star Medal citation and Purple Heart Medal: "The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Charles D. Trifiletti, 32 868 708, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company B, 222nd Infantry, for

meritorious achievement in action on 15 March 1945 in the Hardt Mountains, France. Although his squad was pinned down by an enemy ambush and exposed to heavy mortar and artillery fire, Sergeant Trifiletti led his men in a successful withdrawal with a minimum of casualties. Having located the exact positions of the enemy, he then made his way to another company in the area and pinpointed the positions so that this company was successful in overrunning the enemy emplacements. Sergeant Trifiletti through his outstanding courage and qualities of leadership played a major role in the successful attack of his battalion on Hill 384. Entered military service from Mamaroneck, New York."

#### Reviews of the 232D Infantry Regiment Narrative on CD



#### George Cramer, 232-K

(11/11/08): "One of the things I find most interesting is that the

chronology of events and their timing gives me a much better perspective of the larger picture of what was happening beyond our small group, wherever we were at a particular time. As individuals we had no concept of battle conditions elsewhere, what was going on, or how they related to our personal situation. The introduction of the citations really "fleshes out" the narrative of the planning by higher authority and movement of troops and gives meaning to individual actions and how they contributed to the overall objectives. Whenever I see the photograph of the 3rd Battalion (page one) crossing the border into Germany, I remember when it was taken. The picture is of a portion of the Weapons Platoon of Company K. The Machine Gun Section is to the right (notice the weapon on the right shoulder and ammunition pouches), followed by the Mortar Section. The fellow on the right edge of the stone marker with his left foot about to hit the roadway is none other than George Cramer, carrying the 60 mm mortar on his right shoulder. As we approached that point on our march I recall glancing up and seeing a photographer, wondering what he was doing out here in the forest with our Company on the move. It wasn't until after I was discharged in 1946 and received my copy of the Division History of WWII that I found my answer." Copy of *Christmas Greetings Salzburg, Austria December 1945* with the compliments of George Cramer. He wrote: "*They, too, served our country both in peace and war.*"

**Bill Warde, 232-A:** (10/24/08) Just received my copy of your CD today. MAGNIFICENT! PRICELESS! An unbelievable amount of effort and a great contribution to Rainbow. Great

how you have included the veterans' "going overseas" photo with his citation and woven in with the narrative action. I have never seen anything like it. Neat how you have also included additional notes from other sources such as from The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII booklet.

**James R. "Pete" Pettus, 232-K** (10/25/08): "I received the disc today. I scanned all the way through it looking for all the men that I knew from 1944 and also men that I have become acquainted with at the reunions. What a fantastic job you have done. You definitely need to send a disc to the Library of Congress. I sent a disc of my history several years ago and got back a nice thank you for it. As I went over all the citations it brought back so many memories of men who I had forgotten about over the years. Many of them now deceased."

**Don Carner, 232-C** (10/25/08): "I liked the picture at the beginning. You can not see me, but I was leading this parade. You can see one of my squad members carrying a box of ammo for our machinegun down in front. I thank you for all the work you have put into this and for that to come."

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*daughter captured*

Dear Mr Trifiletti:

October 1st, 1956

You were one of the Veterans whose portrait I sketched in Germany during the war. I did portraits of a cross section of Uncle Sam's Soldiers and Officers in a Field Hospital in tents and in buildings in the E.T.O. and also in hospitals at home. With few exceptions they were men who earned the Purple Heart.

My work was sponsored by the U.S.O. and I spent the greater part of my time attached to the 9th Evacuation Hospital at which time I did hundreds of sketches of wounded soldiers, and I have reproductions of most of these portraits..

I have recently been approached by an American Publisher who suggests that I write a book illustrated by these sketches and others I did covering incidents in the area in which the 7th Army operated at that time. I would like to include your portrait in this book if possible.

Would you be kind enough to fill out the attached form, adding any comments you would like to make. I was tremendously impressed with the wonderful work performed by Doctors, Nurses and Army Medics during the last part of the war.

This book will be a modest effort on my part to give these soldiers without arms due credit for their wonderful service in their support of our fighting men.

I particularly would like to receive from any Officer, former Staff Member or 'Medic' attached to the 9th Evacuation Hospital historical data with dates and places (if in existence), and accounts of the history of the Hospital. This would be of considerable help to me in preparing this manuscript. Names, places and events most exciting at that time have become somewhat hazy in my mind. Nothing would please me more than to receive, in addition to the attached completed form an informal letter or visit from the many friends I made during this most interesting period of my life.

To all the 'Joes' and Officers who served under our respected leader, General Patch, whose portrait is included in my collection, I send heartiest good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*William M. Gillies*  
U.S.A.: LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK