

# RAINBOW TRAIL

*The Newsletter of the Millennium (Rainbow Family) Chapter  
Of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation  
August 2011 Volume 12, Issue 2*

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

**TECHNOLOGY BRIDGES GENERATIONS** “Wonderful to find this group and perhaps have a place to share some of my uncle's photos, which have been passed to me,” one woman posted recently on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Millennium Chapter's Facebook page. “My father was in Company G and I am looking for men who might have served with him,” another woman wrote. A picture of a group of smiling Rainbow soldiers is posted by a man. Underneath he wrote, “Thinking of you, Dad.” The Rainbow Facebook page currently has 300 “fans” or followers,” ranging from active duty Rainbows serving in Iraq and their families, to WWII Rainbows and their families. And that number grows steadily every day. It has become a destination for those seeking more information about their Rainbow relatives, post their Rainbow pictures and to connect with other Rainbow folks. They can read interviews of current Rainbows, stories of those who served in the Rainbow during WWII, or submit their own family's Rainbow story. The 103rd Field Artillery, Rhode Island National Guard (the 103rd falls under the 197th Fires Brigade out of New Hampshire which is an attached unit to the 42nd ID) currently stationed at Camp Virginia in Kuwait often send pictures of their day to day operations, which are also posted on the Facebook page. Glancing through photos of today's Rainbow is a swift reminder that the strong traditions of a heroic Rainbow past continues to influence a new generation. The Rainbow, as its original mission states, stretches across the whole country like a rainbow. And because of social media the reach of Rainbow has grown significantly, stretching far beyond this country and becoming global.

**Emily Marcason-Tolmie, RDVMF Millennium Chapter President 7/22/11**

[ed. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view these web pages of Rainbow Division history and current events -

**<http://www.facebook.com/42ndRainbowDivision?sk=wall>** ]



Melanie K. Remple, National RDVMF Secretary and past president of the Millennium Chapter took many photos of her family's vacation in Europe this summer. Here are just a few of them - In left photo: Bryce Remple, Zachary Remple, Melanie Krein Remple - “We left behind a small memorial at Neubourg, France - the Rainbow and American flags. My Great-Uncle was in the 222nd Infantry Regiment of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. They earned a Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) for "extraordinary and outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy on January 24 and 25, 1945.”

(ed. The after-action report of The Battle of Ohlungen Forest for which the 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was awarded the PUC, as well as copies of the Citation and Certificate awarded in 2001 and the original recommendation from Division Commander, Harry J. Collins in 1945, lost in the National Archives for decades, may be obtained from the chapter secretary, Suellen McDaniel.)



Kehlsteinhaus – The Eagle's Nest – Berchtesgaden, Germany



Dachau Concentration Camp, Dachau, Germany



“Time will not dim the glory of their deeds” – Chateau Thierry monument



Town of Chateau Thierry, France



Bois Jacques Woods – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne  
Foxholes, Tim, Zachary & Brice Remple



## IN SEARCH OF MEMORIALS

May 15, 2011 – From Larry Ashburn, WWII nephew, Paul B. Chidester, Btry B, 542<sup>nd</sup> F.A., 42D Division



"I had occasion recently to be in LaCade MO, home town of General John J. Pershing, Commander of the WW I AEF. Thought Rainbowers that haven't had the opportunity to visit might like to see it. As you can see from the picture, it is a typical, modest rural midwest home. The memorial area has been created in the yard beside it. The granite stones around the statue note first all Linn County boys that served in WW I, then those Linn County boys that gave the last full measure in all conflicts. Down the street from the home is a museum dedicated to Pershing and the AEF.



### A Tribute to General Pershing

Page 90-91 AMERICANS ALL/The Rainbow At War/42d U.S. Infantry Division by Henry J. Reilly [Commander of the 149<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 42D Division], F.J. Heer Printing Co. Columbus, OH, 1936. "...General Pershing arrived in Washington from the Mexican Border on May 10th, 1917. On May 28th he sailed with his staff for Europe on the Steamship Baltic. They arrived in London June 9th, and in Paris on June 13th, 1917.

Even before landing in England, General Pershing had come to the conclusion that the Germans could not be beaten by sending small groups of American troops to France such as divisions, but plans

must be made to bring over a large army of not less than one million men within a year, that is by the first of June, 1918. While listening to every suggestion made by the British and French, General Pershing, through his own investigations and those of his staff whom he sent in every direction with different missions, drew his own conclusions as to the situation and what America's part must be. Here is what General Pershing has to say : (Page 94, Vol. I, "My Experiences in the World War," by General John J. Pershing, published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York).

"The Allies thought an American force of 500,000 men the maximum that we could have in France in 1918, but it was my opinion that this number would not be enough to meet the situation. Although this would aid, we could not be content merely to lend a helping hand but we must prepare to strike a decisive blow. While the appearance on the front of any American force was still months away, there was little doubt that if we could induce Allied cooperation we should be able to give much greater assistance than they believed possible. Our study having confirmed the correctness of my tentative estimate made on the Baltic, I therefore cabled Washington on July 6th, as follows:

“ ‘Plans should contemplate sending over at least 1,000,000 men by next May. This estimate would give practically half million men for trenches. Inasmuch as question affects all Allies whose common interests demand that we exert maximum military power consistent with transport problem, suggest early agreement be reached among Allies which would provide requisite transportation and limit sea transportation to food and military supplies and the exclusion of every kind of luxury as well as other supplies in excess of immediate needs of countries dependent upon overseas supplies.’ “The question, in its finality, was, therefore, one of sea transportation, but so far all efforts to get the Allies, especially the British, to consider giving help to bring over men and supplies had been futile. They did not seem to realize that America would be practically negligible from a military standpoint unless the Allies could provide some shipping. Nor did they seem to appreciate that time was a vital factor. But the spirit of full cooperation among the Allies did not then exist. They seemed to regard the transportation of an American army overseas as entirely our affair. This apparent indifference also gave further color to the suspicion that perhaps an American army as such was not wanted. The situation from our standpoint was grave and embarrassing, for it looked as though it might not be possible for us to save either the Allies or ourselves.” “... (p.95 AA) Thus, as the Rainbow units began arriving in France, shortly after the middle of October, 1917, General Pershing had a very carefully worked out plan for an army of one million men by the following May, with such port improvements as would permit its landing with facility, with such rail improvements as would permit its transport to its own area with ease, and with every detail of its tactical training and a very definite strategic plan for its use at the front all worked out. However, the arrival of the Rainbow gave him only approximately 125,000 troops which included the 1st and 26th and 42nd Divisions complete, and the greater part of the 2nd Division. It was while the Rainbow was landing that the first effect of Russia’s dropping out of the war, with the consequent release of Germans and Austro-Hungarians by the hundreds of thousands for reinforcement of their armies facing the British, French and Italians in the west, was felt. With their reinforcement from the Russian front, and the help of several German Divisions, the Austro-Hungarians struck the Italians October 24, 1917. By the time this offensive was finally stopped, it had cost the Italians 37,000 killed, 91,000 wounded, 335,000 prisoners, and 3,000 guns, or almost half their artillery. Thus the Rainbow arrived in Europe at the beginning of a new phase of the War, the one which, due to America coming in as Russia dropped out, was a race between the Germans to use the tremendous reinforcement this gave them for their western front to gain victory before the American reinforcement to the British and French could arrive, and the Allies and the Americans to speed up the American reinforcements to such numbers as would first stop the Germans and then turn the tide against them to one of victory for the Allies and the Americans.”

### **How the American Soldiers were perceived as they entered the war --**

Reprinted once again, the following excerpt from Vera Brittain’s *Testament of Youth/An Autobiographical Study of the Years 1900-1925*, Penguin Books, copyright Vera Brittain, 1933, 661 pages, is included by permission of Mark Bostridge and Timothy Brittain-Catlin, Literary Executors for the Vera Brittain Estate, 1970, and applies to this publication, *Rainbow Trail*, only. Vera Brittain (1893-1970) in 1915 abandoned her studies at Oxford to enlist as a nurse in the armed forces. She served throughout the war in London, Malta, and at the front in France] (p. 418-421): “Three weeks of such days and nights, lived without respite or off-duty time under the permanent fear of defeat and flight, reduced the staffs of the Etaples hospitals to the negative conviction that nothing mattered except to end the strain. England, panic-stricken, was frantically raising the military age to fifty and agreeing to the appointment of Foch as Commander-in-Chief, but to us with our blistered feet, our swollen hands, our wakeful, reddened eyes, victory and defeat began – as indeed they were afterwards to prove – to seem very much the same thing. On April 11<sup>th</sup> [1918], after a dizzying rush of wounded from the new German offensive at Armentieres, I stumbled up to the Sisters’ quarters for lunch with the certainty that I could not go on – and saw, pinned up on the notice-board in the Mess, Sir Douglas Haig’s ‘Special Order of the Day.’ Standing there spellbound, with fatigue and despair forgotten, I read the words which put courage into so many men and women whose need of endurance was far greater than my own:

#### ***To All Ranks of the British Army in France and Flanders –***

***‘Three weeks ago to-day the enemy began his terrific attacks against us on a fifty-mile front. His objects are to separate us from the French, to take the Channel Ports and destroy the British Army. In spite of throwing already 106 Divisions into battle and enduring the most reckless sacrifice of human life, he has as yet made little progress towards his goals. We owe this to the determined fighting and self-sacrifice of our troops. Words fail me to express admiration which I feel for the splendid resistance offered by all ranks of our Army under the most trying circumstances. Many amongst us are now tired. To those I would say that Victory will belong to the side which holds out the longest. The French Army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support. There is no course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in***



*the justice Of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment. General Headquarters, Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918, D. Haig, F.M., Commander-in-Chief, British Armies in France."*

"Although, since that date, the publication of official 'revelations' has stripped from the Haig myth much of its glory, I have never been able to visualize Lord Haig as the colossal blunderer, the self-deceived optimist, of the Somme massacre in 1916. I can think of him only as the author of that Special Order, for after I had read it I knew that I should go on, whether I could or not. There was a braver spirit in the hospital that afternoon, and though we only referred briefly and brusquely to Haig's message, each one of us had made up her mind that, though enemy airmen blew up our huts and the Germans advanced upon us from Abbeville, so long as wounded men remained in Etaples, there would be 'no retirement.'

Only a day or two afterwards I was leaving quarters to go back to my ward, when I had to wait to let a large contingent of troops march past me along the main road that ran through our camp. They were swinging rapidly towards Camiers, and though the sight of soldiers marching was now too familiar to arouse curiosity, an unusual quality of bold vigour in their swift stride caused me to stare at them with puzzled interest. They looked larger than ordinary men; their tall, straight figures were in vivid contrast to the under-sized armies of pale recruits to which we had grown accustomed. At first I thought their spruce, clean uniforms were those of officers, yet obviously they could not be officers, for there were too many of them; they seemed, as it were, Tommies in heaven. Had yet another regiment been conjured out of our depleted Dominions? I wondered, watching them move with such rhythm, such dignity, such serene consciousness of self-respect. But I knew the colonial troops so well, and these were different; they were assured where the Australians were aggressive, self-possessed where the New Zealanders were turbulent. Then I heard an excited exclamation from a group of Sisters behind me. 'Look! Look! Here come the Americans!'

I pressed forward with the others to watch the United States physically entering the War, so god-like, so magnificent, so splendidly unimpaired in comparison with the tired, nerve-racked men of the British Army. So these were our deliverers at last, marching up the road to Camiers in the spring sunshine! There seemed to be hundreds of them, and in the fearless swagger of their proud strength they looked a formidable bulwark against the peril looming from Amiens. Somehow the necessity of packing up in a hurry, the ignominious flight to the coast so long imagined, seemed to move further away. An uncontrollable emotion seized me – as such emotions often seized us in those days of insufficient sleep; my eyeballs pricked, my throat ached, and a mist swam over the confident Americans going to the front. The coming of relief made me realize all at once how long and how intolerable had been the tension, and with the knowledge that we were not, after all, defeated, I found myself beginning to cry." [photo from Ohio In The Rainbow/Official Story of the 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry, by R.M. Cheseldine, The F.J. Heer Printing Co., 1924, photo caption: 166<sup>th</sup> Inf. (42D Division) Passing through Baccarat, France. Hdqrs. 42<sup>nd</sup> Div., April 27, 1918]



166th Inf. passing through Baccarat, France. Hdqrs. 42nd Div., April 27, 1918.



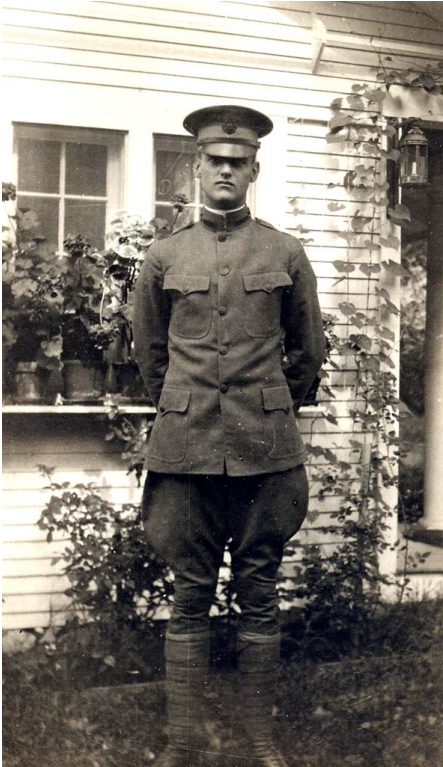
**Sunday, May 15, 2011, from Larry Ashburn** - "Rebuilding of M. W. Boudreaux visitor center and **Northeast Missouri Vietnam Memorial** at Clarence Cannon Dam/Mark Twain Lake is mostly complete and now open to the public again. The Memorial has been moved from directly in front of the visitor center to side with an overlook of the dam and lake. For those unfamiliar with the memorial, it is a giant sundial. Each of the 12 "hours" is

engraved with the name of Northeast Missouri serviceman/woman on the appropriate "hour/month" they gave their all. The seal of each of the services is embedded in the base of dial. The inverted rifle and helmet needs no explanation."



## PASSING THE TORCH – In Remembrance of

42D Division's WWI veteran, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman D. Du Bois from New Jersey,  
149 Field Artillery, who gave his all on July 15, 1918



NEW YORK TIMES headline, July 30, 1918 : "160 Casualties Reported for the Army and Marine Corps; 46 Deaths and 95 Seriously Wounded in the Army List  
*...Mrs. Charles D. Dubois of 14 Walden Place, Montclair, [NJ], received a telegram from the War Department on Sunday night, announcing that her son, Lieutenant Norman Dubois of the 149<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery of the Rainbow Division, had been killed in action. Lieutenant Dubois was a graduate of Williams College, and won his commission at the first Plattsburg camp. His father, the late Cornelius D. Dubois, was one of Montclair's most prominent citizens."*

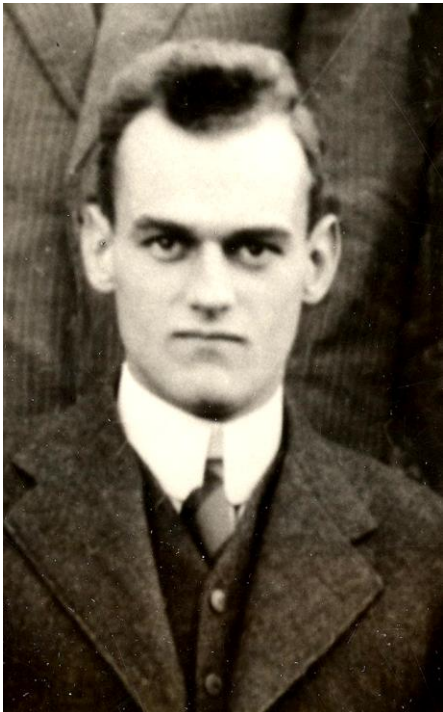
### ROLL OF HONOR



NORMAN DELAFIELD DuBOIS  
CLASS OF 1914

**S**ECOND LIEUTENANT NORMAN DELA-FIELD DuBOIS, 149th Field Artillery, 67th Brigade, 42nd (Rainbow) Division, was killed in action July 15, 1918, near Jonchery, France.

He received his commission as Second Lieutenant in August, 1917, at the end of the first O. T. C. at Plattsburg, N. Y. He sailed for France on September 10, and received additional training in the French Artillery School at Saumur from October to December, 1917, and in the British Artillery School at Lunéville during January, 1918. For six weeks of his assignment with the French he was confined to Base Hospital 8 at St. Nazaire by illness contracted at Saumur. In January he joined his regiment, the 149th Field Artillery, and was stationed in Brittany and in the Lorraine and East Reims Sectors, serving five months at the front. In the second battle of the Marne, soon after midnight of July 14-15, while his battery was firing against the Fifth German Offensive, Lieutenant DuBois, commanding the second platoon of the battery, was lying on the parapet above the trench that sheltered his firing squad. As he heard a German "77" approaching he gave orders to his men to "duck", but the shell exploded over his head, killing him instantly.



In January 2010, the REVEILLE printed this description of American War Memorials Overseas (AWMO).

### AMERICAN WAR MEMORIALS OVERSEAS

Many thanks to RDVMF Trustee MG Tom Garrett, U.S. Army, Retired, for sending the Memorials Officer a copy of ARMY, the Magazine of the Association of the United States Army. In this November 2009 issue there is an article by MAJ Lillian Pfluke, U.S. Army Retired, entitled, *Preserving America's Overseas Wartime Legacy*. The article notes that American war memorials in foreign countries tell fascinating stories. These memorials range from tiny plaques honoring a single soldier to elaborate edifices commemorating armies fighting their way through a region. These war memorials not only honor American soldiers abroad, but also serve as highly visible symbols of America's historic and continuing engagement overseas.

Major Pfluke writes that while working for the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris, she discovered thousands of memorials honoring Americans, sites that the U.S. Government does not maintain. Because no organization recorded the existence of these sites, most Americans don't know about them and,



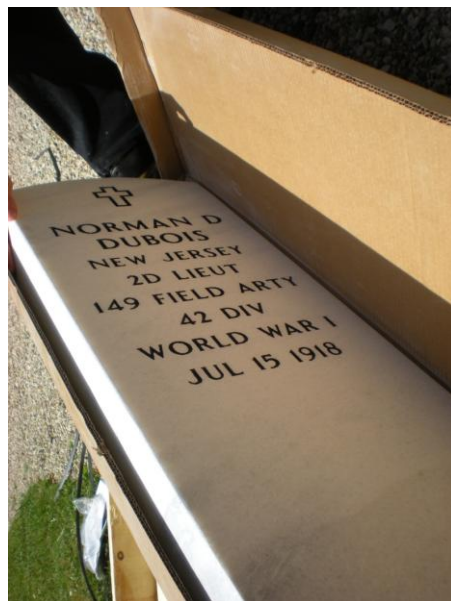
in many cases, the sites are poorly maintained. In countries with significant numbers of war memorials, nonprofit foundations exist to care for private war memorials. Major Pfluke decided to create an organization for America's overseas war memorials – the American War Memorials Overseas (AWMO), a nonprofit corporation that documents, promotes and preserves non-government-supported war memorials honoring Americans outside the United States to ensure that these monuments remain part of local communities forever.



AWMO, [www.uswarmemorials.org](http://www.uswarmemorials.org), located at 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite PMB 6500, Wilmington, DE 19808, 1-888-224-6108 is currently launching two major programs. “The first is an effort to send donated American flags to villages with U.S. commemorative sites that are not supported by their respective foreign governments. Often, towns are unable to obtain flags and, even if they can, are unaware of the proper protocol for flying the American flag. AWMO will distribute U.S. flags and local-language instructions on how to fly them properly with the goal of

having the Stars and Stripes flying over hundreds of sites around the world. The second AWMO initiative is to give grants to local organizations to fund maintenance and refurbishment projects at U.S. commemorative sites that do not otherwise receive any financial support.

“A war memorial is certainly a remembrance of the past, but it is also a beacon for the future. It is a reminder for all of us to constantly nourish our ties to other countries and other peoples. It is a way of keeping memories alive – not to dwell on sadness and death, but to think about heroism, sacrifice and freedom. That is the objective of American War Memorials Overseas, proudly assisting in preserving America's overseas wartime heritage.”



Since this article was published, our Rainbow research has been completed with assistance from representatives of Edward Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts through Williams College libraries, who provided the photos of Lt. DuBois and his Roll of Honor information. <http://francis.williams.edu/search/s>



AWMO has now completed the task of replacing this headstone. These photos are of the churchyard in Cuperly, France, the original headstone and the new memorial. Isolated Burial In the churchyard is on the north side of the church. The town cemetery is on the south side of the church. The isolated burial of a US WWI soldier is on the north side of the church, 2 Grand Rue, Cuperly, 51-Marne, Champagne Ardenne, France. At the intersection of the Grand Rue, Rue Raymond Charlet and Rue de Vadenay in the center of town.

## IN REMEMBRANCE OF HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31, 2011



Major William R. McKern

[william.mckern@us.army.mil](mailto:william.mckern@us.army.mil)

received this note from Shawn Doyle  
(May 31, 2011)

top photo is found here:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=pv&GRid=22973&PIpi=103336>

"I am sure you get many emails but I have a memorial day ritual and a picture I'm sure Mr. Bertoldo's family and other military families would appreciate. Every year on Memorial Day I go to our national cemetery here in San Bruno California. I buy as many flower arrangements as I can

afford and I place them on the graves of our servicemen who I see don't have flowers and say thank you.



This year, my daughter, Sienna, who is now almost four got to do it with me, so we made our way to the store and bought about fifteen arrangements and made our way to the National Cemetery. I gave her the arrangement and told her to pick someone who did not have any flowers from their family yet. She told me when to stop the car and which side she wanted to go to place her flowers. She made her way down and picked where she wanted to place her flowers. I took a picture of it and later today looked at the name of the soldier and read the tomb stone. I did a google search of Mr. Bertoldo and read about him and how he won the medal of honor. It's because of people like him that my family is free today, and my daughter got her first lesson today about that.

I am sending a picture that I hope can make it's way to the family of this hero, I know they may not live around here, so it might be hard to put flowers on his grave. But my daughter put flowers on there for his service to our great nation. We will make sure we stop by again next year." Shawn C Doyle <[shado99@aim.com](mailto:shado99@aim.com)>



**The CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR is awarded to VITO R. BERTOLDO,** Master Sergeant [then Private First Class] Infantry, Company A, 242D Infantry Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty at Hatten, France, 9-10 January 1945. Master Sergeant Bertoldo fought with extreme gallantry while guarding 2 command posts against the assault of powerful infantry and armored forces which had overrun the battalion's main line of resistance. On the close approach of enemy soldiers, he left the protection of the building he defended and set up his gun in the street, there to remain for almost 12 hours driving back attacks while in full view of his adversaries and completely exposed to 88-mm., machine-gun and small-arms fire. He moved back inside the command post, strapped his machine-gun to a table and covered



the main approach to the building by firing through a window, remaining steadfast even in the face of 88-mm. fire from tanks only 75 yards away. One shell blasted him across the room, but he returned to his weapon. When 2 enemy personnel carriers led by a tank moved toward his position, he calmly waited for the troops to dismount and then, with the tank firing directly at him, leaned out of the window and mowed down the entire group of more than 20 Germans. Some time later, removal of the command post to another building was ordered. M/Sgt. Bertoldo voluntarily remained behind, covering the withdrawal of his comrades and maintaining his stand all night. In the morning he carried his machine-gun to an adjacent building used as a command post of another battalion and began a day-long defense of that position. He broke up a heavy attack, launched by a self-propelled 88-mm. gun covered by a tank and about 15 infantrymen. Soon afterward another 88-mm. weapon moved up to within a few feet of his position, and, placing the muzzle of its gun almost inside the building, fired into the room, knocking him down and seriously wounding others. An American bazooka team set the German weapon afire, and M/Sgt. Bertoldo went back to his machine-gun dazed as he was and killed several of the hostile troops as they attempted to withdraw. It was decided to evacuate the command post under the cover of darkness, but before the plan could be put into operation the enemy began an intensive assault supported by fire from their tanks and heavy guns. Disregarding the devastating barrage, he remained at his post and hurled white phosphorous grenades into the advancing enemy troops until they broke and retreated. A tank less than 50 yards away fired at his stronghold, destroyed the machine-gun and blew him across the room again but he once more returned to the bitter fight and, with a rifle, single-handedly covered the withdrawal of his fellow soldiers when the post was finally abandoned. With inspiring bravery and intrepidity M/Sgt. Bertoldo withstood the attack of vastly superior forces for more than 48 hours without rest or relief, time after time escaping death only by the slightest margin while killing at least 40 hostile soldiers and wounding many more during his grim battle against the enemy hordes.



In the face of direct fire from a Mark V tank, Pvt. Vito Bertoldo stayed at his post and continued to fire. His assistant gunner, Pvt. John Grabos of "C" Co. was severely wounded. **[The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII booklet lists PFC John A. Grabos, 35 840 040, Co. "C", 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 242D Inf. Regt. as having died of wounds on 01/21/45. Entered military service from Gary, Indiana]**



### **"ARMY MONUMENT UNVEILED" by Gordon D. King, cousin of Tech/4 Eugene M. Guyotte, 742 L.M. Ordnance Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division.**



In the February 2011 issue of Rainbow Trail, page 2, Gordon told Eugene's story. This article was written for The Citizen of Laconia May 31, 2011 and is reprinted with permission.

**BOSCAWEN** — The images of more than 60 members of the U.S. Army who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan are engraved on the U. S. Army Monument which was unveiled during a ceremony at the New Hampshire State Veterans Ceremony on Memorial Day. The monument was unveiled by Gov. John Lynch and retired Brig. Gen. Stephen Curry following a dedication ceremony.

Among the images etched in the glass

is that of Tech. 4 Eugene M. Guyotte Jr., Ashland. Guyotte, a member of the 742nd Light Maintenance Ordnance Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division, died on May 6, 1945, from an accidental gunshot wound just hours before the war with Germany ended.





The photograph of him in full dress uniform was selected from hundreds submitted to the monument committee for consideration. Lynch paid tribute to the members of the Gold Star Mothers attending the ceremony saying they have sacrificed so much by the loss of their children. He also paid tribute to those men and women who have served or are still serving in the Army. "Those who have served and are serving have sacrificed so we can be free," Lynch said.

Guest speaker John Blair, retired general with the Army National Guard, recalled that he attended the dedication of the cemetery 15 years ago. He called the completion of the new monument a dream come true. He praised

the committee which spent more than two years raising funds and coming up with the design on the monument.

In front of the images are emblems of the Army National Guard, the Department of the Army and United States Army Reserve. There is also the Battle Cross, a bronze sculpture of combat boots, rifle and helmet. Frank Tilton, retired Army colonel of Laconia, a member of the monument committee, said the sculpture was added to the monument to complete its design. The helmet signifies the fallen soldier, the inverted rifle with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to honor the soldier's comrade in arm. The boots represent the soldier's final march of the last battle. Blair said committee members listened to veterans and made changes suggested to them. "They can take credit for how it turned out," he said. The retired general praised committee members. "I am amazed at what you have done. Mission accomplished. This is a job well done," Blair said.



Curry, in addressing the hundreds of people at the ceremony said the job wasn't done until thanks were given to those involved in the planning of the task and carrying it out. He acknowledged the donors who contributed funds to the project including Laconia Savings Bank, Public Service of New Hampshire, BAE and Jonathan Hall of Warren Street Architects who designed the monument, and the hundreds of individuals who donated funds to help with construction of the monument. The glass engraving was done by Granite State Glass of Laconia and the landscaping by Tasker Landscaping. "This monument is for those who are no longer with us, all the soldiers who have served, and those who are now serving or will serve in the future," Curry said.

The writer is the cousin of Tech. 4 Guyotte. He submitted the photograph which was selected. He is extremely honored to have his cousin included in the monument.

## An inquiry from a WWII Rainbow Division son (May 25, 2011)



Comment: I am a son of **Don Joe, Co. A, 122<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion**, who was in the 42nd during WW II. In the mid to late 60's I was stationed at Wertheim, Germany with the US Army. My father wanted to come over while I was there but because of financial reasons could not. He told me at the time that he thought he had been through the town of Wertheim during the war. I have discovered later that the Rainbow Division did in fact capture Wertheim. My father passed away about 22 years ago. The reason for my inquiry is that I am going to a reunion of guys who served at Peden Barracks, Wertheim, which was located at the Stuka airfield on the hill above the town. Most of us fell in love with the town and I am wondering if I can get more information about the capturing of Wertheim or any personnel recollections of the event.

**Chuck Joe**

**[photo of Don Joe, Camp Gruber, OK November 1944]**

[From the Rainbow research team members' response] -



Dear Chuck, Below are excerpts from two first hand accounts of men of the 42D for the time and place you are interested in, preceded by official background from the April 1945 monthly report of operations of the 42D Division --



**[From the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3: Operations of 42D Infantry Division – 1 April 1945 – 31 April 1945]**  
During the latter days of March, the 42d Infantry Division crossed the RHINE River at WORMS, and entered the lines along the MAIN River thirty-three (33) miles west of WURZBURG. With the 222d Infantry on the right, and 232d Infantry on the left, the Regiments moved forward as far as possible on motors, and then detrucked, deployed along a line extending from WEILBACH north to WORTH, and continued fighting the enemy. The enemy continued to withdraw, and the Infantry followed closely. This was the beginning of a rapid hard month of fighting for the Division, and it proved to be a disastrous month for the enemy.

**April 1945**

## **I. CAPTURE OF WURZBURG.**

The 42d Infantry Division was still attached to XXI Corps at the beginning of the month, and the Division CP was located at KLEIN-HEUBACH, a small town on the MAIN River approximately thirty-three miles west of WURZBURG. The 222d Infantry was deployed on the right of the MAIN River, and the 232d on the left of the MAIN River. The Division zone extended from WEIL-BACH north to WORTH. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was on

the right and the 3d Infantry Division on the left of the 42d Division. After vigorous patrolling during the night 1 April, it was determined that the enemy was withdrawing rapidly. At 1000A the 222d Infantry attacked with 2 battalions abreast, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn on the left and 2d Bn on the right, both Bns shuttling with motors. The mission was to advance and capture WERTHEIM, a strong delaying position located on the MAIN River. The advance was very rapid against light and spotty resistance until the near vicinity of WERTHEIM was reached. Since the surrounding high ground was a very strategic location, the enemy opposed very strongly. After hard fighting, the town was cleared by 2100A, and the advance continued toward WURZBURG. The 3d Bn, reinforced by 2 platoons of TDs [tank destroyers] from 692d TD Bn, was motorized, and ordered by XXI Corps to move rapidly NE to join Task Force 1 of CCA, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, in HETTSTADT (N4835). The 3d Bn of 232d Infantry closed in regimental area at 0700A. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Bns attacked at 1400A with the objective of MARKT-HEIDENFELD. Both Bns encountered strong enemy resistance Vic of HASSLOCH River, and the advance was slow and difficult over very rough mountainous terrain and a





poor road net. The 3d Bn was organized as Division Reserve and assembled at LAUDENBACH (N0328). The 242d Infantry, less the 3d Bn that remained West of the RHINE River, moved by motors to an assembly area in rear of 222d Infantry.

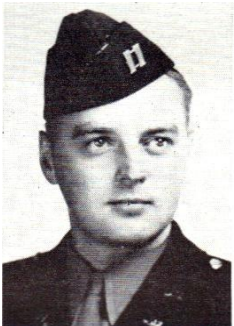
The attack by the 222d Infantry continued toward WURZBURG on 2 April against scattered machine gun and sniper fire. The 222d Inf was attached to CCA, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, and cleared MARIENBURG, a small town on the west bank of the MAIN River in vicinity of WURZBURG. The 232d Infantry continued the attack over very difficult terrain and encountered heavy resistance. Attacking with a mission to clear the area along the North bank of the MAIN River and clear the enemy from the sector North of WERTHEIM (N280305), the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn met small arms fire early in the day at BREITENBRUNN. A coordinated attack from the West, South, and East of the town by Companies A, C, and D drove the enemy from the positions, and inflicted heavy casualties. The 2d Bn was returned to Regtl control and placed on the left flank. After daylight, the Regt moved steadily forward, meeting only scattered opposition by so-called "alarm units". Near darkness, all battalions reached the MAIN River fourteen (14) miles West of WURZBURG and began patrolling for possible crossing sites. A location was found at HOMBURG and the regiment forced a river crossing and continued the advance. Early 2 April, the 242d Infantry, including the 3d Bn,

which was last to cross the RHINE, closed in an assembly area in vicinity of WERTHEIM. To overcome enemy strength East of the MAIN River, the 242d Inf was directed to move from its assembly area and attack North. The Regt attacked with 3 Bns abreast, and reached the objective just North of the BRONN River. This maneuver greatly confused the enemy, and 563 prisoners were captured. The Division CP moved to WERTHEIM.



Chuck, because the Division Headquarters was briefly in Wertheim, I think you will be interested in reading this excerpt from the personal account of Captain James B. "Jim" McCahey, written for his

family. Although dates were not mentioned moving forward, nor names of smaller towns and villages, the action leading up to Wertheim is detailed. Jim was Senior Aide to Major General Harry J. Collins, 42D Division Commander. [PHOTO of CPTJAMES B. MCCAHEY]



"March came down upon us with freezing and snowy weather. In the mountains we had to use donkeys to haul ammunition and supplies. Stretchers, however, had to be manhandled, no easy task. There were times when I would be in a particular area and mortar fire would come down heavy. The wounded, and there were many, had to be evacuated. Along with three other men, I carried many a wounded man to the battalion aid station. Sometimes we had a problem with prisoners. Their enlisted men could be handled easily, they were glad to be out of the fray. But, the officers were another matter. They would yell instructions to the soldiers pertaining to their silence under

questioning or their cooperation with our forces. We had to keep them apart. One officer kept yelling and the sergeant guarding him turned to me for help. In German, I told him to shoot him the next time he opened his mouth; and to aim low. There was no more trouble that day. When we would go into the villages along the line of advance we would see very few people. Usually one or two very old taking shelter in the basement of a bombed out house. As a matter of fact, in many villages there wasn't one building that was



not seriously damaged. The Germans would hide in the basements also and jump out at the appropriate time shooting our men. In one town, I was accompanying the leading elements of the Division when such an event took place. There were about 20 enemy soldiers; we had 14 including me. I took to the ground like a stone as did the others. We crawled as best we could along the edge of the street eventually reaching a hole in the side of a building. I was about third in line dropping into the cellar to find a dozen Germans, fully armed with helmets and all in place. When our eyes grew accustomed to the darkness, there they all stood with their hands up high wanting to surrender. They were more frightened than we were!

"In such a place, all kinds of livestock could be found. The cows were screaming because they had not been milked, the horses were walking around in the fields, many dead cows and horses were around, and ducks and geese wandered here and there. Later, when the fighting had died down, our men would go out and round up those, cook them over small fires, and have a bit of difference in their diet. Eggs were especially prized. When we captured Germans we often found all kinds of such appropriated foodstuffs in their pockets. They were doing the same thing.

"Back at headquarters, orders had come down for a major advance by all Allied armies across the entire front. Orders specifically for us came down from Corps Headquarters and our staffs were busy for several days working them into the Division Plan. The whole thing was known as Operation Understone. How the higher-ups ever dreamed up some of the code words, I'll never know. Our Division was known by all kinds of names during the early days. The Boss put a stop to that, though, and finally got approval for our code name to be "Fury". The regiments also had code names, but they all had to begin with "F" since the General had picked "Fury". The result was such names like "Ferocious", "Fast", "Flash", etc. [the names used to designate the three infantry battalions became: "Furnace" – 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment; "Funnel" – 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment; and "Fuller" – 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment.]

"The plan was for two of the Regiments to advance with the third in reserve. Straight ahead were low mountains through which the Germans had built the Siegfried Line. This fortified zone came complete with underground tunnels, firing towers, concrete gun emplacements, tank obstacles, and mines. Mines by the thousands. To get there, our units had to forge ahead through the mountains and forests, cross a small river at Dahn, and penetrate the outer wire emplacements; all this, under severe fire. The jump-off time was 4:00 A.M. and away we went. Our artillery laid barrage after barrage in front of the leading elements. The General and I were about five hundred yards behind the infantry, walking since there were few roads or trails. From time to time we came under mortar fire. In such cases, rank had no privilege. It was, find the nearest hole and dive in. The attack was a surprise and we made great time. At about 11:00 A.M. the Germans reacted and all hell broke loose. The hills and mountains had to be taken one by one. It was tough going, but the superb training from men received back in the wilderness of Camp Gruber served them well. Later, the opposing General stated that he lost 40% of his force during the first day. The accuracy of the shooting and artillery dismayed him. We arrived at the Siegfried Line and found it unattended. That was a terrific break, since to fight through that would have been costly. On the Division went, reached its objectives the first day, and found itself on the second in a lovely narrow valley. Our artillery and the Air Force had blocked the eastern pass of the valley. That was the main retreat course for the Germans as they tried to flee to the Rhine. Then the same forces ploughed the valley with shells and bombs. There must have been some 10,000 dead and wounded when we came onto the scene. Trucks, wagons, small vehicles of all types, guns, ammunition, clothing, abandoned equipment was scattered over the road and the fields near by. There was a railroad track running through the area, and parked on it were five hospital trains loaded with wounded. They had been there several days and the fury of our advance had prevented their removal to Germany. Their only protection were the very large red crosses painted on the roofs of the cars.

"The task of the Division was now to consolidate the area, round up the prisoners, bury the dead, and the hundreds of cows and horses who had not survived the bombardment, get out of the way of Patton's tanks as they went through the gaps we had made, and get ready to move north toward the city of Worms. Our bulldozers took care of the animals, we all went about taking the prisoners, the medical men went down to the trains to provide medical supplies and expertise. The Germans had no penicillin and little else. Their food had been rationed for several days and were without water for the preceding 48 hours. It was a mess. The smell in the area from all the dead was the worst. One blessing, though, was a small creek of beautiful cold water that came down into the valley from the higher ground. Here I took out my toothbrush, razor, soap, etc., and for the first time in some six or seven days I felt clean again.



"After a two day stay in this valley, we were ordered to Worms. Other forces had crossed the Rhine at this point and left a pontoon bridge behind. We took the Division over this at night and proceeded east. The Main River courses like a snake throughout our zone. Five times we had to force a crossing of this same river. Each time there was a halt for a few hours for supplies and assault boats to be brought up, units were reorganized, replacements assigned, plans made. Then the fight would begin again."

A Wertheim Memory from



**Robert C. "Bob" Calhoun, Service Co., Co. L, 222D Inf. Regt., 42D Division**

**[PHOTO of PVT ROBERT C. CALHOUN]** From his "World War II Memoirs", p. 34-35

"While we had been camping in the Erfweiler hills, the Rhine had been crossed by other units, and this was our cue to move on. On Saturday March the 31<sup>st</sup>, we entrucked, and were off on our way to catch up with the war. The day was very nice, and the war seemed far away as we headed north and east, reaching the beautiful Rhine valley. Our route led us through Landau, Bad Durkheim, and thence to Worms where our crossing would be made. At Bad Durkheim, we stopped by what had been a German

Quartermaster dump, and now being used by our troops for the same purpose. In it were quite a few sacks of apples which had been destined for the German Army before we took over. The men working in the dump tossed some of the apples to us in the trucks, for I guess we looked a little hungry, and those that we missed were the object of a mad scramble by the German civilians.

In the afternoon, we approached Worms. I had hoped for a city full of antique, interesting-looking buildings, but parts of the city were so bombed out, that it was often hard to tell whether a building had formerly stood there or not. Indeed, some of the ruins had grass growing on them. The regular highway bridge was, of course, demolished, so we would make our crossing on a pontoon bridge. To shield us from possible enemy air action, a heavy smoke screen was sent up around the bridge as we approached with our large convoy. We then crossed the treadway bridge without mishap. The demolished bridge lay in the water to our right, and must have been picturesque when it had stood in one piece. So we were finally across the Rhine, the last barrier to the German heartland. Back when we first went on line in Strasbourg, those men close to the river could look across and see our enemy walking around, and now we were actually across.

We kept rolling without mishap until late afternoon when "L" Co. was pulled out of the convoy to establish a perimeter guard around division headquarters which was located, I believe, in **Wertheim**. The three of us who were together had a fairly presentable hole dug in an hour or so. About this time, we heard a queer roar in the sky, which became louder and closer all the time. Then the Ack-ack opened up, and from the direction of the tracers fired from a nearby quad 50 caliber machine gun, we finally caught sight of the plane. It was one of those German jet-jobs that we had heard so much about. One minute it was in sight, and the next minute it was gone. I've never seen anything travel so fast; the ack-ack never came near. That night, the Jerries sent a couple of regular two-engined fighter-bombers to see what we were up to. They strafed here and there, but didn't come near us. Just about every night after this, a Jerry plane would come over so regularly that we named it "Bedcheck Charlie."

Sunday the first was Easter, and it turned out a fine day. We were permitted some time off to walk around the town, and watched the engineers constructing a treadway bridge over the Main River. The inhabitants of the town were walking around as calm and unconcerned as could be, as if nothing had ever happened. Our foxholes were in a field of young, green clover, and it was nice just to rest in the sun, and forget about the war for awhile.

Our restful interlude being over, we moved out on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, on trucks to catch up with the 222<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. The country was beautiful with its terraced hillsides, and vineyards. Further on, we passed huge stores of German ammo hidden in the woods. The roads were lined with dead horses and wrecked wagons. Evidently the German Army wasn't as mechanized as was supposed, for it seemed to make great use of horses. Once, a couple of jet-jobs came over, but our convoy stopped in the woods, and the planes never saw us. Late in the afternoon, we came upon other elements of the 222<sup>nd</sup>, and soon pulled into a woods, and detrucked."

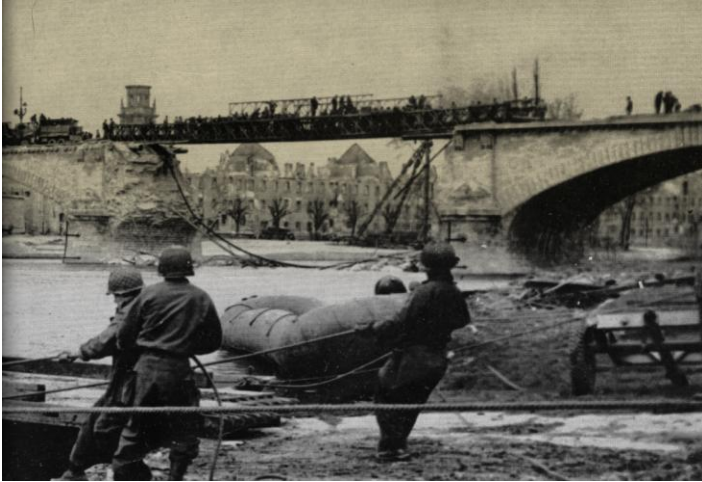
[These photos of Wertheim and many others of the city are found on this web page :

<http://www.google.com/search?q=wertheim+germany&hl=en&authuser=0&biw=1040&bih=770&prmd=ivnsm&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=w9MITuqaPKjx0gG9v-jWCw&sqi=2&ved=0CDgQsAQ> ]





A continuation from the memoirs of **James B. “Jim” McCahey, senior aide to MG Harry J. Collins** – “Eventually after about a week, we arrived on the west bank of the Main across from Wurzburg, a university town. We occupied the Marienberg Castle on a high bluff. [photo of Marienberg Castle from Wikipedia.com] From there we could see across the whole city, the airport, and farmland all held by the enemy. We watched as the Germans were attempting to recover a Tiger tank at the airport which had been hit by one of our planes. We called for artillery, and attempted to bring some fire down upon this operation.



However, the range was too great and all we could do is sit there and watch. They were successful. [photo below, from the official history of the 42D Infantry “Rainbow” Division - The bridgehead secured, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Engineers build a raft and ferry jeeps, ambulances and signal equipment into the city while work is rushed on the construction of a Bailey bridge across the span blown by the Germans when they retreated into this historic town.

That night, the Division crossed the river under heavy fire. Again, we were successful and had a whole regiment in the city by dawn. The General and I crossed on a raft and made our way to the center of the city. Our leading units had broadcast that all citizens were to hang white towels or sheets from their windows or suffer

retribution. The military forces of the town had departed and several old, white haired men gathered in the square to meet the General. I spoke the German, so the Boss laid down the rules for the surrender of the city while I interpreted. Here we stood in the center of the square, burning military equipment on all sides, buildings bombed out and flaming wherever one looked, talking with a group of old timers...all looking like my grandfather.

During this whole time, the nights were very cold. However, the days turned warm. The General had a metal cabin like a small prefab, mounted on a six by six truck. Inside were a bed, desk, toilet, shower, and cabinets. We, however, slept on the ground or in a basement of a bombed out building. Sometimes we would end up in a wooded place and then a hammock could be stretched between two trees. But seldom did we get more than three hours at a time. Something always would come up and we’d have a go at it again. Patrols were constantly being sent out. The men would darken their faces and hands, take off anything that might jingle, and crawl toward the enemy. The Germans would do the same thing and sometimes these patrols would meet. There would be a fire fight and people would get hurt. However, the whole idea was to avoid this sort of occurrence and scout about to determine the strength of the enemy



forces, and return safely. Coming back was no picnic for the men, crawling they would have to sneak back to our area, whisper the pass word, and hope that no one was trigger happy. It was tense. Many times, around four in the morning, I would be present when these men returned and heard their reports. They were always very dirty and exhausted. Their company commander usually gave them the day off to clean up, etc.

After Wurzburg, the Division turned north and approached Schweinfurt, a manufacturing city. The ball bearing plants there had been bombed again and again by our air force to no avail.

The factories went underground or operated in the ruins. The fight in front of this city was a mean one and lasted several days. The city was circled with 88mm guns [photo left] which could be used against airplanes



and ground forces. The muzzle velocity of these guns was so great that the projectile itself arrived before one heard the report of the gun. Our tanks took a severe beating and the infantry spent a lot of time on their bellies. Finally, we were able to secure the city and stop for a day of reorganization. President Roosevelt died this day, and the General had a memorial Mass said in the town square with several thousand troops in full battle gear attending.

Back at Camp Gruber I had organized a security detail of 20 men, whose job was to guard the General wherever he went. Highly trained, expert sharpshooters, big, strong...they were the pick of the lot. Usually three of these men rode in the lead jeep armed to the teeth and equipped with smoke and signal bombs and cannisters. The General, his driver, and I rode in the second, and we were followed by the third with four men, armed like the first. When we would stop, they would deploy and protect the area. At this Mass, I had them on top of buildings. There were no incidents.

However, it was in this city that I almost bought it. The General had sent me forward to determine how far our leading elements had gone. Walking down an alley, I came under fire by a sniper. The first bullet went behind my neck and hit the brick wall with a splat. I turned and ran back, stopping after ten or so steps. 'Wango!' went another shot, this time in front of me. I turned and ran in the original direction. "Wango!" another shot. I felt like one of those figures you see in a shooting gallery at a state fair. After three or so of these maneuvers, I succeeded in reaching the end of the alley where a squad of men were kneeling and watching as I went through my act. The sergeant said something to the effect that I must have been a great dancer. But then, they slowly gathered themselves together and set out after the sniper. Close call."

## A Bazooka Tale

**Photo - Rainbow Reveille Camp Gruber, Oklahoma**

**Thursday December 23, 1943 Page five**

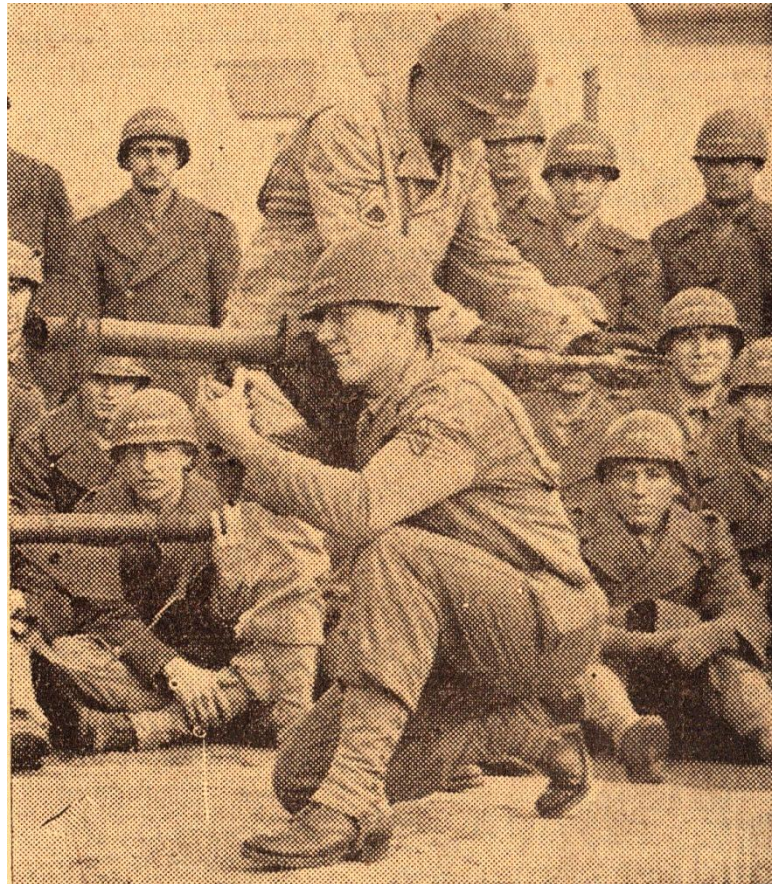
### **DEMONSTRATES NEW BAZOOKA GUN**

**This is the weapon which makes the foot soldier a more than even match for the Mark IV tanks the Germans are using in the Italian campaign. It is the rocket launcher, better known as the bazooka, and can disable light and medium tanks with great success. [demonstrated by K-222 men]**

A LETTER from Charlie Paine (G-242) to Ken Carpenter (H-232), editor of the Rainbow Reveille (21 January 1990):

"KEN, Tom O'Neill (G-242) has been after me to send you a "bazooka" tale ever since the article in the last Reveille. People in my own company (G-242) had me so mad about this event that I stopped talking about it. I was written up for the Silver Star for the action (never got it or knew of it until a few years back). It is just as well I did not get the award as I would not have recognized the action. I was not there! Here is the description of the action I was in.

On the first day we moved into Hatten [France, January 1945], my platoon was assigned the right flank of the company front. This placed us forward and inside the town on its right edge. I was walking from the platoon headquarters building, a small farmhouse, and the bazookerman happened to be with me. We were part way to the next house and German tanks swept up in a cutting off move. One of the tanks came right up to the house we had just left. When we saw the tank coming in our direction, we ducked into an old, broken down cellar hole and got into this cover unseen by the tankers. The tank stopped in a position broadside to us. It was close, maybe 50 yards away. The shot was a nightmare though. There was a rise in the ground and a number of apple trees





on this ground. The bazookerman (unknown by name now) had a lot of talk from me as I loaded the round, encouraging him to clear the mound but to keep out of the trees – and of course to hit the tank!

His first shot bounced off the rear of the turret, not exploding. The second shot glanced off the front of the turret, again not exploding. I was telling him to pull the shots down as I kept loading the bazooka. He got the third round and on target. It hit the tank on the flat side between the treads and wheels. Right at the machine gunner's spot. One man came out and was captured. At this point the other tanks were pulling back and we left our cover to try to get one of them as they left. We quickly changed our minds as both 88 and 105 rounds came in.

The story got around that I had fired the bazooker that knocked out the tank. One guy even told me he had loaded the bazooker for me! This issue was resolved a few years back, at a reunion. I had just had an argument with one of the boys as he was telling me I was wrong not to own up to my action. He left and I turned to Jim Burns (G-242), who was next to me and said how mad I was that I was not believed. He listened and said, "That was me." Jim came to the company that day and is my build, also wears glasses and seen under his helmet and behind the bazooker was taken for me.

Our action was very calm, WE were not known to the tank. Although they started to swing the turret our way after the second shot, according to men who watched us. Jim and the men in his area were in a real fight, for they were at the entrance to town. They were caught in the pincers the Germans put around Hatten. Neither of us got an award, but came home. **That is enough for us. As Tom O'Neill states, "At one time or another, any one of us performed at a Silver Star level, seen or unseen. Some did so on more than one occasion.**



The SILVER STAR is awarded to CHARLES G. PAINE, 02 010 796, Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Company G, 242d Infantry Regiment for gallantry in action on 21 April 1945, at Gunzenhausen, Germany. When his platoon was sent several miles ahead of the battalion to ascertain road conditions and the location of enemy elements, Lieutenant Paine, usually acting as first scout, led the patrol through several towns on the route. As the platoon boldly proceeded down the main street of Gunzenhausen unrecognized by the enemy because of poor visibility, Lieutenant Paine noticed a bridge still intact. Rushing forward, the patrol overwhelmed the guards and disconnected demolition charges attached to the bridge. Lieutenant Paine then posted security guards and led his unit in the repulse of several enemy attacks until relieved. Lieutenant Paine's alertness and superior leadership facilitated the battalion's advance without a single casualty to his patrol.

Entered military service from Bangor, Maine.



The SILVER STAR is awarded to THOMAS B. O'NEILL, 39 138 105, Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 242d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambsheim, France, Sergeant O'Neill and three other men were acting as machine gunners with elements of three companies which were attacking across an open field when they encountered strong enemy positions consisting of well prepared pillboxes, fortified houses, machine gun nests, mortars, and tanks. Caught in a terrific cross fire from machine guns and small arms and subjected to heavy bombardment from enemy artillery and mortars, with enemy forces attacking from the front and on both flanks, the troops were ordered to withdraw and form a new line. Disregarding the order to withdraw, Sergeant O'Neill and the other three men placed their two light machine guns into position, and, in the face of direct machine gun and 88mm fire from German tanks, delivered effective fire on the enemy, forcing them to stop and take cover, and successfully covering the withdrawal without the loss of a single man. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.

## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

This item below is from an article in the Rainbow Reveille newsletter, printed in Austria August 10, 1945. [ed. When you read it, please keep in mind that of the three Congressional Medals of Honor (MOHs) that were recommended (as stated in the article), only ONE was awarded (to MSG Vito R. Bertoldo, A-242); and, of the 21 Distinguished Service Crosses (DSOs) recommended, only SIX were awarded. It looks like a great many medals recommended to men who were deserving may never have been approved. Also, a Presidential Unit Citation recommended by the Commanding General of the 42D, MG Harry J. Collins to the 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, was lost

in the archives for decades without having been considered and only by chance was it found by a researcher, sent through channels, and after several years awarded to the surviving members of the 222nd Infantry Regiment in 2001].

### **IT TAKES TIME TO BE A HERO / A&D Board Faces Big Task**

A total of 4745 awards to Rainbow men and members of attached units have been recommended to the Division Awards and Decorations Section, a check this week of the latest figure reveals. The recommendations are for awards ranging from the Bronze Star to the Congressional Medal of Honor. Of this total figure, 1543 awards have been published and in most cases already awarded. A review of the process involved between the actual action that prompts the soldier's recommendation for an award and the final pinning on of the badge may give some of those who are sweating one out some reason for patience.

First the recommendation goes from the soldier's unit CO to regiment, where the regimental awards officer must clear it, check all details and facts, collect evidence and statements. This in turn goes to the Division A & D Board which must review the case and decide on its worthiness, whether it merits a higher award or a lesser one than recommended, whether the facts are complete. An example of the necessity for time is shown in the fact that there are now 880 recommendations that have been returned to the units for further verification and additional detail. Even when award is approved, the process has just begun. The actual wording of the citation is carefully studied, written and re-written. Then it is passed on to higher command for final approval -- but oftentimes is returned for re-wording or reclassification. In the case of awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Legion of Merit, final Division approval is only another step. The recommendation must then go on to higher echelon. It's still the Army and this sort of thing takes time. Anyway, here's the score to date on Bronze Stars and Silver Stars. There have been recommendations submitted for 4,186 Bronze Stars and 432 Silver Stars. Actually published and, except in the case of only the most recent, actually awarded are 1246 Bronze Stars and 237 Silver Stars. Sixty other miscellaneous awards have also gone through. At present there are 1669 awards that have passed the Board but have not yet been given final approval. There are only 600 awards awaiting board action, plus the 890 that have been returned for additional information and verification before the Board can act on them. Three medals of Honor (by coincidence one from each regiment), 21 Distinguished Service Crosses and 11 Legion of Merit recommendations have been received by the Awards and Decorations Board. Except for 5 Legion of Merit awards which have already been awarded, the rest are still at one stage or another 'in progress'. In the meantime a lot of good discharge points (at five points per) are in the mill -- and for three Rainbowers there are three opportunities for discharge in the three Medals of Honor, if and when they get final approval, and if the recipients choose to ask for it."

### **THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE and THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

"On 7 October 1943, the War Department formally established the **Combat Infantryman Badge** (CIB) and the **Expert Infantryman Badge** (EIB) awards in Section I, **War Department Circular 269 (27 October 1943)**: Moreover, **War Department Circular 269** stipulated: *...only one of these badges will be worn at one time and the Combat Infantryman badge is the highest award*; the awarding of the CIB was officially authorized with an executive order dated 15 November 1943; later, on 10 June 1944, the U.S. Congress approved an extra ten dollars in monthly pay to every infantryman awarded the CIB—excepting commissioned officers. The WWII regulations did not formally prescribe a specific combat service period establishing the infantryman's eligibility for being awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge, thus, in 1947, the U.S. Government implemented a policy authorizing the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to World War II veteran soldiers who had been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, because the CIB was awarded only to soldiers who had borne combat duties befitting the recognition conferred by a Bronze Star Medal. Both awards required a commander's recommendation and a citation in the pertinent orders. General Marshall initiated this after Medal of Honor-recipient Major Charles W. Davis noted to him that: **'It would be wonderful, if someone could design a badge for every infantryman who faces the enemy, every day and every night, with so little recognition.'**<sup>[4]</sup> " [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat\\_Infantryman\\_Badge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_Infantryman_Badge)

### **MILLENNIUM CHAPTER CONTACTS**

Honorary President: Melanie Remple <[taremp@hutchtel.net](mailto:taremp@hutchtel.net)>

President: Emily Marcason-Tolmie <[emilymarcason@yahoo.com](mailto:emilymarcason@yahoo.com)>

Treasurer: Sue Cullumber <[suemikecul@cox.net](mailto:suemikecul@cox.net)>

Secretary/Editor of Rainbow Trail/Reveille: Suellen McDaniel <[jmac1400@aol.com](mailto:jmac1400@aol.com)> (828) 464-1466

Archival Restoration/Graphics: Tim Robertson <[trobertson1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:trobertson1@cinci.rr.com)>