

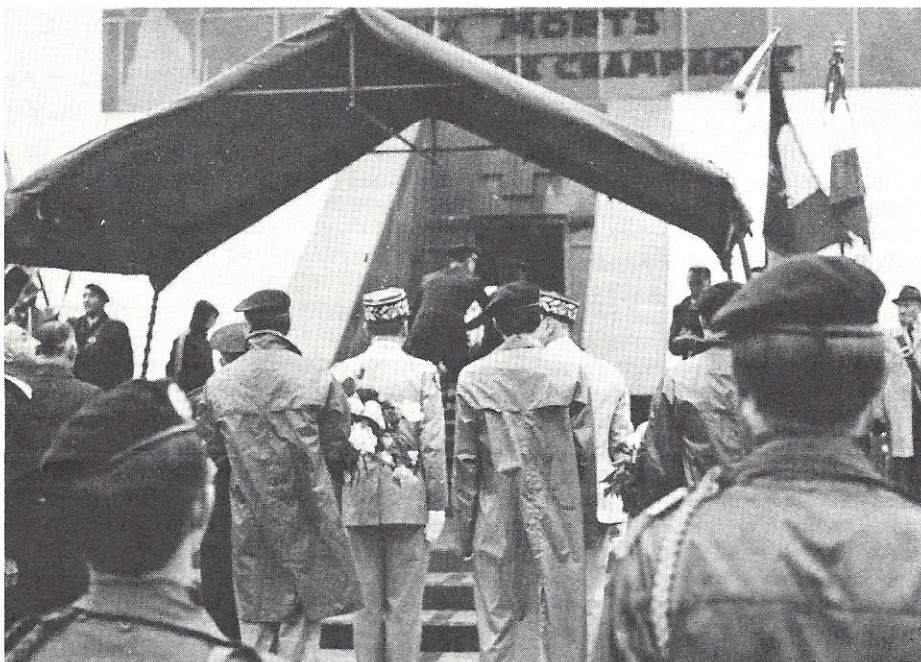


Vol. LIX

November, 1980

No. 2

Navarin Farm Ceremony



In a steady downpour, General Donaldson is shown placing the Rainbow Cushion of flowers before the tomb of General Gouraud beneath the words, "Aux Morts des Armees de Champagne."

By Brig. Gen. John W. Donaldson

It was an honor for me to be able to represent Rainbow at the annual Navarin Farm Ceremony this year. The ceremony took place on Sunday morning, 20 July, under gray skies and a constant rainfall, but that did not dampen the spirits and the dedication of the six hundred "faithful" who came from every corner of France to attend.

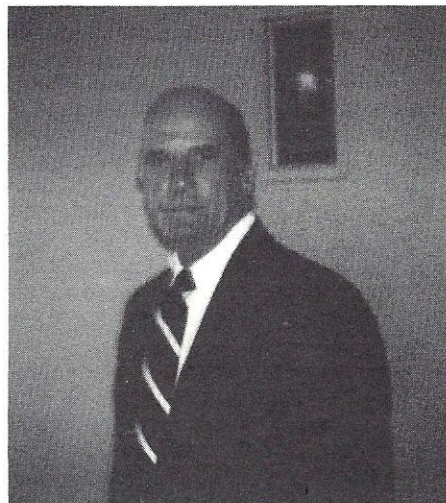
I left Paris at seven o'clock in the morning and drove east on the lightly traveled superhighway that leads from Paris to the German border at Saarebruecken. As I passed the rich fields of wheat, sugar beets, barley and corn, that extended as far as the eye can reach, I reflected on the contrast between this beautiful, thriving countryside as it is now and the devastated, unproductive area it must have been at the time of Rainbow's participation in the heavy fighting of July 1918. I passed towns such as Meaux, Montreuil-aux-Lions, Chateau-Thierry and Reims, before taking the turnoff at Cahlons-sur-Marne and driving north through Mourmelon to our rendez-vous site at Souain.

There, I met with Generals Michel and Philippe Gouraud, and was introduced to the other French dignitaries. They included Colonel Gervais, who acted as Master of the ceremony; Mr. Bataillon, General Secretary for the Marne Department, and representing the Prefect; and General Lafontaine, C.O. for the 10th D.B./63rd D.M.T. from Chalons.

At a little before ten, we proceeded as a group to the site of the monument, where a large crowd of over six hundred persons had collected. Mr. George Tate, our American Superintendent of Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, was awaiting us, and he had arranged to

Continued on page 5

President's Message



Pres. John George, Jr.

We enter the fall season and it will be welcome, especially the cooler weather. The summer in Tulsa has been HOT, hottest in history and dry, water rationing and uncomfortable.

We have several trips planned to visit Rainbow Chapters and are looking forward to those visits and hope to promote more interest and Membership. By the time you read this, we will have visited the Texas Chapter in Fort Worth, Kansas Rainbowners in Manhattan and Missouri Rainbowners in Kansas City.

Plans are being made for the Mid-Year Meeting on February 27 and 28 in Clearwater, Florida. Start making your plans now to be there. More information will be available at a later date.

We are planning on seeing many of you as we travel across this great country of ours this year, and hope each of you are thinking and remembering our motto for the year: "Each One Reach One and Each One Bring One." We will be able, by working together, to reach our membership goal for the year.

Change Reunion Date ? ?

A rather emotional subject was introduced at the Cedar Rapids Reunion, that of changing the dates of the Annual Rainbow Reunion, and the Time and Place Committee asks for your help. The extreme heat that we have suffered through at recent Reunions at Tulsa, Huntsville, Cedar Rapids to mention a few, was uppermost in some minds. Please write your choice to Charles Sayers at the address given on page 2, bottom of column 3.

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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VOL. LIX November, 1980

No. 2

The RAINBOW REVEILLE
Published September, November, January,
March, May and June for by members
of the Rainbow Division Veterans
Association.
Hugo E. Grimm
#1 Community Federal Center
St. Louis, MO 63131
2nd Class postage paid at St. Louis,
MO 63131
Subscription \$4.00

SEND REVEILLE ITEMS TO:

Martin L. Davis, Editor
751 Dry Creek Road
Monterey, CA 93940

SEND DUES REMITTANCE SHEETS AND MEMORIAL FORMS TO:

Mrs. Peg Keating, Secretary
505 Terrell Road
San Antonio, TX 78209

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor
#1 Community Federal Center
St. Louis, MO 63131

DEADLINES FOR COPY:

November Issue October 1, 1980
January Issue December 1, 1980

Chicago Wreath-Laying

A wreath was placed at the Rainbow Division Veterans Monument located at 77th Street and the Lake, Chicago, IL. Five members of the Illinois Chapter were in attendance: Albert C. Wells, President; Samuel Katz, Editor; Russell W. Sargent, James Palmer and Michael Martino, Sec/Treas.

The flags of the Illinois Rainbow Division Post 3681, V.F.W., were posted and invocation rendered by Martino, who also gave a brief message on how we can be of help to all veterans who are in dire need:

"Comrades of Rainbow Division, we are here today to pay homage to those heroic souls of World War I and II, who gallantly served their country and gave their lives for the sake of Democracy so that the entire world could live in peace.

"For them, we pray that they have found their peace in a New World. We, who were most fortunate in having survived the fate of war, can thank Almighty God for the privilege of still being alive to this day.

"Of course, the ravages of war left many who are alive, but maimed for the rest of their days. These are the ones we must care for, and see that our government does not forget that they are entitled to the best of care. Be aware of the fact that we can all do our part in helping the disabled comrades by writing letters when the occasion occurs, to our Congressmen and the President of the United States, and urge them to pass legislation that is beneficial to the veteran in need. Thank you, who are here today for this occasion."

MidYear Florida

President John George, Jr., announced on September 2, 1980, that the invitation of the Rocking Chair Chapter of Clearwater, Florida, to sponsor the MidYear Meeting of the National Executive Committee had been accepted. The local committee has been successful in procuring accommodations at the Ramada Inn in Clearwater for February 27 and 28, 1981.

The local chapter president has advised that an early birds get-together and Reunion has been planned for February 27 by the Rocking Chair Chapter. The National Executive Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. on February, 28, to be followed by a luncheon at noon and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. All National Executive Committee Members are urged to attend and all Rainbowners and their wives are as welcome as the flowers in May.

Details concerning reservations and registration will be provided in the January Issue of REVEILLE, but for the time being, start making plans to attend.

Prayer

Almighty and Merciful God, You have called many of our comrades from this life to live on in Your presence. At this time of year we recall with special fondness those veterans who gave their lives in the two great World Wars in the struggle for freedom and justice. We, the men of Rainbow, rededicate ourselves to the cause for which we fought and for which these brave men made the supreme sacrifice. We put our trust and our hope in You, because we are confident that with Your help, tyranny and terrorism will not prevail. We ask Your help that we may be ever vigilant in the cause of peace, ever determined that all people and nations can live in harmony, every hopeful that hunger and suffering and injustice can be overcome. Be with us, Lord, as we pray in Your name. Amen.

- Rev. Robert F. Weiss, S.J., National Chaplain

Editor's Prerogative

There have been instances when the Editor has been unjustly criticized for not having published an article verbatim as submitted. Please realize that there are times when in the judgment of the Editor, it would be neither wise nor proper to publish an item in the exact form and wording as submitted. Generally, articles must be shortened or lengthened to fit the space available.

It is not only the Editor's prerogative, but also his duty to accept, reject, edit or revise all material received, as he may deem proper.

In the light of the foregoing, please continue to submit your articles to the Editor and gracefully accept any editing action he may take.

- Horace Rose, Chairman
- The Reveille Committee

Future Reunions

At the Cedar Rapids Reunion, the Time and Place Committee voted to poll the membership as to their preference in dates for future Reunions. Make your choice from the following and mail to: Charles Sayers, PO Box 125, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

1. Continue the Reunions on 12, 13 and 14 July, with Early Birds of the 11th?

2. Schedule the Reunions for a weekend near July 14th?

3. Change the Reunion dates to the spring or fall?

Veterans Day

Dee R. Eberhart, 242d Infantry

A couple of years ago while having a late dinner in the Galaxy Room, a congenial eating and drinking place in Ellensburg for ranchers, truck drivers, university professors, business people, newspapermen and old soldiers, sailors and airmen, I was startled to hear someone at the bar behind me state, "I really loved the infantry" For openers, this was worth a free drink, which was delivered to a former marine who had been badly wounded in Viet Nam and subsequently discharged to return to ranching here in Kittitas County, Washington.

How could anyone love the infantry, since it is well known that the doughboys and dog faces (or grunts in the latest war) are only those who could not or did not get into the more glamorous or safer arms of services, who had the worst of mud and misery, the highest casualties and all in all the most hopeless conditions to contend with. Such a statement might seem even more curious coming from one who had experienced the shock and pain of torn flesh and smashed bones, the tortured movement from forward aid station to base hospitals, and finally rejection for further duty in infantry or any other branch of the Marines.

This is a question worth pondering by all of us on this Veterans Day, since without such love and devotion by American infantrymen from Valley Forge to Viet Nam, this country would obviously not be either the home of the brave nor the land of the free. For example, the Tenth Iowa Infantry was activated in September, 1861, went into action in October under General Grant in the Army of the Tennessee, and stormed the heights of Missionary Ridge, suffering 20% casualties on that one day. Yet, the survivors re-enlisted in the newly designated Tenth Volunteer Iowa Infantry and marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the Sea. Surely those volunteers must have loved their infantry enough to face once again early death on the battlefield instead of early discharge and a return home.

Ernie Pyle understood the infantry and his WWII infantrymen. He spoke of them with eloquence and with grief. In an excerpt from an Ernie Pyle report in the July 1943 *Infantry Journal*, he wrote:

"Now to the infantry - the God-damned infantry, as they like to call themselves. I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost-and-wind boys. They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without the necessities. And in the end they are the guys that wars can't be won without."

As in the past, so in the future, as long as this beloved country exists, it will always

Fort Wayne Plaque Dedicated



On May 25, 1980, members of the Michigan State Chapter, Michigan Auxiliary and guests of the Detroit Historical Museum of Fort Wayne, Michigan, assembled on the parade grounds of Old Fort Wayne, located on the banks of the Detroit River, to dedicate the beautiful bronze plaque shown above in memory of the departed Rainbow Comrades of both World War I and World War II. With a good crowd in attendance, P.N.P. George L. Irwin dedicated the plaque with the following words:

"Sixty-three years ago, April 4, 1917, the men of the First Ambulance Company of the Michigan National Guard returned from duty on the Mexican Border in 1916 - 1917, and stationed here at Fort Wayne to be mustered out of active duty. Then, on April 7, 1917, the Company was again called into active duty after the declaration of World War One. We were shipped to Grayling, Michigan for combat training and were soon assigned to the 42nd Division. In August, we sailed for France as part of the 42nd Division, which was the first complete combat division to leave for overseas in World War One.

"At the start of World War Two, the Rainbow Division was again called to service, and again assigned for combat duty in Europe. The Division had an outstanding combat record and at the end of World War Two, those Rainbow Comrades joined National Association of Rainbow Division Veterans.

"The National Association was organized on April 14, 1919, at Bad Neuenahr, Germany, and the Michigan State Chapter was formed on that same day. The Michigan Chapter has been active ever since, now sixty-one years.

"On this 25th day of May, 1980, we are mindful of the history of our great country. We are also mindful of the part which the famous 42nd (Rainbow) Division means in the history of this country on the battle fields in Europe."

have need for others with the infantryman's devotion to country and

comrades and final willingness to endure the unendurable.

Pass in Review, 1917

CAMP MILLS, MINEOLA, L. I., Sunday, September 23, 1917.

Twenty-seven thousand troops from as many states are passing in review before Newton B. Baker, Secretary of War. It is the first time the "Rainbow Division," which is soon to leave for France, assembled for parade, and also the first time Baker has ever seen a division of the United States Army on the march. The sight of so many splendid uniformed men from the Atlantic to the Pacific marching side by side was as inspiring as it was interesting.

The Secretary of War arrived at the Garden City station shortly before ten o'clock to find the troops of the Division drawn up along several miles of roads from where he detrained to the entrance of Camp Mills. After passing along the lines on an inspection trip, he finally reached the reviewing stand erected for the occasion before General W.A. Mann's Headquarters.

As Mr. Baker and his staff, and General Mann and his staff reached the end of the line, the first column, which had been at the Garden Grove Station, was behind the party. The Secretary then went into the reviewing stand and the review of the famous "Rainbow Division" was in progress. Line after line of men, bronzed by the outdoor life of several weeks of preparation for war, swung past in review.

All of the marching units, except the 168th Infantry, formerly of the Third Iowa, wore the olive drab woolen uniform with coats. Because Iowa men had not received the woolen clothing, they were attired in cotton uniforms. None of the officers were mounted, nor did the men carry any equipment. The line of march was from the Garden City Station to Seventh Street, Franklin Street, Stewart Avenue and Clinton Road, which is the thoroughfare that skirts the north side of the Camp.

As each regiment and separate unit passed the reviewing officer, columns of squads were formed and the troops moved to their respective camps, each platoon maintaining double time for 100 yards. Brigadier General Robert H. Brown, the Commanding Officer, followed the Second Troop of the Louisiana Cavalry, which was dismounted.

The honor of leading the great divisional parade, however, was General Brown's, as the cavalry troops are always at the head, it being General Mann's escort. The first organization of the Eighty-Fourth Brigade to pass in review was the First Machine Gun Battalion, formerly the First Battalion of the Second Georgia's Infantry. Next came the 167th Infantry Regiment (formerly Fourth Alabama,) Colonel Screws commanding.

Secretary Baker showed a great interest in the "dough boys" from the south,

A Rainbow Led

P. N. P. Ralph Heasty

There are several references to the Rainbow in the Bible, the most significant one being Genesis 9-13: "I do set my bow in the sky and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

Occasional letters from France during World War I brought references to the un-failing appearances of a brilliant rainbow just before the Rainbow Division went into battle. These letters, sometimes fraught with akin to awe, stated that the men of Rainbow had come to regard the heavenly phenomenon as an auspicious omen, a portent of victory.

A rainbow appeared to us before virtually every engagement in which we participated. At first the men looked upon it as a rather remarkable coincidence, then they began to attach a more serious importance to it. Finally, at the close of the war, it had become a sort of superstition. Yes, something more than that, a spiritual omen of victory.

It was early in the spring when we first noticed it. The Division had received a hard pounding up in the Baccarat sector and was awaiting an attack. A rainbow appeared and the attack failed. I shall always remember the rainbow we saw as we moved up into the Chateau Thierry fight, and everyone knows the outcome of the Chateau Thierry operations. Our pot of gold was victory.

Again, before St. Mihiel, that first operation carried out solely by American troops, we saw a magnificent rainbow. By that time, all the men of the Division had become imbued with the feeling that the rainbow was the sign by which we, like Constantine, were to conquer. There could be no stopping the men of the 42nd.

When we went into the Argonne, a rainbow again heralded victory for us. And we saw it over the Meuse and on the advance toward Sedan. You could not have persuaded most of the men that it was not a supernatural omen of success.

A fine rainbow dipped into the Rhine the day we went across into Germany. We came to look for a rainbow every time we were due to go into battle. And when the rainbow did appear, you could hear remarks go up from the fellows that we were going to win for sure.

One officer wrote home, "In every successful attack that we have been in I have seen a rainbow in the sky. The only time our division did not make its objective was in the first days fight at Cote de Chattillon. The next morning a rainbow appeared and we smashed through the Kleinhilde Stellung and the Alabams and Iowa were in the lead. I saw a rainbow in Champagne at daybreak on July 15th, and they did not pass. I saw it again at the Oureq the last of July, and there we finished that task and the next day we captured the positions that kept us from Fismes."

The men didn't talk about it much, but when a rainbow appeared, you could hear a murmur go down the line. As we came down the last big hill into the Rhine Valley, we saw a rainbow and instantly you could hear a shout go down the line.

To this day at our Reunions, we still see many Rainbows, as at Camp Dodge in 1947, at Birmingham and Kansas City. If any of you men of World War II had any such experiences, let us hear about it.

— From the Highland Park News.

frequently turning to General Mann for information. There was a gleam of pride in Mr. Baker's eyes as the Third Iowa Infantry came into view. Nearly all of the 3,700 men in this command are close to six feet tall, and although they marched like veterans, they were working on Iowa farms just a few months ago.

As the Eighty-Third Infantry Brigade, Brigadier General Michael L. Lanthan commanding, swung into view, applause could be heard far down the line of march. And why not? Heading the Brigade was the 165th Infantry, the good ole "Fighting Irish Sixty-Ninth!" And the New York men marched like veterans. There is no denying that Colonel Charley Hines' command is the best infantry regiment in the "Rainbow."

(The balance of this article from *The Evening Telegram*, due to age of the paper, was not readable, which is regrettable, in that it described the ap-

pearance of the other units of the Rainbow Division as they appeared in the original news article.)

- Contributed by P.N.P. Homer Gardner, Des Moines, Iowa.

Tulsa Chapter News

The Tulsa Chapter held its annual meeting, social gathering and election of officers on June 7, 1980, at the Trade Winds Central Motel, Tulsa.

The Rainbow men gathered at 11:00 a.m. for social functions, Rainbow talk and fellowship, then joined the Rainbow ladies at 1:00 p.m. for a nice luncheon and more Rainbow visiting. There were 26 in attendance.

Out-of-town members were Al and Mary Brewer, Mustang, OK; Mr. and Mrs. James A. Brill, Terrell, TX; and Ida Gruenberg, Chelsea, OK.

As of this date, the Tulsa Chapter has forty paid members for the coming year.

"Edmund B. Alexander"

By Richard S. Shelden, M-222

One of my hobby interests is in ocean liners and I have done quite a bit of research in this area. I would like to set the record straight on the troopship that carried Task Force Linden to Europe in 1944. The real name of the ship was the "Edmund B. Alexander," not the "Edward B. Alexander," as stated on page 17 of "The Furnace and the Fire." Also, it was originally the "Amerika," not the "Kaiser Wilhelm."

It was built for the North German Lloyd Line in 1905. This was two years before the "Titanic" was built, and presumably it did not benefit from the experience of that ship. The "Amerika's" claim to fame was an extremely lavish restaurant and dining room designed by a famous European Architect.

The "Amerika" was taken as a war reparation during WWI and renamed the "America." It was used as a transport to return troops from Europe. Between WWI and 1940, it was used intermittently as a cabin class liner on a variety of runs. In 1940, it was laid up, and in 1942 it was again converted to a transport and renamed the "Edmund B. Alexander."

The ship, over and above the fact that it preceeded the "Titanic" in design, was also a real maverick in performance. For example:

On **October 14, 1912**, it collided with and sank a British submarine off Dover, England; on **July 14, 1918**, it foundered and sank at the Hoboken, NJ pier with the loss of six lives; on **November 21, 1918**, it was raised; on **March 11, 1926**, it suffered

Navarin Farm Ceremony



Continued from page 1

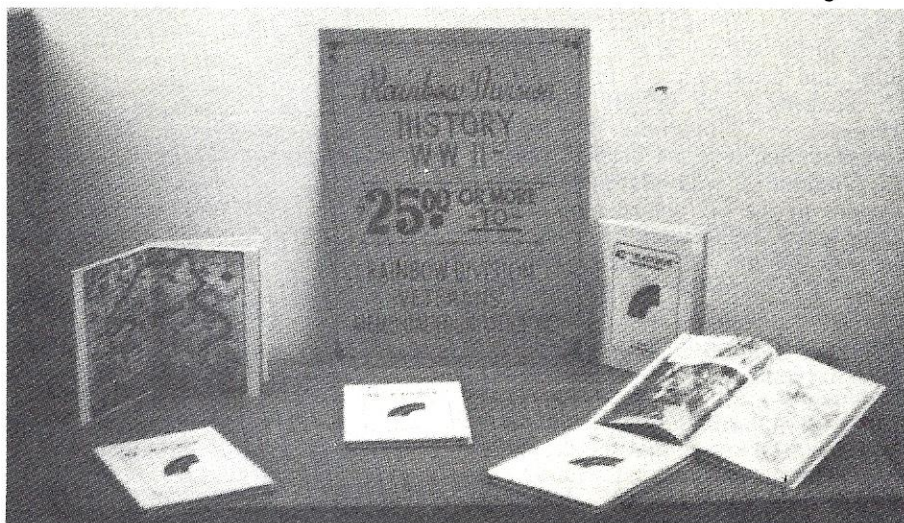
have the beautiful Rainbow Cushion of flowers held ready with the other wreaths to be laid. The American military contingent from the 3rd Infantry (Rock of the Marne) Division was also on hand, looking very sharp in their green uniforms and chrome helmets. Aligned around the base of the monument were the scores of French Regimental flags, held proudly by veterans of all the French units that participated in this Second Battle of the Marne. To the right and at right angles to the monument were the French Honor Company and band.

The ceremony began with our joint inspection of the French and American Honor Detachments, which included a playing of "to the Colors" for both the French and the American flags. Then came the traditional wreath laying at the base of the monument, and I was assisted by Superintendent Tate in placing the Rainbow cushion at a prominent spot next to the entrance of the monument's museum room. After all wreaths had been laid, there were very impressive renditions of the French "Sonnerie aux Morts" and the American "Taps" by buglers from the two detachments. The band and Honor Detachments then passed in review before the official party. I was proud to see our colors carried so well and so smartly by the men of the Rock-of-the-Marne Division.

The rainfall had steadily increased during the ceremony, causing the remainder of the program to be held in the museum room of the monument. A Commemorative Mass

WW II Rainbow History

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)			
1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION The Rainbow Revue		2. PUBLICATION NO. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE September, November, January, March, May & June		4. DATE OF FILING 11-21-80	
5. LOCATION OF OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, County, State and ZIP Code) (Not printer)		6. NUMBER OF COPIES a. THIS ISSUE b. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION c. SINGLE COPIES d. TOTAL \$2.00	
7. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHERS (Not printer)			
8. NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR			
9. PUBLISHER (Name and Address) Hugo E. Grimm, #1 Community Federal Center, St. Louis, MO 63131			
10. EDITOR (Name and Address) Martin L. Davis, 751 Dry Creek Road, Monterey, CA 93940			
11. MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Address) Martin L. Davis, 751 Dry Creek Road, Monterey, CA 93940			
12. OWNERS (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.)			
13. NAME ADDRESS			
The Rainbow Revue #1 Community Federal Center St. Louis, MO 63131			
14. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (If any)			
15. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 1103 (2) (2) (FIM)) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> HAVE CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
16. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION		17. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION	
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Press Run)		45,000 35,000	
B. PAID CIRCULATION 1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES		5,000 3,282	
C. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS		5,000 3,282	
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES		5,000 3,282	
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of B, C and D)		5,000 3,282	
F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED 1. OFFICE USE, LEFT-OVER, UNACCOUNTED, SPOILED, AFTER PRINTING		5,000 218	
G. RETURNS FROM NEWS AGENTS		45,000 35,000	
H. TOTAL (Sum of E, F, and G) should equal net press run shown in B		45,000 35,000	
18. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Hugo E. Grimm Publishing & Mailing Editor			



A few copies of the WWII History Books are still available. This was a special printing and will not be repeated, so what we have on hand is all there are. Those who have purchased the books are very pleased with the reproduction of the original 1945 books by the Messenger Printing Company of St. Louis. So, send for your copy today. Make your check for \$25.00 or more, plus \$1.03 postage per book ordered, payable to The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc., and mail it with your order to Hugo E. Grimm, #1 Community Federal Center, St. Louis, MO 63131.



Our good friend and correspondent Jimmie Warde of Memphis, TN, sent the above photo with a statement that it shows Company F, 117th Engineers, building a dugout behind the front line trenches under protection of a machine gun squad, at Badonviller, on March 7, 1918. He hopes that some of the old boys still living will see the photo and will remember when they were on this assignment so long ago.

Chapter Totals

ALABAMA	Birmingham	20
	Huntsville	100
	Montgomery	30
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles	84
	San Diego	9
District of Columbia		25
FLORIDA	Clearwater	45
	Miami	25
	Orlando	23
	Pompano Beach	15
GEORGIA	Atlanta	12
ILLINOIS	Danville	10
	Chicago	70
INDIANA	Bloomington	6
	Indianapolis	29
	South Bend	29
IOWA	Des Moines	110
	State Assoc.	60
KANSAS	Chanute	17
	Dodge City-Pratt	16
MARYLAND	Baltimore	10
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis-St. Paul	103
MISSOURI	Mo-Kan	34
	St. Louis	23
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	27
NEW JERSEY	Red Bank	10
NEW YORK	Father Duffy	100
OHIO	12 Chapters	143
OKLAHOMA	Oklahoma City	9
	Tulsa	40
	Muskogee	27
PENNSYLVANIA	Bethlehem	4
	Lancaster	25
	Reading	39
SOUTH CAROLINA		
	Charleston	6
TENNESSEE	Memphis	15
TEXAS	Dallas	94
VIRGINIA	Richmond	6
WISCONSIN	Appleton	8
	Fond Du Lac	2
	Oshkosh	9
122 Medical Battalion		39
Otto H. Yanke (M-222)		24
222d Infantry		281
232d Infantry		7
242d Infantry		140
542 Field Artillery		37
142 Combat Engineers		29
Military Police Platoon		35
42nd Recon Troops		13
Med Det Spec Trps		10
National Chapter at Large		52
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		2,164

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