

Vol. LX

June, 1982

No. 6

## Father Erb and Pope John Paul



**"So many of my friends have asked for a copy of the photos of my historic encounter with our wonderful Holy Father when he visited us in Ghana. As you can see, we had a very happy time together, for which I will be forever grateful."**

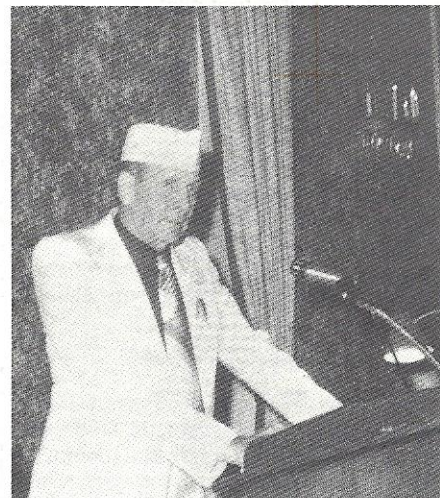
Father Charles Gerard Philip Erb, Society of the Divine Word (SDV), was ordained a priest in 1933. He volunteered for military duty in World War II and was assigned as Chaplain in the 222d Infantry Regiment.

Chaplain Erb was one of the first to enter the Dachau Concentration Camp after its capture by the 222d Infantry, and identified fifteen members of his own Order, one of them a classmate ordained with him in 1933 in Vienna, Austria. (See full story on page 4, November, 1978, Issue of REVEILLE)

We were delighted to have Father Erb with us at the Reading, PA, Reunion in July, 1981. His visit was a total surprise as he seldom gets to attend a Rainbow Reunion, and Father Weiss, National Chaplain, asked him to participate in the Annual Memorial Service, which he did (See Page 1, September, 1981, Issue of REVEILLE.)

We hope that Father Erb can join us in Reunion more often in the future.

## President's Message



This will be my final message to you in the REVEILLE as your President. My, how time flies when you are having fun. Jane and I have traveled many miles and have enjoyed every minute of it. Learned all the words to "On the Road Again." Still in there pitching and recruiting for the Reunion in Tulsa.

I want to apologize again for the regrets I had to send to a few. Hope I can visit those Chapters when I am a P.N.P.

Just returned from attending the Iowa Chapter Reunion in Waterloo. Had a wonderful time. One thing about Chapter Reunions — you get a chance to meet these gentlemen and Auxiliary gals whom you've never seen before. A great opportunity to get acquainted with more Rainbow people.

Just happened to be lucky and was joined by our Chairman of the Memorial Foundation, Ted Johnson and his lovely wife, Shirley. Ted brought us all up to date on the progress of the Memorial. It's going to be ready for us. Isn't that terrific? I know we are ready for it. I was presented with a gift of liquid corn. IOWA CORN, that is. Shall cherish the bottle forever. Jane and I also received a couple of very small, hand made rocking chairs. Precious. We have put them up on the shelf for future use.

Looking forward to going to Columbus, Ohio, to attend their Chapter State Meeting in June. Then there is July and TULSA. Everybody, Please, Please, try and join all your Rainbow Buddies one more time on that ole familiar soil. I hear that practically everyone is coming — please don't be the one that isn't there to answer when your name is called out. Come and join "Ole Buck" at his last meeting as President. I need each and everyone's support. Let's fill up the meeting room; let's go back to Tulsa and make Tulsa aware we are there.

Yours in Rainbow, Garnett "Buck" Jones, President.



# THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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## SEND DUES REMITTANCE SHEETS AND MEMORIAL FORMS TO:

Mrs. Peg Keating, Secretary

## Columbia Reunion, 1924

Pres. Frederick E. Crawford, Jr.

Conventions, as such, are ordinary things. We have them with us every day, all the way from Democratic and Republican to conventions for the suppression of boll weevils, conventions of manufactures of shoe horns, etc.

A Rainbow Convention, is, strictly speaking, not a convention at all. It is a happy accident that starts with a whoop, sizzles furiously for a few days and ends with a bang! The convention is in session whenever two or more Rainbowers happen to establish contact in the convention city; no set program - but much action. It would be the height of folly for anyone in charge to attempt to pre-arrange the style of fun; the highlights of the past conventions perhaps establishing more fully just what happens:

At **Birmingham** (1920): The famous watermelon barrage on the main street at "the dawn's early light."

At **Cleveland** (1921): The impromptu reception to Gen. "Black Jack" where more men established records for eloquence than at any other time in the history of the world. Also the wonderful discovery that, after all, when a solid object does meet glass - something must give way. New types of soap box orators - the soap boxes being the tops of taxi cabs.

At **Minneapolis** (1922): The start of the now famous controversy: "Why does a staid Colonel of the American Army become so sentimental over a sweet song as to climb over a banquet table in an attempt to kiss the sweet singer?" Ask Gen. "Hank" Reilley. He knows!

At **Indianapolis** (1923): the age-old taboo against swimming in the Soldier's Memorial Fountain broken for the first time. Likewise the discovery that "electric fans" obey Newton's law of gravitation and do fall to the ground when dropped from the top story of a hotel!

At **Columbia** (1924): New York doesn't take off its clothes when it goes in swimming. Also the proper time to serenade a city is at four in the morning.

There is, however, one very serious danger in attending Reunions. Once you attend, you become infected with a contagious, malignant, chronic disease: "Goagainitis!"

## Prayer

Let us pray—

God our Father, ever more quickly, it seems, our Rainbow years come and go. As we approach the end of another Rainbow year, we ask Your blessing and Your special fatherly care. Be with those who will be traveling during the summer months, and keep them from harm. Guide those who are planning and preparing our annual reunion with such generous concern and so much effort to make it a pleasant time. Protect those who will journey to Tulsa for these days of comradeship and light-hearted sharing and for the many good times they will have together. Give to those unable to attend an abundant share in the joys and friendship and spirit of Rainbow that will abound at the Reunion, but which we pray will fill the heart of each Rainbower at this time of year. We thank you, Lord, for the blessings of this Rainbow year, for sustaining us in life for another cycle of seasons, for giving us the joys and camaraderie of Rainbow. Amen.

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

## Iowa Convention

The Iowa State Rainbow Division Veterans Association held their Annual State Convention April 17th and 18th in Waterloo, Iowa, and we were pleased with the attendance. Edward Foertsch was again elected President of the Iowa Chapter.

Harm Aires, Russell Aires and Arian Gauten, along with their hard working wives, put on the Convention and again they did an excellent job in providing delicious food and fine entertainment. Next year we will meet in Cedar Rapids.

We were privileged to have Jane and Buck Jones attend our Convention and Buck, as National President, encouraged all and everyone to attend the National Reunion in Tulsa, OK, in July. We were able to report that Iowa has 110 paid members for 1981-82, and we were happy to report everyone was eager to pay their 1982-83 membership dues.

## Tulsa Reunion



## My Luger

I was gunner on an M8 armored car  
commanded by 1st Lt Vance Harsh

## Gen. Thomas Handy



# Was the 42nd at DACHAU?



## *A French Mystery*

For more than a year now, we have been in correspondence with a French homeowner, Mr. M. Cosson, who has an unusual story. In April, 1980, he purchased an old house in Rouen, France, planning to rebuild and modernize it. During the reconstruction, he found the names of fourteen American soldiers written on an inside wall and the date, 27 May, 1919.



## Heroes of WWI



**Sgt. Ralph M. Atkinson**  
Hq. Co., 167th Infantry

"While in command of a Stokes mortar platoon, October 16, 1918, near Landreset-St. Georges, Argonne, Sgt. Atkinson with three soldiers was advancing with the first wave of the assault, when on nearing the objective, he discovered about 250 of the enemy forming for a counter-attack. He advanced with the Stokes mortar under fire, and opened a murderous fire on the approaching enemy, dispersing them."

## Oklahoma Roundup

Robert Jecklin, B Battery, 232nd Field Artillery, reports in with an unusual idea to put a little more life into the Tulsa Reunion: a "roundup" of Oklahoma gals who managed to lasso a Rainbow soldier and drag him to the altar before he could escape to the relative safety of the European battlefields.

He writes, "I, for one, found my lovely wife in Tulsa and we know there are many Tulsa or Oklahoma gals in Rainbow by marriage, and this would be the year to honor them while we are meeting in Tulsa."

The Editor was fetched up in Kansas, and was often warned by his pappy not to stray across the border into Oklahoma. And all these years we thought the warning was because of the Indians down there! Had we only known the truth, we would have been across the border before sundown.

John George, we'll pass this interesting idea along to you and your Reunion Committee to work out something to give recognition to the Oklahoma gals who gave so many Rainbowners something to come home to.

## WWI Open House

All World War One people are invited to participate in an Open House scheduled for eight p.m., July 13th — the free night during the National Reunion. Ladies are asked to bring items for snacks and gentlemen may contribute toward the liquid refreshments.

The idea was very successfully carried out during the Cedar Rapids Reunion, hence, our decision to try it again. We hope to have all the WW I people attend the get together.

Each year when we assemble in Reunion, the Grim Reaper has taken his toll, and some of our dwindling number have crossed over the Rainbow. Do not pass up this opportunity to have fun and fellowship with your friends of WW I vintage!

Questions or suggestions may be sent to PNAP's Elva Moore, 940 Green Forest Drive, Montgomery, AL 36109; Velma Parham, 1450 Clarence, Apt 105, Wichita, KS 67204; or Frances Knowles, 444 "B" Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.

- Roger Knowles, Wichita, KS

## VA POW Program

Dear Mr. Davis,

In my letter of November 4, 1981, I asked for help from the Rainbow Division Veterans in our effort to locate all former prisoners of war. I am pleased to inform you that the response has been very favorable with rosters furnished the VA that will assist in updating our locator files. All former POW's identified with your assistance, and those already receiving VA benefits, will receive an informational brochure highlighting the provisions of Public Law 97-37.

Your effort in securing the participation of your organization was an excellent way of informing your members of these improved benefits, and also valuable to us in implementing this new legislation. Please continue to have your office consolidate any additional names and addresses resulting from your program and forward any material to my office for further attention.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Starbuck, Chief Benefits Director, VA

(EDITOR - Former POW's who have not yet applied to the VA for the increased benefits may send name, address, telephone number, VA claim number and Social Security Number to the Editor and we will collate and forward them to the VA. Or you may phone your local VA office, veterans service organization or call the VA toll-free number listed under United States Government in your telephone directory.)

## Chapter Secretaries:

Please send the name of your delegate to the Tulsa Reunion to the National Secretary, Peg Keating, 505 Terrell Road, San Antonio, TX 78209, at your earliest convenience. Also, send the names of your 1982-83 officers as soon as they are elected.

Please let your chapter members understand that when they pay chapter dues, they also pay National dues and they will receive the REVEILLE. They do not need to send separate dues to National.

## Hugo Says —

I'll have copies of the World War II Rainbow History with me at the Tulsa Reunion, and you Rainbowners who haven't got a copy yet can take one home with you. Or if you won't be able to get to the Reunion, you can order your copy by sending \$25.00 or more, plus 84¢ postage to Hugo Grimm, #1 Community Federal Center, St. Louis, MO 63131.

I'm completely sold out of the book, "A Year of Progress," and have orders for many more that I can't fill. Chapter Secretaries who still have some copies on hand are urged to mail them back to me as soon as possible at the above address.

## CIB With 2 Stars?

Col. Donald A. Seibert, USA-Ret, of 525 Southwick Drive, Fayette, NC 28303, is attempting to put together a list of all persons who have been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for all three wars since it was authorized — WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The number is believed to be small, and only about sixty persons have been located so far.

If you were one of the fortunate ones who lived through three wars in the Infantry (or unfortunate enough to have been involved in all three), write to the address given above. Those with one star on their CIB are too numerous to count, but the CIB with two stars is a real rarity.



**National  
Flag  
Week**  
June 14-20



## Chapter Totals

		'81	'82
ALABAMA	Birmingham	20	5
	Huntsville	103	69
	Mobile	4	3
	Montgomery	30	22
ARIZONA	Phoenix	28	25
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles	84	56
	San Diego	10	9
District of Columbia			
FLORIDA	Clearwater	40	45
	Miami	25	20
	Orlando	23	24
	Pompano Beach	15	11
GEORGIA	Atlanta	13	10
	Macon	12	10
ILLINOIS	Chicago	70	70
	Danville	10	10
INDIANA	Bloomington	6	4
	Indianapolis	32	20
	South Bend	31	28
IOWA	State Assn.	177	110
KANSAS	Chanute	17	12
	Dodge City-Pratt	18	10
MARYLAND	Baltimore	23	18
MICHIGAN	Detroit	61	65
MINNESOTA	Mpls.-St. Paul	106	97
MISSOURI	Mo-Kan	39	38
	St. Louis	27	18
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	30	14
NEW YORK	Father Duffy	150	125
OHIO	State Assn.	196	172
OKLAHOMA	Muskogee	27	14
	Oklahoma City	12	13
	Tulsa	41	42
PENNSYLVANIA	Bethlehem	4	—
	Easton	17	4
	Lancaster	25	29
	Philadelphia	22	22
	Reading	39	35
S. CAROLINA	Charleston	17	12
TENNESSEE	Memphis	16	18
TEXAS	Dallas	136	111
VIRGINIA	Richmond	16	17
	Roanoke	7	—
WISCONSIN	Appleton	16	17
	Fond du Lac	2	1
	Oshkosh	9	—
National at Large		66	62
UNIT CHAPTERS:			
122 Med. Bn.		51	51
142d Combat Engrs.		34	29
M-222 Inf. (YANKE)		45	42
222d Infantry		470	450
232d Infantry		109	15
1st Bn. 232d		—	82
2nd Bn. 232d		—	60
3rd Bn. 232d		—	48
242d Infantry		181	175
Rainbow Artillery		65	108
42nd M.P. Platoon		41	39
42nd Recon Troop		13	13
Med. Det. Spec. Trps.		10	10
Division Band		29	29
TOTALS		2,900	2,685

## Membership

The Chapter Totals listed at the left depict a sorry state of affairs. Only ELEVEN Chapters show an increase in membership over last year, and nine of those have an increase of five members or less. The Division Artillery Chapter is booming, increasing their membership by 43 over last year. Much of that increase has been at the expense of other Chapters, we're told. And the 232d Infantry, as a result of splitting the Regimental Chapter up into Battalion Chapters, has increased its' membership from 109 last year to 205 this year.

The Unit Chapters are not holding up their end of the membership fight. So far this year they account for only 1,151 members against 1,534 in geographical chapters. As we see more and more of the geographical chapters folding up, we must be concerned that the WW II chapters have a void to fill.

Twelve geographical chapters now report ten or less members, and three report none this year. The geographical chapters report a loss of 318 members for the year, which is only partly offset by the increase of 103 members in the WW II Unit Chapters, leaving a deficit in members of 215.

The terrible implication of these figures is very obvious: either the WW II chapters have to dramatically increase membership or face an early demise of the Rainbow Division Association, and this must not happen.

## The Rainbow Flag

Some dramatic new information has recently come to light which may bring us to a true history of the Rainbow Flag now hanging in the Kansas City Veterans Memorial.

We won't go into detail at present because we have to interview some more people and examine more documents, but at this time it appears that we are talking about two different flags, the MacArthur Flag which was flown at Camp Mills in 1917, and a Government Issue Flag that was first flown in early 1918 at Rolampont, France.

Hopefully, the full story will be ready for publication in the September, 1982, Issue of REVEILLE.

## Reunion Program

Detailed programs will be available at the Registration Desk in the Camelot Hotel Lobby, showing the name or number of the room where these events will be held. The Desk will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 5 pm on Sunday, 9 am to 4 pm on Monday and Tuesday, and 10 am to noon on Wednesday.

### SUNDAY, July 11:

8:00 pm - Early Bird Party

### MONDAY, July 12:

9 am - Executive Committee Meeting  
9 am - Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting  
2 pm - Opening Business Meeting (Joint)  
9 pm - Rainbow Dance

### TUESDAY, July 13:

9 am - Travel to Muskogee  
10:30 am - Dedication of Rainbow Memorial and Memorial Service  
12:30 noon - Lunch at Civic Center  
2 pm - Return to Tulsa  
Evening free for unit meetings

### WEDNESDAY, July 14:

8:30 am - Unit breakfasts  
10 am - Committee Meetings  
1 pm - Final Business Meeting  
7 pm - Rainbow Banquet

**See You  
in Tulsa!**

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