



Vol. LXIII

November, 1984

No. 2

Navarin Farm, 1984



BGen John W. Donaldson lays the Rainbow blanket of flowers at the Navarin Farm Monument as other floral tributes await the celebrities who will place them on the Monument. The famed 3rd Infantry Regiment represented the United States at the ceremony.

Brig. Gen John W. Donaldson

At 6:00 o'clock the morning of 15 July, under threatening skies, I departed Paris for Souain and the rendezvous with General Philippe Gourand to represent Rainbow in this traditional pilgrimage to the site of the historic Allied victory in the Second Battle of the Marne. I had been saddened by a telephone call from our old friend, Colonel Walter Collins, several days earlier, telling me that because of illness, he and his wife would not be able to come this year.

It had been raining in Paris and throughout northern France since Friday evening and as I progressed eastward along the excellent autoroute de l'Est, through Meaux, Chateau-Thierry, and Reims, I encountered a number of showers and cool weather. The now-rich fields of wheat, corn, sugar beets, and barley were a patchwork of gold and green, and the Marne crossing by la Ferte was a peaceful sight. Making good time on this little-travelled autoroute, I reached Reims by 8:30 and the turn-off at Chalons for Mourmelon-le-Grand at 9:10.

At the rendezvous, by the Maire at Souain, I joined the Mayor, Mr. Gabriel Leclerc, and chatted for a few minutes awaiting the arrival of the other members of the official party. By 9:50 o'clock, the group had assembled and introductions had been made. Representing the French Government and Armed Forces was MG Robert Farret Commanding General of the 10th Armored Division and the 63rd Territorial Military Division. The party also included Mr. Jean Videlaire, Chef de Cabinet of the Prefect of Chalons; Mr. Jean Brillon, Maire-Adjoint of Chalons-sur-Marne; and Mr. Jean Amelin, Senator of the Champagne-Ardenne Region.

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President's Message



**Pres. John D. Carr
and PNP Johnnie Stubbs**

This is my second chance to visit with each of you. Let me thank you now for the opportunity.

Things have been going at a swift pace for me since July 14th in Windsor. I want to share these things with you because with each day there are many occasions that endear Rainbow to me. I am a salesman, and my hope and desire for this Rainbow Year, 1984-1985, is to sell Rainbow Division Veteran Association all across America. I can see now as I travel that this will be no easy task. Don't jump to the conclusion that old John must not be thinking very clearly to make that statement. Let me tell you how easy it is.

In my last President's Message, I asked you to buy the Rainbow Decals. Place them on your car and let everyone see them. I know you are doing just that, because in my last conversation with Peg she told me she was getting plenty of requests for decals. Peg says it is so easy for her. All she has to do is open the letter, and there is the two dollars and the self-addressed envelope. Thanks fellows, keep them coming.

I know that many of you are also doing as I have pleaded with you and are contacting one of your old buddies. I did this on the 13th of September. I picked up the atlas in my drawer, happened to remember a small town in Mississippi that a buddy of mine from Camp Gruber lived in. Picked up the phone and called the operator. Lo and behold she had the number. I called and had about a 45 minute conversation—old buddies, Gruber, overseas, business and getting older. It was a great thrill for both of us. There is a second part of this story. I had tried to contact him eighteen years ago and was told he had just moved to the state of Washington. Persistence pays.

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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Navarin Farm

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In the meantime, an impressive assembly of approximately 800 persons had gathered at the site of the Navarin Memorial, and we received a warm welcome as we rolled up to the dismount point. Colonel Jean Gervais, in charge of the overall organization of the day's events, met us and with Colonel Segon briefed us on the sequency of the program.

The ceremony began with a review of the troops and colors by the official party, passing in turn from the French colors to the band, French Honor Detachment, along the double row of French regimental colors lined up along the edge of the Monument and the American Colors. As we stopped and saluted the French and the American colors, the National Anthems were played. Following these honors, the official party took position immediately in front of the Memeorial for the laying of wreaths. I was given the honor of leading off with the beautiful Rainbow cushion of flowers, and was followed by General Farret and General Gouraud. On our return to our positions, we saluted to the very beautiful and moving strains of the French Sonnerie aux Morts, followed by the American Taps. The military ceremony was concluded with a pass-in-review of the French and American troops, who marched by between the Official Party and the General Assembly.

With the skies still cloudy, but not raining, Monseigneur Bardonne, Bishop of Chalons, conducted the traditional open air Mass from the terrace of the Memorial. He was assisted by Monseigneur Boillon, Bishop of Verdun, whose father had fought near Souain in World War I, and who had himself fought in this same region in the early days of World War II. It was quite moving to see the number of Faithful who came forward to take Communion at the end of the ceremony.

The high point of the program at Navarin was the address by General Philippe Gouraud, who gave a vivid and unforgettable account of the history of the Navarin Memorial as it was conceived and developed by General Henri Gouraud, his uncle. Following his address, we moved to the rear of the monument for a visit to the crypt and tombs of General Gourand and General Pretelain, and paused in the Memorial Room to study the excellent display of photographs of General Gourand with distinguished guests such as Ambassador Myron Herrick and Rainbow's Father Duffy.

The morning's program concluded with a pilgrimage to the French Military cemetery at Suippes, where over 4,000 Piolus from the Battles of Champagne are interred under a lawn of neatly trimmed grass and a border of stately lindens. An impressive wreath laying ceremony was

Prayer

Let us pray:

Our Father God, we give You thanks for this year now drawing to a close. As each year passes, Your gifts of love to us seem ever greater and ever sweeter. Even when You gather back to Yourself one of our loved ones, You give us strength to move through the sadness of our losses with Your assurance of Your eternal love for them as they join You in glory. Now, at Veteran's Day, we remember our Rainbow comrades who have passed to You. Dear Lord, we command their souls to You, for they freely gave themselves for your concepts of freedom, peace and justice. In Faith they died, and in Faith they live with You forever. For our families and loved ones, for our friends and our Rainbow Comrades, for this great Nation of ours that lives in freedom and justice, Lord, we give you thanks and praise, now and forever. Amen.

—Rev. Mr. James W. Dunham,
National Chaplain

held at the central monument, with the participation of the same military contingents that had performed so admirably at Navarin. Mr. Norman Iorio, Superintendent of Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, and I, laid the American cushion of flowers, and we were followed by General Philippe Gourand. The French and American Taps were rendered and the ceremony concluded with a prayer by Monseigneur Bardonne. On our way out of the cemetery, we were invited to sign the Guest Register by the Mayor of Suippes, Mr. Huguim, and the cemetery superintendent.

The assembly then proceeded to the Festival Hall nearby for a "Coup de Champaign Amicale," in the words of Mr. Huguim, the Mayor, who welcomed everyone warmly and spoke eloquently of the price of freedom, as evidenced by the 4,000 headstones of the Sons of that region.

It was with regret that I was obliged to return to Paris after the morning events, and was unable to participate in the traditional "Dejeuner Amical" at the Camp de Suippes. General Gouraud had spoken earlier and warmly of the faithful American attendance at Navarin and had expressed everyone's great regret at the inability of Walter and Virginia Collins to be with us on this occasion. I again thanked General Gouraud on behalf of the Rainbow Association and on behalf of the Ambassador for his warm hospitality and his tribute to his American friends and allies, and wished him and our many comrades in the "Association du Souvenir" all the best until the next reunion.

In closing, I wish to thank and commend Norman Iorio for his splendid work in

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President's Message

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Now, on down the road. My first official visit was to Michigan for a most enjoyable visit with friends Lee and Marty Pawlak. At the reunion, an invitation was extended for Margo and myself to come visit and relax a while before continuing on our vacation. The hospitality and Rainbow friendship the greatest, thanks Lee and Marty.

The big affair at PNP Johnnie Stubbs ranch near Ft. Worth, Texas, was super. Of course he had Verna taking care of all the details to make sure Rainbow tradition at the Stubbs ranch was as usual. Attendance was great with a total of 48 present. They tried hard to teach this Florida Cracker how to do it up Texas style—BIG! They do get a good start on the Texas Chapter every year at their cookout. Thanks, Johnnie and Verna.

From Texas to Oklahoma City for a visit with Past National Presidents Al and Mary Brewer, the Host and Hostess for the Midyear meeting in February. They gave me a well guided tour of the Holiday Inn West, where this meeting will be held. Let me say these facilities are the finest to be found. They have a Holidome, which is a completely enclosed garden, heated swimming pool, game room, bar, conversation area, you name it, it's there. Some of you may be worried about the weather. Cast your worries away. You will be able to attend any part of this grand meeting and get-together wearing shorts if you so desire.

The only cold, if it is cold, you will have to encounter will be from your transportation to the lobby. Now what could ever be better for a Rainbow Soldier. I know you are like me, you just can't wait. Please, Al and Mary need your support, so send your registration in now. Thanks, Al and Mary; my heart and love go to you for such hard work.

That's where I have been; this is where I will see you shortly: Las Vegas on November 2, 3, 4, and Birmingham on November 10, 11, 12. I hope to see plenty of my Rainbow friends in Oklahoma City.

With all happiness, sometimes there appears sadness. It is with deepest sorrow that I learned of the Passing Over the Rainbow of one of my fondest World War I friends, James L. Mize. Wherever my trail of Rainbow has led me for the past 26 years, I always saw his face among the very first. To me it is a great loss, as I know it is to many of you. On September 14, 1984, God called him to his final resting place. I am sure that many of you will feel with me as MacArthur said, "Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away."

So let's each of us live and be by each other as much as we can while we have the time to do so.

Mo-Kan Memorial

The Mo-Kan Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association will hold a Memorial Service at Rockhurst College, 5200 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO, at 1030 hours, 11 November, 1984. The Memorial Service will be followed by a dinner in the Student Union.

The Memorial Service starts at 1030 in the Student Union; from there, we will go to the Chapel in time to have a minute's silence at 1100. After the Memorial Service we will have a dinner at the Student Union; and following dinner, a speaker. The Service, speaker and mini-reunion will be over by 3:00 in the afternoon so everyone can arrive home early. Parking will be available in Rockhurst parking lots.

For those who desire, reservations for 10 November may be made at the Summit Inn, Best Western Motels, in Lee's Summit, MO. These reservations will be made by George Rhodes, 1009 W. Maple, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. His home phone is 814-524-2388; his office phone is 816-524-6600. George handles all reservations. Members of the Mo-Kan Chapter will host an Early Bird Party for out-of-towners on 10 November.

—Dixon Rogers

Reunion Champs

There is, within the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, a group of brash young veterans (well, maybe not so young any more, but certainly brash) who have laid claim, and justly so, to having the most members at both the Dallas and Windsor Reunions. Not only that, they make the claim that they will continue to dominate the attendance records for five, possibly ten, years to come!

They call themselves "G" Company, 242d Infantry Regiment, but they must have some ringers in there, else how could you collect twenty-eight men from one company for a reunion? They probably didn't have that many fall out for reveille the whole time they were at Camp Gruber.

Furthermore, G-242 has been highly successful in recruiting new members this past year—the exact totals are not immediately available—but every new member means a potential reunion attendee, and that could mean trouble for other units who have their sights set on dethroning them as the reunion champions.

The instigator and chief coordinator of this upstart group is John J. Frasell, of Arlington, Maine, who was awarded the Rainbow Trophy at the Windsor Reunion. But he has lots of help, and with the enthusiasm they have engendered, we can look forward to being steam-rolled by G-242 at future Reunions unless the rest of us get busy, round up more members and get them to a reunion.

Aftermath

The Windsor Reunion

It is obvious that the Editor let his enthusiasm run away when he proclaimed the Windsor Reunion as having the largest attendance in the history of RDVA. To his knowledge, that was true, but it didn't take long for him to be corrected. Good! At least someone is reading the *Reveille*!

Memorials Officer Bill Barton, immediately jumped in with statistics from the files of Recording Secretaries over the years to show that the largest attendance was at the first National Reunion in Birmingham, AL, in 1920, with an estimated attendance of 2,000.

Second largest attendance was at New York City in 1949, with 1,037; third was at Detroit, MI, in 1950, with 805; and fourth was again at Birmingham, AL, in 1951, with 789.

But in the last thirty years the Windsor Reunion was the largest, and this Editor had no knowledge of what went on before 1962, when he traded his uniform for a Rainbow patch and a membership card in RDVA.

Even Leon Schenck was confused. In the August "Observation Post," newsletter of the Michigan State Chapter, he headlined an article, "Windsor '84: Third Largest Reunion Ever!"

So now we know.

Leon, 1984 Reunion Chairman, wrote:

"The Michigan Chapter would like to thank the men and ladies of Rainbow who came to Windsor for their support and many kindnesses in their words, spoken and written. Your letters will always be treasured (and eventually answered)."

"We had more official programs left over than we had anticipated, and if anyone wants one or more programs, please send a self-addressed legal sized stamped envelope to Leon A. Schenck, 2726 Glenview Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073, and you will receive it by return mail.

"One last word about the reunion: The people in Windsor fell in love with Rainbow. The Hilton Staff said it was the finest group of people they have ever hosted. The Holiday Inn staff has nothing but praise for the men and ladies of Rainbow. The most frequently asked question I get when I go to Windsor is,

"When will Rainbow come back to Windsor? And my answer is, Whenever they want to!"

To which Michigan Chapter President John McGovern says, "It was really great for the Michigan Chapter to host this reunion, but we should consider hari-kiri before attempting it again."

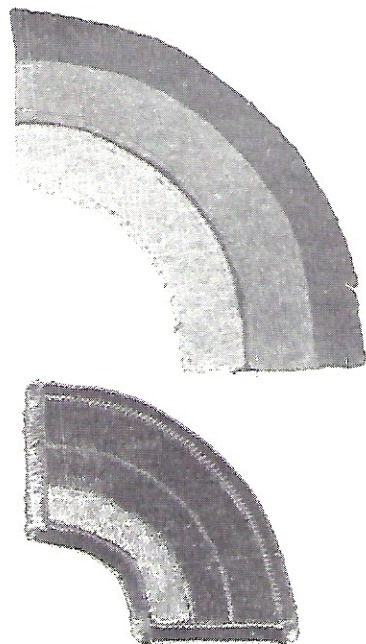
The Rainbow Patch

We asked a very simple question: "When was the Rainbow patch first worn?" But we weren't prepared for the flood of mail and photographs that came as a result. We're still sifting through it without reaching a conclusion, so we've decided to present the evidence to you and let you decide.

First, from Ray Deming of Los Angeles, who became caretaker of the Rainbow files when Historian Slim Sutherland was hospitalized, came a long letter enclosing photos of original Rainbow patches that had been sent to General Collins in 1943. Collins had written an appeal in the *Reveille* asking WW I veterans to send their Rainbow patches which would then be issued to and worn by WW II Rainbrowsers in the Second Great War.

At a glance, it could be seen that the WW I patches were hand-made, and that no two were made of the same material or were of the same size. Deming wrote, "There were even some Rainbow patches that were complete half circles."

Photographer Bill Clayton matched up one of the WW I patches with a WW II patch with the following result:



Note the difference in size, the untrimmed edges and the obviously hand-sewn seams, the uneven widths of the colored arcs, all point to the fact that it was handmade. This particular patch was sent in by George H. Morgan, Battery C, 151st Field Artillery, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The question remains, "When were they first worn?" Although we have many

photos of soldiers wearing the patch, none of the photos are dated, and we can only guess at when they were taken.

The official Rainbow patch was authorized by the Adjutant General of the A.E.F. on 29 October, 1918, but it becomes obvious that many Rainbow men were wearing them long before the official date.

Writes Lloyd Wright, 168th Infantry: "Rainbow patches were issued in February, 1919, in Germany."

Mrs. John B. Hutto sent a posed photo of her husband, Sgt. John B. Hutto, Hq Co, 167th Alabama Infantry, that has a notation on the back, "Made in Paris before the end of the war. I do not have date made." Summer of 1918?

John R. Jamison, Boulder, CO, sent a photo of his father, PFC Bailey S. Jamison, "L" Company, 168th Infantry, taken in Germany during early 1919. The Rainbow patch is quite visible in what is obviously a studio photograph.

Sergeant Major Joseph F. Jenson, Hq Co, 117th Engineers, of Piedmont, CA, sent a studio photo of himself taken while he was on a three-day pass to Paris in February 1919. He writes, "We were still in the Army of Occupation in February 1919. I have no record or recollection of just when the patch was first worn by the Rainbow troops after having been authorized."

Linn E. Joy, 132nd Signal Co., of Monroe, NC, pointed out the photograph on page 7 of the WW II History of the Rainbow Division, showing General MacArthur and two others receiving the D.S.M. from General Pershing. They are dressed in overcoats which would indicate the photo was taken during the winter of 1918-19. Again, the Rainbow patch is clearly visible on their shoulders.

But before you jump to the conclusion that Rainbow patches weren't worn before 1918, read this letter from Mrs. Raymond D. Sweet, Eugene, Oregon:

"My husband, Raymond D. Sweet, just received his May Issue of *Rainbow Reveille*, and we were reading the article about the Rainbow patch. We would like to make a few comments on it:

"I had a brother who went in the army in 1917 at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He was home for a few days before being sent overseas to France in late summer or early autumn. I remember seeing the Rainbow patch on his shoulder. I was 15 years old at the time and I said it was really beautiful.

"My husband says that he had the Rainbow patch on his dress parade uniform in the early part of September, 1917. This uniform had to be left at Charlotte, NC, before he was sent overseas. That Rainbow had more colors in it than the one on your paper. A little silver pin with the number '42' on it was worn on the point of the shirt collars."

Let's leave it up to Writer-Researcher Michael P. Kaehler of St. Cloud, MN, who has spent over four years interviewing hundreds of WWI Rainbrowsers. Since the Rainbow patch question came up, he has made a point of asking them about when they first wore it. He quotes a letter from Cpl. Rohy Fetzer, Co B, 149th MG Bn:

"While in Meaux, we got to know some of the 'Old Guard'—wounded at the 1st Battle of the Marne. They showed us some of the souvenirs they had made by hand of our shell casings, cartridges, German belt buckles, etc. We were impressed, and some of the gang asked if they could make a Rainbow on a patch. They thought they could, they did, and those were the patches my buddy and I sewed on the shoulder of our shirts."

This letter, Kaehler assures, was referring to the period around the Champagne and is purely unofficial. Fetzer was wounded on June 28, 1918, and never rejoined the outfit, so it must have been in the spring of 1918 that he sewed on the patch.

Wrote Kaehler, "I have taped interviews with veterans of the WWI Rainbow and they either state that they received theirs in Germany or they were around well before that. There were Rainbow patches being worn before the 'official' order—long before it. I have two taped interviews with 151st veterans who state they purchased theirs from French civilians while at Coetquidan.

"I have a massive collection of official photographs and personal snapshots (also studio types) related to Rainbow in WWI. The photos from the Occupation clearly show the Rainbow patch and can be easily dated. The studio photos can be deceptive as to the date, and most were taken after the official authorization."

Well, there you have it. Make your own decision.

(EDITOR—We wish to thank all those who responded with letters and photos, and regret that the limited space of the *Reveille* does not permit us to print them all.)

Navarin Farm

(continued from page 2)

coordinating the many details of our participation with our French friends. I want to thank and compliment, also, all of the members of the Honor Contingent for the 3rd "Rock of the Marne" Infantry Division, who represented the United States with such dignity and precision during the day's event.

A hearty "Well Done" to all.

(EDITOR - Our continued thanks to General Donaldson for his participation in the Navarin Farm Ceremony each year on behalf of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association.)

Mid-Year Reunion

Your National President has selected Oklahoma City, OK, for the 1985 Mid-Year Reunion of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, February 22-23, 1985.

The Reunion will be held in the Holidome of the Holiday Inn Airport West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK 73108 Tel. (405) 942-8511.

The Rainbow rate is \$42 whether one or four are in the room. One night's deposit or a credit card number is required to confirm your reservation. Room reservations must be made prior to February 8, 1985. You must identify yourself as attending the Rainbow meeting. After February 8th, rooms are on a first come-first served basis. It is not too early to make your reservation today.

Please send advance registrations of \$25.00 per person attending to Al Brewer, P.O. Box 242, Mustang, OK 73064.

The weather outside will be cold; however, our Reunion will be inside and once you are in the hotel, it will not be necessary to go outside until you begin your journey home.

The Oklahoma City Chapter and Auxiliary are making many plans for your enjoyment. We are all waiting to welcome you to Oklahoma!

Attend a Reunion

Attending

National Reunion 1985

HYATT PALM BEACHES



Even while we're arranging airline reservations and registrations for the Mid-Year Meeting in Oklahoma City, it isn't too early to start planning for the 1985 National Rainbow Reunion in Palm Beach. Last year, many who had every intention of attending the Winter Reunion failed to

RESERVATIONS: Hyatt Palm Beaches, 630 Clearwater Park Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Tel: (305) 833-1234.

CHARGE: \$42.80 single or double, tax included. Send check, money order or charge card number for one night's fee to

Chapter Totals

		7/84	10/84
ALABAMA	Birmingham	5	3
	Huntsville	66	30
	Montgomery	14	—
ARIZONA	Phoenix	19	11
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles	50	40
COLORADO	State Assn.	—	24
District of Columbia		20	15
FLORIDA	Clearwater	35	25
	Miami	15	—
	Orlando	19	17
	Pompano	6	—
GEORGIA	Atlanta	12	10
	Macon	2	—
ILLINOIS	Chicago	55	48
INDIANA	Indianapolis	11	10
	South Bend	21	—
	Bloomington	4	4
IOWA	State Assn.	101	60
KANSAS	Chanute	11	—
	Dodge City	7	5
MARYLAND	Baltimore	15	10
MICHIGAN	Detroit	20	20

Texas Opener

Texas Chapter members and guests convened at the Stubbs Ranch located on the near west side of Ft. Worth, for their season opener as luncheon guests of PNP Johnnie Stubbs, and wife, National Auxiliary Sergeant-at-Arms Verna. Let me tell you, Verna is "the hostess with the mostest." Every little detail had been planned for our pleasure, from the patriotic theme decorations, the well-stocked bar set up on the front veranda, to the delicious food served under spreading oak trees. The guest register showed a total of 48 present.

Honored guests included National President John D. Carr from Plant City, FL, and National Auxiliary President Bea Miller and her "Red Cap" husband Fred, from Tulsa, OK. Others present from outside the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metro area were Charles and Rosa...

Membership

"The Heart and Soul of it All"

As membership increases, your reunions become larger and better, and as these grow your membership expands because of what the membership scene has generated into the National picture of Rainbow. So this means that you, my friends, are charged to bring Rainbow new living members.

The geographical chapters and their membership committees are asked to scrutinize rosters for all delinquents; call these men, write these men, and ask them to join the Rainbow experience, share the Rainbow experience. You and that future member can be born again into the heritage of Rainbow. Every man is a recruiter; don't wait for George to do it; you are Mr. Rainbow in 1984-85.

Competition is the spice of life and