

Vol. LXVIII

March, 1990

No. 4

Shades Of Rainbow Past

by Chester Ennest Anti/Tank Co. 232 Inf.

It seems the Minnesota Chapter of Rainbow began in 1919 and a John McDonald served as president. The Minneapolis Chapter was started in 1924 and William Cross was elected as its president. The early rosters list J. McDonald in 1920 as also being the president of the St. Paul Chapter, so the meetings could have been started there and the two cities at that time served as one unit. (Anyone out there know?)

When the chapters were first organized, it was comprised mostly of the 151FA which was the old Minnesota National Guard. These men served together, went overseas together, and returned together, so there was a special bond and comradeship they all shared.

I joined this elite group back in 1948 and if my memory serves correctly, it was then President Harvey Thompson in 1947 who called and told me about the R.D.V.A., and that they were trying to recruit WW-2 men as new members. He was an insurance man and of course mixed in a little business. I recall buying some polio insurance for my small children. (Any of you remember this?) I attended my first Rainbow meeting sometime around May on a Wednesday night in the Wenell Hall on Chicago and 35th St. It was in the basement of an old converted fire station. A social hour preceded the meeting, just as it does today, and I was introduced to about 25 or 30 fellows who were joking and telling stories, just as we do now, so we old Army guys never change when we get together.

About 8 p.m. the meetings were called to order by two raps of the gavel and the sergeant-at-arms would bring in the flags, we saluted and sat down. The Preamble was read and the various committee members were called on to give their reports. Example: in '58 Frank West was welfare, his duties were to see if any veteran needed help. The hospital committee (Frank White) visited those in the hospitals and also saw that cards were sent. For Armistice and Memorial Days Joe Justad made arrangements. He was also the Chaplain. Entertainment was Harry Corey and Keith South, for such as banquets, stags and etc. Special

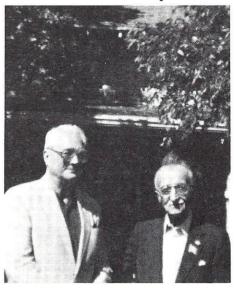
Events (Hi Flowers) and Noon Lunches, (William Cross). Noon lunches were attended by anyone who worked in the downtown area and could get away. Lunches were held on Wednesday noon every week. They were always well attended. I myself got to one or two. Then there was the membership chairman, always the vice president, who naturally had the job of rounding up the dues and sending out letters. It came easy as these guys lived and breathed Rainbow. At the end of the meetings a light lunch was served and taken care of by Art Morshire, Erv Papke and Hi Flowers. One fellow served as clean-up-man and the food was paid by a "kitty-donation." After lunch a couple of tables were used for poker-playing. These games sometimes lasted until midnight. On occasion some of the St. Paul members would come across the river and join us. I do recall one St. Paul meeting that was held at the Old Schmidt's Brewery; we had quite a time.

During the year there was a state banquet or reunion. Past President (Chapter) banquets were held in February. After the meal, movies were shown of previous year's doings at Lake Sylvia. The soon-to-be past president could not view these, but he was escorted upstairs to the bar where laughter drifted up and you wondered just what was going on — everyone was sworn to secrecy, including the wives. In September Bill Doble and I were soon to learn what all this was about, this was in 1959. We were taken up to Lake Sylvia on Friday afternoon and arrived at the Lake about six. This camp was owned by Doc Solum, a dentist, and every September he invited the P.P.s for a weekend of fun and mischief. There were meals prepared by a cook, card games, horseshoes, rifle range, volleyball, you name it.

On Saturday night came Bill Doble and my (Chester Ennest) initiation in P.P.s. Bill was dressed as a Russian spy, and I was the hated Mao Tsung. We were put behind the volleyball net and all the guys used us as targets for pitching and hitting practice. (Every year it was different, and we were told we got by real easy compared to other years ?????) And so it went all evening. Sunday, after a big dinner, we left for home.

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Report



Our President with our distinguished Horace Rose (WW1).

On Thursday, Nov. 30, 1989, Jane and I left to attend the Rocking Chair Chapter meeting at Clearwater, Florida. We drove over to Plant City, where we spent Friday with PNP John Carr and his charming wife, Margo. On Saturday, we drove over to Clearwater for the meeting. PNP John Carr presided, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We met many enthusiastic Rainbowers and their wives.

Jane and I hadn't seen Christmas decorations in the tropical surrounding of green grass before. Little did we realize that Florida would be in for a heavy cold snap shortly. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Now for a little "commercial" on membership: All of us need to be involved in locating our Rainbow comrades. After all, only an old foxhole buddy can discuss intimate details. So please help make contact. Nothing beats the personal touch. "Share Rainbow" is my motto. It's one of the best ways to renew an old friendship.

The mid-year at Charleston will be over by the time you read this — so it's on to other Chapter meetings, and then the big one — PITTSBURGH. Will we see you there?

REVEILLE NEWS

Your editor will be in the sunny South, during the months of February and March, 1990. For the period of February 1st to March 15th send material to:

116 Granada Lane

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

After March 15th, send to the regular home address:

7618 First Street

Pasadena, Maryland 21122

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE Official Publication of the RAINBOW Division Veterans Founder & Permanent Honorary President General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (Dec) Permanent Honorary Presidents: Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec) General Henri Gouraud (Dec)
Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)
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Vol. LXVIII

Sept. Issue Nov. Issue

March, 1990

819 Piedmont Way, Redwood, CA 94062

No. 4

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE Published September, November, January, March, May and June for/by members of the Rainbow Division Veterans Assn SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO: Publishing Editor: Hugo E. Grimm
P.O. Box 200 Lake Sherwood, MO 63357 Subscription \$6.00
SEND DUES' REMITTANCE SHEETS
AND MEMORIAL FORMS TO: Herb Butt 16916 Geo. Franklyn Drive Independence, MO 64055 DEADLINE FOR COPY May Issue April 1, 1990 May 1, 1990 Aug. 1, 1990 Oct. 1, 1990 June Issue

Shades of Rainbow Past

(Continued)

Stag dinners were held on a Friday night usually, close to Veterans Day. The lastman's party I know nothing about but did hear and read of them in the monthly chapter paper. Picnics of course were in the summer and sometimes held at Highland Park. Families and grandchildren were welcome, lots of food, games and free ice cream.

In the 70's the ranks were thinning. The fellows naturally getting up in years, health declining, and night driving either not possible or not cared for, so the vote was to discontinue the night meetings and to go to days. For me then, it was like the end of an era, I could no longer attend the meetings, still working 40 hours a week. So the years slipped away and by the 80's it was up to the WW-2s to take over and continue if the Minnesota Rainbow was to survive. It was at this point Rube Evanoff came into the picture for me. (We had served together prior to Rainbow in the "Old Guard," the 3rd Inf.) I became re-involved in Rainbow by attending the meeting at the Legion Hall. It's true I was a little reluctant to get back in. It was all different. Virginia kept pushing me and I kept attending and soon all of the old enthusiasm returned and I changed my mind. I'm grateful now, the comradeship is still there, and more for me now, as I served with you fellows, went overseas with you and came back with you. This "I can relate to."

2ND BN. — 232ND INF.

Val Spiegel, Co. F, 232nd Inf., is hard at work endeavoring to write a comprehensive and factual history of the 2nd Bn., 232nd Inf. Regt., with particular accent on the Alsace campaign. He has spent many arduous hours combing through the archives. What he needs now are more personal recollections. The regimental history drops all mentin of the 2nd Bn. after 8 Jan. 1945 until the 25th, when they attacked from the Bois de Schweighausen into the east area of Schweighausen. Does anyone recall: the attack at the vehicle bridge on the 10th at Weversheim? How about the major attack on Weyersheim on the 17-18th? What about our role as rearguard from the area NE of Hagenua to Hagenua on the 20th? Come on fellows! Give Val a hand. Check out your attics. Write to:

Valentine Spiegel, 5305 Wapakoneta Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20816.

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

"Springtime"

Let us pray.

All-powerful and all-merciful God, how wonderful it is to look forward to the delicate beauty and the joyful warmth of spring! Whether we live in the sunny clime of the South or the wintry areas of the North, we experience anew Your life - giving love that renews our spirits and fills our hearts with new vigor, new cheer, new hope. Bless our lives with Your refreshing and invigorating grace so that we may renew our efforts to lend a helping hand to our neighbors. We pray that Your healing Spirit will restore health to the sick, bring comfort to the sorrowing, peace to the troubled, courage to the timid, love to the lonely. May we be the channel through which Your blessings will flow to those in need. Amen.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Jim Froede, Cannon Co. 232nd Inf., would appreciate any personal reminiscences or recall of Dachau. He is assisting a Jewish Air Force Chaplain in collecting recollections of the Holocaust. He only needs short vignettes on what happened the day the division went into Dachau. Write to:

Rev. James A. Froede Covenant Presbyterian Church 607 E. Third St.

Long Beach, California 90802

Bill Keithan, our archivist, reports on a sad event. He recently visited the 69th Regiment (165th Inf.) Armory in New York, to see what they had on display. It is a treasure trove, but kept in heartbreaking condition. Dirty, dusty, ill displayed, poorly lighted, water damaged, and subject to New York's pollution. He plans to pursue this to see what can be done to correct this.

Frank Peltier, H Co. 232nd Inf., tells us that he has read the new book "Operation Northwind (sic) — the Unknown Battle of the Bulge" by Charles Whiting, an English writer. Frank says Whiting refers to the 42nd Div. as "Task Force Linden" and in another place refers to it as "New York's Rainbow Division." He must have seen the movie "The Fighting 69th," states Frank. (Editor's note — the book is poorly written and quite inaccurate — especially as to time and place). Frank goes on "To those of us who have been curious all these years about the confusion, and what did or did not happen in Alsace, the book is worth reading. He says, "I'll never forget the look on the face of some officer from the 79th who said to me, "Where the hell is your artillery?" My answer, "Oklahoma, sir."

A Trip Of Remembrance

(Continued from Jan. Issue)

The next day we drove through the Hardt Mountains, trying to follow the trail of the 222nd on its attack through the Siegfried line, and on to the Rhine plain. We went through the towns of Barenthal, Dambach, Obersteinbach, Niedersteinbach, Schonau, and Petersbachel. We did not get too far into the mouintains before the slopes became very steep, and seemed just as hard to climb as I remembered them 40 years ago. We had an interesting occurrence at the border crossing between France and Germany. I was keeping all my valuables in a brief case just behind the front seat. The French customs agents wanted to examine the contents of this briefcase, so they asked me to bring it to the custom house. The first thing I showed them was the 42nd history book, which they recognized as that of one of the divisions that had liberated this area of France. This concluded any further problems. The book proved to be better than my passport, as my treatment was extremely cordial from then on.

At Fischbach and Ludwigswinkel I tried to find some of the Bunkers remaining from the Siegfried line, but nothing was visible, and I didn't recognize the area. I was told that the German government had removed all traces of them. Not being able to recognize this area was a great disappointment to me. I especially wanted to see this because of the frightening evening of March 21 when we crossed the valley, and that night is still in my memory. We then continued to Dahn, which has been rebuilt. Here, we spent the night.

The next morning we continued through the mountains to the Rhine plain. We drove to Worms, where we crossed the river. We continued the trip eastward to Wurzburg, passing through Miltenburg and Wertheim. In Wurzburg, we went to the west bank of the Mainz River, just below the Marienburg Castle, to stand on the spot where I had been wounded on April 3, 1945. It was a very traumatic moment for me. The river looked just as wide and formidable as it had that morning. The city has changed in that it has been completely restored. We took many pictures, especially of the area where the crossing was made. We visited the spot where the assault boats had been launched and then walked up the road that Co. G had come down that morning. I tried to find the tavern that was used as an Aid Station, and where I had been taken, but was unsuccessful. It was there that I was given a bottle of champagne by our medics. We spent that night in a small hotel.

The next morning I drove to the Wurzburg railroad station and the city park, but could find no trace of any scars of war. I understand the final battle in the city was fought

here. We then headed south through the Black Forest, and then westward toward France. Our goal was Epinal, as we went over a high pass in the Vosge Mountains. The night was spent in Epinal, prior to our visit to the cemetery the next morning.

I was not prepared for the visit to Epinal Cemetery. The site was beautiful, and the cemetery was very well cared for. For me, this visit was very traumatic as there were just too many tombstones; too many graves; and too many friends form the 42nd buried there.

(To be Continued)

UFO?

In Feb., 1945, Service Btry. 542 F.A. Bn. was stationed at Brest, France. We were billeted in various homes, hay mows, etc. throughout the town. My sleeping quarters consisted of an upper bedroom of a house which was occupied by two maiden ladies of middle age. They could speak English and German as well as French. They were very early risers, and could be heard moving about at 5:30 a.m. We didn't eat breakfast until 7:00 a.m.

My room had long French windows that opened like doors, and faced a large garden at the rear of the house. A porcelain commode under the bed was part of the decor. The first chore in the morning was to empty the commode. It was somewhat embarrassing to be greeted in the hall each morning with pot in hand.

A brilliant example of Rainbow ingenuity occurred. Open a window, give the contents of the pot a quick flip — no more embarrassment. One night we had a little party — beer, wine, and getting in a little later than usual. No problem — use the container, open the window and let her go. This night the pot kept going and the pot handle was in my hand. Guess who was up earlier than anyone in the household? Yours truly sneaked out into a very muddy garden to retrieve a handleless pot.

Ray Connick, Service 542 F.A. Bn.

DUES! DUES!

At this time space precludes membership totals to be shown. However, as of 1/15/90, we have 2140 as compared to 2378 for the same date in 1989. We appeal to all chapter secretaries to please push a little harder.

On the National-at-large level since we do not send out a reminder, we would deeply appreciate it if those of you, not belonging to a chapter, and not having paid dues this year, would be so kind as to send \$6.00 for National membership to: Herbert A. Butt, 16196 George Franklyn Drive, Independence, Mo. 64055.

Bazooka Saves The Day!

by T/Sgt. Waldo "Andy" Andrews 1st Platoon - E Co., 232nd Inf.

As we moved up to Wurzburg and through it, my platoon came to a cleared area that appeared to have been a park. I saw several German soldiers duck into a bunker on the side of a hill. I called for mortar fire to spray back of the hill. The 81mm, mortar fire hit right on target, but nothing happened, although I knew they were in there. I directed my bazooka man, Firestone, to put a round into the opening of the bunker, and it did the job. White flags appeared, and Firestone called to them in German to come out with their hands on their heads. They came out as directed in an orderly manner. It was then that we realized we had captured a German General and his entire staff. (I'll bet G-2 had a party with this bunch and learned some valuable informa-

I was cited for a Silver Star, but it also required the help of the mortarmen and my bazooka man "Firestone." The last I ever saw of Firestone was when later he was evacuated for a wound in the knee. I haven't seen or heard from him since!

Ed note: Waldo was a legend in E Co. and in the 2nd Bn. He was noted for his courage and coolness under fire, particularly at Gambsheim. Waldo suffered a stroke in 1983 that left one side paralyzed. He presently resides at the Veteran's Home of California, Yountville, Ca. 94599. Drop him a line!

Bazooka Followup

We received a note from Tom O'Neill, Co. G, 242nd Inf. He says that he knows of several instances where Charles G. "Lank" Paine made very effective use of the bazooka, knocking out one or more tanks and/or armored vehicles, but does not know the full particulars. He intends to try to get "Lank" to open up about them. Tom tells us that at this time "Lank" is recuperating from a lower left leg amputation — an end result of a service connected disability. Typical of this indomitable Rainbow soldier is his comment that he can now rightfully claim to have one foot in the grave.

American GI Discovers Gold

Many things happened in the war to all of us that we never seem to forget which we ought to write up for publication such as this event as follows:

Our company had stopped in Dahn, Germany just prior to going across the Rhine river at Worms. We were just taking it easy when the First Sergeant sent word to me to provide a 3-man company latrine detail. Everyone seemed to be occupied, mostly playing poker except myself and two other men. I certainly, as platoon sergeant,

(Continued on Page 4)

WW1 French Buddies Honored

Two lifetime buddies of the Phoenix chapter recently received their French medals and Citations from PNP Jack Keyser. George E. Smith and Walter G. Michel served overseas together in F Co., 117th Engrs., and have continued their friendship through the years. Both have been very active in Rainbow in the past. They are now too frail to attend the National Reunions, but would love to hear from old friends. Write to:

George E. Smith, 2202 W. Michigan Ave., Phoenix, Az. 85023.

Walter G. Michel, 10856 Buccaneer Drive, Sun City, Az., 85351.



Left to right and top to bottom: Pete Compton - V.P. West Region, Gilbert Koehler - Pres. Az. Chapter #1, George E. Smith - Chaplain, honoree Iva Smith - Aux. Pres. and wife of George.



Left to right: Pete Compton, V.P. West Region, Watler G. Michel, honoree, Doris Michel, wife of Walter, Fred Goldsmith, PNP and Secretary of Ariz. Chapter #1.

Cornelius Dufford Honored



PNP Col. Carlyle Woelfer presenting French Medal. L to R: Pres. Dolian Harris, Cornelius Dufford, PNP, Col. Carlyle Woelfer.

Military Police Chapter Joe Huiser Honored

We reprint the following article, which honors one of our own. It points out another example of what fine men comprise our unique organization.

A CATHOLIC WAR VETERAN BULLETIN

During the past summer the CWV held its national memorial mass at the Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Worthington (nearby Columbus) Ohio. It is the only seminary in the United States under the direct jurisdiction of the Vatican.

Archbishop Ryan concelebrated the mass with six Bishops; national CWV Chaplain Fr. Floyd J. Marleau, a montfort father assisted.

One of our parishioners and member of St. Margaret's post 1172 Catholic War Veterans, and St. Margaret's Choir, Mr. Joseph Heuser received the coveted "St. Sebastian Award" at the National Catholic War Veterans convention held in Dublin, Ohio.

This is the highest award given by the national organization for services to God, country, and home. An "In Detail" resume backed by documentations was passed on and approved by the national committee.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

FOR GOD: For the last 14 years Joe has helped the veterans of St. Albans hospital to attend Sunday and Holiday services. Helped the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish

(Continued on Page 6)

Rainbow Pride

Hank DeJarnette, A Co. 222nd Inf., had a long standing dream for a Division Insignia flag and a Company Guidon that he could fly on special days. He finally found a place in Wisconsin that made them. The photo below shows how they looked on Veteran's Day. Hank says a lot of people stopped and took a good long look as they drove by.



Rainbow Vet Scores Again

The Cedar Rapids Gazette Sun of November 12, 1989 ran an article reporting a ceremony held at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum on November 11, 1989. Howard Parker, A-232nd Inf., was the guest speaker. "America the Beautiful" was sung by about 200 attendees. The second verse speaks of all those who fought for their country, died defending it, or lost loved ones. We feel it is worth repeating. "O' beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life."

Howard stated, "America, we have not forgotten those who fought that our children and grandchildren will live in a world of freedom and democracy." Veteran's Day is observed so Americans will not forget the 11th hour, on the 11th day of November 11, 1918, he said. Parker outlined the wars of this country and asked that Americans not forget the more than one million Americans who died in the wars. He also made a plea to the government to remember the over 27 million veterans still living, some of whom are homeless and destitute.

Many in attendance came to remember in their own way. Perhaps for the Washington High School red, white, and blue band, which performed, new meaning was given to the veterans who fought to make the world a better place.

Gold in Europe

(Continued)

wasn't going on this detail, so I got the two idle men and one man out of the poker game. He must have been winning as he sure did squawk about going on the latrine detail, in fact he got down right belligerent about it, but I made him go anyhow. It

couldn't have been more than 10-15 minutes when one of the men on the detail came running in with an American coffee can (1 lb. size) that he found buried in the ground where they were digging the latrine. This coffee can was full of American coins, silver dollars, five, ten, and twenty dollar gold pieces. As I recall, several of the men (mostly those winning in the poker game)

offered some pretty good money for those gold coins, as much as one hundred dollars, but he wouldn't sell any of them. Incidentally he did come to me and thanked me for putting him on this detail. I don't recall if they ever completed digging the company latrine.

Olin L. Hawkins F-222 Infantry

NATIONAL REUNION

July 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1990 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh, with beautiful Point State Park as its front yard, THE PITTSBURGH HILTON is convenient to all the city's downtown attractions.

It is ideally situated in the heart of the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" . . . the closest hotel to Three Rivers Stadium where you can witness the excitement of the Pirates and other events. Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts is a short walk away, along with the Gateway Riverboat docks, a variety of historical sites, major shopping, dining, and entertainment.

You'll find walking in and around Pittsburgh is easy and safe. The entire city is just one-quarter mile square. And packed with architectural wonders, historical landmarks and delightful shops.

But no matter where you want to go in Pittsburgh, you'll find it's quick and easy from the Pittsburgh Hilton and Towers.

The Lobby of the PITTSBURGH HILTON is a lovely place to sit and relax, to have a drink, or meet with friends. There's no need to wait in line for elevators to get to your functions. A large double staircase takes you to the mezzanine level where all the ballrooms and meeting rooms await you.

You don't have to queue up to go in and out of the hotel. THE WORLD'S LARGEST REVOLVING DOOR lets you and your associates walk out together, without missing a beat of your conversation.

You'll find the view inside as spectacular as the one outside. It doesn't matter if you're looking out over the sparkling three rivers at Point State Park or the bustling sprawl of Gateway Center.

At the PITTSBURGH HILTON and TOWERS, hundreds of people, both out front and behind the scenes will have gone to great lengths to guarantee that each of your rooms, every hotel restaurant, every meeting area, every corridor, even every elevator is absolutely perfect for you. From check-in to check-out, you will enjoy the HILTON's experienced staff's fast and friendly service.

So when you arrive, we can confidently say: "WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE. WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!"

Editor; s note: Time is flying! We urge you to make your reservations as soon as possible. This reunion promises to be the largest ever! Why not insure that you will be there to join in the spirit of comradeship. This is another chance to see your old buddies who shared the same hardships with you. Don't let another year slip away. Write or call today! Reservations: Single-doubletwin are \$59.00 per night plus 9% tax. Mail to Pittsburgh Hilton, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222 - ATTN. Reservations Manager. Specify Division rates.

Registration is \$40.00 per person, and should be sent to JON M. JANOSIK, 3389 KINGSTON LANE, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44511. Make checks payable to: 1990 Rainbow Division Reunion.

East Coast Reunion

The East Coast Reunion will be held on May 18 and 19, 1990. The motel is the Best Western Maryland Inn, 8601 Baltimore Blvd., College Park, Maryland, 20740. Tel. (301) 474-2800. Single or Double rooms are \$55.00 per night plus state and county taxes. We have a unique arrangement — 40 rooms reserved in one block, with a garden where we can congregate. Please get your reservations in early, so that the rooms won't be scattered throughout the motel, otherwise.

Registration fee will be \$25.00 per person. Cost for transportation to the Marine Barracks is, at this time, \$7.00. There will be an additional charge for a private Champagne Brunch on Sunday morning at a cost of \$15.00 per person. All inquiries should be directed to Vince Pizzi, 3401 Marlbrough Court, College Park, Md. 20740, Tel. (301) 935-2844.

The schedule:

Friday, May 18, 1990 - Registration and welcome Rainbowers

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Dinner, individual Preference

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Leave for Marine Retreat Parade

Sat., May 19, 10:00 a.m. - Convoy to Vietnam Memorial

12:00 p.m. - Lunch at Air and Space Museum 1:30 p.m. - Convoy to Arlington Cemetery, visit Gen. Linden's grave

6:00 p.m. - Cocktails at the motel 7:00 p.m. - Banquet

Sunday, May 20 - Brunch at the motel

Comm. Plt.-3rd BN-242 Inf.



Bottom Row, left to right: Jim Priscaro, Chuck Steen, Tony Barrese, Werner Busse. Top Row, left to right: Dusty Rhoades, Ray Thome, Bob Hopkins, Bob Churchouse.

The Communications Platoon, 3rd Bn., 242nd Inf. had their best turnout, ever, at the St. Louis Reunion — 8 members. Each of the men came from a different state. Ray Thome of the Alabama Chapter has been the driving force in getting the men there. The above photo shows their smiling faces.

392nd F.A.Bn.

Everything is set and on schedule for another gathering of the 392nd F.A. Bn. during the R.D.V.A. Reunion in Pittsburgh, July 11th to 15th. If you have not received a letter recently spelling out the details, it means you are not on our mailing list. If interested, contact any of the following: Merrill Smith - "A" Battery Village of Rainbow Springs 19729 S.W. 79th Street Dunellen, Florida 32630 (904) 489-6863

Edward D. Hoffman - "B" Battery 1509 Saratoga Road Pueblo, Colorado 81001 (719) 544-5621

Amon Ellis - "B" Battery 230 Kimber Avenue Syracuse, New York 13207 (315) 492-6117

Howard Margol - "B" Battery 4430 Mt. Paron Pkwy., N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30300 (404) 261-8662

Joseph A. Smith - "C" Battery 46 Mountain View Avenue Hurley, New York 12443 (914) 331-0140

Byron J. Greenwood - Hdgs. Battery 1024 Catalpa Lane Naperville, Ill. 60540 (312) 355-7675

Gerald F. Maple - Serv. Battery 601 W. 9th Street Neligh, Nebraska 68756 (402) 887-4459

New WWII Rainbow History Book

A condensed copy of the WW2 Blue History Book was made available at the July Reunion in St. Louis. Added to the original printing are the famous "Trail of the Rainbow," inside the front cover, and a complete update of all Rainbow Memorials and Monuments. All written material from the original book, plus selected number of photos make up the interesting book. A total of 200 books were sold at the St. Louis Reunion. The cost of these books is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Checks are to be made to RDVA AND MAILED TO HUGO E. GRIMM, P.O. BOX 200, LAKE SHER-WOOD, MO, 63357.

THESE RAINBOW BOOKS WOULD MAKE A GREAT GIFT FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, SEND FOR YOURS BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

Quatre Vents Four Winds

by PNP. D. R. Eberhart Co. I - 242nd Inf.

I know a place called Quatre Vents, A tiny place by an ancient town, In a border land, Where the four winds blow.

Moist, they blow from the Western Sea Across the land of Celts and Franks Through the Gap of the Low Saverne, Down the slopes of the forested Vosges, And across the fertile Alsatian plain.

They sweep in from the steppes of the Morning Land

And across the cliffed and castled Rhine. Winds from the south, from Africa's shores, Follow the roads of the legionnaires, Along the course of the River Rhone, Then through Burgundy's famous gate, Skirting Helvetia's Alpine Redoubt, And swirl around the Cathedral spire.

When Nordwind strikes with Arctic force It locks this land in snow and ice. That is when I knew it best, That frozen border land of France, Lashed by Nordwind's furious storm. For most, the winds are of earth and sky, But for us in that time They were the winds of war.

A small stream flows by the village side.
Icy and thin in the winter time.
From western mountains
It twists and turns,
Slowing its pace as it nears the Rhine.
At Quatre Vents, a sturdy low bridge
Spanned the Moder River there,
To link Route du Rhin with the Bischwiller road.

Moder in German means mud and decay, And has about it the smell of the grave. In French maudir means to curse or to damn. Whichever the root of the river's name, Both fit it well In this border land Where the river line was a line of war.

During the winter of '45 When Nordwind blew, the invaders came Through the Forest of Haguenau To the river banks with the smell of the grave. Three battered squads of my Company I Reached to the east to touch Company King.

But the gap was too wide, No one was there. Back in reserve behind us all Were the riflemen of Company Love.

At Quatre Vents and on Moder's south shore We waited and watched for the attack to come. We blew the bridge on Rue des 4 Vents Ran patrols in No Man's Land, Dug deep holes among the trees With a line of fire from the river's high ground, And set our C.P. in a rock hard house.

When the enemy came,
It was the black of night,
The forces of darkness led the way.
10th SS Panzer, "Meine Ehre heisst Treu"
Death's head honor, "Arbeit Macht Frei."
Evil incarnate loose in the land,
With a foul prince of darkness in direct command
His name spelling heaven
His deeds shouting hell.
His angels of death were cloaked in white,
Their faces were gray.
Their weapons were black.
Fire and brimstone moved with them that night.

They found the gap between I and K, And were in front and behind us In woods and in fields. But strong points held And fog settled in, Hiding the enemy as well as our friends.

Crashing artillery had blackened the snow In the open spaces of Quatre Vents.

As cold winter dawn turned night into day, Men went to ground wherever they were. In houses and holes, and where shelter was found, Except for the dead who lay where they fell.

Before the end of that short gray day, Orders came up to straighten the lines—Return to the banks of the Moder stream. Love Company attacked across the snow, And lost good men at the river's edge. At Quatre Vents we again met the foe They came toward us this time. With no weapons in hand; Their hands in the air. SS troops with hands in the air Testing the feel of the western wind.

Once again the Moder became the front Which held intact until spring winds blew When the line was breached from south to north. The attack swung east across the Rhine Relentless, until the war was won.

Quatre Vents now looks much as before With some houses rebuilt and some torn down. The Moder flows under a sturdy new bridge, and the only four winds are of earth and of sky. But this place lies in a border land A home to the restless winds of war.

PNP D. R. Eberhart November 11, 1988

Military Police Chapter

(Continued)

Clergy, and as a Eucharistic Minister gave Communion.

FOR COUNTRY: Joe served 3 years in World War II and during action in Germany was instrumental in capturing an enemy Co. of 124 soldiers and in freeing 6 American prisoners. For this he was decorated with the "Silver Star" medal.

FOR HOME: For 9 years Joe arranged and chaired the Middle Village Memorial Parade. He was a director of the Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association (now defunct) and received the New York State "Conspicious Service Cross."

When asked How? Joe answered, I couldn't have done most of this without my wife Ann at my side. Joe and Ann are members of St. Margaret's Senior Citizens Group and Ann is a member of our Christian Mothers and Women Confraternity.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heuser and St. Margaret's Catholic War Veterans Post 1172, Middle Village!

Reunion

Lifted (that's like being "liberated") is the following poem from the ex-P.O.W. magazine.

REUNION

What strange mystery is there to this time When with aching bones and time fogged mind

I'll now see and talk and laugh again With old, good friends,

And ponder well what might have been?

And what strange wonder is there to these places

That, as my mind searches memories of dark days,

My eyes mist while my heart races? yet even as I remember then, I'll smile again

At their names, their voices, and familiar faces.

And what strange sadness there is to know Of absent friends and missing crew Who have never known the heart felt cheers Of reuniting with those they knew To live again their yesteryears.

Ulcers This can't be our distinguished archivist!

Larry Nagel (H2B - 232nd Inf.) wrote to Bill Keithan (H-232nd Inf.)

At Camp Gruber, I was one of the unfortunates assigned from H2B to eat at the H Co. mess hall, and due to your cooking, not the "C" ration type, but supposedly good cooking, I have since had an incurable ulcer.

Bill, with his usual commiseration, answered; Larry I have gone through life being miserable about this, and for 30 years I have the photo under my desk top that says "I don't get ulcers, I give 'um.

Rainbow Div. VA and Memorial Foundation, c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor P.O. Box 200 Lake Sherwood, MO 63357

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