

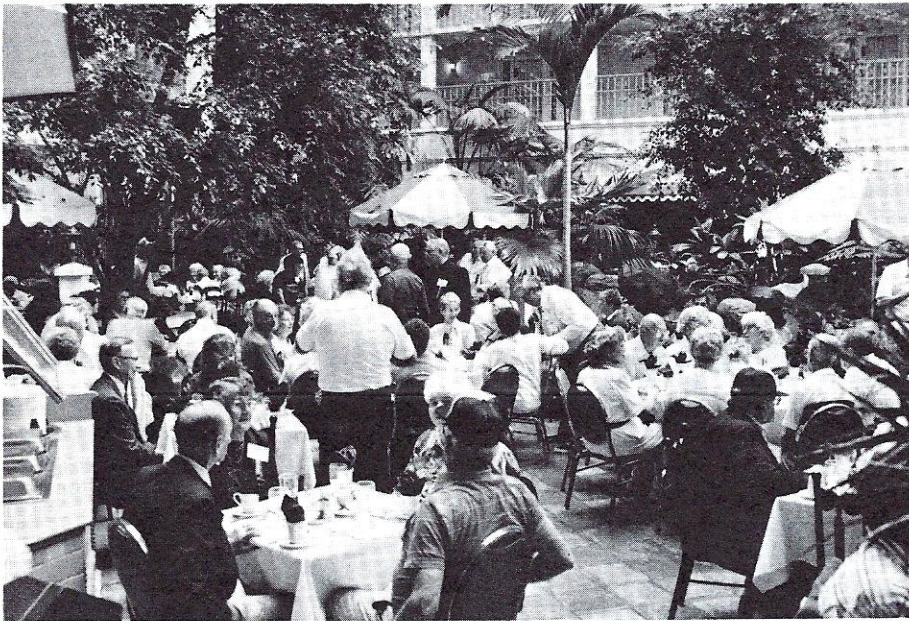


Vol. LXX

April, 1992

No. 4

Tampa Mid-Year A Record Breaker



The highest number ever to attend a Mid-Year Reunion was the feature of the Tampa gathering on Feb. 6-9, 1992. 225 Rainbowers attended the affair hosted by the "Rocking Chair" Chapter. Chaired by Earl and Helen Kerns and Jim and Dorothy Lynch, things moved along expertly and efficiently. This was the ninth Mid-Year hosted by this great Rainbow Chapter.

Under the overall guidance of our most erudite and competent President Father Bob Weiss, along with such stalwarts as PNP Dee Eberhart, PNP Ivan Wallace and PNP Ted Johnson, business matters were handled swiftly and efficiently. This left more time for socializing by happy Rainbowers. Among them being our former Adj. Gen., Col. Jim Tanner and our noted author of "Winter Storm," Lise Pommiois.

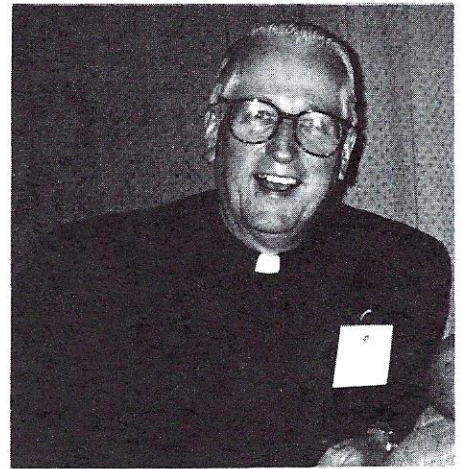
The traditional Banquet, presided over by Father Bob, was a highly successful and well-run affair. At the Head table were PNP and Foundation Chairman Dee and Barbara

Eberhart, PNP and Foundation President and Red Cap Ivan and Auxiliary President Myrtle Wallace, escort Mike Sopak and Auxiliary President Elect Peggy Fleming and President Elect Jack and Doris Hildreth.

Chairmen Kerns' and Lynch's hardworking committee consisted of Steve and Francis Hutnik, Zelma and Wally Neef, Tom and Betty Heaton, PNP John and Margo Carr, Bill and Ruth Yokum, Charles and Ruth O'Hagan, Phil Oberkiser, and Chester Krozykowski.

**DACHAU PLAQUE
DEDICATION
SUNDAY MAY 3, 1992.
SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS**

President's Report



Dear Fellow Rainbowers,

We had a wonderful gathering February 6-9 in Tampa, Florida, and the largest attendance ever at a mid-year reunion — 225 men and women. This is only the second mid-year reunion that I have attended, but it seemed by all accounts, to be one of the very best. I want to thank all of those who helped to make our days there so pleasant, and to all those who worked so hard in preparing for this mid-year meeting.

Although most of our time was spent in fellowship, we had a productive business meeting, and I was able to appoint several important committees that had been proposed in the course of the last six months. Don Segel has agreed to chair a committee to identify persons who would be willing and able to serve as national officers. We want to be sure that we have a number of candidates ready to present to the nominating committee, which of course, would be free to add to the list or to select those whom they feel could best serve the association. However, we want to involve more people in this work and be sure that we have men ready to step into the jobs.

Rube Evanoff has graciously consented to serve as the chairman of the committee to study our long-term finances. He has already obtained the help of several Rainbowers who volunteered to serve with him. I think that this will be an important and helpful committee. I was delighted to hear that our membership at this time is higher than we have had for the last year or two in spite of the growing number of deaths and illnesses that continue to take their toll.

A third committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Hugo Grimm to study and make recommendations with regard to the timing of the national reunion. We are anxious to hear from as many people as possible, so that we can arrive at a consensus with which everyone will be satisfied. Of course, we are already tied into the reunions for 1992 and 1993 and at least one proposal has already been prepared that would commit us to the July date for 1994.

(Continued on Page 2)

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE
Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans
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650 Jacon Way, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

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16916 George Franklyn Drive

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TREASURER: Jon M. Janosik

3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Norman Forde

226 High Timber Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Ray H. Willemssen, 811 S. Marshall

Rock Rapids, IA 51246

MEMORIAL OFFICER: William R. Barton

1033 White Oak Ave., S.W.

Atlanta, GA 30310

HISTORIAN: Donald L. Segel

650 Jacon Way, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Theodore A. Johnson

116 Merryhill Rd., Ely, IA 52227

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: John W. McCormack

3838 27th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201-5753

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Charles Paine, 66 Canfield Ave.

Bridgewater, CT 06752

1992 REUNION CHAIRMAN:

Donald R. Samolinski

3729 Carl St., Wausau, WI 54401

LIAISON OFFICER: Hugo E. Grimm

P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200

ARCHIVES: J. William Keithan, Jr.

2226 Eastmont Way West, Seattle, WA 98199

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Carlyle P. Woelfer

339 West View Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303

SERVICE OFFICER: Donald E. Downard

Rte. 2, Box 2481-R, Boerne, Texas 78006

PHOTOGRAPHER: William E. Clayton

819 Piedmont Way, Redwood, CA 94062

REVEILLE CHAIRMAN:

Herbert E. Klinedinst, 404 Cedar St., P.O. Box 206

Three Oaks, MI 49128

EDITOR RAINBOW REVEILLE:

Kenneth H. Carpenter

7618 First St., Pasadena, MD 21122-3402

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June issue

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Sept. issue

Aug. 1, 1992

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Jan. issue

Dec. 1, 1992

President's Report (Continued)

Hugo was asked to study the impact of a change on cost and the advantages or disadvantages of dates in the spring or fall as opposed to the summer.

Another item of discussion had to do with the Dachau Memorial, which is probably the event for which the Rainbow Division will be most remembered in World War II, since we certainly were one of the key forces in the liberation of that notorious and infamous camp. You will read elsewhere in the Reveille about the plaque that will be posted at the entrance to Dachau honoring the Rainbow Division for our part in its liberation.

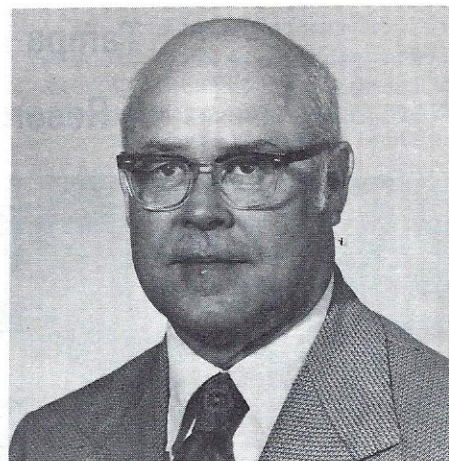
Shortly after you receive this newsletter, the Auxiliary President and her husband and I will be accompanying Hugo and Oriana Grimm on a tour of four regional reunion sites in the Midwest. This promises to be an exciting trip, and we are certainly looking forward to visiting Rainbowners beginning in Dubuque, Iowa on April 24.

In closing I want to thank those who have helped carry out my theme of life-long Rainbow fellowship by increasing their involve-

ment in the local, regional and mid-year reunions. I hope that we have a record turnout in Milwaukee in July. Thanks also to those who have taken out life-time national memberships. Please consider joining that number.

Sincerely in Rainbow,
Robert F. Weiss, S.J.
President

Remember Always



The ranks of Rainbow were again depleted by the sudden passing of Past National President Charles B. Sayers Jr. on January 28, 1992. Charles was transferred to the 42nd from the Air Corps and served in Co. H., 232nd Infantry. His departure is especially poignant to your editor who served in the same squad.

In addition to his term as President, Charles served as National Treasurer (1964-1974) and again (1975-76). He also served as Liaison Officer for several years, as well as many offices in the Roanoke Chapter. Charles is survived by his loving wife, PNP Edith, one son, Leonard, one daughter, Linda, and a grandchild. To know Charlie was to love him. Godspeed old buddy!

Chaplain's Prayers

We thank you O God that the United States of America has enjoyed the blessing of freedom from tyranny for more than two hundred years. We in Rainbow helped to defend our country in two great wars, and we know the cost of independence.

Now in this closing decade of this historic century we see the millions of people in Eastern Europe and elsewhere who are finally delivered from Communism, and who desire the same freedoms we have. They look to us for guidance. Grant, O Lord, that we may find a way to instruct them in self-determination. And may the whole world finally see the day when there is Peace on Earth — for all. Amen.

Rev. Norman Forde

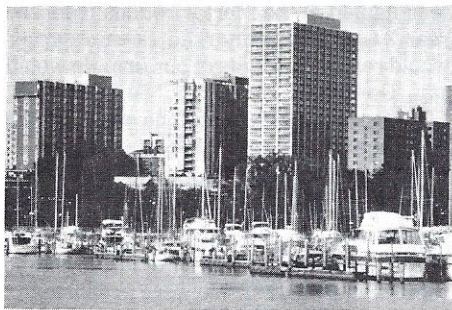
Over The Rainbow



It is our sad duty to report the passing of Past National President Albert L. Brewer on January 18, 1992. Al served with Co. K, 242nd Infantry, being the first member of his company to be wounded in early January, 1945. In addition to serving as National President, Al served as Membership Chairman in 1979-80, and Sgt. at Arms 1971-72 and 1972-73. He was one of the early leaders for the Muskogee Memorial and served for years as President or Secretary of the Oklahoma City Chapter. Al is survived by his dear wife, Mary, Past National Auxiliary President. The Rainbow Division Association will never forget our loyal, hard-working Albert L. Brewer.

National Reunion

Milwaukee, WI July 8-11, 1992



Milwaukee Convention & Visitors Bureau
WELCOME TO MILWAUKEE

It is getting close to the time of the 73rd Annual Reunion. The Wisconsin Chapter is busy with the arrangements, hoping to make this one of our best reunions. Please pre-register and make hotel reservations soon; forms are available from the reunion chairman.

Pre-registration: The fee is \$40.00 per person, make checks payable to RDVA 1992 Reunion, send to Don Samolinski, RDVA Reunion Chairman, 3729 Carl Street, Wausau, WI 54401, Phone (715) 675-6221.

Hotel Reservations: The reunion will be at the Grand Milwaukee Hotel, 4747 North Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207, Phone (800) 558-3862. The rate is \$64.00 + tax per day, for single or double rooms, including two days before and after the reunion. Cut off date is June 8, 1992. Make reservations for individual and hospitality rooms directly with hotel. Tell them you will be attending the 42nd Rainbow Division Reunion. Advise them if handicapped facilities are needed; they will try to accommodate you.

The Grand Milwaukee Hotel is one of Wisconsin's largest and friendliest conference and sports centers. It is located on the south east side of Milwaukee, within five minutes of Mitchell International Airport, and two miles off IH94 (Exit 318). The hotel provides free transportation to and from the airport, and parking for automobiles and self contained recreation vehicles (RV's). (There are no electric hookups.)

There is an RV Park with facilities at the State Fair Park located about 11 miles northwest of the hotel along IH94 off the 84th Street or STH181 Interchange (Exit 306). The rate is \$14.00 per night. For a copy of the reservation form and regulations contact Don Samolinski, Reunion Chairman, or call the Wisconsin State Fair Park at (414) 257-8844.

A map showing the location of the hotel, airport and highways, and the Reunion Program is to be included in the June Rainbow Reveille.

Three tours visiting some of Milwaukee's points of interest have been arranged. The

cost is \$16.00 per person. Reservations with payment should be sent to Don Samolinski, Reunion Chairman by June 1.

Tour No. 1, Wed. July 8, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Visit the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory "The Domes," and the Miller or Pabst Brewery.

Tour No. 2, Wed. July 8, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Visit the Boerner Botanical Gardens and the Grand Avenue Mall with a skywalk spanning four city blocks. It has major department stores and 150 specialty shops and restaurants.

Tour No. 3, Fri. July 10, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Official Rainbow Welcome at MacArthur Square Plaza in downtown Milwaukee, and tour of the city with optional stops. Visit Joan of Arc 15th Century Chapel at Marquette University, Bradley Sport Center, the First Wisconsin Center 42nd floor observation deck, and a scenic drive along Lake Michigan.

More detailed tour information is in the January Reveille. There are also other large or unique shopping centers, and three public golf courses within six miles of the hotel.

This is a great opportunity to meet with your Rainbow friends to renew acquaintances and review past experiences. You are also welcome to visit Milwaukee, whose motto is "A Great City On A Great Lake." There are many things to see and do at this time: Sporting events, ethnic festivals, cultural activities, and "The Great Circus Parade" on Sun. July 12. The weather is usually comfortable, the average high temperature in summer is 77.7°.

We look forward to seeing you there.

In Memoriam



Another of our Stalwarts, Past National President Bill Barton passed away on February 27, 1992. William R. Barton was assigned as Cadre at the time of Activation, and served his military career with the Medical Detachment of the 222nd Infantry. Among his many offices, in addition to National President, were National Secretary 1971-72, Recording Secretary 1971-1990 and Mid-Year Chairman 1967. Bill is best remembered for his many years as Memorial Chairman. He is survived by two brothers and a sister. We will long remember Bill. We have gained much by his work and friendship — Goodbye Bill!

East Coast Reunion

Pennsylvania will host the East Coast Reunion in 1992. May 14 & 15th at Reading, Pa. Hampton Inn will host this affair. \$50.00 per couple with a free Continental Breakfast. Early Bird Party May 14th and Banquet May 15th. Registration fee is \$21.00 or \$42.00 per couple. A visit to the VF Outlet Shopping Center is available for the ladies. The men can visit the Reading Airport Aviation Museum.

For information or registration, please contact Phil or Tiny Trout, 4121 8th Ave., Temple, Pa. 19560. Tel. 215-929-3541. Hotel reservations, HAMPTON INN, 1800 Papermill Road, Wyomissing, Pa. 19610. Tel. - Rainbow Reunion, 215-374-8100.

Ohio State Reunion

The 73rd Ohio State Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn in Lancaster, Ohio, on Thursday, June 11 to Saturday, June 13, 1992. The Holiday Inn is southeast of Columbus, on Route 33, a four-lane highway, to the left as you come into Lancaster. It is located at 1858 North Memorial Drive, Lancaster, Ohio, 43130, Tel. (614) 653-3044. Room rates are \$52.00 plus tax, single or double. Specify Rainbow rate. No pre-registration is required (\$20.00). For further information write to Chairman: Dick Fix, 8547 Brent Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231.

Iowa State Reunion

"The Iowa Chapter of RDVA will meet in Dubuque, Iowa on the weekend of April 24th and 25th, 1992. An early-bird get-together is planned for Friday evening, and Saturday we will hold a short meeting, followed by a banquet. A memorial program will follow the noon meal. As an added attraction we have planned a trip on the Casino Belle, a large multi-deck gambling boat where we will be able to play the slot machines, Blackjack, crap tables and the latest in video poker. We will stay at the Julien Inn Hotel which is in walking distance to the harbor where we board the riverboat. If you wish to board the riverboat, it is suggested you stay two nights at the hotel. Please make hotel reservations by calling 1-800-798-7098 and advise you are with the Rainbow group. Room costs \$47.00 single and \$57.00 double plus hotel tax. There is much to see and do in this historic Iowa city located along the mighty Mississippi River."

"Artillery Corner"

The 42nd Rainbow Division Artillery was the first of any Army Division to first use the then-secret shells which contained a radar device in the nose of an artillery shell that would explode at a pre-determined distance above the target. Today these shells are used as regular artillery weapons.

Heavy Weapons — We Were There

Fred B. Curry and Phil M. Oberkiser - Co. D, 222nd Inf.

Ed. note: The following is a description of an important platoon size (81 mm. mortars) engagement in the Battle of Ohlungen Forset. It is another example of an unknown, crucial segment of a heavy contribution to the overall success of the engagement.

Perhaps it's time to devote space to individual small units regarding accomplishments, reactions, disappointments or contretemps. We feel that Co. D, 222nd Inf. made a significant contribution. We know that others did, also, and would like to read reports of them. Oberkiser, Curry, and other old vets like to relive those experiences, and there is nothing wrong with that. We recall the sense of camaraderie and teamwork. We are proud of our platoon, and there's nothing at all wrong with that.

The often cited Battle of Ohlungen is a case in point. It is difficult to give an accurate, overall description of the conflict, for we know only what occurred in our immediate vicinity. All of us know, however, that it was a case of fairly raw, determined warriors with little or no artillery against an enemy with plentiful artillery, and that they had to be stopped. Oberkiser is rightfully pleased that his platoon won first place in training competition, and that it paid off at Ohlungen.

The Battalion had, a night or so before, made a 25-mile trek, in sub-freezing weather and snow, in a strategic withdrawal from Schoenenburg. Our Bn. C.O., Major Fellenz, had vacated his jeep, many times, in order to direct, with flashlight, other vehicles around bad places in the road. On arrival, we had a few hours sleep, and proceeded to Ohlungen. "I remember walking down the street," Oberkiser said, "to help set up our mortars. The German shells were landing behind the houses facing the street. There were also elements of the 79th Division in the town. The enemy ground forces were making it terribly hot for our riflemen. Major Fellenz and the C.O. of the 79th unit decided to concentrate our mortar fire; our five mortars and their four set up in a big yard, with a low rock wall around it, and a small rock house in the back. Platoon leader Tubb, with Curry and Zavacki, stayed in the house, and relayed fire directions. I don't recall who the F.O. was, but we were pretty sure it was a Lieutenant from the 79th, observing from a church steeple. The three deuce had lost a gun a week or so before, when an enemy shell landed in a mortar pit at Schoenenburg, killing two boys, Garvey and Cochran, and severely wounding Bustraan and Joerslow. Bustraan is well remembered, as he was faithful to the Rainbow Assn. until his death. The platoon from the 79th had lost two mortars in previous combat."

Oberkiser continued, "Early in the morning, we started firing at 500 yds. This was

nine guns, nine rounds per gun, equalling 81 mortar rounds per mission. After each mission, the Germans would fire a half dozen or so 88's back at us. We would duck into whatever nook or cranny was available. I ran into a brick hog pen — UGH —. One of those shells penetrated a house and exploded in the kitchen. An armor piercing shell entered the wall of the house that Tubb occupied, passed between Curry and Zavacki, and kept going, leaving two six-inch holes."

Then, Oberkiser went on. "Two men from the 79th were wounded, one was burnt with hot mush which had been cooking on the kitchen stove. The other man, I helped into a medical jeep. He told me that this would be his ninth Purple Heart, and that he had not missed over two days on the line. Firing continued during the day, the range, progressively increasing, until, by the end of the day, we were firing at 5,200 yds. into the woods. Jeep drivers from the mortar platoon

hailed in the mortar rounds from the rear." Oberkiser remarked, "Our observer would relay the results of our fire. He would say, 'On target . . . on target.' So, to this day, I feel that our platoon and the one from the 79th, helped win the battle."

Oberkiser noted, "The day before, some of our platoon were on road block security for the tanks, at the edge of Ohlungen. We had been shelled all day and all night, so there was little rest. We were preparing to head for the MLR as riflemen when Major Fellenz ordered the defense of Ohlungen. If we had left that night, we would not have been able to cause the damage we did. So it goes . . . but for the Grace of God, I, and my buddies, may have been blasted into eternity."

Oberkiser finished, "This is how I remember the action of our platoon in one day's action during 'Winter Storm.'" There's nothing wrong with that . . . nothing at all.

Reopertswiller — Hills 301 and 355

FORWARD

On the morning of January 14, 1945, the 157th Regiment, along with other elements of the 45th Division, launched a counterattack against the German forces of the 6th SS Division. The ensuing battle lasted until the evening of January 20th. While the German penetration was stopped, the regimental casualties were the heaviest of any single battle in 19 months of combat. Companies C, G, I, K, L, and M were almost completely wiped out. On 19 January, the 179th Inf.'s Second Bn. was given the mission to attack, in conjunction with the remaining units of the 157th to contact the surrounded 3rd Bn. of the 157th. The attack gained nothing but heavy casualties. A heavy snowstorm on January 20 forestalled an air drop. On 20 January, the 2nd Bn., 411th Inf. of the 103rd Division made an attack with no success. The 3rd Bn. of the 157th attempted to attack to the rear to fight its way out. Only two men were successful, and it was estimated that there had been fewer than 100 men still intact at the time.

On Feb. 14, the 45th Division was relieved by the 42nd Division. The following is submitted by Lewis E. Hubach, Co. B, 232nd Inf.

After landing at LeHavre on Jan. 16, we spent 4 days at a "Repple Depple" in Neufchateau. I left with a small group that I had met at Meade and hit the Division Replacement Co. at Cirey. We were there while the Division was moving back from the lines due to heavy losses. I was sure glad I had missed that deal. I was assigned to Co. B, 232nd Inf. After almost three weeks we moved to the hell-hole of Riepertswiller, where we heard that the 45th Division had lost a whole Bn. in trying to retake Hill 301. We were dug in and around Riepertswiller, almost a month, with two rifle companies

on line and one back about 500 yards. All the positions were dugouts for at least three men.

On my 19th birthday, I was given a job, with two others, to dig a machine gun position — just in case. We dug a foxhole about 4 feet square and five feet deep, a dugout to sleep two, another foxhole adjacent in which to stand guard, and to serve as a counter from which we could eat, and a 2x2 trench about 10 yards long connecting the M.G. position with the dugout. It took us about 15 hours to dig and complete the entire job. We stayed in that place 8 days. From there, we assembled near the C.P. in the night, and attacked the next morning, March 15th.

We had, as a company objective, Hill 355 for the day. To reach it, we had first to cross Hill 301. That hill extended directly from the rear of the houses of the town. We started up at 0800. Our mortar squad was then headed by Sgt. Rosenweig, with Stan Tellvik as gunner, me as assistant gunner and George Lalz, Joe Marshall, Thaden Hill and Hector Hernandez serving as ammunition bearers. As a matter of fact, we all carried 10 rounds

(Continued on page 7)

Iowa WWI Vet Mentioned

On Jan. 22, 1992, an alert Rainbower heard the radio show of National Syndicated Paul Harvey. Harvey congratulated Harm and Muriel Aries of Cedar Falls, Iowa, on their 71st Wedding Anniversary. All of Rainbow joins in to add congratulations to this wonderful couple.

Personal Experience of a Rifle Company Commander

Harold E. Houser - Co. B, 232nd Inf.

BACKGROUND

On 24 Dec., 1944, B Co. relieved F Co., 143rd Inf. (36th Div.) at Offendorf. Attached was one section of H.M.G.s from D Co. A lack of ammunition (one clip per man) was alleviated when the 143rd agreed to leave all excess ammunition in position. Motorized patrols were organized to Herrlisheim, on the north, to Gambsheim, on the south (Bn. C.P. and C Co.). A Co. was located in Kilstett and LaWantzenau. Patrols were repeated daily, until 27 Dec.

On 27 Dec., B Co. relieved elements of the 222nd Inf. in Strasbourg. On the 28th, B was ordered to Gambsheim and to proceed to its original positions north of Strasbourg. Halted at Gambsheim, B was to be in reserve with A and C on line. On 1 Jan., 1945, an enemy threat, south of Strasbourg, caused the 222nd Inf. to be moved into that area. The 232nd took over the area vacated by the 222nd, in and north of Strasbourg. This move extended the regimental front to 19 miles. To cover this front, the 2nd and 3rd Bns. were placed on line, and the 1st Bn. was in reserve at Weyersheim. On 2 Jan., the 1st Bn. was ordered to relieve the 274th Inf. in Soufflenheim, Stattmatten, and Drusenheim. B Co. was slated for Stattmatten. This move extended the regimental front 33 miles with its northern boundary at Koenigsbruck.

On 3 Jan., B Co. occupied a front extending from Auenheim on the north to the south edge of the woods north of Drusenheim. It was decided to defend strong points at Auenheim and Stattmatten, and patrol by jeep from Stattmatten to Drusenheim (occupied by A Co.). C Co., on the left, occupied Soufflenheim and patrolled north to Koenigsbruck. The 3rd platoon of B Co. occupied Auenheim. The remainder took up positions in and around Stattmatten. On 4 Jan., a sharp fight ensued near Ft. Lewis (2½ miles east of Stattmatten). Casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Patrols reported Dahlhunden unoccupied.

On 5 Jan., the towns of Gambsheim, Offendorf and Herrlisheim were attacked by strong enemy forces. A Co. was attacked in Drusenheim, and B Co. sent the 1st platoon to assist A Co. This left the 2nd platoon, weapons platoon and H.M.G.s at Stattmatten. The enemy attacked that night, with a reinforced company. Soon, the western half of the town was in enemy hands, cutting off the Co. At daylight, the Bn. C.O., Lt. Col. Brice Custer, mustered a small force (A platoon of light tanks and 15 riflemen), and assaulted the town, driving the enemy out. B Co.'s casualties were 7 killed and 5 wounded.

It was decided that Sessenheim was a more favorable town to defend than Stattmatten, and on the 6th of Jan., B was ordered to move back and defend Sessenheim. C Co. was moved to Runtzenheim and Auenheim, releasing the 3rd platoon back to B Co. At the same time, K Co. was moved into position in the Bois de Sessenheim, between B Co. and Drusenheim. "I" Co. was at Leutenheim. B Co.'s front now extended from the north edge of the Bois de Sessenheim to the northern edge of the Bois de Rundesheim, a distance of about 3,000 yards. Company strength was approximately 155. Attachments consisted of one H.M.G. section from D Co., one platoon of 57 Anti-tank guns, and a VI Corps Artillery Observer.

Due to numerous approaches, a perimeter defense of the entire town was necessary.

Meanwhile, the pressure on A Co. at Drusenheim was relieved by an attack of the 2nd Bn., 314th Inf. This allowed the release of the 1st platoon back to B Co. Thus, all three platoons were placed in the perimeter, with a small mobile force in the center of town. Positions, other than those protecting the Anti-tank and H.M.G.s, were established in the buildings. The anti-tank guns were placed to cover tank approaches from the north and east. The H.M.G.s were tied in with the L.M.G.s to cover the entire front of the town. Wire communications were established with K Co., on the right, and C Co., on the left. Outposts were established (consisting of 5 men each) in Stattmatten and Dengolsheim. Wire was laid to each outpost and each platoon C.P.

(To be continued)

Loneliest Man in the Infantry Followup

Wm. E. Ward - A-232nd Inf.

The account in the January issue brought back memories. Somewhere, it was said that the role of the first scout was such that he had only the slimmest chance of surviving. His life could be counted in minutes. My nomination for the "Loneliest man in the Infantry" is the first scout.

Visualize with me what it is like to be the point scout on a combat or recon patrol into known enemy territory. He knows that he will likely be the first to step on a mine, draw the first fire, or to be allowed to pass, so that the lives of others are jeopardized as they follow, unwarned, behind you.

Experience, for a moment, what loneliness is felt as first scout, leading the 1st Bn., 232nd Inf., during the night of March 16th and the morning of March 17th, on the road from Reipertswiller to a road junction near Baerenthal. This road was to become the main supply route for the 42nd Div. It wound through a mountainous and wooded area, under the atmosphere of death and heavy desolation throughout the area. It was one that was heavily fought over, during January, in the German attempt to recapture and close off the Saverne Gap.

The only instructions given was to stay at least 40 to 50 yards ahead of supporting troops, and to keep going until something noteworthy was seen, or enemy fire received. What might be over the next rise or curve in the road? What about that uniden-

tifiable shape just ahead? Believe me, it had to be the most isolated situation one ever encountered. There, one understands the true meaning of loneliness.

Imagine leading Co. A, 1st Bn., 232nd Inf., on March 15th, up Hill 301 or 343, on the enemy side overlooking Reipertswiller. The thought that the shell torn trees could come tumbling down on one, at any moment, creeps through one's mind. Sure enough, one severed tree came crashing down, as it was approached. Luckily, all were able to avoid it. Was it a natural reaction that no tree was going to knock one out of action after all one had gone through? As Col. Ryan of the 402nd F.A. Bn. so vividly described, "I will always associate the smell of pine forests with the smell of death and the Kraut's fiendish anti-personnel mines."

Each of us has our own experiences. Time is running out, and each of us should make a severe effort to document our experiences, before they are lost forever. Historical events are documented, but few individual personal accounts are recorded for others to understand the hellishness of actual combat. For instance, did you ever think that your combat infantry dirt stained hands would ever be clean again, short of the grave?

Ed. note: We concur with Bill. We welcome the personal accounts of all Rainbowers of every unit. We would like to hear from the Combat Engrs. for instance.

April Twenty-Sixth Confederate Memorial Day

On April 26, 1865, Mrs. Sue Landon Vaughn, a descendant of John Adams, the second President of the United States, led some women to the cemetery in Vicksburg, Miss., and decorated the graves of the soldiers buried there. This day is now a legal holiday in Mississippi, known as Confederate Memorial Day. The graves of the Confederate dead are decorated on the same day in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. The day set apart for this purpose in North Carolina and South Carolina is May 10. It is observed in Virginia on May 30 and in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee on June 3. In Winchester, Va., the graves in the Confederate cemetery are decorated on June 6 and in Petersburg on June 9. The people of Petersburg are in the habit of insisting that the setting apart of a day in the North for decorating the graves of the soldiers came about from a visit of General John A. Logan to that city in 1865 to look over the fortifications raised for its defense. He and his wife, while passing through Blandford Cemetery on June 9, saw some ladies decorating the graves of the Washington Artillery in the square south of the Blandford church. General Logan thought he might be intruding, but the ladies, members of a Confederate Memorial Association, welcomed him and explained what they were doing and why. As General Logan was Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic when the order was issued in 1868 that the Grand Army posts should decorate the graves of the soldier dead on May 30 it is reasonable to assume that he was influenced by what he had seen in Petersburg. (See Memorial Day, May 30.)

Louisiana, which observes June 3, combines the decoration of the graves with a celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis. Colonel W. L. Goldsmith in the course of his address at the exercises in New Orleans on June 3, 1991, said:

"Memorial Day is exclusively a Southern legislative action. Seven Southern states have made the third of June (the anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis) Memorial Day and a legal holiday. Scores of cities hold memorial services on this sacred day. Memorial Day is quite different from Decoration Day. The triumphant Grand Army of the Republic has a Decoration Day, May 30. To decorate is to rejoice. We recall hallowed memories on this sad day. With bitter tears and sweet fragrant flowers we sanctify these sacred places where our dead sleep. The day was inaugurated in Columbus, Ga., in March 1866, and has been observed by more and more ever since, until today a great part of the South celebrates the day."

A plot in the Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac from Washington, has

been set apart for the Confederate dead. This was done through the efforts of President McKinley in 1898. The bodies of many Southern soldiers, captured after being wounded and taken to the Washington hospitals where they died, were buried in different parts of the District of Columbia. They were disinterred and removed to Arlington. Special services are held for these dead on Confederate Memorial Day and a wreath is always placed on the monument of General Joseph Wheeler, who fought in the Confederate armies and who fought with the armies of the United States in the war with Spain in 1898.

Public Affairs 42nd Inf. Div.

Rainbow Division names Best Combat Company and Best Division Soldier.

FORT DRUM, NY — An Albany unit of the New York Army National Guard has been named "Best Rainbow Division Combat Company" and a Staten Island soldier has been named "Best Division Soldier."

Maj. Gen. John W. Cudmore, commander of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division, has named Company D, 1st Battalion 210th Armor, the best company and Spec. John Lombardi, a cavalry scout and TOW missile gunner assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 101st Cavalry, Staten Island, has been named "Best Division Soldier" for training year 1990-91.

The Best Combat Company award was presented to the assembled unit at a

(Continued on Page 8)



Presentation of RDVA Douglas MacArthur Trophy (1991) to Co. D, 1st Bn., 210th Armor, 42nd Div. Best Combat Unit, presented to Capt. Michael Musella C.O. and 1st.Sgt. Arthur Reed by PNP Col. C.P. Woelfer.



Presentation of Division Best Soldier Award — Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins Trophy (1991) to Specialist John Lombardi, 1st. Sqdrn., 101st Cavalry (Troop Cmdr. Capt. Mario Costagliola) by Col. Woelfer.

Reopertswiller — Hills 301 and 355

(Continued from page 4)

each, each one weighing 2.73 lbs. We advanced up the hill about 150 yards when all hell broke loose. We had been spotted by Jerry through the heavy cloud of white phosphorous smoke laid down for us by our artillery. We hit the ground, while heavy small arms and automatic fire rained on us. He then zeroed in with several batteries of 88s, as well as mortars. We moved forward and hit the mine fields. They were as bad as the other stuff. The third platoon was hit the hardest, coming out with only six of the original platoon. I'm not quite sure how many they started with, but it was around 28.

I was sent down to the town again with one of the first casualties, the runner from the third platoon, who was hit in the legs. It was a break for me, as we had been under fire for 3 hours. Shortly afterward, I saw someone helping Joe Marshall down at the same time. Joe was hit in the face and legs. I had been ordered, but Joe's helper had volunteered.

The company kept up their push up the hill, while the area I was in was constantly raked by mortars and 88's. After helping the medics get the runner to the aid station, I proceeded to guide the litter squads up the hill as there were lots of guys still lying where they had been hit. In one area of about 10 yards in diameter, there were 7 casualties from mines. The mines were of two types, one big enough to blow off a leg, the other designed for foot amputation. I helped to carry the two worse wounded from that area without any help from the medics. We had an awful time without any litters, but made it, purely with the idea that we had to get back or else. It wasn't until I took the second guy that I found out the area was mined. It had been a miracle that I hadn't stepped on a mine. One of the men I had come overseas with was killed instantly, when he set the tripod of his BAR on a mine. He was lying directly by the mine — not a pretty sight.

We worked the entire day on those boys, while the company proceeded on to Hill 355, repelling a fierce counter-attack. George, the other man who helped, and I, tried twice to return to our platoon, but each time we stuck our heads from around a corner of one building, a few more rounds of mortar fire came in. That night, we started up the Hill with a group taking rations and water to the company. When three were wounded and one killed by a mine in our path, we returned with the casualties. We returned to the company the next morning with a train of pack mules. I led one for the first time — what an experience. From there, the company pushed on. Overall, the company had suffered 52 casualties. Those Hills will always remain in my memory.



Memorial Foundation

The Memorial Foundation Trustees met February 8th in Tampa. President Wallace reported that 550 copies of "Winter Storm" have been sold. A motion to fund the Dachau plaque was approved. Chairman Eberhart submitted the following report on the plaque installation.

"All of us in the 42nd Rainbow Division were there — General Linden at the gate, men of the 222nd who first entered the camp, other units clearing the town and on their way in, our P.O.W.'s from the winter war scattered throughout remaining German lagers, our wounded in hospitals, and the spirits of comrades buried at Epinal and St. Avold were all banded together on that sunny Sunday afternoon when we were at last face to face with the product of ultimate evil — the skeletal survivors of Dachau, herded together to be killed in the Nazi's oldest concentration camp. Now, at this time of Neo-Nazi stirrings in our country and abroad, it is well that we step forward to commemorate our liberation of Dachau and to remember and remind others of the terrible suffering of all the victims of Nazi oppression.

Forty-seven years after the historic liberation of the main Dachau prison compound by the 42nd Rainbow Division, a bronze plaque in three languages will be dedicated during memorial ceremonies on Sunday, May 3, 1992.

Our own Memorial Foundation has voted to have a large bronze plaque crafted in the United States and shipped to Dachau for installation prior to the May 3 dedication.

Two quarter circle rainbows will be at the top. The message in English, French and German will be as follows: 'IN HONOR OF 42ND RAINBOW DIVISION AND OTHER U.S. 7TH ARMY LIBERATORS OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP APRIL 29, 1945 AND IN EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF NAZI BARBARISM, THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED MAY 3, 1992.

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Ted Johnson has been appointed as our official representative at the memorial dedication and all other Rainbow Division veterans who attend the ceremonies have been designated as Memorial Foundation

delegates. All will travel at their own expense; however, all of the costs of producing, shipping and installing the plaque will be the responsibility of the Memorial Foundation. Generous gifts have already been received to pay the plaque costs, but additional funds are needed. Please send your check, made out to the RDV Memorial Foundation, to Jon Janosik, Treasurer, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511.

Will Rainbowers who are going to the dedication, but not taking "Battlefield Tours," please contact Ivan Wallace, Jr., P.O. Box 182, Pinetta, FL 32350 - Tel. (904) 929-4026, before April 20th so that we can inform you as to hour of dedication, etc.

Please send scholarship requests to George Jackson, 5289 Joaquin Rd., Santa Rosa, CA. 95409-2843, before June 1st or contact your Trustee or Chapter Secretary for help.

Planning For A National Reunion Site?

The following are the qualifications for the national reunion site. Bids are to be presented to the National Liaison Officer at least two years prior to desired reunion date.

The facilities should have the following accommodations:

- A—350 to 500 rooms blocked off.
- B—Should a secondary Hotel/Motel be necessary, it should be within 3 city blocks of the Reunion Headquarters.
- C—Meeting room seating 800/1000 Theatre style.
- D—Have 8 small meeting rooms seating 25 each.
- E—Banquet seating for 800/1000.
- F—Free Parking for cars and RV's.
- G—Transportation from and to Airport. NO Charge would be preferred.

Hugo E. Grimm, Liaison Officer
P.O. Box 1200
Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200
(314) 828-5962



c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor
P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Corrections — Life Member List

The following errors in the Life Member list printed in the January issue should be noted. Eklund's first name is Durant — not Durank. Howard J. Schug's name was spelled Shug, and he should have had an asterisk after his name as deceased. Liles' first name is Harold and not Howard. Sorry about that!

Public Affairs - 42nd Inf. Div.

(Continued from page 7)

ceremony conducted Friday morning August 16, at Range 23, where the unit was completing tank gunnery training. The Best Soldier award was awarded at noon Saturday August 16, at Division headquarters at Fort Drum. Both awards were presented in the presence of the Division Commander by Col. Carlisle P. Woelfer, U.S. Army, retired.

Col. Woelfer, a Rainbow Division World War II combat veteran, represents the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, which has sponsored Best Division Soldier and Best Division Company Awards since 1985. He is retired from active duty with 30 years of military service and now resides in North Carolina.

Each year during the Division's Annual Training, Col. Woelfer comes to Fort Drum to present these awards, and inspire modern day Rainbow warriors with the spirit of Rainbow veterans.

"The simple fact that the 42nd is still serving and our colors and battle streamers are here to be seen, means a lot to me as a Rainbow soldier," stated Col. Woelfer. "The Division today is a living memorial to those of us who wore the Rainbow patch into battle and earned our war-time achievements. We're all part of a great tradition that began in 1917."

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