



Vol. LXXI

September, 1992

No. 1

Wonderful Wisconsin!

If you couldn't attend the Milwaukee Reunion, you really missed a great one! 1025 happy Rainbowers had a wonderful time at the affair sponsored by the Wisconsin Chapter, ably and capably chaired by Don Samolinski. When asked to single out workers for recognition, Don said the whole chapter merited praise. The hardworking Chairman and his committee kept things moving from the Early Bird Party on. The opening Business Meeting went well, with traditional bagpipers opening the ceremonies. We were welcomed by Joanne Anton, staff representative for the Mayor's office of the city of Milwaukee. Also, a short talk was given by Dr. Richard Zeitlin, representing the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum dedicated to the citizen-soldier. That night we were treated to a great young ensemble called the "Kids from Wisconsin." These young people made us all proud of the youth of America. A number of fine tours were available, and a fine luncheon was provided.

The Memorial Service was conducted by Rev. Norman Forde, PNP Ted Johnson gave a stirring narration commemorating our honored dead, and a beautiful rendition of taps closed the ceremony. The night of the Banquet arrived all too soon. It was a great affair, and events moved along swiftly in the capable hands of M.C. Vern Smith, Chapter

President of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. His witty remarks were appreciated by all. WW1 veterans Harry Hunter and Paul Jarret received a standing ovation. Notables present were our own Lize Pommois, our effervescent Father Erb, Col. Jim Tanner, Div. Adj. Gen., Ted McKechnie, originator of the Rainbow Trail, and Tom Tucker, secretary to Gen. Collins.

Reunion Date Change

As a result of a written vote, taken at the Milwaukee Reunion, the majority has ruled that we will continue with the present July date. The 1994 Reunion will be held in Louisville, KY.

Dues Increase

In view of the steady decrease in funds available to the Assn., it was found necessary to increase the annual dues from \$6.00 to \$10.00. (The first increase in many years). Your individual chapter dues will be in addition to this National membership dues fee, which will begin with the 1993-94 year. Any payments made in advance beyond 1992-93 will be handled individually by the Chapter Secretary.

Living PnP's

Theodore A. Johnson	1964-1965
George L. Irwin	1968-1969
Charles F. Marshall	1971-1972
Herbert E. Klinedinst	1972-1973
Ivan Wallace, Jr.	1977-1978
Hugo E. Grimm	1978-1979
Garnett "Buck" Jones	1981-1982
Vassil J. "Rube" Evanoff	1982-1983
Philip F. Trout	1983-1984
John D. Carr	1984-1985
Col. Carlyle P. Woelfer	1985-1986
Frederick W. Goldsmith	1986-1987
Dee R. Eberhart	1987-1988
John M. Keyser	1988-1989
Dolian Harris	1989-1990
Don Segel	1990-1991
Rev. Robt. F. Weiss	1991-1992

East Coast Reunion

Sixty-one happy Rainbowers gathered at the Hampden Inn, Wyomissing, PA., on May 14-15 for the East Coast Reunion. The affair was expertly handled by PNP Phil and PNAP Blanche (Tiny) Trout. Much time was given to socializing, with time off for the ladies to enjoy the Reading outlet shopping area, and the men to visit the Reading Air Museum.

A great banquet featured fine food. Entertainment was provided by a group known as the "Funmakers," a unique group which provided music with homemade instruments. The featured speaker was Command Sgt. James M. McDonald, who delivered an inspiring talk dealing with our heritage.

President's Report



Our President in 1944

Thanks for the privilege of being your President for the coming year. I accept the challenge with enthusiasm. It is impossible for one person to have all the expertise and knowledge needed, so I will be depending heavily on my officers. I am extremely grateful for the offers of assistance made by every PNP, and I heartily thank Father Weiss for his guidance and wise counsel. To those who offered congratulations, I thank you humbly.

The Reunion in Milwaukee was one of the best I have ever attended. Don Samolinski and the Wisconsin Chapter are to be congratulated.

I left you, in Milwaukee, with the phrase HAVE FUN! Indications are that many are having fun, at the reunions, but some are having more fun than others (your editor concurs). More on this later. One of the best ways I know to have FUN is to attend the Veteran's Day Activities in Birmingham in November. The program lasts two days and consists of a Banquet, a peace Luncheon, a memorial service, and a parade through the city. This year, the guest speakers will be the National Commander of the American Legion, the Marine Corps Commandant, and the U.S. Air Force commander. This year the Rainbow Viaduct (167th Inf. Memorial) will be rededicated. We urge a strong attendance to honor PNP Bill Barton who did so much for Rainbow.

Once again, I thank you for the honor of being your President. HAVE FUN!

Yours in Rainbow
Jack

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE
Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans
Founder & Permanent Honorary
President

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Douglas MacArthur (Dec)
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General Henri Gouraud (Dec)
Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)
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Independence, MO 64055
DEADLINE FOR COPY

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June Issue May 1, 1993

State Flags

The Memorial Foundation plans to display all State Flags at Salt Lake City. It will be the 50th Anniversary of Activation Day. We have most of them, but do not have the following: ALASKA, ARIZONA, COLORADO, DELAWARE, D.C., FLORIDA, HAWAII, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MISSISSIPPI, NEVADA, NEW JERSEY, OREGON, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH DAKOTA, and UTAH. Those of you who will supply your state flag, please notify the National Secretary, Herbert A. Butt. After the decision is made where to send them, you will be notified and receive our deepest thanks for your kind consideration.

John Carr Award Winner

To help promote the National Association of Rainbow Division Veterans, not only in Life Membership, but also in greater attendance at National Reunions, PNP John D. Carr awards a Life Membership at each National Reunion. This year's winner was John O'Neill. John donated the \$100 to the Memorial Foundation.

Chaplain's Prayer

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election process this year, as we select a new president and members of Congress; that by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation enabled to fulfill your purposes. Amen.

Rev. Norman P. Forde



Editor's Corner

We have received many comments regarding Lise Pommois' book "Winter Storm." While most have been laudatory, there also have been some of a negative nature. For those who complain that their unit did not get enough recognition, we can only say that Lise has been earnestly seeking information from all Rainbowners since 1985. Like your editor, she could not print what she did not receive. Your editor has always felt that Task Force Linden never received proper recognition. In fact, reading the history of the 12th, 14th Armored and 103rd Divs., we noted that actions definitely known to be performed by Rainbowners were credited to these units. In other cases, in the 7th Army History, our presence was overlooked or omitted. Therefore, we feel that this book is the first attempt to give Rainbowners proper credit. Take time to consider this: perhaps if we had not been a major factor in stopping this major assault, and had failed miserably, we might have gained more notoriety. The Big Brass, certainly, were not going to admit that they mistook this major offensive for small probing actions until almost too late, at the cost of many Rainbow casualties.

Thank You

Your editor wishes to thank the ladies of the 232nd Inf. Auxiliary for their \$100.00 gift to the Assn. (earmarked for Reveille expense). Overall, the Assn. is low in where-withal. As a result, we are sorry to announce that we are forced to purge the Reveille mailing list of non-paying dues members. A notice will be mailed to all non-payers. It will state that if the Vet does not pay dues by Jan., 1993, his name will be removed from the mailing list. We hope many will help support Rainbow by paying dues.

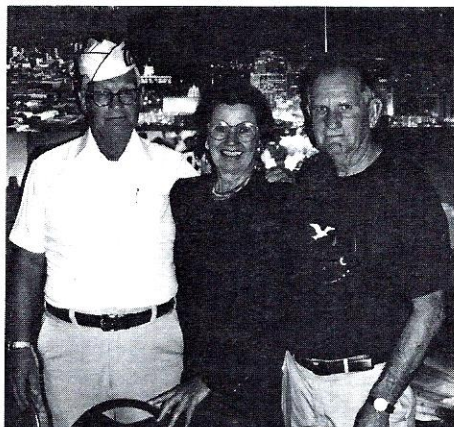
PNPS at Milwaukee



L to R Back Row: Dolian Harris, Hugo Grimm, Fred Goldsmith, Ted Johnson
Front Row: Dee Eberhart, Joan Carr, Charles Marshall, Ivan Wallace
At Milwaukee but now shown: Don Segel, Jack Keyser, Carlyle Woelfer

National Reunion Salt Lake

July 14-17, 1993



L-R: Pres. Jack Hildreth, Glenna and Roy Bird, Reunion Chairpersons

Salt Lake is excited to be hosting the 74th Annual Reunion WW1 and 49th Annual Reunion WW2 on July 14-17, 1993! We look forward to welcoming all our fellow Rainbowers to one of the United States' best-kept secrets — Salt Lake City.

Please preregister and make hotel reservations early. The forms are available from Reunion Chairman Roy H. Bird, 1687 East Peterborough Road, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, (801) 272-3822. The registration fee is \$40 per person.

The reunion will be held at the Little America Hotel & Towers, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, (800) 453-9450. Little America's 850 rooms will ensure that reunion participants who register early will all be able to stay at Little America. Based on the excellent attendance at the Milwaukee reunion, Little America has agreed to reduce the price of the Garden Suites. The rates are \$69 for Garden Suites (down from the previously quoted \$72) and \$79 for Tower Suites plus tax per day, single, double, triple or quadruple occupancy. Those of you who have already reserved Garden Suites will, of course, receive the lower rate. The rates are also available two days before and two days after the reunion. Reservations must be received by June 15, 1993. Please be sure to advise the hotel if handicapped facilities are required.

You will need to deal directly with the Hotel to make reservations for both individual rooms and hospitality rooms. Be sure the Hotel knows that you are with the 42nd Rainbow Division Reunion. Each guest will receive a confirmation upon guaranteeing his/her reservation.

Little America Hotel & Towers is one of Salt Lake's premier hotels and is situated just off the off-ramp of I-15/I-80 and just 10 minutes from the Salt Lake International Airport. Little America provides a compli-

mentary shuttle service to and from the airport running every half hour. Direct telephone lines are available in the airport baggage claim area to make airport pickup arrangements. The hotel also provides complimentary parking for automobiles and over-sized vehicles.

For those traveling by air, Salt Lake International Airport is served by 8 major airlines, with over 550 flights in and out of the Airport daily. Delta Air Lines has its third-largest hub at the Salt Lake International Airport. Delta and many other airlines offer special discount fares for senior citizens, which make air travel to Salt Lake City reasonable from any airport in the United States with flights to Salt Lake. Be sure to check with your travel agent or airline representative and inquire about these fares.

We have planned some exciting tours for your visit to Salt Lake next year. We are offering two pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, July 13th. The first is the "Casino Connection" tour to Wendover, Nevada at a cost of \$14 per person. This tour will last from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., which should give interested participants plenty of time to try their luck at the gaming tables and slot machines. The second pre-reunion offering is the "Roots" tour, which will last from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will cost \$31 per person. Participants will send a pedigree chart to the tour company in advance, then a professional genealogist will identify up to four names and the location in the Family

Mid Year Reunion

Phoenix - Feb. 26 - Mar. 1, 1993

The Mid-Year Reunion will be held in sunny Phoenix, Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 1993 at Embassy Suites Hotel, 1515 N. 44th St., Phoenix, AZ 85008 Tel. (602) 244-8800 or 1-800-447-8483. Room rates are \$79.00 effective Feb. 25-Mar. 2, 1993. Included in the price of room is cooked-to-order breakfast and complimentary cocktails everyday. Free transportation to and from the airport. Please send or phone hotel reservations directly to the Embassy Suites. There is room for RV parking, but no hookups. Cutoff date for reservations is Jan. 25, 1993.

If driving, take I-10 to 143 N. exit at McDowell Rd., turn left for two blocks on South side of street. Moose Lodge is two doors to the east of Embassy Suites.

The early bird party is Fri., Feb. 26, luncheon Sat. 27, and the banquet Sun. 28. Registration is \$40.00 per person payable to Mid-Year 1993 Reunion, Gil Koehler, 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282, Tel. (602) 838-2816. Early registration greatly appreciated.

Due to many inquiries concerning a tour, it was decided to have one. On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 27th, 1993, there will be a tour to the Desert Botanical Gardens and the Hall of Fame Museum of Firefighters. The cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes the admissions and transportation. Send the \$10.00 for the tour in by Feb. 7th, 1993.

History Library where you can begin your research. To request a pedigree chart, contact Sample Salt Lake, 2850 Craig Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109, (801) 278-9219.

Two more exciting tours will be offered as well. "Early birds" can enjoy the High Mountain Tour on Wednesday, July 14th. Participants on this tour, which will last from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., will travel through the beautiful Wasatch Mountains and enjoy Robert Redford's Sundance ski and recreation resort, Heber Valley and Park City. The cost of \$36 per person includes the price of a barbecue lunch on the lawn at Sundance. Interested participants will "Sample Salt Lake" on Friday, July 16th at a cost of \$19 per person. This tour will last from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will feature stops at some of the classic and most famous sites associated with Salt Lake — Kennecott Copper Mine, the Great Salt Lake and "This is the Place" Monument.

On a closing note, we wanted to let you know about the availability of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Special seating has been requested for Rainbowers at the Choir's Sunday morning live broadcast. The choir also has a Thursday evening rehearsal, which is open to the public and is free of charge.

Salt Lake has many exciting things available, and we are looking forward to the chance to share with you the sights in our "neck of the woods." If you need any more information, feel free to contact Roy or Glenna Bird, 1687 East Peterborough Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121, (801) 272-3822. Salt Lake is the place to be in '93!

Birmingham Veteran's Day



L to R: Guy Walker, Pres. Jack Hildreth, Leon Praytor and Terry Slaughter

Veteran's Day will be celebrated in Birmingham, Alabama on November 10-11, 1992. This year, in addition to the usual festivities, the highlight for Rainbowers will be the Rededication of the Rainbow Viaduct. Here two memorials — one on each side — have been restored honoring the 167th Inf. This great event always holds a special place of honor for Rainbowers.

(Continued on Page 5)

National Auxiliary RDVA Officers 1992 - 1993

Honorary President:

Myrtle M. Wallace
P.O. Box 182
Pinetta, FL

President:

Peggy Fleming, First Vice President, July, 1992
Travelers Rest Ranch, Rt. 7

Columbia, TN 38401

First Vice-President

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National Recording Secretary:

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National Historian:

Dorothy Smith
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Hurley, NY 12443

National Sergeant at Arms:

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National Auxiliary Bulletin, Editor:

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Patriotic Relations:

Barbara Eberhart
Rt. 2, Box 630

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Memorial Fund Chairwoman:

Catherine Woods
31134 Stricker Dr.

Warren, MI 48093

Reunion Chairwoman:

Glenna Bird
1687 East Peterborough Rd.

Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Ohio Reunion

Fifty-three Rainbowers attended the Ohio State Reunion at the Holiday Inn in Lancaster, Ohio, on June 11-13. Chairman Richard Fix and his hardworking committee saw to it that things moved along well. Everyone enjoyed lunch, dinner and Bingo. The Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain Charles Johnson, under the able direction of Chapter President Cornelius Benyak. Toastmaster duties were ably handled by Jim Spruance at the Banquet. Notables present were PNP Ivan and Aux. Pres. Myrtle Wallace, PNP Phil and PNAP Tiny Trout, PNP Hugo and PNAP Oriana Grimm, PNAP Annabelle Cook, PCP Harry Hunter, PNAP Jean Kemmerer and National Treasurer John Janosik, PCAP Effie King and Past National Editor Norm McClellan.

President-Elect

We are pleased to report that Romeo Fagiolo will be the President Elect for the 1993-94 year. Romeo is a member of the D.C. Chapter and served with H2B, 242nd Inf. He resides, with his wife Mildred, at 2224 Beechwood Road, Hyattsville, MD 20783, Tel. 301-422-7615.

Attendance Trophies

Charles Paine announced that the Queen of Battles trophy for largest attendance was won by Co. M., 222nd Inf. (26), and the trophy for the largest percentage of improvement went to Co. H, 242nd Inf.

R.D.V.A. Income and Payments

July 1991 thru June 30, 1992

Income:		
1991-92 Dues		\$14,622.00
Dues Paid in Advance		42.00
Sale of Merchandise		183.25
Donations		64.00
Interest:		
Savings Certificates	\$2,478.77	
Lifetime Membership	1,100.85	
Checking Account	160.46	3,740.08
Interest PNP John Carr Lifetime Award	100.87	
Donation - Don Segal	350.00	
Donation - Kurt Hardbott	1,070.00	
Lifetime Members	800.00	
Transfer from Lifetime Members Acct.	2,000.00	
Total Income 7/1/91 - 6/30/92		\$22,972.20
Payments:		
PNP Plaque	\$ 32.00	
PNP Badges	288.90	
PNP John Carr Lifetime Membership Award	100.00	
President's Travel Allowance	500.00	
President's Birmingham Vets Day Allow.	200.00	
Secretary's Salary	2,770.44	
Internal Revenue - Social Security	459.00	
Secretary's Travel Allowance	447.20	
Treasurer's Salary (2 years)	1,000.00	
Treasurer Travel Allowance	500.00	
Public Relations Officer Expense	163.13	
Membership Committee Expense	15.00	
Reveille Expense	10,426.22	
Stationery & Supplies	1,333.83	
Misc. Office Supplies	301.44	
Computer Expense	896.11	
Postage Expense	532.07	
Telephone Expense	200.56	
Steno Service Expense	580.00	
Mailing of Minutes	61.25	
Copy Work	23.01	
Equipment Repairs	272.11	
Konica Copy Machine Service Contract	160.00	
Purchase of Merchandise	215.00	
Printing of Memorial File	310.00	
In Memory of PNPs - RDVMF	75.00	
Lifetime Members	800.00	
Bank Service Charge	10.00	
Total Payments 7/1/91-6/30/92		22,972.27
Payments Over Income		(.07)

Checkbook Balance 7/1/91	\$ 892.44
Less Payments Over Income	.07
Adjusted Checkbook Balance 6/30/92	\$ 892.37

Checkbook Balance 7/1/91	\$ 892.44
Add Income 7/1/91-6/30/92	22,972.20
	23,864.64
Less Payments 7/1/91-6/30/92	22,972.27
Checkbook Balance 6/30/92	\$ 892.37

Executive Committeemen Representing States 1992-1993

Dallas W. Reed, AL
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Mac M. Sanders, AR
William E. Clayton, CA
Sidney Shafner, CO
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Romeo Fagiolo, DC
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William J. Magrilo, WA

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Ernest H. Giles, Co "M" 222nd Infantry
William F. Yocum, Hq 232nd Infantry
Leon A. Schenck, 1st Bn 232nd Infantry
Charles P. Ferranti, 2nd Bn 232nd Infantry
Norman Usher, 3rd Bn 232nd Infantry
Ray Thome, 242nd Infantry
Joseph A. Nielson, Co. "H" 242nd Infantry
Richard J. Tisch, Artillery
Willard Nelson, 42nd Quartermaster
Clarence O. Williams, 122nd Med Bn
Forest H. Jones, Med Det Spec Trps
Robert H. Stoudemire, 132nd Sig. Co
John Vanicky, 142nd Combat Engr.
John G. Schneider, MP Platoon
Byron B. Cassin, 42nd ReCon
Phillip G. Arnone, Division Band
Henry Hajuvsky, 742nd Ordinance

VBOB Reunion

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will hold their 11th Reunion in Nashville, Tenn. on Oct. 8-11, 1992. Veterans of TFL are eligible to join. For further info., write: Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge - P.O. Box 11129, Arlington, Va. 22210-2129.

WW1 Soldier Recalls War Days

A Voice Behind the Popping Sounds from Ohlungen Forest

Dick Engler CoF - 222nd Inf



Irvin L. Scheaffer, 94, is the only man living from Company I of the Pennsylvania National Guard in Reading, which became part of the Rainbow Division in World War I.

The following article was taken from The Reading Eagle-Times:

Irvin L. Scheaffer couldn't believe what he saw from the trenches of a raging battlefield in France during WW1. "They're coming," American soldiers shouted. A German band was playing and marching in front of an infantry charge. Scheaffer sighted his machine gun and fired. "The one guy was playing a big tuba, and I opened up," he said. "All I saw was instrument parts flying around, and the tuba must have gone 25 feet in the air. Then there was no more band. I don't know why they sacrificed a band. It was crazy."

Scheaffer was with the famous 42nd Rainbow Division. It battled elite German shock troops and never gave ground, and took heavy poison gas barrages at Champagne and Lorraine. Scheaffer's memory of the most minute details is amazing at age 94. He's the only man living from the 175-man Company I of the Fourth Pa. Inf. that became part of the Rainbow Div. He was in the 149th M.G. Bn. Scheaffer recalls taking three pieces of shrapnel in 15 minutes, one in his hip and two in his arm. Gas got him too. "They gave me some white tablets (for the gas) and the next morning I felt fine," he said. He was in five major battles — Argonne Forest, Verdun, Lorraine, Champagne, and Chateau Thierry. Enemy artillery could drive a man crazy, he said. Rushing out of a trench was dangerous. "You had to keep down," he said, "Nine out of ten times, if you were hit, it was in the head. I kept my machine gun in front of my head when I went over."

Scheaffer says he feels fine, and reads without glasses. A pinched nerve in his finger is annoying, however.

Roy Miller died some months ago. I had promised to tell his story — and that of his friends of the Weapons Platoon of E Company, 222nd Infantry. I had hoped to honor them in life. But in Roy's case, I failed.

As I sat one day at his kitchen table in a farmhouse outside the little town of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, he gave voice to the sounds of small arms fire that were reported to continue through the night of January 24-25, 1945, from a knoll near the Mill d'Uhrbruck on the Moder River at the edge of Ohlungen Forest.

The after-action report in the National Archives (prepared in March 1945) said: "The men who fired their mortars and machine guns and rifles from that knoll were never heard from again . . . Lt. Carroll [CO of E/222nd] had heard them firing even after the third counterattack to save them had failed." Three bodies were later recovered. The fate of the remaining 16 men — mortar-men led by Sgt. Frank Mikes; light machine gunners led by T/Sgt. Mike Gesenhues — went unrecorded in official records. But Roy Miller, one of the mortar-men, many decades after the event, gave voice to that contingent at the knoll who "were never heard from again" but most of whom were captured after a stand that lasted almost all night — some 8 hours, by Roy's estimation.

Until I told him, Roy hadn't known about the headline in the New York Times of January 26, 1945, that said: "Eight German Divisions Lash Out In Alsace," nor about the accompanying front page story that told how "German forces on the Haguenau Forest sector . . . made a 2,000-yard penetration into the . . . American line . . . and forced a crossing of the Moder River . . . establishing a bridgehead into the woods on the south side of the river between Schweighausen and Neuburg . . ." The news item on that long-ago day speculated that the Germans' "initial successes made the outlook for Alsace and its capital of Strasbourg look grave tonight . . ."

Maybe if Roy and his friends had known that the panzer-grenadiers that kept rushing by were part of a force that was now over a mile behind them, they might have given up the fight sooner. But I doubt it. Not with men like Sgt. Mikes (a former British Commando) and Sgt. Gesenhues in charge. Roy told me: "Old Gesenhues was terrific. Those Germans were so close, he counted three after activating a grenade before throwing it at them. Then we kept firing and throwing grenades at this group coming from the rear until we got 'em stopped. Some of the Jerries started hollering 'Hande hoch' at us, inviting us to surrender, I guess, because we were cut off and surrounded. Old Gesenhues got all caught up in the fight. He kept getting madder and madder as he threw grenades at them in a little fold they'd gotten into. He'd yell back:

"Yeah, put your hands up and come on out if you wanta give up."

Some who heard that continued firing that night from the knoll by the mill noted that rather than the stutters of machine guns and cracks of rifles interspersed with the explosions of grenades, the small arms made more of a popping sound. Roy explained. The ammunition for the LMG soon gave out and a big .50 caliber in the strongpoint jammed early; and the sandy soil was jamming the carbines and M1s. So the men started to use their pistols to hold off the assaults at close quarters. The .45s were knocking down jerries like they'd been hit by sledgehammers, close, at a distance of 8-10 feet. "We really piled 'em up," Roy said, "and Gesenhues kept throwing grenades." Sgt. Mikes sent someone around from the other side of the knoll to pass on orders: "We'll hold out until dawn, then try to break out." But sometime before dawn, after most ammunition had been exhausted, Roy recalled: "There was a terrific explosion and all of a sudden this guy was standing over me with a burp gun." One of the panzer-grenadiers then boasted to Roy: "We're going to chase you clear into the ocean." Roy thought: "Not if you keep making such foolish assaults."

Roy Miller, by his nation's original plans for fighting that total war, really wasn't supposed to be on the cutting edge of battle facing the last charge of Hitler's legions. He had been tagged "Limited Service." Something about poor eyesight, I think. Or maybe it was bad feet. I don't recall. He had had a deferment; and after he was finally drafted at age 22 and completed cavalry basic at Ft. Riley, they put him on permanent rifle range detail at Riley. But the situation was getting desperate in September 1944 in the need for infantry in the cause of freedom. And so he came to Gruber about a month before the Rainbow infantry was alerted.

By Hollywood standards, Roy wasn't a hero (I guess). Maybe Sgt. Gesenhues and Sgt. Mikes weren't either, although they gave a pretty good imitation. Ray was just one of that motley crew sent forth in the cause of freedom to stand against tyranny in those last maniacal offensive efforts of Hitler's lost cause. He did a helluva job. So did his friends.

Dick Engler
F/222nd

Birmingham Veteran's Day

(Continued from Page 3)

The Hotel this year will be the new Sheraton Civic Center, and the rate per night per person is \$60.00 plus tax. For reservations write to: Leon Praytor, 206 Raimund Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020, Tel. (205) 425-7353 or Guy Walker, 260 Walker Rd., Birmingham, AL 35214, Tel. (205) 798-1542.

Friendship Survives From World War II



REUNITED IN VISIT — Dutch Thompson (at left in back) and Helen Thompson (at right in front) are visited by Gerhardt, Maria and Hannes Reithmeyer in their home.

by Dan Brawer, SUN Staff Writer

As a member of the 42nd Infantry, Sgt. Dutch Thompson of Mount Vernon had fought the Germans to bring an end to World War II.

Stationed in Salsburg, Austria, following the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945, Thompson struck a blow for friendship.

According to Thompson, the Army billeted troops in private homes, displacing the residents.

"We took what accommodations we needed," Thompson said.

But after occupying the top floor of a building for a month, Thompson was approached by the young mother who had lived there.

Carrying her nine-month-old son, Gerhardt, Maria Reithmeyer asked Thompson if she could use the kitchen.

"Actually," Thompson said, "she wanted to move back in. Times were hard and nobody had money."

Maria's husband Hans was in Czechoslovakia.

Although the young sergeant had little use for the kitchen, the Army had strict rules against fraternization.

Nevertheless, Thompson was determined to help.

"Here was this petite woman with a little boy," Thompson explained, "you'd have to be pretty hard-hearted not to fall for that."

Somehow, Thompson convinced his commanding officer to allow Maria and her son Gerhardt to move back into their home.

When Hans came home on leave, he and Thompson became friends.

Hans could speak no English and the sergeant's German was poor, but Hans would play the accordion for him.

In December, 1945, Thompson's division pulled out of Austria.

"That was a sad day for them," Thompson recalled. "Hans came into my bedroom and played his accordion with tears in his eyes."

In the years following the war, Thompson, known to the Reithmeyer family as "Uncle Tom," sent them food and basic goods which were unavailable in war-torn Austria.

Gerhardt learned English and served as translator for their correspondence.

In 1970, Gerhardt invited Thompson and his wife Helen to Salsburg for his wedding. The Thompsons visited Austria again in 1983.

(Continued on page 8)

Holocaust Commemoration Service

On April 30, 1992, a community-wide Holocaust Commemoration Service was held at the Temple Chai in Phoenix, AZ.

Jim Creasman, a member of the AZ Chapter and assigned to Division Headquarters during WW2, was asked to give a talk on the Liberation of Dachau. Jim had spent the entire day of April 30th, 1945, touring Dachau, thus he knew more than most of us that were there about Dachau. Most of us were to enter Munich on the day after the Liberation.

Jim's wife was taken to the hospital two days before the service was to be held and had surgery. The next morning he asked me to replace him, which I did.

Fred and Betty Goldsmith, Bev and I went to the Temple. There were approximately 1,000 people in attendance. The program director Mirla Geselewitz had requested my talk be limited to 10 minutes. It's very difficult to describe Dachau in 10 minutes.

I received the following thank you note from Mirla.

"Dear Gilbert,

Thank you very much for speaking in Jim Crasman's place at our Holocaust Memorial Service. You did an outstanding job on such last minute notice. You were a witness at Dachau, to the results of Nazi Barbarism. It was so important for our audience to have heard your eye witness account.

With much appreciation,

Mirla

Phoenix Holocaust Survivors Association"

It was indeed a pleasure and honor to have spoken on behalf of the 42nd RDVA and the AZ Chapter.

Gil Koehler, AZ Chapter President

Oldest WW2 Vet

In the June issue, we ran an item on the oldest, living, WW2 Veteran. The response has been very heartening. Dolph Trantham is outstripped. One responder even said he was better looking than Dolph. The list so far:

1. William Zeller, Ex. Offer., 232nd Inf. 12/24/01
2. Morton J. Barnard, 42nd Div. HQ. 3/22/05
3. Starr West Jones, Co. K, 232nd Inf. 1/20/06
4. Raymond Eichhorn, 122nd Med. 7/13/06
5. Robt. T. Henderson, Can. Co., 242nd Inf. 3/18/09
6. Robt. McElroy, Co. D, 232nd Inf. 6/28/10
7. J. V. Lunardini, Co. B, 222nd Inf. 8/31/10
8. Eugene F. Nassory, Co. K, 232nd Inf. 9/3/10
9. George L. Carland, 132 Signal 9/28/10
10. Harold C. Lautzenheiser, 142nd Engrs. 5/14/11
11. Lerma Money, Co. A, 142nd Engrs. 7/29/11
12. Edward R. Hampton, Co. C, 242nd Inf. 12/2/11
13. Edgar L. Hill, Co. D, 232nd Inf. 12/9/11
14. Fred Curry, Co. D, 222nd Inf. 1/31/12
15. Mason Huff, Bty. B, 392 F.A. 2/19/12
16. Clarence Griffith, H1B, 222nd Inf. 3/19/12
17. Max W. Hessman, 42nd Q.M. 3/23/12
18. Dolph Trantham, Co. F, 242nd Inf. 4/25/12

Dedication of the Dachau Memorial Plaque

(Below is a digest of remarks of PNP Ted Johnson at the dedication.)

Dear Friends and Guests, we cannot express in words how honored we are to dedicate the Plaque in memory of the Liberation of this camp by the 42nd (Rainbow) Division and other 7th Army units, so many years ago. We like to believe that we were all here that day — General Linden and those who took the camp; those who cleared the way from Africa to the Rhine; those left behind in Hospitals; and especially those who lay in cemeteries at St. Avold and Epinal, and all the others across the globe. Yes, everyone who believed in freedom was here that day.

April 29, 1945 started as a day of high hopes. All we needed was to survive a few more days. But the Liberation of Dachau changed that feeling. Excitement and hope turned first to disbelief and horror, then sadness and anger; then regret that we couldn't have come sooner. Here we learned why we fought. Only the joy of you who were liberated saved that day.

The Rainbow Division Association and Foundation are pledged to remember the men who died and the cause for which they fought. We assure you, we have never forgotten!

But, remembering is not enough. Today, we see seeds of that old evil springing up again, all over the World. Yet, it is not too late to keep our pledge. Rainbow feels a special responsibility to continue to tell the story over and over again, and to find ways to tell it to generations to come, when we are no longer here to testify that it can and did happen. If, by this act of dedication and remembering today, we have been able to carry that message one step further, it has been a wonderful day.

Artillery Corner

Our Hospitality Suite was a very active and pleasant oasis during the Milwaukee Reunion. Fifty-eight Artillerymen, along with their spouses and friends spent many hours reminiscing and renewing friendships at the Suite. Otto Schultz ("A" Btry. 392nd F.A.), Pat Donahue ("C" Btry. 392nd F.A.) and several others kept things buzzing and well stocked. Jack Hildreth, (232nd F.A.) and a member of the Harry J. Collins Chapter, Huntsville, Alabama, was inducted as President of R.D.V.A. for the ensuing year. Harold Cullem, ("B" Btry. 392nd F.A.) was elected President of Divarty for a two-year term. He appointed Ed Hoffman ("B" Btry. 392nd F.A.) Historian and, at our yearly meeting, we voted to give \$300.00 for the R.D.V.A. Scholarship Fund. The 1993 Reunion will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Fred Barrell ("C" Btry. 392nd F.A.), a resident of Salt Lake City, is already making plans for our Hospitality Suite for next July. Our thanks to all who came . . . it was good to see you again!

Sessenheim: Hell Let Loose! Saga of Duffy Stanley

FOREWARD

The following account deals with a segment of the Battle of Sessenheim, and specifically involves Duffy Stanley (2nd Lt.) and his A&P platoon. This is a unit integral to each Battalion Headquarters Company; trained to perform light engineering duties (not for holding ground, closing with the enemy or working with armor.) The fate of Sessenheim and the Northern segment of the 7th Army's Rhine flank rested with the task force Col. Custer had scraped together on January 17th, 1945. It consisted of: The weapons platoon of A/232nd Inf.; (60 mm. mortarmen were to act as riflemen; Two 81 mm. mortar sections of D/232nd Inf. (one section to act as riflemen; 3 medium tanks of the 781st Tk. Bn.; 2 T.D.s of the 827th T.D. Bn.; and the A&P Platoon of Hq. 1st Bn./232nd Inf. When Stanley was informed that his platoon was to participate, he prevailed upon the tank commander to give him a "crash course on the tank/infantry team in attack." For subsequent actions, Stanley received a Silver Star. He certainly deserved a much higher decoration due to the extraordinary leadership and courage he displayed in not giving in to an impossible situation, and his insistence in not letting his men get trapped in basements. Survivors of the last groups leaving Sessenheim were universal in praising Stanley. They all agree that, but for him, they would all have been killed or captured.

The story also points out that war fought at squad, platoon, and company level is not quite the same as war fought at battalion level, and that the war fought at these levels is a vastly different war than that envisioned at higher levels of command. The Infantry Bn. C.O. is the highest level of officer actually participating in a fire fight. At the Regimental level and on up it is a remote situation. The higher ups considered the plight of the 1st Bn./232nd Inf. to be the result of inexperience in combat, and nothing more, until it was too late!

Following the successful counterattack, Col. Custer ordered Captain Houser's B Co. to hold the Northern part of Sessenheim and the A Company Weapons platoon, along with the A&P Platoon to hold the Southern segment. The tanks and TDs were also ordered to remain. A 1st Lt. of A Co. was in charge of Stanley's group with Captain Houser in overall command. Stanley and the first Lt. checked with Houser as to disposition and means of communication; there was a large number of unoccupied houses between B Co. and Stanley's group. They were ordered to remain in the houses overnight. Stanley's group had no telephone or radio. There was no further contact with Houser. It was noted that there was a beehive of activity in Dengolsheim (across the railroad tracks). Enemy personnel, vehicles and heavy tanks could be seen in large numbers. Three of the enemy tanks headed towards Stanley's group. The American tanks knocked out one of the Tigers, and the others withdrew. The tank Lt. exclaimed over and over that he had never seen such large and powerful looking enemy tanks before. He said that he was concerned that an enemy patrol might be able to knock out his tanks during the night. The 3 tanks left at midnight.

In the South end of Sessenheim, in a house north of the Y dividing the main street, Duffy Stanley and his A&P Platoon waited out the night. Their orders were to stay put inside. The only violation was when Stanley and the Lt. in charge of the South sector called back and forth to one another across

a vacant lot separating the houses they occupied. Also, the two TDs were just across the street, and Stanley was able to meet and talk with their commander. With dawn, scattered rifle fire and some mortar rounds could be heard to the north. The group in the south remained uninformed of the fighting in that area, although signs of increased activity in their own area appeared. They heard voices calling on them to surrender, but were unable to spot any enemy. They had infiltrated and were undercover. Then they spotted a white painted Panzer going down a street in the B Co. area.

Stanley felt that the defenders in the South end should do something to help B Co. The TD Lt. agreed to get his TDs in action. But, as one TD began to move into the center of the street, it exploded. As Stanley called out to the Lt. in the house to the north, a huge white painted panzer moved down the street and stopped in front of that house. Then, it came on towards the A&P position. The Lt. in command disappeared from view, and Stanley never saw him again. The crew of the second American TD abandoned their vehicle and joined forces with Stanley's platoon.

Plt. Sgt. Elmer Lenzen and the platoon members, not trained as riflemen, prepared to stand their ground. They fired from windows and outbuildings at the German infantry accompanying the Panzer, forcing them behind the tank. The German infantry discovered the abandoned TD, hidden from view of the tank crew. A three man Panzerfaust team was sent out. The Americans stopped them cold, Stanley killing two of them. The presence of the TD seemed to delay the huge Tiger; caused hesitation and bought time. Finally, it fired its cannon at the A&P platoon house. The first round was armor piercing and went right through the house. A second H.E. round burst in the living room, killing one man, wounding another, and setting the house ablaze. The men wanted to go to the basement, but Stanley and Lenzen knew the basement would be a trap. Stanley sought other houses, and the men sought cover outside.

A German machine gun was cutting off escape to the south. The gun seemed to be near a cluster of houses Stanley had picked out just south of the old position. He returned, and led the men, staying west of the main street, and using a barn to partly screen their move south, away from the panzer. As they moved, they came under intense machine gun fire which wounded one man so severely he could not move. The others were unable to reach the man, and moved on. In his search for a new position, Stanley came upon a G.I. with a grenade launcher on his rifle and carrying a pouch of anti-tank grenades. Taking over this armament, the young Lt. sought a firing position for what was now the only firepower the G.I.'s had to fight the Tiger. But the enemy machine gun was in the basement of the house which offered the best

angle for a shot at the approaching tank. Ignoring the automatic fire, Stanley dashed through an outside door into the same basement occupied by the enemy gun. He chose a position in a section of the basement closed off by sandbags from the German machine gun. He prepared to delay the massive tank with his anti-tank grenades. He had found a ground level basement window with a low sill. He positioned himself far enough back to allow a trajectory at the tank and made his stand against the menacing Tiger.

"I felt like I was looking up the barrel of that 88," Stanley said, "It was pointed right at me, and I fully believed I would get a shell or some machine gun bullets at any instant. My first grenade missed the tank. The second hit the turret, and I remember being amazed at the power of that little missile, because it shook the tank, and the jolt moved the tracks. The crew in the tank probably thought it was a much more powerful weapon firing at them, probably something to do with the abandoned TD. I can still remember the shouts that went up from our side when the monster started to back up."

Amazingly, the enemy machine gunners, hidden behind sandbags in another corner of the basement, chose to lay low during the assault on the Tiger. Stanley and his men were able to destroy the machine gun nest with grenades and small arms, before turning to the business of organizing a withdrawal for the last survivors among the American defenders of Sessenheim. (The B Co. group had withdrawn about 9:00 a.m. Soon over 50 G.I.s (A Co.) had congregated in three adjacent houses. The party was divided into two groups, and about noon Sgt. Lenzen took the first group out — due west across the field to Soufflenheim Woods, then north to Soufflenheim. Duffy Stanley watched them cross that wide open field, small arms sparking around, mortar and artillery rounds bursting on the ground and overhead. Only one man was lost. Thirty minutes later, when he moved out with his group, the last G.I.s of the 232nd Inf. to leave Sessenheim, he took them southeast into the Bois de Sessenheim, before moving west across a narrower stretch of open field. They drew no fire.

Somewhere in and around those woods to the south, a spirited firefight was going on, the beginning of a battle that would seal the fate of Sessenheim, and open an avenue for a German move on Drusenheim.

AFTERMATH

"Of the three missing in action, 2 were wounded and enemy fire kept us from carrying them with us when we withdrew," said Stanley. "The third was simply missing, until I received a letter from him several months later, when he said he had been taken prisoner."



Memorial Foundation

There were three new trustees elected to the Memorial Foundation Board at the Milwaukee Reunion. Tom Heaton and Dolpher Tranthan were elected to replace Bill Barton and Al Brewer, both of whom died earlier this year. Catharine Woods was elected to replace Pearl Segel, who was not a candidate for a new term.

Herb Butt, Jon Janosik, Jean Kemmerer, Bill Keithan, Jack Keyser, and Ivan Wallace were elected to new three-year terms.

Ivan Wallace reported that 681 copies of "Winter Storm" had been sold prior to the reunion. An additional 35 copies were sold in the first days of the reunion.

(Ted Johnson reported that the Dachau plaque hanging was a huge success and generated much favorable publicity for Rainbow. The plaque that is planned for Navarin Farms will enhance this good publicity.)

Treasurer Jon Janosik reported that the total of restricted and nonrestricted funds as of 6/30/92 was \$125,802.56. This was an increase of \$13,365.49 over the previous year.

Scholarship Chairman George reported on the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee: There were ten new \$500 scholarships,

1. Awenda Lynn Rice, Medical Tech, N. Mich. U.
 2. Susan Triplett, Social Welfare, W. Virg. Tech.
 3. Clark Jarrett, History, Cal. St. Dom. Hill.
 4. John Erdody, Phys Ed/Music, Cent. Mich. U.
 5. Jason Scheopner, Phys. Therapy, U. of Neb.
 6. Harold Lee Hawkins, Jr., Aerospace Eng., U. of Kansas
 7. Richard W. Schenck, Jr., Elect. Eng., Grover City Col.
 8. Richard Geilhausen, Math., John Logan Col.
 9. Robert Kostley, Criminal Justice, Edinboro State U.
 10. Brian Sharpe, Business Admin., U. of S.C.
- There were also ten renewal scholarships for \$300 each. 1. Christine Cooney, 2. Sara Harrison, 3. Heather Helms, 4. Michael McNicol, 5. Kristin Peck, 6. Lisa Piessens, 7. Peggy Lynn Samolinski, 8. Tara Padfield, 9. Julie Winebarger, 10. Zachary MacLean.

These scholarships for the 1992-93 school year were approved by the Foundation Board.

George Jackson also reported that the Scholarship Fund was \$635 short of the \$8,000 needed to fund these scholarships, but was confident that he would collect the shortfall by the September 1st deadline. George also said that he was resigning as Scholarship Chairman because of his failing sight.

To a question about the use of Endowment Funds for scholarships, Judge Advocate Ted Johnson pointed out that the Endowment Fund principal is inviolate per the

Foundation Constitution, so that scholarships can be given to Rainbow descendants long after we are able to contribute.

Chairman Dee Eberhart announced that he was appointing a fund raising commit-

tee in an attempt to increase contributions to the Foundation. The committee will include Dee Eberhart, Norman Thompson, and Ted Johnson, with Ivan Wallace as an ex officio member.

Friendship (Continued from page 6)

This year, Gerhardt, his wife Margit and their son Hannes paid a visit to Mount Vernon.

Recalling the post-war years, Gerhardt said, "Uncle Tom sent us clothes and food. He sent me such a big toy car with chrome!"

Gerhardt explained that in their depressed economy, the gifts from America made him a minor celebrity among his young friends.

"Nobody had anything like that," Gerhardt said. "The whole street was in our house to play. I was the happiest kid in the city."

Margit, who, as a domestic servant in England once served Queen Elizabeth and Sweden's King Gustaf, says she finds Iowans very warm and friendly.

She says she also likes the houses in Mount Vernon which are a bargain next to comparable houses in Salsburg costing \$250,000.

The Reithmeyers were in the United States to visit their daughter Sandra who is studying in Boston and to attend an electronics convention in Las Vegas. Gerhardt owns an electronics store in Austria.

Gerhardt's father Hans is now deceased, and Maria is 80 years old and unable to travel. But the friendship they started 46 years ago with a burly young G.I. continues into the next generation.

May 3, 1992 Dachau Ceremony



PNP Dee Eberhart hands plaque cover to PNP Ivan Wallace at unveiling.



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