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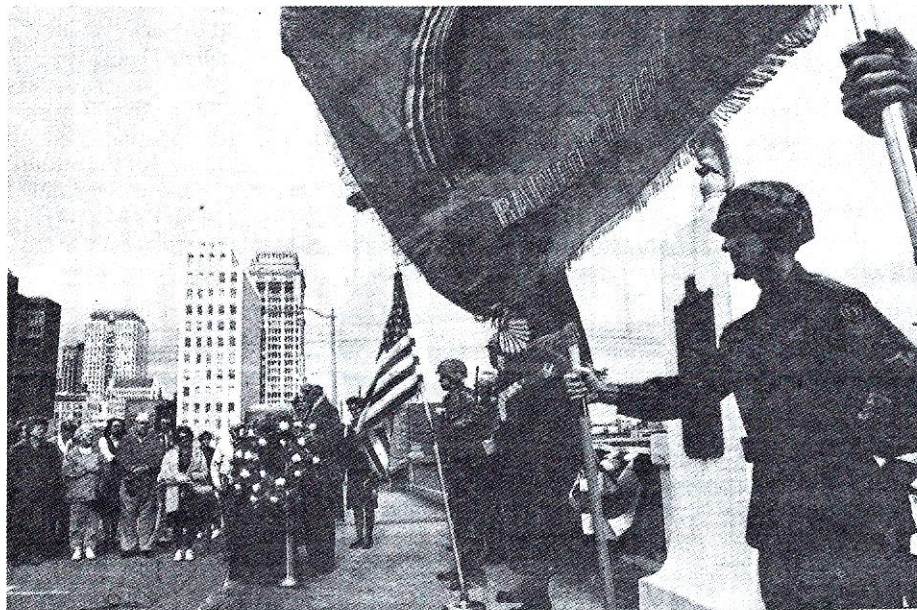
No. 3

## Birmingham - 1992

In addition to the normal festivities (i.e. Awards Ceremony, Banquet, Memorial ceremony, and parade — all heavily integrated with Rainbow tributes, the main attraction was the rededication of the Rain-

bow Viaduct honoring the 167th Infantry. The following article was printed in the Birmingham news.

One man's curiosity brings others together for memorial rededication.



Veterans of the Rainbow Division attend the rededication of a viaduct memorial.

NEWS STAFF PHOTO/EDOUARD BRUCHAC  
NOV. 10, 1992

## One Man's Curiosity Brings Others Together for Memorial Rededication

By Walter Bryant  
News staff writer

They came Tuesday from all over the United States to help rededicate a downtown Birmingham viaduct named for their Army division.

Jack L. Hildreth, president of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, said about 48 veterans of the 42nd, or Rainbow, Division from World War II and their wives attended from as far away as California, Texas and New Hampshire.

Terry Slaughter, whose curiosity about the old viaduct's history culminated in the military ceremonies Tuesday, said he hopes future generations will cherish such memorials.

"One thing for certain it will do is to

remind us of those who gave their lives for their country," he said.

The viaduct is on 21st Street between First Avenues North and South.

The original 1919 dedication of the viaduct included installing plaques at the center of the bridge listing Jefferson County members of the division who died in action or from wounds received in combat in France.

Alabamians had served in the 167th Infantry Regiment, one of several regiments comprising the 42nd Division of World War I fame.

Over the years the memorial deteriorated and lost its historical significance to motorists passing over the arch between Southside and downtown Birmingham.

## President's Message



First Lady Doris, Miss Alabama, and our President Jack Hildreth.

The Birmingham Veteran's Day activities stands out as a once in a lifetime experience. I was proud to represent the association at the banquet, peace luncheon, and on the reviewing stand at the parade. An outstanding highlight was participation in the rededication ceremony. These events will live in memory.

In December, we plan to be in Clearwater for the Rocking Chair Chapter's Xmas party, to be followed by another Xmas party with the Collins Chapter in Huntsville. We also intend to visit the Collins Chapter picnic in Columbia, Tenn., at the home of Auxiliary President Peggy Fleming, in March; Wisconsin in April; the Tri-state meeting, also in April; Texas in May and California, also in May. I am anxious to see how the various chapters are progressing, especially in the area of membership.

If possible, we urge you to attend the Mid-year in Phoenix. The main thing here will be status reports as well as subjects of interest to be sent along to the National. Each member can get an idea of how things work in the area of the Executive Committee. Don't forget the big one in Salt Lake.

Yours in Rainbow  
Jack Hildreth

## Editor's Rainbow Man of the Year

There are many unsung Rainbowners who labor unceasingly and without fanfare. One of the most energetic in promoting the spirit of Rainbow and Patriotism is HOWARD PARKER. Howard made his mark early by pioneering the establishment of the first WW2 chapter in Dubuque, Iowa. Serving, for Howard, is a way of life. He has held many chapter offices and chaired Reunions. Howard is a much sought-after speaker at Ex-P.O.W. and other Americanism gatherings. For many years, Howard has edited and disseminated the excellent Iowa chapter newsletter "The Sniper." Truly the epitome of a loyal American and Rainbowner! We salute you Howard!

### 'SOMETHING THAT NEEDED DOING'

Several months ago, Slaughter, president of Slaughter Hanson Advertising, passed over the viaduct on a lunchtime stroll.

(Continued on page 4)

**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**  
Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans  
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## Editor's Corner

Your editor has thought, for some time, that a great source of prospective members consisted of Rainbow men, who had been taken prisoner, and felt that they wanted nothing more to do with anything concerned with the war. Perhaps the article below will help some of our guys; the experience of the 106th Division was much like ours, to a point. We both arrived in Europe about the same time, except we lacked our supporting units, and we both were assigned to a quiet sector. The story is best continued from a reprint of an article from the Minnesota Star Tribune. John Kline was a Sgt. in the 106th Division. He edits a magazine for an association of vets who served with the 106th Division. He received a letter from a man in Oregon, and John Kline recognized himself in the man's shame. **The man apologized for waiting so long to join.** "I guess you would say I have a problem," he wrote, "when I left Stalag 9B, civilians drew back from me as though I was something repulsive and unclean. This went on in the States, until I learned to hide the fact that I was an ex-P.O.W. To now, I still find it hard to admit I was a prisoner . . . I am still proud of our 106th Division. I think we were a good outfit, but hardly a day goes by that I do not wonder why it had to happen to us."

For more than 40 years, Kline wondered too, and felt a similar shame. He was 19, fresh to the line, in December 1944, a machine gun squad leader in the rugged Ardennes Forest of Belgium. Like 600,000 other U.S. troops stretched along the Ardennes, he was caught by surprise, when three German armies launched the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 16, 1944. His unit surrendered three days later. Kline spent six months as a P.O.W. "We received some very bad press after the war," he said, "The British writers were probably the cruelest . . . they made us out to be cowards. A lot of people were stuck with that image. I've talked to guys who said they would walk into a Legion club to have a drink, and somebody would say, "Oh, you were with the 106th? You were one of those guys who let the Germans through the Bulge." "I didn't talk a lot about it. If someone asked about the war, I didn't hide where I had been. But I didn't go out and talk about my part."

Then, in 1978, Kline read a new history of the battle, "A Time for Trumpets," by Charles MacDonald, who was there as a company commander. He showed that the breakthrough was due to its own daring and to Allied intelligence failures. The individual soldier deserved no blame; "Surprised, stunned . . . he nevertheless held fast until his commander ordered withdrawal or until he was overwhelmed," MacDonald wrote.

"It's the book that saved my life," Kline said. "It shows that the Germans took three days to chew us up, and in those three days they lost their impetus. They used up a lot

of gas and men." In three days of fighting, two of the 106th's three regiments were destroyed. The division lost 416 killed, 1,246 wounded and 7,001 missing — including Kline. "Many of us didn't fire a shot at the Germans," he said. "I had my machine gun at the top of a hill, in the woods. We were pinned down. I didn't really see a German until an American officer walked up with a German officer and said we had to give up. That probably was part of my shame. I personally didn't do a hell of a lot as a soldier in a battle. Also, we had a lot of time to think. We didn't know what happened until later. We didn't know about any "Battle of the Bulge." All we knew was that we had been overrun."

"When I came back, I had to put my nose to the grindstone and get to work," he said. "I had a family. That probably helped me." But he couldn't shake the bad memories, the nagging guilt. "Watching the former prisoners returning from Vietnam, even those people breaking through the wall in Germany affected me." There are times when I drive down a road and into a forest of green pine trees, and it reminds me of the Ardennes. This time of year when it snows . . ."

He used to attend meetings of former P.O.W.s, but says it was too much of a crying session. He heard about the 106th veteran's association and attended a reunion. He found people from his company, and they talked about the fighting, the prison camps, the guilt. Someone recommended the MacDonald book, and Kline read it. When they needed an editor, Kline volunteered. Now, he encourages veterans of the 106th to share their stories. "I relive the war just about everyday, as the mail comes in," he said. He hopes the Oregon veteran reads "A Time For Trumpets," then comes to the next Reunion. If he does, "he will wonder what he's been worrying about all his life."

## Chaplain's Prayer January, 1993

Eternal Father, we are entering yet another New Year. There are new challenges in the world, new problems, new opportunities. Grant that our new Administration may continue to lead this country in the ways of peace, and that the nations of the world may yet in this century learn to live together in unity and harmony. Vindicate the efforts of the Rainbow Division and all others who many times in this century fought so valiantly against oppressors. And bless each one of us in Rainbow in our individual efforts on behalf of our country and its welfare. Amen.

Rev. Norman Forde

## National Reunion Salt Lake

July 14-17, 1993



The Salt Lake City skyline.

The members of the 1993 annual reunion committee hope you have all made final arrangements to attend the reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 14-17, 1993. Reunion headquarters will be Little America Hotel and Towers, a four-star hotel located one mile from downtown Salt Lake City with enough rooms to house all reunion participants. For hotel reservations, call (800) 453-9450.

Salt Lake City is readily accessible by car, train or air. The reunion committee has selected Delta Air Lines as the official air carrier for the 1993 reunion. Special senior citizen fares make air travel an attractive alternative to driving. You can contact Delta at (800) 241-6760 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to make all your airline reservations; please mention file number E0042 when calling Delta to identify you as a Rainbow reunion attendee.

The members of the reunion committee have planned activities for almost the entire week of July 12th in the hope that you can spend enough time to sample the many unique attractions of the Salt Lake City area. The week's highlights include:

**Tuesday:** Choose from either the "Casino Connection" tour for gambling in Wendover, Nevada, or the "Roots" tour to the world-famous Family History Library, where a professional genealogist will help you research your "family tree."

**Wednesday:** The "High Mountain" tour, which includes sightseeing and a barbecue lunch at Robert Redford's Sundance Resort, sightseeing in beautiful Heber Valley, and a walk through historic mining-town-turned resort Park City. The Early Bird social and dance will have a live band and vocalist.

**Thursday:** A "ladies-only" continental breakfast and fashion show. Special seating at the evening rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

**Friday:** A delicious luncheon for all registered reunion guests, followed by a tour to "Sample Salt Lake." Tour participants will view some of the classic sites in Salt Lake City, including stops at the Great Salt Lake, Kennecott's open-pit copper mine and "This Is the Place" Monument.

**Saturday:** Memorial service at the Assembly Hall on historic Temple Square. The reunion will officially end on Saturday evening with the Rainbow Banquet and President's Reception.

**Sunday:** Special seating at the 9:00 a.m. nationwide radio broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on Temple Square.

The number of early hotel reservations suggests there will be a great group at the Salt Lake City reunion. All the meetings and activities planned will still leave you time to enjoy other activities in Salt Lake City such as golf at the many courses near the hotel. Please register now for the reunion, hotel and tours if you have not already done so. For more information or registration materials, write Roy H. Bird, 1687 Peterborough Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121 or call him at (801) 272-3822. See you all in Salt Lake City in July!

## Mid Year Reunion

Phoenix - Feb. 16 - 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 a 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 A.S.A.P. Reservations are limited. For room confirmation call 1-800-447-8483.

## Tri-State Reunion

Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin — Tri-State get-together April 29, 30, and May 1, 1993, at the Days Inn/Airport, 1901 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425, Tel. 1-612-854-8400, across the street from the "Mall of America." Room rates are: one bed \$54.00 plus tax, two beds \$64.00 plus tax, specify smoking, non-smoking, handicapped — be sure to mention that you are with the 42nd Rainbow Division. A limited number of rooms have been blocked off. Make your reservations early. There is no back-up hotel. Cut off date is April 1, 1993.

Days Inn provides free shuttle van service to and from the Airport. For those who have trouble walking, the shuttle will be available to the Mall of America.

Please note: wheelchairs will be available at no charge — electronic convenience vehicles are available to rent that will be reasonable at the Mall of America.

Directions: coming from the East or West on I-494 exit on 24th Ave. (2A) go South on 24th Ave. To Killebrew Drive turn right on to Killebrew Drive then left at the traffic light to Service Road to "Days Inn."

Tri-State registration fee is \$15.00 per person which includes early bird on Thursday evening, a brunch on Friday, continental breakfast on Saturday, a trip to Mystic Lake Casino on Saturday and the Memorial Service and Banquet on Saturday evening.

Those who wish to take in the Mall of America guided tour on Friday, please add \$3.00 per person. (You must go on the guided tour to receive your discounted coupon book.)

Please send your Tri-State registration to: V.J. "Rube" Evanoff, 5101 West 109th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437 - (Tel 1-612-888-2256) as soon as possible — no later than April 1, 1993. Make checks payable to MN Chapter RDVA. Please note only one meeting on Friday April 30, 1993, so you will have plenty of time for hospitality, shopping and gambling.

**Tentative Program:**  
Thursday, April 29, 1993  
Hospitality Room  
Dutch Treat Dinner  
Early Bird

Friday, April 30, 1993  
Breakfast on your own  
Meeting 9:30 A.M.

Brunch  
Mall of America Tour & Shopping  
Hospitality Room

Saturday, May 1, 1993  
Continental breakfast - Hospitality Room  
Mystic Lake Casino Tour - Lunch on your own  
Mystic Lake Casino has a very good lunch at a reasonable price.

Evening  
Social Hour - complimentary Hospitality Room  
Memorial Service before the Banquet

## Search for Rainbow Liberators

Dear Rainbow Veterans:

I need some help that only members of your association can provide. While visiting the Royal Norwegian Army in northern Norway two years ago, I met an elderly Norwegian woman named Dagny at a ceremony commemorating the 47th anniversary of the death of her husband. The story she told me involves the Rainbow Division.

After the Nazis occupation of Norway on April 9, 1940, Dagny's husband and other fishermen began to cooperate with Russian allies to provide information by radio on German activities in their area. Informers brought news of the fishermen's activities to the Germans, who arrested 7 of them, including her husband, in the spring of 1943.

These men were taken to a major German headquarters in a nearby city, interrogated, tried, convicted and sentenced to death by firing squad. On the day of their scheduled execution, they were required to dig their own graves. Urged to hurry by a young German captain who claimed he had other things to do, they replied that "they were in no hurry, as it was to be the last thing they would ever do on earth." The German spit at them. Angered, one of the fishermen swung his spade and cut the head off of the German officer. The guards then seized the spades and beat all 7 of the resistance fighters to death.

In retaliation for the actions of their husbands, the Germans arrested Dagny and the wives of the other fishermen. The Germans took her six oldest children from her, later sent them to families across Norway, and put Dagny and her infant daughter aboard a fishing boat headed to the city in which her husband had been executed. They locked her below decks in the crew compartment and reportedly threw the baby overboard during the voyage.

At the German headquarters Dagny was also interrogated, tried, convicted and sentenced to death. Her sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. She was sent first to prison in Finland and then to Germany, ending up in a work camp located in or near Aichach, some 12 miles northeast of Augsburg in Bavaria. There she and her other European cellmates wound fine wire on spools for use in the German war industry. She had no knowledge of events occurring in the world around her and little hope for the future until April 29, 1945.

On that day, no guards came to the cell to take Dagny and her fellow prisoners to work. Later in the day, they heard the sound of "heavy equipment" moving near the prison. Following noise and confusion in the prison yard, the door to her cell was opened — by an American soldier.

She remained in Aichach for another month as a free person, awaiting arrangements to be made for her return to Norway.

Upon returning home, she began a successful year-long search to reunite her remaining six children.

At the end of her story, Dagny asked if I could find the American soldiers responsible for her liberation. I'm trying.

The best evidence points to elements of the 42d Division being responsible for the liberation of the prison camp at Aichach. The city is on the main road running between Rain, which lies just east of where the division crossed the Lech River on April 27th and Dachau, which it liberated on April 29th. Aichach lies within the boundaries assigned to the division by XV Corps. A photo from the Rainbow combat history shows prisoners just released from the camp following its liberation by Rainbow soldiers.

Evidence from War Department records indicates elements of the 222d Regiment were in Aichach on April 29th. A patrol consisting of the Regimental I & R platoon, a ranger platoon and an engineer platoon left Osterhausen at 0420 that morning, headed down the main road through Aichach toward Dachau. At 0635 that morning, the regiment began its move toward Dachau and Munich on the same route in a column of battalions, 2d Battalion leading, followed by 1st and 3d Battalions. The regiment encountered little resistance in its march and passed CCA, 20th Armored Division in

## Memorial Rededication

(Continued from Page 1)

He took a closer look at the weathered plaques, broken eagles and vacant planters lining the bridge and vowed to restore the monument.

One of the speakers at Tuesday's ceremonies was Jack R. Hildreth, president of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association. He said there are more than 60 memorials to the unit in the United States and overseas.

"This likely is the first since it was dedicated in 1919," he said.

"Terry (Slaughter) was the prime mover. He saw something that needed doing, and he did it," said Hildreth.

He said units of the 42nd Division returned to New York from France in May 1919. The 167th received heroes' welcomes in every Alabama town the train carrying the World War I veterans passed through.

"There were three days of festivities in Birmingham," he said.

The veterans on hand Tuesday served with the division during World War II from the time it went into combat in France in late 1944.

Others on hand for Tuesday's ceremonies included Ivan Wallace, president of the Rainbow Division Memorial Foundation; Birmingham lawyer Samuel H. Burr, whose father, Borden, served as co-chairman of the 1919 original dedication ceremonies; and retired Col. Carlyle P. Woelfer of Fayetteville, N.C., a member of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association.

Aichach at 0855. 3d Battalion. 222d Inf. was assigned the mission of clearing the zone enroute.

At this point, I do not know the precise location in or near Aichach of the work camp in the photograph or exactly which unit liberated it. I would appreciate any information available on this subject. You may contact me at the following address, telephone or FAX:

Dave Pearson - Colonel (ret) 94th Armored Regt.

26 East Exchange Street, Suite 110

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Tel: (612) 290-0455

Fax: (612) 224-0419

## Artillery Corner

Since the Denver Reunion in 1988, there is great interest in Artillerymen attending the National Reunion. For many, Denver was their first contact ever with their WWII buddies. That experience continues to speak well for the fellowship and camaraderie of Rainbow after so many years. The Artillery Chapter evolved from the 542nd F.A. Btn. It became the umbrella for the entire Artillery. The 232nd and the 392nd constitute the bulk of Artillerymen attending the National Reunions. Jack Hildreth (232nd) our National President encourages all Artillerymen to come to Salt Lake City in July. We hope to see more from Divarty, the 402nd and the 542nd. The 392nd has approximately 173 Rainbowners on their mailing list and all will be circularized in late February. Our ladies have an Auxiliary and cooperate fully with the National Auxiliary. In the meantime, "Mac" McKinney (Serv. Btry.-392nd F.A.) continues to do beautiful needlework, and the fruits of his labors will be for sale at the Craft Show during the National Reunion . . . what a talent!!

## Tax Reminder

Delegates who attend official meetings of the Association are reminded that IRS rulings allow a taxpayer who gives service gratuitously to an association and who incur unreimbursed expenses, including travel, meals and lodging while away from home in connection with the affairs of the Association and at its direction, may deduct the amount of such expenses in computing net income, subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

The unreimbursed expenses are deductible as a contribution to the Association rather than a business deduction and should be shown in that section of Schedule A, Form 1040. Expenses of an accompanying spouse do not apply, of course.

The following citations may be shown on tax forms:

1. Unreimbursed travel expense - Rev. Rule 55-4CB, 1955-1291.
2. Delegate Expense - Rev. Rule 58-240, 1958-1CB 141.
3. Mileage Expense - Rev. Rule 70-24, 1970-2CB 505.
4. Meetings Expense - Rev. Rule 58-279, 1958-1CB 145.

## Combat Story Confirmed

**PNP Theodore A. Johnson**  
Co. H - 232nd Inf.

I've been around Rainbow Reunions since 1946, first with just H Co. buddies, and then when we discovered the Rainbow Association. In all of those years, I have relived every event I could remember and tried to sort out the differences between my stories and my buddies' stories. We have learned that we often saw different things at the same time or at least interpreted what happened differently. Even before the war was over, when we got together to compare notes, the dates and places we fought would be interchanged in the minds of the participants. Then, as we have reunited together all over the country and even at the site of our combat, no one is ever sure that even his own stories have not become apocryphal.

When I read Carl Davis' (E Co. 232nd) story of the day Lt. Lindberg was killed and Carl was wounded, a rush of excitement came over me as I recalled the one story I have told more than any other in all of the years since the war. Hanging on my wall at home are two mementos. I like to show people a pair of binoculars and piece of barbed wire surrounding it hanging in our family room." My story goes like this:

When we first went into Kilstett on the 5th of January, we attacked out of the little town of Kilstett toward Gambsheim where we were going to knock a "ragged bunch of Germans" back across the Rhine River in a two-pronged attack from Kilstett and Weyersheim. We didn't have any artillery, but H Co. had 81 mm mortars and heavy machine guns to support the rifle troops as they took off across the flat fields between the towns. We regrouped that night and changed our gun positions and were ready to attack again the next morning. I rolled our wire up to a Maginot Line Pillbox in the front of the town and from there we started across that same open plains only to be once more repulsed by even heavier artillery, 88's, machine gun and rifle fire than the troops had met the day before. There was a great deal of confusion and the mortar observers ended up in that pillbox along with an infantry platoon that was regrouping. I took the position in the lookout tower on the top of the pillbox where you could see in all directions through slits in that metal dome, and a Lt. from the Rifle Company joined me in that tiny space.

I had observed a German half-track move out of Gambsheim into the edge of the open field, and they were digging in and I was prepared to call fire on them. When the Lt. ordered me not to call for fire, "They may be French," he said, "besides it's Corps orders that we preserve our ammunition," he said. In those close quarters, it was obvious that the Lt. was badly shaken and nervous and, in fact, I thought maybe I was

going to lose him. At 20 years of age, I was then as I still am, in awe of officer ranks, but I pulled out my wallet, took out a picture of a college girlfriend that I carried with me and said, "Lt., I don't know about you, but this is why I am here and we're not going to do her any good unless I can fire those guns." He looked me right in the eye and reached for his wallet, pulled out a picture of a lovely young lady and said, "This is my wife, we got married just before we shipped overseas." From then on, everything settled down, everyone fired; and as everybody knows from reading **WINTER STORM**, we held. When I first went back 27 years after the war, I drove from Strasbourg to Kilstett, and on up to my first OP in a house at the head of town. I swung over to the other side of town and found the pillbox just the way we had left it 27 years ago, walked into that pitch dark interior, felt my way to the stairs leading up to the turret and looked out one more time. I picked up a piece of barbed wire, and there it is on the wall.

"Toward the end of the war as we were moving through Germany, we set our mortars up in a town and I moved forward with E Co. as they advanced toward the Danube. I walked with the E Company Commander, the same officer in the pillbox, and the First Sergeant. They had scouts out on either side of the road as we headed out of town and up a long gradual grade. Just as we reached the top of the hill and started down the other side, the riflemen flushed some prisoners out of a farm on the right. I looked back as they passed and saw a pair of binoculars on one of their belts." "I'll be right back, I lost my binoculars and I'm going to get one from that Kraut. I hurried to catch up with him, took his binoculars, and proceeded to catch up with the Company Commander and the First Sergeant. Leroy Reynolds, my radio man, was waiting for me at the top of the hill, and just as we started down the other side, the Krauts opened up with machine guns at the foot of the hill. The Company Commander was killed instantly and the First Sergeant had his arm blown off. (Carl reports it as a "flesh wound.") We tried to call fire but the hill blocked our radio, so Telecan told us to put up our long aerial! But Hal Steadman relayed from the right and we got fire. An E Co. BAR man was a hero that day as he fired clip after clip until the whole outfit got off the face of that hill. In spite of my doubts, in the lookout of the pillbox, this officer, now C.O., had proven himself in combat, and I tell everybody that "but for that pair of binoculars, I could have suffered the same fate as the Company Commander or the First Sergeant." So ends my oft told story.

Over the years, until I read Carl Davis' story, I have never met anybody who was there, except Steadman who relayed the coordinates and the crew on the mortars.

Yet some of what Carl said didn't track with my story. I got his address from Herb Butt and called him to introduce myself and check it out. And what a delight! Carl repeated his in more detail and most of the story matched, but I still had doubts. His rank in the Gruber book shows him as a Staff Sergeant. "No," he said, "I was the First Sergeant at that time." Lt. Lindberg wasn't even listed with the E Co. officers in our book so he probably wasn't the Company Commander. "Well," Carl said, "he was then because he was the only officer we had at the time." So the story did indeed track and my next inquiry of Carl was whether he had stayed in touch with the widow of Lt. Lindberg. He said he had until she remarried and at that time he lost touch with her, not knowing if she would care to be reminded. Carl says he's never been to a Reunion, had planned being at Midyear, but it looked like he couldn't make it after all.

Carl, it's lost buddies like you we all are anxious to see while there is still time. What a joy to visit with you. Take note, George Veteto, Perry Wood, and all you others we long to see and visit with at least one more time.

## East Coast Reunion

The 5th East Coast Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Holidome, Morgantown, PA., May 12th & 13th, 1993. Morgantown is on the Penna. Turnpike at Exit 22. Room rates are great — \$39.00 per double. Reservations must be early — April 21, 1993, is the deadline. Rainbow people can get their room by 12 Noon, May 12th.

A PA Amish Country Tour will be in order Wed. at 1 P.M. Meetings and banquet will be held Thursday, May 13th. The Holiday Inn is attached to a manufacturing outlet mall of some 70 stores.

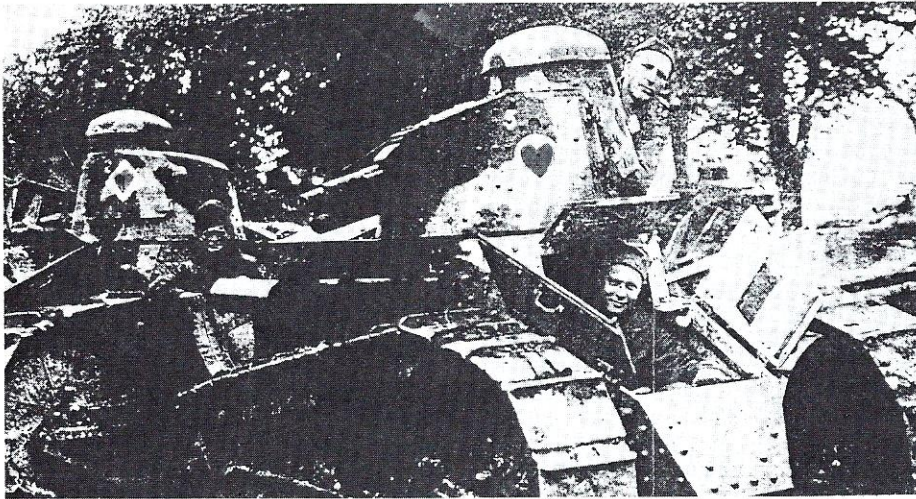
Registration fee will be \$21.00 per person. Phil and Tiny Trout will host this affair. Write 4121 8th Ave., Temple, PA 19560 or Tel 215-929-3541. Holiday Inn, Morgantown, PA 19543, Tel 215-286-3000. All East Coast Veterans are invited, we welcome PA, NJ, DC, New England or anyone.

## The Art of Sniping

We received the following:

I am an author compiling material for a book on the Art of Sniping. I am reaching out to as wide a group of veterans as possible, to draw on a myriad of experience. With this mixture, the final result will be, hopefully, a solid manual on the training, factors involved, and anecdotes of snipers and their teams. The idea is to be functional as well as entertaining. Write to: Keith Everett, 260 S. Atlanta Dr., Tucson, AZ 85747.

## First American Tank Action



The first American tank units to enter combat did so toward the end of WW1. On September 12, 1918, the 304th Tank Brigade, under the command of Lt. Col. George S. Patton, Jr., supported the United States IV Corps operations in France against the St. Mihiel Salient. Assigned to the 1st and 42nd Divisions, the tanks were to support the infantry in attacking the southern edge of the salient. The Brigade comprised two Battalions, the 344th and 345th; both were equipped with French Renault light tanks\*, and had been trained in their use by their energetic and forceful young commander.

It was misty and drizzling when, at 0500 hours, the attack went in, with Patton at its head. The 345th followed the 42nd Division until it had passed the Tranches d'Houblons, and then took over the lead. Despite thick mud and heavy shell fire, the tanks overcame several machine-gun positions, destroyed a battalion of German artillery, and captured 30 prisoners. The 344th was operating with the 1st Division, and they succeeded in cutting through the enemy wire and took on a number of machine-guns around Bois de Rate. There was a shortage of fuel on the second day of the attack which curtailed operations, but on the 14th an eight-tank patrol from the 344th, operating without infantry support, attacked and dispersed an enemy battalion near Woel.

This was the final tank action of the operation and afterwards Patton received a dressing down for putting himself, personally, at risk — not that he allowed it to deter him! During the four-day battle, the Brigade lost only two tanks from enemy action. However, 22 tanks were ditched and 14 had broken down. Of the 14 personnel casualties, only 2 were sustained inside a tank. The Brigade saw plenty more action during the Meuse-Argonne offensive which began shortly afterwards, on September 26th, and was the largest American operation of the war.

\* The Renault FT-17 light tank was the very first tank used by the U.S. Army, and was subsequently modified and built in the U.S. as the 6-ton Tank M1917. It had a crew

of 2 men, and was armed with a machine-gun (the French version had an 8mm. Hotchkiss, but the U.S. version had a Marlin machine-gun, initially, then a Browning). One version of the 4 mph light tank mounted a 37mm. gun.

## Mrs. Laura Taylor

Betty Owen, secretary of the National Auxiliary, reports that she received a letter from the son of R.M. "Bob" Taylor, Past National President (deceased). It concerned his mother, Laura, widow of Bob. She is now in a nursing home, and was 100 years old on June 14, 1993. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her or "Bob." Her address is: Plaza Manor, 4330 Washington, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

## Clark Jarrett

We received a letter of thanks from Clark, grandson of our own beloved Paul Jarrett. Clark wished to express gratitude for the recent Rainbow scholarship he received. It comes as no surprise to us that Clark received three straight "A's" on his three thirty-page papers on the Rainbow in WW1. His professor thinks it an excellent and unique idea for a television documentary dealing with his grandfather, Paul H. Jarrett. RIGHT ON CLARK!

## German Veteran of Wurzburg

Mr. Rudolf Decker, a veteran of the defense of Wurzburg, 3/30/45 to 4/6/45, wishes to contact American veterans of the 42nd and XV Corps who were directly involved in the taking of Wurzburg. Mr. Decker is presently embarked on the task of writing his war experiences. Anyone wishing to correspond with Mr. Decker should write to: Mr. Rudolf Decker, Pfarrer-Grimm Str. 22, D 8000 Munchen 50 Germany.

## Pin-Up Girl Remembers And Is Remembered



The back page of the May 11, 1945, Rainbow Reveille carried a picture of Pin-up girl Ann Sothern. It was captioned "Wanta Be a Confederate of This Sotherner?" Now, 47 years later, Jack Summers sends us an autographed photo with the following inscription "To the boys of the Rainbow Division, I'll always remember you! Ann Sothern '92" It turns out that Ann's uncle served in the Rainbow in WW1.



## Sgt. Joyce Kilmer / From Trees to the Rainbow

Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett, commander of I Corps, was having trouble with his 26th (Yankee) Division during the summer offensive of July 1918. War historians admit, that in the confusion and turmoil, there were extenuating circumstances for the problem with the 26th, but the outcome was that Liggett, in frustration, wrote to the adjutant general of the A.E.F., "It is my belief that the usefulness of the 26th Division as a dependable fighting unit can be restored, only after a period of thorough basic training and reconstruction. As a result, the 42nd (Rainbow) Division took over the corps front in late July, in the fierce fighting along the sleepy Ourq River.

This chain of events, ironically but certainly, led to the death of a scrappy little sgt. in the 165th Inf. of the 42nd, Joyce Kilmer, poet laureate of his unit and well loved writer back home.

Joyce Kilmer's name is known to almost all Americans as the author of "Trees." Less known is Kilmer's passionate religious fervor, his intense patriotism, and his great courage as a soldier. and yet Joyce Kilmer packed more into his 32 years than many men do in their three score and ten. All that Kilmer did he seemed to do with zeal. After graduation from Columbia, he married. He was soon launched on a literary career. Attracted to socialism, he contributed many articles of a radical nature. He began moving in the circle of poets and essayists. He was next attracted to religion, and became editor of the "Churchman," a journal of the Episcopal Church, but he remained a searcher. He found peace in his religious quest in the Roman Catholic Church, but it was the illness of his daughter that finally brought him to it. It is safe to say that his religion guided and dominated his life from then on.

There was little hesitation for Joyce Kilmer when the U.S. entered the war. The young father of five, included in Who's Who at the age of 25, enlisted as a private in the 7th Regiment of the N.Y. Natl. Gd. This unit was mustered into service on July 15, 1917. Kilmer transferred to the 165th Inf., because he felt that the 165th would get into battle earlier than the 7th. His motivation may have been the makeup of the unit. This was a regiment of Irish immigrants, and the young Catholic convert, longed to be Irish. He wrote glowing letters home about the "wild Irish boys who left Ireland a few years ago. They have delightful songs that have never been written down, but sung in vagabond camps and county jails."

Kilmer was regimental statistician under the direction of the chaplain, Father Francis Patrick Duffy. He worked in the adjutant's office and was promoted to Sgt. in a short time. Kilmer wrote his wife, "This is the pleasantest war I ever attended — nothing to do but fall in, fall out, pound a typewriter, and occasionally hike across

France carrying a piano." After someone termed his position a "bullet-proof job," Kilmer was not willing to serve as a statistician, so he asked to be transferred. He said he was willing to give up his stripes. However, he was able to keep his rank in the intelligence section. He wrote his wife, "I'll be peering at the Germans through field glasses instead of toiling in a crowded office. You wouldn't want me to come back round-shouldered and near-sighted, would you?"

Kilmer was always anxious to be in the thick of things. He had full intentions of writing a book about the war. Yet, he produced very little prose or poetry during his military service. He found himself more and more a part of the war effort. He found friendship and a sense of purpose different to anything ever experienced. In a letter to his wife, shortly before his death, he tried to put his feelings into words: "Danger shared together and hardships mutually borne develop in us a friendship I never knew in civilian life, a friendship clean of jealousy and gossip and envy and suspicion — a fine hearty roaring mirthful sort of thing like an open fire of white pine trees in a giant's castle, or a truly timed bombardment with eight-inch guns."

If Kilmer's paean to military life sounds romantic, there was nothing romantic about the fierce fighting in France during the cold, rainy months of June and July 1918. New American troops were pouring into France, and the Allies greeted them with enthusiasm. The tenacity of the Marines in Belleau Wood caused the French to rename the site "Bois de la Brigade de Marine." A young French stretcher bearer, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, later to become a great Catholic theologian, watched the doughboys with awe: "We had the Americans as neighbors and I had a closeup view of them. Everyone said the same: they're first-rate troops, fighting with intense passion (concentrated on the enemy) and wonderful courage. The only complaint one would make about them is that they don't take sufficient care; they're too apt to get themselves killed."

Thus it was in July as I Corps followed the retreating Germans. The 165th, under Maj. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan, with Sgt. Joyce Kilmer as an active participant, was in the front of the pursuit. The enemy fell back to an excellent natural defensive position along the Ourq River, which Kilmer and his friends quickly renamed the O'Rourke. But the Ourq proved no joke from July 28 to Aug. 1, as the 42nd tried to break the German hold on the hills, woods and villages which were providing fire for the defenders. Gen. Liggett relieved the brigade commander, who collapsed during the intense fighting, and replaced him with a new brigadier general, Douglas A. MacArthur. The Rainbow Division was reinforced by the 4th and 32nd Divisions before the Americans finally gained their objective.

In eight days of action, the Rainbow suffered 5,500 casualties and earned from Gen. Liggett this praise: "It proved itself a first-class division in every sense; swift in attack, and tenacious in both attack and defense." Among those casualties was Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, who received a bullet through his head on a reconnaissance mission on July 30. Joyce Kilmer died as he had lived — in the middle of the action — never a mere observer of life but always an active participant in it. His epitaphs are the words of the soldiers he served with: "We were both in the army, but he was always of it" (Charles L. O'Donnell, chaplain of the 32nd Div.) Kilmer "was always doing more than his orders called for" (Sgt. Maj. Lemist Esler). Kilmer was "the coolest man in the face of danger" (Fr. Duffy).

Because of the admiration his comrades felt for him, Kilmer was buried with the officers at a spot near where he fell. His bravery was rewarded in the mention of his name in the official dispatches and his being awarded, posthumously the Croix de Guerre. Shortly before his death, Kilmer wrote his wife, "When we soldiers get back from the war, we will do the spiritual and intellectual life of the States a lot of good. France has taught us lessons of infinite value." It is truly a pity that Kilmer never returned to validate his prophecy.



Pres. Jack Hildreth, Aux. Pres. Peggy Fleming and Red Cap Mike Sopak at Birmingham ceremony.



L to R: PNP and Foundation Pres. Ivan Wallace, Aux. Pres. Peggy Fleming, Pres. Jack Hildreth and PNP Carlyle Woelfer at rededication ceremony.



John McGovern

Chairman Dee Eberhart has announced that Saul Lipnick, who was with L-232, has accepted the responsibility of being the Scholarship Chairman. Saul asks that applications for scholarships and questions about eligibility, applications, etc., be sent to him at 150 Aspen Road, Swampscott, MA 01907. His telephone number is (617) 595-3365. Gifts to the Scholarship Program and other Memorial Foundation Funds should be sent to Jon Janosik, Treasurer, RDVMF, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511.

Archivist Bill Keithan will be at the reunion in Phoenix to accept papers and artifacts that you wish to contribute to help ensure that the important documents and materials are available so that future historians and our descendants are able to study the details of our activities in WW2.

## Over the Rainbow

As we were going to press, we heard about the passing of two of our most stalwart, dedicated and beloved Rainbowers. Both will be sorely missed. Pete Compton served for many years as Vice President for the West Region. Our sympathies go out to his dear wife, Mabel. R. Earl Kerns, Jr. was extremely active. He, and his chapter, successfully chaired nine Mid-Year Reunions, and Earl was very active in the Rocking Chair chapter. Our deepest condolence to his dear wife, Helen.

## Combat Infantrymen's Association

If you were awarded the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge, you belong in our elite association. We are new, we are different, but we are still that proud and "very special" group of veterans.

For information, brochure and application, please send a legal size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Leo E. Kibble  
Rural Route 3  
Smithport, PA 16749

## Memorial File

We fought for the same principles, suffered along with them in freezing foxholes. We were inseparable — we would never forget. Today, how many of us truly care? Your editor and your National Secretary

President Ivan Wallace still has plenty of copies of "Winter Storm" remaining. This book by Lise Pommiois is the only book in print that gives detailed accounts of Rainbow soldiers in their first combat experiences in January 1945, through the first few days of the March 15th attack that helped end the war. The book is ordered from Treasurer Jon Janosik and is \$20 plus \$5 for shipping. If more than one book is ordered for the same address, the shipping cost is \$3.50 for each additional book.

The CD ROM, with 72 million telephone numbers, mentioned in the last newsletter, has been tried and found not perfect, but very exciting. Although nearly half the surviving men in our company have died since the war was over, a good portion of those remaining appear to yield addresses to the phone disk. The telephone numbers appear to be older than the March 1992 date claimed on the disk and unlisted numbers are not shown, but the results can be very quick and very satisfying if you locate a long-lost buddy. If anyone would like information on the disks or would like me to do a search on a few lost buddies, write me at 7052 Apple Creek Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560, or call (419) 882-5697. My rate of finding lost Rainbowers has been slowed because the only computer available that was compatible was at the office, and our secretary objects to my sit-

ting on her lap. There will not be a charge for searches, but if you are euphoric about finding someone, please make a contribution to the Memorial Foundation.

## Attendance at Birmingham 1992

NAME	OFFICE
Jack Hildreth	President
Doris Hildreth	
J. D. Gresham	Editor, TX Roundup
Norma Gresham	
James Wood	
Marcel Wood	
Charles Fowler	
Peggy Fleming	Aux. President
Mike Sopak	Red Cap
Russel Ayo	
Tom Owen	
Betty Owen	Central V.P.
Jack Kyser	Natl. Aux. Secretary
Nancy Kyser	PNP
Ben Conger	
Ben's Sister	
Edward Burkhalter	
Lucille Burkhalter	
Chet Kriskowski	
Ruth Kriskowski	
Dolian Harris	PNP
Jane Harris	
Leon Praytor	
Mary Praytor	
Nan Oswald (widow of Wayne Oswald)	
Evelyn Stone (Nan's niece)	
Fred Peterson	
Rita Peterson	
Tom Heaton	
Betty Heaton	
Carlyle Woelfer	PNP
Harold Crabb	
Ivan Wallace	PNP, Pres. of Foundation
Myrtle Wallace	PNAP
Romeo Fagiolo	President Elect
Mildred Fagiolo	
Don Segel	PNP
Pearl Segel	PNAP
Bill Shurtleff	
Guy Walker	
Aleen Walker	
John Whisler	
Jane Whisler	
Steve Hutnik	
Frances Hutnik	Natl. Aux. Chaplain
James Hannah	
Clifford R. Sommerfeld	
Irene M. Sommerfeld	



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