



Vol. LXXI

April 1993

No. 4

## Phoenix Was A Blast



REVEILLE TRIUMVERATE AT MID-YEAR

L to R: Ken Carpenter (Editor), PNP Herb Klindinst (Reveille Chairman), and PNP Hugo Grimm (Publishing Editor).

A total of 202 (+18 cancellations) gathered at Phoenix on Feb. 26-28, 1993, for the annual Mid-Year Reunion. Chaired by Gilbert and Beverly Koehler, things moved along smoothly to everyone's enjoyment. The Early Bird party, the complimentary cocktails and breakfast, and a delicious Luncheon were featured, and many enjoyed the tour of the Fire Museum and Botanical Gardens. The highlight was the Banquet, where the featured speaker was Jim Creasman, who wrote the original press release on Dachau. A surprise speaker was David Silver, a Dachau survivor. His wife, Helen, an Auschwitz survivor, also attended. Featured guests were Mme. Lise Pommois and our beloved Paul Jarrett. Dignitaries at the Head Table were President Jack and Doris Hildreth, Jim and Dorothy Creasman, PNP Father Bob Weiss, Paul Jarrett, Gil and Auxiliary President-elect Beverly Koehler, Auxiliary President Peggy Fleming, her red cap, Mike Sopak, and PNP and Foundation Chairman Dee and Barbara Eberhart. Of course, the night was not complete without the appearance of irrepressible PNP Ted Johnson. Ted heads up the

Foundation fundraising efforts. In addition to a brief pitch, he led us in the singing of "There's a Rainbow In the Army."

## 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 made early — April 21, 1993, is the deadline. Rainbow people can get their room by 12 Noon, May 12th.

A Pennsylvania 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 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.

## President's Message



L to R: PNP Father Bob Weiss greets President Jack Hildreth at Mid-Year.

The Mid-Year at Phoenix was a great success. Gil and Beverly Koehler are to be highly commended for a great job. Too many of us have no idea of the great amount of work required to insure a successful Reunion. I ask you all to join me in saying "Well done Gil and Bev."

I'd like to comment on the upcoming dedication of the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. It is scheduled for April 18-22. An overall estimate is that 12,000 people, including foreign dignitaries, are expected to attend. The Rainbow is one of the liberating units invited to attend, and we expect about 50 Rainbowners to represent us.

Please be aware that the National Reunion in Salt Lake City is fast approaching. Chairpersons Roy and Glenna Bird report that hotel registration has been very good. Won't you join us? Time is fast running out. Take the opportunity to see that old foxhole buddy. I had fun in Phoenix, and I now invite you to join me in Salt Lake City so all of us can have fun!

In Rainbow  
Jack Hildreth

## Dues Increase Reminder

At Milwaukee it was decided to increase dues to \$10 beginning 1993-94.

## Western Barbecue

Our President, Jack Hildreth and his lady, Doris, will attend a barbecue held in their honor, in Garden Grove, CA, May 15, 1993. Martha and Joe Karam, V.P. (Western Region) invites Rainbowners and friends to join in a barbecue of pork ribs, chicken, plus dips, chips, beverages. \$5 per person. Any excess money will go to the Chapter.

RSVP: 11291 Biscayne Ct., Garden Grove, CA 92641, 714-539-5303.

Anytime after 12 noon

Dinner at 2:00 p.m.

Swimming pool and hydrotherapy



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

General of the Army  
Douglas MacArthur (Dec)  
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**DEADLINE FOR COPY**

June Issue	May 1, 1993
Sept. Issue	Aug. 1, 1993
Nov. Issue	Oct. 1, 1993
Jan. Issue	Dec. 1, 1993

## Reunion Activities

The Reunion Program will be carried, as usual in the June issue. A tentative sequence of events is as follows:

**Tuesday, July 13th:** There will be registration from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Casino Connection Tour (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and the Roots Tour (1 to 4 p.m.) will take place.

**Wednesday, July 14th:** Registration, 1-5 p.m. High Mountain Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Foundation Meeting, 1-3 p.m.; Unit Business Meetings, 3-5 p.m.; Scholarship Committee Meeting, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Early Bird Dinner and Social, 8-11 p.m.

**Thursday, July 15th:** Registration 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Ladies' Continental Breakfast and Fashion Show, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m., Men's Executive Committee Meeting, 9-11:30 a.m.; Ladies' Executive Committee Meeting following breakfast; Luncheon Table Reservations, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Opening Business Meeting (after opening ceremonies, ladies have separate meeting, 1-3 p.m.; Optional - you may desire to attend choir practice in Temple Square, 7-9 p.m.

**Friday, July 16th:** Registration 9-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.; Banquet Table Reservations, 9-10 a.m.; Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Tour: Sample Salt Lake, 1-4:30 p.m.; Foundation Meeting, 1:15-3:15 p.m.; Unit Business Meetings, 4-6 p.m.; WWI Dinner, 6 p.m.; Unit Banquets, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, July 17th:** Registration, 8-9 a.m. and 4-5 p.m.; Memorial Service, 9:30-11:30 p.m. (Assembly Hall, Temple Square) **Some people will have to have transportation;** Men's and Ladies' separate Closing Business Meetings, 1-4 p.m.; Church Services, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; Fellowship Cash Bar, 6:30-7:30; Banquet, 7:30; President's Reception, following Banquet.

## Chaplain's Prayer

Almighty God, Whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite: Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governors of all the States, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honor and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honor them. Amen.

Rev. Norman Forde

## Apology — Memorial File

In the January issue, we commented on communication failures regarding reporting of deaths of Rainbow comrades. The unreported death of Kenneth Rollins, Co K, 222nd Inf. was cited. It now develops that the death had never been reported to the Chapter Secretary. We apologize to Lloyd Allen, the Secretary, regarding this error.

## Editor's Corner

At this time, many of us are aware of the PBS program "The Liberators" aired on Veteran's Day. It was taken from a book soon to be released. The 761st Tank Bn. and the 183rd Combat Engrs. are credited with the liberation of Dachau and Buchenwald. There is a plan to place the book in school libraries. In opposition to this action, you are urged to write to the following:

Mr. Bruce Christensen, President  
Public Broadcasting Service

1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Robert T. Morgan  
Harcourt Brace Janovich, Inc.

100 Northfield Drive  
Lake Forest, IL 60645

Ms. Judy Crichton, Exec. Producer  
The American Experience

125 Western Ave.  
Boston, MA 02134

Additionally, we have learned of a film for commercial television being produced, from Lt. Col. Randle Elms, Chief of the Army's WW2 50th Anniversary Commemorations Committee. Mr. Richard Kaplan is producing a film on the "Battle of the Bulge," and is looking for photos, home movies or other visual materials from the time of the battle. They are beginning to assemble a file of civilian witnesses, etc. This might be a good time to call attention to the fact that the campaign is designated "Ardennes-Alsace," and veterans of the Alsace action are invited to join the association "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge." It may be a way to get "Nordwind" publicity. The TV mini-series producer is: Battle of the Bulge Project, 290 West End Avenue (5-C), New York, N.Y. 10023. Their phone number is (212) 787-0528, Mrs. Beverly Owen.

## Duffy Stanley Follow-up

Your Editor received the following:

I was happy to see the article on Duffy Stanley in the September 1992 Reveille. I personally owe my life to him. He was astute enough to recognize the hopeless situation at Sessenheim Jan. 18, 1945. He sent word that if we expected to survive we had to make a break for it NOW! No one else had the guts to make the call while we were looking down the throat of an 88 on an unopposed German Tiger Tank.

Bill Warde  
CoA-232nd Inf.

## National Secretary Meeting

Herb Butt, National Secretary, would like to have a meeting of all Chapter Secretaries attending the National. Time and place will be announced.



## National Reunion Salt Lake

July 14-17, 1993



Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon near Sundance Resort.

## National Reunion

We hope you are all making final plans to attend the Annual National Rainbow Reunion in Salt Lake City on July 14-17, 1993. Don't miss this chance to visit an exciting new place and sample some of the best tourist opportunities in the United States.

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

The reunion will be held at Little America Hotel & Towers, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, (800) 453-9450. Little America is a four-star hotel, one of the best anywhere. The hotel features two swimming pools and a health club complete with spa, saunas, whirlpool and exercise equipment. In addition to its coffee shop and luxurious dining room, the hotel also has a unique lobby-level shopping mall where guests can shop for everything from small necessities to beautiful gifts and clothing. There is a liquor store in the lobby of the hotel; since the sale of liquor is regulated by the State of Utah, prices in the hotel's liquor store are the same as prices everywhere else in the State.

Deal directly with the Hotel to make reservations for both individual rooms and hospitality rooms. Individual room rates are \$69 for Garden Suites and \$79 for Tower Suites plus tax per day, for single, double, triple or quadruple occupancy; the special rates are also available two days before and two days after the reunion. Reservations must be received by June 15, 1993. Be sure and tell the Hotel you are attending the Rainbow Reunion.

The 42nd Rainbow Division has selected Delta Airlines, Inc. as the official air carrier for the reunion. Delta's nationwide toll-free reservations number is staffed by fully trained specialists who will assist you or your travel agent in confirming reservations to the reunion. Delta will handle every call, regardless of your departure city. Call Delta, or have your travel agent call, at (800) 241-6760 for reservations daily from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. Eastern time. Refer to File Number E0042. Use of this file number will not bring discounted fares, but be sure to ask about special Senior Citizen discounts.

We have some exciting tours planned for your visit to Salt Lake City, including two special pre-reunion tours.

Please send your money for the tours directly to Sample Salt Lake, 2850 Craig Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109, (801) 278-9219. Your canceled check is your receipt.

You will not need a car to enjoy this year's reunion. Little America has a complimentary shuttle that will bring you to the hotel from the airport, train station or bus depot. There are more than 200 stores and restaurants and three indoor shopping malls within a one-mile radius of the reunion hotel. The hotel is also about one mile from the Family History Library and Temple Square, the number-one tourist attraction in Salt Lake City. A five-minute, 30-cent ride by bus or trolley (current prices) from the hotel entrance will take you to all of these attractions. Reunion participants will have access by bus to not only the entire Salt Lake Valley but everywhere from Ogden, 50 miles north of Salt Lake City, to Springville, 50 miles south of Salt Lake City.

The 1993 reunion would be an excellent opportunity for an extended family vacation as well. Salt Lake is within 350 miles of 11 National parks, with Yellowstone on the north and Grand Canyon on the south. Reunion participants and their families can enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States either before or after the Reunion.

Some of the first pioneer immigrants entered the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847, and the State of Utah has celebrated this event ever since. Reunion participants could enjoy the Days of 47 celebration after the reunion, which includes a parade and a world-class rodeo.

Make your reservations now for a memorable time in Salt Lake City and Utah this

July. For more information, contact Reunion Chairman Roy H. Bird, 1687 East Peterborough Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121, (801) 272-3822.

## 74th Ohio State Reunion

June 10, 11, 12, 1993 — Ohio State Reunion at the Holiday Inn, 1858 North Memorial Drive, Lancaster, OH 43130, Phone: (614) 653-5040. Lancaster, Ohio is southeast of Columbus, Ohio, on U.S. Route 33, to the left as you come into Lancaster. Specify Rainbow when reserving rooms. No pre-registration (\$20) is required. For further information write to Chairman: James Spruance, 4143 Karl Road, #111, Columbus, OH 43224.

## Mini-Reunion - Co. H, 242nd Inf.

Co. H., 242nd Inf. is planning a reunion for May 13, 14, and 15th, 1993. The place is Days Inn (Airport), Atlanta, GA. (Free shuttle to and from Airport.) Rates are \$50/night plus 12% tax (single or double). The hospitality suite will be available to us at a very reasonable rate, with complimentary snacks and hors d'oeuvres (cash bar). Parking is available for your RV/motorhome when you are a registered guest. Write or call Frank W. Vincer — 8027 Gray Haven Rd., Baltimore, MD 21222. Tel. (410) 285-4390 (best time is after 6:30 Eastern time).

## Artillery Corner

Friendship — Do you recall the Division Artillery going on the line with the Division on February 17, 1945 in the area of Wimmenau and Wingen? . . . or the 232nd supporting the 222nd Infantry — the 402nd supporting the 242nd Infantry and the 542nd supporting all Regiments? Each National Reunion presents a chance to renew old friendships and memories and each year that passes without your attendance eliminates this opportunity. We are not young any more, neither are we a bunch of old codgers. Plenty of action takes place! If you are on our mailing list, you should have heard from us by this time. If you have not been contacted, and are interested in attending the National Reunion in Salt Lake City July 14th to 17th, please contact Divarty President Harold M. Cullem ("B" Btry. 392nd) at 431 S. Denver, Kansas City, Missouri 64124 . . . or phone (816) 231-2963 . . . We'll see you there!

Divarty Ladies are busy getting ready for the Reunion. Eleanor Barrell is heading a committee of ladies who are making a memorial quilt, outlining the path of the Rainbow Division which will be chanced off at their Craft Show at the Reunion.

**CORRECTION:** There were 72 men at Milwaukee. Previous Artillery Corner reported 56.



## RDVA Awards to 42nd Division — 1992



Soldiers of Co. A, 1st Bn., 127th Armor, display their award as Best Division Combat Unit. From the left: 1st. Lt. Jonathan Puleo, battalion adjutant; Division Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Allen; Col. Carlyle Woelfer, RDVA; 1st. Lt. Scott Korzenski, Co. A Exec.; and 2nd Lt. Andre Williamson, 1st platoon leader. Photo by Maj. Paul Fanning. (M60A3 tank in background)



Company D, 1st Bn., (Mech) 108th Infantry. From the left: Platoon Sgt. Peter Graham; C.O. Capt. Bill Filbert; Corp. Bruce McCutcheon, Col. Woelfer, 1st. Sgt. Ron George, Vehicle driver Spec. Michael Slattery.

Each year since 1985, the RDVA has sponsored awards for the 42nd Division's "Division Best Soldier" and the "Division Best Combat Unit." These awards consist of a plaque and a unit guidon streamer. The Gen. Douglas MacArthur Trophy is given for the Division Best Combat Unit, while the Division Best Soldier Trophy is identified as the Major General Harry J. Collins Trophy.

The Division Best Unit trophy was awarded on 23 August 1992 at Fort Drum, NY to Company B, 1st Battalion (Tank), 127th Armor, Dunkirk, NY, Captain David Bergioli Commanding. Also on 23 August at Fort Drum, the Division Best Soldier Trophy was awarded to Corporal Bruce McCutcheon, Company B, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 108th Infantry, Geneseo, NY. Captain Bill Filbert is Company Commander and 1st Sergeant Ron George is 1st Sergeant. The awards were presented by Colonel Carlyle P. Woelfer, the RDVA Public Relations Officer. The costs of the awards are underwritten by the RDVA Memorial Association.

## WWI Documentary On Black GIs Pulled

By John Carmody  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Amid increasing questions about the program's accuracy, New York's WNET, the flagship station of public broadcasting, has withdrawn a documentary from PBS about black soldiers who liberated Jews from concentration camps in World War II.

The 90-minute film, "The Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in World War II," was first aired on PBS Nov. 11. In December it was shown in Harlem's Apollo Theatre at a gala attended by some 1,200 people, including Mayor David Dinkins and Jesse Jackson. Sponsored by Time Warner and prominent New Yorkers, the screening was seen as a key to the healing of the Jewish-African American rift in New York.

Subsequently, however, challenges to the documentary's accuracy were made, most recently in a New Republic article and in a 14-page report by the American Jewish Committee, supported by complaints from military associations.

"The Liberators" will be reviewed by a panel of experts and perhaps edited before being made available again to Public Broadcasting Service stations, according to Harry Chancey Jr., vice president of program services for WNET. Meanwhile, sales of videocassettes of the film have also been halted.

WNET said the station and the producers "make absolutely no retreat from the essential thesis of the documentary that black American soldiers played a role in the liberation of Nazi concentration camps and rescue efforts."

"What's important," Chancey said yesterday, "is to take the film and its narrative and compare it to the complaints. We will find the best possible panel of military researchers and experts and seek to achieve a consensus. We will certainly begin with those informed critics who have been so outspoken in recent weeks and ask them to join with us to see if we can determine the facts. The image of the people whose story we're trying to tell is sacred to us as well, and I hope they understand this is in everybody's best interests."

A spokesman said the station hopes to have the film available again within 30 days.

The American Jewish Committee charges the documentary contains "serious factual flaws, well beyond what can be written off as 'artistic license.'" As reported in the national Jewish weekly, the Forward, the AJC found that "while black soldiers did participate in the liberation of German concentration camps, the principal unit featured in the film, the 761st Tank Battalion, had no role in the liberation of Dachau or Buchenwald."

Yesterday Chancey said, "The criticism has come regarding certain details which have been informed by a combination of oral history, military documentation — and the lack of documentation of certain aspects of the end of the war . . ."

He said the mounting criticism "achieved an energy because it bears on the sacred nature of Holocaust history. Rather than let this film go up like an incendiary bomb, we decided that we would withdraw the film, assess all the criticism and return the film to distribution once we were satisfied no inaccuracies or ambiguities remain."

Chancey said WGBH in Boston, which circulates "The American Experience" series in which "The Liberators" appeared, and the film's producer, Bill Miles, "were all parties to the decision to withdraw the film temporarily."

"The value and validity of the overall film is being cast into a shadow by these criticisms of detail," Chancey said.

Jeffrey Goldberg, New York bureau chief of the Forward, and author of the Feb. 8 New Republic article "The Exaggerators," said yesterday that "what upset people in the Jewish community is the notion that this is Holocaust revisionism. No matter how noble the purpose, you just can't make up facts. There is overwhelming evidence the units weren't near the place the film says they were."

"Based on what I've observed, WNET felt it could afford to ignore the early criticism from WBAI radio and the New York Guardian and numerous veterans groups, but when it reached a national audience and the AJC report became public, it had to respond."

In his article, Goldberg quotes E.G. McConnell, a veteran of the 761st, as saying, "We were nowhere near these camps" at Dachau or Buchenwald. But Goldberg makes the point that the unit "played an important role in the liberation of Gunkirchen, a satellite of the Mauthausen concentration camp, and its performance at the Battle of the Bulge was exemplary."

"The Liberators" averaged a 3.0 rating and a 5 percent audience share in 26 major PBS cities Nov. 11. WNET registered the biggest audience, a 5.5/8. WETA here averaged a 3.9/6.

Miles and film co-producer Nina Rosenblum were in Europe yesterday and unavailable for comment.

Jesse Jackson, whose Rainbow Coalition had planned to show the film next month in Los Angeles at another gala, was in meetings on Capitol Hill yesterday and also unavailable for comment.



## Membership Chairman's Report

Membership is a little on the downside at this time. We cannot hold our own on this unless we continually work at it. Our numbers are and will be decreasing. It seems that the memorial file grows longer every year, and although we get new members each year, it behooves us to also hold what we have. Remember that the great camaraderie we share can be a great selling point for new members. Recently, I turned up an old company buddy, talking to him by phone. His name is Bill Finley from Philadelphia. He has taken out Life Membership, but will probably not make a reunion due to a home situation. However, he wanted to support RDVA, and his Life Membership will do that.

I am really asking two things of you: Don't give up the hunt for old buddies, and strongly consider taking out a Life Membership. I am an example; having done this on both the National and 242nd Chapter levels. As a result, I never have to wonder if my dues are paid. Of even greater importance to me is that I will be contributing, through interest earned, long after I have passed "over the Rainbow." Of course I'm hoping to be one of those around for the last round-up — the LAST REUNION! Just think: it has been fifty years, and we still enjoy being with old buddies, making new buddies and basking in the warm glow of Rainbow comradeship. Yours in Rainbow — keep it growing — and look me up at the Reunions!

Charles G. Paine  
Membership Chairman

## My Easter Bonnet

You should see the new Easter bonnet that my uncle gave me this year. Incidentally, it is the first thing he ever gave me. Always before, he took something. Well, it is an olive drab color and is covered with a net of the same color which is fastened on with pieces of wire. It has a liner that came with it and also a little wool knit cap that I can wear inside when the weather gets cold. And would you believe it, it is waterproof. A ribbon is attached to the front of it which is to be buckled under the chin and a tan leather strap goes around the back of my head, and the two keep the wind from blowing it off my head. Another good feature is that if the color fades, it can be re-colored by just putting on some more paint with an ordinary paint brush. Owing to the durability of the material from which it is made, it doesn't muss badly. It is made of steel. You can even sleep with your head in it. In fact I've seen some like mine being used for shaving, bathing and for doing laundry. Some of the fellows drive nails with them, but that chips the paint. I saw a picture the other day showing some fellows cooking a meal in one. Isn't that clever? It is a popular model, I suppose, since about 7,700,000 fellows have

similar ones. The other day while attending an indoor class the fellow who was sitting in front of me was so tall I couldn't see. So I just sat on my hat and looked over his head. I'm pleased with it, although the first week I wore it, it hurt my head and neck. It weighs almost three pounds.

When I get out of the Army, I'm going to bring mine home with me and improve it. I'm going to have a handle welded on it so it can be placed under the bed. I'm kind of old fashioned and besides, it gets pretty cold where I live. Dolph Trantham

## High Grade Communications Jim Schaefer, Co. I, 232nd Inf.

This story concerns Pfc. Ed Misczak and S/Sgt. Jim Schaefer of Co. I, 232nd Inf. When I Co. was about to attack Kronungen, Germany, Capt. Miller announced that we were going to attack the town in "Hollywood style." When he was asked what he meant, he replied that everyone was to fix bayonets and scream while running down the mountain. We agreed and did as we were directed. As Co. I screamed down the mountainside, the German soldiers streamed up the opposite side of the valley. After the area was secured, I was standing in the middle of the highway thinking about the best way to get wire and phones to the platoons.

Just then, a motorcyclist with an armed passenger passed. We all said "Guten Tag!" At the same moment, I realized that this was a recon vehicle, and quickly took the occupants prisoners. As we stood there, I noted another German sneaking out of a nearby house; I also captured him, and marched all three to the C.P.

Darkness fell, and with it came a heavy fog. Later, the Germans started some action, but the C.P. phones did not ring. What was wrong? I checked the phones: no wires were connected, and no wires available! Ed said the wires must still be outside, and he would go out and pass them through the window. He ran out the door, and I raised the window to see nothing but pitch black darkness. As Ed passed the wires to me, he looked directly into my eyes. His eyes were wide open and large as saucers. I asked him what was wrong. He replied, "If anyone follows me through the door, you better challenge them." I gave the warning as Ed came through the door. So did five German soldiers, with their guns at sling arms. We quickly disarmed them, and they told us that they thought they were returning to their own C.P.

Ed said that he felt as though someone were watching him as he picked up the wires; he had gone out without his weapon! We now had 8 prisoners without a shot being fired.

It worked out well for one of the best communications men in the Infantry. Ed was safe, and we could communicate with the platoons. Ed is no longer with us, but his memory lingers, strongly, on.

## Rainbow Division Update

PNP Carlyle Woelfer reports the following interesting and very informative news: The Rainbow Division is the National Guard Division that is expected to be the only operational unit in the Northeast. The 26th and 50th Armored are scheduled for deactivation. Elements of these two divisions will become part of the 42nd. There will be a brigade in New York, New England and New Jersey. It is also possible that a separate battalion would be in the central states. The 42nd will become an armored division. At this time proposed reorganization of the National Guard is on hold, but it is safe to assume that the 42nd will continue to serve our country, in some form, as an operational division.

## Do You Remember?





## Crucible of Fire

Editor's Note: The article below consists of a digest of the experience of a rifle company during the Battle of Ohlungen Forest. Complete justice cannot be given due to lack of space. It is hoped, however, that the threads of the story are intact, in order to pay tribute to their gallant endeavor.

(Excerpted from the Combat History of Co. K, 222nd Inf.)

The 25th of January, 1945, proved to be a memorable day for the men of Co. K. A twenty-man OPLR was cut off and a covering force sent out was pinned down. Here, Lt. Woelfer, C.O., called on our only available artillery, Regtl. Cannon Co. for fire. Excellent spotting resulted in the enemy taking cover and slackening their own fire. Under additional covering fire from a light machine gun, the OPLR withdrew, with Sgt. Morales bringing up the rear. Sgt. Morales was severely wounded, and four volunteers (Lt. Berg, Pfc Kriz, Pfc Shephard, and Pfc Gaby) took a litter and went out to where Morales lay. This required crossing 200 yards of flat open country in plain sight of the enemy. This mission was successfully completed. Subsequently, a trip to the aid station with men wounded from the group was fraught with peril with the coming in of several volleys of large caliber artillery. Additional casualties were incurred.

Men from the mortar section, and men from the 3rd platoon began moving to the right to fill a gap between the 2nd and 3rd platoons, made by earlier casualties. About this time, a very heavy barrage hit the right flank and a heavy fire fight broke out in the E Co. area, to the right. Wire communication was destroyed, and remained out most of the night. About a battalion or more hit the 2nd Plt. Other enemy troops broke through E Co. and came in behind the 2nd Plt. around the old mill.

All of the fighting at this time was taking place in a dense woods, with deep snow, and no moon. We had no artillery support, and no way to contact them, if we had. The Germans had ample artillery, and outnumbered us badly. In addition, enemy troops were wearing white camouflage suits. Elements of the 3rd Plt. were surrounded. At this time, Lt. Yanke, Plt. Ldr. of the HMG Plt. in our area, withdrew his section from the right area of the 3rd Plt. and moved it to the right flank of the company now exposed by the breakthrough, so as to prevent the enemy from using the road that ran from Hagenau to Neubourg behind the MLR. His machine guns did an excellent job, and were very instrumental in helping us hold what we did. For his gallant leadership in both his own platoon and the 3rd Plt., after Lt. Harper was wounded, and his valiant efforts to keep the wire communications in by personally repairing the breaks, he earned the DSC.

During this period, the 2nd Plt. was undergoing a heavy artillery barrage, followed by

an overwhelming infantry assault. Only nine men, under T/Sgt. Chambers, were able to make their way back. The rest of the surrounded platoon fought until their ammunition ran out, and most were captured.

In the 1st Plt. area of Neubourg, things were hot and heavy. The strength of the attackers numbered about 1,000. One squad of the LMG section and part of a platoon of L Co. assisted the defending 1st Plt. All told, we had about 80 men to hold off an attack launched by a regiment. The 2nd Plt. was even worse off. Part of the 1st Plt. was covering the Neubourg Mill and the wall surrounding it. The rest was deployed along the edge of the village right of the small wood in which the 3rd Plt. area started. The Plt. and the left section of HMGs were having a field day. Despite the flat terrain, the Germans kept coming. Here, the 60MM. mortars really did a fine job.

After the wires went out, Lt. Woelfer, his runners, and radiomen moved out on the MLR with an SCR 300 radio, but the antenna was shot off, making it useless. At Neubourg, an armored car was commandeered and under the leadership of Lt. Woelfer, they headed toward the 2nd platoon, after checking out the 3rd platoon. They ran into Lt. Yanke's roadblock. Lt. Yanke pointed out several enemy they had stopped, which promised a hot reception ahead. The M-8 and its crew now proceeded into enemy held territory. A crew of 7 Krauts and a light machine gun were quickly taken care of, when another machine gun opened up. The position was outflanked and completely wiped out. Moving down the road the M-8 had no more ammo and two flat tires. A withdrawal then took place. That night the Kraut artillery was extremely heavy inflicting many casualties in and around the 1st platoon C.P. Our reply was negligible.

Another M-8 armored car was procured and prepared to move out. As they approached the roadblock set up by Lt. Yanke, they encountered an L Co. patrol led by Captain Bugno, Bn. Exec. Lt. Woelfer was instructed to report back to the Bn. C.O., and Capt. Bugno took over the M-8. He set out to drive the infiltrating Krauts out of the area. Here, PFC's Owen and Platamone accounted for many dead. The patrol had to pull back under intense opposition. About this time, a tree burst killed Capt. Bugno and three L Co. men.

Back at the Co. C.P., things were rough. It was filled with fatigued and half frozen men. The next morning, things got a little more quiet, but the Krauts had not quit. Sixty-eight were flushed out of a house in Neubourg. The afternoon of 26 January, the 3rd Bn. of the 314th Infantry came up to help us out, and started to hack at the pocket the Krauts had made in the Ohlungen Forest. Casualties were heavy, and many prisoners were taken. We covered the left flank, which was on the side of the enemy, as the attack

moved along the MLR and the road behind it. The men from the 79th wondered how we had managed to hang on as much as we had. The next evening, we were relieved by elements of the 101st Airborne. The 1,900 yards once defended by K Co. was now covered by three different companies.

Earlier in the day, while out looking for the missing men, Lt. Woelfer and Lt. Yanke hit an anti-tank mine with their jeep. Lt. Yanke, later, died of wounds received, and Lt. Woelfer was wounded. When the company finally assembled, and marched out of that now silent and eerie valley of death, 3 officers and 78 men remained from the 5 officers and 120 men who had gone into the line. The men were dead tired, hungry and numb with cold. Three days of continuous shelling and the screaming terror of night fighting in the deep snow, against overwhelming odds could be seen on their faces. Within, they were proud, having done a superb job, but many an eye was misty and many lips mumbled prayers of thanks, as they thought of their many buddies that were left behind.

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## Last Full Measure

Editor's Note: In the Battle of Ohlungen Forest, there were many examples of gallantry and outstanding leadership. However, the example set by Lt. Otto Yanke is one that would be almost impossible to emulate. Tragically, Lt. Yanke was killed when the jeep he rode in struck a mine. Typically he was, in the company of Lt. Woelfer, searching for survivors. For his actions at Ohlungen Lt. Yanke received a D.S.C. Again, your editor feels he definitely should have been given the Congressional Medal.

Lt. Otto Yanke commanded an M Co., 222nd Inf., machine gun platoon, supporting K Co. His men said, "He meant survival to us." He managed to keep control of his platoon throughout the battle, moving constantly, from gun crew to gun crew, bringing order and news, and just talking to his men. He made them understand that they were not alone; they were a part of his team that must be the backbone of this defensive line; and, truly, those heavy machine guns spoke, all night, with an authority that belied the thinness of the line.

Yanke kept the easternmost gun of his platoon in position, even when the riflemen to its right had been overrun. To cover the flank, exposed by the breakthrough, he moved one gun, manned by Sgt. Roger Peck, from the edge of the woods, down to the main road. There, it could fire down that road, and stopped the German advance, from the east, on Neubourg. Peck's gun became the blocking position against the Panzer-Grenadiers moving to envelop Neubourg.



## New Revelations on "The Strasbourg Affair"

By Dick Engler - Co. F, 222nd Inf.

For lo these many years, the Alsace phase of the German winter counteroffensive in 1944-45 has been treated by historians mainly through descriptions of "The Strasbourg Affair" — the controversy between Eisenhower and deGaulle over the abandonment or defense of Strasbourg in that bitter winter that brought the icy gusts of Nordwind to Alsace, France. Most of the descriptions rely on the memoirs of the prestigious participants; deGaulle, Eisenhower, and Churchill. Recently, an American military historian has fleshed out many more details on the situation surrounding that controversy and the conflicting policies and positions involved.

Franklin Gurley, a veteran of the 100th Division of the U.S. 7th Army in World War II, lives today in Switzerland, and has been working on a biography of Gen. Jacob Devers for a number of years. He has many "French connections." Recently, he shared with me a paper he had prepared for a French military history journal which was devoting an issue to the Allied advance in 1944-45 from the Riviera Beaches to the Rhine. Frank's contribution to this special issue was an article about the defense of Strasbourg that winter — hence, a treatment of the central strategic and political issues surrounding Nordwind. His access to Gen. Dever's diary and to many other letters and memoranda of the 6th Army Group commander, as well as his use of French historical sources, makes for the most complete and enlightening coverage of the "Strasbourg Affair" that exists, to my knowledge, in the literature on World War II. I have attempted to pull together, for the Reveille, some of the most salient revelations from Frank Gurley's article: Policy versus Strategy: The Defense of Strasbourg in December 1944" (in *Guerres Moniales Et Conflits Contemporains*, Avril, 1992.)

To most veterans, of Task Force Linden, who later read, postwar, about "The Strasbourg Affair," their recollections are of the order: "Oh yeh, that must have been the night we hiked off into the countryside in a snowstorm, then were trucked back into Strasbourg on Ducks a day or so later." But others, perhaps never having heard about the temporary evacuation of Strasbourg and its environs and the high-level machinations behind it, still speculate about the reasons for the confusing happenings — the marches and countermarches — of those days that immediately preceded our baptisms of fire around Gamsheim. Some have wondered through the years whether our movements were deliberately designed to fool the enemy.

As Frank Gurley makes clear, there was confusion in abundance surrounding the

decisions and actions on the defense and abandonment of the Strasbourg area during those years, long ago. But little of it had to do with efforts to deceive the Germans. Mostly, it revolved around the low status assigned Gen. Devers' 6th Army Group in SHAEF's plans for winning the war in Europe, the fact that the French 1st Army was a part of that 6th Army Group (along with the U.S. 7th Army), and the circumstance that the sector covered by Devers' Army Group encompassed, in the eyes of the French, some of the most "sacred soil" in France.

Gurley corroborates what many other historians have deduced regarding Eisenhower's treatment of Devers, and the Supreme Commander's views on the role of 6th Army Group in the campaigns to achieve the final victory. Devers was not one of the trusted inner circle of generals around Eisenhower. (Gen. Bradley is quoted, in *A General's Life*, as stating that he — Bradley — was #1 in Eisenhower's ranking of his generals, while Ike ranked Devers #24.) Also, Devers 6th Army Group was not to be given a major role in the breakout to and across the Rhine, leading to the final annihilation of Hitler's armies in the West. Thus, in spite of the fact that Devers' Army Group made the most spectacular successes in the Allied offensive efforts in November, actually reaching the Rhine at Strasbourg, it was then ordered to suspend all cross-Rhine plans and take on the mission of covering the southern flank of the main effort to be conducted by the star players to the north.

Gurley describes the high level meeting of commanders, soon after 7th Army forces, spearheaded by Gen. Jacques Leclerc's 2nd (French) Armored Division, dashed through the Saverne Gap and liberated Strasbourg on Nov. 23 (a feat which caused Gen. Patton to write to his wife that Devers' forces had "made a monkey out of me"). He writes: "As Devers and 7th Army commander, General Alexander Patch, prepared to mount a Rhine-crossing operation, Generals Eisenhower and Bradley hurried to Devers' Headquarters, in Vittel, to review the situation. Before the discussion had even begun, Eisenhower declared that 7th Army, instead of crossing the Rhine, would, instead, turn its forces northward and advance across Alsace-Lorraine to provide right flank support for General Patton's frustratingly slow advance toward Saarbruecken. Gen. Devers argued that a better approach would be to send 7th Army across the Rhine, and to bring 3rd Army into Alsace for a northward move along the Rhine's west bank parallel to 7th Army's northward thrust on the far bank. Eisenhower refused to even consider this proposal.

General Patch and his 7th Army staff considered the cancellation of their Rhine crossing" virtually, a betrayal, since that was what their formal orders had cited as

their objective and mission." Nevertheless, pushing vigorously along the prescribed northward axis of advance, 7th Army moved over the Rhine plain, and by mid-December had crossed the German border to penetrate the Siegfried Line between Wissembourg and Lauterbourg. It was at this juncture, on December 16, that the German surprise offensive against Bradley's 1st Army, in the Ardennes region, was launched.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## Three Cheers for the Cooks

John McGovern - Co. B - 232nd Inf.

In many outfits, the cooks were famed only for eating steaks and smoking Lucky Strikes. Not so in Co. "B," 232nd Inf.

Our weapons platoon took many of the battalion rifle platoons through the same field exercises just before we left Camp Gruber. I had built a nest at the edge of a woods when we repeated the same exercise many times, so I would be comfortable while firing my machine gun between the attacking tanks. One day as I approached my "nest" from the top of a small rise in the woods, I found it occupied by a man firing a BAR. I sat down about fifty feet above him and waited for him to get up and follow the tanks. The engineers were throwing one-half pound blocks of TNT in front of us to simulate artillery, when one of the blocks struck a tree and landed between the BAR man's legs. He could not hear the warning shouts, and the explosion exposed his right femur from his knee to his hip.

Harry Bleil, using the cool competence that later won him a Silver Star and field commission, somehow was able to install a tourniquet at his hip and slow the flow of blood. We then learned that the injured man was a cook who was bored and asked for the BAR duty. We left Camp Gruber before hearing the outcome of his injury.

Later, when we performed the tests for the Expert Infantry Badge, the cooks were also involved. The crucial test was the requirement to walk and double time four miles in fifty minutes. When the cooks and some of the other out-of-shape men began to straggle after a couple of miles, an appeal to their company spirit brought them back to the column and also close to apoplexy. This great effort enabled our company to win the division expert infantry competition.

In our first serious combat in Stattmatten, the Germans infiltrated most of the town, and our company was cut into a dozen or more pieces. During the night fighting, one of the cooks rounded a corner and was challenged with the password. He had laryngitis and may have had difficulty speaking, or he may have forgotten the response. He is still buried at St. Avold.

Two weeks later in Sessenheim, the company was again under heavy attack. The kitchen was struck by mortar and/or

(Continued on page 8)





John McGovern

## Letter from the Chairman

Another spring has come after a bleak winter of once again losing too many good Rainbow people. Since we are so widely separated throughout and beyond this country, we usually cannot be present in person to pay last respects at the side of a lost buddy. We grieve and we remember, but all of us know how the cards are stacked (in an infantry division and now, after age 65). It is the primary goal of our Memorial Foundation to perpetuate the collective (and individual) memory of Rainbow sacrifices and accomplishments long after the last one of us is gone. As a combat veteran of the Korean War remarked, "You are not dead until you are forgotten." It is our plan that the men of our division and what they stood for and against will never be forgotten.

Our part in this remembrance program is to contribute to the Memorial Foundation to support its many projects. The endowment, scholarship and the Navarin Farm plaque accounts all need additional funds, and of course, the Archives always need your documents, pictures and memorabilia. If, instead of cash, you wish to make a deferred bequest in your will or sign over insurance proceeds (such as your G.I. insurance) to the Foundation, please notify us and we will help with the paper work if so requested. Past Foundation and RDVA President Ted Johnson has agreed to chair our fund raising committee. You will hear from him in the future.

As a result of plaque dedication ceremonies last May at Dachau, we have been in contact with a number of former inmates of the concentration camp, including those from England, France, Belgium, the Ukraine, and the Netherlands. The Dutch survivors have invited President Ivan Wallace, Ted Johnson, who delivered our address at Dachau, and me to attend their own Dachau Reunion ceremony in Rotterdam on April 24, 1993. We and our wives will represent Rainbow at their Reunion, then proceed to Alsace for a revisit of Task Force Linden battlefields with Lise Pommois, following which we will visit Navarin Farm for a small ceremony at General Gouraud's tomb where our Rainbow plaque will have been installed. Other than paying for the crafting and installation of the Navarin Farm plaque and possible floral tributes, no Foundation or RDVA funds are to be used in connection with this trip.

For the period July 1, 1992 through February 15, 1993, more than \$20,000 has been received by the Foundation, excluding revenue from sales of WINTER STORM and merchandise. Most of the contributions were in memory of lost Rainbow friends and family members and in amounts up to \$200 each. However, several gifts were well in excess of \$1,000. We hope that this trend toward larger contributions continues. Remember, your gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible.

In Rainbow,  
Dee R. Eberhart

## Armed Forces History Month

The 28th Division Heritage Association is asking veterans organizations and their members to join them in having the Federal Government and the 50 States declare the month of May each year UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES HISTORY MONTH, and to actively support educational programs publicly and within the public and parochial school systems.

They have already received certificates of support from the Pennsylvania Departments of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the National Guard Association.

## Future Issues

As we all know, there is much about our regimental histories that have never been properly reported. Many, in one regiment, heard little or nothing of the other regiment. Your editor has been trying to make up for this in recent Reveille articles. Many were unaware of the sacrifices of the 1st Bn., 232nd Infantry at Sessenheim. We have tried to repair this gap in our history. Now it is our intention to bring out the part played by the 3rd Bn., 232nd Infantry in the gallant defense of the Northern wing. Look for this in future issues.



L to R: Dachau survivor David Silver, his wife Helen (an Auschwitz survivor), and PNP and Memorial Chairman Dee Eberhart.

## Son of Joyce Kilmer

Your editor was delighted to recently hear from the son of Joyce Kilmer in thanks for the article in the January Reveille about his father. His name is Kenton Kilmer, 411 Windover Ave. NW, Vienna, VA 22180-4232; Kenton is an Associate member and would appreciate hearing from Rainbowers. He mentions a book by Albert M. Ettinger called "A Doughboy With the Fighting 69th." If anyone knows the publisher or if the book is available, please pass this information on. Kenton has, himself, written a book of his childhood memories of his father. It is to be published this year, under the auspices of the Joyce Kilmer Centennial Commission. 1993 is the eightieth year since the writing and publication of "Trees" and the seventy-fifth since Sgt. Kilmer's death in battle. Appended to Kenton's writing is the collection of Joyce's letters to his mother, first published in her book, *Memories of Sergeant Joyce Kilmer*.

## Three Cheers for the Cooks (Continued from page 7)

artillery fire. One of the first things an attacking platoon from "A" Company saw when they entered Sessenheim was the scattered pots and pans still containing food.

I believe that several cooks were captured in Sessenheim, and I was also, so I don't know how the kitchen staff fared the rest of the war.



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