



Vol. LXXII

September, 1993

No. 1

## Salt Lake City Tops!!



World War I veterans Paul Jarrett, 98, top, and Harry Hunter, 96, visit at reunion in Salt Lake.

Chairpersons Roy and Gemma Bird and their committee (including Jane and Glenn Bird), did a wonderful job putting on the Salt Lake Reunion. A total of 828 persons attend-

ed this very efficient, well run affair. Things went like clockwork from beginning to end. Business affairs were handled speedily, in many cases. We were visited by former Dachau Survivors, Bill Lowenberg and David Silver. Also Dagny Loe, the Norwegian lady, searching for her liberators, was reunited with Chester Krawcykowski, who led this action. (See January Reveille). Tours to Temple Square and the Copper Mines were enjoyed by many, including the Trolley car rides.

Memorial Services were conducted at the Assembly Hall in Temple Square. Chaplain Roy Willemssen and PNP Fr. Robert Weiss conducted services in their usual fine manner. Old buddy, PNP Ted Johnson gave a moving rendition of the "Champagne Hour." As usual, he captivated all with "Rouge Bouquet" and excerpts from "Flanders Field." Vocal soloist, George Dyer and accompanist, Wanda Mitchell, gave outstanding renditions of "God Bless America" and "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor." Lamont Anders played "Taps" beautifully, to end the ceremony.

Highlights of the evening were: the appearance of Dagny Loe and the citation of outgoing President Jack Hildreth and Auxiliary President Peggy Fleming for their sterling performances in their separate positions of trust. Auxiliary President, Beverly Koehler and President Romeo Fagiolo and their respective spouses, Gilbert and Mildred, were introduced. Bev and Romeo addressed the membership. Notables present were Pres. Elect John and Rosemary McGovern, the widow of General Moffett, Leah, Lise Pommois and the author of "Final Crisis," Dick Engler. A most pleasant and satisfying conclusion to a wonderful reunion was then reached.



## Living PnP's

Theodore A. Johnson	1964-1965
George L. Irvin	1968-1969
Charles F. Marshall	1971-1972
Herbert E. Klinedinst	1972-1973
Ivan Wallace, Jr.	1977-1978
Hugo E. Grimm	1978-1979
Vassil J. "Rube" Evanoff	1982-1983
Philip F. Trout	1983-1984
John D. Carr	1984-1985
Col. Carlyle P. Woelfer	1985-1986
Frederick W. Goldsmith	1986-1987
Dee R. Eberhart	1987-1988
John M. Keyser	1988-1989
Dolian Harris	1989-1990
Don Segel	1990-1991
Rev. Robt. F. Weiss	1991-1992
Jack R. Hildreth	1992-1993

## President's Report



My everlasting gratitude to everyone for allowing me to serve as your President of this great Rainbow Division Association. My term is the pinnacle of my many years as a member of this unique Association we reverently call "Rainbow." This year let us be ever mindful of our great heritage and look forward to the future together in "Rainbowship."

We have passed another milestone of Rainbow history. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of WW I and the 50th year for WW II. We have changed the guard many times, but we still carry the Rainbow high through the loyalty of Rainbow men on the battlefield of two wars, and again in Rainbowship in the years of peace. Let all of us continue to carry that Rainbow banner even higher in 1993-1994.

Your officers not only have the honor and opportunity, but also an obligation to strengthen Rainbow comradeship which made possible the achievements on the battlefield, and continue to remember and honor our departed comrades for their illustrious deeds.

Non-paying Rainbowers are "casualties." A casualty was characterized as a soldier unable to perform his duties. To you and me, this caused the thinning of MLR, increased the burden, making us vulnerable to possible failure. Above all, it meant the loss of a comrade whom we had learned to know well in the adversity of combat. Almost 50 years later, under different circumstances and interests, this word "casualty" has the same direct meaning. It is thinning the ranks, increasing the task for survival and again increasing the burden of perpetuating our great Association. None of us can rest on our apathy and let someone else recruit. Increasing membership is everyone's duty, an opportunity for all Rainbowers to be involved in keeping that Rainbow flag flying.

We have available to us today sophisticated technology to help locate and augment our roster and return the lost comrades

(Continued on Page 2)



## THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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

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Douglas MacArthur (Dec)  
Permanent Honorary Presidents:  
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General Henri Gouraud (Dec)  
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16916 George Franklyn Drive

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3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511

CHAPLAIN: Rev. Norman Forde

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ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Robt. F. Weiss, S.J., 4511 West Pine Blvd.

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MEMORIAL OFFICER: Dolian Harris

412 S. Morgan, Roxboro, NC 27573

HISTORIAN: Donald L. Segel

650 Jacon Way, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Theodore A. Johnson

116 Merryhill Lane, Ely, IA 52227

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Vincent Pizzi

3401 Marlborough Ct., College Park, MD 20740

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Charles Paine, 66 Canfield Ave.

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1994 REUNION CHAIRMAN:

William E. Warde, 3900 Ashridge Dr.,

Louisville, KY 40241-1605

LIAISON OFFICER: Donald R. Samolinski

3739 Carl St., Wausau, WI 54401

ARCHIVES: J. William Keithan, Jr.

2226 Eastmont Way West, Seattle, WA 98199

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Carlyle P. Woelfer

339 West View Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303

SERVICE OFFICER: Donald E. Downard

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

PHOTOGRAPHER: William E. Clayton

38195 Rolling Hills Dr., Tucson, AZ 85737-1017

REVEILLE CHAIRMAN:

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

Three Oaks, MI 49128

EDITOR RAINBOW REVEILLE:

Kenneth H. Carpenter

7618 First St., Pasadena, MD 21122-3402

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## President's Report

(Continued from Page 1)

back to duty. Many persons have done this independently. I am of the opinion that coordination should be our first objective in order to achieve more efficient results. We have therefore broadened the Membership Chairmen's sphere of responsibility to accomplish this task.

Mildred and I look forward to this year, visiting with you and doing whatever we can to enhance our great Association, ever mindful of the responsibilities of the office you have entrusted to me, and my personal goal is to add another great year for the posterity of Rainbow.

In Rainbow  
Romeo

## John Carr Award Winner

The winner of the Jon Carr Life Membership award was Walter Neef - Co. K, 232nd Inf.

## Chaplain's Prayer

O Eternal God, in whose will is our peace, we commend unto thee the needs of the world:

where there is hatred, give love;  
where there is injury give pardon;  
where there is doubt give faith;  
where there is despair give hope;  
where there is darkness give light;  
where there is sadness give joy;  
for Thy mercy and truth's sake.

Amen.

Chaplain Norman P. Forde

Another Great Loss:  
Col. Jim Tanner

As we were going to press, we learned of the sudden passing of Colonel James Tanner, a great patriot and a great Rainbower. Jim served as Adjutant General in the Rainbow. He also served in the Korean War, and kept us aware of the actions of former Rainbowers in this conflict. Col. Tanner represented Rainbow in a Belgian ceremony, in 1959, pertaining to Rainbow liberation of Dachau. In Brussels, he received the Livre D'Or (Golden Book) on behalf of the RDVA and the Secretary of the Army. He retired in 1968 as Adjutant General of the 1st Army. He was a strong recruiter for Rainbow and an active member of the D.C. Chapter. Recently, he helped, immensely, in providing apparently lost information on Rainbow activities. He is survived by his loving wife, Dorli. We will miss him greatly.

## Over the Rainbow



Sadly, we must report the passing of PNP Garnett "Buck" Jones. Buck fought a losing battle to esophagus cancer and succumbed on May 18, 1993. Buck knew only Rainbow in his military career. He went overseas with Task Force Linden and stayed through it all. He was a "Buck" Sgt. in a heavy machine gun section, a proud member of Co. H, 232nd Infantry, a member of your editor's company and a dear personal friend.

Buck served the Association loyally as Sergeant at Arms for several National Presidents. His most notable achievement was as Reunion Chairman for the glorious National Reunion in 1977, at Springfield, Illinois. What an outing!!

Final services for Buck, on the 20th, were attended by PNP Jack Keyser and PNP Ted and Shirley Johnson. Graveside services were conducted by the Legion Honor Guard. Buck is survived by his dear wife Jane, three sons — Duane, Dale, and Darrell, one daughter, Donna, and five grandchildren. We, the Association, have lost a stalwart, loyal and gallant gentleman. Your buddies of Co. H salute you and wish you Godspeed, Buck.

## Future Articles

We have received many fine articles which will be of great interest to all Rainbowers. Look for the following, in the future:

Tragic Interlude (M Co/232nd Infantry)  
Himmeler's Bridgehead and Task Force Linden's Most Extended Co. — G/232nd Inf.  
Changing of the Guard (A group of WW1 Veteran's Trek to 1943 Reunion)  
Withdrawal In Alsace, January 20-21, 1945  
Hold At All Costs — Co. A/232nd Infantry  
Drusenheim Nightmare (Tragic Story of 2nd Bn/314th Inf.)  
Trials of the Medical Corps/2nd Bn. 117th Engineers WW1)  
Unheralded Valor (Co. M/222nd Inf.)  
The Fighting 69th in McAllen 1916  
Hell at Hatten — A Co./242nd Inf.  
Emotional Trip Back in Time: Holocaust Memorial Dedication  
Blue 5, the Man Who Saved the Regiment (Story of Capt. Bugno, 2nd Bn/222nd Inf.)



## National Reunion Louisville July 13-16, 1994



Louisville will be your host city for the 75th Annual Reunion WW1 and the 50th Annual Reunion WW2 on July 13-16, 1994. Picture yourself in Louisville, KY where the past, the present, and the future blend for a unique personality and an atmosphere which visitors of all ages and background can enjoy. As the gateway to America's first westward expansion, Louisville has captured a rich American heritage that is reflected in a unique blend of Southern charm and Northern sophistication. Please preregister and make hotel reservations early. The forms are available from Reunion Chairman William E. Warde, 3900 Ashridge Dr., Louisville, KY, 40241-1605, Tel. (502) 425-5958. The registration fee is \$40. Mail to 1994 RDVA REUNION, P.O. Box 22991, Louisville, KY 40252-0991.

The reunion will be held at: THE GALT HOUSE WEST, 140 N. 4th St. at River, Louisville, KY 40202-9210, Tel. 1(800) 626-1814 or (502) 589-5200. Hotel rates are subject to 10.25% taxes, and the deadline for reservations is 6/11/94. Rates will be extended 3 days prior to and after the official convention dates, based on availability. Rates are as follows: 2 Dble. Beds: 1-2 persons (\$64/night); 3-4 persons (\$74/night) King Bed 1-2 persons (\$64/night); River Suites, Parlor, 1Br-2 Beds (\$100/night). Be sure to advise the hotel if handicapped facilities are required.

You will need to deal directly with the hotel to make reservations for both individual and hospitality rooms. Be sure they know you are with the Rainbow Div. Reunion.

There are 900 sleeping rooms in the Galt House Tower-West. There is free garage parking to overnight guests including van and RVs. RV hookups are accessible at KOA as close as two miles from the hotel. There is a large variety of excellent restaurants nearby, but the Galt House has three lounges and three restaurants itself, including a revolving rooftop restaurant. Super savers should compare Senior Discount air fares with those made through American Airlines by calling 1(800) 368-1995. Request

-(Star) #S0174N4. You are supposed to receive the lowest rate plus 5%. The standard taxi fare from the airport to the Galt House is \$13 plus gratuity or Airport Van service at \$5.50/person.

We have arranged some exciting tours for your pleasure: **Fort Knox Tour** - Wed. July 13, 1994, 11:30-5:30 p.m. (Tour #1A); Friday, July 15, 1994 - 11:30-5:30 p.m. (Tour #1B) The 42nd Rainbow Division will celebrate its reunion with a guided tour of Fort Knox Post, a visit to the Patton Museum and lunch at the Armor Inn/NCO Club. Price: \$23/person.

**Kentucky Derby Museum Tour:** Tour #2A - Wed. July 13, 1994 - 11:00-4:00 p.m. Tour #2B - Fri. July 15, 1994 - 11:00-4:00 p.m. Visit the Kentucky Derby Museum; Churchill Downs; stop at Louisville Stoneware. Also included is lunch at Mastersons. Price - \$24/person.

**Bats and Boats Tour:** Tour #3 - Thursday, July 14, 1994 - 8:30-11:30 a.m. - Tour Hillerich & Bradsby Bat Factory where Louisville Slugger bats are produced. Also, visit the Howard Steamboat Museum. Price \$14/person.

**Shopping Extravaganza:** Thursday, July 14, 1994 - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A visit to Oxmoor Mall and Lazaurus Dept. Store. A huge food court provides many options for lunch on your own. Other stores are: Limited, Paul Harris, Victoria's Secret and Brooks Brothers. Price \$10/person.

To register mail check or money order to VISITOURS, INC., 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 100, Louisville, KY 40218, 502/456-2774. Forms must be returned by June 15, 1994. Call for a form if you do not have one. Explain you want a 42nd Rainbow Division form.

## East Coast Reunion

71 East Coast Rainbowners gathered at the Holiday Inn, Morgantown, PA on May 12-13, 1993 for the 5th Annual Reunion. As usual, our hosts, PNP Phil and PNAP Tiny Trout, put on an affair that was one of the best yet. Anything these great Rainbowners put on is always of top-notch quality, and this ranked with the best. An Amish tour and shopping at the outlets were highlights, and the hospitality suite was superb.

At the banquet, the principal speaker was Brig. General George Spahler, who gave a talk on "The Future of the Military." Gen. Spahl is a retiree of the U.S. Air Force. National President-Elect Romeo Fagiolo and his lovely wife, Mildred, were among the notables present. Romeo gave a talk on the Holocaust Ceremonies in Washington, D.C. A delicious meal followed and then, as usual, Phil and Tiny produced more pleasure — an appearance of the comedy-musical team of Angel and Angelo. These people have entertained throughout the country, and they certainly performed beyond all expectation. A happy band of Rainbowners departed, looking forward to next year.

## Mid-Year Reunion Charleston, South Carolina February 24-25-26, 1994

The Mid-Year Reunion will be held at the Sheraton Charleston Hotel, 170 Lockwood Drive, Charleston, S.C. 29403. Double room rate of \$57 will be honored from February 30 to March 3, 1994 for those desiring to extend their stay. Direct reservations can be made to the hotel by using their toll free number 1-800-968-3569. Registration fee is \$40. Advance payment should be sent to Dorothy Sopalsky, 613 Semaht Street, Charleston, S.C. 29412, checks payable to South Carolina Chapter, RDVA. Events scheduled are: Thursday the 24th, Early Bird, Friday the 25th, Memorial Service and reviewing the retreat parade at The Citadel, and Saturday the 26th the Banquet. You can discover historic Charleston by making tour arrangements in the lobby of the hotel.

## General Information Re: Memorial File: Obituaries, Etc.

The National Secretary is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the Memorial File and recording the names and units of deceased Rainbowners. A Memorial File form is to be filled out by the Chapter Secretary each time a Rainbowner in his chapter passes away. The Rainbowner's widow is eligible to continue receiving the Reveille, but she must notify the National Secretary that she wishes to do so. At the bottom of the Memorial File is written: "Send original to National Secretary. Copies to National Chaplain, Editor of State or Chapter newsletter, and for your own file. We would point out that while a Rainbowner is still living, he should inform his wife that if she survives him, she should notify his chapter secretary. Also, tell her that she has to request that she continue to receive the Reveille.

If you have furnished information on the death and accomplishments of a deceased Rainbow veteran, and wonder why such obituaries have not been published, the available space precludes such detailed articles, and we regret our inability to devote more space other than including them in the annual memorial file. Other obituaries reach our desk, containing information that the deceased served in the 42nd, but no record can be found of their participation in RDVA activities.

## Birmingham Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day will be celebrated in Birmingham, Alabama on November 11-12, 1993. For information as to reservations and the rates contact Leon Praytor, 206 Raimund Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020 Tel. 205-425-7353 or Gary Walker, 250 Walker Rd., Birmingham, AL 35214 Tel. 205-798-1542.



## National Auxiliary RDVA Officers 1993-1994

The following is the list of officers for 1993-94.

**Honorary President**  
Peggy Fleming  
2759 Pulaski Hwy.  
Columbia, TN 38401

**President**  
Beverly J. Koehler  
1269 E. Manhattan Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
602-838-2816

**First Vice-President**  
Virginia Duhacsek  
17034 Old Richard Rd.  
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513 Westwood Dr.  
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513 Westwood Dr.  
Richardson, TX 75080

**National Recording Secretary**  
Frances Marshall  
2005 N. Emerson Ave.  
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**National Treasurer**  
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2501 Marie Dr.  
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513 Mountain View Ave.  
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Nan Klinedinst  
P.O. Box 206  
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**National Welfare Chairman**  
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1545 Dodd Road  
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Doris Hildreth  
15115 Stone Hedge Cliffs Road  
Northport, AL 35476

**National Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Mae Coyle  
1166 Bay Dr.  
Tawas City, MI 48763

**National Auxiliary  
Bulletin-Editor**  
Juanita Kunkel  
809 Biltmore-Rear  
Toronto, OH 43964

**Gold Star Mothers Chairwoman**  
Oriana Grimm  
P.O. Box 1200  
Lake Sherwood, MO 63357

**Patriotic Relations**  
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Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Memorial Fund Chairwoman**  
Pearl Emlet  
P.O. Box 15  
Wrightsville, PA 17368

**Reunion Chairwoman**  
Christine Ledford  
7908 Sherrylyne Circle  
Louisville, KY 40228

## President-Elect

We are pleased to report that John McGovern will be the President-Elect for 1994-95. John served with B Co., 232nd Inf. He resides with his wife, Rosemary at 7052 Apple Creek Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560, Tel. 419-882-5697.

## Attendance Trophies

Charles Paine announced that the Queen of Battles trophy for largest attendance was won by Co. B, 232nd Inf., and the trophy for the largest percentage of improvement went to Co. K, 222nd Inf.

## Executive Committeemen Representing States 1993-1994

AL	Dallas W. Reed
AZ	John W. Stebbins
AR	Mac M. Sanders
CA	William E. Clayton
CO	Sidney Shafner
CT	Richard L. Faulkner
DC	Richard Engler
FL	James J. Lynch
IL	Thomas J. Tynan
IN	George Juday
IA	Howard Parker
KS	Harvey Snapp
LA	Oather Wester
ME	Frank A. Peltier
MD	Harry C. Manger, Jr.
MA	William M. Twiss
MI	Arle E. Woods
MN	Howard A. Larson
MS	Thomas B. Conger
MO	Richard B. McCray
NE	Gerald Maple
NJ	Harold Melinek
NM	Robert A. Jecklin
NY	Donald D. Dart
NC	Charles V. O'Hagen, Sr.
OH	Richard D. Fix
OK	Arnold Owen
PA	Glenn L. Emlett
SC	Aaron Helms
TN	Mike Sopak
TX	Walter Duhacsek
UT	Roy H. Bird
VA	Wesley Johnson
WA	William Magrillo
WV	Marcus W. Crow
WI	Herman Bergeth

## Executive Committeemen At Large

AL	Leon Praytor
AZ	Gilbert Koehler
CA	Keith Wright
CO	Thomas R. Heaton
IN	Robert Russ
KY	Ben Wallace
OH	Cornelius Benyak
OR	Lloyd Soule
PA	Vincent P. Klos
WA	Vernon Smith

## Executive Committeemen Unit

222nd Inf.	John McDaniels
Co. M 222nd Inf.	Ernest H. Giles
Hq. 232nd Inf.	Robert J. Binau
1st Bn. 232nd Inf.	Leon A. Schenck
2nd Bn. 232nd Inf.	Charles P. Ferranti
3rd Bn. 232nd Inf.	Norman Usher
242nd Inf.	Ray Thome
Co. H-242nd Inf.	Wilson Lavoy
Artillery	Richard J. Tisch
42nd Quartermaster	Willard Nelson
122nd Med. Bn.	Marty Pawluk
Med Det. Sp. Trps	Forest H. Jones
132nd Sig. Co.	Robert H. Stoudemire
142nd Combat Engr.	John Vanicky
MP Pltn.	John G. Schneider
42nd Recon.	Bill Butts
Division Band	Phillip G. Arnone
742nd Ordnance	Henry Hajovsky

## Rainbow Scholarships

### \$500 Award

1. Jacqueline C. Maxwell  
Georgia College  
Education/Teaching
2. Tyler Refling  
Georgia Tech  
Chemical Engineering
3. Benjamin Russo  
Miami University of Ohio  
Political Science/Sociology
4. J. Matthew George  
Baylor University  
Psychology/Music
5. Michael Irvin  
California State  
Philosophy
6. Kelly Knott  
Sinclair Community College  
Allied Health Field
7. Joanne L. Hunsberger  
West Chester State  
Education

### \$300 Award

Awenda Lynn Rice 2971 Country Lane Travers City, MI 49684	Harold Lee Hawkins, Jr. Rt. 1, Box 362 Hoyt, Kansas 66440
Susan Triplett HCP 79, Box 175 Canvas, WV 26662	Richard R. Geilhausen Rt. 1, Box 657 Murphysboro, IL 62966
Clark Jarrett 1723 S. Amherst Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90025	Richard W. Schenck 849 Raleigh Dr. Toms River, NJ 08753
John Erody 744 S. Lake Bluff Dr. Gladstone, MI 49837	Robert J. Kostley 1044 Amherst St. White Oak, PA 15131
Jason Scheopner Rt. 2, Box 113 Goodland, Kansas 67735	Brian Sharpe 1 Pine Top Road Camden, SC 29020

Chairman Saul E. Lipnick

## Artillery Corner

Another great Reunion is history and the Division Artillery was well represented. 91 Artillerymen were registered. Our Hospitality Room was spacious and an active oasis from 9 a.m. till closing each day. Plenty of activity and camaraderie.

A total of 88 Artillerymen, wives and friends came through the portals. "C" Battery, 392nd had the largest turnout with 22 members, including 5 first-timers — just one shy of receiving the Reunion Award for the best turnout. The largest attendance was from the 392nd, followed by the 232nd, 542nd and the 402nd.

The cost of the Hospitality Room, snacks, soft drinks, coffee, tea and a Continental Breakfast each morning accounted for 66% of the total assessment. Alcoholic beverages, including wine, accounted for only one-third. Obviously the \$15 per head assessment to cover the above, was a real bargain.

Next year in Louisville, Kentucky, our Hospitality Room will be manned by Charley Ledford, "B" Battery, 232nd and he will be ably assisted by Gilbert (Gil) Koehler and Joe Karam, also of the 232nd.

John P. Igoue



## Revelations On "The Strasbourg Affair"

(Continued)  
By Dick Engler

In the view of the military historian Franklin Gurley, the celebrated British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery exerted greater pressure on Eisenhower than the "inner circle" at SHAEF in the decision during the winter crisis of 1944-45 calling for Jake Devers' 6th Army Group to pull back from the Rhine plain to the Vosges Mountains and abandon Strasbourg. For in the midst of the winter crisis, Ike had put Monty in charge of all U.S. forces on the north side of the Ardennes penetration; and on Christmas day "Montgomery formally advised the Supreme Commander that he could not hope to seize the initiative in the Ardennes unless Devers' forces were pulled back from Alsace-Lorraine and reserves taken from Devers for the northern battle." The next morning, "Eisenhower sent General Bull . . . to tell Devers to pull back immediately" and pull the 36th and 12th Armored Divisions back into SHAEF reserve for quick deployment to the Ardennes.

In the succeeding days Generals Devers and Patch made every effort to slow down the implementation of Ike's withdrawal directive. They devised a plan for a phased withdrawal in four steps across three intermediate defensive positions before arriving at the "Main Position" now prescribed by Eisenhower as the eastern edge of the Vosges. Devers planned to wait for specific orders for each move, and he passed on his instructions for a phased move, but only on orders, to Gen. de Lattre, Commander of the French 1st Army who interpreted these orders to mean "hold your present positions unless ordered specifically to move."

But at higher levels in the French command, apprehension — even alarm — was spreading. Gen. Juin, the French Chief of Staff for National Defense, alerted by French liaison officers at 7th Army, went to SHAEF at Versailles seeking clarification of the meaning of such matters as the moving of the 6th Army Group CP from Phalsbourg to Vittel. Unable to see Eisenhower, Juin received assurances from Bedell Smith that only "the study of a plan" for possible withdrawal in Alsace was being conducted. But Juin was not reassured, and reporting to de Gaulle in Paris he said he was not really certain, but there were symptoms that the Americans "are up to something."

In the historic events of those days, the following unfolding scenes (as revealed by Frank Gurley) may be of most interest to Rainbowers. As pawns of deliberations and decisions at high levels, we could not expect to know the reasons for some of our own actions. But even when we were physically on the scene where momentous actions were

occurring, some of us scarcely comprehended what we were seeing (let alone why we were doing what we were doing).

**Scene: Eisenhower's Headquarters on December 31 and January 1:** The Supreme Commander receives a report on December 31 from Gen. Devers. The 6th Army Group Commander informs Eisenhower that it has taken a long time to relieve Patton's 3rd Army and estimates it will take another two weeks before 7th Army can establish the new "Main Position" along the Vosges edge. Devers also mentions fresh intelligence estimates that an attack on 7th Army could come within 24 hours and urges he be allowed to keep the divisions ticketed for SHAEF reserve. Ike's temper rises as he reads Devers' report indicating not only that he hasn't been withdrawing from the Rhine plain but he wants his divisions back. In a phone conversation with Devers on January 1, Ike learns of the New Year's Eve attack in Alsace but still insists on the withdrawal and the extraction of the reserve divisions, although he agrees to let Devers use the designated divisions on an emergency basis. Devers now says he can move to the first intermediate position in the Maginot Line on the night of January 1 and can occupy the final Main Position by first light on January 5.

**Scene: Gen. Devers' Headquarters of 6th Army Group at Vittel, evening of January 1:** Gen. de Gaulle's special emissary, Gen. du Vigier, is being sent to Strasbourg to be the Military Governor there, but stops at Devers' headquarters in transit. Devers explains Ike's order of that day insisting that VI Corps begin to pull back in the Rhine plain. Devers explains that as a soldier he is obliged to carry out his orders although he has been carrying them out badly until now, since he purposely obtained SHAEF approval for a phased pullout in order to hold onto Strasbourg as long as possible. With tears in his eyes, Devers explains to du Vigier that his grandmother's family had emigrated from Strasbourg to Philadelphia and that he understands the French point of view in the present crisis.

Du Vigier decides to return to Paris to see de Gaulle and report on the conversation with Devers before proceeding to his duties in Strasbourg. Gen. Barr, Devers' Chief of Staff, is also going to Paris with instructions from Devers to "Sleep with Bedell [Smith] if you have to, but get that order [regarding Strasbourg] changed!"

**Scene: Gen. de Gaulle's office in Paris on January 2. Du Vigier and Juin report to the French leader on the American plan to abandon Strasbourg and Lower Alsace:** Gen. de Gaulle explodes: "This can't be serious!" He tells Gen. Juin (Chief of Staff of French National Defense) to go to SHAEF immediately and shake up Gen. Eisenhower: "You will explain to him that in my capacity as Head of the French Government, I have taken the decision to defend Alsace, that I of course wish to have

the French Army defend it with the aid of the Allied Armies, but that because of the importance of Strasbourg, I have decided to defend it, if necessary, with only the French forces." De Gaulle also tells Juin to schedule a meeting for him with the Supreme Commander for the following afternoon (January 3). Turning to Gen. Du Vigier (who is preparing to leave for Strasbourg), de Gaulle tells his special emissary: "You will defend her [Strasbourg] toward and against everyone, and if required, house by house. If necessary, we will make of her a French Stalingrad!"

**Scene: Strasbourg on January 2nd and 3rd:** Rumors reach Gen. Schwartz (Acting Military Governor) on January 2 that Gen. Patch has withdrawn his 7th Army CP from Saverne to Luneville. Schwartz sends one aide to Saverne to check on the CP move and another to Niederbronn to check on progress of the enemy drive down the Bitche-Niederbronn-Strasbourg highway, since rumors are sweeping through the population that American troops in the Low Vosges are fleeing down this national highway before enemy onslaughts. The aides return to report the CP gone from Saverne and that the Americans are now mining the highways and Maginot Line fortifications in the Rhine plain but that Niederbronn is still secure. That evening, Schwartz is shown a copy of the actual American plan for withdrawal. At a meeting of department heads and staff, there is much cursing of the Americans, their duplicity and lack of courage. But by morning on January 3, Gen. Schwartz has completed a plan for evacuation, concentrating on civil servants, staff members of the military region, and FFI and their families — all of whom will be most likely targets of the ruthless reprisals by the Nazis. He arranges for shuttle trains to accommodate 1,000 people starting at 3 p.m. on January 3. The American Gen. Winn (Strasbourg area commander) promises to transport 5,000 persons by rail on the nights of January 3rd and 4th and also offers to arrange U.S. Army cantonments and feeding systems for the refugees when they reach their destination in the Vosges.

News of the American withdrawal and the planned evacuation of officials spreads quickly in Strasbourg on January 3. Thousands begin to leave by foot and bicycle but are stopped at the gates of the city for lack of valid travel passes. Mayor Frey of Strasbourg sends an official telegram to de Gaulle at 10:30 a.m. on January 3: "Protest with the last energy against withdrawal measures planned by American command. Contest right (to) sacrifice totality population. Request defend Strasbourg at any price, request French troops."

**Scene: SHAEF at Versailles, afternoon of January 3. Meeting between Eisenhower and de Gaulle (with staff members — and Prime Minister Churchill — in attendance):** Ike presents his position, highlighting the

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## The Strasbourg Affair

(Continued from Page 5)

exposed position of VI Corps in the Rhine plain and the need for reserves in the Ardennes. De Gaulle counters that the situation cannot be treated simply as a war game exercise, that Alsace-Lorraine is an extremely sensitive issue with the French. A withdrawal without a fight, says de Gaulle, could lead to civil unrest and even the overthrow of the French Republic's Provisional Government. Ike rejoins that the French leader is being unduly influenced by "emotion," and declares his withdrawal order will stand. De Gaulle responds that this decision will lead to a "rupture" in the Allied command, for he will withdraw the French armed forces from SHAEF's command. When the words "rupture of command" are translated, Ike blows his cool and launches into a red-faced tirade, criticizing the French military contributions, and warning that if the French pull out of SHAEF, they will receive no further gasoline, ammunition or logistical support from the Americans. De Gaulle waits out this verbal onslaught, then states that if SHAEF deprives the French of war supplies, the French will deny their Allies the use of the French railway system and communications facilities. He concludes: "If you carry out the withdrawal, I will give the order to a French division to barricade itself inside Strasbourg and before the scandalized world you will be obliged to go in and free it."

Now the tone of the meeting quickly changes. Franklin Gurley writes: "Eisenhower quickly regained his temper as the seriousness of de Gaulle's threats claimed his attention. After the considerable personal embarrassment the enemy's Ardennes offensive had caused him, could he now afford to see the Allied command system split asunder by this single-minded French leader? Eisenhower resumed the dialogue with de Gaulle in a calmer tone and within a few minutes agreed to call Devers to rescind his withdrawal order . . . Agreement was reached to readjust the boundary between the 7th U.S. Army and the 1st French Army, whose zone would be expanded northward to include the defense of Strasbourg."

**Scene: Strasbourg, January 3rd and 4th:** At 2:45 p.m., January 3, word on the cancellation of the withdrawal order reaches Gen. Winn who immediately informs Gen. Schwartz who defers the departure of the first evacuation train scheduled to leave Strasbourg at 3 p.m. The train has been fully loaded, and finally at 3:30 p.m. the suspension of the departure is announced officially and the travelers are told to return to their homes. Meanwhile the general exodus from the city has developed (according to Gurley) "into a long cortege with 10,000 refugees proceeding on foot, interspersed with a few lucky persons mounted on bicycles."

On the morning of January 4th, a rifle company of the 222nd Infantry roars noisily in a convoy of "Ducks" back into Strasbourg — the city they had departed (for unknown reasons) on foot in a snowstorm only two nights before. The occupants of the Ducks are wondering at the animated greetings they are receiving from the normally impassive civilian population — the type of greetings usually reserved for "liberators." The drivers of the Ducks become confused in the winding city streets and stop, seeking bearings, in front of a large structure where the cheers from a balcony filled with scantily-clad mademoiselles reach a crescendo. For a moment the happy thought occurs to some that the company will be billeted for the night in a bordello. They can understand this enthusiasm at the male prowess abundantly represented in their company. But somehow this celebration seems to reflect something more. What are these people so happy about? Still wondering, they proceed to positions on a commercial island in the Rhine near the Kehl Bridge. And finally they get the word that the French will soon relieve them so that they can proceed to a new assignment far to the north of Strasbourg.

They are destined to make an unscheduled detour on that trip north, a detour to visit the little town of Kilstett near Gambenheim. For again, a cast of characters far removed from their world of marches and countermarches in snow and sleet and fog is determining their fate. And this time the cast is filled with German names, like Himmler, and Blaskowitz, and von dem Bach Zalewski — even Hitler.

## Ordeal of K Co.-232nd Inf.

American defenses in the entire Sessenheim sector were faltering. Disaster came quickly to American units thrown in to stem the tide. Some had had time to become familiar with the ground on which they fought; others were rushed in hurriedly from afar — to a freezing horror in front of an Alsatian village whose name many of the men had not even heard.

For the men in Co K, 232nd Inf., duty in front of the woodline facing Sessenheim Woods had been routine. One at a time men were allowed to go down to company headquarters in a big farmhouse. Here, they could write letters, clean up, and loaf around for an hour or two. Chow was two hot meals a day and one K ration.

On January 17, something had changed. The first and second platoons were ordered to move across the field to the front, advance as far as possible, then set up a defensive outpost. James Pettus moved out with the second platoon. They moved forward about 1,500 yards before running into heavy enemy fire. The G.I.s dug in along a dike, about 15 feet high, which faced a railroad track about 200 yards away. About six inches of the ground was frozen solid, and

it took several hours to break through the frozen crust. That night, a jeep came up with blankets, overcoats and sleeping bags.

Pettus was curious about a pillbox on the end of the dike. Exploring it, he found three men, including a company medic, warming around a fire in a stove. Enviously, Pettus went back to his cold, wet foxhole. At daylight, January 18, a terrible explosion shook the line along the dike. Hurrying over, he found two of the G.I.s with their heads blown off and blood everywhere. The medic was seriously hurt. The enemy must be near. But where? It was here that Pvt. Pennington, while walking on top of the dike, called down to Sgt. Usher "Do Krauts wear white suits and white helmets?" Usher yelled back "Hell yes, why?" Pennington said, "Well, I see a bunch of them over across the railroad tracks." Usher told him to get down before he got his head blown off.

The attack by the paratroopers did not come right away. About noon, the barrage began. Shells walked back and forth down the G.I. line along the dike, and small arms fire cracked overhead. Suddenly, there was silence. The K Co. G.I.s looked up out of their holes and saw hundreds of white helmeted Germans coming across the field in front of them. The paratroopers had discarded their white cloaks but their helmets were still white and made perfect targets. Pettus kept his BAR busy; "They fell like wheat being mowed, but hordes more kept coming, and finally, someone on our line broke and everybody followed. . . . I ran as fast as I could to the next dike which was a couple hundred yards. . . . I made it over the 20 foot high dike, and here our platoon reorganized and made another stand. Lt. Zilmer was mad as hell . . . he kept yelling at Sgt. Usher, 'Who told you to withdraw? Who told you to withdraw?' Usher explained that someone had broke and everyone followed. Zilmer wanted to know who it was but no one would say, and I doubt if anyone actually knew. Anyhow, we would have all been killed or captured if we had stayed there."

Soon, the paratroopers came on again and K Co. blazed away. Pettus had left his ammo belt hanging on a tree, and now had only one magazine for his BAR, and had to keep reloading that magazine. The platoon held until a threat from the left flank caused Zilmer to decide to pull back to the MLR they had left the day before. Artillery was falling heavily as they crossed the several hundred yards of open field. At the MLR, Pettus made directly for the large covered hole that he had formerly shared. He found it filled with ten G.I.s from the 103rd and 79th Divisions. Pettus started a new hole, but decided to crawl into his old dugout with the ten "reinforcements from nowhere." About that time the Krauts got their 88's zeroed in and shelled with everything they had. There were too many shells coming in to concentrate on shooting Krauts, so they

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## Rainbow Soldiers Liberate Norwegian Woman from Prison Camp

### ED NOTE

In the January issue of the Reveille, we printed the story of Dagny Loe and her search for her liberators, through the kind offices of Colonel Dave Pearson. It was Col. Pearson, who had been searching for three years. Finally, it was proven that the liberators were from I Co., 222nd Inf. Col. Pearson arranged for Dagny to meet Chester Krawcykowski and David Benedict, son of one of the other liberators, the late PFC Michael Benedict, at our Reunion in Salt Lake.

At about mid-morning on April 30, 1945, an impatient Capt. Chet Krawcykowski (I/222d Regt), along with PFC Lew Joslyn, his driver; PFC Michael Benedict, his orderly; and 2d Lt. Jim Bogart, one of his platoon leaders, pulled their jeep out of a convoy which had halted outside of Aichach on its way to Dachau. Their curiosity took them down a side road where they discovered a German prison unguarded except by the warden. They entered and found prisoners from all over Europe. Chet directed their release.

One of these prisoners was Dagny Loe, a 32-year old Norwegian mother of eight children. She had been arrested in her tiny fishing village on Norway's north cape after her husband's execution for Resistance activities. She had survived a series of German prisons and a mid-winter "death march" before arriving at the Aichach prison.

Three summers ago, she met an American army officer in Norway and asked if he could find her liberators. They turned out to be Chet Krawcykowski and his men from "I" Company, 222d.

Mrs. Loe has flown from Norway just to say thanks to Chet, his people and all the "Rainbow" soldiers for her freedom.

## Holocaust Survivor Proposes Tribute in the Holy Land

David Silver, a Dachau concentration camp survivor, addressed the Executive Committee in Salt Lake. Mr. Silver, an Emissary of the Israel Government Tourist Office, thanked us for his liberation. He then suggested that a proper tribute should take place in the Holy Land. PNP Jack Hildreth was appointed to coordinate specifics of the tribute and the tour.

Plans are being made for this trip to take place in late February or early March of 1994. The tour will include many historical, religious and military sites. A very special tribute, to be presented by the Israeli Government, will take place at YAD VASHEM, a memorial built in memory of the Holocaust victims. Brochures will be sent out within the next two months. We hope that you will be able to join your comrades in arms for this outstanding tribute. For further information contact the office of I.N.T. (Phyllis Mallace) at 1-800-962-2147.

## Queen of Battles Award Winner



19 members of Co. B, 232 Inf. are shown, along with F.O. Dick Steeno. There were 23 at Salt Lake.

## Anti/Tank Co., 222nd Infantry



In the above Salt Lake Reunion photo of an A/T reception, held by the Birney Haveys, are left to right; J.E. Gerber, Jim Hail, Mac McEndarfer, Birney Havey, Bob Swanson, and Don Schirmacher. Another Anti Tanker attending, but not shown is John Hinshaw. We are aiming for a better turnout at Louisville.

## Eternal Rainbow Youth?



Sam Jennings (Co. H, 232nd Infantry) was married on 6/19/93 to a beautiful 41-year-old Filipino lady, who became a U.S. citizen in 1991. She is the former Adela Ayque. The happy couple were married at Tlaquepaque Chapel, Sedona, AZ. Your editor thinks this is a good and sufficient reason why Sam was A.W.O.L. at Salt Lake. Welcome Adela Jennings to the Rainbow Family.

## Company L, 232nd Infantry

Your editor is in the process of fleshing out a series of articles concerning the 3rd BN., 232nd INF. and their activities from the period Jan. 5 to Jan. 27, 1945. We have articles from K Co., I Co., and M Co., and would like to hear something on L Co. If you have or know of someone who has such information, we would appreciate hearing of it. We know that L lost a platoon at Gambenheim, and that some elements were at Sessenheim but would like more.

## Riviera to the Rhine

The publication "Riviera to the Rhine," which includes actions of Task Force Linden, in the battle of Alsace, January-February, 1945 is now available. Order forms may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325. Inquiries and orders will be accepted by mail, telephone (202-783-3238), or Telex (#710-822-9413, ANSWERBACK USGPO WSH). The order desk is staffed from 8AM to 4PM, Monday thru Friday (Eastern Time). The price of the book is \$34.00, order no. S/N 008-029-00213-2. Visa and Master cards are acceptable. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

## VOBOB

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will hold its 12th Annual Reunion in Bismarck, North Dakota, September 15-18, 1993. Veterans of Task Force Linden are included. For further information, write to VOBOb, P.O. Box 11129-P, Arlington, Virginia 22210-2129.

## History PhD Candidate Seeks Help

Theresa L. Ast is researching for a dissertation book entitled "Confronting the Holocaust: The American Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps." She is seeking to interview via mail any veterans who saw the concentration camps within seven days of liberation. Write to: Theresa L. Ast, M.A., Emory University, Dept. of History, Atlanta, GA, 30322. Tel 404-973-3910.

## 2nd Bn./232nd Infantry Publication

The first 50 copies of "Action in the Strasbourg Area with Emphasis on the Role of 232/2nd Bn." have been printed and sent out. Ken Carpenter and Val Spiegel have arranged to underwrite another 50, so that if we get less than 50 orders, we will still be able to honor what we do get, and will have copies for the usual latecomers. Send \$7 (make out check to Val) to Val Spiegel, 5305 Wapakoneta Road, Bethesda, MD 20816. Tel. 301-229-2478. This is a fine manuscript which will be enjoyable to all Rainbowners.





**RAINBOW DIVISION  
VETERANS  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

WW 1  
WW 2

## Fund Drive Receives Huge Boost at Salt Lake

The goal to increase the Foundation Endowment, begun with the Rainbow Legacy Campaign, received a huge boost at the Reunion. Limited space precludes listing the donors, but the Foundation is pleased to report the following: Since its beginning in 1970, the Foundation has raised over \$234,000, and has funded over 80 scholarships, the Muskogee Memorial, and care and refurbishment of over 20 other National Monuments, here and abroad. It has published major historical works, including Rainbow History reprints; "Winter Storm;" Rainbow Tape; Patchbook, etc. Plaques have been placed at Dachau after 43 years, and at Navarin Farms after 75 years.

All of these, including the noteworthy representation of the honored guest at the dedication of the Holocaust Museum in D.C., have put Rainbow in the forefront at remembering our departed comrades and the causes for which they fought. The total Trust Funds remaining in the Foundation Treasury, on June 30, 1993 stood at \$149,000. An increase, in the year 1992-1993, of \$23,000 was realized. Magnificent support from Auxiliary units and many individual contributions resulted in over \$10,000 in cash donations at Salt Lake. Much of this was inspired by PNP Rube Evanoff. A detailed list of these contributions will be published in subsequent issues of the Reveille and will be carried on a regular basis. The challenge made by H/232nd Inf was accepted by I/242nd Inf. and G/242nd Inf. The results in pledges and donations, dating from July 1, 1990, is over \$60,000, I/242, the current leader, has accumulated \$33,000 of that.

At least three pledges have assigned their G.I. Insurance to the Fund. One member reports that the assignment is easy and quick. The Foundation encourages those, who are able to afford this, consider it as a way to fund our Endowment program. Every unit is being credited with any donations their individual member may have made since July 1, 1990. The Foundation is considering an inexpensive but significant way to acknowledge contributions. This will be spelled out in the next Reveille. The appearance, at the Reunion, of former Dachau inmates David Silver and Bill Lowenberg, and Dagny Loe, liberated at Aichach, gave us all a feeling of pride and happiness for them as they thanked the

Rainbow for the remainder of their life span.

The Memorial Foundation has renamed this drive "Rainbow Vision." This accentuates our pledge to REMEMBER, AND TO FIND BETTER WAYS to help future generations understand our purpose; to maintain eternal vigilance against evil that can emanate from even civilized countries; and to enhance the cause of Democracy and Freedom for decades and centuries to come. The credit for this spontaneous response belongs to all of you. However, it thrills all of us to see what has happened, and to look forward to reaching ever greater heights. There is little doubt that the areas in which we have worked so diligently, these past few years, warrant outside support of our program. That is being explored, diligently, as well.

PNP Theodore A. Johnson,  
President RDMF Inc.

### Ordeal of K Co.

(Continued from Page 6)

just sat in the hole and quivered.

After dark, K/232nd was pulled out. They moved back through Soufflenheim Woods toward Schirrhoffen. As he passed by the C.P. farmhouse, Pettus noted it had become nothing but matchwood. He was glad to hear the headquarters guys had gotten out and into holes when the shelling started. Deep inside, he felt a tinge of satisfaction that the war had caught up with the "rear echelon."

## WWI Anniversary Medal

The Department of Veteran's Affairs are accepting applications for the WWI 75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal and hope to award the Medal to every living WWI veteran. Applications can be obtained by a visit to the nearest VA regional office or by calling 1-800-827-1000.

## Dachau Survivor Thanks Rainbower



William J. Lowenberg, a survivor of Auschwitz and Dachau, presents a photograph of three generations of the Lowenberg family to Robert Jecklin, a U.S. Army veteran who helped liberate Dachau.

## Norwegian Lady Meets Liberator



Dagny Loe meets Chester Krawcykowski for the first time since being freed in 1945.

## Camp Gruber Booklet

A very interesting and informative booklet dealing with Camp Gruber, 1943 is available at a cost of \$5. Anyone wishing a copy should send a check to Hugo Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200.



c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor  
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