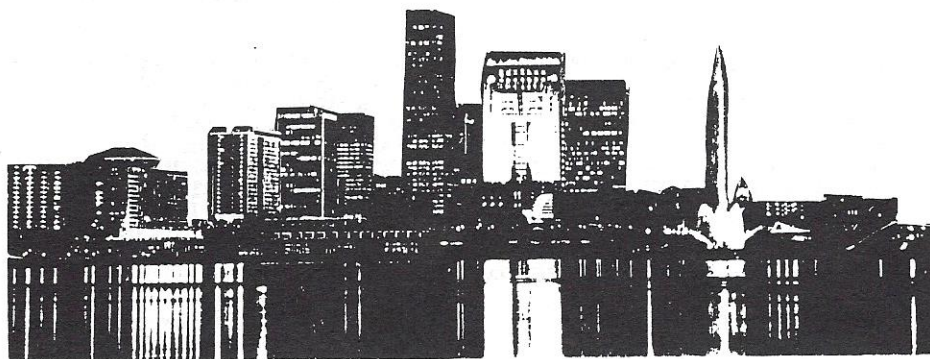


Vol. LXXII

June, 1994

No. 5

## All Roads Lead To Louisville See You There?



LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

- The City With Style -

This is your last chance to read about the up-coming 1994 Reunion. If you haven't made reservations - do so at once and run, do not walk, to the nearest telephone or post office. Bill Warde, chairman, and his committee have gone all out to see that Rainbowners have an interesting and fun-filled weekend. In previous issues, we have told you about proposed tours and interesting and informative facts about your host city. In PNP Jack Keyser's words "COME TO LOUISVILLE! COME TO LOUISVILLE". We will be looking for you!

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.

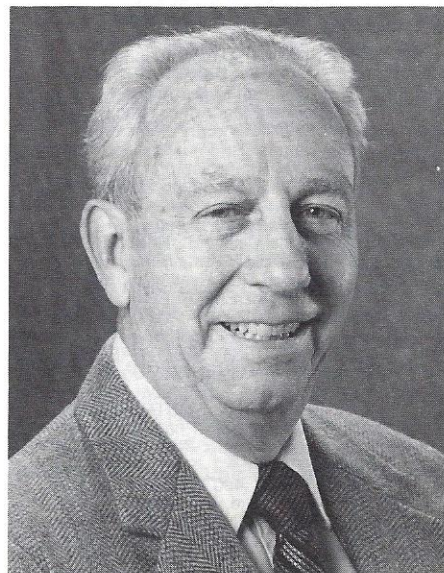
### Parking Motor Homes and Trailers

Recommended parking for Motor Homes and Trailers is the LOUISVILLE METRO KOA. It is in Clarksville, Indiana, right across the river, and five minutes from the Galt House (No parking available for motor homes or trailers at the hotel). TRAVELING NORTH - From Junction of I-65 and Stansifer Ave. (Exit 1) West (turn left) 100 yards on Stansifer Ave. to (left) Marriott Drive South 0.3 miles and KOA is on your left. Southbound, stay on exit ramp until you reach Stansifer, turn right and then left on Marriott Dr. KOA is on your left . . . 78 Sites. Due to July being a busy season, we recommend that reservations be made as soon as possible. Telephone: (812) 282-4474.

### Reveille Articles

All articles being submitted for publication are to be sent to the editor: Kenneth H. Carpenter, 7618 First St., Pasadena, MD. 21122-3402. They are not to be sent to the Publishing Editor as this involves double handling.

## President's Report



After a successful Mid-Year in Charleston, S.C., Mildred and I have done what we enjoy best, traveling and visiting with Rainbowners. We had a wonderful time at the Tri-State Reunion in Waterloo, Iowa. We attended the Texas Round-up in Killeen, Texas, Cape May, New Jersey for the East Coast Reunion, and then to Lancaster, Ohio for the Ohio State Reunion. Finally, in June I will attend my own Chapter Brunch at Fort Meade, Maryland.

It has been a fantastic year for me. All my life I have been active in many organizations, but none has meant as much to me as Rainbow. The acquaintances I made in the service are an important part of my life.

My year has passed quickly and as I reflect on the past events I feel that we had a successful year. We not only surpassed last year's membership, but we have met administrative challenges in order to keep abreast with the requirements of modern technology.

Our Rainbow Association is commemorating the 75th anniversary of WWI and the 50th year for WWII, and when you receive this Reveille the U.S. Government will have already begun the re-enactment of D-Day, retracing the military drive that brought us to ultimate victory. The purpose of this re-enactment is to symbolize that a grateful nation remembers. We are part of the military operation, we made a difference, and we served our Nation and Division well.

Our Association has many purposes. The primary aim is to uphold the preamble of our Constitution, to perpetuate the spirit of comradeship, and keep alive the memory of our departed comrades. However, we also have the responsibility to educate the generation that follows us of what we accomplished in two World Wars, sacrifices that were made on the battlefields, men who served beyond the call of duty, and a Rainbowner who was awarded the nation's highest recognition, the Congressional Medal of Honor. All this for love and devo-

(Continued on page 6)



# 1994 National Reunion Rainbow Division Program

## VETERANS

8 AM - 7 PM Registration  
9 AM - 10:30 AM Unit Meetings  
11 AM - 4 PM KY DERBY MUSEUM  
11:30 - 5:30 PM FORT KNOX TOUR  
5:30 - 7 PM Scholarship Com. Mtg.  
8 PM - 11 PM Early Bird Party

## WEDNESDAY - JULY 13, 1994

## AUXILIARY

8 AM - 7 PM Registration  
9 AM - 10:30 AM Bazaar Sales  
11 AM - 4 PM KY DERBY MUSEUM  
11:30 - 5:30 PM FORT KNOX TOUR  
5:30 - 7 PM Scholarship Com. Mtg.  
8 PM - 11 PM Early Bird Party

## THURSDAY - JULY 14, 1994

8 AM - 5 PM Registration  
8 AM - 10 AM Executive Com. Mtg.  
8:30 - 11:30 AM BATS & BOATS  
10 AM - 12 NOON Foundation Mtg. #1  
2 PM - 3 PM Joint Opening Bus. Mtg.  
3 PM - 4 PM Vets Bus. Mtg.  
4 PM - 5 PM Joint Bus. Mtg.  
6:30 - 7 PM Cash Bar  
7 PM - 10:30 PM YOUNG PERF. ARTS

8 AM - 5 PM Registration  
8 AM - 10 AM Executive Com. Mtg.  
8:30 - 11:30 BATS & BOATS TOUR  
9 AM - 1 PM SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA  
10 AM - 12 NOON Bazaar Sales  
2 PM - 3 PM Joint Business Mtg.  
3 PM - 5 PM Auxiliary Bus. Mtg.  
4 PM - 5 PM Joint Bus. Mtg.  
6:30 - 7 PM Cash Bar  
7 PM - 10:30 PM YOUNG PERF. ARTS

## FRIDAY - JULY 15, 1994

8 AM - 11 AM Banquet Table Reserv.  
8 AM - 5 PM Reunion Registration  
8 AM - 11 AM Unit Meetings  
9:30 AM - 11 AM Foundation #2  
11 AM - 4 PM KY DERBY MUSEUM  
11:30 AM - 5:30 PM FORT KNOX TOUR  
6:30 PM WORLD WAR I DINNER  
FREE NIGHT or UNIT DINNERS

8 AM - 9 AM PNAP Breakfast (Dutch Treat)  
8 AM - 11 AM Banquet Table Reserv.  
8 AM - 5 PM Reunion Registration  
9 AM - 10:30 AM Bazaar Sales  
9:30 AM - 11 AM Foundation #2  
11 AM - 4 PM KY DERBY MUSEUM  
11:30 AM - 5:30 PM FORT KNOX TOUR  
6:30 PM WORLD WAR I DINNER  
FREE NIGHT or UNIT DINNERS

## SATURDAY - JULY 16, 1994

8 AM - 9 AM Registration  
8 AM - 9 AM Banquet Table Reserv.  
8 AM - 9 AM Audit Com. Mtg.  
8 AM - 9 AM Time & Place Com. Mtg.  
8 AM - 9 AM Nominating Committee  
9:30 - 11:30 AM JT. MEMORIAL SERV.  
1 PM - 2 PM VETS CLOSING BUS. MTG.

8 AM - 9 AM Registration  
8 AM - 9 AM Banquet Reserv.  
8 AM - 9 AM End of Bazaar Sales

9:30 - 11:30 AM JT. MEMORIAL SERV.  
1 PM - 2 PM AUX. CLOSING BUS. MTG.

2 PM - 4 PM JT. CLOSING BUS. MTG.  
5 PM - 6 PM CHURCH SERVICES  
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM CASH BAR  
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM BANQUET  
10:30 PM PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

\*\*\*HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME \*\*\* KEEP IN TOUCH \*\*\* SEE YOU NEXT YEAR\*\*\*

## Directions

For those driving to Louisville, here are some directions to follow:

**Driving South on I-65:** Take the St. Louis/I-64 exit after crossing the Ohio River. Take 3rd St. exit to Main St. Turn right on Main. Make another right, at the next block, onto 4th St. Galt House is on your left.

**Driving North on I-65:** Take St. Louis/I-64 exit. Take 3rd St. exit to Main, and go to 4th St. Turn right on 4th St. Go around loop at river and enter City Parking Garage. There is a hotel entrance in the garage.

**Driving West on I-64:** Take the St. Louis/I-64 Louisville Downtown/3rd St. exit. Take 3rd St. to Main (one block). Right on Main to 4th St. Right on 4th. Go around loop at river and enter City Parking Garage.

**Driving East on I-64:** Take the 9th St. exit to Market St. Turn left on Market. Go to 4th St. and turn left. Continue on 4th to the loop at the river and enter City Parking Garage.

**Driving on I-71 from Cincinnati:** Take the St. Louis/Downtown Louisville exit to 3rd St. Take 3rd St. to Main (one block). Turn right on Main to 4th St. Turn right and enter City Parking Garage after making the loop at the river.

Be sure to have the hotel desk validate your parking ticket.

## Chaplain's Prayer

We ask your blessing, O Lord, on the members of the Rainbow Division Veterans' Association as we gather soon in Louisville for our convention. What a glorious history we celebrate, having seen victory in two World Wars and then seeing the United States become such a force for peace in the world. It has been your Guiding Hand, O God, that has sustained us in all the years of our history. We have been a good nation because we have been a Godly nation. In all our works we have said, "In God we trust". May it always be said of us, O Lord, that we are 'One Nation, under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All'. Amen.

Norman P. Forde  
RDVA Chaplain

## Scholarship Requests

All requests for scholarship funding and all matters pertaining to scholarship activity are to be directed to: Saul Lipnick; 150 Aspen Road, Swamscott, MA 01907. Tel. 617-595-3365.

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE  
Official Publication of the  
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## 42nd Recon Troop Combat History

On the 5th of Feb. 1945 the 42nd Cav Tr. relieved the 45th Cav Ren Tr. in the town of Erkartswiller, France. While the Div occupied defensive positions the troop continued to train in its areas and prepared equipment for the operations to come. Contact was made with adjacent units that had been in contact with the enemy. Many discussions helped the troop to arrange equipment and mount weapons in vehicles in a manner which had benefited the other units in past operations. The troop conducted two dismounted patrols into the enemy lines during this period to secure information important in the coming operations. The troop also conducted a division sniper school for the infantry.

The first mission as a troop arrived on the 14th of March. The division was attacking along with all units of the 7th Army along the entire front. The troop was assigned the mission of maintaining contact between the 42nd Div on the right and 103rd Div on the left. The mission was normal type for Cavalry to receive. However it was considerably more difficult than usual because the plan of attack was dictated strongly by the terrain ahead. Supply lines were poor in the Div area with the best roads running across the front with only trails and roads capable of carrying light traffic available in direction of the Div atk. The zone assigned the troop held the key to the difficult supply problem to be encountered. So the mission of the troop became two fold.

Maintain contact by keeping both Divisions informed as to the action and location of the flank battalions and to secure the entrances of the roads that lead across the division front.

On March 15th, the troop jumped off and started on its mission. The towns and villages in the troop zone were being by passed by the infantry of both divisions but the position they were left in as the infantry advanced caused most of the forces to withdraw in frantic fear of being completely cut off. At Rothback, the 3rd platoon encountered several huge mine fields of various types; S mines, shoe mines and booby trapped demolition. These obstacles had to be removed to secure the only supply roads as they came into the division zone. Craters at several key points had to be filled before the road could be open for heavy traffic. This was accomplished by an Engineer unit sent up during the night. Meanwhile the platoon cleared the minefields, and movement forward continued.

The troop CP reached Offwiller on the 16th, and when the infantry units had reduced strong points to allow flank battalions to advance, the troop moved on to Niederbronn and arrived there at 1830 on the 17th. Contact patrols continued and on the 19th of March, with the infantry battalions on the

flanks of both divisions moving steadily over rough terrain, started to enter into the outposts of the Siegfried line. Finally, the third platoon found a bypass that could take all vehicles and pushed on to Obersteinbach. Here, while a battalion waited to launch an attack on the town, the third platoon moved into the town and pushed on to Neidersteinbach without meeting any opposition. A motorized patrol pushed on to Schonau, the first American soldiers to enter Germany in our area. Patrols withdrew that night and rejoined the main forces of the troop at Niedersteinbach.

The troop received its first casualties, in men and material, on the 20th, when a patrol of the third platoon reconnoitering the route to Niedersteinbach, Nothweiler, Rumbach, ran into an ambush one mile south of Rumbach, and came under heavy 88mm and machine gun fire. One enlisted man was missing and later found to have been killed instantly by a high explosive shell; 2 men lightly wounded and 2 1/2 ton trucks complete with all equipment lost. Pfc Wesley won the Silver Star for gallantry in this action. On the 22d, the 2d and 3rd platoons moved out from a temporary CP that had been set up at Nothweiler and reconnoitered the same route where the 3rd platoon had been ambushed two days before. Dismounted patrols bypassed the road and worked into Rumbach capturing 2 PWs. They then cut back down the road to contact the other patrols. Several craters were found, and before contact was made, the patrol, on the road working north, lost two men in an S minefield. The patrol had the PWs remove the men from the minefield and proceeded on to Rumbach. At Rumbach, a Task Force, including the entire troop, a platoon of engineers, and a platoon of infantry was formed with Capt Tennant in command. The assigned mission was to proceed north to Busenberg and make contact with a Task Force from a tank battalion approaching Busenberg, from the west. Blown out bridges and huge craters along key road points slowed the platoons down but they aggressively pushed on, dismounted, when their vehicles could no longer go past bridges, craters, and built up road blocks. Contact was established at Busenberg on the 23rd.

The troop moved to Bruchweiler with the CP and 3rd platoon billeted there while the 1st and 2nd platoons moved to outpost the Division CP in the vicinity of Dahn.

The activation of a two platoon horse troop under the command of Lt Green was completed on the 28th of March and with 1st Sgt White and T/Sgt Koppenhaver attached moved to the vicinity of Liestadt with 70 EM attached unassigned from various units of the division to receive horse training.

At 0530 on the 31st of March the troop moved across the Rhine in the vicinity of Worms and proceeded to Kalein-Heubach where they arrived at 0200 on the 1st of April (having travelled 140 miles). Immediately upon arrival, the combat platoons moved out on reconnaissance which they continued to per-

form in front of the division till they arrived in the vicinity of Wurzburg. While the final preparations for the attack on Wurzburg were being made a mission of great responsibility was given the troop. North of Wurzburg, the Main River, which we had crossed so many times, again confronted us. This time it wasn't a crossing that we were after, but the threat of an attack from that flank. About twelve miles directly north of the town of Wurzburg, remnants of German forces beaten farther in the north presented a threat to the exposed flank. The division was attacking and no interference could be tolerated at the final drive. The entire troop was committed in the loop of the river which reached an amazing area in size for 90 men to be responsible for. About 12 miles long and almost equally as wide. Patrols worked through some of the heaviest wooded terrain encountered. Patrols engaged many small enemy groups in fire fights and drove them north. At Karlstadt, which is on the Main River, the enemy had secured the east bank and as our patrols moved up along the river the patrols came under heavy fire. The third platoon which occupied the northern most area in the loop suffered 3 men wounded and had 7 vehicles shot up but all were repaired rather quickly and were back in action the same night. When the bridgehead at Wurzburg was secured and the east bank of the Main quickly overrun, the troop was shifted to move out again in front of the division in the dash to Schweinfurt. Missions varied as infantry jockeyed into position for the final assault. Again, after being employed as liaison with all front line units, keeping Division informed of location and action.

The 13th of Apr. saw the troop attached to the 12th Armd Div to form 3 Task Forces. Our assembly point was the town of Wiesentheid. There, these forces were to be formed. The command element of the troop moved into the town and found that it had never been occupied and that we were the first American soldiers ever to enter the town. At approximately 1500, the other units arrived and all prisoners were turned over to the forces that were remaining to secure the town. The number of PWs was not established, but it ran over 300. The next day, after the three forces had completed the mission, the troop was relieved from attachment and moved out in front of the division to set up a counterreconnaissance screen while the division units assembled.

The attack toward Nurnburg began and the troop was given a zone equal to the size given the Regiments. Moving swiftly, they reached Furth, a suburb of Nurnburg, two days before the units to their south had covered the distance. The troop was proud of this accomplishment. With 90 men they knifed their way into their objective. The 2nd platoon contacted a strong enemy force and engaged in a fire fight which lasted for the entire day, on the 16th. Pfc Katz was wounded and a captured German Medical officer had to amputate two fingers from his

(Continued on Page 4)



## Emotional Trip Back In Time

(Continued from April Issue)

Orders came from Washington instructing the 42nd Division to transport several thousand Jewish survivors of the concentration camps to the resort cities of Hofgastein, and Badgastein in the Austrian Alps. Upon arrival, we were to put them up in the fancy resort hotels located there. Our Jewish Chaplain, Rabbi Eli Bohnen, (a Captain, the highest ranking divisional chaplain in the U.S. Army) was very much opposed to this idea. "Rabbi, I said, these Jews deserve to be put in these fancy hotels after all they have been through. Why shouldn't they have good food served to them by waiters and waitresses on good china, fancy crystal, sterling silverware and linen tablecloths. 'What is wrong with them sleeping in comfortable beds and living in clean rooms.'"

Rabbi Bohnen explained. He was concerned that they would not be able to adjust quickly enough to their new surrounding. Putting them in these hotels with all the fancy trimmings that went with it - No, he was afraid they would act like they had been forced to act in the concentration camps, like animals. Rabbi Bohnen was informed by General Mark Clark, the Commanding Officer of the American Occupation Zone in the Salzburg District, that he was sorry but the orders from Washington had to be carried out. Soon thereafter, I was part of a convoy of approximately one hundred and fifty army trucks transporting concentration camp survivors in the direction of the Austrian Alps.

The day had been a long one. You do not travel very fast in an Army convoy on mountain roads. The sun was going down, but, our destination was near, and we expected to arrive at the hotels before total darkness set in. All of a sudden loud shrieking and yelling could be heard, throughout the convoy. The trucks came to a quick stop and we got out to see what the problem was. The answer was simple yet unbelievable. The Jews refused to ride any farther because the sun had set, it was Friday, Shabbas had begun!! We explained to them that we only had to drive another fifteen or twenty minutes and would be at the hotels. The Jewish G.I.'s (including myself) told them, being Jewish, we certainly understood their feelings but what difference would another fifteen or twenty minutes make. Our pleadings were to no avail, and they refused to go. The fields on the side of the road would be their home for the night! Army field kitchens were quickly set up, and hot food prepared. Tents and blankets were brought out and everyone was made as comfortable as possible.

After the sun went down, the following day, all the survivors climbed back into the trucks and we drove the remaining short distance to the hotels. Unfortunately, the following three or four days proved Rabbi Bohnen to be correct. His greatest fears

were realized. In spite of the posh surroundings, the fancy crystal, china silverware, and tablecloths, the Jews continued to act like they were still in a concentration camp. They ate with their hands, did not bother to wash, and relieved themselves everywhere but in the toilets. Just as Rabi Bohnen suspected the Austrian and German employees of the hotels said, "See, it is just like we have been telling you. The Jews are a bunch of animals!" Fortunately, after a few days, the initial shock of the change in environment wore away and the Jews began to act properly. They began to relax, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings around them. but who knows, the fancy food and surroundings may not have been the best thing for them, either. We were G.I.'s trained and seasoned in warfare, but we were not psychiatrists or social workers.

The above events was the most meaningful and emotional experience of my life. After all those Jews had been through, the tortures to the body and to the mind, deep down they still clung to their Judaism. I had no doubt at the time, and still feel today, that their faith in God brought them through their terrible ordeal, to become survivors, with hope for the future, rather than becoming a mere statistic.

### 42nd Recon Troop Combat History

(Continued from Page 3)

right hand; 18 prisoners were taken in the fight but the rear of the troop was felt to be endangered by 457 hospital patients in the military hospital there, of which 100 or more were very capable of causing a great deal of trouble. One half track, trying to reach the troop with gas and ammunition, struck a mine but the crew was unharmed and only the track and boogie suffered damage. The supplies were shuttled down by other vehicles.

With our mission accomplished the troop continued to remain in position and in an attempt to establish an observation post to observe Nurnburg, one man was wounded when the CP was ambushed. All members managed to return.

On the 20th of April, the platoons were assembled at Rosstal to resupply and receive the next mission. On their way to Rosstal the platoons gathered up 252 PWs, a total greater than the 153 taken the previous day. Another mission was assigned that night and the troop moved out and on the 21st, Lt Stone, the third platoon leader was wounded in the left leg while dismounted at Winbach. Resistance had begun to stiffen in the troop zone and it was getting to be a habit to come under accurate and seemingly constant artillery fire.

On the 24th of Apr S/Sgt Roy was wounded by an artillery shell and died several days later. Reconnaissance continued against scattered resistance and met no serious opposition again until a crossing of the Danube was made on the 27th. Pushing across the vast open stretch, south of the river, to secure the high ground, artillery fire and AT fire was again encountered. One

armored car was knocked out after two of the rounds fired at it made direct hits on the car. No men injured.

Reconnaissance, pushed to the limit in the drive to Munich and beyond, started the great flow of PWs that at the time were presenting more of a problem than the forces still fighting. On the 2nd of May 25 officer PWs of which 2 were generals and 3 colonels and a total of 3036 em POWs were taken. Each time platoons started moving PWs, with their organic vehicles, clogged the roads, wanting to surrender. Right on till the 5th of May the problem of PWs continued. It was moving on to objectives steadily and rounding the enemy up as they came by.

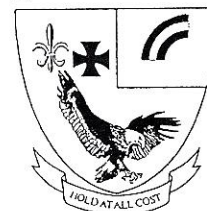
Under the command of Captain Sidney GB Tennant, the 42d Cav Rcn Tr. entered combat with the Seventh Army in France. The troop was new and untried. It had received reinforcements in the last few months it was stationed in the United States. That almost changed the entire personnel of the unit. New men and new officers had to organize and prepare for combat that they were shortly to enter.

Service in an active sector came quickly after arriving in the ETO and was taken in stride. Many difficulties and strange situations arose but were overcome in the periods where the Division stormed the great bastions of Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Nurnburg and Munich. The troop as a unit has shared in the victories of the division and feels proud of the aid it may have rendered, helping with all the stalwart infantrymen and men of other arms; putting aside the thoughts of working for their own units to give support to others when all were working to the common objective.

The casualties of the unit were very light when checking over the missions and places the troop had worked. Some key personnel have been lost, but the nucleus for a troop to carry on the missions to come with the same aggressiveness and spirit that it began on the 15th of March.

The troop went on to rest in Bavaria then proceeded to occupy Austria with the rest of the Division. The troop had many missions in Austria and traveled far and wide because of their mobility. The troop was stationed in Salzburg, Kitzbuhl, Zell am See, Vienna, and Hellein.

### 232nd Infantry Regimental Crest



The three battalion Chapters have agreed on the above design as the regimental crest for the 232nd Infantry Regiment. A pin will be produced and available for sale in time for the Louisville Reunion.



# Withdrawal In Alsace, January 20 - 21, 1945

By Dick Engler

*(With acknowledgments to memoirs, interviews, unit histories and/or newsletters of the individuals or units cited.)*

Clashes of armor on the plain had left steel hulks from both sides littering the landscape like cattle caught in a killing blizzard. Villages at the vortex of armored tornadoes had become rubble ghost towns. And over wide stretches of forested mountains, the trees had been reduced to stubble a few feet high. Alsace, the frontier province, was suffering. Now the snows came again, mercifully, perhaps, in covering the recent depredations of men and their machines of destruction, but chilling and depressing to soldiers and civilians alike who had to endure the elements as well as the fires of war.

As tragedies unfolded at Sessenheim, Drusenheim, Herrlisheim and in the mountains, combat efficiency reports were worrying the American command. Combat fatigue and low or very low infantry strength plagued all the divisions. A number of units were now rated "unsatisfactory" in combat efficiency, and this included the 12th Armored Division, Task Force Herren and Task Force Linden — the latter two formations now scheduled to be given "additional unit training" after current operations. "... General Patch informed General Devers of his inability to hold his front as it existed, and General Devers gave the order to withdraw as planned," to the Moder River and a defense line anchored at Haguenau.

And so the most coordinated planned operation of January in Alsace, replacing the shuttling and shuffling of fragmented units, would be a common flow back from hotly contested ground. The flow was tidal. And like the tide following a great destructive storm, the movement left much refuse scattered over the land. Was the snowstorm that night of January 20-21 a blessing or a curse?

For the Americans who began their wholesale withdrawal soon after dark, it was both ... as for the many civilians who joined that trek.

They moved after dark. Some came from infernos. Others moved from positions where quiet but frigid housekeeping had been the recent order of the day. Some rode. Most of the infantry walked — at least part of the way. From far-flung foxholes and bunkers in the Wissembourg Gap, Haguenau Forest and near villages on the Rhine Plain, and from mountainsides and defiles north of Niederbronn as well, they strained and slipped and stumbled toward the Moder River. Fifteen miles for some, 20 or more for others. It snowed all through the night. Roads and trails were frozen sheets that ditched many vehicles and tumbled many footsloggers. Rearguards, left to find their way behind the main body, followed trails of scattered equipment through the

silent forest.

"Boche kommen!" In tiny villages civilians joined the trek. And as the struggling GI columns passed by, the words were whispered again and again, at windows and doorways, on narrow streets where people piled belongings on wagons and carts. "Boche kommen!"

Bob Calhoun began the march from a foxhole near Drachenbronn that had grown sloppy from a recent thaw. The word came suddenly, just as he and a buddy were completing a floor improvised from scrap lumber. The snow had begun to fall in the afternoon, and was really coming down by 7:30 in the evening when L/222nd moved out. Calhoun's column marched through Soultz and came upon a line of trucks waiting to pick them up. But a fouled up, unexplained order called some L Company men off the trucks; and Bob Calhoun was left standing with a lonely group of four or five, left behind when the truck column moved off. They marched on for several miles, urged on by MPs who warned the Germans were expected around three or four in the morning and the engineers were already blowing the bridges behind the GI columns. Finally, a truck sent back after the lost party from L picked them up for the ride through Haguenau to a tiny village named "Dauendorf" behind a forest named "Ohlungen." Calhoun slept throughout the truck ride.

The men of L/242nd travelled a different road — through the darkness of Haguenau Forest. A move without explanation, just "push and push and push, but where and why we didn't know."

The soft snow that was falling as we started ... had just covered the ice, and there was no way to tell where was ice and where was sure footing without testing each step. At the point where we started, the woods were close against the road, and it wound through the trees and across tiny streams and up and down hills ... Our whole world was that thin, narrow ribbon of white in the blackness ... We slipped and slid all over the road, and there were guys falling and getting up along the line of march constantly. In the first two or three miles, 'Pop' Brewer counted his own falls at 15 ... Each time he went down, the air was punctuated by his soft drawling voice, saying, 'Well, God Damn! Ah just can't stand up!'

Some in Task Force Linden didn't make it back to the Moder River line. Dewey Harris' 5-man squad of I/242nd was designated a rear guard. They left their bedrolls on a jeep and were taken at about 11 PM to a position on the northern edge of Haguenau Forest.

It was snowing like hell. We had a phone, and about 6 AM, January 21, we

got word through the phone from the CP 'We're going.' But when we started back to try and catch up, we couldn't find our way back to the CP. We finally just pulled the phone wire up out of the snow and followed it all the way back. But then when we got to where the CP had been, all we found was a little old dog. There was no problem following the trail of the company back through the woods. There was equipment thrown away everywhere. But we couldn't catch up.

Dewey's isolated group went on alone for two days through the forest. The first night was spent in a Maginot pillbox. And on the second day they stopped at an isolated farmhouse by a clearing in the forest. An old man, alone at the house, had donned a German uniform, and he warned (as they left): "The Boche are coming. You'd better get going fast." Within a few more miles, down a forest road, a rifle shot rang out from behind. "I turned around," said Dewey, "and there was this big Tiger tank maybe 200 yards behind us on the road. The guy who shot at us was riding on top with four or five others." Two of Dewey's companions took off into the forest like startled deer. But Dewey and the others were soon rounded up by German soldiers on bicycles who were riding down the road behind the tank. The two escapees from Harris' squad wandered for several days before finally making it back into the new American lines. But for Dewey Harris and two buddies, their service under arms in World War II was over.

Vehicles fared no better than men on foot that wintry night of January 20-21. The veteran 813th TD Bn lost four TDs that slipped off the roads that night. It reported that "company maintenance endeavored to extricate these M-10s but met with no success as the roads were extremely slippery and the snow and ice was constantly accumulating." Finally, at 5 AM on January 21, after many hours of effort at retrieval, the M-10s were destroyed. Early that same morning, the battalion received confirmation that four other M-10s, together with the 23 enlisted personnel in their crews, had been captured at Drusenheim. "From these two affairs," the 813th reported, "the Battalion was now short eight M-10s and four complete crews."

Outside of the smoldering inferno at Hatten, S/Sgt. Lynch of the 19th AIB, joined by recently wounded Sgt. John Carr, stood vigil as the last rear guard.

My task ... was to stand at a rail and road junction south of Hatten, checking our troops as they evacuated the battered town ... Before us was a path leading from the perils of Hatten. Behind us, a railroad leading to the safety of Niederbetschdorf.

... An hour passed. No more troops from Hatten. The snow continued. Another hour. Still no troops. The snow increased.

Convinced that all the troops had passed,  
(Continued on Page 6)



## Withdrawal In Alsace

(Continued)

Lynch sent John Carr back to Rittershoffen station to notify others, supposed to be waiting there, that everyone could now withdraw. But Carr returned with news that no men, vehicles or equipment were left at the station. Everyone had already gone. As they moved back for a final check of Hatten, Lynch and Carr saw several figures dimly through swirling snow near a group of houses.

Unable to recognize their uniforms, we shouted a challenge. They answered with machine pistols . . .

We ran down the railroad track toward our recently departed troops. The snowy veil came to our rescue. Soon the shooting stopped. Our heavy breathing and pounding hearts were the only sounds to disturb the silence.

Safe! But were we? Suddenly a figure loomed in front of us. It was too big for a man, too small for a vehicle. Cautiously, with guns ready, we advanced toward the unknown. The target became clear. It couldn't be. But it was. A cow . . . Here amid all the carnage. She was standing alone, as if waiting for all the players of the game of war to leave her in peace.

Lynch and Carr, the last American sentinels at Hatten and Rittershoffen, soon joined forces with a tank crew, also left behind and uninformed, their vehicle almost mistaken by the rearguard sergeants as one of the burnt out hulls so prominent in the area. Together, the small crew moved past smoldering Rittershoffen, through deserted Niederbetschdorf, and followed a well-marked trail of abandoned equipment until, just before dawn, they caught up to the tail of the vehicle convoy of the 14th armored Division.

Back in Hatten, soon after first light, as the sun pushed aside the clouds of the night's storm, a Landser came down to Mme Rupprecht's cellar and announced: "It's all over." Before noon, as the day brightened, children were exploring the tank hulls now standing grotesquely in the gardens beside the houses. Elise Bender's little girl climbed up on an American tank, but soon called down to her mother: "Mommie, it stinks." Mme Bender moved closer and saw the remains of a dead American in the turret.

Some 20 miles away, a mile or two behind the Moder at Dauendorf, Bob Calhoun was awaking to a bright Sunday morning.

The sun was shining on the new snow, and people in their Sunday best walked to and from church. In a way, it appeared so peaceful, yet an evident undercurrent of excitement and fear ran through the people. Refugees were streaming in, some trying to find lodging in the town and others going on through. Villagers would stop each group to find out how far the Germans were behind the newcomers.

There could be no doubt. The Boche were

coming. Would they be stopped at the Moder? Or would Himmler's boast be fulfilled, that Strasbourg would fall by January 30, the anniversary of the birth of the third Reich?

## Please Help Lise!

Lise Pommois, author of "Winter Storm" asks us for our help. She writes: Urgently needed: In 1985, the towns of Hatten and Rittershoffen celebrated the 40th anniversary of the tank battle which destroyed them in January, 1945. The 42nd Division took the brunt of the attack. Nine years ago, the Historical Association, of which I am the Secretary, published a book on the battle. It was incomplete, due to a lack of U.S. documents. I am considering writing a new, revised version to be published in March, 1995, in connection with the official ceremonies. (May 7, 1995.) I would appreciate your active contribution. Please send me whatever you may have or remember, before Christmas. The 50th anniversary will be the climax of ten years! activities, and we want it to be a complete success! It is your last chance to make your contribution to History!

I also need accounts of the period February 18-March 18, in the Hardt Mountains, for another book. I don't want any "lost" units in my town ventures. Then I can retire, having served the Army to the best of my ability. Thank you: Mrs. Lise M. Pommois - 8 rue des Cerisiers - 67110 Niederbronn - France (Fax-33 88 80 78 - Tel. 33 88 09 05 63).

Ed. Note: Let's get behind this and make sure Lise gets the information she needs. If you want recognition, you must send in the information. This is a chance to repay Lise for all she has done for Rainbow.

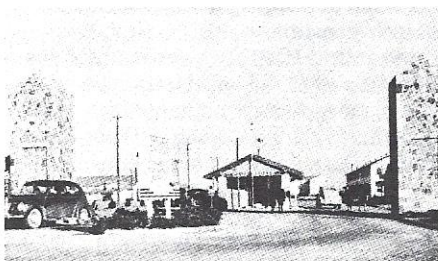
## John D. Carr Award

EACH YEAR PNP JOHN CARR AWARDS A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The winning member must be present at the Reunion, registered with the Reunion Committee with registration fee paid in full.

In event the winner is already a Life Member, as verified by the Secretary's records, a check for one hundred dollars as full refund will be mailed to the winner.

## Camp Gruber



A very interesting and informative booklet dealing with Camp Gruber, 1943 is available at a cost of \$6.50. Anyone wishing a copy should send a check payable to RDVA. Mail to: Hugo Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200.

## President's Report (Continued)

tion to DUTY-HONOR-COUNTRY. The investment in this Association is enormous, let us perpetuate it, lest we forget.

I thank all of the officers for their devotion and work for Rainbow. Without their efforts the office of the President and the Association could not operate.

I am also indebted to my wife, Mildred, for her support and being my secretary.

I wish our President Elect, John McGovern, a successful year and pledge myself, along with all Rainbowners, to successfully continue the legacy of Rainbow.

It has been an honor to serve as your president. It will be a year I will long remember. I wish you and your families health, happiness, and to Rainbow, continued success.

Romeo Fagiolo

## Membership Chairman Report

As of April 15, 1994 our total membership was 2607 as compared to 2513 in 1993 (See Membership Listing on Page 8). Of the 2607, there are 235 new members with 233 who have not paid their dues yet. Our National Secretary, Herb Butt, along with the Chapter Secretaries are to be congratulated for an outstanding job. Also, a Rainbow salute to our Telephone Compact Disc Operators; John McGovern, Rube Evanoff, Jim Warren, and Dan Samolinski.

In addition to the sterling work accomplished by the above, we urge each and everyone of you to join in the hunt! If you are looking for a buddy, send us his name, middle initial, and last known address, even if it is 50 years old. In the request for a search send along a self addressed stamped envelope. (We have developed quite a cost which has been absorbed by the CD men.) Your 29¢ will help! Send requests to: 222nd Inf. - Rube Evanoff, 5101 W. 109th St., Minneapolis, MN 55437; 232nd Inf. - John McGovern, 7052 Applecreek Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560; 242nd Inf. - Jim Warren, 3235 99th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98094; Artillery and all other Divisional units - Don Samolinski, 3729 Carl St., Wausau, WI 54401.

Editor's Note: Thank you Charlie for a wonderful and outstanding job!

## Chapter Secretaries

The membership dues card for 1994-95 are ready. If you are not coming to the Reunion in July, collect your chapter dues and send in the money with the remittance sheet, so we can send the cards to you right away.

Those coming to the Reunion should bring the money and remittance sheet with them, and pick up their cards from the National Secretary. We want to get the largest percentage of membership we possibly can by July 15th.

Herbert A. Butt  
National Secretary



## 42nd Q.M. Company

### Unit History

After many months of training, re-training, rumors and promises, the 42nd Quartermaster Company departed from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, by train, on 23 December 1945. Destination unknown. Christmas holiday was spent on the train and was as enjoyable as possible, all things considered. The Company arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, 27 December 1945 (who said it wasn't cold in Joissey), remaining there until 5 January 1945. This period was occupied with final preparations for the overseas movement; checking and re-checking of equipment, final "shots", rechecking personnel records, seeing New York occasionally and a great deal of "wondering". Destination still unknown.

At 1815, 5 January 1945, the long awaited trip started and the Company left Camp Kilmer, by rail, arriving at the New York Port of Embarkation at 2105 of the same day. Embarkation commenced at 2115 of the same day, aboard the USS Gordon. That first night, aboard ship, lying in port, was one of many and mixed emotions. Everyone ate breakfast the next morning, and the long awaited moment came at 1100, 6 January 1945, when the anchor was hauled aboard and the sound of the motors reverberated throughout the ship. We were off. Destination still unknown.

That first, and the succeeding, days, was spent in various methods of entertainment. Letter writing, craps, poker, deck strolling, speculation and rumor were apparent on all sides. Both meals were eaten that day by all. The morning of the second day, the sea began to creep in and a few were excused from the breakfast call. By the evening of the second day, a new game had been instituted - craps were still being played in the head and the heads were then beginning to play in the crappers. By the end of the third day, most were able to be around again and that evening, we had the official news - "Sailing for Marseille, France".

From then on, for the balance of the trip, the aforementioned types of entertainment prevailed, plus movies, occasional fire drills, boat drills and quarters inspections. Church services were held daily and were well attended.

Arrived at Marseille, France, 18 January 1945 and debarked at 1100. Moved by truck to the Delta Base Staging Area. The Company remained at this Area until 5 February 1945. During this period all of the equipment was re-checked, additional equipment received and issued. The Company remained at this bivouac on a flat, stony area on top of a hill; pup tents, cold and windy. A temporary mess was provided the first few days by Italian PWs who had doubtless spent considerable time in attaining the right degree of scorching the rations. The first "air raid", occurring one night at midnight, was given the fullest of attention. During this raid, Capt. Lies demonstrated the

proper method of putting out a camp fire immediately.

(From now on, fellows, this history will be official)

At the beginning of February, Infantry Units in the line had been relieved and sent to an assembly area in the vicinity of Vic Sur Seille as Army reserve, for the purpose of joining the other elements of the Division, which had then arrived at CP 2 near Marseille and were preparing to move from this area to the assembly area in and around Vic Sur Seille. QM Co. less four men who had gone ahead as an advance detachment with the Infantry regiments, was completing the job of equipping Artillery, Engineer, Medical, Reconnaissance and Special Troops units on QM items and handling normal QM functions for these same units. The advance detachment was handling CI II equipment and performing staff functions, doing liaison work on other QM supplies and services for the three Infantry regiments operating as Task Force Linden. For these units at CP 2, the bulk of winter clothing and special winter equipment had already been issued. For Infantry units in the vicinity of Vic Sur Seille the bulk of winter clothing and equipment had also been issued during January. However, large combat losses due to heavy enemy action combined with the fact that a quantity of the special equipment had not been delivered due to the lack of transportation, made the re-supply job during the first seven days exceptionally large. The QM Co. left Marseille in two parties. The first went forward with the advance elements.

The second, one truck platoon plus some administrative personnel, remained behind to service the elements leaving last and to clear up property accounts which had been opened in that area. The loading elements arrived in Vic Sur Seille on 8 Feb. 1945. The balance of the Company arrived 10 Feb. Limited functional duties commenced operations on 9 Feb. 1945. The balance of the month was characterized mainly by the formulation of policies and procedures to be followed in the operation of QM supply and service functions within the division.

Under the stable conditions prevailing during the month of February, it was found that the transportation was adequate to handle all functions except for 1/4 Ton, 4x4 vehicles. Demands for hard-to-find items from P & C officers (such as materials for helmet camouflage nets, combat commanders chevrons and camouflage suits) made it necessary to tie up one of those vehicles about three-fourths of the time. At the same time the need for innumerable conferences with the various Corps and Army supply and service representatives, often spread out over large areas, during the period when policies were in the formative stage kept at least two others busy all the time. One was needed daily for control of the ration convey. and for normal administrative duties.

Eight QM Co. 2-1/2 ton trucks had been drawn by the Div Hq Advance Detachment.

These were built up for officers for General Staff Sections prior to the arrival of the QM Co. in the theatre and were transferred to Hq Co (less drivers) by G-4 permanently. One truck was put on permanently. One truck was put on permanent dispatch to the APO at Div Hq (Rear) to haul mail from that point to the CI I SP where it was delivered to the units.

It was determined by G-4 that transportation in the division (interunit dispatches) would be controlled by that office direct, rather than through the T/O QM Transportation Officer. The QM Transportation Officer coordinated dispatches of QM Co. Trucks on QM supply functions and to other units through G-4 only. Authorization was given DQM to use QM trucks for QM functions at any time unless ordered otherwise for specific tasks.

The six T/O mechanics were assigned two per truck platoon (one per section) for 2d echelon maintenance. This made each man responsible for maintenance on only about seven or eight trucks and it was found that this led to a more personal interest in the 2d echelon maintenance of the trucks by the men concerned. Six (one per mechanic) were deadlined daily for preventive maintenance, thus assuring top performance at all times.

(To be continued)

## Artillery Corner

In Louisville the Divarty Hospitality Suite will be without two familiar faces this year. Margaret A. Cullem, wife of outgoing Divarty President, Harold Cullem ("B" Btry.) 392nd passed over the Rainbow December 17, 1993. She was a member of the Auxiliary of the Mo-Kan Chapter. Another good friend, Margaret M. Hoffman died March 13, 1994. She was a member of the Divarty Auxiliary. Margaret and her husband, Ed Hoffman ("B" Btry.) 392nd, along with the Cullem's were the early prime movers in establishing contact with many Artillerymen, thus leading to the present structure of the Divarty hospitality Room. Both Margarets will be missed and we offer our friendship and condolences to Harold and to Ed. The New Jersey Chapter was Host Chapter for the combined East Coast Reunion of the New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Chapters held at the Atlas Motor Inn, Cape May, New Jersey, May 4 - 6th. What a unique place to hold a Reunion! Many Artillerymen, wives and friends were present for the three days. Harold Melinek and Pat Guida of the N.J. Chapter did a great job. Finally -- don't forget Louisville -- get on the phone if you have not made a reservation -- time is short!

## Unit Recognition

Your editor is trying to give all units of the Rainbow some recognition in print. We have been fortunate in obtaining the history of the Quartermaster Corps and the Recon Troop. We would appreciate hearing from

(Continued on Page 8)





## Memorial Foundation Report

The work of the Memorial Foundation for the 24 years of its existence is something that you men and women of Rainbow can be very proud of. How often I have listed all the achievements; Memorials built; Plaque dedicated; sites renovated; a National TV program of the Muskogee Memorial; leadership in recording our history of the most momentous conflicts in history; and our dedication to remembering the Holocaust and accurately record the liberation of Dachau. We have published, sponsored and collected histories; and through the activities of Archivist Bill Keithan, may well be the best documented Unit from WWII.

Why then, I ask myself, am I timid about asking for donations to this marvelous cause? Not because of the work the Auxiliary does to raise funds for the Foundation and the Scholarship Fund. Not because of those who have given generously in the past and still do. Not that one needs to be ashamed of the total funds raised, the good done and the balance that accumulates every year. Frankly, it's because of the charge that comes from time to time that all we ever do is try to raise money. That "we" of course refers to your Officers and Trustees. Since the Foundation's purpose is to "memorialize in perpetuity their contribution and sacrifice to the cause of freedom," we either find ways to entice people to make contributions or we fail that trust.

I just received a brochure from the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. This is an organization that lets units like ours join, but don't really consider Alsace-Ardenne to be a part of "The Bulge." Yet, they did not hesitate to ask those who did join to help raise \$150,000 to put a monument to the Bulge at Carlisle Barracks. Over the years, I have watched the obituaries of World War I and II men by the hundreds. Rarely has the Rainbow Foundation been mentioned; rather donations are understandably requested to their church or others. I have not commented on this before, but perhaps as we all begin to make our final arrangements, I should. Instead, however, I offer you the paragraph in Don Samolinski's letter to the Artillery which eloquently states the message of the Foundation:

"The Rainbow Foundation is still in the money raising mode, trying to raise at least \$500,000 dollars. For those of you who have not been involv-

ed, a brief explanation follows. The Rainbow Division Veterans Association will be dissolved in the 2010, then the RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, commonly called the Foundation, will continue to memorialize, perpetuate, publicize, now and in the future generations the valor, heroism and patriotism of all men of the 42nd (Rainbow) Division. You can make your donation using several different methods, you choose, send the information to our Treasurer Jon Janosik, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511. Tell Jon you belong to the Artillery Chapter."

Ted Johnson  
President, RDMF, Inc.

## Killed In Action

Thanks to a great response the Division's KIA whose companies are unknown have been whittled down to the following:

Name	Rank	Unit	Serial	Date of Death	DOW
Donald D. Dunn	PFC	222		6/7/45	DOW
Lee R. Carney		232	35315523	7/3/45	FOD
Edward W. Deering	PFC	232	36908127	3/20/45	KIA
Jim Evans	PFC	232		7/16/45	DOW
Clarence E. Fuqua	PFC	232	3946094	4/8/45	KIA
James J. Higdon	PVT	232	34737577		FOD
Bedford C. Miller	TECS	232	35726472		DOW
Benjamin Patrick	PFC	232	35089225		KIA
Frederick J. Cravatas	PFC	242	31307287	3/15/45	KIA
Howard B. Jerred	CPL	242			KIA
Max Smith	PFC	242	6274527		KIA
Joseph D. Wiedefeld	PFC	242	36831555	1/11/45	DOW
This one has no type of death:					
Ernest E. Howell	PFC	242-HIB	35305523		

You are asked to contact Val Spiegel if you have any information. Val's address: 5305 Wapakoneta Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816-3131. Tel: (301) 229-2478.

(Continued from Page 7)

others. We are sure that the 142nd Engrs, for instance, has an interesting history. We would appreciate hearing from them. We hear, by word of mouth, of interesting stories relating to the Signal Corps and

## Total Assn. Membership

As of 4/15/94

TOTAL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP			
State/Unit	Chapter	Total 1993	Total 1994
AL	Huntsville	35	27
AZ	Phoenix	13	13
CA	California	59	64
CO	Colorado	33	11
DC	Washington, DC	38	35
FL	Clearwater	18	17
	Orlando	5	3
IL	Illinois	38	30
IN	Indianapolis	4	0
	South Bend	13	15
IA	Iowa State	31	31
KS	Chanute	4	4
MA	North East	23	34
MD	Baltimore	8	5
MI	Detroit	39	40
MN	Minnesota	43	35
MO	Mo-Kan	20	20
	St. Louis	18	15
NJ	Audubon	18	17
OH	State & 132nd	81	81
OK	Muskogee Memorial	28	14
	Oklahoma City	11	16
	Tulsa	6	4
OR	Pacific Northwest	29	37
PA	Easton	4	4
	Lancaster	9	7
	Philadelphia	13	12
	Reading	18	15
	Charleston	12	13
TX	Dallas	90	94
VA	Roanoke	2	2
WI	Wisconsin	35	49
	222nd Infantry	446	408
	Co "M" 222nd	47	55
	HQCO 232nd	2	1
	Can Co 232nd	22	16
	1st Bn 232nd	159	181
	2nd Bn 232nd	112	129
	3rd Bn 232nd	113	117
	242nd Infantry	284	421
	Co "H" 242nd	33	30
	Artillery	183	205
	121st Med Bn	34	25
	Med Det Spec trps	11	10
	142nd Comb Engr	30	30
	MP Platoon	39	33
	42nd Recon Trp	9	8
	Division Band	24	31
	Natl at Large	165	129
	Life - not claimed	2	1
	Grand totals	2513	2607
	Total Life Members	198	218

various artillery units, but have received very little. Anyone having such material is asked for submittal. Each and everyone of us is entitled to some recognition. We were a team and each part of the team played a vital part in the overall victory.



c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor  
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