

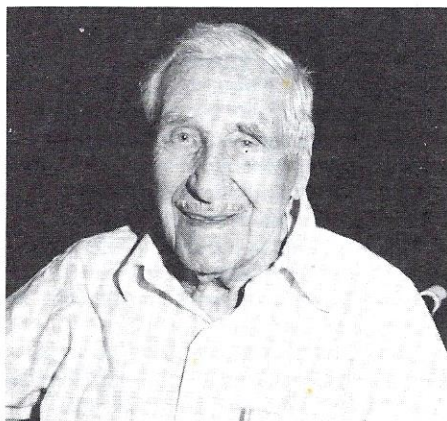


Vol. LXXIII

September, 1994

No. 1

Record 1287 at Louisville!



WWI veteran Paul Jarret
99 yrs. young - Co. M - 166th Inf.



WWI veteran Harry Hunter
97½ - Co. C - 166th Inf.

1287 Rainbowers converged on Louisville to commemorate the WW1 75th anniversary and the WW2 50th anniversary. From the Early Bird party to the final moments of the President's reception, the spirit of comradeship prevailed. Congratulations go to Bill Warde and Christine Ledford and their hard working committee (Doyle Eskridge, Jesse Knox, Bob Meisburg, PNP Jack Keyser, et al.)

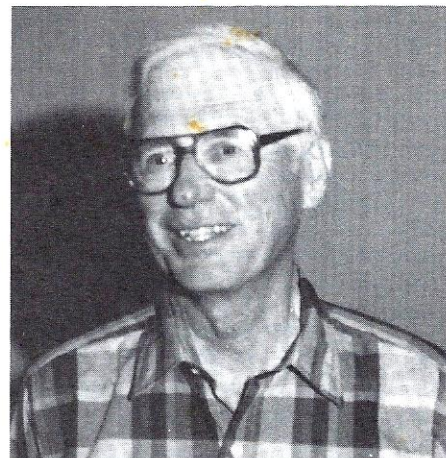
The memorial service was conducted by Rev. Norman Forde with the assistance of PNP Father Weiss and Father Erb, and Rev. Willemssen. Tony Cardinale led the singing of the National Anthem and PNP

Ted Johnson conducted the Champagne Hour, rendering a masterful presentation of both "In Flanders Fields" and "Rouge Bouquet." A beautiful presentation of "Taps" ended the service.

PNP Ted Johnson also emceed the Banquet affair. Dignitaries present included WW1 heroes and dear comrades Paul Jarrett and Harry Hunter. At the head table were Bill Boyd, author of "The Gentle Infantryman," Rainbow Girl PNAP Peggy Fleming, Guest of Honor, Col. John Linden (son of Gen. Linden), Auxiliary President (1994-95) Virginia and Red Cap Walter Duhacsak, Auxiliary President (1993-94) Beverly and Red Cap Gil Koehler, M.C. PNP Ted Johnson, President Romeo and Mildred Fagiolo, President (1994-95) John and Rosemary McGovern, Foundation Chairman PNP Dee Eberhart and Auxiliary Secty. Barbara Eberhart, and National Chaplain Norman and Shirley Forde. Talks were given by Bill Boyd, Col. Linden, Dee Eberhart, Romeo and John and Pres. Elect and 1995 Reunion Chairman Vern Smith. Highlight was "Rainbow in the Army" by three members of the winning Division Barbershop Quartet, Ted Johnson, Bill Howard, and Hal Steadman. The tenor "Buck" Hodge has passed over the Rainbow. Barbara Eberhart and Ted's two granddaughters than gave us "Women of the Rainbow" and "Children of the Rainbow."

The usual reluctant farewells followed as we look forward to "SEATTLE IN 95."

President's Report



Dear Rainbow Friends,

It was a great honor and privilege to be installed as your president last month in Louisville. Only family marriages and births have given me the personal pleasure and thrill that gaining this office has produced. I thank all Rainbowers for granting me this honor and I will try to merit your confidence in me.

My initial goals this year are both simple and logical. The first is to significantly increase our membership in spite of increasing illness and death that our age makes inevitable. The second is to encourage every Rainbower able to travel to attend the two reunions and the 50th Dachau liberation recognition that will occur this Rainbow year.

The best way to increase membership is to locate missing members on the phone disks and to call and invite them to become part of our organization. Membership Chairman Charles Paine has provided phone disks for several men. Jim Warren has located more than 350 Rainbow men or their survivors in the 242nd, and PNP "Rube" Evanoff and Don Samolinski are doing similar work in Artillery and the 222nd. Sam and Ruth Fritsche, with help from Bud and Ann Fruitt, located more than 150 men from A/T 232nd, using their library phone disks. Their company attendance increased from 1 at Salt Lake City to 17 at Louisville. The Roy Bird family has sent hundreds of letters that helped his company win the attendance award in Salt Lake City and Louisville. Not everyone has access to phone disks, but many can help contact men from their units as the names are found on the disks. If you can help, please inform Charles Paine.

I ask that the men with phone disks give some priority to men from the northwest and California, so we may enhance our attendance at Seattle next July.

Send in your registrations early to help the reunion committee with deposits for activities and make your hotel reservations early; it is easier to cancel than to find a room at the last minute.

Rainbow Lives,
John McGovern

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
Romeo Fagiolo	1993-1994

THE RAINBOW REVELLE

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

General of the Army
Douglas MacArthur (Dec)
Permanent Honorary Presidents:
Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec)
General Henri Gouraud (Dec)
Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)
Honorary President:
Romeo Fagiolo

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ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:
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St. Louis, MO 63108

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Gilbert Koehler
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Bridgewater, CT 06752

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Freeland, WA 98249

LIAISON OFFICER: Donald R. Samolinski
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ARCHIVES: J. William Keithan, Jr.
2226 Eastmont Way West, Seattle, WA 98199

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Independence, MO 64055

DEADLINE FOR COPY

Nov. Issue - Oct. 1, 1994 Apr. Issue - Mar. 1, 1995
Jan. Issue - Dec. 1, 1994 June Issue - May 1, 1995

Chaplain's Prayer

O Lord our God, as we remember the Fiftieth Anniversary of D-Day and then of the end of World War II, we remember also the great blessings that have been bestowed on our nation in all those years. We have shared our bounty with those in need; we are doing it even now in Rwanda and other places. May we always be "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Amen.

Chaplain Norman P. Forde, RDVA

Dachau Liberation Conference

The 42nd "Rainbow" Division will be featured at a one-day conference entitled THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU - FIFTY YEARS LATER. Sponsored by the Drew University Center for Holocaust Study in conjunction with the Simon Wiesenthal Center. It will take place on the campus of Drew University in Madison, N.J. on Nov. 10, 1994 with keynote speaker Barbara Distel, Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Museum who will be introduced by the honorable Thomas H. Kean, formerly Governor of New Jersey and presently President of Drew.

The afternoon segment of the program will include a "Report from the Palace of Justice" with speakers Martin Mendelson, legal counsel to the Simon Wiesenthal Center and current prosecutor of war criminals. Also present will be attorney William D. Denson who was chief prosecutor at the Dachau War Crimes Tribunal (1945-46), along with retired Army Captain Victor Wegard who — as a member of the defense team for the trial of Dachau war criminals — opposed the prosecution (1945).

The program will end with a gathering of representative members of the Rainbow Division which liberated Dachau. Directors of the Drew Center for Holocaust Study — Professor Jacqueline Berke and Dr. Ann Saltzman — send greetings to veterans of this Division, urging them to join the program by calling or writing to fellow veteran and organizer Dick Tisch, 502 Fairmont Ave., Chatham, N.J. 07928; (201) 635-2559.

232nd Inf. Regimental Crest

There are a few pins still remaining. Send \$5.00 (includes p&h) to Ken Carpenter, 7618 First St., Pasadena, MD 21122-3402. Make check out to same. In the future there may be more produced, depending on the demand and a volunteer supply handler.

Birmingham Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day will be celebrated in Birmingham, Alabama on November 11-12, 1994. For information as to reservations and rates contact Leon Praytor, 206 Raimund Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020; (205) 425-7353 or Gary Walker, 250 Walker Rd., Birmingham, AL 35214; (205) 798-1542.

John Carr Award

The John Carr membership award was won by Philup Arnone.

A Tribute to Col. Donald Downard,
R.D.V.A. Service Officer

Last December Daniel Hernandez a twice wounded WWII veteran of the 36th Division and Maria his stroke-victim wife, living near my former home on the Yakima Indian Reservation were attacked by an intruder in their home and nearly killed. Since the victims needed financial and moral support as well as medical help, I contacted Don Downard for possible leads to 36th Division people in Texas who might be called on. Don responded that, "This problem is horrible to say the least," and that although he did not have any connection with the 36th Division, he provided the name and address of the D.A.V. Regional Service Officer at the V.A. in Seattle and recommended that we contact him. Don went beyond this by initiating his own confidential contact with the Service Officer. He also asked to be kept informed of progress.

After some false starts and V.A. personnel shifts, by February a V.A. claim for the victim "was in the works." On May 8, four days after Don had died, Rev. Charles Winter who was coordinating assistance for the victims wrote that Daniel "was exuberant. They are getting good help from the V.A. . . . He said he and Maria are doing just fine." Rev. Winter continued, "Without the intervention of friends like you — a host of others from near and far — this Hernandez story could have ended on a very sad note."

On May 11, I sent a copy of Rev. Winter's letter to Don Downard with my note on the bottom "Hi Don — Some good fortune out of misfortune. Once in awhile that extra effort for someone else really pays off." I did not know then that Don's compassion and special help as well as his many other good deeds had, since May 4, already paid off.

Dee Eberhart

Northeast Reunion

The Northeast Region Reunion will be held at the Ramada Inn, I-95 and Rte. 27, at 9 Whitehall Ave., Mystic, Conn. 06355. Telephone (203) 536-4281. Contact Ms. Cinamon Giver. Rates are: \$60.00/single; \$65.00/double; \$70.00/three; \$75.00/four. Hotel tax is 12%. Rates apply three days before and after reunion. Reservations must be made directly with the Inn. You may also call the Inn for travel directions. Reunion registration of \$25.00/person includes Banquet, Hospitality Room and Rainbow T-shirt. (Include payment and T-shirt size with fee.) Checks are payable to Jack I. Baker, Reunion Chairman. For further information contact Jack at 321 Bryn Mawr Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040-3508. Home (516) 248-7677, Office (516) 248-3700.

National Reunion July 12, 13, 14 and 15 1995 Seattle, Washington



Seattle Reunion to Offer Unique Vacation Opportunities

The Pacific Northwest Chapter, host for the 1995 National Reunion in Seattle, Washington, invites you to vacation in the Pacific Northwest next summer. Because our area is one of the leading summer tourist destinations in the nation, the '95 Reunion Committee and their Tour Contractor have put together a package of special tours preceding, and following, the reunion dates. These are in addition to the usual local tours which will be offered during the Reunion and feature Seattle and its environs.

You will have the opportunity to travel by Jet-Catamaran to Victoria, British Columbia on beautiful Vancouver Island, visit Mount Rainier National Park, cruise in the San Juan Islands in Washington's far Northwest corner, or cruise to an island in Puget Sound for a salmon bake at an Indian village; and for the really adventurous, a seven-day Glacier Route Cruise to Alaska. To accommodate this program, the Red Lion Hotel has agreed to extend their special Reunion rates for a week prior and a week following the reunion.

Local tours during the Reunion will feature: a Seattle city tour, Seattle harbor cruise, a visit to Ste. Michelle Winery, and tours of the Boeing Airplane 747/777 Plant.

The Alaska tour leaves Seattle on July 16, the day following the Reunion, and returns on the 23rd. Booked through Holland America Westours, you will be aboard the Holland America Lines' vessel, Rotterdam. You will start the trip traveling by motor-coach from Seattle to Vancouver B.C., then cruise the inside passage to Alaska. The ship stops in Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka, Valdez, and Seward. From Seward you motor coach to Anchorage for a flight back to Seattle.

More details and registration information for the Reunion and all of the above tours are available from the 1995 Reunion Committee. Send inquiries to VERN SMITH, PACIFIC N.W. CHAPTER, RDVA REUNION, P.O. BOX 622, FREELAND, WA 98249.

The reunion will be held at the Sea Tac Red Lion Hotel, 18740 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188: (206) 246-8600. Room rates are \$82.00/single, double, Queen Double, Triple, Quad. (Tax 11%). If you are flying: Delta Airlines is offering special discounts. Call 1-800-241-6760 from 8:00 a.m. to

11:00 p.m. Eastern time. Refer to File Number T1251. Free Transportation to and from Sea-Tac airport furnished by the Red Lion Hotel. If you plan to drive, the Red Lion is located at the corner of South 188th St. and Pacific Highway South. Going either north or south on Interstate 5, use Exit -152 at South 188th St. and go west for one mile to the Pacific Highway and the Hotel. For RV travelers, there is a KOA Campground located three miles to the east of Interstate 5 at the same exit -152. Take Orilla Rd. and travel three miles east to the campground located on the Green River. Make your RV Park reservations early. Seattle South KOA, 5801 South 212th. Kent, WA 98031. Tel. 206-872-8652.

Editor's note: If there was ever a reunion you should make, this is the one. The years are racing by and God only knows how many more we'll be able to attend. Putting off the chance to see that old foxhole buddy could be a mistake, because he or you may not be around for the next one.

Mid-Year Reunion Feb. 23-26, 1995 Washington, D.C.

The reunion headquarters is conveniently located in the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. just across the Potomac overlooking Washington. Complimentary shuttle van service is available to and from Washington National Airport. Singles and Doubles are \$69.00/day plus 9.75% tax. These rates apply three days before and after the reunion. Indoor parking at the hotel is \$3.00/day. Call 1-800-468-9090 for reservations and driving approach instructions before January 20, 1995. Tourmobile Sightseeing is a very effective way to visit Washington's attractions. You can get off and reboard at any stop. From the Hotel you take the free shuttle to the Pentagon City Metro stop, then the second stop on the subway at Arlington Cemetery to obtain tickets and board the Tourmobile. Tours are: Arlington National Cemetery - \$4.00; Washington-Arlington Cemetery - \$9.00; Two day tour of Mt. Vernon-Washington-Arlington - \$26.00/person. The Mt. Vernon Tour by itself is \$17.00/person.

Registration includes Friday luncheon and Saturday evening Banquet at \$40.00. An additional \$10.00 is charged if you wish to tour the Holocaust Museum Friday afternoon.

If you fly into Washington, use National Airport and use the National Sheraton courtesy phone in the taxi area to call for the van. It runs every 30 minutes. If you land at Dulles or BWI try to join with others and use a taxi. Limousines to National (where you can board the shuttle) from Dulles or BWI charge \$26.00/person.

Val Spiegel is the Reunion Chairman, but will be in Europe August 28th to November 4th. At that period of time, registration will be handled by Ms. Julie Stegeman, 3349 Alamo Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45209. Val will be available at (301) 299-2478 at all other times to answer by phone, or at 5305 Wapokoneta Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816.

President-Elect

We are pleased to announce that the President-Elect for 1995-96 will be Vern N. Smith (also the Seattle Reunion Chairman). Vern served with Co. M, 222nd Inf. He and his wife Ellen reside at 5769 So. Mutiny Bay Rd., Freeland, WA 98249

Queen of Battles Award

The award for the largest attendance went to Co. B, 232nd Inf. (31) for the second consecutive year. Anti-Tank Co./232nd Inf. won the most improved (1 to 17).

East Coast Reunion

82 Rainbowers were present at the East Coast Reunion held at Cape May, NJ on May 4-6, 1994. The event was hosted by the N.J. Chapter, and Chairmen Pat Guida, Penn Rankin, and Harold Melinek did themselves proud in hosting a memorable event. Highlights were a trip to Atlantic City's Trump Plaza for the Vic Damone show plus gambling for those who cared to. On the following day a luncheon and tour of the Cape May Coast Guard Base was on the agenda. A delicious dinner and dance capped the affair. Notables attending were; President Romeo and Mildred Fagiolo. PNP Ivan and PNAP Myrtle Wallace; PNP Phil and PNAP Tiny Trout; PNAP Annabelle Cook; N.J. Commander Harold and Edna Melinek; PSC Jay Price and Joan Creveling; and PSC Bob and Dorothy Monsen. Electees for the N.J. chapter for the coming year are Commander Pat Guida and Vice-Commander Penn Rankin. The N.J. Chapter meeting will be held on Oct. 12-14 in Brigantine, NJ. Contact Pat Guida at (908) 687-5013 or Harold Melinek at (201) 372-7866.

Tri-State Reunion

The second Tri-State Reunion was hosted by Iowa and took place April 7-9, 1994 at Waterloo, Iowa. Anita and Russell Aries, with the help of Murl chaired a reunion that will long be remembered. Each state provided its specialty in the food line and it all was topped off by the cake baked and provided by Mary and Harold Reit. It was served by a group of Past National Presidents; Rube Evanoff, Hugo Grimm, Ted Johnson and Herb Klindedinst who were very generous. They served a huge chunk to everyone, including the waitresses. Bill Priebe did a great job as M.C. at the Banquet. President Romeo and Mildred Fagiolo and Auxiliary President Beverly and Red Cap Gil Koehler were guests of honor. Other notables included PNAPs Myrtle Evanoff, Oriana Grimm, Winnie Baldock and National Auxiliary Secty. Bette Qwen along with VP Tom Owen and VP Joe Karam.

The reunion came to a close with a moving memorial to all departed Rainbowers with a special tribute to "Mr. Iowa Rainbow" Harm Aries.

National Auxiliary RDVA Officers 1994-1995

Following is the list of officers for 1994-1995.

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Beverly J. Koehler
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Tempe, AZ 85282

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Reunion Chairperson
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Co "M" 222nd Infantry Ernest H. Giles
Hq. 232nd Infantry Robert J. Binau
Hqs. Co 232nd Infantry William J. Harrigan
1st Bn 232nd Infantry Leon A. Schenck
2nd Bn 232nd Infantry Charles P. Ferranti
3rd Bn 232nd Infantry Norman Usher
242nd Infantry Raymond J. Thome
Co "H" 242nd Infantry Wilson Lavoy
Artillery Richard J. Tisch
42nd Quartermaster Willard Nelson
122nd Med. Bn. Marty Pawlak
132nd Sig. Co. Robert H. Stoudemire
142nd Comb. Engr. Bn. John Vanicky
Med. Det. Spec. Troops Forest H. Jones
MP Platoon Jerry Hunsberger
42nd Recon Troop Bill Butts
Division Band Phillip G. Arnone
742nd Ordinance Co. Henry J. Hajovsky

Scholarship Awards

The Scholarship Committee nominated and the Memorial Foundation and the Association approved the award of scholarships each in the amount of \$500.00 to the following:

Elizabeth Connor Craig J. Dalebout
Adam J. Doucet Lisa Johnson
Laura Lewis Stephanie Milla
Karyn K. O'Kane Michael Ogdahl
Joshua K. Pech Rachelle Shumway
Shawn Spicer Sharron K. Sturgeon
Heather M. Sullivan

Last years Rainbow Scholars were awarded an additional \$300.00 each. The following were the recipients of this award:

Jacquelynne Maxwell Michael Irvin
Joanne Hunsberger Benjamin Russo
Kellie Knott J. Matthew George
Tyler Refling

In order to raise scholarship funds, we have instituted a drawing, which we hope will enable us to continue and expand our Scholarship Program. At our mid-winter meeting we shall draw the name of the winner of an Alaska dream cruise for two.

Life Memberships

There was a question as to whether Life members receive National membership cards each year. They do not. They receive a chapter card each year if the chapter issues its own card. Some Life members also do pay National dues each year as a contribution to National, and in that case, do receive a National membership card.

"Special Alaska Cruise Drawing Sponsored by The Scholarship Committee"

A \$10.00 donation can win a cruise for two people over \$5,000.00 per couple. The cruise departs following our July 1995 Seattle Convention.

To enter the drawing, and for details of the cruise call the:

"Rainbow Division Travel Drawing Desk"

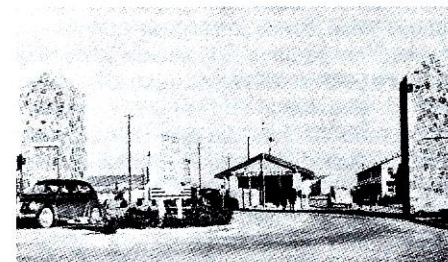
At Incentives International Ltd.

Toll Free 1-800-221-8747 9:30am-5:30pm EST.

Help A Buddy

Tom Barnes of 1409 Ave. J., Scottsbluff, NE 69361 would like to hear from former members of the 142nd Combat Engineers, for the purpose of establishing a disability claim. One man, Robert A. Compton, ASN 36910103, was injured in a mine field. He had a foot and hand blown off. I have his I.D. bracelet and a watch of his that was picked up from the minefield. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone from the 142nd, especially Co. C., would write.

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.

Rainbow/Munich 95

We are all set. Forms and details will be in the November Reveille. For information call Harvey Snapp - 316-283-9200 or Bill Snuffin - 215-674-2996.

Membership Total Correction

In the June issue the membership totals for HQ Co., 232nd Inf. were incorrect. Their total should have been (22). We regret the error.

42nd QM Company

June

(Continued From April Issue)

QM was notified by Army that Div. QM Companies would handle Class I supplies for organic units. This included location of the DP, the ration cycle, policy on reserve rations and 7th Army accounting procedure. Rations were delivered daily to the entire Division, with the exception of the 17th and 18th of Feb., as the entire Division moved to the vicinity of LaPetite Pierre to take up defensive positions. It was found that the menu was set up on a ten day cycle. Condiments were issued three times; each time for a ten day cycle based on the average rations strength for the preceding ten days. Supply distances were extremely short, never exceeding fifty-five miles per round trip, thus allowing morning breakdown to the Division.

During February, the demand for Cl. II and IV supplies was light, due to the fact that all equipment had been reconstituted. At the beginning, round trip supply was from Epinal to Vic Sur Seille. At the end it was from Siewiller to Sarrebourg. DQM called for weekly requisitions, to reach QM by Thursday noon. These requisitions were forwarded to Army on Friday morning, and drawn from the depot on Friday afternoon. Army policy was to give priority to the divisions. So that none was shortchanged, each was authorized not to exceed one-tenth of stock. During the month, Army installations had been moved up almost in the division area; it was just as easy for units to draw direct from Army as the Div. QM.

Two purchasing and contracting officers were appointed in the DQM section. These officers were supplied with forms and a sum of \$100.00/each for making purchases. The most notable items handled were large quantities of cord for helmet camouflage, combat commander's shoulder loops, chevrons, and snow camouflage suits. It was found that these officers must be given a free hand and plenty of transportation. It was necessary to go out and conduct searches for items needed; to improvise where necessary and to use a great deal of imagination.

It had been originally intended to obtain allotments from Army for laundry, and to sub-allot to the various units. It was found that this slowed things down, so it was decided to allow units to make arrangements for laundry direct with each laundry company put at the Division's disposal by Corps. DQM was to be kept informed. On Feb. 14, arrangements were made with the VI Corps QM for the attachment of a Graves Registration unit. An officer was selected, from the infantry, by the G-1 to supervise this detachment under the Div. G-1's control. Shower units and bath units were normally on call from Army. However, it was found that the duties of the combat troops made it almost impossible to make use of these installations, which were well in the rear of division areas. Arrangements were made with the Division Engineers to obtain five

shower units from Army. They were assigned one to each Infantry Regt., one to Division Artillery, and one for the balance of the division. Only the latter was operated by QM personnel. Further arrangements were made with Army to draw additional tentage and stoves to operate these units. Clothing exchange was for Infantry only, operated at battalion level. Stocks of clothing for this exchange were to be drawn from the clothing allowance authorized, but impractical to be used in combat.

It was determined that the DQM would set up and operate salvage and repair facilities for QM items of clothing and equipment. Contact with salvage and repair companies helped obtain parts. A typewriter mechanic was equipped and set up for typewriter repair. Two men were setup to handle repairs for Coleman lanterns, one and two burner stoves and M-1937 ranges, which were critical items. Again, by handling this through DQM, repair time was drastically reduced. Also, no items of this category were lost to the division through salvage.

On March 1, 1945, the 42nd QM was located at Siewiller, where it remained until March 18th. During this time, the Division was supplied with ammunition, signal supplies, chemical warfare supplies, forage for attached pack mules, etc. Troops were billeted in French homes. On March 15th, 41 EM and 1 officer went on a special mission with the Infantry and returned on March 20th. The company moved to Neiderbronn on March 18th. Billets were in a barracks once used for Allied PWs; the motor pool was in a wooded area; heavy demands were made for moving German PWs; Class I division dump was located at a railroad station. The Class III dump was kept as near the front as possible. It was near Barenthal. Reserve was built up to 50,000 gallons. All trucks were kept moving, constantly. The company moved outside Dahn on March 24th. Here, heavy demands for transporta-

tion were made. This was due to the great amount of German PWs to be moved. Infantry regiments turned in large amounts of salvage during this time. We departed, by motor convoy, on March 31st. A quartermaster party had gone on ahead. The company crossed the Rhine at 1900, March 31st, 1945. Early the next morning, a member of the quartermaster party met us and led us to the selected area at Laudembach, Germany.

Division III dump was at Klein-Musbach as, also was Class I. The company was bivouaced in a park on the edge of town. One officer and 24 EM left on a special mission with the Infantry. On April 4th the company moved to a factory one Km. from Langfurt. Facilities were exceptionally good, and all men were billeted in buildings. A large motor repair shop was available, which allowed a speedup in maintenance. The people on special mission returned at this time.

Estenfeld, Germany, a distance of 25 miles, was the next move on April 8th. Several shuttles had to be made; there were not enough trucks. Here, the shower unit was set up and serviced an average of 300/day. The company remained here until April 16th.

(To be continued)

Postscript to the G/232nd Story

(From January Reveille)

Like so many January '45 Rainbow stories, this one has a compelling postscript in the experiences of men who were captured. The reference to two unnamed men of G captured when the commandeered truck ran into an unequal firefight near the Zorn River triggered memories in another Rainbow, of a later encounter with one of those captives. Richard Peebles of H/242nd, captured at Gambshheim, on January 6, recalls meeting up in a POW camp with one of those two captives of the G/232nd truck ambush west of Herrlisheim. In a POW camp at Lillienstein (near Czechoslovakia), Peebles met an old friend from Austin High School days in Chicago — Bob Kile, who recounted the experience of his capture in that January 5 foray, near Herrlisheim. During their months of captivity and forced — on barely-subsistence rations — to perform outdoor work every day, both Peebles and Kile lost more than one-third their normal body weight; and Bob Kile developed a particularly severe case of dysentery. Then, on May 7, the very morning all the POWs were lined up by the German guards for a trek toward U.S. lines (to escape the oncoming Russians), someone called out to those in the march formation that a man named "Kile" had just died. Dick Peebles helped bury his friend in the camp compound that day of the departure. He took Bob's wallet and ring to his family in Chicago.

How much were the lists of Rainbow fatalities swelled that winter and spring of '45 by men who could have been designated, not DOW (Died of Wounds), but DWPOW (Died While Prisoner of War)? Perhaps we shall never know.

We Get Letters

We receive many letters, some good and some not so good. We thought the following letter carries a message for all of us:

Dear sirs:

Please be informed that one of your members has gone "over the Rainbow", and will not be reading your publication anymore. He enjoyed it so much while he was alive, and enjoyed the reminiscing with his group here in the Dallas area. You men did a wonderful job for our country, and I want to say thanks. Without you, we would have no country, nor family nor safety — and we appreciate your 'above the call of duty' efforts on our part. God bless you all.

Widow of Gerald D. Ferris G/232nd Inf.
Mrs. Carol Ferris
326 Old Justin Road
Argyle, TX 76226-3508

Editor's Note: A note to Carol would be nice.

"This Is Where We Stop"

I have read with a great deal of interest stories printed in the *Reveille* dealing with Task Force Linden during the bitter winter months of 1944-45. They help me to recall my experiences at that time.

I, with other members of H Co, 2nd Bn., 222nd Infantry Regiment, were in a defense position near the Moder River. After 50 years, it may be difficult to put my facts together. However, I remember the Krauts outflanking our machine gun position, and my taking the backing plate from the heavy 30. Six of us took off through the woods, and after emerging from the woods, we passed a farm house where we saw an abandoned 81mm mortar sitting in a hole, with rounds of shells stacked near the hole. I told the guys "This is where we stop", and with a buddy named Hollaway, jumped into the hole. I had the other fellows pass us the ammo, and set the shells for short distance three bursts. We fired well over 100 rounds into the woods where the Krauts were. Our tube got so hot that the concrete at the bottom started to run like water. We were jumping with joy because we had stopped the Krauts, when suddenly, we noticed that the last shell I had dropped in the tube had not come out. All of us of TFL remember how freezing cold it was. At that moment, I was sweating and so frightened that I was no longer cold. Remembering from the manual that you must take immediate action, I kicked the tube and, with bated breath, hit it with my flashlight. We could hear a slight movement, but no shell so we proceeded, as per the manual again, to remove the tube the dangerous way. I loosened the handle at the bottom of the tube so that the flange was even with the holder, and told George Hollaway to lift his end of the tube, being extremely slow and careful. In spite of being scared like Hell, he picked up the tube slowly and easily, and I could hear the shell moving as he kept elevating the tube from the bottom. Suddenly, there was the nose at the opening of the tube. I put my hands around the opening, grabbing the shell as it emerged and carried it over to another buddy, J.C. Caroline (95 pounds of all guts), and told him to take the shell out 50 yards and lay it on the ground. When J.C. came back, I reached over to shake his hand, and noticed that my hands were full of blood. In order for J.C. to make certain that he held the shell without dropping it, he had removed his gloves and the cold steel from the shell had removed his skin. We then continued to fire rounds at the Krauts in the woods for the next several days.

At that time, the guys came to me and said, "Ike, we might have to surrender, because we have nothing, and are hopelessly outnumbered." I said to them, "Not me, buddies. If I am killed in action, that is one thing, but because I am Jewish, the SS would take me out and blow my head off." The next morning, my buddies said, "We figured it out. You're from Chicago, near

Milwaukee, where there is a large German-American population. If we are captured, cut off the H from your dogtags and tell them your name is Eisenschein." This I did, and after we were relieved by the 101st put this incident out of my mind. To this day, I still have my dog tag with the H missing. I would wish that Hollaway and Caroline would see this and get in touch with me.

Morris "Ike" Eisenstein

A Story Of "The Remainder of . . . L" (232nd Infantry)

Anyone scanning the *Report of Action for January 1945* prepared by the 232nd Infantry Regiment should be struck by the recurring mention of a unit referred to as "the remainder of Company L." How did that company come to be a "remainder?" What was it called upon to do as a "remainder?"

On the morning of January 5, 1945, L/232nd was positioned along the Rhine in two major segments. The 1st and 2nd rifle platoons and the company headquarters section were based in Gambsheim and occupied positions on the edges of that town, defending against threats from across the Rhine. The 3rd rifle platoon and all of L's heavy weapons were based in Kilstett just a mile to the south of Gambsheim, with the machine guns in a pillbox on the northeast corner of Kilstett and the mortars, in battery, also set up at this northeast corner. Riflemen of 3rd Platoon were positioned to protect the mortars on this east side of town facing the Rhine.

At 0730 trip flares set out between Kilstett and the Rhine were detonated in a thunderous and sparkling display and small arms fire began in Gambsheim. To the men in Kilstett, it appeared that a German element was working south from the Gambsheim bridge site along the west bank of the Rhine. The L Company mortars began firing in battery at 0800 and in 20 minutes placed nearly 300 rounds on the Germans attempting to build a line along the dikes beside the river. Apparently overestimating the strength of the American force in Kilstett, the Germans halted moves to envelop that town in their cross-Rhine attack and began to build up a defensive line facing south to protect the part of Gambsheim they had taken. From that moment on, until Seventh Army jumped off in an offensive on March 15, the southern shoulder of the Gambsheim bridgehead was established at Kilstett — occupied by French First Army units after those first few days when a segment of L/232nd was the principal defender.

Events of January 5, however, gave little indication of concentrated American defensive strength let alone offensive power. Small clusters of men, and sometimes isolated individuals, were writing the story of a battle that eventually led to stalemate and a company that would fight on as a "remainder" throughout most of the month of January.

At 0830, Major Galloway (CO of 3rd Bn/232nd), Lt. Burr (L's Weapons Platoon

Leader) and a runner, Pfc Feller, headed out on foot across the open field from the northeast corner of Kilstett toward Gambsheim a mile away, intent on making contact with the American forces there. About 50 yards from the woodline bordering Gambsheim on the south, a German defensive line fired on them and all three went to ground. A three-man contact patrol immediately became three individuals seeking a way back to Kilstett, with the major (moving back to the southwest) soon back at his headquarters while Burr and Feller remained missing for many hours.

At 1030 a radio report received at 3rd Bn headquarters from the elements in Gambsheim said that the garrison there had been completely surrounded and all communications with outposts had been severed. At 1100 another radio report said the remaining American elements in Gambsheim were surrendering to some 800 of the enemy. In Gambsheim itself, Lt. Buck, CO of L, shot in both legs, gave the order to surrender just before losing consciousness. Les Neal recalled: "When I surrendered I crawled across a road and up a ditch under heavy fire. The tracers were so close to my ass I could feel the heat . . . I leaned up against a building, burned all information, souvenirs and destroyed a BAR. Then sat there reliving my life in five minutes." Within the hour, Neal and other captured buddies were being hurried toward the Rhine on the double and split up into working parties to carry ammunition from the river. "Two men were carrying Lt. Buck on a stretcher," Neal recalled. "The last I saw of him they were putting him inside a pillbox where German medics were operating."

In Kilstett, it was becoming apparent that the German threat from Gambsheim was not just confined to the sector near the river. At 1130 two of L's mortar squads were sent to the northwest corner of Kilstett, arriving in that sector just as tremendous German artillery concentrations blanketed the area. Within a 1/2 hour period, the mortarmen of L had to change their positions a half dozen times as the Americans began to feel the power of the artillery and mortars supporting the German bridgehead force.

That first afternoon, American receiving their first real baptism to battle here beside the Rhine were being made abundantly aware of the crushing power of artillery and its smothering effects on ground combat. And they soon realized how completely lacking in such power their own forces were. A makeshift GI force, built around a depleted L Company rifle platoon and the company's weapons platoon, accompanied by two squads from other Rainbow companies and some 180 French irregulars (a police unit from Strasbourg), moved out on Gambsheim early in the afternoon in an attempt to relieve the Gambsheim garrison before those men could be transported across the Rhine. The attacking force had gone about 1000 yards over the open field when the

(Continued on Page 7)

enemy's barrage descended. An L company historian recalled: "The barrage was perfectly patterned, first to the rear to prevent withdrawal, next to the front to halt the advance, and finally directed on top to destroy the force. The movement of individual commanders about the field actually drew a barrage from the entire German battery." In support, the men of L and their companions "did not have a single gun or cannon . . ." And after many hours, with forward progress stopped and clinging to cover wherever it could be found, the afternoon attack force retired, as darkness descended, to the northeast corner of Kilstett. In that withdrawal, Lt. Priem, now acting CO of L, spotted a man crawling toward the GI lines and waving frantically. Thus did Pfc Feller, the runner from the early morning patrol, return to the company after a long day of waiting within a stone's throw of maneuvering German units and after an encounter with a Kraut machine gun squad that Feller fended off with his puny carbine.

L/232nd moved closer to its "remainder" status that day: 17 wounded (1/3 of the Kilstett-segment's original fighting strength) were evacuated that night. But late that night the company ranks were swelled by one more "miracle survivor." Lt. Burr, also pinned in the early morning encounter with the German Gambsheim defense line, had worked his way back across that open field after darkness fell, passing Kraut wire laying parties and infiltrating the American defense line until he was well into Kilstett. Near the L Company CP, Lt. Priem called out "halt" to an approaching shadowy figure and heard a familiar voice respond "P-P-P-Priem." Thus at midnight, Lt. Burr rejoined L Company and his weapons platoon.

That first night (January 5-6) following the German cross-Rhine attack, L Company men on guard in positions on the northern and northeastern edges of Kilstett were curious about bursts of flame that periodically pierced the blackness in the enemy lines to their front. The next day's try at Gambsheim brought an answer to the mystery of those flashes of flame.

In the morning, Americans from Kilstett again advanced on Gambsheim across that open field. Led by Lt. Priem, the men of L were accompanied this time by F/232nd and part of K/232nd on their right (while F/222nd attempted to move up in support on the left from west of the railroad tracks but never made contact with the main force out of Kilstett). Again, the devastating enemy artillery opened up after the main force had advanced about 1000 yards. But this time the presence and firepower of four Sherman tanks of the 781st Tank Bn enabled a small group to penetrate the enemy defense line, and moving northeast, to rescue eleven men of the force in Gambsheim who had been holding out in a pillbox literally within the German lines. Thus, at the very point of that morning's thrust at Gambsheim, Lt. Priem became a squad leader. And his tank supported rifle squad — Pfc Goldsborough,

Poucher and Boyce of L/232nd, joined by S/Sgt Opp of F/232nd and Sgt DiGamino of K/232nd — forced its way to a pillbox where eleven men, most of them from M/232nd, had been holding their position even after the German attack force from across the Rhine has swept completely around them.

In fact, the small stubborn force in the pillbox had played a major part in discouraging the German thrust on Kilstett. For the Krauts had had to establish a line facing Kilstett that was nakedly exposed to the GIs in the pillbox. The L/232nd historian has explained: "Squad after squad [of the enemy] had been lined up in an attempt to take the position by storm and had been cut down by the Heavy Machine Gun fire from the pillbox. Squads of men were lined shoulder to shoulder, backed by some SS NCO, and boldly charged the emplacement firing anti-tank grenades, pistols, and everything they could get their hands on at the vision and firing slits." The German losses were tremendous.

As they met up with the men rescued from the pillbox, the men of L solved the mystery of the flames in the night. For during the previous night, the desperate enemy had brought up flamethrowers in an attempt to eliminate the pillbox position. But the riflemen in the pillbox had thwarted every assault, cutting down those manning the flamethrowers — and any who tried to pick up and man those weapons dropped by the fallen — at a distance of ten or fifteen yards. In the course of their isolated stand, the intrepid eleven had cost the Germans well over 50 men.

But "Squad Leader" Priem's own small group was also making a dent in the enemy ranks. And it was on that day that Pfc Goldsborough's reputation as "the man with the AR" was established. The L/232nd historian recalls that day at Gambsheim: "In rapid succession he had assaulted singlehandedly three enemy machine gun nests, killing enough of the crews of each of the guns to make some 20-odd of the remainder of the crews and supporting riflemen surrender. Just to watch that guy audaciously stroll up to a machine gun nest, BAR blazing, and see the remains of the crews come jumping out of their holes shouting 'Kamerad' was an inspiration to the other riflemen." Total prisoners taken that day by the American attack force amounted to 39, while L had sustained only three casualties (two of the three not serious enough to require evacuation).

January 7 brought preparations for L/232nd's participation in a third attack on Gambsheim; and by early afternoon they were lined up awaiting a new jumpoff order. But this time French armor was to be the major power in the assault. And as the Allied armor moved into position on the edge of Kilstett and just behind L Company's positions and German tanks emerged from the woodline on the edge of Gambsheim to meet this new threat, the men of L became spectators sitting between the two lines of a tank battle. The historian recall-

ed: "Screaming anti-tank shells . . . went crashing into the French emplacements behind us. Armor piercing shells, that looked like giant flaming .50 calibers, went flashing by." Sensing no contributing role in this chaotic scene of opposing armored firepower, the men of L withdrew to defenses in the center of Kilstett. The stalemated battle continued into the evening, with the French losing five tanks and a number of half tracks. And by 2200, as more of the French column arrived from the south, it became clear that L/232nd and other American forces in the area were being relieved of their responsibilities in this sector.

At midnight, the 40-odd men now constituting L/232nd walked out of Kilstett and on to La Wantzenau — and to a role for the duration of Task Force Linden in which they would always be designated "the remainder of Company L."

On the morning of January 8, "the remainder of L" began to occupy its special role in the 232nd Regiment for the rest of January 1945. It would serve directly under the Regimental CO, at first as the defensive force for the command installation at the Camp D'Oberhoffen and later, beginning on January 16, as the Regimental Commander's personal task force. As the men boarded transportation on January 8 for the Camp D'Oberhoffen, some wag reminded them of their company's diminished numbers with the shout, "OK, Love Company, here's your truck." Still, even in its weakened state, the calls to duty — especially after January 16 when they operated in a small force supported by four tanks of the 781st Tank Bn — were incessant.

Assist in relieving pressure at Drusenheim. Rush to the aid of B/232nd at Sessenheim. Start (at 0200 on January 17) on a mission to recapture Roeschwoog; then shift before daylight to help repulse a threat in K Company's sector; and return under new orders at 1800 to Schirrhofen. Move (at 0100 on January 18) to cover a gap in the lines outside Sessenheim where B/232nd is under siege; then withdraw during the morning, under constant artillery fire, to Soufflenheim; and at 1100 return to Schirrhofen. Proceed (on January 19) to Soufflenheim to prepare to outpost a town occupied by I/232nd. But on January 20, before those positions (reconnoitered by unit commanders) can be occupied after dark, "the remainder of L" joined in the general withdrawal, 20 miles through the deep snow and underbrush of Haguenau Forest in a forced march on foot that did not end until 0700 on January 21.

The historian wrote: "For 72 consecutive hours the infantry component of the original task force had been carrying on the attack against a determined enemy thrust . . . The infantrymen had been without sleep and with very little food for the entire period." Still, briefly rested at Bossendorf, "the remainder of L" was called upon on January 26 in the 232nd's counterattack through the

(Continued on Page 8)



Memorial Foundation Report

Below are the plans for Rainbow's approved return to Europe to mark the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. Wolfgang Robinow, who with the 242 I&R platoon played a part in the surrender of Munich, has organized a great program which includes: 4/26/95-arrive in Munich; 4/27-Tour of Munich, and rest; 4/28-Reception at Dachau Castle as guests of the city, and see an exhibit of the 42nd activities in WW2; 4/29-In Munich see the Glockenspiel, Marinceplatz; enjoy U.S. and German band music and attend a reception by the Mayor. In the evening there will be a banquet in resplendent King's Castle. We will be guests of the Bavarian Government. 4/30-We will observe the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of KZ Dachau. Attending will be hundreds of former inmates from all over Europe. Also, various US and German dignitaries will attend. 5/1-Travel to Salzburg, visit General Collins' grave and lay wreath; attend a reception and luncheon in a restaurant owned by the great grandson of Emperor Franz Joseph. (All of the above activities plus all local transportation are included in a registration fee of \$100.00.) The Rainbow headquarters hotel is the EDEN-WOLFF. Rates are \$75.00 Sgl. and \$100.00 Dbl. (Includes a buffet breakfast.) Special airfares have been negotiated with Lufthansa and United through Travel One. Connections anywhere int he US. Registration: \$100.00/person up to 60 days prior to the trip. A form will appear in the next Reveille. In the interim you can send checks/money orders to Harvey Snapp, 900 N. Poplar St., Newton, KS 67114, (316) 283-9200. Send your name, unit, address, phone number, number of persons at \$100.00/each, and number and type rooms desired. For travel requirements call Cindy Hinke at 800-800-8641 at Travel One and specify what you want. Remember, the event starts on April 26th, 1995. For further information call Harvey or Bill Snuffin at (215) 674-2996.

There is also an Alsatian add-on hosted by Lise Pommois and the mayor of Haguenau.

Another tour is offered by Battlefield Tours. They will mail a brochure. This tour includes Munich-Dachau-Salzburg (\$100.00 fee), and continues through Austria, Wuerzburg, Alsace-Lorraine (where Lise Pommois will guide us through old battlefields) and end in Haguenau and Schweighausen. There will be a banquet on VE Day Anniversary available to all at a cost to be determined. Battlefield Tours provides all transport and hotels. Toll free 1-800-635-5018 or (504) 641-0689.

Memorial Foundation reports that all 200 copies of Bill Boyd's book *The Gentle Infantryman* were sold, netting the Foundation \$1,300.00 from the sale. Bill autographed his book, and also presented the Foundation with a check for \$1,000.00 — a true friend and Rainbow comrade. Anyone desiring a copy may send a check for \$15.00 to Dee Eberhart, 750 Vanderbilt Road, Ellensburg, VA 98926 before Oct. 15, 1994.

Champagne Bath

The article in the April, 1994 Reveille about Wuerzburg reminded me of an incident that took place after our troops captured that city. It seems that we captured a warehouse full of French Champagne that the Germans had brought from France. When word of this reached the Division rear Headquarters (or Administrative Center, as it was officially called) in the town of Wertheim, Germany, a truck was sent up, under the charge of a Warrant Officer, to bring back some of the bottles for the personnel at Wertheim.

When they arrived at the warehouse, the WO told the driver to load some of the cases in the truck, while the officer looked around. When the WO returned, he saw the driver pouring champagne over his bare feet, and said, "What the hell are you doing?" "Sir," the driver said, "All my life I wanted to bathe in champagne and this is the first chance I had to do it."

Morton J. Barnard
Lt. Col. JACC Rtd.
Div. HQ WW2

232nd Inf. (Continued)

deep snows of Ohlungen Forest to restore the American line on the Moder River. And finally, on January 27, after the long ride back to Gramercy, France for rest and refitting, "the remainder of L," some 35 men and 2 officers, was ready to receive reinforcements and restoration to numbers at least approaching those of a full-strength rifle company.

(To be continued)



c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor
P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Artillery Corner

Another Rainbow Reunion goes down in history. Divarty played their usual part in its success. As usual, the Divarty Hospitality Room was an active place. 94 Artillerymen, wives and friends contributed to its success. Next year the Reunion will be held at the Red Lion Inn, Seattle, Washington and Fred Barrell and Arlen Ward (both "C" Battery, 392nd) will arrange for our Hospitality Suite. In 1996 the Reunion will be held at the Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock Arkansas. Mason Huff's (Service Btry. 392nd) Breakfast for the Division Artillery is becoming a tradition... and very enjoyable — in all, 35 Artillerymen attended — we thank you again, Mason. Gilbert (Gil) Koehler ("B" Btry. 232nd) was elected President of Divarty for the next two years... his address is 1269 E. Manhotten, Tempe, Arizona, 85282 (602) 838-2816. 57 Artillerymen attended the Divarty meeting which went very smoothly... at that time it was voted to make a donation of \$300.00 to the Scholarship Fund. The Ladies Auxiliary contributed endless hours of work and preparation for their activities. The Arts and Craft Show was a financial success again this year. The ladies donated two television sets to the Louisville Veterans Hospital and \$300.00 to the Rainbow General Fund. Helen Fowler, wife of Charley ("C", 392nd) made a beautiful quilt which was chanced off and won by a lucky lady. Many hands contributed to the making of another Rainbow Quilt again this year, and for this we are most grateful.

Photographs

We had hoped to print photographs, taken in Louisville, of the Past National Presidents and the Past National Auxiliary Presidents. Unfortunately, as we went to press, they were not available. We intend to place them in the November issue.

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