



Vol. LXXIV

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No. 3

## The Trail of the Rainbow As I Remember It — 13 Years Later

by Major General Harry J. Collins

*Ed. note: We recently received the following account of General Collin's return to the "Trail of The Rainbow" 13 years after the war's end. We thought it would be of interest to all Rainbowers.*

*Do not read this if you are looking for character assassination, adverse criticism of those under whom I served or of those who served under me, because you will not find it. If there were mistakes made, they were of the head and not of the heart. I honestly believe that every officer and man did his very best.*

General Collins

*I apologize to the readers of this article for the use of the personal pronoun "I" so many times, but it is very difficult to write what one thought after 17 years without using a personal pronoun unless one is an accomplished writer, which I am not.*

General Collins

### LA PETITE PIERRE

Driving the same road the Division used moving up to La Petite Pierre, I recognized every turn and felt certain I could have no difficulty in town; however, when I got into town I could not find my old CP until after many inquiries. I then inquired about the Catholic Priest and was informed that he had died. The Protestant minister and his family had moved away. I then started to Wimmenau but could not find the road. However, again after many inquiries, I found it and headed for that wide place in the road. It had not changed. Then I went toward Wingen. Stopped at Reipertswiller. Yes, they remembered the Rainbow Division — especially the women around 35 years of age. This town had been completely rebuilt. There I crossed the bridge and went into what had been the German lines and found the trenches showing their positions, many potato mashers, grenades, helmets, rifle butts, etc.

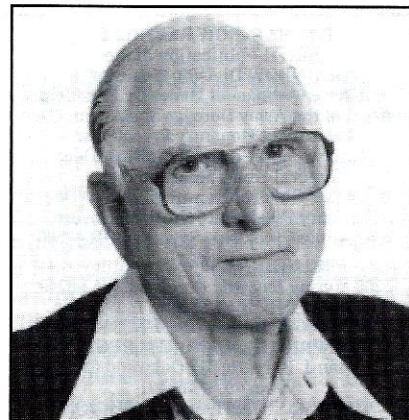
I remember the first day in La Petite Pierre. I pulled up to HQ of the 45th Division and met Major General Fredericks, one of the finest combat soldiers I ever knew. After a briefing of my staff and myself, I asked him to take me up to the front. We went up to Wingen and from there toured the "Eadle" front line to Wimmenau. One could follow the front line by the outline of the cars that have been discarded by the troops and when the sun was shining, as it was that morning, the reflection made the front line stand out

like neon lights. From there, we went back to Headquarters of the 45th Division where the staffs of the 45th and 42nd Divisions had worked out a plan of relief of the former by the latter. The plan was good and both Fredericks and I approved of it. Following this, I had a conference with my commanders and staff and directed they remove the "neon" signs showing the front lines and that thereafter, all the trash, cars, etc. would be buried; that they establish a defense in depth. Fredericks and I made a tour of the 45th Artillery positions and his supporting troops. I then directed my regimental commanders to go up front for a briefing and made a reconnaissance of the regiments and battalions they were to relieve and work out relief. The relief was completed without incident.

The next day I went to the front lines to check on the disposition of my troops. I found they were disposed in a cordon defense, that is, in one straight line, generally speaking. They simply had taken over the position from the 45th Division without difference in depth. I quickly corrected this. I then checked the machine gun positions and other supporting arms, including artillery, then back to rear echelon in Cirey where Col. Tanner had set it up. While there, he told me about a French Priest who spoke English and who had been such a great help to them, Father Rohr. I met him, thanked him for his help and asked him if he would like to join us, which he agreed to do after his Bishop's permission. He stayed with us until Austria from where he returned to France because of ill health. However, he is still alive and serving in a hospital in Luxembourg — still wearing the Rainbow on his cassock. The first time I sewed it on for him over his heart was at Cirey.

Every day I visited each regiment on the front line. After talking to my troops and observing them, I began to realize that they had taken quite a beating while attached to the 79th

## President's Report



Vern Smith

Veterans' Day ceremonies in Birmingham exceeded our expectations. It provided another opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of some of our Rainbow family, and the impressive official program forcefully reminded us that we were there to remember the sacrifice of our comrades who lost their lives defending our country. It also caused us to reflect that we must keep our country strong to prevent the tragedies of war in the future. Birmingham and the State of Alabama can be proud of this long tradition of observance of Veterans' Day. It was heart warming to see all of the children who lined the street, waving flags and saluting us and the other elements of the parade, which took almost three hours to pass the reviewing stand. It caused me to wish that my own community was as active in the observance of this day, and to wonder if perhaps all of us should assume a more active role in promoting this national holiday in our home areas.

On another subject: conventional wisdom would seem to indicate that trying to recruit new members for our organization fifty years after the fact would be rather futile. The facts, however, indicate otherwise. At the National Reunion in Louisville in 1994 there were twenty-five first-time attendees. This year in Seattle there were twenty. All of these were not newly recruited members, but some were, which points up our need to both urge for the participation of our current membership and continue to look for those who have not yet joined our Association. The current phone disk technology makes finding addresses and phone numbers for former Rainbow folks relatively simple, but where we need help is in making the phone calls which experience has proven to be the only effective means of recruitment. We will be looking for volunteers within each Battalion or Company, and hope that some of you will step forward to help.

*Happy Holidays,*  
Vern

(Continued on Page 5)



**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**

Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans  
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**Chaplain's Prayer**

O Lord, Our God, as we enter this New Year, we commit ourselves once again to those ideals that we fought for on battlefields so long ago, ideals that have sustained us throughout our lives to this day. This year we remember fifty-one years since the end of World War II. As many of us return to battlefield sites, we know full well that peace has not come to all the earth. In our day we fought the tyranny of Nazism; today there are many threats to peace in many places, especially Bosnia. May we as a nation never waiver in our resolve to do what we can do and what we must do to assure peace on earth and good will among all people. Amen.

Rev. Norman Forde

**Down Memory Lane**

(Continued from November Issue)

In addition since I hold Sgt.'s rank, I am required to take a "bust" to Corporal — at least temporarily — to fit into the clerk's slot. Many others in my unit who were chosen for the cadre were veteran Regular Army men who had served originally in the Second Division — including the first sergeant, the motor sergeant, most of the platoon sergeants and the mess sergeant.

The same was true of a great many of the other units in the 102nd. As the train pulled out, carrying the cadre to Camp Gruber, we recognized many men who had served with us once in the Second Division at San Antonio.

Weeks went by after we arrived at Camp Gruber before the first newly-inducted soldiers arrived to begin basic training. We studied training manuals and went through many "dry runs" of basic training drills to be ready for the recruits when they arrived. Since most outfits had few, if any, privates in the cadre, veteran non-coms were required to pull KP duty.

Finally, troop trains began arriving at the siding, bringing men who had been inducted a few days earlier at points all over the nation. The influx of "fillers" as they were called began in August and continued into September of 1943.

(Camp Gruber, as most will recall, was located on the outskirts of Muskogee, Okla., in the Cookson Hills. Shortly before our arrival, it had been vacated by the 88th Division and attached units.)

So when the Rainbow began training in earnest, it represented for many of the cadremen the end of a journey that started in San Antonio, stopped briefly at Camp Swift, paused for nearly a year at Camp Maxey and finally terminated in the scrub hills of Oklahoma.

**Editor's Rainbow Man of the Year**

Our choice for man of the year is still another stalwart Rainbower who labors unceasingly with no desire for recognition. He has held down the post of President of the D.C. chapter for several years. His greatest attribute is in the field of research. Among his many achievements are filling in the gaps in the 2d Bn./232d Inf. Regimental history and subsequently publishing a booklet "Action In the Strassbourg Area / 2d Bn./232d Inf; A painstaking search and meticulous corroboration of the 42d Battle Deaths." He was the one who enabled us to put things in proper sequence in the publication of the booklet "42d Battle Deaths." Additionally he discovered six winners of the D.S.C. which were previously unknown. A Rainbow salute and a "well done, comrade" goes to VAL SPIEGEL.

**Editor's Whereabouts**

Your editor intends to be in Florida from Dec. 12, 1995 to March 25, 1996. All materials should be sent there: 116 Granada Lane, PonteVedra, FLA, 32082, Tel. 904-285-1163.

**Parris Island**

In his role as Co-host of the Rudy Rudolf radio talk show, your editor was privileged to spend 3 days at the Marine Recruiting Base at Parris Island, S.C. This was in conjunction with an Educator's Program. We came away with renewed faith in our youth of today. We were very impressed with our future leaders. We accompanied one recruiting class through their training, and even got to fire the M-16-2A rifle — quite an experience. Borrowing from our Marine buddies — "Semper Fi — til I die."



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Lincoln, Nebraska

Michelle Fagin - Archivist



## National Reunion — Little Rock, Arkansas July 17-21, 1996

The National Reunion will be held in Little Rock, Ark. on July 17-21, 1996. The first three hundred and fifty rooms will be assigned to the Excelsior Hotel; thereafter to the Doubletree Hotel. Room rates are the same in either hotel: \$70.00 per night for 1 bed/1 person; 1 bed/2 persons; 2 beds/2 persons; 2 beds/4 persons. Forms should be sent to: Rainbow Division Veterans, c/o Little Rock Convention Bureau, P.O. Box 207, Little Rock, AR 72203-0207. Fax (501) 376-4143. Contact Jack Refling, Lakewood Hills Condo #41, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088 for forms. Registration is \$40 per person with an optional \$5 contribution for a drawing for 4 nights free hotel accommodations. Send reservation forms to Reunion Chairman: Rainbow Division Veterans, Little Rock Convention Bureau, P.O. Box 207, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Tours are:

### Tuesday 7/16

No. 1: Blanchard Springs — 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. **\$47.00 Each**

No. 2: Mississippi Casino — 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. **\$30.00 Each**

No. 3: Hot Springs Tour — 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **\$35.00 Each**

(Offered again on 7/21.)

### Wednesday 7/17

No. 4: LRAFB Tour — 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **\$22.00 Each**

No. 5: Little Rock Tour — 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **\$15.00 Each**

(Offered again 7/19)

### Thursday 7/18

No. 6: Murry Dinner Theater — 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. **\$38.00 Each**

(Offered again 7/19)

### Friday 7/19

No. 7: Little Rock Tour — 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **\$15.00 Each**

No. 8: Omni Max Theater — 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **\$20.00 Each**

No. 9: Murry Dinner Theater — 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. **\$38.00 Each**

### Sunday 7/21

No. 10: Hot Springs Tour — 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **\$35.00 Each**

For Tours: Return to: Arkansas Tours Inc., 2115 N. Main, P.O. Box 4369, North Little Rock, AR 72190-4369 (Phone 1-800-852-2877).

Branson Post Convention Tour: July 21-23, 1996 (\$295.00 per person).

REGISTER BEFORE MAY 15, 1996 AND BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN A WEEK OF TIME-SHARE ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.!

What's it like in Little Rock?

Shopping in Little Rock can be fun. There are shops located in and near Statehouse Plaza, and scattered about

the city are a number of shopping centers. The shops along Kavanaugh Boulevard in western Little Rock include boutiques, gift shops, coffee houses and antiques. Park Plaza, University Mall and Southwest Mall in Little Rock and McCain Mall and Lakewood Village in North Little Rock, offer shoppers everything from movie theaters to large department stores and specialty shops.

Dining in Little Rock is an adventure. With over 300 restaurants, there is something to suit every taste, from down home southern cookin' to haute cuisine. You can find four-star restaurants in downtown hotels, or go down to the river for seafood or catfish. You may select French, Greek, Oriental, Mexican — to name a few choices available. Be sure to bring your appetite. Two opportunities are planned to enjoy dinner and theater at Murry's Dinner Playhouse: on Thursday and again on Friday. Transportation, a delicious buffet dinner and a delightful theatrical production are all included in the ticket price.

One of the best parts of being located in the center of the state is the close proximity of Little Rock to other interesting areas of Arkansas. Less than an hour's drive from Little Rock is one of the oldest national parks in America, Hot Springs National Park, known for its therapeutic mineral hot springs baths. Tuesday, the 16th, and Sunday, the 21st, an all-day tour of Hot Springs is available. A little farther south you can actually dig for diamonds at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. You might go home with a treasure.

If you travel up I-40 to Northwest Arkansas, you can visit the Ozark Folk Center and Blanchard Springs Caverns. A tour of Blanchard Springs will be offered on Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Other tours available include a Mississippi Casino trip on Tuesday and a tour of the Little Rock Air Force Base on Wednesday.

The post-reunion trip to Branson will be filled with fun and visits to several country music theaters. Plan to extend your trip July 21-23 to take advantage of this chance for fun and fellowship with your comrades for only \$295 per person.

Scenic beauty and friendly people — these are two of the lasting memories people take with them when they've been to Arkansas. Whether you remain in Little Rock or take advantage of the many tours available, you will find people who are eager to help make your stay here full of pleasant surprises. For additional information contact Jack Refling at Lakewood Hills Condo #41, Fairfield Bay, AR 72153, or call (501) 884-2670.

## Mid-Year Reunion Mesa — February 7-12, 1996

The Mid-Year Reunion will be held in Mesa, Feb. 7-12, 1996 at Dobson Ranch Inn & Resort, 1666 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ 85202. Tel. (800) 528-1356. Room rates are \$72 per night for single or double. (State tax is 7% plus \$1.25 per night per room tax.) Included in the price of the room is a buffet breakfast each morning. When making reservations identify yourself as being with the 42nd Rainbow Division, Group #3287. Please make your room reservation before January 7, 1996 to receive the special rate. There is room for RV parking, but no hook-ups.

The Dobson Inn is located at the intersection of I-60 and Dobson Road. The Super Shuttle to and from the airport is \$14 first person and \$5 thereafter. Taxis are also available at the average rate of \$17. There are special rates for a group of 7 people on the Super Shuttle.

The early bird party is on Thursday, Feb. 8; a luncheon on Friday, Feb. 9; and the banquet on Sat., Feb. 10. The registration is \$40 per person. Make checks payable to Mid-Year 1996 Reunion and mail to Gil Koehler, 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282, Tel. (602) 838-2816. Early registration is greatly appreciated.

### Tri-State - 1996

Iowa - Minnesota - Wisconsin  
Hosted by the Minnesota Chapter  
and Auxiliary  
April 18-19-20, 1996

At the Days Inn Airport, 1901 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425 - Phone 1-612-854-8400. The Days Inn Airport is across the street from the Mall of America, the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the USA. Hotel cutoff date is March 18, 1996; room rates \$62 plus tax per night. Make your hotel reservation early and directly with the Days Inn.

The advance registration fee is \$15 per person and \$20 at the door. The registration fee covers the early bird party and entertainment Thursday evening, Friday Memorial Service, noon luncheon, Twin City tour, Saturday morning continental breakfast and Saturday night banquet. Lots of free time for visiting and shopping, snacks and refreshments all three days, no other charges.

Send your advance registration check (\$15 per person) to V.J. (Rube) Evanoff, 5101 West 109th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437 Phone 1-612-888-2256.



## A Thanks to the Men of the 42nd Rainbow Division

National Reunion, July 12-15,  
1995, Seattle, Washington

By Debbie Benezra and Miriam Greenbaum,  
Surviving Generations of the  
Holocaust Oral History Project

We would like to thank you for allowing us to share in your reunion. Many of you came forward with your experiences, artifacts and ideas, bringing to life the events we have learned from books about World War II. We now know what makes the men of the 42nd and their families so very special. It is your camaraderie, desire for the truth and generosity of spirit. We are only sorry that we did not have the time to meet all of you!

We are grateful to those who completed our questionnaire, participated in our Oral History Project, and sent us materials, books, articles, videotapes and photographs. The materials we continue to receive from many of you will be available to educators and students at the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center located in Seattle, Washington.

Information from the questionnaires will be forwarded to appropriate Holocaust oral history projects located throughout the country, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and Steven Spielberg's SHOAH project. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has already expressed an interest in obtaining copies of the videotapes we completed at the Reunion, for their own collection.

We are presently organizing our paperwork, viewing the videotapes we made, reading the materials we received from many of you and preparing a grant proposal. Our goal is to develop a videotape and accompanying guide based on our interviews that may be used in the schools as part of the curriculum on World War II.

Special thanks go to Mr. Dee Eberhart for his warm welcome and constant support before and during the course of the reunion and to Mr. and Mrs. John McGovern for selflessly making available their suite so that we might videotape some of the stories we heard. We especially want to thank the men who were interviewed on videotape. We know that it is extremely painful to relive certain memories. But your words and emotions will give meaning and immediacy to the student who perceives World War II to be just one more distant event.

## The Fighting 69th in Texas

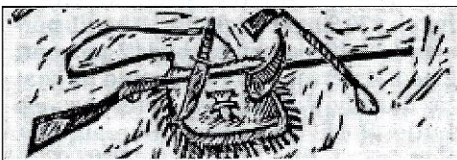
(From the Valley Town Crier)

Proposals to employ the National Guard to patrol the Mexican border are not new, for the guard has been in Texas before with the same mission; to protect U.S. citizens and stop smuggling. Events in McAllen, Texas are illustrative and explain a historical marker in the city honoring one of the units. In July, 1916, American soldiers streamed into the community, and by Fall a full fledged camp occupied most of the area between present day business and expressway highways 83 on the north and south and on the east and west between Bicentennial Boulevard and South 23d St. The mobilization began when President Woodrow Wilson responded to Panch Vila's raid on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9th. While the regular army under General John J. Pershing invaded western Mexico, National Guard units occupied other parts of the border. Altogether, 18,532 soldiers, mostly of the New York National Guard, bivouacked in McAllen. Impressed with the wealth of some of the New York officers, folks termed the unit a "rich man's outfit." Colonel Cornelius Vanderbilt III, commander of the 22d Engineers, rented an entire home from a McAllen family. New stores, churches and houses were constructed while soldiers roamed downtown, spending their pay. Business men in McAllen never again realized such huge profits in any subsequent venture.

Among the New York Units was the 69th Regiment, later to achieve glory in France during WWI. As shock troops formed from a cross section of state units, one out of three, a total of 14,683 of McArthur's men, were killed or wounded. The 69th gained such renown that its nickname became a byword for American courage "The Fighting 69th." Actually, General Robert E. Lee had bestowed the nickname on the unit (formed in 1851 by Irish civilians in N.Y.C.), in recognition for its efforts against him in every Union campaign from Bull Run to Appomattox. Thirty years later, every man in the 69th volunteered for the Spanish-American War. During WWII, the reputation of the unit climbed when the Rainbow Division stopped the last German offensive of the war in Europe in Dec. 44 and Jan. 45. The biggest boost to popular fame came as the result of a movie about WWI. It starred James Cagney and Pat O'Brien.

New York City has memorialized Father Duffy in Times Square. McAllen also has a memorial to the 69th. A medallion and plate can be viewed in a minipark between Astin and Beaumont streets. In the center, a

fountain is flanked by an American flag and the medallion. Beneath it is a commemorative marker that was later placed there in memory of all McAllen war dead. The Fighting 69th medallion was dedicated by the Hidalgo County Historical Commission on November 15, 1970. The Historical Commission chose the 69th to typify all American soldiers serving on the border before WWI.



## An Unusual Document Out of the Past

### *Standing Orders, Rogers Rangers*

1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don't never take a chance you don't have to.
6. When we're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.
7. If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.
11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.

### Major Robert Rogers 1759

Robert Rogers (1731-1795), the American frontier soldier, devised the above common-sense rules to keep his rangers from getting shot in the back during the irregular fighting of the French and Indian War. These orders — though a bit ungrammatical — could still apply to American soldiers trained to fight in the unconventional warfare today.



## The Trail of the Rainbow . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Division. The spirit of offensive was not in them. This had to be corrected.

I had no idea what was in front of us because our G-2 information was very scanty as it continued to be all during the War. I instituted vigorous patrol action to correct these faults. On the whole, the results of our patrolling were greatly successful. We learned what was in front of us and where they were, that the valleys, roads and trails were littered with shoemines. That meant we had to go over the top of the mountains. At that time, I made one of my periodic visits to our hospital to visit our sick and wounded. I first went into where my soldiers were wounded by shoemines. The stench was terrible. I decorated all of them. Finally, one young soldier said: "General, these guys are all 'chicken'. They have only lost one foot while I lost two, but the Germans paid worse than we did. And, General, if we ever had to attack, we know now to stay off the trails and roads and out of the valleys as they are loaded with mines." I then spoke with Captain Fry who was taking a blood transfusion. He had gone into a mine field to rescue one of his soldiers. I put my hand on him and said: "Fry, that was a magnificent thing you did. You will be all right in a few hours." He recognized me, and replied: "yes, sir, General Collins," and smiled. He died about ten minutes later.

In the beginning, the information I got from the Patrols were not too promising, so one day I went down to Reipertswiller. While I was reconnoitering the front line, one of our patrols started to cross the Moder River into the German lines. I stood in the river bank and watched them cross. In about two minutes all hell broke loose so I crossed the river too and moved to the rear of the patrol. When I got there, they were coming back, and I re-crossed with them. I had them assembled and asked the leader, a buck sergeant, what had happened. Looking rather sheepishly, he said: "Enemy opposition, sir." Asking him if he had any casualties, he replied in the negative. I finally found out that somebody had started to shoot, and they all started to shoot, not even being within sight of the enemy. He wanted more ammunition to go back but having so little confidence in his ability, I told him to return his patrol to his company. But as I said before, as a whole, the patrolling was very worthwhile, and our men caught on to it splendidly.

Despite the recommendation of my regular commanders, I continued the patrol actions as the casualties were not high. You cannot fight a war without someone getting hurt, and the

Germans were getting it worse than we were. And by getting scratches then, we were saving many lives later on. One morning I was ordered back to Corps Headquarters to talk to General Brooks, the Corps Commander. After I thawed out, he said: "Here is the situation, Harry. The Army jumps off to attack on March 15th. You will go either here or there." With that, he pointed on the map to Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Nuremburg, Munich and into Italy where we were to meet the Fifth Army. I said: "Yes, sir. What is in front of me?" His reply was: "Nothing." I have often thought how optimistic he was.

When I got back to my command post, I studied the map very closely, telephoned him and asked for pack trains as it was mountainous country, especially the Harz Mountains, and as I have mentioned before, because of the mines, we would have to fight on top of the mountains. After his reply that the Army had none, I started looking for myself. Finally found a pack train which, after reporting to him where it was, was attached to my division. I showed my troops how to make cross-buck saddles, having had some experience as a Captain with pack trains. I also told the Corps Commander that my troops had enough to do fighting the enemy without wearing themselves out carrying equipment. So the mules came in mighty handy. The pack train, coming back, stayed with us all during the war.

I had always felt that the success or failure of our first attack would set the tone of our future combat, and if the attack was to be successful and with the minimum number of casualties, we would need to wreck the enemy's communications and attack with complete surprise. So I had to locate the enemy Division's Command Post and wreck the communications. To do this, I asked for volunteers for a patrol to locate the German Division Command Post. I got one command by Lt. Donaldson. They were gone 70 hours, located the Command Post so that we could put artillery on it. The day before the attack, I put a heavy artillery concentration on the German CP and found out later that it knocked their communications to hell and gone. Then I directed that the attack would jump off without artillery preparation to make the surprise complete. Also, that I want every officer and man in the Division informed of our plans so that they all could cooperate intelligently. I stressed to the regiment commanders again, that in case of capture, all anyone had to say was their name, rank, and serial number. Nothing more. I had complete confidence in every man of the Division, otherwise, it would have been a great risk. In addition to coop-

erating intelligently in the attack, if any man were cut off, they would know how to find their way back to the division.

The 222nd was to attack on the right, the 242nd on the left, the 232nd covered the entire front outpost. I visited the three regiments that night then returned to my CP where I checked on Division Artillery and our supporting units. All was ready. The rest was in God's hands. So I got on my knees and prayed for the success of our attack and few casualties. All night long, like every night, there was a constant coming and going to and from my truck where I spent the nights when I was not out in the fields. Plus telephone calls, etc. Needless to say, I slept very little that night. The next morning I waited for "H" hour. It came with reports of no opposition encountered. Then reports came in that the 222nd Infantry had been held up, that Task Force C (Coleman) had not moved out, that the 242nd had run into opposition. I asked General Linden to go to the 222nd and Task Force Coleman to ask what was wrong and get them moving while I went to the 242nd. The 242nd Infantry was attacking in column battalions. I passed the regiment and found the regimental commander and Major Ryan, the artillery commander, at the head of the leading battalion and just a few yards behind his advance guard which was pinned down. I saw one of our young soldiers of the advance guard hit. Captain McCahey, my aide, and I rushed over, picked him up and carried him out of the line. I then ordered one of the battalions of the 242nd to envelope the enemy's left flank which they did and the regiment moved on.

I then went on to the 222nd, passed the first aid station where the medical personnel were administering plasma to the wounded. McCahey and I crossed the valley which was receiving some mortar fire, picked our way through what looked like a battalion of our men prone on the ground. We continued forward and I found, sitting in a shell hole, the three battalion commanders of the 222nd Infantry. I asked if they had seen General Linden, and they replied: "Yes. He is with the advance guard which is cut off." I went forward toward the advance guard, but to go to them would have been suicide as the Germans were between me and the advance guard and General Linden was there anyhow. So I returned back to the battalion commanders and told them to get off their fat fannies and start enveloping to get the men off that bald spot in the open. Just about that time, an enemy mortar concentration caught the men in the open prone on the ground. I waited until I saw the

(Continued on Page 6)



## The Trail of the Rainbow . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

222nd start enveloping and then I left for my CP where I was informed of the progress of my regiments. Shortly thereafter, I went forward to the 232nd Infantry which had made excellent progress and was now clearing our main supply route. Again I returned to the CP and reported to Corps the progress we had made. General Linden came in and reported that the 222nd was on its way again and that Task Force Coleman, after getting a late start, had been at a mine field supposedly, and had been held up. That after General Linden had walked across the supposed mine field, Task Force Coleman had moved out. That was the last I heard of the Task Force until I saw them debark from the woods. They had had no combat but had been held up by good and heavy underbrush. However, there is no explanation by the commanders as to why he had failed to report their progress and location during all that time.

While I was talking with Lt. Col. Coleman, I saw Lt. Col. Reynolds step out in front of his battalion and personally lead it across an open field in an attack on a German position that had temporarily delayed it — an act of true leadership. I remembered it later in Zone Command Austria when I gave him command of an Armored Cavalry Regiment. The division certainly had proved that it had regained the offensive spirit which from then on, it never lost. For the next ten days it moved rapidly into Germany, fighting every day until we ran up against the Siegfried Line.

The success of our first attack certainly set the tone of our future combat. I felt that the pride of the Division was in every man's soul.

NEXT ISSUE — LUDWIGSWINDL thru PALLING

## Over The Rainbow

PNP Phil Trout passes on the information that Mrs. Grace Troutman passed away on Oct. 10, 1995. Grace was a widow of WWI Rainbow veteran Jim Troutman who passed over the Rainbow in 1967. Jim was a member of the 150th M.G. Bn. in WWI; he served in the 100th Division in WWII; he later served in Korea. Grace never relinquished her love for Rainbow and served faithfully for many years as a member of the Reading Auxiliary. In her memory Phil and Tiny suggest the Memorial Scholarship Fund as a donation.

## Headquarters Seventh Army APO 758 US Army General Orders Number 391 10 August 1945

AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded, posthumously, by the Army Commander to the following named individuals:

GEORGE N. HARRISON, 32 366 869, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company "L," 242nd Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in action on 25 January 1945, near Kaltenhouse, France. Sergeant Harrison was in a small woods with several members of his platoon who were attempting to reach a house across an open field. When three of the men were wounded by enemy snipers and were unable to withdraw with the rest of the platoon, Sergeant Harrison gave his rifle to a BAR man whose weapon would not work and crawled out unarmed in the face of enemy fire to assist the wounded. After aiding one man to safety, he was attempting to move another when a sniper killed him and the wounded man. Sergeant Harrison's heroic sacrifice for his comrades was in keeping with the highest ideals of the service. Next of Kin: Mrs. Elinor H. Doll (Sister), 2323 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

## Battle Death Additions

Robert J. Thompson - Co. L/222d Inf. and Edward A. Lathrop Co. D/222d Inf.; Pfc. Harold S. Ridlay - 38475783; K.I.A. 5/8/45; Co. I/222d Inf. Wm. L. Jepson 3937360 H1B not H2B; Jack W. Selke 6983914 Co. C/242d Inf. DOW 1/10/45; Pvt. Claggett D. Snyder 33908642 Co. E/242d Inf. K.I.A. 3/16/45; Add Sgt. Harvey F. Reich 37024829 Co. F/242d Inf. K.I.A. 3/16/45; S/Sgt. Thomas J. Tewell; 35839955 Co. G/242d Inf. (Delete). We are still searching for dates of death of the following 242d Inf. K.I.A.:

Halperin and Clark C. Smith of E Co.; Scarboro and Seeman of F Co.; Jaspar E. Starling of A Co.; Lazar of C Co.; and Hunnicutt of G Co.

## Anniversary Milestone

Congratulations to National Auxiliary President Betty Owen and her Red Cap V.P. Tom on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated on Dec. 15th.

## Veteran's Day Birmingham, Alabama 1995

This was the largest Rainbow attendance ever for this Veteran's Day in Birmingham — all attributed to our gracious hosts Leon and Mary Praytor and Guy and Aleen Walker. A total of forty-two was our magic number. The festivities started on Thursday night with the traditional dinner. Friday started with the customary breakfast, a stop at the Rainbow Monument at the Veteran's Hospital, a tour of Birmingham and a visit to the Alabama Theater where Cecil Whitmire entertained us on the Mighty Wurlitzer. This is a visit that is made yearly and Mr. Whitmire's performance for the Rainbow group is always the highlight of the tour. We then proceeded to the Rainbow Viaduct where our National President Vern Smith and our National Auxiliary President Betty Owen laid a wreath at the Monument. Webster Slaughter and his office staff joined us for this ceremony. Mr. Slaughter, a native of Birmingham, was instrumental in the restoration of this important tribute to the men of Rainbow and the 167th Infantry.

Rainbow was distinguishably represented at the head table at both the dinner and luncheon by the presence of our Presidents Vern Smith and Betty Owen. This year they honored five recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, each from a different branch of the service. Coincidentally, one of the persons being honored was Lt. Maurice L. Britt, whose medal was presented to him by General Collins. Val Spiegel and Ted Johnson had been at the presentation ceremony. The Veteran's Day celebration in Birmingham is highly recommended to all Rainbowners as it is a tribute to all Veterans.

Those in attendance were President Vern Smith, Ellen Smith, President Betty Owen, Tom Owen, Honorary President John McGovern, Rosemary McGovern, President Elect John Whisler, Jane Whisler, PNP's Hugo and Oriana Grimm, PNP Jack Hildreth, Doris Hildreth, PNP Joanne Dart, Don Dart, Memorial Officer Charles Fowler, Thomas and Betty Heaton, PNP Peggy Fleming, Mike Solpack, Roy and Glenna Bird and their daughter, Floyd McAbee, Gene and Frances Ketcham, Mary Carpenter, Russell Ayo, Ray and Ida Massey, Eugene McKinney, James Bowers, Dick and Ellie Deibler, Bill Shurtliff, Mildred and Romeo Fagiolo and Nan Oswalt.



## A Brief History of the 163rd

### Signal Photographic Company and Its Service with U.S. Fifth Army and U.S. Seventh Army in World War II

by Bob Stubenrauch

The writer joined the 163rd on 27 May, 1943 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from basic training at Vint Hills Farm Station, Warrenton, Virginia, 2nd Signal Corps Service Regiment. I sought the assignment and fought three months to get it.

At that time photo teams were structured in nine-man units deployed in two weapons carriers. A lieutenant was in charge with one NCO, two movie men, two still photographers, one clerk, and two drivers. These teams were called "Newsreel Units." Slightly smaller units with the same two trucks but with one movie man and one still man (7 men total) were called "General Assignment Units."

The company was in continuous training, primarily on the firing range. (The writer qualified as expert on the Thompson submachine gun, the 1911 .45 calibre pistol, sharpshooter on the M1 carbine and the 1903 Springfield rifle.) In addition we took part in maneuvers, being bombed by flour sacks from low altitude Piper Cubs, and working with the infantry in concealment and cover tactics, etc. Little photography was done, however, a mystery to me.

The company sailed from Staten Island Port of Embarkation in a large convoy on the troop transport U.S.S. Monticello on 21 August, 1943. We debarked Oran, North Africa 2 September and awaited our equipment due on another convoy. Left Oran 23 October, arrived port Naples to join U.S. Fifth Army 12 November, 1943. Arrived in mountain village of Caizzo 24 November for permanent headquarters in Italian winter campaign of Fifth Army 1943-44.

Colonel Melvin E. Gillette arrived as Chief Photographic Officer for Fifth Army and after several failed photo missions at the front with the unit structured as described, he decided the formation was unworkable (and dangerous to front-line troops in that large numbers of men in high silhouette weapons carriers attracted mortar fire), and promptly made radical changes.

Officers in charge, clerks, and sound recorder men were eliminated. Weapons carriers were eliminated. The new units consisted of an NCO movie man, an NCO still man, and a jeep driver/mechanic, and very importantly, a trailer for the jeep. With the ability to store rations, film, additional weapons, sleeping bags, duffel bags, tarps and camouflage nets, these combat assignment teams (a far more accurate name for their missions) were able

to be totally self-contained, and while fueling on the road, and pulling rations at any convenient location, could remain in the field for periods from two to eleven months.

The war in Italy was a slow moving battle of attrition. Superb German defenses slowed movement to a crawl. As the front moved ahead slowly, headquarters therefore remained in Caizzo until 2 April, 1944.

Rome fell to the U.S. Fifth and British Eighth armies on 5 June, 1944, before the Normandy invasion. The photo company returned to Naples and prepared for Operation Dragoon, the invasion of southern France. CAT teams, as we now referred to our camera units, were assigned to various units of the U.S. Seventh Army and the Free French Fifth Army. On 15 August, the landings were made in the second largest invasion to Normandy. The writer landed in the second wave at San Raphael with the 142d Regimental Combat Team of the 36th Texas Division.

From this point on, in the dash up the Rhone Valley to the Vosges mountains, the team operations changed in nature because of the rapidly changing state of the front. In Italy, a team assigned to the 34th Division would shoot almost all their photos of that unit, because it was predictably in place for weeks, indeed months at a time. This meant the team would eventually cover their signal ops, their moving supplies, their light and heavy artillery, their mule trains, aid stations, as well as their infantry.

With **one** still man and **one** movie man, 15,000 men in scores of units could not be covered equally in a week.

In France, and through Germany until the end of the war, the cameramen would attempt to keep up with the forward troops, but also could not pass up vital picture material they came upon even if it was of another division. It worked well, because rarely would another CAT team be encountered, indicating if you did not get that film, probably no one would.

In Italy, teams simply had to be near the front, (battalion or division artillery areas) or they would have spent too much time in blackout driving returning exposed film every night, which was vital. A system was gradually developed where a team in Italy would return to their base (usually a bombed-out stone farmhouse with one room with a roof!) at dusk. The cameramen would rush through the caption material and the driver would depart ASAP for Corps Headquarters. This

could be fifty miles or more, mostly in blackout driving. Once at Corps, the film was given to a waiting courier who would continue to the rear location of the Photo Lab Detachment. The target was that film shot at the Italian front could be reviewed in Washington, D.C. in 48 hours. An expert team of military editors there would have as the highest priority editing out the most useful footage into a 30-minute film that General George Marshal would review **every single morning**. (This film would include other major fronts in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Pacific, of course.) Movie film was always developed in Washington.

More military value was placed on the movie film than the stills, I believe. The stills were essentially used as historical information and morale builders in the nation's press. The movie film was studied closely for tactical errors or successes, new weapons introduced by the enemy, etc. as well as for public consumption.

As the reader will note, the most unique aspect of our picture assignment missions was that while the war went on 24 hours a day, we had usable light (with the films then available) only from sunrise to dusk. It would not have been wise to attempt flash photography at the front under observation for obvious reasons, so not much was lost. What may not be realized was how much time we had to spend every morning finding, at various headquarters (usually Regimental, Battalion and Company level) what was anticipated that day. Many times we would stay close to one unit in the advance, and later find we had missed something more dramatic and important elsewhere.

The two most frequent comments cameramen were met with were, "You guys from Stars and Stripes?" and even more often, "Hey, you shoulda been here yesterday!"

The 163rd CAT units got into all major actions in the Vosge from the arrival of our Seventh Army division until the breakout in the Plain of Colmar, both with American and French troops.

Our Photo Company Headquarters and Photo Lab followed much closer behind than in Italy. From Toulon, France on 5 October, they moved up in stages to Bourges to Luxeuil Les Bains to Baccarat on 27 November, 1944. On 8 December, they moved to Saverne, then three weeks later were ordered to the rear (Luneville) as the Ardennes Offensive forced us to contract our lines extended deep into Alsace.

(To Be Continued)



## World War I Veterans

We received what we considered a very good suggestion, recently. The idea was that those of us who are still able to get around reasonably well, might want to correspond with Rainbow WWI vets who are still living. By dropping them a line they will know they are not forgotten.

### 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association

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## Total National Association Membership As of 10/30/95

Chapter	Life	Member	Total 1995	Total 1996	Member	Life
Huntsville	1	18	19	23	22	1
Phoenix	1	13	14	10	9	1
California	8	50	58	54	46	8
Colorado	2	11	13	12	10	2
Washington, DC	5	32	37	34	29	5
FL-Clearwater	7	14	21	18	11	7
Orlando				3	3	
Illinois	3	27	30	26	23	3
Indiana-So.Bend	1	11	12	13	12	1
Iowa State	1	25	26	24	23	1
Kansas-Chanute		4	4	4	4	
Northeast		26	26	20	20	
MD-Baltimore		6	6			
MI-Detroit	4	31	35	34	30	4
Minnesota	1	25	26	16	15	1
MO-MO-KAN	3	16	19	18	15	3
St. Louis	1	14	15	9	8	1
NJ-Audubon		23	23	19	18	1
Ohio St. & 132nd Sig.	4	80	84	34	2/28	4
OK-Muskogee	1	19	20	23	22	1
Oklahoma City	4	11	15	14	10	4
Tulsa		4	4	4	4	
Pacific Northwest	9	26	35	37	28	9
PA-Easton		3	3	3	3	
Philadelphia		14	14	5	5	
& Reading		12	12	12	12	
SC-Charleston		12	12			
TX-Dallas	3	96	99	59	56	3
VA-Roanoke		2	2	2	2	
Wisconsin	7	34	41	29	22	7
222nd Infantry	31	336	367	337	306	31
Co "M" Yanke	4	50	54	52	48	4
232nd Inf.Can Co	2	14	16	12	11	1
Hqs Co		22	22	23	23	
1st BN	7	132	139	117	110	7
10th BN	10	131	141	122	112	10
3rd BN	28	85	113	117	92	25
242nd Infantry	43	435	478	368	321	47
Co "H"		30	30	36	36	
Artillery	10	212	222	203	190	13
122nd Med Bn	5	20	25	15	10	5
Med.Det.Spec.Trps	1	9	10	11	10	1
142nd Comb. Engr.	5	17	22	28	21	7
MP Platoon	6	24	30	18	15	3
42nd Recon Troop	4	4	8	7	3	4
Division Band	2	26	28	3	1	2
National @ Large	2	138	140	110	108	2
Life Not Claimed by Chapter						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>2325</b>	<b>2551</b>	<b>2138</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>225</b>



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