

Vol. LXXV

June, 1997

No. 5

Komin' to Knoxville???

Time is growing short...each year may be our last chance to see our old buddies with whom we experienced a once in a life time event. The spirit of comradeship is still burning brightly and we should partake of it as much as we can. It is still not too late to attend. Remember the date...July 9-12, 1997 in Knoxville, TN. The primary hotel is full but there is still room in the overflow hotel- the Knoxville Hilton, 501

N. Church St., Knoxville, TN. 37901- Tel. 423-523-2300. Rates are \$75.00/ per night single, double, triple plus 13.25% tax. Registration is \$40.00 /person. Contact Jim Pointer- Tel. 423-577-8222 or Bill Mayberry- Tel. 615- 484-2537. Completed forms and checks are to be mailed to KCVB-42D RAINBOW- Box 15012, 810 Clinch Ave., Knoxville, TN. 37902. YOU ALL COME YOU HEAR? (See Program on page 2)

The last full measure of devotion

Memorial Day: Honor those who died in the service of their country.

AMERICANS MUST never stop working for a world that will need no more Memorial Days. But until that wonderful time should arrive, Americans must never stop honoring those who have sacrificed their lives, or were maimed in body or spirit, because their country asked.

There are those for whom Memorial Day will always be May 30, because that's what it was from 1868 to 1968. Why that date? Because Congress in 1868 said so. But for the past 28 years it has been the last Monday in May. Why? Because in 1968, Congress said that, too.

The English have something called bank holidays. What do they commemorate? They forget. Probably something, originally. Now they are just days off, eagerly anticipated, always enjoyed. Americans are half-way there. Most of us sort of remember what Memorial Day memorializes, but are Fuzzier about it each year.

Last year on Monday, Memorial Day came through with a welcome solemnity. That was an accident of weather, which was rotten for the beach. More notice was taken of the commemorations at cemeteries and monuments.

Memorial Day began after the Civil War. It is today redirected to those who sacrificed in more recent wars—World War II, Korea, Vietnam especially, the Persian Gulf war, the humanitarian mission in Somalia, the peace-keeping in Bosnia. This immediacy gives us at least some notion of what those first few commemorations in the 1860s must have been, when the national sacrifice was so much greater and the hurt beyond present imagining.

Always, the focus is where it belongs—on sacrifice, debt the nation can never repay, pain and loss in the cause of one's country, a missing member of the family. Memorial Day exists that Americans may remember.

Birthday Party 100



Ohio Rainbowers at Harry Hunter's 100th. First row Harry 2nd row: (L to R) Dick Fix; Myron Dudley; Jim Spruance and Charley Johnson.

Harry Hunter WW 1 Rainbower, celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday December 20, 1996 at Greenwood Manor Nursing Home, Xenia, Ohio.

Harry was born on a farm in Madison County Ohio on December 20, 1896. He enlisted in the National Guard and was called to active duty with the Rainbow Division in 1917.

He went through the campaigns in France and was one of the few lucky ones to come out without a scratch. Along with his American awards he also received an award from the French Government.

Harry retired from the Columbus Police Department After the death of his wife, Doris, he lived alone for several years before going to Xenia to live with his niece Beatrice Pyles and then to the Greenwood Manor Nursing Home.

The nursing home went all-out to make this a special day for Harry. There were decorations, the traditional birthday cake and punch, and many friends and relatives to help him celebrate this occasion. Rainbowers came from Cincinnati, Hamilton, Miamisburg, Toledo, and Columbus to help him celebrate.

Harry says that he has no aches or pains, he just cant walk or hear too well. He says that he wants to live to see the year 2000. God bless him, I think that he will do it.

President's Report



Fellow Rainbowers and Ladies,

The adage that time and tide waits for no man is very true for as my tour of duty as your president rapidly comes to a close, I find that indeed time has gone by too quickly.

This past year has been rewarding in many ways but among the more important, Jane and I traveled to all four quadrants of our country to visit with Rainbowers. We renewed old friendships and made new friends and wherever we traveled we found Rainbowers to be special people. After a lifetime of close association with Army folk, I can state without the slightest equivocation the esprit de corps and the camaraderie of our Rainbowers and their ladies cannot be matched. I render a Rainbow Salute to all.

I would like to pay a special tribute to each Association officer, to all of the committee chairmen and members, and to chapter officers. I am grateful for their support to the office of the President for without their hard work and dedication, the Association could not have attained the success it enjoys. My heartfelt thanks to all.

I am indebted to my wife, Jane, for her unwavering support and for the many hours she spent on the road, in the air, and in hotels traveling with me to chapter reunions.

I would be remiss if I did not pay a very special tribute to our National Auxiliary. We owe those ladies a huge debt of gratitude for their support to our Association. President, Mildred Fagiolo and her officers have done a "bang-up" job and we in the Association shall not forget. Her "Red Cap" Romeo also did a great job with airline schedules, hotel reservations, and luggage transport. To all, congratulations for a job well done.

I wish Bill Kenny, our President. Elect, a successful year and I pledge to him my support in any way needed.

I will close this report as I have in the past with the following: If you have not done so, please mail your dues to your chapter secretary or, if you are a member-at-large, to the national secretary. Remember our three it's: Recruit, Retain, Reinstate.

Yours in Rainbow,
John Whisler

**CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
August 1, 1997**

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

Founder & Permanent Honorary President:
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General Henri Gouraud (Dec)

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055

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42nd RAINBOW VETERANS AND AUXILIARY PROGRAMS**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1997**

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tour I

Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg,
Great Smoky Mtns.
Technology Tour & Museum
of Appalachia
Dollywood
Upper Escalator Lobby

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tour II

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tour III

Noon-5 p.m.

Registration

Evening Options

4:30-11 p.m.

Tour I

4:30-8:30 p.m.

Tour II

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1997

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tour I

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tour II

Dixie Stampede

Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg,
Great Smoky Mtns.
Technology Tour &
Museum of Appalachia
Tennessee Ballroom
Upper Escalator Lobby
Tennessee Ballroom

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Auxiliary Bazaar (setup)

Noon-5 p.m.

Registration

2-5 p.m.

Auxiliary Bazaar

3-4:30 p.m.

Unit Meetings

222nd Chapter

232nd 1st Bn Chapter

2nd Bn Chapter

3rd Bn Chapter

242nd Chapter

Memorials Committee

Scholarship Committee

L Company, 222nd Banquet

Salon B

Meeting Room 1

Meeting Room 2

Meeting Room 3

Salon C

Meeting Room 5

Meeting Room 7

4:30-5:30 p.m.

4:30-6:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Evening Options

4:30-8:30 p.m.

4:30-11 p.m.

8-10 p.m.

Tour I

Tour II

Early Bird Party & Dance

"Jack Daniel's Barrel

House Band"

Dixie Stampede
Lee Greenwood Theater
Exhibit Hall 2

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1997

7:30-9 a.m.

392nd F.A. Breakfast

PNAP Dutch Treat Breakfast

Executive Committee

Registration

Memorial Foundation

Trustees Meeting

Auxiliary Bazaar

Past Presidents' Luncheon

Opening of the Joint

Business Meeting

Auxiliary Business Session

Chapter Secretaries

Memorial Foundation Audit

Salon A
Upper Escalator Lobby

Salon B

Windows Over Park

Grand Ballroom

Salon D

Salon A

Salon C

12-1 p.m.

1:30-2:30 p.m.

2:30-4 p.m.

4-5 p.m.

4:15-5:30 p.m.

Evening Options

4:30-11 p.m.

4:30-11 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1997

8 a.m.

Wisconsin Chapter

Breakfast

Artillery Chapter

Breakfast

*Banquet Table Assignments

Audit Committee

Resolutions Committee

Constitution & Bylaws Com.

Membership Committee

Credentials Committee

Registration

Memorial Foundation Budget

Committee and Auxiliary Bazaar

Luncheon

Knoxville City Tour

Artillery Chapter

232nd, 3rd Bn Banquet

2nd Bn Banquet

222nd Chapter Banquet

242nd Chapter Banquet

Music Mansion
B.J. Thomas Theater

Salon A

Salons B & C

Upper Escalator Lobby

Meeting Room 1

Meeting Room 2

Meeting Room 5

Meeting Room 3

Meeting Room 4

Upper Escalator Lobby

Meeting Room 6

Exhibit Hall 2

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

1:30-4:30 p.m.

5-7 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1997

8-10 a.m.

8-9 a.m.

8-9 a.m.

8-9 a.m.

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

10-11:30 a.m.

1:30-4 p.m.

4:30-6:30 p.m.

*Banquet Table Assignments

Budget Committee

Nominating Committee

Time & Place Committee

Registration

Memorial Service

Closing Business Meeting

Memorial Foundation

Trustees Meeting

Church Services

Protestant

Catholic

President's Reception

(Cash Bar)

Banquet

Salons A & B
Salons C & D

Upper Escalator Lobby

Meeting Room 1

Meeting Room 2

Meeting Room 3

Upper Escalator Lobby

Grand Ballroom 2

Salons A & B

Meeting Room 2

Cumberland

LeConte/Summit

Grand Ballroom

Exhibit Hall 2

7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1997

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

8 a.m.-Overnight

Ret. July 14 p.m.

Tour I

Tour II

Tour III

Tour IV

Dollywood
Space Center, Huntsville, AL
Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC
Opryland USA,
Nashville, TN

Chaplain's Prayer

As we prepare for our Reunion in Knoxville, let us read two verses from our beloved National Anthem, words that so well express the sentiments of our generation, in peace and in war:

O SAY, CAN YOU SEE, BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAILED AT THE TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING, WHOSE BROAD STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS' THROUGH THE PERILOUS FIGHT, O'ER THE RAMPARTS WE WATCHED WERE SO GALLANTLY STREAMING? AND THE ROCKETS' RED GLARE, THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR, GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE; O SAY, DOES THAT STAR SPANGLED BANNER YET WAVE O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE?

O THUS BE IT EVER WHEN FREE MEN SHALL STAND BETWEEN THEIR LOVED HOMES AND THE WAR'S DESOLATION; BLEST WITH VICTORY AND PEACE, MAY THE HEAVEN-RESCUED LAND PRAISE THE POWER THAT HATH MADE AND PRESERVED US AS NATION. Then conquer we must, when our cause is just, and in this be our motto: "In God is our trust". And the star spangled banner shall wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

TRIBUTE TO A RAINBOW-MAN PERSONIFIED

The tribute below was written by PNP Ted Johnson. Your editor concurs heartily:

Many World War I and World War II men have had a great influence on the creation and the perpetuation of the Rainbow Division Veteran Memorial Foundation. JIM McNICOL would be the last one among them to want credit and acknowledgement for what he has done and is doing. His latest act of creating a Trust in which Rainbow will be one of the ultimate beneficiaries is but the latest of a long litany of deeds he gets credit for. He was there in the beginning working with Dan Glossbrenner. He was there when the early formation of the Foundation floundered with expenses and he worked with Jim Jones to create a lottery which more than made up for initial deficits. He was the first to pick up the chalice when Dan proposed a World War II "Living Memorial" in Camp Gruber in Muskogee. Idea after idea, initiative after initiative can be attributed to Jim's dedication to "MAKE RAINBOW LIVE", a phrase that he brought to us all. His deep respect for General Douglas MacArthur has been expressed in the MacArthur plaques he has sponsored, in work with the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk and General MacArthur's tomb, among many others. He joined with George Jackson to initiate the Scholarship Program that has become our joy for the present and our hope for the future of perpetuating the values and memories of Rainbow. THANK YOU JIM!

SENIOR CITIZENS SAVE THE WORLD

The following news article was sent in by Morris "Ike" Eisenstein- Co. H, 222d Inf.:

He drives too slow, that old guy. Pass him, give him a look. Doesn't belong behind the wheel, old coot. It's true. his reflexes aren't what they were when he raced a tank toward Berlin in 1944 as part of Patton's Third Army. And wouldn't you know it, every time the train is pulling in and you have to get to work, there's always some old guy in front of you walking so-o-o-o slow up the stairs in front of you. Yeah, the years and arthritis, and maybe that old bayonet wound, have really slowed him down. He can't climb anywhere near as well as on that bright, clear day in February, 1945. when he slogged up Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, fighting an entrenched enemy every step of the way. I don't know why he hardly says anything when you ask him about the war. Didn't someone say once he was one of the first troops who entered a concentration camp? After I saw "Schindler's List" I asked him about the camps. He just sort of shrugged and said it wasn't very good. Let's take a look at these senior citizens who saved the world. It was more than 50 years ago- say a guy was 20 in 1943. That means he's 73. Look around. They're probably retired now, don't do much but get in the way when you drive, when you walk, when you shop. They probably talk too much, telling you how things used to be when they were young during the depression and had to eat oatmeal for dinner and maybe got some fruit for Christmas. They don't talk much about when they had to go save the world. A lot of them died doing it, But most came back to Senior citizens: work, pay taxes, and raise kids for another 40 years or so. They did a lot, and we owe them a lot, these old coots who drive too slow. They saved the world. They really did. Yes, I know, the world needs a lot of work. But how much worse the world would be if these senior citizens hadn't put an end to Hitler and his accomplices? So it's time to say it while there's still someone around to hear it. THANK YOU!

Mail Call

Wesley L. Johnson-Co. K/232d Inf.

Recently, the post office delivered my Reveille in pieces. This reminded me of an incident, in Sessenheim Woods, on January 18, 1945. T-5 Everett Adams, company clerk, was bringing up mail and packages. The Krauts started dropping in mortar and artillery rounds. Adams dropped the mail bag and ran to the edge of the woods where we had dug in. He jumped into the first slit trench he saw; it happened to be the one that was occupied by two riflemen. Bjork and I were in an adjoining slit trench and from here all we could see was Adam's butt sticking up in the air. I crawled over and asked where the 2nd platoon mail was. He replied that if I wanted it, I could go out there and get it.

Bjork ran out; grabbed the mail bag and several packages that lay on the ground. Among them, it turned out that I was getting my first package and letters from home. The box I received, from my wife, was really beat up and had been opened. The note inside said "Sweetheart, I hope you enjoy the fruit cake and the bracelet you left on the dresser." She said that she had the bracelet engraved with the date we were engaged and our wedding date. The fruit cake was nothing but crumbs, and the bracelet was missing. When I think about Adams I have to smile. Post office motto, was that no matter if rain, snow, sleet, or dark of night, the mail always got through. They forgot to add mortar, artillery, or burp gun fire. I tried to look up Adams when we were in Seattle, but the last address he had was now a run-down ghetto. Looks like the 2nd Platoon of K/232 won't be getting any more replacements.

Wesley Johnson
816 Hanover DR.
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-3147
(BAR Man- 2nd squad/2nd platoon
Model 1918A2/ 20 lbs./20 rounds)

Rainbow Memorial Amphitheater

Due to continued vandalism, it has become necessary to lock the gate, at the Rainbow Memorial Amphitheater on Honor Heights in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

We realize, that from time to time, Rainbowners and their families are in the area and would like to see the interior of the Memorial, so we have made arrangements for a key to be available for you. It would be appreciated, by all concerned, if you would call or write, previous to your visit, so that arrangements can be made.

The contact persons are Bob Haggard, 2807 Haddock, Muskogee, OK 74401, telephone (918) 683-3711 or the Muskogee Parks and Recreation Department, 641 Park Drive, Muskogee, OK 74403, telephone (918) 684-6302 and ask for Jane Ray.

If you are in the area on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July or Veterans Day, there is a wreath-laying ceremony. For further information on these ceremonies, contact Bob Haggard at the above address. They would love to have you participate.

Rainbow Items For Sale

Rainbow labels/roll \$4.00. WW2 History book (condensed copy 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 \$6.00. Window decals-copy of rainbow patch-\$1.50 each prices include postage. Gruber booklet \$6.00. Send check payable to RDVA. Mail to Hugo Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200.

Winter Storm

Copies of Lise Pommois' "Winter Storm" hard back edition are available. Contact Turner Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, Kentucky 42002-3101. Tel. 502-443-0121.

My Ordeal

(Continued from April issue)

Later in the night, after we had gone to bed, they started shooting their rifles off. Some of the slugs came up into our room breaking windows. It was about 11 P.M. when they knocked on our door. When I went to the door two Russian officers came in carrying a huge container of Vodka. They heard we had a radio we had found and fixed. We turned it on and got BBC. They were playing dance music. One of the Russians left and came back with gravy bowls. This is what we poured the Vodka in. When I drank, it felt like fire. They could handle it but my buddy and I got pretty drunk and sick.

One morning an American medical officer and his aide arrived in a jeep with white flags on the fenders. He gave us some cigarettes and a few candy bars. He told us the Russians were not going to release us. When we asked what we should do, he told us that our only chance was to escape. The Russians were not going to let the Americans come across the Elbe River. The Russians told the officer to leave, and our hearts really sank.

About a week later, we had worked in the kitchen and were returning to our rooms. We saw our belongings being thrown out in the hall. Three large Russian women were taking over our room. Across the hall, several other Americans were being evicted. This was the last straw; I spoke to the others about escaping. My buddy was too ill to make the attempt. Finally, three of us agreed to make a try. I had been walking with a cane, at times because of my right foot, so the other two put fake bandages on their arms. We walked to a side gate and told the Russian guard we had to go to the hospital, which was outside the gate. He let us through and when we got near the road, we lay down in a gulley. Towards dark, we crossed the road and crawled to the nearest house, where we were refused. At the third house, we were admitted by an old couple with a daughter. They were scared to death of the Russians, but were nice to us.

We got to take a bath and they fed us; they drew a map showing us the best way to go which was through a swamp. About two o'clock in the morning, we left. They gave us some black bread, ersatz honey,

and a bottle of wine. We entered the swamp, found a path and moved on. About twenty minutes later, a Russian, with a gun, was confronting us. One of us spoke Polish to the Russian. He said that if we had enough cigarettes we wouldn't be shot. We gave him all we had; my four was a small price for my life. He led us out on the road and pointed the way to Riesa. We had to be careful because of Russian patrols, and were spotted and captured and put on a truck. We were surprised when they went on to Riesa. On the outskirts of town, a Russian Colonel ordered them to let us go. This always puzzled me about the Russians—you could never figure them out.

In the city of Riesa, everything was in chaos—drunken Russian soldiers were urinating in the streets, women were being molested, cars were overturned, and stores were being looted. We made our way to the Elbe; the river was up and it was wide but there was a bombed out bridge. It was intact on the American side. First, we had to cross a footbridge out onto an island. This was guarded by four Russians; we walked right past them before they yelled for us to halt. We kept going and they started shooting at us. We ran toward the bridge. Luckily, the Americans had put a makeshift ladder down within eight feet of the ground. We had to jump to catch the last rung. I made it after the second try. An American 2nd Lt. reached down and pulled me up. The three of us gave him a big hug. On the American side there were no drunken soldiers, no women being molested and no overturned vehicles. Everything was normal; people were shopping and American M.P.s were directing traffic.

This is the end of my story. one thing I've always told people; everytime I walk out the door, I look up at the sky and I thank God I have my freedom. It made me appreciate the little things in life.

ED NOTE: Research by Val Spiegel revealed that Les Neal's buddy who was left behind was finally released in September, 1947.

P.S. Stalag IV-B was near Leipzig and Dresden. The night they bombed Dresden so heavy, we felt the ground vibrating. The sky was really lit up in that direction. We knew they were being pounded. We heard bombers going over the camp towards Dresden. Research revealed that Henderson was finally released in Sept. of 1947.

Dresden is no longer the name. The Russians have renamed it. I spoke to a German who escaped from East Germany and he told me that had been his home. He told me the new name but I have forgotten it.

(Note: Stalag IV-B was about six kilometers from Muhlberg on the Elbe.)

Information Wanted

Back in the early 1970's, a group of Rainbow Veterans gathered at Wampee Plantation in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, for a meeting. The outcome of that meeting was the formation of the Memorial Foundation. To commemorate this occasion, a plaque was mounted on the building at Wampee where the meeting was held.

Over the years the building deteriorated and was torn down and the plaque disappeared. All efforts to locate this plaque have failed.

What I need, is information in regards to size, form and what it said on the plaque. Do any of you, out there in Rainbow land, have any knowledge of this plaque? Possibly a picture? Please send whatever information you might have on this plaque to the Memorial Officer Charles Fowler, PO Box 64, Londonderry, NH 03053-0064, Telephone (603) 432-2635. Thank you.

Navarin Farms 1997

The Navarin Farms ceremony for this year will be conducted on the 7th of September. In the past, on many occasions, we have been represented by one or more members of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association. If you have plans to be in that area of France at that time, and would like to represent Rainbow at the ceremony, please contact Ted Johnson, 116 Merryhill Road, Ely, IA 52227, for further details.

Author Seeks Information

Keith E. Bonn, author of "When The Odds Were Even!", a story of the 7th Army conquest of the Vosges Mountains, is preparing to write another book. This book will deal heavily with operations in Alsace, and include the roles of the three Task Forces involved. He would like information concerning individual experiences, and particularly any involving the training of the three units (in our case the Rainbow). You are asked to write to him: Col. Keith E. Bonn, 359 Abingdon Circle Hampton, VA 23669.

Family Link Project

WWI people have been heard to remark that the WWII veterans did not have the same camaraderie that the WWI veterans had. This would have appeared to be so to them because after WWII ended, the few WWII veterans who joined the WWI veterans in the local chapters would not have been with their own buddies. Many of the WWI units were made up of men from the same localities, and after the war the men returned together as a unit to their home ground. It was relatively easy for them to remain together in their area/unit chapters. Their states, in a sense, were their "units." However, WWII comradeship was the impetus for the formation of WWII unit chapters which renewed the bonds of the WWII men; and, subsequently, many of the men have become strong supporters of existing area chapters as well as new expanded area chapters such as Northeast, New Jersey and Pacific Northwest. Obviously, it is because of the influx of WWII veterans that the Rainbow Division Veterans Association has continued more than 75 years.

WWII veterans are now looking to their families for continuity of this great organization. The Association as a last man's club has limited years left, but the Memorial Foundation is in place to carry on, and in the care of veterans' families, it will have a good chance to fulfill its designated tasks in creative ways, taking advantage of new technologies and meeting future needs.

It is up to the WWII veterans to inform the next generation of the purpose and cause of this famous and unique organization. Family members who are informed, will understand and respect the common cause of the Rainbow.

The Family Link Project, sponsored by the Memorial Foundation, is a program in which veterans' families and extended families are recorded in permanent computer data base files. For information about this project, please contact Barbara C. Eberhart, 750 Vanderbilt RD, Ellensburg, WA 98926; Tel: (509) 968-3354; Fax: (509) 968-3655.

The Reunion Network

We received information from PNP Don Segel which should be of great interest to us. The reunion network (TRN) consists of three people. They publish a newsletter four times a year with good advice about holding reunions. They sponsor several Familiarization (FAM) trips and conferences through the year. The Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in each area and some of the hotels pay all expenses and TRN services are free. The FAM trip is an opportunity to spend 2-4 days in a single area seeing hotels and attractions. (rooms, meals, and attractions are free.) The one day conference stresses what is new in the hospitality industry,

Emergency Numbers

When in Sorrow
When you are lonely or fearful
When you want to be fruitful
When you want rest and peace
When you have sinned
When you grow bitter and critical
When you worry
When you feel down and out
When your prayers grow selfish
When you are in danger
When your faith needs stirring
When God seems far away
When others fail you
When you leave home to labor or travel
When you want assurance
For Paul's secret of happiness
For Paul's idea of Christianity
When the world seems bigger than God

call John 14
call Psalms 23
call John 15
call Matthew 11: 25-30
call Psalms 51
call I Corinthians 13
call Matthew 6: 19-34
call Roman 8: 31-39
call Psalms 67
call Psalms 91
call Hebrew 11
call Psalms 139
call Psalms 27
call Psalms 121
call Romans 8: 1-30
call Colossians 3: 12-19
call II Corinthians 5:15-19
call Psalms 70

how to work with hotels, the CVB, and how to get the most for your dollar.

Don and Pearl recently attended a FAM trip and Conference at the Buena Park Hotel, California (Knott's Berry Farm. The conference was excellent and very rewarding and gave them the opportunity to interface with exhibitors and other planners. Don would urge all our planners to attend a TRN session. Call Bob Brooks, Paul or Joan Spiewick for reservations for future meetings (1-800-368-3097) Don believes attending the conference alone is very rewarding; TRN is a real asset to planners. TRN has started a one stop program. A travel agent arranges the whole thing- hotels, food, tours. They do all the negotiating, contracts, handling of funds, all for a pre-set price. The services are free, commissions are earned from the hotel and other vendors. The program has started with: Bill Williams; At Travel With Us; 2629 E. Nettelton Ave.; Jonesboro, AR 72401; 1-800-934-7221. Some scheduled FAMS: TYLER, TEXAS, May 14-17; ASHEVILLE, N.C., Sept. 24-27, 1997; LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, June 8-11, 1997; MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, June 18-22, 1997. CONFERENCES: ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI, Holiday Inn Select St. Peters/St. Charles May 30, 1997; PHILADELPHIA AREA: Ramada Inn Philadelphia Airport, Essington, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1997.

42nd Rainbow History Book

Hugo Grimm tells us that, to date, orders for the WWII History book have been very gratifying, but we still have a good deal to go in order to reach our financially feasible breakpoint of 500. We ask that you continue to send in your orders; the deadline will be extended, but the History book will be printed by July, 1997.

Once again the original WWII History book (blue cover) will be reprinted exactly as it originally was. It is your last chance to pass on a copy to your children, grandchildren, or

replace books that have been lost or destroyed. The cost is \$ 30.00 and includes postage and handling. Checks should be payable to RDVA and mailed to HUGO E. GRIMM, P.O. BOX 1200, LAKE SHERWOOD, MO. 63357-1200. Don't delay; do it today and send Your check on the way!

Search for old Comrades

This may strike you as an odd request; however, please stay with me. I'm writing in the hope that you can - and will - do me a small favor.

I have noted an item in *The Retired Officer Magazine*, implying that the 42d Infantry Division is about to hold a reunion. In early 1943 I took infantry basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas. During that course, I applied for and was accepted into Aviation Cadet training. Therefore, when my infantry training- in the 52d Infantry Training Bn - was complete, I shipped out to Amarillo Army Air Field, and all of my contemporaries shipped out for someplace in Oklahoma, and to the best of my knowledge into the 42d Infantry (Rainbow) Division.

With that as background, I write now in the hope that you might be able to put me in touch with anyone who might have shared my training at Camp Wolters. I can only remember a few names: Walter Pusylo, James Colbert, Walter Cyz (I think!) (For some reason, I can remember his service number better than his name It was 33737337.

If you can some way or another put me in touch with one or more of the fellows with whom I was stationed back there 54 years ago, I'd really appreciate it. If you can't, then so be it. In either event, I thank you for listening, and here's hoping you have a glorious reunion.

Sincerely,
Lt. Col John W. Darr
6811 Moreland
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 635-2924

Combat-Kilstett France

JACK KEYSER- CO. H/ 232nd INF.

My first combat assignment was at Kilstett, France. We were without our Division Artillery (still back in the states)and were called Task Force Linden. This was the first fire fight action that I was in, and my squad was assigned to support two French Squadrons attacking across an open field towards some woods near Gamsheim. I took my machine gun squad down a ditch next to a railroad with a telegraph line over our heads. We were to give the French overhead fire at the woods, near Bettenhoffen 5 or 6 hundred yards away, hoping that they could get to the woods next to the bank of the Giessen River. We fired several boxes of ammunition. The squadrons had about 60 men in them and they dispersed their units throughout the field. They made their way about halfway across the field, going toward their objective when German artillery opened on them. They kept going, hardly paying any attention to -the rounds landing all over them. One round landed next to me only a few feet away and bounced me several inches off the ground. but I was not hit by shrapnel, only damaging my hearing in my left ear and one filling fell out of a tooth. I could not hear anything for several hours (I still have a ringing in my left ear today). Finally, the order was given for them to withdraw and only a very few (I counted eight) were able to walk off under their own power. This was an action to save Strasbourg from a bridgehead that Germans had made with about 1600 troops (Higher ups called this a patrol).

Moving from Kilstett, going to one of our final protective line positions, we had to cross a frozen canal to get to where we were to set up our machine guns. I was carrying the tripod—the canal was about 16 feet across, wide enough for a barge. As I stepped out on the ice and as soon as I got in the middle, I felt the 3 inch thick ice start to give way. As I had my own load of a small pack, rifle, ammo, and the weight of the tripod (about 42 pounds), I broke through, about four feet from the bank. I sank down to the bottom with pieces of ice floating around me. I was over four feet deep. As I was falling, I flipped the tripod upon the bank. Then I scrambled out, soaking wet. It was about 10 degrees above zero, and here I was, in the middle of a field with no shelter for miles. My clothing was freezing quickly. We did not have very far to go to our assigned positions, and luckily, I noticed a fox-hole that had been dug by some other soldier, and was about five feet deep. As quickly as I could, I got our squad

gasoline stove out of a pack and jumped into the hole with my poncho as a cover over the top and started disrobing. I lighted the stove and wrung my clothing out, using the stove to heat the moisture out of my pants, socks, long johns, and gloves. Thank goodness I was very close to the position that my guns were assigned to cover. This drying out took me a couple of hours, and my squad members, looking at the foxhole, told me, afterwards, that a cloud of steam was coming out of the hole as I worked to get dry. I did get dry, but it was a very uncomfortable time through the two or three hour ordeal.

RECOMMENDED READING

All of us are familiar with the 692nd T.D. BN., a unit which was attached to us from the March jumpoff until the end of the war, and which performed illustiously. Professor Charles H. George has written a book called "Journey to Dachau" which is a notable addition to your Rainbow library. The book is a history of the 692nd; however one chapter is devoted to the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp

Beginning of the End

There are many dates in the war which mean many things to all of us.. dates which we will never forget. However, March 15, 1945 was the date that the entire Division first began offensive operations against the German War Machine. It was the date that the U.S. Seventh Army began its final drive to crush the detested Nazi regime. That was the day the Rainbow Division began the long, difficult, and heroic journey which ended the war. It was a day that tested the physical and moral fiber of every Rainbow soldier. It was a day of death, and sorrow, and sadness. March 15, 1945 was a day we were all glad to have behind us, but a day of which every Rainbow soldier can be proud.

Day of Trial

March 15, 1945 dawned bright and clear in contrast to the weather of a week before. by mid-morning, troopers would be shedding the heavy winter clothing that a few hours before seemed altogether inadequate against the bitter chill of the night. The weather would be one of the few factors in favor of the Rainbow Division that fateful day.

All along the front lines chilled soldiers huddled in their attack positions awaiting the order to move out, knowing, for certain only that physical movement would restore their circulation and the warmth in their bodies. The rest of the day's coming events were a constant wonder and worry to them. True, they had an idea of what to expect because they had been making plans for days, and they were not new in the area, having faced the Germans across numerous draws and creeks in the Hardt mountains for several weeks.

Thousands of individual lives, each like the carefully conceived plot of a novel, had reached their climaxes without dramatic fanfare. Today was outwardly no different than yesterday, or the day before. The difference was in the heart and mind of each Rainbow soldier, and that difference didn't make itself felt until the day arrived with the coming of sunlight.

Then, that difference swept through the frozen forest like a sudden thunder shower and culminated in the same simple questions which thousands of heads asked thousands of hearts. Will I be adequate? Will I have the strength to meet the requirements of today? Will I survive this "Day of Trial" as a man with honor? Yet, the questions were not so simple, because they were complicated by the natural desire for physical survival, by problems and circumstances at home, by the esteem of buddies who were huddled left and right with their own searching thoughts.

Someone once said that a soldier spends most of his time waiting for something; chow, pay, a shower, a bus to town, or a letter from home. There is probably some truth to that, because eventually he gets used to waiting — until he must find a way across the eternity of those last few minutes before the attack. It wasn't so bad for the leaders who moved around from man to man making last minute checks of ammunition, shoepacs, gloves, and the many other details incident to the attack. Their questions and remarks were a welcome interruption to private thoughts, although they would never know it from the answers they received.

Finally it came — the order to move out. Suddenly, the cold, quiet forest was alive with action as carefully synchronized watches triggered thousands of human beings into silent action. Individuals became squads, squads became platoons, platoons merged into companies, and the Rainbow Division moved across the line of departure at 6:45 A.M. on March 15, 1945 as a coordinated fighting machine which was later to be called "the crushing superiority of the enemy" by the Chief of Staff of the XIII S. S. Army Corps.

The U.S. Seventh Army mission in the Spring of 1945 was designed to carry

(continued on page 7)

U.S. troops through Hitler's vaunted West Wall to the western banks of the Rhine River. General Patch decided to attack with his three corps abreast, the XXI Corps on the left flank, the VI Corps on the right flank, and the XV Corps in the middle making the main effort.

However, General Patch directed Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks, the VI Corps commander to push forward on a broad front and attempt a penetration of the Wissembourg Gap, an easily traversable lowland between the forests of the Rhine Plain and the heavily forested Hardt mountains to the west of the city. A penetration through this gap and a break through the West Wall at Bergzabern, just to the north, would open the Rhine Plain to exploitation by armored forces and threaten to cut off the German First Army to the west.

General Brooks planned to attack with four infantry divisions - the 42d (Rainbow), 103d, 36th, and 3d Algerian, respectively, from left to right. The Rainbow Division was directed to attack to the northeast, from positions along the Rothbach River deep in the Hardt mountains, to clear the Bitche-Haguenau road; to assist the 103d Infantry Division on the right by taking the high ground to the west of Niederbronn; and to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Schonau. At this point, the Division was to swing to the northwest up the Lauter River valley and cut the Pirmasens - Landau road.

On the face of it, this mission was a man-sized job, but when one looks at a map of the area, the full magnitude of the tasks assigned the Rainbow Division strikes like a punch in the nose. The zone of attack of the Rainbow Division was directly through the heart of the heavily forested Hardt Mountains. The rivers through the area ran parallel to and across the front of the Division, cutting the area into easily defended cross-compartments. Most of the surfaced roads followed the river valleys and offered the Rainbow soldier little help. Those few roads and trails leading to the north were easily and heavily mined. The woods and rocks offered cover and concealment and the crests and crags provided commanding positions. In short, the terrain could not have been more ideal for the defense.

At the end of this forested and mountainous corridor of death lay the Nazi West Wall, a fortified belt of minefields, tank obstacles, and mutually supporting pill boxes and gun emplacements. Covered with earth and overgrown with vegetation, the concrete pill boxes formed an almost impregnable belt 500 yards deep, with a secondary defensive zone to the rear.

Elements of two German infantry divisions sat astride the zone of attack of the Rainbow Division. As a matter of

fact, after the war was over, it could be determined that the boundary between the XIII U. S. Army Corps and the LXXXX Army Corps of the German First Army ran right down the middle of the Rainbow zone. The superior fighting qualities of the Rainbow soldier were to make this fact quite significant before the action was over.

In his recollections of the battle in the Hardt mountains after the collapse of Germany, General Major Helmut Kleikamp, commander of the 36 Volks Grenadier Division which opposed the Rainbow Division on its right flank, said that his staff had estimated that the point of the enemy main attack would be against the Fischbach-Schonau sector. As a consequence he placed his 87th Infantry Regiment in the area directly opposite the Rainbow's 222d Infantry Regiment, and backed it up with the main body of his division artillery. This action certainly did not give the 222d Infantry the 3 to 1 advantage usually sought before assuming the offensive.

On the left flank, the Rainbow Vee Division was faced by elements of the 16th Volks Grenadier Division of the XIII S.S. Army Corps. This unit was weaker and had a longer front than the 36th Volks Grenadier Division on its left flank. These facts undoubtedly led the division commander to gamble on the excellent defensive features of the area, much to his later regret. However, his reasons for his dispositions and his reaction to the ultimate fate of his unit will never be known, since he was killed in action before the month was out.

German plans called for a vigorous delaying action back to the West Wall, which was lightly garrisoned with housekeeping troops, and then a determined defense in that area by all troops available. Consequently, roads and trails to the north were heavily mined and descended from commanding heights.

Major General Harry J. Collins' plans called for the attack to be made by the attached 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the left, the 242d Infantry Regiment in the center, and the 222d Infantry Regiment on the right. The 232d Infantry Regiment was initially to be in reserve. The attack was to be a surprise with out artillery support, but with artillery concentrations on call for likely targets. Attacking units were to take the high ground and flank the enemy fires laid on the roadblocks and minefields in the valleys. Thus the engineers would be able to clear these areas without interruption.

The relief of the 222d Infantry by the 242d Infantry on the 11th of March and the relief of the 3d Battalion of the 242d by the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron on the 13th of March was considered normal by the Germans when they detected it on 14 March. The daily

war diary of the 16th Volks Grenadier Division recorded on that date that "Intention of enemy attack is not yet noticeable."

Meanwhile, preparations for the attack continued along with routine duties. Units not on the line conducted training problems and learned new techniques which time had not permitted at Camp Gruber. Division Field Order No. 3 was issued on 14 March and caused a flurry of activity at regimental headquarters. Line companies used troops and mules to carry supplies forward. Romeo Fagiolo, 2d Bn, 242d Infantry, reports that at the end of the day he was so tired he didn't know whether he was a troop or a mule.

The aggressive patrolling of the Division continued up until the time of the attack and kept the Germans out of our lines. One patrol spent 3 days and 4 nights behind the German lines, bringing back information that was invaluable for the attack. Back at the rear echelon in Cirey, France, life went on as it had for centuries, as if no war existed. Dick Wayland, of Division Headquarters Company, tended bar at the Officers Club (term used in it's broadest sense), and Roland LeRay made one of the longest patrols into friendly territory back to Seventh Army Headquarters.

Defensive preparations by the Germans moved simultaneously with Rainbow activity. However, here the Rainbow Division had another advantage over the Germans; they knew when the attack would begin, and the Germans did not, despite the fact that in retrospect several German commanders and staff officers claim that they were not surprised. As a consequence, the night of 14-15 March was a routine night for the German soldiers. They were not alert to the danger that was to strike in the morning.

During the period from midnight on the 14th to midnight on the 15th of March 1945, the operations journal of the Rainbow Division was to record 301 entries, more than 1 every 5 minutes. Headquarters personnel at all levels were keyed to fever pitch as they waited for reports of the action to filter onto the dimly lit operations maps where technicians represented the current situation with signs and symbols. Commanders and operations officers, somewhat like football coaches on the sidelines, made their decisions and issued their orders. There was a quiet, tired atmosphere of efficiency about the whole deadly panorama.

First reports arriving in the Division operations center ran at a slow pace and concerned the progress of final preparations for the attack.

(To Be Continued)



Memorial Foundation

Scholarships

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship applications was May 31st. There were forty requests for applications prior to May 1 st. There may also be scholars that use forms from newsletters to complete their applications. All of these will compete for the 29 first year scholarships of \$500, and the two Walter Duhascek \$1000 scholarships. There are also 21 second year scholarships available for those that were awarded first year scholarships at the Little Rock reunion. These scholarships are \$300 each. Scholarship Chairman Dottie Smith will send reminders to the 21 scholars eligible for second year scholarships of \$300. These second year scholarships also require an application.

500 Club

There have been three additions to the 500 Club since those that signed pledges at Tampa. The requirement for membership in the 500 Club is to pledge \$500 dollars or more in the next five years. This may be paid all at once or in \$100 increments.

The payments should be made to the Memorial Foundation, and the checks sent to Beverly Koehler, 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. Please designate either the Scholarship Endowment Fund or the Foundation Endowment Fund to receive your donation. Contributions less than \$500 should be sent directly to Foundation Treasurer Jon Janosik. (If you don't wish to cut up your Reveille you can xerox the form there.)

Contributions. March-April

Scholarship Endowment Fund

500 Club donations; John Carr-100, Margo Carr-100, Vern Smith-100, Loretta Schneider-100, Thomas Heaton-500, Theodore Johnson-100, John McGovern-500. Also; Wanda Leseberg-30.

Scholarship Operating Fund

In memory of Helen Crowe, 50-MP Auxiliary; In memory of Unknown Soldier, 10 Walter Peirce; In memory of Phil Giambacvo, 10-Walter Peirce.

Foundation Endowment Fund 500

Club donations; Gilbert Koehler-500, Beverly Koehler-500, Charles Fowler-100 Also; In memory of John Yandrich, Warren Campbell, Felix Tierney, Willis Reading, 100-2nd Bn, 232nd Inf, In memory of John Yandrich, 20-Shirley Yandrich, 25-J. William Keithan, In memory of T/Sgt. Orville Anderson, 20-Elvira Anderson.

Foundation Operating Fund

In memory of Warren Campbell, 100-Dorothy Campbell; In memory of Tom Tynan and Robert Snodell, 50-Illinois Chapter; Sam Dann Book, 10-Theodore Johnson, 25-Thomas Lynch.

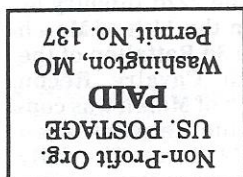
Memorials Report

Memorial Officer Charles Fowler met with the Memorials Committee at Tampa and will propose changes in the Constitution and By-Laws at the Knoxville Reunion. These changes involve the procedure for removal of memorials and wreath laying sites from the approved list.

Archival News

Shelly MacDonald wrote that her father, Col.(ret) Alan D. Price died March 31, 1997. He was a sergeant with Co. "A", 232nd Inf. during the

"Task Force Linden" days. She said he had a great love for Rainbow, but long term health problems kept him from attending reunions. She is interested in Rainbow history and finding a suitable place for his memorabilia. His seven grandchildren may be candidates for the progeny file. Shelly MacDonald was alerted to the Rainbow organization by correspondence she found from Bill Warde, inviting her father to the Louisville reunion. This is a reminder for us to ask our children to send our memorabilia to the division archives before the dumpster gets them.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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 c/o Hugo E. Grimm, Publishing Editor

