



Vol. LXXVI

January, 1998

No. 3



EUROPEAN THEATER, WINTER 1945, BY HOWARD BRODIE

GAMBSHEIM JANUARY, 1945

Information From German After Action Reports:

In the "earliest morning twilight" on January 5, the German Upper Rhine Force put a composite force of 1600 men using assault boats, across the Rhine near Gamsheim, north of Strasbourg. "On the night of the first day, both of the infantry regiments, the anti-tank battalion, four AA companies, consisting of two 8.8 cm pieces each, the observation battalion for the artillery, and a battalion of engineers had crossed to the other side." The four AA companies constituted an AA regiment which the Germans described as "richly equipped with 8.8 cm guns and richly supplied with ammunition." The commitment of the AA artillery regiment was especially effective when its fire was concentrated, owing to the high rate of fire of its 8.8 cm guns.

Note: Our intelligence called this a "Patrol".

The following describes how one company was called upon and met this threat:

Statement of Company Commander, Company E, 222nd Infantry

Upon arrival at La Wantzenau, the C.O., Co. E reported to the Regimental

C.O., 2nd Bn., 232 Inf. at Weyersheim. Upon arrival at Weyersheim, the company commander reported at approximately 1630 and was told that an attack on Gamsheim was in progress; that his company would be in reserve, following E. Co., 232 at 600 yards. He was told that the aid station was in the town of Weyersheim, as was the Bn. Supply point. 2nd Bn. 232nd was composed of E Co. 232, plus E Co. 222, and was to attack on the right side of the Weyersheim-Gamsheim road. On the left of the road were elements of the 242nd Inf., also attacking. All elements, less E Co., 222nd Inf., had already jumped off prior to E Co.'s arrival. The company commander returned to his company which had dismounted and started forward through the town. While leading the company through the town, the C.O. gave his approach march order and attempted to get his six SCR-536's working. Since radio silence prohibited this being done heretofore, it was found that only two of the six radios were calibrated. One of these two went out after ten minutes operation. All bazookas and bazooka ammunition was in

(Continued on page 7)

President's Report



S/Sgt. William T. Kenny
Salzburg 1945 after the 42nd had been deactivated.
Age 19.

Fellow Rainbowers and Ladies:

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday and that you are now looking forward to a great new year.

My wife, Mary, and I have had a very exciting time over the last few months. Starting off with the New England Chapter meeting at Newport, RI where Carl Johnson put on a superb show. We then went on to our own home state reunion at Ocean City, NJ hosted by Commander Dick Tisch and Harold Melinek. This is always a fun-filled meeting and gets better each year as we have come to know many Rainbowers from NJ and surrounding states. A highlight of this meeting was the guest speaker, Col. Joseph Taluto, the Chief of Staff of the 42nd. National Guard who brought us up to date on their activities.

We then traveled across our beautiful country to Seattle WA to attend the Pacific Northwest meeting at Long Beach. Bob and Fern Martinson were our hosts and a more hospitable couple would be hard to find. The meeting was hosted by Bill and Pauline Magirilo and they certainly made us feel as if we really belonged. It was also great to see Lloyd and Evelyn Teale. Lloyd was in the weapons platoon with me throughout France, Germany and Austria.

Without taking a breath we went directly to Birmingham, AL for their annual Veterans Day celebration. It was the 50th Anniversary of this truly outstanding event. Guy Walker, Leon Praytor, Jack Hildreth and their spouses, friends and other Rainbowers orchestrated a wonderful celebration. Participating in the Birmingham festivities and the parade certainly makes one proud to be an American and particularly a Rainbow Veteran.

The next major event will be the Mid-Year Reunion in Charlotte, NC. Tom O'Neill has been working very hard to make this a memorable meeting. There are some very important subjects to be discussed so try to make this. It should be a good one. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Yours In Rainbow
William T. Kenny

THE RAINBOW REVELLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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Charles Fowler, P.O. Box 64,
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Theodore A. Johnson, 116 Merryhill Lane,
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Gilbert Koehler, 1269 Manhotten Drive,
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NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:

Charles Paine, 3 Pinyon Lane,
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1998 REUNION CHAIRMAN:

Herman J. Bergeth

311 Oakwood Circle, Wausau, WI 54401

LIAISON OFFICER: Norman A. Thompson
1739 S. Douglass Rd., Suite E., Anaheim, CA 92806

ARCHIVES: J. William Keithan, Jr.

2226 Eastmont Way West, Seattle, WA 98199

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

Carlyle P. Woelfer, 12254 Axline Rd.,
Lovettsville, VA 20180

PHOTOGRAPHER:

William E. Clayton, 2200 Buck Trace,
Madisonville, KY 42431

REVELLE CHAIRMAN: Herbert E. Klinedinst,
404 Cedar St., P.O. Box 206,
Three Oaks, MI 49128

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THE RAINBOW REVELLE

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EDITOR RAINBOW REVELLE:

Kenneth H. Carpenter, 7618 First Street,
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The Reveille Chaplain's Prayer

*Almighty God, from You all thoughts of
truth and peace proceed; kindle, we pray,
in the hearts of all people the true love of
peace, and guide with your strong and
peaceful wisdom those who take counsel
for the nations of the earth, that in tran-
quility your kingdom may go forward
until all the earth shall be filled with the
knowledge of your love. Amen.*

Norman P. Forde
National Chaplain, RDVA

Normandy Foundation

Article taken from USA Today
May 23, 1997, Friday, Final Edition

Planned War Memorial In Disarray

by Adrea Stone - Caen, France

Caen, France — Water flows over a gran-
ite fountain, spilling gently into a wide pool
set amid trees, ornamental grasses and flow-
ering shrubs.

The Memorial Garden here was designed
by an American group for reflection on the
GIs who helped liberate Europe from the
Nazis in World War II. But it has become a
place for bitter reproach.

It is three years since the groundbreak-
ing here for a "Wall of Liberty," to be
engraved with the names of the liberators.
But there is no wall. And from 65,000 aging
veterans or relatives who sent \$40 to put
names on it, there is anger.

Most of it is aimed at the Battle of
Normandy Foundation, a private group
formed 12 years ago to honor America's
World War II veterans and build the wall.
The foundation raised \$14.7 million, and for
several years it took college students to
France to study, before things started to fall
apart in 1994.

The FBI is investigating the foundation
and its former president, businessman
Anthony Stout of Washington, D.C., for fraud.
His secretary said he was out of the country
and unavailable for comment. In a 60
Minutes interview in February, he denied
wrongdoing.

But the Government Accounting Office,
an investigative arm of Congress, said in
November 1994 it had found "significant
managerial and financial problems" under
Stout, who resigned that July.

The agent in charge of the investigation,
Dale Bird, would like anyone who donated
money to the Battle of **Normandy Foundation**
to contact his office at (202) 324-6286.
Because of the great number of victims, the
number may be busy, or someone may ask for
your name and number to give you a call
back later. A report on the 1994 report can be
obtained. Write to: U.S. General Accounting
Office, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD
20884-6015 or call 202-512-6000. Ask for Nov.
1994 Report to Congress B-259129.

Frank Abbot Celebrates Century Mark

Another of our WWI Rainbow comrades,
Frank Abbot (C-168th Inf.) recently passed
the century mark. In addition to family and
other friends, the following Rainbow veter-
ans and wives came to Frank's place to wish
him a happy birthday: Stan and Adeline
Tellvig, Bill and Pauline Magrillo, Dee and
Barbara Eberhart, Len and Chartley Morley,
Bob and Fern Martinson, Bill and Faye
Keithan, Wilbur and Ruby Miller, and Buck
and Marjorie Pearsol. To complement the
spectacular Rainbow birthday cake which
Ruby Miller (Nat. Aux Sec.) baked, Rainbow
and U.S. Flags were presented to Frank.
Appropriately, it was a champagne celebra-
tion for a grand Rainbower. As the French
would say Bonne Chance, Frank! Excerpts
from a newspaper article:

Frank Levi Abbot sat beaming behind
thick glasses, a wreath of flowers around his
neck. He radiated happiness as family,
friends and fellow veterans sang happy birth-
day to him.

In keeping with standard birthday ritu-
als, he blew out a candle on one of two very
large birthday cakes, and ate cake and ice
cream. But he was not just marking another
year. He was living the first day of his 100th
year of life. A birthday few of us will every
live to experience.

Joining him to celebrate this monumen-
tal milestone in his life were his son and
daughter from Colorado, five grandchildren
from Nebraska, and nine World War II veter-
ans of the 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division.
The veterans joined the crowd of nearly 50
people to honor Frank, a fellow veteran of
an earlier war.

Editor's Rainbow Man of the Year

We know of many dedicated Rainbowmen
who have given of themselves, unselfishly in
order to help perpetuate the spirit of
Rainbow. Many times, they perform their
accomplishments unknown to most of us.
Most of these sterling characters are unas-
suming. They seek no laurels, and are con-
tent that their own immediate chapters are
very much aware of their contributions, even
if they are not nationally known. Such men
are the lifeblood of Rainbow. Your editor
chooses to honor such a man - Harold
Melinek. Harold has been a longtime mem-
ber and attended many national reunions.
He first came to our notice in 1989 when the
New Jersey Chapter was in danger of calling
it quits. He and several others rolled up
their sleeves and went to work. Today the
New Jersey Chapter is one of our strongest
chapters. Harold was part of a group that
conducted the highly successful Drew
University Seminar. He has been the N.J.
Chapter Commander and hosted several
highly successful East Coast Reunions. We
put Harold right up there with the best of the
best. A Rainbow Salute to Harold!

1998 National Reunion Duluth, MN – July 8-11, 1998



The 1998 National Reunion will be held in Duluth, MN, "The Air-Conditioned City" on July 8-11, 1998. The primary Hotel will be the Holiday Inn Downtown Waterfront, 200 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802. The overflow HOTEL is the Radisson Hotel Duluth – Harborview, 505 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802. There are equal blocks of rooms set aside at each Hotel. Rates are \$79.00 per night for single or double occupancy, plus local taxes of 12.5%. This rate will be honored two days prior and two days following the Reunion dates. All rooms will be reserved on a Duluth Housing Bureau Reservation Form that can be mailed or faxed to: Duluth Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rainbow Division Veterans Housing Bureau, 100 Lake Place Drive, Duluth, MN 55802, Fax: 218-722-1322. Reservations **MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 5, 1998.**

Note: If you did not obtain a Registration Packet at the Knoxville Reunion, please write to Don Samolinski, 3729 Carl Street, Wausau, WI 54403 – Phone (715) 675-6221 for Housing Forms and Registration Forms. Registration is \$40.00 per person. Information will be sent to your individual Chapters for printing in your newsletters. All rooms will be assigned through the Housing Bureau of the Duluth Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Holiday Inn will be filled first and then the Radisson Hotel on a first come first served basis. The Holiday Inn will be used for Reunion Registration, the Bazaar and the Hospitality Rooms. All of the Meetings, Committee Meetings, Luncheon, Banquet, Memorial Service, etc. will take place at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC). The two hotels are located approximately two blocks apart and the DECC is approximately the same distance from either hotel. All are connected by covered climatized walkways or skywalks. Also a bus shuttle service will be provided to all functions for the handicapped, to those with impaired mobilization or those who just find it undesirable to walk the two block distance. The DECC is beautiful and has facilities for all of our Reunion needs. You will find it an attractive and splendid facility.

An interesting group of tours has been selected. A description and a reservation form for the tours are included in the registration packet. Write for yours today.

A special discount coupon from Northwest Airlines has been negotiated and full information will be available by the next issue of the Rainbow Reveille. This discount will require you to fly into Duluth. We are still working with another Airline on a similar program for destination of Minneapolis or Chicago in case you would like to drive through Minnesota or Wisconsin on your way to the Reunion. More on this later. These coupons can be deducted from the lowest air fare you can come up with on Northwest Airlines.

RV Parking Facilities are available at the following Campgrounds:

Spirit Mountain (Ski Hill) Campground, Phone (800) 642-6377 Ext. 244. Have about 100 sites ranging from \$22.00 to \$15.00. Some with water & electric, some just electric. This is the closest and just a few miles from downtown Duluth.

Buffalo Valley Campground, Phone (218) 624-9901. Have a total of 75 sites of which 20 are full service and 25 have just water and electric. 15.00 and \$16.00. About 10 miles from downtown.

Indian Point Campground, Phone (218) 624-5637. Have about 50 sites. Six are full service and some have sewer and water. \$15.00 and \$17.00. About 5 miles from downtown.

There is also RV parking at the DECC Parking Lot where all of our Reunion functions will take place. There will only be electrical hookups available at a cost of \$20.00 per nite. We have arranged for twenty (20) spots to be available on a first come first served basis. Contact Annette Eberhart at the DECC for your space. For more information the address is: 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, MN 55802 or phone 1-218-722-5573, Ext. 123 or 1-800-628-8385.

Duluth is located at the southern tip of Lake Superior, the largest fresh water lake in the world and has a beautiful shoreline with a two mile walkway with parks and shopping areas along its path. Duluth overlooks the Harbor-Canal Park and forms the entrance to the world's largest and farthest-inland seaport. This is an area you won't want to miss seeing. An experience of a lifetime. Join us for an exciting National Reunion in a great setting hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter that also hosted the 1992 National Reunion in Milwaukee, WI.

New Jersey Chapter Meeting



Left to Right: National President Bill Kenny, Secretary to General Staff Keith Haskins, Chief of Staff 42d N.G. Col. Joseph Taluto and National President Elect Dick Tisch.

Some 80 Rainbowers, wives, and friends attended the N.J. Chapter Meeting on October 27-29, 1997, held at the Port-O-Call Hotel in Ocean City, N.J. A great time was had by all, which included a trip for a show and gambling in Atlantic City. Honored guests were the 42d National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Joseph Taluto and Secretary to the General Staff, Major Keith Haskins. V.I.P.s were National President Bill and Mary Kenny, National President Elect Dick and Roseanne Tisch, Memorial Chairman Charlie Fowler, National Scholarship Chairman Dottie and Artillery President Joe Smith, National Auxiliary President Mildred and PNP Romeo Fagiolo, and Reveille Editor Ken Carpenter.

Mid-Year Reunion Charlotte, N.C. – February 5-6-7, 1998

The Mid-Year Reunion will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on February 5-6-7, 1998 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. A room for 2, 3, or 4 people is \$82.00 plus tax per night. The address is 555 South McDowell Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28204 – Phone (704) 372-4100 or (800) 444-ADAM. Be sure to mention the 42nd Rainbow Division. Reservation Deadline is January 10, 1998. Reservation Forms, if desired, may be obtained from Tom O'Neill, Phone (704) 365-6417 – Fax (704) 366-7589. Registration is \$40.00/person and includes early bird reception, luncheon and banquet. Make out checks to RDVA Mid-Year and send to Tom at 2317 Cloister Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28211, as early as you can. Call Tom at above phone number for further information.

Optional tours are: Friday, Feb. 6, 1998, City Tour, \$18.00/person, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm (30 people minimum) and Saturday, Feb. 7, 1998, Shopping Tour, \$15.00/person, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. Write Charlotte for arrangements, 1409 East Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C. 28203 or phone (704) 332-8445, and ask for Sandy Hardy.

The hotel is 20 minutes driving time from the airport and is accessed by limousine and cab service. Courtesy phones are located in the lower level near baggage claim. There is no free shuttle to or from the hotel. RV parking is available at the hotel. Many exciting events, including mounting of a Rainbow Division Commemorative Plaque, in the center of town, are planned.

Please Send In Your Registration Forms ASAP!!!

Memories of Hatten

(Continued from November Issue)

After dark, the town of Hatten came under an extremely heavy barrage of artillery and mortar fire. Our building seemed to receive a concentration of fire. We moved down into the basement to escape this barrage. I do not know how long this continued, but it seemed like forever. Our building received several direct hits, whether it was mortars or artillery, I don't know. Only thing I do know is we were praying for it to stop. Our prayers were answered, and then it got worse.

A breach was made in the mine field. We could hear the mines exploding. The basement had small grated openings at ground level, about six feet about the floor level. We could look out and see what was happening. After the mine field was cleared, a tiger tank rolled down the middle of the street with a guy sitting in the turret, directing fire. The tank was followed by what seemed like a thousand German soldiers. Most of them were wearing white coats. The tank would swivel the eighty-eight and fire point blank into each building. When he was opposite our building, the eighty-eight swiveled to point at our building and we all hit the floor. It brought down the rest of the building.

I will interrupt at this point to pay homage to a brave American soldier. We could not see him or them, but they were in a building across the street — and one building to the left. For some reason, I feel like it was just one man. He was on the second story with what sounded like a light machine gun. The tank fired an incendiary round into the bottom story and the building was burning fiercely. After this round by the tank, he opened up with the machine gun. He played a tune on that tank and made German soldiers scatter like chickens. He fired this machine gun until the second floor collapsed. He was a brave man and should have received the Congressional medal of Honor. Instead, his family only knows that he was killed in action in Hatten, France.

I do not know how long the soldiers and the tank were in Hatten, but they did have the run of the town with little opposition. They finally started withdrawing. As they were leaving I crawled up the stairs, out of the basement, and watched them leave. I was well hidden and fired two shots at retreating Germans. I shot two of them in the back. This was not very courageous, but it seemed appropriate at the time.

After the withdrawal, Hatten was eerily quiet with no sounds except for our breathing and burning buildings. We decided to stay put and wait for help. It was very cold and damp in the basement, but Mac and I slept fitfully on a stack of loose potatoes in the corner of the basement. We all wished for our overcoats that were left behind.

The next morning about sunrise, we heard someone talking in very low voices in the alley by the jeep. They were talking so low that it was impossible to tell whether they were speaking German or English. Beasley told everyone to keep quiet until we were certain. This went on for a while, then one of the guys in the squad said, "They are Americans" — and immediately ran up the stairs. He was met by machine gun fire and fell back down the stairs. Obviously they were Germans (a non-commissioned officer and a commissioned officer). Some of the guys cracked open the cellar door that led into the courtyard. A heavy machine gun was set up in the door of the barn, plus a force of about fifteen or twenty German soldiers. They called for us to come out and we did.

Beasley told everyone to take their rifles apart and scatter them. We did this and came out with our hands up. The German non-com lined us up in the courtyard and held a machine gun on us. At about that time the German officer stepped out of the alley onto the street and someone shot him with what sounded like a B.A.R. He stumbled back into the alley and fell down. All of us expected to be shot right then. Instead, the German non-com kept his cool and ordered Beasley and me to place the officer on a short ladder so he could be carried to the rear. The officer had been shot two or three times in the stomach, above his belt. He was in a lot of pain. We carried the wounded German officer about one-half mile to a first-aid station. As we passed through the barn, across the cultivated field we saw about a hundred Germans lying on their stomachs, waiting to go into Hatten.

We were interrogated at a command post approximately one mile out of Hatten. We were lined up and searched. Peters had a hand grenade in his jacket pocket. When this grenade was found, the German doing the searching flew into a rage, jerked Peters around and kicked him in the seat of the pants. This was the only case of abuse that was evident, this close to Hatten. It appeared as if the German soldiers accepted us as "birds of the same feather."

Birmingham, Alabama Veterans Day, 1997



Left to Right: National Auxiliary President Mae Coyle and National President Bill Kenny.

It's hard to describe what it's like to be in Birmingham on Veterans Day. I believe one has to be there to appreciate what a wonderful feeling it is to be an American Veteran on this special day and in this special place. It is a great and humbling experience.

We had as our hosts Guy and Aileen Walker, Leon Praytor and Jack Hildreth and his wife Doris. This year Mae Coyle, President of the Ladies Auxiliary Association joined us. On our first day we visited a number of Rainbow Memorial sites placing wreaths and saying a few words at each. On the Rainbow Bridge we were accompanied by a local bagpiper and a bugler playing taps. It was very stirring.

That evening we attend a reception and formal dinner where both Mae and I were seated on the dais along with many Generals, Admirals, Statesmen and most important of all a recipient of our Country's highest honor, the Congressional Medal.

The next day started with a very impressive Memorial service at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in downtown Birmingham. The ceremony was put on by the local Chapter of the 40 and 8 as they have done for the last 50 years. A luncheon followed the church service. Mae and I again were seated on the dais with another group of dignitaries.

In the afternoon we attended the largest Veterans parade held in this country. This year was special, in as much as it was the 50th Anniversary of this magnificent event. It was viewed by many thousands of spectators including a great number of young families with all the children waving small American flags. A truly wonderful sight. Then off to the Airport and the end of an awe inspiring two days. It makes one proud to be an American and especially one who was fortunate enough to have served with the 42nd Rainbow Division.

William T. Kenny
President, RDVA

Pointer Honored

*The Knoxville News-Sentinel,
Sunday, October 12, 1997*

Retired University of Tennessee professor Dr. James Luther Pointer likes to invite friends to his hometown, and now he's been honored for it.

Pointer received the Knoxville Convention and Visitors Bureau's first Tourism Impact Award last week for being instrumental in bringing more than \$1.2 million in convention business to Knoxville.

Among groups in which he's been involved that have come to Knoxville for conventions are the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association, the Military Order of Purple Heart and National Sojourners.

Pointer, professor emeritus of ornamental horticulture and landscape design, is a World War II veteran and holder of the Purple Heart and other commendations.

TOMMY

The poem "Tommy" by Rudyard Kipling, is from a different time, 1862: a different country, Great Britain, and almost a different language, English Cockney; yet it is right on target concerning American veterans and all Americans today. "Tommy Atkins" is the British equivalent of the American G.I. Tommy Atkins is the speaker in Kipling's poem. The speaker is calling our attention to the disparity in the value that the citizenry places on its soldiers. The disparity is the miserable treatment accorded the soldier and ex-soldier in peace-time, contrasted with their treatment when the winds of war are blowing or, as Tommy puts it, when "there's trouble in the wind". Kipling's tribute to Tommy is relevant today, because in 1997, more than 100 years after it was penned by him, an American "Tommy" wouldn't have to look too far for modern day examples to support his disparity contention.

— TOMMY —

By Rudyard Kipling

I went into a public house to get a
pint o' beer
The publican 'e up an' sez, "we serve
no red coats here"
The girls be'ind the bar they laughed
an' giggled fit to die
I outs into the street again an' to
myself says I:
O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
"Tommy go away",
But it's "thank you Mr. Atkins", when
the band begins to play,
The band begins to play, my boys, the
band begins to play,
O it's "thank you Mr. Atkins" when
the band begins to play.

I went into a theatre as sober as
could be,
They gave a drunk civilian room, but
'adn't none for me;
They sent me to the gallery or round
the music 'alls,
But when it came to fightin; Lord!
they'll shove me in the stalls!
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
an' Tommy wait "outside";
But it's "special train for Atkins"
when the trooper's on the tide,
The troopship's on the tide, my boys,
the troopship's on the tide,
O it's special train for Atkins when
the trooper's on the tide.

Yes, makin' mock o' uniforms that
guard you while you sleep
Is cheaper than them uniforms, an'
they're starvation cheap;

An' hustlin' drunken soldiers when
they're goin' large a bit
Is five times better business than
paradin' in full kit:
Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
an' "Tommy, 'how's yer soul?"
But it's "thin red line of 'eroes" when
the drums begin to roll,
The drums begin to roll, my boys, the
drums begin to roll,
O it's "thin red line of 'eroes" when
the drums begin to roll.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we
aren't no blackguards too,
But single men in barracks most
remarkable like you;
An' if sometimes are conduct isn't all
your fancy paints,
Why, single men in barracks don't
grow into plaster saints;
While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy
that, an' "Tommy, fall be'nd"
But it's "please to walk in front sir"
when there's trouble in the wind.
There's trouble in the wind, my boys,
there's trouble in the wind!

You talk o' better food for us, an'
schools, an' fires, an' all.
We'll wait for extra rations if you
treat us rational.
Don't mess about the cook-room
slops, but prove it to our face
The widow's uniform is not the
soldier-man's disgrace.
For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
an' "chuck him out, the brute!"
But it's "saviour of 'is country" when
the guns begin to shoot;
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
and anything you please;
An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' foot – you
bet that Tommy sees!

Battery B – 542nd F.A.

December 25, 1943 Christmas Menu

BREAKFAST

Fresh Milk	Ind. Dry Cereal
Plain Omelet	
Toast – Butter – Jam	
Coffee – Milk – Sugar	

DINNER

Roast Young Turkey
Sage Dressing – Giblet Gravy
Cranberry Sauce
Snowflake Potatoes
Creamed Corn – Buttered Peas
Candied Yams
Stuffed Celery – Sweet Pickles
Plum Pudding w/Sauce

Apple Pie – Ice Cream
Mixed Nuts – Candies
Assorted Fruits
Parker House Rolls – Butter
Fruit Punch
Coffee – Milk – Sugar

Mess Officer.....2nd Lt. T. McCaffery
Mess Sgt.....George Gianapolous
Cooks on DutyHilsenbeck, Skocz,
Waterbury, Rezecznec

We Get Letters

We received a letter from Leon Schenck who was adversely affected by "The Story of Taps" in the November, 1997 issue. As a graduate in music theory, he states that the real creator of taps had to be a superbly trained musician in order to compose such a brilliantly conceived work, and that there were very few music conservatories around, then, that taught music theory. He said he just did not believe the story.

Editor's Note: Of course, we doubted the veracity of the story when it was sent to us, but felt it was a charming tale apropos Veteran's Day. Sometime ago (June 1995 issue) we printed an article entitled "The Origin of Taps" which attributed the composition to Union General Daniel Butterfield, after the bloody civil war battle of "The Seven Days". We are more inclined towards that version validated by Century Magazine in 1898. Though many don't realize it, Taps also has words that first appeared in 1874 in "Infantry Tactics" a book by Emory Upton. The lyrical author isn't known.

"Day is done, gone the sun

From the lake, from the hill, from
the sky.

All is well, safely rest, God is nigh

Thanks and praise, for our days,

Neath the sun, neath the stars, neath
the sky,

As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

But it's largely the music, not the
works that makes men, women and chil-
dren weep opening whenever patriots
are laid to rest or memorialized.*

* Many thanks to Brad Martinson,
Associate Member, and son of Bob
Martinson, for contributing to clarifica-
tion of this article.

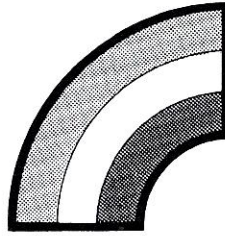
We apologize for any offense we
may have given in the November, 1997
story.

RDVA Memorial Service Knoxville, TN 1997

Since time immemorial people in all cultures in all countries have gathered for some sort of memorial when one of their number died. So it is fitting and proper for us today to remember those who have "gone over the Rainbow" since last we met. Perhaps most of us have retired from our careers, although many are still active. But we all remember the days when we were soldiers, in Camp Gruber, where we learned our right foot from our left, and how to make up our cots, etc. And then to Europe, in that cold, snowy winter of 1944-45 . . . through many battles . . . and on to Vienna . . . and then home again. In those happy, optimistic days of 1946 we hoped that we had put an end to warfare for good. But as Gen. MacArthur said, quoting Plato, **ONLY THE DEAD HAVE SEEN THE END OF WAR.** We defeated Nazism, the Cold War came and went, the "Iron Curtain" is no more, the Berlin Wall is down, and the world **SHOULD** be at peace in 1997. **BUT,** just some 10 days ago we saw the colony of Hong Kong slip behind the "Bamboo Curtain" - 6 million+ more people now live under Communism . . . On July 1st, the day after the turnover of Hong Kong, the Chinese Ambassador to N. Korea threw a big party in Pyongyang. He gloated over the fact that China was "coming together again" with Hong Kong now an integral part of China - all that remains is to get Taiwan too . . . He hinted at giving aid to Korea to bring S. Korea back into a Korea united under Communism. Don't you see what is happening? And what will we do about it? Only time will tell how that will play out.

In our country we have seen the reputation of people of all Services sullied with charges of misconduct - even Generals and Admirals, as well as Privates, have been implicated. How shall we respond to this? I face it every week as I minister, as a Contract Army Chaplain, to a military congregation Sundays - a congregation composed of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard - National Security and Army Intelligence people. I have to say this: the men and women who comprise the Military, **HAVE NEVER BEEN OF HIGHER QUALITY THAN THEY ARE TODAY!** Those who have created the problems and the headlines are just a **TINY HANDFUL** out of the hundreds of thousands who comprise the military. **DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY IS COMPRISED!** We all remember the words of Gen. MacArthur in his famous West Point address of 1963. He described the soldier he knew: He is one of the world's noblest figures . . . He has written his own history, and has written it in red on his enemies' breast . . . I do not know the dignity of their birth, but I do know the glory of their death . . . They died uncomplaining, with faith in their hearts, and on their lips, the hope that we would go on to victory. Always for them: Duty, Honor, Country. That was **OUR** General MacArthur.

(To Be Continued)



RAINBOW HISTORY LIVES!

July 1918 — German Army is defeated near Reims with Rainbow Division's help!

Winter 1998 — The Rainbow Division is invited by the French Government to attend a ceremony honoring the 42nd Division's role in WWI and Operation Nordwind victories during WWII!

It's true! The 42nd Division is going back to Hatten, Rittershoffen, Wissembourg, Reipertswiller, Wörms, Strasbourg, Gamsheim and more! We'll be honored guests of the French Government as we represent the Rainbow Division at a major international ceremony commemorating victory over the German Army in WWI. Seven countries will be there to honor the 42nd, 93rd and 49th French Army! In addition, we will be accompanied by our French friend, Mrs. Lise Pommiois, who has "adopted" the Rainbow Division and thoroughly researched & documented our service in Alsace-Lorraine.

Total tour price including round-trip airfare, first-class hotels, most meals, all sightseeing & bus transportation is just \$1998 each!

Mark your calendar — **July 13-21, 1998** — and plan to be with us. Complete tour details can be obtained from our Rainbow Division tour leader, Bill Kenny, at 973-267-0743. Or call our military tour operator, Galaxy Tours, toll-free:

1-800-523-7287

You can help make Rainbow Division history once more!

Who Was Marcus W. Orr?

Thanks to:
SGM W.L. Orten
U.S. Army (Ret.)
5020 Salzburg
Zwieselweg 6/4
Austria - Europe

Camp Marcus W. Orr was a detention camp operated by the American military government. Compound commanders and guards were furnished by the 232d Infantry Regiment / 42d Division until January 30, 1946, when it was taken over by the 505th M.P. Bn. to this day, there are veterans of the Rainbow Division who did not know Marcus W. Orr or why the camp was named for him.

Marcus Orr was a member of the 742d Ordnance Company. He came overseas with that unit, landing at Marseilles, January 18, 1945. The 742d entered combat on February 17, 1945. They crossed the Rhine near Worms, Germany, on March 31st. It is believed the company moved into a bivouac area near Erbach on April 1, 1945. Orr was the driver for the Division Munitions Officer, a Captain Kohn. On April 2nd, Orr was wounded by a piece of shrapnel which penetrated his spinal cord, causing immediate paralysis. He was evacuated and returned to the U.S. on May 16, 1945 and was discharged on June 5, 1945. While the 742d was stationed in Salzburg, they named the camp after him.

Although confined to a wheelchair, Marcus Orr studied at Yale and Rhodes Colleges, and earned a masters and doctorate at the University of Illinois. He became a professor at Memphis State in 1959, teaching Medieval and Renaissance History. In 1959, he was named disabled person of the year, by the Mayor of Memphis, for his work in spurring the University to make the campus more accessible to the handicapped. On March, 1990, his former students established the Marcus W. Orr scholarship in the Humanities at Memphis State. In May, he was one of four professors selected for the 1990 distinguished teacher award.

Marcus Wayne Orr died, at age 65, on November 1, 1990

Gamsbsheim . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the supply truck in the company convoy, and time did not permit breaking that truck down prior to moving out.

Upon arrival at the canal which runs North and South and bisects the Weyersheim-Gamsbsheim road, reorganization took place and E Co., 232nd again moved out in attacking echelon. About this time darkness fell. The Bn. C.O. stated that his C.P. would be a roving one with its axis upon the Weyersheim-Gamsbsheim road. The company commander of E, 222 placed a platoon leader in command of his company, and attempted to report to the Bn. Commander, after reaching Gamsbsheim. In doing so he walked down the road until he reached the first building in Gamsbsheim, without finding the Bn. C.O., but did meet there four tanks under their platoon leader. The tank commander was of the opinion that he was directly supported by E Co. 232nd, and the Bn. C.O. was in the immediate vicinity. The company commander of E 222nd told him that he had been looking for the Battalion C.O. and had not seen him or E Co., 232 enroute. It was later learned that E Co. 232nd Inf. had been ordered back to a position on the canal and the tank commander was not aware of it. While retracing his route back toward the canal, the C.O. E Co. 222nd found his company approximately 400 yards west of Gamsbsheim with its base platoon on the road. In the darkness and because of lack of communication the company had passed E 232nd and was out in front by itself. It was ordered back to the canal by the company commander.

At the canal the Battalion Commander, 2nd Battalion 232nd ordered E Co. 222nd to form a perimeter defense west of the canal in the rear of E Co. 232nd. This was done. The 2nd Bn. C.O. went on reconnaissance and upon return ordered Easy 222nd to lead the Bn. as attacking company upon order across the canal bridge, reach the railroad running north and southwest of Gamsbsheim by dawn and seize Gamsbsheim. Said bridge was the only means within the immediate vicinity, of crossing the canal, which could not be forded (Easy Co. C.O. personally determined that factor). After several hours companies were ordered into company files and were told that they would follow elements of the 242nd over the bridge. A long delay was entailed when the point of the 242nd column was cut down by German automatic fire which enfiladed the bridge. Finally, it was decided that 2 tanks would precede both columns over the bridge, and that behind their fire companies would move out in file, cross the bridge and take up night attack formations. This was done. A long delay was entailed before the order to continue the attack was received. It was learned that 2 tanks would support the attack of the 242nd on the left side of the road and 2 on the right in direct support of Easy 222nd. Attacking echelons then moved out.

Easy 222nd received machine gun fire shortly thereafter from the right and

from the woods, in front of the 242nd on the left side of the road. It pressed the attack, knocked out machine guns on the right and continued on. The 242nd was delayed in its attack on the woods, and by a reorganization, and fell behind Easy 222nd on the right. Because daylight was fast approaching and the terrain was flat and bare of concealment, Easy 222nd attacked as fast as it could in order to reach Gamsbsheim by dawn. It fought through outpost automatic fire to its front and right, and at dawn did reach the railroad tracks. However, crossed German machine gun fire pinned it down. During this attack, the tanks which were to support Easy 222nd fell behind and at this juncture were not in sight. Easy company commander 222nd had previously sent a runner for them with no results (it was later learned that he was wounded enroute, as were four of the five runners sent out). Easy Co. commander 222nd ran back to get the tanks which were several hundred yards to the rear, apparently doing nothing, he asked the tanks to hurry to Gamsbsheim and mounted the lead tank in order to guide them. Upon reaching his company position, he could not halt the tanks because they were buttoned up and no means of communication were available. He, therefore, jumped off the lead tank and managed to halt the fourth one, and lead it into position where it might support his company. The other tanks proceeded into Gamsbsheim. The tank the company commander had stopped, began firing on Easy Co. 222nd, and did kill two men and also wounded a platoon leader. During this time, attempts to force the tank to unbutton its turret by beating on the turret with rifles were unsuccessful. Easy company commander was only able to accomplish this by waving his arms in front of the tank driver's periscope. The lack of communication between tank and infantry caused the team to breakdown, and it would have been better had the tanks not attempted to cooperate under those circumstances. It was later learned that the 3 tanks which had gone into Gamsbsheim, as well as the fourth tank had left the town. No notification of that fact was received by Easy 222nd.

Rifle grenades succeeded in breaking up the machine gun fire which had pinned the company down, and Easy company commander 222nd successfully assaulted the railroad station across the railroad tracks. In the meantime, nothing was seen of easy 232nd, and as daylight was fast approaching, the company commander 222nd ran back to expedite its arrival. The Battalion Commander, 232nd was leading them and he brought them into town. In the railroad station, it was learned that Easy 222nd had expended most of its ammunition in its fight into the town, and the Bn. C.O. ordered Easy 232nd to take over as the attacking echelon. Easy 222nd was given the mission of mopping up and securing a bridgehead in the western part of the town. Company limiting points were not given and it was assumed that the whole town was the Bn. mission; likewise limiting points between 242nd and 232nd

were not given and sectors of responsibility were indistinct.

Although a forward observer, Field Artillery, had reported to Easy company commander, 222nd during the night, he was not present during the attack. A Field Artillery liaison officer was present in the railroad station, but as far as it is known, did not have a forward observer. An offer to act in the latter capacity by Easy Co. C.O. was declined. It was suggested that the liaison officer request artillery fire northeast of Gamsbsheim in order to screen the town from counterattacks; it is not believed that this was done. Whether or not an artillery overlay was prepared for use during the attack is not known. Easy 222nd did not receive one. During the early morning hours second platoon Easy 222nd was used by the company commander to establish a bridgehead and the first and third platoons continued the attack by house to house fighting through the town. An attack was made by elements of Easy 222nd upon the Gamsbsheim church in order to knock out the enemy observation; rifle grenades were again found to be useful in such work. The 2nd Bn. Commander 232nd personally led elements of Easy 222nd in house to house fighting through the town.

After several hours of strong fighting, a message was received from the Bn. C.O. to Easy Co. commander ordering him to withdraw his company immediately. The message state that five German tanks were counterattacking, and were supported by German infantry. Easy company commander 222nd notified all his men in his company whose whereabouts were known or could quickly be determined. The withdrawal was made by elements of Easy 222nd and Easy 232nd, and a small number of soldiers from the 242nd who had managed to cut through the German artillery fire which prevented their Battalion from entering Gamsbsheim enmasse. Automatic fire was received from the left throughout the withdrawal, as the Germans continued to change positions. That fire was highly inaccurate and was made so by fire from the withdrawing companies; prisoners were taken during this fire fight. Some mortars and artillery fire was also received. The Germans did not pursue. It was necessary to leave the dead, seriously wounded, and those who were not notified of the withdrawal. Upon arrival in the canal defensive area positions were dug.

There it was found that the weapons platoon sergeant Easy 222nd had attempted to bring ammunition to his company during the attack, and had reached Gamsbsheim. However, German artillery fire, which prevented the 242nd from entering the town, also caught him and his party, and their attempt was unsuccessful. He was wounded and forced to withdraw. There was no resupply of ammunition during the attack, except for continuous collection of ammunition from the wounded and dead.

Despite the suddenness with which the attack was made, morale of Easy Company 222nd was high throughout the attack and withdrawal.



Scholarships

The number of scholarships to be awarded in the 1997-98 Rainbow year are determined by the amount of money in the Scholarship Operating Fund on October 31, 1997. 20 percent of this money is available for scholarships. Before awarding 1st year scholarships, we assume that all of the scholarship winners last year will reapply and qualify for second year scholarships.

The result of this calculation is that there will be 29 second year scholarships of \$300 and 2 Duhacsek second year scholarships of \$500 available.

The remaining money will provide 23 first year scholarships of \$500 and 2 first year Duhacsek scholarships of \$1000 each. There will, therefore, be 56 scholarships available this year for a total cost of \$20,200.

The total number of scholarships authorized last year was 52, but only 17 of the 21 who had received first year scholarships applied for the \$300 second year scholarships, and the total cost was \$21,600.

Even though there are fewer first year scholarships available compared to last year, the number of scholarships and the money available increased because contributions to the Scholarship Operating Fund were greater than the \$21,600 awarded for scholarships last year. This \$1,600 increase in scholarship money available means that contributions to the Fund were \$8,000 in excess of the scholarship money awarded.

Scholarship application forms may be obtained from Scholarship Chairman Dorothy Smith at 513 Mountain View Ave., Hurley, NY 12443, Tel (914) 331-0140. The completed scholarship applications must be returned to Dottie by May 31, 1998, not May 31, 1997, as I foolishly put in the November newsletter. Dottie reports that she has about 30 requests for applications. The 30 requests for applications does not mean that there will be 30 applications as a result of those requests. Also, if your recommended student has good grades and decent SAT/ACT scores, it's certainly worth while for them to apply.

500 Club - The 500 club, the product of PNAP Beverly Koehler and the Auxiliary, recognizes those who have given or pledged \$500 or more to the

Foundation Funds with a 500 Club pin. Contributors during October & November were the 3rd Bn, 232nd Inf., \$500 to the Scholarship Operating Fund, Allan W. Ostar, \$500 to the Scholarship Endowment Fund, and Yvonne Uptmor, in memory of Victor J. Uptmor, \$500 to the Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Other Contributions. October-November - There were 24 contributions, totaling \$1,402, in response to the brochure mailing in the very short time between the mailing and the newsletter deadline. These contributions were:

Scholarship Operating Fund - Martin Bente, \$50; Wm. T. Hill, in memory of George Distefano, Btry B, 392 FA, \$30; Stephen Mogocs, in memory of Leroy Reynolds, 232nd Inf., \$52.32; Pacific Northwest Chapter, \$100; Mrs. Wm. J. Martens, in memory of Wm. J. "Red" Martens, B, 232nd Inf. \$250; Jack Masters, \$100; Ruth D. Smith, in memory of Howard C. Smith, 168th Inf., WWI, \$100; Edwin F. Speich, \$100; H. Watts, \$100; Pat Guida, in memory of Phil Trout, \$25.

Scholarship Endowment Fund - Dorothy K. Lynch, in memory of James J. Lynch, E, 232nd Inf., \$25; Joseph T. Garrmone, \$20.

Foundation Operating Fund - Carlton L. Quackenbush, \$25; Frank L. Rosati, \$25; Charles T. Thompson, \$20; J. N. Telescan, Sr., \$50; James S. Plummer, \$10; Mrs. Majon Huff, \$100; R. E. Hachey, \$25; Charles S. Hogue, \$10; Betty R. Hill, \$10; Robert E. Sherry, \$50.

Also contributing were 232nd RDV Aux., in memory of Margaret Kirk, \$10; Dee R. Eberhart in memory of George Irwin, \$100; to the **Scholarship Operating Fund**; Lloyd B. Oczkeiwicz, \$100; to the

Scholarship Endowment Fund; Marion Benjak, in memory of Phil Trout; \$10 to the **Foundation Operating Fund**.

Stephen Mogocs came to the Knoxville reunion looking for men from his deceased grandfather's company. His grandfather was Leroy Reynolds, H, 232nd Inf. He was delighted to meet several of his grandfather's friends, his donation in memory of his grandfather is \$50 plus \$2.32, referring to his grandfather's 232nd regiment.

Memorial File Corrections

In the November, 1997, Memorial File listing the name of James F. Nevins and the name of James L. Wathen was misspelled. We deeply regret the error and offer our sincere apologies.

Happy Anniversary

We know you all will join the Editor in offering congratulations to PNP Ted and Shirley Johnson on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Editor's Whereabouts

Your editor will be in Florida from the middle of December 1997 until the end of March. Send material to: 116 Granada Lane, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082 or call 904-285-1163.

**CUT-OFF DATE
NEXT ISSUE
March 1, 1998**

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8 ARTHUR N LEE JR
2050 W ILLINOIS AVE APT 2L
AURORA IL 605061869

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



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