



Vol. LXXVI

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No. 4

Rainbow On-Line: www.rainbowvets.org

CAPTIVATED IN CHARLOTTE

Our Mid-Year Reunion was held in Charlotte, N.C. on February 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1998 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. While the turnout of Rainbowers was not extraordinary (102), it was one of the best we have had the privilege of attending. Chairman Tom O'Neill and his committee of Norm Thompson, Charlie Paine and members of the 242nd Regiment put on a magnificent affair. The centerpiece was a marvelous Hospitality Room hosted by Mayland Crosson, Grace Walker, Genevieve Beno, Beverly Koehler, and Dottie Smith. The Early Bird Session featured the music of Mobile Disc Jockey Barry Miller, who soon had everyone involved in swinging and swaying. Just for that night, we all felt like we were back in the 40s. "When all the world was young, and every lad a king and every lass a queen." We will have Barry back for the National at Charlotte in 1999. At our opening executive meeting, we were welcomed by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark Syrkin, representing the Convention and Business Bureau, Mark served as a Marine fighter

pilot in the Pacific in WWII. Charlotte is distinguished by the existence of a memorial plot of land known as "Freedom Park", in memory of "all who served our country - and so gallantly gave the laughter from their hearts - that others might play in a happy world." A feature is a series of plaques honoring military units that have reunions at Charlotte. We will be so honored in July, 1999, when we have our National Reunion there.

At the banquet, conducted by President Bill Kenny, more was in store for happy Rainbowers. VIPs at the Head Table were Tom and Kay O'Neill, President Bill and Mary Kenny, PNP Rev. Robert Weiss, Reveille Editor Ken Carpenter, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Keith E. Bonn, noted military historian and author, gave a talk that was greeted by a standing ovation at its conclusion. The end of our reunion came all too soon as we left our blood brothers and sisters with regret and looked forward to Duluth. May the Good lord bless and keep you until we meet again!

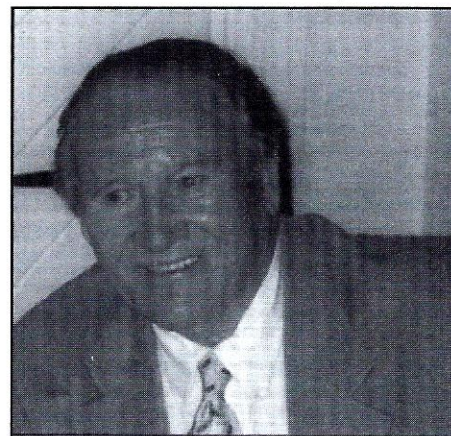
RAINBOW MOURNS THE PASSING OF A LEGEND - PAUL JARRETT - HERO FOR THE AGES



Paul Jarrett
Co. M - 166th Inf. 42nd Div.
1917-1919

It is the sad duty of your editor to report the passing of our beloved World War I hero and legend Paul Jarrett. Paul was an inspiration for all who wore the Rainbow patch. Due to Paul, we were able to realize and appreciate the heritage he passed on to us. We hope to continue to carry on and pass on to future generations the same pride and devotion to country and Rainbow that Paul exhibited in so many ways. We will always remember as long as we are able to carry on. Paul will always have a place in our hearts and minds as he joins his Rainbow blood brothers in that special place reserved for such as he. Bonne Chance Paul! The poem on page 2 was written and dedicated to Paul by PNP Dee Eberhart.

President's Report



Fellow Rainbowers and Ladies:

Since my last report in January, we had a great Holiday season with both family and friends. Joan Creveling and Jay Price had a wonderful brunch for the Eastern Chapters. I believe this is their 5th annual holiday party.

After the New Year I went back to work preparing for the Mid-Year at Charlotte. My centerpiece was to report on the possible affiliation of the 42nd ANG (Army National Guard) and the RDVA. I had been working on this since the National Reunion at Knoxville, Tenn., when I was directed to explore the feasibility of such an affiliation by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. I reported my findings to the Executive Committee at Charlotte and it was accepted unanimously. The report, as given, is reported on page 5.

Another matter I'm very involved with is the invitation the RDVA received from the French Govt. to participate in the Ceremony commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the famous battle of The Champagne, so important in the legacy of the 42nd Rainbow Division. As I have mentioned in previous Reveilles, we have planned a great trip to Alsace to tie in with the ceremony. We will visit all the areas where many of us experienced our baptism of fire 53 years ago. If you would like to know more about this please contact "The Galaxy Travel Group" at 800-523-7287.

I am looking forward to the next few months. There are a number of Chapter meetings that I hope to attend, these are always enjoyable, and as usual the Rainbow people are hard to top.

July will be upon us before we know it, don't put off your plans for Duluth. Herm Bergeth promises a fabulous Reunion and all who know Herm will agree with that.

Last but not least, Thanks to Tom O'Neill, Chairman of the Mid-Year for a job well done.

Yours In Rainbow
William T. Kenny

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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A Prayer for Memorial Day

Heavenly Father, as on this day our minds are turned in memory toward those who have served our nation with their lives, do Thou guide our thoughts aright. We thank Thee for all the good which through them has come upon our land. Grant us a sense of honor and gratitude for every true sacrifice to preserve our nation's peace. Teach us who are alive to bring the tribute of a ready heart, an obedient life, a worthy citizenship, to our country. Guide the counsels of government and strengthen the bonds of true loyalty and patriotism. Let the ideals of liberty and peace prevail. May each of us find a field of obedient service to our beloved country. In Thy Holy Name we pray. Amen.

CH (Col) Norman P. Forde
USA Ret. RDVA Chaplain

Rainbow Mourns the Passing of a Legend FOR PAUL

Paul, your life spanned the century and the continent, from the first with swift horses, herding cattle, racing the prairie wind on the family Nebraska ranch, before cars and planes and rocket ships.

As a young man stretching your mind at college in York before your country's bugle call and your war, the Great War

began the epic conflicts of this, your century.

As new lieutenant in Company M, 166th Ohio Infantry Regiment 42nd Rainbow Division, you were chosen for close combat training by British experts in the art of killing.

Your "Belly Button Gang" crossed No Man's Land and closed with the enemy on their home ground, in their muddy trenches where they with long barreled Mausers

were faded by your trench knives and short 45's. Not many are so close to the foe when the death hand is dealt.

You won and we won, but the war put its mark on you - mustard, lewisite, phosgene fumes, and German Shrapnel.

The doctor's verdict, your wounded leg not properly set, would serve you well in a normal life span.

Longevity a blessing but also a curse, mobility impaired and pain endured for your late, last years.

Many moves after the war, Hollywood work and glamour as well.

Palm Springs sun and the swimming pool, engulfed by adoring family love, and love of old comrades and new found friends who welcomed you back long after the war.

Much honored, both here and abroad, for your skill and devotion to your men, your nation and our national allies - Rue Paul Jarrett in Neuville, and then the French Legion of Honor, and always a radiant warmth for you, citizen soldier, Rainbow veteran.

Now, at last, farewell Paul, Friend, Buddy, comrade!

D.R. Eberhart
January 1998

Yellow Butterflies

At the turn of the century, in a small town in Virginia not far from Arlington, there lived a dear little flaxen-haired boy, named Jimmy. He had beautiful curly hair and when he played in the sunlight it made his hair look like gold. His mother noticed yellow butterflies hovering over him as he played and remarked that they were the color of his hair.

The child grew older and was now ready to go to school for the first time. His mother walked down the garden path to the gate to see him off. She loved this little boy very dearly and was quite sad, for she knew she would miss him very much. As he went through the gate and was turning to wave to his mother, the yellow butterflies flew all around him; and one came to rest on his head. He liked to see them near, and never tried to catch them or harm them.

As he grew to be an older boy, for some reason the yellow butterflies flew around him many times. The years passed very quickly. Now the young man was graduated. About this time there was dread and fear of war. His mother's heart was heavy, for her son, Jimmy was already talking about enlisting, if the United States declared war. War was declared in April, 1917. He enlisted. The day he left for training camp, his mother and childhood sweetheart went to the train to see him off. He tried to be cheerful, and make them feel the same, but his mother's heart was nearly broken and his sweetheart was very sad. They heard the train whistle and knew in a moment he would be gone. But just before the train arrived, again the yellow butterflies were there . . . flying all around him. He said, "The butterflies are still with me, and they will be here to welcome me back."

He went to war, and as soon as he could he wrote letters home, telling his mother and sweetheart to cheer up. The war would not last long, and he would soon be back. They received many letters, but suddenly they stopped coming. His mother thought he may be in action and couldn't write, and hoped to hear from him later. But there were no letters for mother or sweetheart. They scanned the casualty list. He was never reported wounded or killed in action, nor did they hear anything from the government concerning him. The war ended, and there was no news of an kind.

Time passed on. The broken-hearted mother read in the newspapers of the dedication to take place in Arlington. She went. There she saw the tomb and wondered whose son was lying there. In her heart she felt it might be her Jimmy. She tried to listen to the speaker, but heard little of what was said. Her anguish and pain was almost unbearable. At last she heard something like this: "We have come to honor this soldier. He was selected from a number of unknown soldiers. No one knows who's son is lying here."

Just then, Jimmy's mother gasped. It was all she could do to keep from crying out. Hovering all about the tomb were swarms of beautiful, yellow butterflies. She knew whose son was lying there. She thought, these people have gathered here to honor my son. It is his tomb they dedicate. And then she breathed a silent prayer, "Oh God, I thank Thee for those beautiful butterflies. They have come to welcome Jimmy back home."

(Unknown)

Submitted by Robert A. Jecklin, B-232FA

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO: Publishing Editor: Hugo E. Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200

SEND DUES' REMITTANCE SHEETS AND MEMORIAL FORMS TO: Herb Butt, 16916 Geo. Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055
Subscription \$10.00

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

The 1998 National Reunion of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association 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. These two hotels are about two blocks apart. Rates are \$79.00 per night for single and 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 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.** As of February 1, 1998 there were very few rooms remaining at the Holiday Inn. However, the Radisson is an excellent hotel and the rooms have been completely redone in both hotels in the last two years.

NOTE: If you did not obtain a Registration Packet at Knoxville last July or at Charlotte, NC in February, 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 is being sent to your individual Chapters for reprinting in the Chapter 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 the Reunion Registration, the Auxiliary Bazaar and the various Hospitality Rooms. All of the General Meetings, Committee Meetings, Luncheon, Banquet, Memorial Service, Etc. will take place at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC). The two hotels are approximately two blocks apart and both are about that same distance from the DECC. All three places are connected by enclosed climatized walkways or skywalks. Also a bus shuttle service will be provided to all functions for the handicapped, or those with impaired mobilization or those who just find it undesirable to walk the two block distance. The DECC is a beautiful facility that fills all of the needs for a Reunion such as ours.

An interesting group of tours has been selected. The description and reservation form for the tours are included in the Registration Packet. Please note the deadlines for signing up for the tours. Write for yours today.

A Special Discount Coupon program has been negotiated with Northwest Airlines. Please see the article on this in this issue and save money on your Airline ticket.

RV Parking information has been printed in previous Rainbow Reveilles, but probably the best deal is about twenty sites that will be available at the DECC at a cost of \$20.00 per site. There will be just electricity only furnished and therefore your unit would need to be self contained. Annette Eberhart, Events Services Administrator, can be called at (800) 628-8385 for more information.

Remember that the 11th is the night of the banquet. You should book reservations to leave the morning of the 12th.

Save \$30 - \$40 - \$50 On Airline Tickets

A Special Discount Coupon has been negotiated with Northwest Airlines where you will be able to save \$30, \$40 or \$50 below the regular price you would pay for your Airline Ticket. It works like this:

- You must fly on Northwest Airline to Duluth, Mn.
- One Coupon is needed for each person.
- Write to Don Samolinski, 3729 Carl Street, Wausau, WI for a coupon and present it to your Travel Agent when booking your flight. OR call Marathon Travel, 209 West Washington Street, Wausau, WI at (800) 444-0232. Ask for Lynne Zastrow. She will book your flights and provide the Airline Coupon for you. They are a large travel agency with 12 locations.
- These coupons will be honored for travel between July 6th & 20th. This will allow for additional traveling of the area after the Reunion. We would like a larger window of usage for the coupon and are still working on this. Please check with your travel agents or Marathon Travel for any change in these dates.
- These coupons will allow you to get the best price on your flight and then the discount will be allowed below that price.
- Marathon has been instrumental in helping us to get this discount coupon set up for you. If you have additional questions involving these or the use of these coupons, please contact them.

1998 National Reunion Memory Books

The National Reunion Committee has decided to have a 1998 National Reunion Memories Book. We have decided to have the Olin Mills Firm do this book. They are a very reputable nationwide firm that has extensive experience in working with Churches, Schools and Military Reunions. Most of you will be familiar with their work. They will provide two or more photographers for our Reunion. They do excellent work.

We have chosen to go with an all color book that will have random pictures taken at the various events of the Reunion and pictures of individuals or couples to be in the book. **Please be sure to have your picture taken at the Reunion for the book.**

The book will sell for \$22.00 and we would appreciate it if you would order the book in advance by using the form below. Books can also be ordered during the Reunion, but to save time and congestion at the photographers sight, please order in advance.

East Coast Reunion

General George Washington brought his troops to Valley Forge where they nearly froze to death. Having been to C.P. 2, in France in 1945 our current fearless and intelligent leaders decided May was a much better time to hold our East Coast Reunion.

THEREFORE

The East Coast Meeting will be hosted by the New Jersey Chapter and it will be held at the Park Ridge Hotel in Valley Forge, PA on Sat. May 30, 1998, Sun. May 31 and check out on Monday, June 1. Warm temperatures guaranteed.

The regular meeting of the N.J. Chapter will be held on Oct. 7-8 and 9, 1998 at the Beautiful Port-O-Call Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean City, N.J.

The New Jersey Chapter is a very active one so is the Ladies Auxiliary. If you attended any of the past reunions you know how much fun they were. These meetings promise to be even better.

SO STOP

whatever you're doing, mark your calendar for May 30-31 and June 1, 1998 at Valley Forge, PA and Oct. 7-8-9 at Ocean City, NJ. More details will be forthcoming. If you would like any further information call:

Dick Tisch, Commander, 1-973-635-2559

OR

Harold Melinek, Party Planner Personified,
1-908-604-9181

42nd Rainbow History Book

Hugo Grimm tells us that, to date, orders for the WWII History book have been very gratifying. We ask that you continue to send in your orders.

Once again the original WWII History book (blue cover) has been 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!

The 42nd Rainbow Division Color Yearbook

Olan Mills and Knack & Richards are teaming up with your Association to produce a wonderful color yearbook for your associations 1998 Reunion. The book will include photos of all members in attendance (with their spouse or guest), candid photos of all reunion activities, as well as speciality pages. The book is in full color and will be loaded with pictures. So for about the money you'd spend on a roll of film and developing, you get a wonderful keepsake filled with special faces and friends of the past.

Whether you're unable to attend or plan on being there, we encourage you to share in the excitement of this memorable event, by ordering your book today.

One color book is \$22.00, tax & postage included. To have a book mailed right to your house you may call 1-800-545-8961 to order by credit card, or fill out form below and mail it with check or money order to Knack & Richards, 4295 Harris Hill Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221, Reunion, 42nd Rainbow Division.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

**THE BOOKS WILL BE MAILED 10-12 WEEKS FROM DATE OF REUNION.
A PORTION OF THE BOOK PRICE HELPS SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION.**

RDVA Memorial Service Knoxville, TN 1997

(Continued from January Issue)

I think that we in the 42nd Inf. Div. knew why we were fighting. We were drafted and then we went to do what had to be done. In some more recent wars there has been some confusion of purpose – I felt it in two tours of Viet Nam. But the sights we saw in Europe – we saw refugees even as we got off the troop ship in Marseilles, we saw the result of Nazi brutality, we saw devastation everywhere – and WE KNEW WE HAD TO FIGHT THIS EVIL! And then we got to Dachau . . . Dachau . . . Can you believe that today people write books trying to deny that the Holocaust ever happened . . . I was privileged recently to represent Rainbow at an Award Ceremony – the Eisenhower Institute honored Dr. Ellie Wiesel, a Nobel Laureate, for his writings exposing the Holocaust and surrounding events. Dr. Wiesel spent several teenage years in one of the death camps. He said that when the Americans came to liberate his camp, he looked into their eyes – and he said he saw such profound anger and disgust at what the Nazis had done to fellow human beings – he said that never again would there be any doubt in their minds about the PURPOSE for fighting this war. How right he was.

We read Gen. MacArthur's definition of the soldiers he knew. A few weeks ago the Honorable Togo West, present Secretary of the Army, defined the ideals of today's Army: Despite the Ambiguity of future warfare, and the many forms it may assume, the battlefield will always be a lonely, frightening, and dangerous place. Only soldiers of character, trained to a razor's edge, ably led and superbly equipped and supported, will survive there and win tomorrow as they have in the past. "Only soldiers of Character will survive," he said. The ideals of the soldier are the same ones we knew in WWII and those members of the military who have been the problems – believe me, they are not tolerated! They are brought to trial under the uniform code of military justice and punished, some with jail and some with dishonorable discharges. There is no cover-up, no excuses made. Be sure of that.

Some civilian voices have been heard. Urging an easing of some regulations, but the high standards remain, they are necessary. You may have heard, this very week, Ted Turner (of CNN) does not like our National Anthem "It is too warlike," he says. Ted just doesn't get it – the Star Spangled Banner is a hymn of Victory, not a song of aggressive warfare. Much is expected of today's soldiers – and they deliver!

So today we say farewell to many of our number from WWI and WWII . . . and many departed spouses. May they rest in peace.

In this chaotic world of today, we come to that awesome plateau of history, the end of a millennium. We can be assured that our country is under the protection of a disciplined, highly moral Military establishment. It's Motto is still: DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY. They serve this nation Under God, Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all. I have 2 colleagues, one a retired Navy Chaplain, the other a retired Army Chaplain. They have made several trips to Moscow in the past 2 years, helping the Russian Military set up a Chaplaincy for the first time since 1918! The Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church said, "We tried it without God, and IT DIDN'T WORK!" We knew that all along didn't we? Rainbow, in two wars, helped to preserve the United States as a Nation Under God, Free, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. And to this we gladly pledge allegiance.

Norman P. Forde
Chap. (COL) USA Ret.
RDVA Chaplain

Arapahoe Shrine Has Interesting History

Taken from the Hastings, Nebraska Tribune:

ARAPAHOE: Many people stop to view and photograph the Shrine to Mary adjacent to the St. Germanus Catholic Church here. The Shrine depicts the three children who reported seeing Mary Near Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, but there are really three stories of inspiration a visitor can take in. Probably the most interesting is the one of the Shrine's creator, the Rev. Henry Denis. Rev. Denis was born in Goworowo, Poland in 1909, and faced many hardships. The reason he built the Shrine was out of thanks for being rescued from Nazi concentration camps.

At the time of his birth, Father Denis' homeland was under Russian control. During World War I, Rev. Denis' family was taken to Russia where his father was a slave laborer on the railroad. The family lived in a freight car and returned to Poland in 1919. Rev. Denis was ordained on June 22, 1936 and was called into military service, three years later, and assigned the Chaplaincy of the 26th Infantry Division of the Polish Army. He was captured by the Germans in September of that year and spent two years in the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. In 1942, he was transferred to Dachau where, within a few weeks, 29 chaplains died.

About 887 Polish Priests ultimately were killed. At the Nuremberg Trials it was agreed that about 200,000 registered prisoners were killed. Although things of a Religious nature were forbidden, Rev. Denis said he kept his sanity through quiet, deep prayer. It was while in Dachau that he made the promise that if he were ever able to leave the camp alive, he would show the Virgin Mary some kind of visible gratitude – perhaps a little Shrine. One Sunday morning in April, 1945, American troops stormed the gates of the camp and the survivors were set free. Rev. Denis recuperated in Italy for two years where he was Chaplain of the 8th Army. In 1947, he was demobilized and in January, 1948, he was sponsored by the Rt. Rev. Louis B. Kucera to come to the U.S. He became a Parish Priest in the Lincoln, Nebraska Diocese. He undertook the building of the Shrine by writing for donations to friends, relatives and everyone he met. Labor and equipment were donated. Money was donated from Parishioners, Tourists and people throughout the U.S. Also, in the Church Court Yard, are flagpoles and inscriptions – placed by Rev. Denis. One is to all who died serving their country, another is to the American Soldiers who liberated Dachau and the third is to General Kasimer Pulaski, famous native of Poland who was instrumental in America's war for Independence. Rev. Denis died in retirement in 1984, and after the completion of the Shrine in 1971 he wrote: "I fulfilled my promise. My life is fulfilled. I need nothing else in this world".

232nd Infantry – Information Desired

We have a communication from Mark Sugar, 137 Jackson Mill Road, Jackson, N.J. 08527, Tel. 732-928-5252. Mark's father, now deceased, served in the 232nd Infantry. Mark does not know what company his father served in. He knows that his father was a Pvt. and his serial no. was 32964961. His first name was Jacob and he originally came from Manhattan. Mark would like to know if anyone knew his dad. If anyone has any information please contact Mark. Mark also is interested in becoming an Associate Member.

Archivist Desires Memorabilia

Bill Keithan will be driving to Duluth. Rainbowners are urged to bring with them any and all materials desired to be placed in the Division Archives and Museums.

Possible Merger Of The RDVA And The 42nd ANG.

Prologue

On the occasion of the annual national reunion of the RDVA in July 1997 at Knoxville, Tenn. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee requested that the incoming President, that happened to be me, form a committee to research the feasibility of a possible amalgamation of our Association and the 42nd ANG.

My first task was to assemble a group of men to assist me in this most formidable undertaking. I soon learned that a major problem was that of the geographical location of all the members. I'm sure this has also been a problem faced by other men in my position. I decided that if I was to accomplish anything it would have to be done through the mail and through personal contact with as many men as possible.

With that in mind I proceeded to put together a questionnaire soliciting many diverse responses and allowing the committee members a platform to voice their independent thoughts and feelings. The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions selected to obtain the needed information to give the committee a feeling of the membership as a whole.

It was my aim to get as broad a geographical representation as possible. The men whom I chose came from the following States: NH, MA, NY, NJ, PA, MD, VI, NC, FL, AL, TX, MO, OH, IA, CA, CO, and WA. I feel that my goal was accomplished.

Also included in this group were a number of PNPs who I understand had faced this question in the past and therefore had an opportunity to formulate their own ideas regarding possible problems and solutions.

Another point that I considered to be of the utmost importance was how the 42nd ANG regarded the possible amalgamation of the two Associations. With that in mind I spoke to Col. Joseph Taluto at the New Jersey Fall meeting and he said that they were very enthusiastic about the possibility.

Preliminary Report

With all of the above in mind I now report to the Executive committee what my committee, through their collective efforts, have concluded.

The majority of people I queried were emphatically in favor of some form of association. There were a few who had serious reservations but they were less than 5% of the total. This is not to say that everyone was of the same mind. There were many suggestions on how this should be accomplished and in what form.

Of prime concern were some of the following, not necessarily in order of importance:

- Protection of funds
- Under what conditions should the men of the Guard be brought in?
- What would they be called?
- Would there be, a time in service, necessary?
- Would they, by sheer numbers, take over the Association?
- What is the viability of the 42nd ANG in the Future?
- Should there be an age requirement?
- Should the Auxiliary be included in the planning?
- Would it interfere with the basic camaraderie of the current members?
- Would it cause a major rift amongst the members of our Association?
- Should only men who experienced combat be eligible?
- Should their voting powers be limited?

These are basically the main concerns, as distilled, from the many well thought out returns I received. I think many of them can be handled through the Constitution and By-Law Committee but others can only be decided by a general consensus of the members of the RDVA as a whole.

The benefits derived from a linkage of some manner are many including but not necessarily just the following:

- First and foremost, the continuing into the future of the legacy of both WWI and WWII.
- Handling the ceremonial duties when we are unable to do so.
- Running future reunions.
- Heading committees.
- Putting out the Reveille.
- Financial support for both the Association and the Foundation.
- Ensuring the operation of the Memorial Foundation and care of the memorials.
- Help in selecting new officers.

I'm sure we can all think of additional benefits to be derived from a possible merger but as I mentioned at the outset almost to a man the first benefit was the continuation of the RDVA and all it stands for into the future. As some one said so succinctly "It seems very shortsighted to think that all this should die with us."

As to the number of years a person from the Guard would have to serve, there was no clear consensus but most of the answers seemed to indicate a period of between 5 and 10 years. The men in the current Guard seemed to think 8 years was a good number. This would mean that there are quite a number who would be eligible as of now or when and if a joining is approved.

The timing of this proposal was quite interesting, that is, just when should this vote on this amalgamation take place. Most of the committee seemed to think that it could be voted on by the entire membership at the 1999 Reunion. They believed that it would take that long for the Constitution and By-Laws Committees of both the RDVA and the Memorial Foundation to set up the necessary legal machinery to effectuate this. I am not an Attorney so I don't know whether this is in the realm of possibilities or not, but it certainly would be a great way to start the new Millennium.

When I was asked to handle this assignment I understood what had happened in the past and I tried to be as neutral as possible. After studying and talking to as many people as I have over the past 6 months I truly believe that some form of linkage is not only warranted, but for the good of Rainbow, desirable. A number of men independently came up with the idea of having the 42nd ANG come in as a Chapter with their own treasury and eventually after they understood the working of the RDVA they could become full fledged members. This seems to have a lot of merit. It gives all parties a chance to familiarize themselves with the operation, sort of a dry run.

I don't intend to try to influence anybody either pro or con but nevertheless I am a firm believer in an incremental approach if all the honest objections are addressed and a true consensus can be reached I think we would all be winners. As General Douglas MacArthur once said "Old soldiers never die they just fade away." We also will just fade away, but that doesn't have to mean our wonderful legacy fades away with us.

ALMOST A HERO!

Jack Keyser – Co. H, 232D Inf.

Probably my most remembered WWII war story is one regarding fighting our way through the city of Wuerzburg, Germany. This was a rather sizable city and we were almost down into the center of the downtown area going house to house, when one of the platoon members (2nd platoon) came up to me with some information. I had my section deployed on both sides of the street ready to move on with Co. F. We were not set up in firing positions so there were several men who were not set up in firing positions so there were several men who were not just carrying ammunition. Anyway this messenger (Pvt. Major) came up to me and said "Sgt. Keyser, there are a whole bunch of uniformed Germans in a building with a large boarded up fence surrounding it and a parking lot". He had peeked through the fence. The fence was about 8 to 10 feet high with one door opening off onto the street that we were on. I said "Fine, let's investigate". I took about three or four soldiers with me, including one named Kasburger who spoke German fluently. I got to the door and found it locked so I used my rifle butt to bang it open. We all jumped in with our rifles ready, but none was in the courtyard. Finally, two uniformed men stepped out and I told "Kas" to tell them to get their hands in the air and come forward. He did and they did. We could tell that many more were in the building, and, with my small force, I did not want to get trapped. I had a thought go through my mind that I could become very famous by capturing members of the German General Staff, as these men looked the type. So I told Kas to have one go back in and get the others to come outside and fall into formation. One of the Germans responded, and, very shortly, they all started filing out and lining up. All of them were in dress uniforms. They had lots of medals, leather pouches on their belts (probably pistols inside), swastikas on everything, carrying brief cases, shoulder boards on their uniforms with different insignia, and then I noticed that these men were in their forties and fifties. They formed two lines and came to attention, totaling about thirty men. I told Kas to have the senior officer to step forward. Again I was visualizing that we had just captured part of the German General Staff, due to their age, ribbons, and medals and other paraphenalia. I told Kas to have the officer give me his rank and unit and tell us if there were any others hiding in the building. The man who had stepped forward responded with several long statements. Kas then turned to me and began to laugh. He said "sgt., we have just captured one entire shift of street car conductors and operators for the city of Wuerzburg." I could hardly believe it so I asked him to find out about the medals, brief cases, pouches, etc. He found out that the medals were for so many days without an accident, the ribbons and shoulder boards were years of service on the street cars; if they were a conductor or operator, the pouches held punches to punch the tickets. The brief cases were full of German bread and bottles of beer and other food along with time sheets, schedules and spare tickets. So everything was explained without a round being fired. Unfortunately, we were not super-heroes, but catchers of a street car shift. We turned them over to the normal "prison chasers" TO TAKE THEM TO PRISON CAMP. The last I saw of them, they were being marched to the rear. By the way, no medals were issued to me or my men for this outstanding capture.

Able Company/232nd Infantry At Drusenheim and Sessenheim

(Excerpted from the History of Able Company - a typical rifle company which had glorious days, discouraging days, happy days and sad days but had the satisfaction of knowing it had done its job to the fullest extent of its abilities).

Drusenheim was to be a memorable place in the minds of every man in the company as it was here that A company really entered combat for the first time. After dismounting from the Ducks that had brought us here from Kilstett, we slept in an abandoned dance hall. The next day we moved into billets while half of the company prepared defensive positions on the outskirts of town. So far it looked like the same type of situation that we had enjoyed there, after relieving elements of the 36th Division. We found out differently on the second day when two P-47s bombed directly across the river. That morning, the Germans struck.

The town, actually, was separated in two parts by the Moder River which at this point was little more than a stream. The Germans first hit a detachment of our men who had crossed the stream to prepare defensive positions on that side. Eventually, these men were forced to withdraw to our side of the stream in order to solidify our main line of resistance. The force of the attack subsided after several days, but the town was kept under shellfire during our entire stay.

The siege of Drusenheim lasted eleven days for Able Company. On the eleventh day, we were relieved by the 2nd BN, of the 314th Infantry of the 79th Division. It is to the credit of Able Company to say that the battalion that relieved us was subsequently heavily decimated shortly afterward. For all of the fierce fighting that took place at Drusenheim, we had suffered a minimum of casualties. In the meantime, we had ten times in Germans over our casualty rate that we were certain of plus those undetermined. Thus we left our first battleground with added confidence in ourselves, and a much better idea of what this thing called combat was all about.

After leaving Drusenheim, we moved further north to the town of Soufflenheim. Now, the company was divided which caused future prob-

lems. Shortly before we left Drusenheim, our first platoon had moved to Roschwoog. We all considered this as a comic episode because, as we got the story, the town had been taken with one shot to make it official. However, that town was to be a death trap for the first platoon, because when they later withdrew after being almost surrounded, they left an entire squad behind, which was captured.

At this time, the main body of the company was in Soufflenheim where we spent the night. The second night, the third and fourth platoons went south of the town; supposedly to aid Company I of the Third Battalion. When we arrived, I Company did not need them, but they stayed the night, sleeping in a fortified troop shelter which was part of the Maginot Line. The next morning, trucks were sent to take the two platoons back to Soufflenheim.

Meanwhile, the second platoon had gone to Sessenheim, about a mile east of Soufflenheim. Their mission was to aid B Company which had taken a terrific mauling but still managed to hold the town. The Germans had put bridges across the Rhine at Sessenheim. As a result, the Germans were throwing everything they had against the town in order to drive south and form a junction at Drusenheim with the forces advancing from the Gamsheim bridgehead.

After the third and fourth platoon arrived back in Soufflenheim, they were incorporated into Task Force Custer which was made up of elements of the 1st Bn. and the remnants of L Company, and were going to the aid of the second platoon and B Company who were fighting together in Sessenheim against the 7th Parachute Division and the 10th SS Panzer Division. The second platoon was in the Sessenheim woods east of the town when the Task Force arrived. The third platoon fought their way into town and the fourth joined two mortar sections from D Company around the edge of town to give supporting fire. There was no supporting artillery. The mortars drew heavy artillery fire and were forced to seek other positions southwest of the town where they dug in along with the fourth platoon. Here, they were subjected to another heavy artillery barrage. After the artillery had lifted, they moved into town to be greeted by a third barrage. By this time it was apparent that the Germans had every house and every blade of grass "zeroed in".

Our third and fourth platoon plus the A&P platoon and the D Company mortarmen acting as riflemen were organized into another task force with the mission of retaking Stattmatten;; for all practical purposes another section of Sessenheim because they were so closely joined. The Task Force then moved to the east end of Sessenheim but were pinned down by a terrific artillery barrage. When this ended, two German tanks emerged from the woods, accompanied by another artillery barrage. By now dusk had descended so we took up defensive positions for the night. During the night, the rumble of enemy vehicles gave evidence that the enemy was being reinforced. This became evident when the enemy attacked at dawn.

The defensive setup at this time had the Task Force still defending the forward edge of Sessenheim with our second platoon in the woods along with K Company defending our right flank. The rear of the town was defended by B Company which had some forty odd men left in the company. Our left flank was being protected by our first platoon, in the town of Roschwoog. C Company was in the town of Runtzenheim doing the bulk of the work as left flank security. When the enemy attacked on the left flank, in overwhelming numbers K Company withdrew. Our second platoon was forced from the woods to the cover of the town. This left Sessenheim surrounded on three sides. The enemy drove into town from the right flank and forced B company and some second platoon men out of town. Later that night, the encirclement of the town was completed along with the town of Roschwoog.

At this time, two squads of the first platoon infiltrated the enemy lines and escaped from Roschwoog, leaving a squad behind. Meanwhile, the third platoon escaped from Sessenheim. Most of the A&P platoon escaped but most of the fourth platoon and parts of the second and third platoons were missing in action.

The following day, the 3rd battalion of the 314th and two battalions of the 103rd Division (410th and 411th Regiments) along with six tanks of the 781st Tank Battalion counterattacked but were strongly repulsed. This occasioned a withdrawal by the entire 6th Corps to new defensive positions along the Moder, including Haguenau.

Tribulations Of A Rifleman/Platoon Runner Bill Clayton/E-222nd Infantry

During the last year of high school I attempted to enlist in the Marine Corps and Army Air Corps. I was not accepted because I was legally blind in my left eye. (Optic nerve damage as a childhood accident.) I completed high school and was not drafted with my classmates, but I was taken several months later when the draft board ran out of warm bodies. I was sent to Army Air Corps at Sheppard Field, Texas and scheduled for training as a radio/gunner. A couple of months later (having never seen a radio or gun) I was transferred in from Air Corps or ASTP. At Camp Kilmer, I discussed my eye problem with Platoon Sgt. Joe Brosik who sent me on detail to avoid final physical exam prior to going overseas. The voyage to Europe was lousy. Bad weather and crowded conditions on the troopship. Not being prone to seasickness, I volunteered for KP to escape below deck conditions and get topside where the kitchen was located. I landed at Marseilles and then to CP2. Having served a month on KP as company punishment, I knew the Mess Sgt. quite well. The Sgt. tagged me for a work detail. We filled our pockets with sugar and went to Marseilles for a good time. From CP2, we loaded in 40/8 box cars for a long, boring train ride. The only excitement was when one car was set afire by a G.I. who liberated a 5 gallon can of gas at one stop (it was cold in those box cars).

We were committed to action as part of Task Force Linden (attached to the 79th Division) around Christmas time in the Maginot line near Strasbourg, France. I remember having a hot turkey dinner - then being sent on patrol with a French civilian leading us. He was dashing looking with a black leather jacket, riding boots, and a small pistol strapped to his waist. Very dramatic but no action. I felt like I was playing a part in a war movie.

We were in the Maginot Line only a few days and were sent in to the city of Strasbourg not far from the famous Gothic Cathedral. We were on one side of the river and the enemy was on the opposite side. We could see the enemy moving about, but were ordered not to fire unless he fired first. Seemed like a strange war.

After dark, on January 5th, we loaded into DUCKS, and we expected to make a river crossing. Instead, we were driven in a blacked out convoy to an unknown spot. We all dismounted and stashed our gear. We gathered

at a spot where there were junior officers, non-coms and platoon runners. The officer in charge told us that we were to attack a town held by an enemy armored unit, and that our company would lead the assault, and that another unit would attack on the flank. There would be no artillery or armor support, as we were to count on the element of surprise; get into town before dawn and catch the enemy before he could get into his tanks. The officer's final words were to have the men fix bayonets and make sure everyone had grenades.

Up to that point in my life, I had had few scary moments, but now, my heart sank. We went back to our units and passed the word. We stripped down to essentials - fix bayonets, hang two grenades on field jacket pocket flaps, make sure every pocket in the ammo belt had a clip plus a couple of extras in jacket pockets, first aid kit and canteen of water and that was our battle gear. What a way to go out and fight tanks! We formed up and started walking at a normal pace, being as quiet as possible. In the darkness, you could only see a few people within a few feet, and conversation was limited to a few whispers. If I recall correctly, our attack pattern was with two or three men on point, followed by the company commander, who was followed by the three platoon runners, and three rifle platoons in an arrowhead formation. Our company was followed by Company E of the 232nd Infantry.

We continued walking in the darkness. Then, one of our men on point got scared and stopped. The guy was really terrified at being in front by himself. He was chewed out in a whisper, and replaced by S/Sgt. Boyd Turner, who volunteered to take his place, and we started walking again. Suddenly, all hell broke loose; the enemy had heard or spotted us. Machine guns opened up from several points. They were using a sweeping pattern and tracers were flying all over the place. My first inclination was to hit the dirt (snow as it was). Bullets popped as they cut the air overhead. Then I heard Sgt. Turner call out that he had been hit. I crawled out to him, and told him to lay down on his back, hooked my right arm under his right arm and we crawled (me on my belly and he on his back) to a pile of rocks which was probably a part of a stone fence or wall. By this time, Turner was in charge of himself; he had been hit in both legs. I gave him the big bandage from my aid kit and he said he was o.k., and that I should rejoin the attack.

A couple of weeks later, we heard that Turner was in a hospital and

doing o.k. He had crawled from the spot where I left him and was picked up by our company jeep driver. After dawn, personnel in the rear could see the shapes of bodies of men who had been hit as we approached Gamsheim. The driver unloaded his trailer and drove out to pick up the wounded. I can't recall the driver's name but I believe he was decorated for this action.

The following minutes are a blur in my mind. I don't know if the enemy machine guns were knocked out by our guys or if the enemy withdrew. We were on an attack mission and I remember getting to the railroad track on the outskirts of Gamsheim where we all stopped. A guy from our Weapons platoon plopped down beside me. He had become separated from his machine gun crew and wanted to stick with me and my M-1 since all he had was his 45' sidearm. Someone yelled "LET'S GO! LET'S GO!" There was a lot of Rebel Yells and we all got up and headed into the town of Gamsheim. Just how far I got beyond the railroad track I'll never know. I was knocked unconscious by a blast from an unknown source; it could have been a grenade or shell burst. Anyway, my lights went out! When I came to, things were quiet and I was alone. I felt no pain, checked myself and my arms and legs were in place. I was bleeding from the nose; otherwise I seemed to be in one piece. I looked around and found the machine gunner who had just joined me; he was dead. I found my rifle and my hearing began to return. Realizing that the sounds of battle were coming from the town, I went in. I had not gotten very far when a G.I. told me to go into a particular building. It was a pub, filled with our wounded and Medics were attending them. My bleeding continued and I must have looked worse than was the case. One of the guys was passing a bottle around. I took a swig and WOW! That was my introduction to Cognac.

One fellow was keeping watch at a window and he yelled "Here comes a tank." Then the building took a hit from the tank's cannon. Everyone who could, ran into the street. In the street it was bedlam. I was still disoriented and went with the flow. I spotted a Lt. Colonel and I thought my best bet was to stick close to him because rank should know what was going on and what to do. The Colonel was trying to organize a delaying action. We would fire and hold the enemy infantry off, then be forced to withdraw when a Tiger Tank appeared. Street fighting is hectic, no time to aim at a target; just take snap shots at anything that moved.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



Scholarships

Bob Stoudemire resigned from the Scholarship Committee and Mary Kenny was appointed to replace him.

At the Little Rock reunion, the Memorial Foundation Trustees voted to award scholarships based on the amount of money in the Scholarship Operating Fund on December 31st of that Rainbow year and on October 31st for subsequent years. As a result, there will be 22 first year, 2 Duhascek, and 31 second year scholarships, including 2 Duhascek second year scholarships available this fall.

There has been a large increase in requests for scholarship applications, so this may be the first year that not every eligible scholar receives a scholarship. Send requests for applications and completed applications to Dorothy Smith, 513 Mountain View Ave., Hurley, NY 12443.

500 Club - The 500 club, the initiative of PNAF Beverly Koehler and the Auxiliary, recognizes those who have given or pledged \$500 or more to the Foundation Funds with a 500 Club pin. Contributions may be made to any of the four funds and in memory of deceased comrades, if desired. The contributors during December through February for the Scholarship endowment Fund were Loretta Schneider, third installment \$100 and Vern Smith 2nd installment \$100. Ivan Wallace paid the balance of his pledge, \$400 to the Foundation Endowment Fund; Basil Manley III, Pd 100 on pledge. Please send 500 Club pledges to Beverly Koehler, 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. Pledge forms are available in most chapter newsletters, or send a request to Beverly.

Other Contributions, December-February - Scholarship Endowment Fund - Charles W. Carroll, 500; Milton Clegg, 150; Louis Rosato, 20; Raymond Zander, in memory of Phil Trout, 50; Mayland Crosson, in memory of Donnie Simonsen & Iona Freely, 200; 242nd Aux., in memory of Donnie Simonson, 50; Norman Usher, 25; George Balz, MD, in memory of Harry Bleil, 50.

Scholarship Endowment Fund - Dorothy K. Lynch, in memory of James J. Lynch, E, 232nd Inf., \$25; Joseph T. Garrmone, \$20. **Scholarship Operating Fund** - JAY W. CHAMBERLAIN TRUST (WWI VETERAN) \$10,000; **In Memory contributions (donor first)**: John McGovern - Wm. Reeder, 2,000; Noah Sanders - James W. Sanders, 25; Robert Africa - John R. Ball; Herbert Altneu - Perry Bakenmaro, 75; Marjorie Franklin - Bill Franklin, 50; Alvin Cahoon, Everett C. Whitman & James Beers, 500; Charles "Pete" Hawkins - 222nd Anti-tank deceased, 100; Harvey Underhill - Chas. Adams, 50; Martha S. Trent - Donald C. Trent (WWI), 50; Ruth E. Shepherd - Robert A. Shepherd, 50; Dee & Barbara Eberhart - Donnie Simonson, 100; Minnie Beckman - Carl Beckman, 100; Dorothy & Joe Smith - Morton Kamen & Donnie Simonson, 50.

Others: Edward Garlich, 25; Lt Col. Donald Schatzel, 222; John Banks, Jr., 50; Pete Karadimos, 20; Wm. Childress, 30; Arthur Essman, 50; Sam Russo, 50; Robert Lyter, 50; Maj. James Creaman, 100; Cecil Abellero, 20; Curtis W. Mundell, 50; Joseph W. Hasson, 25; Paul E. Eyer, 25; Willard A. Nelson, 30; Wm. A. Cook, 50; Dr. Samuel Kelly, 100; Larry E. Mancock, (descendant of Arthur Taylor, 25; Cort J. Eberhart (descendant of Dee Eberhart), 100.

Foundation Endowment Fund, In Memory Contributions (donor first): Ralph E. Murnaham - 142nd Engr. Bn., 250; Russell S. Applegate - Orin

Penters, 50; Wm. T. Kenny - John Powers, 100; Mayland Crosson - Glen V. Domino, 25 & Capt. Jim Campbell, 25; Texas Aux. - Delia Rose, 10; Carroll R. Anderson - Paul Jarrett (WWI), 200; 2nd Bn, 232nd Inf. - Jesse N. Hills & Gordon M. Herman, 50; Hilbert Margol - Sgt. Tom Rodgers, 100; Evelyn Bleil - Harry T. Bleil, 100; Marion D. Schenck - Harold Schenck, 25.

Others: George W. Whitmire (installment on \$10k pledge), 2000; Jacob Kizirian, 500; Robert Swanson, 100; Clarence S. Johnson, 100; Gerald W. Van Gilst, 50; Durant W. Eklund, 500; Leonard A. Schwarm, 100; S. M. Singer, 100; O. Kent Anderson, 25; Lon Nuell, 25; Frank Burkett, 50.

Foundation Operating Fund In Memory Contributions (donor first): Julia C. Schmidt - Raymond Schmidt, 50; Karen Ziesk - Fred W. "Zeke" Ziesk, 25; Virginia Colby - Whitney C. Colby, 25; Eleanor P. Davis - Martin L. Davis, 50; Vera Fiechter - Arthur Fiechter, 50; MO-Kan Chap. - Ethel Findley (WWI Aux.), 25; Wm. K. Snelling - Lt. Col. Donald W. Swihart, 50; Ida Ruppenstein - George J. Ruppenstein, 25.

Others: William Y. Boyd, II, 500; Arthur J. Steffenberg, 25; Norman H. Brown, Jr, 20; Sol Feingold, 100; Etter Mila, 10; Lean M. Satenstein, 35; Herbert H. Plambeck, 10; Wm. J. Lowenberg, 100; Charles Podhaizer, 25; Basil Manley, IV, 100; Richard R. Goodwin, 20; Ben W. Shoemaker, 50; Floyd L. Randall, 5; Mary C. Keep, 100; Maj. Gen. John Tillson, III, 50; Thomas F. Dolan, 10; Justin C. Walker, 100; James H. Johnson (Desc. Tillson, III, 50; Thomas F. Dolan, 10; Justin C. Walker, 100; James H. Johnson (Desc. Ted Johnson), 25; Teresa M. Dempsey, 25; Nicholas S. Mattera, 25; John A. McDaniel, 25; J. L. Chimera, 5.

C & BL Committee

The Foundation Constitution & By-laws Committee, Dee Eberhart as Chairman, met February 5th in Charlotte. The following recommendations were made by the Committee.*

1) that the C & BL be revised to allow Foundation membership to the 42nd ANG members and/or veterans meeting eligibility criteria.

2) In addition to eligible ANG members, the C & BL be revised to allow expanded Foundation membership to "other friends of Rainbow". It was further recommended that the term "Honorary Member" be used when appropriate.

3) Recommended deletion of restriction on number of terms in office that may be served by Foundation officers.

4) Recommended that all Foundation officers be nominated by the Foundation and elected by the RDVMP membership, just as Board members are.

Other Committee activity:

5) That Foundation membership dues be established upon the dissolution of the RDVA.

Other actions:

Heaton & Shurtleff will redraft the C & BL Preamble & Article II Purpose.

Johnson & Shurtleff will redraft Article IV & Article VI.

After final C & BL draft approval, Johnson will obtain a legal review.

C & BL committee also recommended that revised C & BL include a provision to memorialize RDVA Permanent Honorary Presidents; that there be a provision to recognize existing life memberships of the Association & the Auxiliary in the Foundation after dissolution of the RDVA; rejected changes that would differentiate class of membership on the basis of dues or contributions; rejected any C & BL provision which would fix the percentage rate of the Scholarship Operating Fund to be used for scholarships; recommended a provision in the C & BL that funds transferred to the Foundation after dissolution be earmarked to help arrange, if necessary, future reunions as long as Rainbow veterans are interested and capable of attending.

* For Approval by the Entire Membership.

Memorial Foundation Trustees Meeting

In addition to the actions taken on the recommendations of the C & BL Committee, the trustees voted to approve \$3000 to produce a complete roster of the Rainbow veterans of both wars in order to enter them on our Rainbow Web page.

Chairman Johnson announced that the Sam Dann Dachau book named "The 29th of April 1945-Dachau Rainbow Memories is in it's final draft and will be released before July.

Bill Shurtleff reported that he has received many "hits" (957 on 2/25) on the Rainbow web page and has answered many questions from people interested in Rainbow, and has also recruited several new members.

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