

Vol. LXXVII

June, 1999

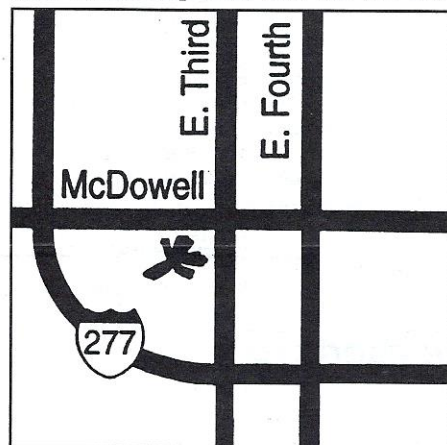
No. 5

Rainbow On-Line: www.rainbowvets.org

COMING TO CHARLOTTE!

* Check Bottom of Page 7

If you haven't made your reservations for the National Reunion in Charlotte, N.C. July 7-11, 1999, there is still time, but I would urge you not to delay. As your editor, I am involved with the Annual Memorial File. Each year the list gets longer and longer. Time is running out for we World War II Veterans. Now is the time to renew your friendship with that old fox hole



From I-277 exit Fourth St. and turn left. Take Fourth St. to S. McDowell and turn left. Hotel is 2 blocks on the right.

ROLE OF THE FFI

This is the diary of a young French fighter who reports the events to Kilstett and Gamsheim in November and December, 1944.

M. Kleinpeter's Diary

26 November: 22:00 hours; We are ordered by Lt. Eugene Jung to move from La Wantzenau to Kilstett. We drive behind an American column. We set up our Headquarters in the Oberle Restaurant near the railroad station. I make several trips during the night in order to fetch the men. The German artillery shells sporadically the highway. We settle down as well as we can. We spend the night speaking with an American Lieutenant who feels homesick and shows the photos of his family. Mortars set up positions in front of the restaurant. I act as interpreter. Our friend, Edmond Schnoering, makes us laugh with his flattering comments on the pretty fiancée of the U.S. soldier.

27 November: Occasional artillery fire. Dull day. We look for quarters for the men. An American tank comes from the North exit of Kilstett and sets up position on the highway, pointing its gun toward the church steeple in Gamsheim, where a German observation officer is thought to be hidden. We watch, sheltered behind a wall in the restaurant yard. Suddenly, a terrific explosion occurs, the first shot makes the barrel burst. The

buddy before it is too late. If you have never attended a reunion, you still have a chance to rekindle those fires of friendships forged in combat. Remember that special friend who you never forgot. He is waiting to greet you with open arms. Please make an extra effort to attend - you won't regret it.

The primary hotel is the Adam's Mark, 555 South McDowell, Charlotte, N.C. 28204 - Tel. (704) 372-4100 or 1-800-444 for any Adams-Mark. Rates are \$85.00/night for single or double occupancy. If you want a room for three persons, the rate will be \$95.00/night and for four persons it will be \$105.00/night. There is a 12% tax. Room rates are good for two days prior to and two days after the reunion.

Registration is \$40.00/person and should be sent to Charles Paine, 3 Pinyon Lane, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374-9492, Tel. 1-910-215-0357. Make checks payable to RDVA Annual Reunion. If you need forms for hotel or registration, contact Charlie.

There has been a change in the telephone number for the McDowell Park Campground. The number is 1-800-831-2285.

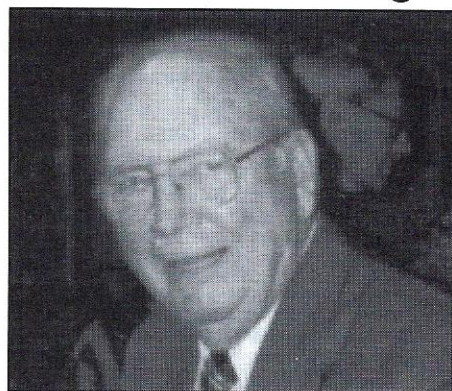
Remember that we want and need you - so won't you make a special effort!

tank is damaged, but luckily, the crew escapes unhurt. The tank seems to be covered with a banana skin. We begin to occupy observation posts and to establish contact with the F.F.I.s in Kilstett, under the orders of our friend, Sergeant Adolphe Jung (a distant cousin of our lieutenant).

28 November: The sector is relatively quiet, but a terrific battle seems to be raging in the area BISCHWILLER-HAGUENAU. At night, the sky is illuminated by the explosions and fires. The American troops are not numerous, and we are ordered to go on frequent patrols, in order to avoid any sudden attack. This morning, I was with my friend, PHILLIPPE, and something which I shall never forget happened to us. We were patrolling on the northern outskirts of the village and we had been walking across an open field when mortar fire harassed us. We just had time to shelter behind a wall. The barrage lasted three or four minutes and then stopped. We shook the dust off our clothes, and looked at each other. We smiled, relieved it was over.

29 November: Lieutenant Jung and his assistant Doctor Andre Shneider pay us frequent visits. There was a false alarm last night. We get organized with the help of the mayor of Kilstett. I spent several pleasant hours at the town hall during that period. The mayor, a poised, sensible man, has adopted us. But, most of all, I appreciate the company of his two secretaries; his pretty, witty daughters. Whenever I have the time, I go

President's Message



April 28, 1999

It certainly has been a diverse and extremely interesting year so far, and hopefully, "you ain't seen nothing yet."

From Duluth to France for the overwhelming 80th anniversary of the battle of Champagne where the last German offensive was stopped in World War I. The three-hour memorial service during which we placed a large, beautiful floral Rainbow on the Navarin Farms monument was awesome. The tour of the battle areas covered by Task Force Linden was another highlight, and then it was on to Wingen for an Artillery plaque presentation to the mayor at a pleasant wine and cheese reception.

After our return to Paris and a final farewell dinner, some of us continued on to the Normandy beaches and the adjacent cemeteries, where you tread lightly and speak softly so as not to disturb the revered dead who have been at peace these many years. You ache inside when you reflect on the many years of living they all lost so that others could be free.

In October we presented the six replicas of the Medal of Honor citations with photos awarded to Rainbow soldiers. This was done at the Division headquarters in Troy, New York.

There was the New Jersey Chapter reunion in Ocean City and the East Coast reunion at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. After visiting the Freedoms Foundation there was unanimous and instant agreement by all present that the RDVA must have a monument there.

The November Birmingham 51st World Peace luncheon, parade, banquet, and memorial service was, as always, a superb experience.

I expect to make three or four more Chapter meetings prior to the grand finale in Charlotte and will be in Rochester, New York for the presentation of the Unit Award Citation plaque to the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Div.-Mechanized.

The membership should be aware that much committee work has been done this year wrestling with issues that must be resolved as we enter the new millennium - and time is short.

Looking forward to seeing and hearing from you in Charlotte.

Yours In Rainbow,
Dick Tisch

**CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
August 1, 1999**

continued on pg 5

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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June 1999

No. 5

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Veterans Association.

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Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055

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VETERANS REUNION PROGRAM

Wednesday, July 7	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Memorial Foundation	Carolina E
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration in General Foyer	
	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Chapter Committee Meetings	
		222nd Regiment	Governors 4
		232nd Regiment	Governors 5
		242nd Regiment	Governors 6
	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Scholarship Meeting	Executive Board
	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Early Bird Reception	Mecklenburg Ballroom
		D. J. Music	
Thursday, July 8	8:30 am - 10:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting	Governors 5/6
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration in General Foyer	
	10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Memorial Foundation Trustees	Cardinal 2/3
	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Joint Meeting	Mecklenburg Ballroom
	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	RDVA Meeting	Mecklenburg Ballroom
	4:40 pm - 5:30 pm	Memorial Foundation Audit	Boardroom
		Committee	
Friday, July 9	8:30 am - 10:00 am	RDVA Memorial Comm. Mtg.	Governors 4
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Audit Committee	Cardinal 1
		Constitution & By-Law	Cardinal 2
		Credentials Committee	Cardinal 3
		Resolution Committee	Governors 5
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Banquet Table Assignment*	Exec. Boardroom
	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Registration in General Foyer	
	10:15 am - 11:15 am	Memorial Foundation Budget	Boardroom
		Committee Meeting	
	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Luncheon	Symphony 1/2/3/4
	5:00 pm -	Artillery Chapter Meeting	Hospitality Room
Saturday, July 10	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Time & Place	Mecklenburg 2
		Budget	Cardinal 1
		Membership	Cardinal 2
		Nominating	Mecklenburg 3
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Banquet Table Assignment*	Exec. Boardroom
	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Memorial Service	Carolina Ballroom
	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Registration in General Foyer	
	1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	RDVA Closing Session	Mecklenburg 1/2/3
	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Memorial Foundation Trustees	Cardinal 2/3
	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Church Services	
		Catholic	Mecklenburg 3
		Protestant	Mecklenburg 2
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	President's Reception, Music	
		and Cash Bar	Symphony Foyer
	7:30 pm - 11:00 pm	RDVA Banquet	Symphony 1/2/3/4

AUXILIARY REUNION PROGRAM

Wedne		Bazaar Set-Up	Governors 1/2/3
		Registration in General Foyer	
		Auxiliary Meetings	
		222nd Auxiliary	Cardinal 1
		232nd Auxiliary	Cardinal 2
		242nd Auxiliary	Cardinal 3
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Bazaar Sales	
	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Early Bird Reception	Mecklenburg Ballroom
		D. J. Music	
Thursday, July 8	7:30 am - 8:30 am	PNAP's Breakfast	Appleby's
	8:30 am - 10:00 am	Auxiliary Exec. Comm. Mtg.	Cardinal 1
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Bazaar Sales	
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration in General Foyer	
	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Joint Meeting	Mecklenburg Ballroom
	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Aux. Business Meeting	Carolina A/B
Friday, July 9	7:45 am - 9:00 am	Aux. President Breakfast	Governors 6
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Banquet Table Assignment	Exec. Boardroom
	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Chap. Soty. Mtg.	Governors 6
	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Bazaar Sales	Governors 6
	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Registration in General Foyer	
	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	RDVA Luncheon	Symphony 1/2/3/4
	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Bazaar Sales	Governors 1/2/3
Saturday, July 10	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Bazaar Closing	Governors 1/2/3
		Raffle tickets will be ????	
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Banquet Table Assignments*	Exec. Boardroom
	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Registration in General Foyer	
	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Memorial Service	Carolina Ballroom
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Aux. Business Meeting	Carolina A/B
	4:40 pm - 5:50 pm	Memorial Foundation Trustees	Cardinal 2/3
	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Church Services	
		Catholic	Mecklenburg 3
		Protestant	Mecklenburg 2
	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	President's Reception, Music	
		and Cash Bar	Symphony Foyer
	7:30 pm - 11:00 pm	RDVA Banquet	Symphony Foyer

* BANQUET TICKETS must be exchanged for Table Assignment.

All Meeting Room Assignments Are Subject To Change Based Upon Guaranteed Guest Count.

Chaplain's Message

May the time not be distant, O God, when thy name shall be worshiped in all the earth, when unbelief shall disappear and error be no more. We fervently pray that the day may come when all men shall invoke thy name, when corruption and evil shall give way to purity and goodness, when superstition shall no longer enslave the mind, nor idolatry blind the eye, when all inhabitants of the earth shall know that to thee alone every knee must bend and every tongue give homage. O may all, created in thine image, recognize that they are brethren, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may forever be united before Thee. Then shall thy kingdom be established on earth and the word of thine ancient seer be fulfilled: the Lord will reign forever and ever. On that day the Lord shall be One and his Name shall be One. Amen.

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

Archivist's Column

An unusual series of circumstances brought together at the Cornell University Law School Library the unique personal Nuremberg trial collection of Rainbower William Donovan. Donovan served in the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division in World War I and earned a Congressional Medal of Honor in that conflict.

He went on to form at the start of World War II, the Office of Strategic Services, precursor of the Central Intelligence Agency. As Director of the O.S.S., Donovan became special assistant to the U.S. Chief of Counsel, Supreme Court Justice, Robert H. Jackson prosecuting at the trials.

In 150 volumes, Donovan's collection made its way to Cornell. It is available for viewing upon request. It was a thrilling experience to be able to handle these intriguing documents.

My next venue in the east was the PA Military Museum in Boalsburg, PA. The principal collection there is that of the 28th Division, the Keystone States' "Bloody Bucket" and in which my father served in World War I, covering much of the same ground the "Rainbow" went over in WW II.

Penn State was the site of the 1999 annual meeting of the Society for Military History. 300 plus attendees took part in 10 different sessions. It was most fascinating too deal with a wide variety of historical subjects. Among the attendees was the historian of the 69th Regiment. There will be more later as their archives and museum material is explored and registered in our "Finding Guide".

The two week journey in the east concluded with a day's visit to Morristown, NJ where RDVA President Dick Tish and PNP Bill Kenny helped me to become better acquainted with the details of the National Guard/R.D.V.A. amalgamation of the organizations.

MIRACLE!!

In the final weeks of World War II, Morry Eisenstein was among many of the first U.S. troops to liberate prisoners at Dachau, the now infamous Death Camp. Even though many other enlisted men, many of whom Morry knew, died in the ultimately successful campaign to defeat Hitler, Morry managed to survive the mission.

Years later, Morry encountered a different kind of battle. One day, during his regular routine, he sat down for a moment to rest. That's the last thing he remembers before waking up days later in the hospital, a victim of a massive stroke. Before coming out of the coma, doctors told his wife he was "Clinically Dead" and that his chances for any kind of recovery were slim.

Del Ray Beach, Florida's Bethesda Memorial Hospital's Stroke Center Club was formed to help people, like Morry, who have had a stroke, overcome the many hurdles on the way to regaining a normal life.

When he did come out of his coma, Morry, once a very active, gregarious fellow, known for telling Ribald Stories to the delight of his companions, was left with no control of his throat muscles - A condition known as "Aphasia". He was unable to speak or swallow. For two years, Morry could not eat or drink the normal way. His wife had to feed him through a tube in his stomach. Morry discovered he could no longer read, one of his great passions before the stroke. But this didn't stop Morry.

Morry sought the foremost authority in strokes, a doctor at Northwestern University in Illinois. This stroke expert told Morry he was in luck. One of his brightest pupils was practicing medicine at Bethesda. A specialist helped Morry with a series of brand new treatments just discovered by stroke experts. She taught him to massage his throat muscles using a dental mirror. She helped him keep his sense of humor. After his harrowing experience, Morry was one of the founders of the Stroke Club at Bethesda. Ten years later, the club meets once a month to provide support and fellowship for both "Strokees" and their care givers. With over 140 members it is one of the largest groups of its kind in the U.S.

Today, Morry is as active as ever. Sharp as a tack, Morry reads 3 to 4 books a week, can eat anything he wants, and is even a volunteer at the local hospital. And as Morry says, this club is the only one that doesn't want new members.

(Morry served with Company H, 222nd Infantry Regiment)

Final Crisis Update

Your editor wishes to thank all those who ordered the book. Back orders have now been filled. There were many special details which had to positively be worked out. In my opinion, all appeared to be fine. The cover epitomizes the spirit of the Rainbow: the operation maps are accurate to the last detail; the print is designed especially for we old folks; sketches by Ted Mackecnnie are first class and the inclusion of the German divisional insignia is unique. I feel content that I have fulfilled my pledge to Dick Engler. However, to our utter chagrin, we found four pages out of order after the books were shipped out. We are in the process of sending a corrected replacement book to you. We will include a mailer for you to send back the flawed copies at no cost. This is particularly disturbing as we labored long to make you proud of the finished project. Those who wish, NOW to order may expect a three week delay. Make checks out to AEGIS Consulting Group, P.O. Box 51022, Fort Monroe, VA. 23651. The cost of the book is \$29.95 plus \$4.00 S&H.

The following was written by
Dick before his death:

This is a story of World War II that is told here to fill in a neglected chapter in military records. The book is about the Final Crisis in the Second World War. It tells of the second phase, the Alsace phase, of the German winter offensives of 1944-45 that has remained almost unreported in American literature. It tells of a simpler time in America. A story of a nation seeking ways to solve problems the easiest way - with superior machines and a minimum of personal sacrifice. (Sound familiar today?) It focuses on a generation called upon to defend freedom and hold back tyranny and what they learned that they owed to one another.

As history, I hope this book inspires other efforts to detail the furies of the German winter offensive in Alsace and Lorraine, and reclaim those battles from virtual obscurity. I wish, Especially, to thank the men of the unit referred to as "The Company", and particularly those of the First Platoon, who helped keep one of the youngest and weakest of their number alive through the month of January, 1945, and in the months that followed.

Richard E. Engler
Crofton, MD.

Restoration of Liberty Memorial

Kansas City, Missouri

The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City has been the site of one of the Rainbow Memorials for many years, primarily honoring World War I Veterans, and storing their memorabilia. Later, we had material from both wars there. Some time ago, it was decided to become only a World War I Memorial, so we moved all of our World War II material to Lincoln and Carlisle. The Memorial has since fell into a very sad state.

Kansas City has gathered a group called "Citizens To Save Liberty Memorial" in honor of those who served in the World War in defense of Liberty and Our Country. Plans to repair the Memorial through restorative construction are underway. This includes fully utilizing space available to transform one of the three most significant collections into a vibrant learning experience for young and old alike. Contributions are gratefully welcomed? Contact Citizens To Save Liberty Memorial, 4600 E. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO. 64130. Tel. 816-871-5788; Fax 816-333-3123. Or contact our Memorial Officer: Charles Fowler, P.O. Box 64, Londonderry, N.H. 03053-0064, Tel: 603-432-2635.

Over The Rainbow

Father Erb reports that James Vincent Magee recently passed away. James was the Chaplain's assistant and jeep driver from Marseilles to Salzburg. James always set up for mass in churches, homes, barnyards and battle fields, and always sang at mass. After the war, James sang in Dublin with the great tenor John McCormick.



James Magee and Father Erb
Somewhere in Germany

Recommended Reading

Scholars In Foxholes

(Revised Edition) by Louis Keefer

The whole history of the ASTP from start to finish including killed, wounded or missing in action. This keepsake copy is available for \$24.95 (postpaid). Make checks out to COTU Publishing, Box 2160, Reston, VA. 20195-0160.

Forged By The Furnace and The Fire

by Robert L. Maynes

Bob was a rifle man with 1st Platoon, Co. I, 222nd Inf., 42nd Division. Told from the viewpoint of the lowly foot soldier but with a clear understanding of division, corp and army tactics and maneuvers. The book tells of Bob's induction, through combat and resultant occupation duty where he met his future wife. He is offering the book for the sale price of \$25.00. Please contact him for further information. Robert L. Maynes, 607 Baker, Cortez, CO. 81321, Tel: 970-565-3976.

Dachau: 29th April, 1945

Edited by Sam Dann

\$29.95 plus \$4.00 for the first title, \$75 for each additional title. Texas Tech University Press, Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79409-1037. Texas residents add 7.875% sales tax.

Surrender of Dachau Concentration Camp

by Col. John Linden (ret)

\$25.00 plus \$4.85 S&H. Sycamore Press Ltd., P.O. Box 5263, 780 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove, WI. 53122.

Who Was Marcus W. Orr?

by S/M (ret) William Orten

This book is a follow up on a letter published in the April 1997 Reveille? We have no information other than the book was published by Gateway Press of Baltimore, MD. We assume further information will be forthcoming.

Addendum to

Surrender of Dachau Concentration Camp

Positive identification has been determined of the SS Officer who surrendered KZ Dachau. As a result of ongoing research Mssrs. Art Lee and Sol Feingold have located information in the German Service Center for the notification of the next of kin of the fallen of the former German Armed Forces which states that the Waffen SS Officer who surrendered the camp to the 42nd was SS Untersturmfuhrer (2nd Lt) Heinrich Wicker, Born 30 June 1921 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Calling All Veterans

We are embarking on a project to record your stories for posterity. Your experiences, simply told in a straightforward manner are far more powerful than any textbook reading. Young people today are fascinated by stories of World War II when they hear them directly from those who were there. We urge you to share your stories by telling them and recording them. Send them to Mary C. Kenny, One Chadwell Place, Morristown, NJ 07960. If you plan to attend the reunion in Charlotte, there will be volunteers there with equipment ready and waiting to record your stories. Look for our interviewers, (wives and family members) in the registration area. We appreciate your cooperation in this worthwhile project!

Protect the Flag that Protected Me

by Steve Ross

54 years ago, American soldiers saved me from hell, the death camp of Dachau. They nursed me back to life and restored my will to live. Yet what I remember most about my liberation is my tears being spilled for the first time on a small American flag. From that day to this, my love for our flag has never changed.

My story begins in 1940, when I was 9 years old. The Germans ripped me from my family in the small Polish town of Krasnik. For 5 long, bitter years I was a prisoner of the Nazis in 10 death camps, where I witnessed thousands of men, women and children brutally murdered or starved and worked to death by the Nazi death machine.

I lived on breadcrumbs, sawdust, human remains, and one prayer to survive and to see my parents again. My prayer was partially answered on April 29, 1945, a day of Thanksgiving, a day of freedom, a day never to forget, when I was liberated from Dachau by the 42nd and 45th Infantry Division of the United States Seventh Army. We were nursed for several days by these war-weary, but compassionate men and women until we had enough strength to travel to Munich for additional medical attention.

As we walked ever so slowly and steadily with fragile health towards our salvation, a young American tank commander jumped off his tank to help us in whatever way he could. When he saw that I was just a young boy, despite my gaunt appearance, he stopped to offer me comfort and compassion. He gave me his own food, he touched my withered body with his hands and his heart. His kindness instilled in me a will to live. I fell at his feet, kissed his boots and shed my first tears in 5 years. He knelt by my side and gently wiped my tears with his handkerchief. It was only later, after he was gone, that I realized that his handkerchief which he left with me was a small American flag, the first I had ever seen. It became my flag of redemption and freedom.

For 54 years, I have cherished that flag. It represents the hope, freedom and life that the American soldiers returned to me in the Valley of Death, nursed me to health, and restored my faith in God and mankind. That is why today, I am working to help pass an Amendment to the Constitution to protect our flag from physical desecration.

The memories of the 20th century heroes who liberated me will forever be a part of me. I show my gratitude to them for delivering me from hell every time I salute the flag of freedom that was theirs and today is mine.

Even now, 54 years later, I am overcome with tears and gratitude whenever I see our glorious flag because I know what it represents, not only to me, but to millions around the world.

Perhaps only those who have had their humanity brutally torn from them as I did can fully appreciate this great country and what its flag represents. Every American should revere and honor our flag for the sacrifices made to maintain their freedom.

Protest, if you wish. Speak loudly, even curse our country and our flag if you need to, but please, in the name of all those who died for our freedom, don't physically harm what is so sacred to me and to countless other survivors who were freed by this flag and the American soldiers. When you harm our flag, you violate my freedom to protect what once protected me, liberated me, and restored my human dignity. The price of desecration is too high. I support with all my heart a Constitutional Amendment to preserve America's dignity, America's value and the American flag. God bless America, the greatest land of all and God bless our flag that made me free.

On March 23, 1999, I was invited to our nation's capitol to appear and testify on a proposed Constitutional amendment authorizing the Congress to prohibit the desecration of the United States flag.

Steve Ross serves as a senior staff psychologist for the City of Boston Community Schools and Center.

continued from pg 1

and say hello to them and even pay them a little compliment, which they really accept, since I am so young (Age 19-Birthday 1/1/25). We go on frequent patrols, Rene Grass, from Offendorf, Albert Hamm, Robert Riebel, and Edmond Schnoering, with a few others like Henri Mayor and those from Offendorf. Rene Grass has just deserted from the Russian front, where he was engaged a few weeks ago, and he teaches me a lot of tricks. What a great soldier! Several years later, reading time and time again, the novels by Pierre Schoendorfer (The 317th platoon and the Crabe-Tambour), I recognized Rene in the portrait of the Wilsdorf brothers. Always ready to fight, and great hearted, Rene Grass was the symbol of the extraordinary situation of our country. He was awarded within the same year, the German Iron Cross and the French War Cross. He gave his life on 5 January 1945, in order to save his platoon during the fierce fighting in the Gamsheim bridgehead.

30 November: At half past nine, I reach the Oberle Restaurant, where there is a certain commotion. During the evening, we had found a German machine gun and our American friends are going to set it on an armored car. Unfortunately, spare parts are not supplied and a device of firing it must be found. In the yard, I get a shock. I am told our interpreter, a pleasant civil servant from Strasbourg, has just been seriously wounded by German mortars. Lieutenant Jung asks me to replace him. How shall I manage? The population of Kilstett is upset because the vicarage has been turned upside down, as some farmers tell us. This is not our business, but we listen. The priest is a strange character. Some say he is a pro German, others pretend the opposite. Having spent several hours with the Jung brothers (the leaders of the FFI in Kilstett), who were in a concentration camp, I have learned that the priest is actually a generous man, though very impulsive. He has helped several people in need.

1st December: This morning, while on my rounds, I stopped to greet the American Lieutenant, who asks for my help when he has to deal with the local population. In the Oberle restaurant yard is a railroad worker from Gamsheim, Eugene Stayer, who is very excited. He reports four inhabitants from the village, homesick undoubtedly, have crossed the lines and entered the German sector. Stayer is sorry because he could not follow them; he was shot at while the four runaways were disappearing behind the first houses. We found their bodies some ten days later. They had been shot in the nape of the neck. I often think of the sorrow expressed by Stayer, whereas his life had been saved. But not for long, as he was going to die, tragically, during the battle in January.

2 December: The FFIs from Kilstett and our friend, Adolphe Jung, and myself are on night patrol with an American Sergeant. We speak about Pennsylvania and Alsatian cuisine. Jung tells us how pleased he is with my help. It makes contact with the Allies easier.

3 December: 23:00 hours; We go on patrol, Grass, Ebel, Riebel and myself. We must find the emplacements of German outposts at the edge of the forest along the Rhine River. An intense activity comes from behind the screen of trees. We know exactly where to go and make contact with a German patrol. According to the orders, we withdraw. Then, an American platoon moves forward. Some men are wounded. Grass has helped us efficiently.

4 December: I cannot help greeting the two pretty daughters of the Mayor, and we start speaking when Lt. Jung comes. He is very excited and calls me. I must immediately be at the disposal of the American commander. We go to the C.P. We walk up to the attic in the Oberle restaurant. A few days ago, the Americans reported they suspected an underground activity of spying and broadcasting. A special car had been brought up to detect the location. Under the roof, we find an artillery observer who is worried about what is taking place in his receiver. He hands me the

ear-phones and we wait. The American artillery pounds the water tower and the church in Gamsheim. Suddenly, the mystery is solved. The German artillery observer transmits on the same wave-length as the American. I translate the information given to the German 88s, the Americans smile. The American Lieutenant can tell us almost exactly where the next shell will fall. The battle rages in the area BISCHWILLER-HAGUENAU and at night Kilstett is often shelled by German 88s. I haven't slept for two weeks and, as night patrols are exhausting, a cousin on my father's side, Mme. Sprauer from Kilstett, suggests I should lie down during my two hours rest. I collapse on a bed on the second floor. I am suddenly woken by a terrific explosion; a shell has just burst into the roof across the street. In the dark, I grope for my bag and my machine gun, and trip on something strange. I hear a frightening bang and, with my lighter, I can see I have knocked down a splendid dresser full of crystal glasses. I must say I lost my self control and I picked up the bits and pieces and put them into my bag and left. Jung gave us the order to reinforce the outposts immediately as he feared the barrage to announce an attack. I wake my friends quickly. The rest of the night is spent without any incident. A long time afterward I apologized to my cousin. She had forgiven me and it made them laugh.

7 December: An American assault company is ready to launch an attack on Gamsheim. The men march silently past us; they look sober. Some of them know they won't come back. With Rene Bohn, I go up the church steeple in Kilstett to say hello to the artillery observer there. From the top, we can see that assault troops harassed by German artillery.

8 December: The attack on Gamsheim is launched. With our field glasses, we observe the church steeple and watch the American doughboys entering the village. At about 13:00 hours, Lt. Jung and Andre Schneider arrive and order me and Edmond Schnoering to leave for our village on a jeep driven by two Americans. We drive slowly into the village, which has suffered little from the shelling. We come across a few houses damaged or destroyed. The situation will be completely different in January, 1945. When we reach the house of the saddler, M. Paulus, we meet the old man sadly waving his cap. A shell has torn his house apart and he waves, desperately but friendly. We follow the route indicated by the American commander. Both Americans and Germans lie in the streets. I stop for a while in front of a dead soldier near the butcher shop (Zach, Julius). We reach the eastern exit, proceeding carefully because the village hasn't been cleaned up yet, and there are still snipers. The Americans ask us to go to the baker's shop, where we find the owner, seriously wounded. He wanted to help a wounded American soldier who had collapsed in front of his shop, and he had received a direct hit. Several American dead lay on the bridge near the baker's. We discuss the situation with the doughboys, and an ambulance comes and drives him away to hospital. In front of M. Frank's house, we meet the master of the house who leads us to the wagon under the shed. There lies, wrapped in a canvas, the grandfather, killed during the fight. Further down the street, Simon Seller calls us. The Americans have brought several wounded men to his house and have laid them in the beds, while waiting for the ambulances. Everything is covered with blood. In front of the Wintz bakery, German prisoners, with drawn faces, wait to be evacuated. We visit several shelters and arrive in the American commanders C.P., set in the house of Alphonse Hommel. The officer gives us permission to bring back the men from Gamsheim the following day. They have found refuge from the invaders in LaWantenau. We can also fetch the priest and his assistant for the wounded and sick persons.

9 December: We organize as well as we can the coming back of the men from Gamsheim to their homes and a long file stretches on the highway between Kilstett and Gamsheim. The American commander has asked us to have the usual

precautions respected; no gathering of great numbers, the column must be split up, the men must march on the roadside.

10 December: The four men who had crossed the German lines have just been found, shot in the nape of the neck. The people are greatly upset. The leaders of the local FFI, Sergeant Heckmann, orders us to make preparations for the burial. We settle in the classroom in the town hall. Life gets organized.

12 December: The four men are buried. I regularly go to the American C.P. to fetch the passwords and orders for missions. We get on very well with the soldiers at the C.P. At first, we were afraid they would not take us seriously, but we help them efficiently and they change their minds.

14 December: Lieutenant Jung announces the arrival of a company of FFIs from the Vosges. They arrive during the afternoon and, from the start, the relations between the French captain and the American commander are strained.

15 December: The FFIs from the Vosges have taken their positions. Several false alarms occur during the night, and the American commander is exasperated. In fact, the doughboys are green troops, they lack sufficient training. As our friend, Edmond Schnoering says, as soon as they see signs of movement, they think invaders are coming. But we have no complaints about them, even though some of us don't like their big talk.

16 December: Today, a thorny problem arises. We are in reserve in the class room in the town hall. Suddenly, we hear a commotion outside. What follows is characteristic of our exceptional situation in Alsace as we are caught between different ideologies. An American jeep arrives at 15:00 and stops in front of the school. It brings two civilians from a neighboring village. They are supposed to be dangerous collaborators. We asked to guard them. Half an hour later, some cyclists we don't know come and order us to hand the civilians over to them. They explain they must be punished for some offenses of some kind. I ask them to be quiet as our orders are to wait until the police come and take them away. We have a violent argument with them. We cannot make out who is right. At last the aide-de-campe of the American commander comes over and offers to help. I refused, but the sight of them had been enough for the strangers. They leave. A few minutes later, I am sent to Bischwiller on a mission, by the American commander, and I am happy to resume service.

17 December: A German patrol attacked one of our outposts last night. We immediately retaliated. At midnight, we set off in an armored car. Three German prisoners are in the C.P. of the American commander in Bricke's home along the highway. I arrive at the C.P. and translate what the prisoners have to say. A German attack by elite troops is under way and patrols are going to make contact with our outposts at dawn. A new alarm at 2 o'clock in the morning remains unexplained. Maybe it's due to the edginess of the sentries.

18 December: The FFIs from the Vosges have left Gamsheim. The atmosphere had become unbreathable between our fellow citizens and the doughboys. The American reinforcements have arrived, and set up their positions in the forest along the Rhine River (Co. L, 232nd Inf.). We organize a patrol in order to find four inhabitants from Kilstett who have been taken away by the Germans. They are feared dead. We search the bank of the Rhine. We are hit by terrific artillery fire, but suffer no casualties, as we are sheltered in the pillbox which the Germans had blown up before leaving.

19 December: An American regiment is due to arrive in Gamsheim in the evening of the 20th (One platoon Co. F and one section Co. H, 232nd Inf.). The sector is quiet. No attack.

22 December: I go on patrol and, awaiting Lt. Jung, I stop near the football ground where a charming school friend, Bertha Raeppele, is skating. I still remember her, skating gracefully and spinning around smartly on the ice. How envious I was! But the spell is soon broken, and the aide-

continued on pg 6

Three French Historians of the American Expeditionary Forces Battlefields

As a part of a continuing effort to keep alive the memory of the American soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during World War I and to promote tourism to the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) battlefields in Europe, I would like to present to professional/amateur historians and to prospective battlefield tourists and pilgrims alike, three French historians of the AEF battlefields.

Amazingly enough, there are now three French historians living in France who are dedicated to preserving the memory of the doughboys of the AEF who fought in France in 1918. All three of these men are conveniently and coincidentally place where they are able to study the majority of the American World War I battlefields in France, and are able and willing to take American visitors out of these battlefields.

These three historians are able to advise prospective battlefield visitors as to the availability of lodgings such as bed-and-breakfast establishment, cottages and hotels.

These three historians, all in their mid-thirties, age-wise, are fluent in both spoken and written English. All are posed with an extraordinary and detailed knowledge of the old American battlefields, having spent an average of fifteen years studying AEF unit histories and actually walking the ground over which the soldiers fought. Their knowledge is so extensive and detailed, that they are able to show us the foxholes and trenches of AEF units down to the company level, in many cases. This sort of detail is invaluable for those Americans who want to see exactly where their fathers and grandfathers fought to "save the world for democracy."

These Frenchmen, being "men of the country," are able to take you out to places on the American battlefields which would never be accessible or even known to American tourists; many of the sites of interest are now private property. These gentlemen of France, knowing the local people and the landowners, have a sort of care blance accessibility to the World War I battle areas and too the more interesting sites and vestiges de la Guerre.

American World War I battle field tourism seems to be on an upswing, now that people in France who will act as battlefield guides, not only for tour groups, but also for private parties. All three of the mentioned French historians have been very active in guiding Americans, both private parties and tour groups, around the old AEF battle areas.

For all the American battlefields north of Paris (the U.S. 27th and 30th Divisions at the Hindenburg Line, the U.S. 1st Division at Cantigny, etc.) your French historian/guide is:

Yves FOHLEN, 4/71 Allee Cantelon, 02100 Saint Quentin, France, Tel. 01.33.323.68.07.45

Yves works as a custodian/guide at the Somme American Military Cemetery, Bony, France, and he acts as a guide for English tour groups who wish to visit their old battlefields in the Somme area of France: Middle Ages, Waterloo, Arras 1917, Mons 1914, Somme 1916-1918.

Coming down into the Marne salient of 1918, (that large triangle formed by Reims, Chateau-Thierry and Soissons) and the battles there of the U.S. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32nd, 42nd, and 77th Divisions, your French guide/historian is:

Gilles LAGIN, 24 Place de la Halle, 02810 Marigny-en-Orxois, France. Tel/Fax. 01.33.323.70.46.54 Mr. Lagin's World Wide Web internet site is: Gilles.Lagin@wanadoo.fr http://perso.wanadoo.fr/war_1/ E-mail: Gilles.Lagin@wanadoo.fr

Monsieur Lagin is especially knowledgeable concerning early-on battles of the U.S. Marine Corps at Hill 142, Belleau Wood, and Bouresches. His knowledge of American battlefields and operations during the offensive operations of the AEF and their drives north to the Ourcq and Vesle Rivers is very extensive. Gilles is well-reversed concerning the battlefields of the U.S. 3rd Division east of Chateau-Thierry and those of the U.S. 1st, 2nd, and 4th Divisions in their drives in from the sides of the Marne salient.

Gilles Lagin's knowledge of the AEF battlefields in his area of France is so detailed that, he is the only person known in the world, for example, who can show you exactly where the German machine guns were on Hill 142, and where the command posts of the 30th and 38th Regiments (U.S. 3rd Division) were in the Bois d'Aigremont. He also knows Belleau Wood in extreme detail. Mr. Lagin coordinates his battlefield guide activities with the officials at the American Embassy, Paris, France and with the superintendent at the Aisne-Marne American Military Cemetery, Belleau, France.

Mr. Lagin is expert at preparing a very interesting folder of maps, photographs and other descriptions concerning the service of a member of the AEF in the Marne salient of France. If you can provide him with some basic information about your AEF soldier, Gilles can really enlighten you about the man's service, even down to photographs of where the soldier served, was wounded, or where he is buried.

Continuing on to the Champagne area of France for the battlefields of the Marine Brigade of the U.S. 2nd Division and of the 42nd Division, as well as many areas of the Meuse-Argonne Campaign, your French historian/guide is:

Florent DELUDET, 23, La Pépinière, Rue du 11 Novembre 1918, 53100 Vitry-le-Francois, France. Tel/Fax 01.33.326.74.70.93 E-mail: Florent.deludet@wanadoo.fr

Mr. Deludet's areas of expertise are: the battles of Champagne 1915, 1917, 1918 (French, Russian); the AEF in Champagne (U.S. 2nd, 36th, and 42nd Divisions at Blanc Mont, and the U.S. 93rd Division (negro troops) with the French Army; the AEF in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (U.S. 1st, 28th, 35th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 82nd and 91st Divisions). Mr. Deludet states that his special area of interest is that of the U.S. 42nd (Rainbow) Division.

Mr. Deludet is perhaps the only person who can show Americans the exact location of "Essen Hook" trench, on the Blanc Mont battlefield!

At this date of writing, no English-speaking historian has been located for touring the American battlefields in Belgium, nor for the St. Mihiel salient in France.

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About the Author:

Mr. Homsher is a World War I historian who has dedicated himself to perpetuating the memory of those who served in the AEF and the battlefields on which they fought. He expects to publish a guidebook to the battlefield areas next year.

Who Was That Lady!

I was recuperating from my wounds at Hallaron General Hospital in Staten Island, N.Y. A fellow rainbower was also there, but in a different part of the building. We would often visit one another and go outside to lie on the grass and enjoy the sunshine. One day we were doing this when he heard the staccato click of women's heels behind us. We turned and saw two ladies approaching. One was an older Red Cross nurse and the other was a beautiful young blonde in a swishy black dress. They walked over and said hello. The blonde and I talked as if we were old friends and we had a great time. All this time, my friend did not join in the conversation in any manner. He seemed to be dumbfounded by my easy conversational manner. The ladies finally said goodbye and got into a limo. My friend was curious as to who the blonde was that I had been so familiar with. I remarked that every G.I. in the service would know her. He still was nonplussed. I knew at once that the beautiful blond was movie actress Betty Grable who was my fellow rainbower? Charlie Paine!

Many Thanks

PNAP Beverly Koehler wishes to thank everyone who sent sympathy cards on the death of her father, Henry F. Schultz. She also expresses her gratefulness to those who sent memorial donations in his name.

FFI continued from pg 5

de-campe soon comes and fetches me; Lt. Jung requests me to be at his disposal. We drive off in a jeep bound for Weyersheim. As an interpreter, I experience another painful moment. In the American C.P. stand two French soldiers, with their hands up. I won't reveal their unit. They are very angry, and so is the colonel. He asks me to tell them he won't stand poaching behind his lines, in the vicinity of the artillery batteries. Should this occur again, he will open fire on anyone. The two Frenchmen reply cheekily. In order to calm things down, I stop translating word for word, and I interpret the words of the opponents in a conciliatory way. Eventually, the colonel decides to send the soldiers back to their unit, after lecturing them, through the interpreter, who tempered the violence of the speech. The colonel was not deceived and, after the men's departure, he slapped me on the back, laughing and saying that I was a rascal.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Death of Captain Bugno

I was also becoming aware of how much punishment the human body can endure under such painfully frigid conditions. As dawn broke, the Germans had expended all their ammunition and pulled back. In previous engagements, we had noticed that advancing German units left caches of ammunition spaced at regular intervals in the event that a withdrawal was ordered. The guys were up against real professionals, and they weren't about to hand back any real estate they didn't have to. Captain Bugno rounded up those who were still functional and moved us out. None of us were in the best of shape. The trauma associated with a horrible night, the frigid weather, lack of sleep, cold meals, snow for water, all these negatives eroded our effectiveness. The chills and fever that had debilitated me, in the previous two days, were stalemated by the tremendous surge of adrenaline that my body responded to on demand. There were no further options: it was a matter of survival.

I moved out to the right front of Captain Bugno, my rifle cradled in my arms. My fingers were so frozen that I couldn't grasp the weapon in my hands, let alone fire it. Reacting as an automaton, rather than an alert aggressive infantryman. I was stunned when Captain Bugno leaped directly behind me and thrust my face down in the snow. As I looked up from my prone position, spitting snow out of my mouth, I saw Captain Bugno standing over my body and whipping his carbine to his shoulder, firing three times. Three Germans lay dead in front of me. Without uttering a word, he reached down and helped me to my feet. Now, daylight was upon us. The snow had stopped and visibility was good.

Unknown to me, a German forward artillery observer spotted our patrol as we advanced into the open flat river bottom. He waited for all of us to commit ourselves to the exposed area before radioing his fire

order. We were caught flat footed by a barrage of 150MM shells that zeroed right on top of us, killing and wounding a few more good men. I ran to the base of a huge tree and embraced it, the white ground about us soon ragged furrows and ed splashes. When the barrage lifted, Captain Bugno lay dead just a few feet from me. A huge shell fragment had embedded itself between his shoulder blades. Three more Company K men were also killed. Then Lt. Woelfer appeared with a small support group to pull us back to the road block. A unit from the 79th Infantry arrived and formed a skirmish line, attacking in the direction of the breakthrough. In no time at all, walking wounded filed to the rear. That's the last scene I carried away with me that morning.

Editor's Note: (At 10:30 in the morning K Company's right flank was strongly refused and they watched as the men from the 314th Infantry, I Company in the north of the woods, and K Company to the south shoved off into the woods toward the Mill d'uhbruck. They were stopped 200 yards short of the mill. They were supposed to press out until they met the 1st Bn./ 314th attacking west from Schweighausen; the 1st Bn. was not able to get into Schweighausen all day; finally, the 2nd Bn./232nd Infantry took the town)

Although we hadn't pushed the Germans back, we had stopped their forward motion, and held the line in Alsace. After thirty-three consecutive days of exposure to the frigid, unrelenting weather and a tough enemy, we were pulled off the line for rest and reorganization.

Divine intervention in the persons of Captain Bugno and Bob Owens all owed me to survive the battle of Ohlungen Forest. In subsequent battles, I quickly gained knowledge and was able to perform my duties. I will bear the guilt of surviving when so many others did not. Bob Owens was killed during the battle of Furth.

Photographer Needed

Due to illness in the family, Bill Clayton had to resign as photographer. We are looking for someone who will be at the National Reunion and likes to take pictures. The only pictures really needed are the traditional group pictures of the PNPs and PNAPS which are taken just before the banquet. If you are willing to do this, please contact Ken Carpenter at 410-437-5404.

Member Deaths

During the past few months, your Editor has been swamped with obituaries of Rainbow Veterans, many with requests that they be printed in the Reveille. One obituary was a page and a half long. First, if we printed all these obituaries and the names of men who have passed Over the Rainbow in each issue, there would be no space for current news. Secondly, the death reports are not to be sent to the Editor, but to the National Secretary, so stated on page 2, first column.

We have in the past, and will continue to publish notices of the death of Past National Presidents and other Officials who render self sacrificing services to the association, but the responsibility of disseminating the news of a member is best done through the organ of the chapter best knowing of the individual. A complete memorial file is printed every November.

*PLEASE! PLEASE NOTE! NATIONAL REUNION BANQUET

is on **Saturday, June 10, 1999.**
If you are attending, you should
reserve your room to
Depart Sunday, June 11, 1999.

"OVER THE RAINBOW"

We just learned of the death of PNP Carlyle Woelfer's wife Helen. We will do her justice in the next issue.

Wisconsin Chapter

The Wisconsin Chapter is one of Rainbow's most active and thriving chapters. They have held two very successful reunions in Milwaukee and Duluth. They are pictured below at the Duluth Reunion.



Front Row (r to l): Jean Bergeth, Marie Lund, Eldrid Walker, Genevive Beno, Lois Samolinski, Alice Westrich, Maida Crown, and Don Samolinski.
Back Row (l to r): Bill Walker, Royal Lunde, Don Beno, Wilbert Westrich, Herm Bergeth, Bud Crown, Delores Feithe and Bill Feither.

Rainbower, Honor Guard at Nurmberg Trail

Robert J. Marlin D. 232

Staff Sargent Marlin joined Rainbow at Camp Gruber in March 1944 and went overseas with Task Force Linden. He was wounded in Kilstett and evacuated to England. Returned to duty with the First Division. While with the 1st Division was assigned as an Honor Guard at the Nurmberg Trials. Bob retired from the Army with many assignments, none equalled his tour of duty at Nurmberg. He resides with his wife, Marianne, in Silver Springs, Maryland.





**Memorial Foundation
Reveille Article, January 1999**

Scholarship Committee

Applications for scholarships may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Dorothy Smith, 513 Mountain View Ave., Hurler, NY 12443-5621. The deadline for returning completed applications is May 1, 1999. Test scores (either ACT or SAT) must accompany the application. While it will be too late for applications for the 1999 school year, it is important that the May 1st date become well known since many applicants this year do not seem to be aware of the date change.

Scholarship Chairman Dottier Smith has resigned as Chairman because of the increase in her duties and travel requirements as she becomes sty vice-president of the Auxiliary in July. However, she will remain as Chairman through the July reunion. Ted Simonson, presently a member of the Scholarship Committee, has accepted the Chairmanship.

Dachau, 29 April 1945

The first printing of the Sam Dann book on the liberation of Dachau was exhausted in early November. A second printing was made in early December, and there should be enough available to meet the demand.

There will be a limited number of copies available at the Charlotte reunion.

Contributions to Memorial Foundation during March & April

Scholarship Endowment Fund

National Aux., in memory of Gus Walker, \$50; also in memory of Keith Wright and Sophia Wilson, \$20; Marion Schenck, \$100; Gil & Bev Koehler, 199 Mid-year contribution, \$500.

"500 Club" to Scholarship Endowment Fund

Kenneth Carpenter, \$200 in memory of Annabelle Cook; Richard Tisch, in memory of Dorothy Monsen, Wycoff Schemp, Guy Walker, \$100; Vern Smith, \$100.

Scholarship Operating Fund

In memory contributions; Keith Wright, \$50, by 232nd Aux; Keith Wright, \$50, Vester O. Cruse, \$20, by Tom Owen; Henry Schultz, \$10, by Delores W. Kallaher; Henry Schultz, \$10, by National Aux.

Foundation Endowment Fund

In memory of Samuel N. Jennings, Kenneth L. Jackson & Bill H. Kammerer, \$75, by 2nd Bn., 232nd Inf.

Foundation Operating Fund

In memory contributions; Sam Jennings, \$50, by J. Wm. Keithan; Helen Goodman, \$25, by MO-Kan Chapter; husband Ivar Westerbeck, \$50, by Mary.

Liberty Memorial, Kansas City

A number of prominent citizens of Kansas City, MO are raising 80 million dollars to restore the Liberty Memorial and the Liberty Memorial Museum. Most of the money will be raised in the Kansas City area, but they will have a "Walk of Honor" made of bricks that will bear the names of WWI veterans, or others, including those who served subsequently. The "Walk" is primarily to honor WWI veterans, but, incidently, also to raise money. \$100 will buy three lines on a brick with 15 characters per line. One or three additional lines can be added with much larger contributions. It would be worthwhile to see if all WWI Rainbow memorial bricks can be in a group. The goal for accumulation of funds is November 11, 1999. For additional information, contact Ted Johnson, Herb Butt, or John McGovern.

500 CLUB PLEDGE FORM

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Unit _____

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