



RAINBOW DIVISION REVILLE



42nd RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION and RAINBOW MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Vol. LXXXIX

November 2000

No. 2

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BLOCKING MISSION

Editor's Note:

In the brutal battles of Hatten and Rittershofen, the principal American units involved were the First and Second Battalions of the 242nd Infantry, the Fourteenth Armor, First Battalion, 315th Infantry (Hatten), the Second and Third Battalions 315th Infantry (Rittershofen) after their return from the mountains, the 813th Tank Bn., and the 827th T.D. Bn. In efforts to hamper the movements of the 21st Panzer and 25th Panzer Grenadier Divisions, it was necessary to deploy further American units to perform this function and provide a staging area for 14th Armored counterattacks. The area chosen was the ground surrounding the town of Leiterswiller, approximately one mile from Hatten. The perilously thin 3rd Battalion of the 313th Infantry was designated for this job, further, G Company of the 222nd Infantry was attached to the 313th and chosen to maintain the MLR around Leiterswiller. Following are excerpts from John Walker's "Memories of World War II":

"Company G remained in Hermerwiller until January 7th, when off we marched a mile or so to the little town of Hoffen where the sounds of battle echoed more loudly from the east where the Germans were putting more pressure on the American lines. We stayed in Hoffen overnight and then on the morning of January 8th, we marched a half mile or so to the small town of Leiterswiller, passing on the way a large knocked out tank squatting in a stream bed beside the road. As we entered the town, we saw three dead American soldiers lying in a ditch, a sure sign that we were truly at the front. We discovered that the town was very small - a dozen small houses with barns, etc. We continued to march about a half mile beyond to a small cluster of heavily damaged one story buildings with a large barn. Artillery fire had destroyed all the buildings except the barn. We proceeded to mill around, poke through the blasted buildings, until, suddenly, we could hear the incoming whine of artillery fire. Before we could do little but hit the ground, the shells were exploding all around us, a welcome from the German artillery men, who undoubtedly, had spotted us along the road from Leiterswiller. The barrage was brief, and when it was over Company G had suffered a couple of casualties. A fellow from our machine gun section was hit by shrapnel, had to be evacuated and spent the remaining months of the war in the hospital.

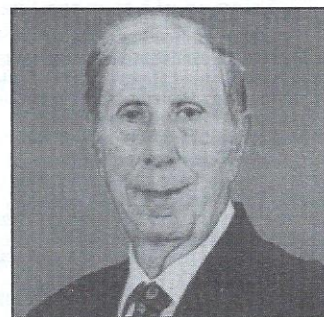
Luckily, no further barrages descended upon us the rest of the afternoon. When it grew dark, it was snowing as we marched back to Leiterswiller and on the left edge of town (a two story solid red brick house that became the Company

C.P.), we mortar men moved about 100 yards into a field and began the task of digging in. The rifle platoons went forward another 100 yards and set up a defensive line facing the towns of Hatten and Rittershofen, which were about a mile to the south where the fighting was increasing. Digging in was difficult since the ground was frozen solid to a depth of more than four inches. We spent the rest of the night chipping away at the frozen earth and by morning had a mortar pit 4'x4' and 4" deep covered with several inches of snow. We set up the mortar and squatted in the hole which had started to take on water as it seeped in below the frost line. Soon we were busy bailing out our mortar pit. We could look south the short mile across the open fields that lay between us and the towns of Hatten and Rittershofen. The fields were open, quite flat, treeless and sloped gently downward from our positions to these towns. We had been given C-rations, and upon opening a ration found it frozen solid. Immediately, some of the guys started little fires to heat the rations. This action brought in a heavy German artillery barrage, causing everyone to hunker down in their holes and pray that a shell didn't land on them. This sure told us that the Germans had us under observation. We were issued only K-rations from then on. An advantage of K-rations was that they came in a cardboard box with an inner wax coating. The empty wax carton could be set on fire and would burn slowly and long enough to heat up a cup of coffee and the small cans of meat, cheese or eggs.

On the morning of January 9th, the Germans opened up a heavy attack on Hatten. The attack was launched from

Continued on page 7

President's Message



Our President

Greetings, friends and families of Rainbow. Plans are coming along on the May 2001 ceremonies in France. There are three small groups of several persons each who have already made reservations at hotels there. There have been about 22 inquiries from others asking about a package tour. We have been talking with a travel agency and they are in the process of making a proposal. I will be getting in touch with those who have already indicated an interest and asking them for ideas on where they want to go and how long they would like the tour to be.

Anyone who has not already contacted Bill Shurtleff or myself please do so as quickly as possible. I have asked Lise Pommois to guide the tour group and she has agreed.

I will be visiting the New Jersey Reunion October 18 thru 20 and the Pacific Northwest on October 26 thru 28. I also will be attending the Birmingham Veterans Day Parade and the various other functions there from November 9 thru 11. We had a great time at the St. Louis Chapter Fall get-together at Grones Cafeteria in September.

In the fall of 1945 I gathered a group of close buddies from Co. K, 232 around and told them I was going to make notes on as much as we could remember about our combat times. I sent it to my folks and my father took it to work with him and showed it to all his work buddies. A few years later I used these notes to compile a history of the 2nd Platoon, Co. K, 232. In 1994 I decided to rewrite it, which I did. I have given my children and some close friends copies. It is about 200+ pages. It contains many WWII B&W photos, and many color maps and photos from my several trips to France and Germany.

I have had requests from several Rainbow people for a copy and have provided them. It is too time consuming to continue to make copies myself, so I have decided

Continued on back cover

DUES 'R DUE !!!
Your Reminder

CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
December 1, 2000

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Chaplain's Prayer

Almighty God, we must account to you for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of these United States in the election of their officers and representatives; that by faithful administration and wise laws the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to promote peace and unity among all the nations of the world.

In Your Holy Name we pray.
Amen

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

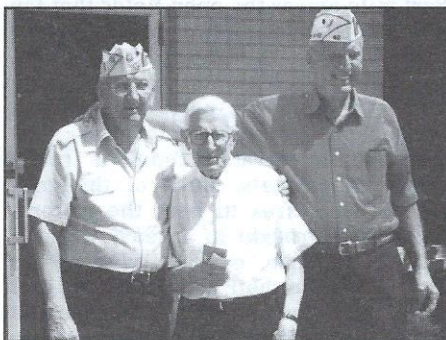
St. Louis Rainbow Meeting

St. Louis Rainbow members display the new Rainbow logo tag at their meeting. Anyone desiring the tag may send a check for \$5 made out to RDVA, to Hugo Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357.



Back row, left to right: Geo. Calvin, Burch Neal, Chas Love (Chapter Pres.), National Pres. Pete Pettus, Fr. Bob Weiss, and Wm. Rader.

Front row, left to right: PNP Hugo Grimm, Henry Zickler, Ralph Heine, Rick Pierce, and Allan Myers.

Father Erb

Mr. Ken Carpenter,

Elmer Marshall, his wife Harriet and Leonard Olender and his wife Evelyn from the Illinois Chapter went to visit Father Erb at his residence at Techney, IL on 8/10/00. He was as happy as we were to see each other. After a wonderful lunch, we had a great time reminiscing about our Army time, and his mission after the war. He is real sharp and very knowledgeable. He says hello to all his Rainbow family.

Yours in Rainbow,
Leonard Olender

Recommended Reading

"Into the Mountains Dark" by Frank Gurley. This is the story of an ASTP'r who sent to the Infantry, and went overseas with 100th Division. The book deals with his first two weeks in combat in the High Vosges Mountains. The book is softcover and sells for \$19.95 plus \$4 S&H. Send checks to Aegis Consulting Group, P.O. Box 629, Bedford, PA 15522.

Memorial Officer

Charles Fowler, our Memorial Officer, will be in Florida from November 1, 2000 until at least April 1, 2001. Telephone number is (941) 992-0512. Charles wishes to state that contributions to defray the cost of the WWI Ourcq River Plaque will be gratefully appreciated. You may send your donations to the Memorial Foundation, earmarked for the Ourcq River Plaque. They should be sent to Jon Janosik, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511.

Archivist's Column

The June/July Archives project reached completion. The RDVA's collection of Official Reports, Unit and First Person Recollections has been assembled according to conflict, unit, and author. A copy has been placed in each of the four primary repositories.

There are a total of 32 out of WW I and 79 from WW II. A few remain to be transmitted. These few are 'in process'. Some being re-transcribed by Ruby Miller, who has diligently provided magnificent assistance on the project. Some few are in the miscellaneous files yet to be reviewed. Those being collected by Mary Kenny and Barbara Eberhart are on their way to the Archives.

First person stories submitted to authors Sam Dann, John Linden and Dick Engler used as collateral material in their books are also being processed for their inclusion.

A file box is also filled with stories of Rainbow P.O.W.'s that yet remain to be published. A near monumental undertaking!

In the spirit of the U.S.A. recognizing WW II, museums continue to be opened. The D-Day museum in New Orleans just opened. The State of Idaho's Historical Society announced the opening of a World class display of militaria at the old Idaho Territorial Prison site in Boise.

A nice thing happened to Rainbow a few weeks ago. The Foundation gave a grant to the University of Nebraska Library to aid in the total reclassification of the RDVA collections there.

A Graduate Assistant was engaged to do the re-classification and the work is near complete as reported at the annual reunion.

The Graduate assistant, Ms. Erica Nordmeier got so enthused with Rainbow that she personally made a \$1,000.00 contribution to the effort through the University. It was indeed a heart warming gesture and our most sincere appreciation goes to Ms. Nordmeier. Thank you Erica.

Send your collected materials to the Archivist.

Keep Well and Happy, In Rainbow,
Bill Keithan, Archivist

National Reunion

July 11, 12, 13, 14, 2001 • Wichita, Kansas

Chairman Harvey Snapp has worked long and hard to ensure an enjoyable reunion on a par with past reunions. The reunion will be held July 11-14, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency, 400 West Waterman, Wichita, Kansas, 67202. . ph. (800) 360-8188. . . fax: (316) 293-1200. Rates are \$85.00 plus 11.9% for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy. Rates are good for two days before and after the reunion. When making your reservation, be sure you arrange to leave the morning after the banquet which is on Saturday night, the 14th. Reservations must be received by: June 8, 2001. Registration will be \$40.00 per person with an optional \$6.00 on a chance to win a 4 nights accommodation. Forms were distributed at Cincinnati and are available by writing Harvey Snapp: Your check must be made out to RDVA Reunion 2001 and form should be sent to Harvey Snapp, 900 N. Poplar, P. O. Box 581, Newton, KS 67114; Tel. (316) 283-9200 (office) and (316) 283-4298 (home).

Thus far we know that parking is free and the airport shuttle is free. Facilities for R.V. are not supplied. For now, we know that you may park your R.V. at the hotel but there are no hookups available. We are working on an agreement with United Airlines and will supply details as we learn of them.

Tour: Cosmosphere & Space Center. Departs from the Hyatt at 11:15 A.M., July 11th motorcoach trip to Hutchinson, KS. A sack lunch will be picked up in Yoder. Includes admission to museum: Imax Theater. Depart for Yoder for evening meal. Depart for Hyatt in plenty of time for early bird. \$45.00/person. Forms are available for this tour. Dwight Eisenhower Center meal. Final cost to be determined. If interested contact Harvey.

Chuckwagon Supper, Prairie Rose: The prairies Rose Dinner Theatre Group will depart from the Hyatt on Thursday, July 12, at 5:00 P.M. on air conditioned charter buses and return at 10:00 P.M. Cost \$28.00/per person. This tour includes three fun-filled hours of wagon rides, great food: all the barbeque you can eat and musical entertainment. For reservations: Cliff Sommerfield, 820 West 4th, Halstead, KS, 67056. Tel: (316) 835-2167.

Mid-Year Reunion

February 1, 2, 3, 2001 • Mesa, Arizona

Reservations have been made at the Dobson Inn in Mesa, Arizona for the Mid-Year covering the period January 31-February 5, 2001 allowing for two days for early arrivals and late stayers.

Hotel rates are \$90/person for single and double occupancy (state and local taxes 10.27%). All rates include a deluxe continental breakfast, or \$5 off each

morning of your stay. Reservations can be made by telephone at 800-528-1356. Identify yourself as part of the Rainbow Reunion Group #800347. Give your name, address, telephone number and credit card number to guarantee late arrival. Reservations must be made prior to January 4, 2001 for the special rate.

Super shuttle is available to and from the airport and hotel for \$11 per person. They depart every 20 minutes from the baggage claim area. Registration is \$40 per person. Make check payable to RDVA Mid-Year. Mail to Gil Koehler, 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282. For information or forms call Gil at 800-838-2816. Early registration would be appreciated.

Special note: Organ Music Night, Wednesday, January 31, 2001, Organ Stop Pizza. See and hear the largest Wurlitzer organ in the world. Dutch treat for food. Bus cost \$8/person. Must reserve by Jan. 4, 2001. Bus will pick us up at 3:30 p.m. sharp. Make check to Mid-Year Reunion. Mail to Gil Koehler at 1269 E. Manhattan Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282.

General Patton's Fair Weather Prayer, December 23, 1944, in Luxembourg

Sir, this is Patton talking. The last fourteen days have been straight hell. Rain, snow, more rain, more snow – and I'm beginning to wonder what's going on in your headquarters. Whose side are you on, anyway?

For three years my chaplains have been explaining this as a religious war. This, they tell me, is the Crusades all over again, except that we're riding tanks instead of chargers. They insist we are here to annihilate the German Army and the godless Hitler so that religious freedom may return to Europe. Up until now I have gone along with them, for you have given us your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and a calm sea in Africa made the landings highly successful and helped us to eliminate Rommel. Sicily was comparatively easy and you supplied excellent weather for our armored dash across France, the greatest military victory that you have thus far allowed me. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions and you have led German units into traps that made their elimination fairly simple.

But now, you've changed horses in midstream. You seem to have given Von Rundstedt every break in the book and frankly, he's been beating hell out of us. My army is neither trained nor equipped for winter warfare. And as you know, this weather is more suitable for Eskimos than for southern cavalymen.

But now, Sir, I can't help but feel that I have offended you in some way. That suddenly you have lost all sympathy with our

cause. That you are throwing in with Von Rundstedt and his paper-hanging god. You know without me telling you that our situation is desperate. Sure, I can tell my staff that everything is going according to plan, but there's no use telling you that my 101st Airborne is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne, and that this continual storm is making it impossible to supply them even from the air. I've sent Hugh Gaffey, one of my ablest generals, with his 4th Armored Division, north toward that all-important road center to relieve the encircled garrison, and he's finding your weather much more difficult than he is the Krauts.

I don't like to complain unreasonably, but my soldiers from the Meuse to Echemach are suffering the tortures of the damned. Today I visited several hospitals, all full of frostbite cases, and the wounded are dying in the fields because they cannot be brought back for medical care.

But this isn't the worst of the situation. Lack of visibility, continued rains, have completely grounded my air force. My technique of battle calls for close-in fighter-bomber support, and if my planes can't fly, how can I use them as aerial artillery? Not only is this a deplorable situation, but, worse yet, my reconnaissance planes haven't the faintest idea of what's going on behind the German lines.

Damn it, Sir, I can't fight a shadow. Without your cooperation from a weather standpoint I am deprived of an accurate disposition of the German armies and how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All this probably sounds unreasonable to you, but I have lost all patience with your chaplains who insist that this is a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have faith.

Faith and patience be damned! You have just got to make up your mind whose side you're on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to your Prince of Peace.

Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man. I am not going to ask you for the impossible. I do not even insist upon a miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

Give me four clear days so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick our targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my tanks may roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. I need these four days to send Von Rundstedt and his godless army to their Valhalla. I am sick of this unnecessary butchery of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver you enough Krauts to keep your book-keepers months behind in their work.

Amen.

Rainbow Division Veterans

MEMORIAL FILE — JULY 1999 - JULY 2000

WORLD WAR I

Adams, Harold
Co. E, 117th Engrs.
Barrit, Golden M.
Co. D, 117th Engrs.
Gardner, Roy E.
Bty. B, 150th F.A.
Scheaffer, Irvin L.
Co. D, 150th M.G., Bn.

WORLD WAR II

Addeo, Eugene
Co. A, 242nd Inf.
Anderson, Lemoyne
Co. B, 222nd Inf.
Antal, Joseph
Co. E, 232nd Inf.
Alpert, Arnold B.
Unit Unknown
Alter, Norman B.
42nd Recon. Trp.
Aries, Murl
Associate
Astroth, Elmer
Co. H, 222nd Inf.
Bachman, Edward (Rev.)
Ho. 242nd & 122nd
Med. Bn.
Baldwin, John L.
Serv. Co., 222nd Inf.
Barnes, Homer C.
Co. G, 232nd Inf.
Bartlett, Jimmie
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Beard, Emmet H.
Medics, 242nd Inf.
Bertesmeier, Harry
Co. A, 222nd Inf.
Bishney, Jules
Co. L, 222nd Inf.
Blancett, Norman
Co. E, 232nd Inf.
Bochat, Raymond C.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Bobb, John A.
Medic, 1st Bn. 242nd Inf.
Boyat, George
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Boyle, Jack P.
H2b, 242nd Inf.
Bovee, Warren A.
Co. E, 232nd Inf.
Bowen, Albert E.
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Brazilton, Joseph
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Brown, Robert J.
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Bush, Arthur (Joe)
Hqs, 142nd Comb. Engrs.
Chaffee, Melvin E.
Co. E, 222nd Inf.
Chappell, Russell E.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.

Conger, Thomas B.
Co. H, 232nd Inf.
Craft, Russel F.
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Creasman, James W.
Div. Hqs.
Crook, William
Hqs., 242nd Inf.
Curtis, Samuel C.
H3B, 242nd Inf. Memorial
Delvalle, Peter
Co. C, 222nd Inf.
Demeski, John J.
Bty. A, 392nd F.A.
Deppe, Ernest
Hqs. Co., 232nd Inf.
Ditmanson, Alden M.
Co. H, 232nd Inf.
Dubczac, Thomas F.
M.P. Platoon
Dudley, John
Bty. C, 392nd F.A.
Emlett, Glen L.
Co. M, 232nd Inf.
Everin, Roger
Unit Unknown
Eyer, Paul
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Fate, Harold
Co. B, 222nd Inf.
Fegan, Charles E.
Cos. B&C, 232nd Inf.
Foreman, Ervin
3rd Bn., 232nd Inf.
Fraatz, Luther
Hqs. Co., 242nd Inf.
Glen, Delvin
Co. F, 222nd Inf.
Graham, John H.
Co. A, 232nd Inf.
Hall, Arthur L.
Co. C, 222nd Inf.

Hasson, Joseph W.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Heidbreder, Rodham E.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Hennessey, Thomas F.
Bty. C, 232nd F.A.
Hildreth, Jack (PNP)
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Hofland, Arnold
(Texas Secty.)
Co. M, 232nd Inf.
Hoile, John
Cos. I&K, 242nd Inf.
Hollar, Raymond
132nd Signal Co.
Jeorin, A.G.
Can. Co., 222nd Inf.
Jones, Starr West (C.O.)
Co. K, 232nd Inf.
Joy, Linn E.
132nd Signal Co.
Kallenberger, Richard W.
A/T Co., 232nd Inf.
Klimpton, Walter C.
132nd Signal Co.
Laub, Sidnet B.
Hqs. Bty., 392nd F.A.
Ledger, Jack
Co. M, 242nd Inf.
Lunceford, Delmar J.
Hqs., 242nd Inf.
Lund, Andrew
Bty. C, 392nd F.A.
Luongo, Henry Louis
Commanding Officer,
222nd Inf.
Margetson, Robert J.
Co. I, 242nd Inf.
McLain, Fred J.
Co. M, 232nd Inf.
McNeely, Harold
Co. M, 232nd Inf.

McNeil, Bert, Jr.
H2b, 232nd Inf.
Meichels, Harold
242nd Inf.
Mickelson, Harry L.
Div. Band
Miles, Ernest H.
A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Millan, Braulo
Unit Unknown
Mountford, William J.
Co. K, 232nd Inf.
Murto, Uuno
Bty. C, 392nd F.A.
Nabors, James D.
H1b, 242nd Inf.
Nyquist, John A.
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Parrish, J., Ruppert
Co. K, 232nd Inf.
Pendelton, Wesley
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Penix, John W.
Bty. C, 232nd F.A.
Poisson, Maurice J.
Medic, 222nd Inf.
Raines, Denzil D.
A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Rainsford, George
Bty. C, 392nd F.A.
Reece, M.A.
Unit Unknown
Reed, Verl, W.
Co. L, 222nd Inf.
Reith, John L.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Richstad, Roy E.
Serv. Co., 242nd Inf.
Riddle, Floyd E.
Med. Det. Sp. Trps.
Rogers, C. Paul
Co. H, 222nd Inf.

Ruesch, Sherman
Co. L, 242nd Inf.
Salzman, George
Co. K, 222nd Inf.
Samolinski, Donald
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Sawyer, Aubrey
Co. D, 222nd Inf.
Schabloski, Earl H.
Co. H, 222nd Inf.
Schikevitz, William
42nd Q.M. Co.
Schultz, Henry F.
3rd Bn., 232nd Inf.
Searcy, Harvey P.
Co. M, 242nd Inf.
Sharp, Willard S.
Co. C, 242nd Inf.
Singer, Sonny M.
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Smith, Bradish J.
H1b 242nd Inf.
Stammen, Joseph
Co. F, 222nd Inf.
Stebbins, John W.
Co. C, 232nd Inf.
Stewart, Charles P.
132nd Signal Co.
Spicer, Arnold
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Syrkin, Mark
Associate
Talaga, Stanley
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Terracina, Frank J.
Co. E, 222nd Inf.
Thompson, C.H.
Co. H, 222nd Inf.
Tinkham, Carl E.
Co. F, 232nd Inf.
Tucker, M. Thomas
Hqs., 42nd Div.
Vandenberg, Robert J.
Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Venini, Louis A.
132nd Signal Co.
Ward, George G.
Co. C, 242nd Inf.
Westerback, Ivar S.
Can. Co., 242nd Inf.
Weybright, George T.
3rd Bn., 232nd Inf.
Whittaker, Eugene
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Witry, Bernard J.
Div. Band
Woelfer, Carlyle (PNP)
Co. K, 222nd Inf.
Wood, James R.
Bty B, 232nd F.A.
Zimmerman, Gail R.
Co. K, 222nd Inf.

Your mission in following the Rainbow to its glorious end had the noble purpose of bringing added glory to the flag of our country. This you have done. We salute you. You have now answered the call of the Celestial Bugler. With silent searching feet you have enrolled in that great Spirit Army. We pray God that we too may find the way... some day... and assemble with you upon that eternal parade ground.

Memorial File Since Cincinnati

M. Dale Barker
Berkey, Francis C.
Blundell, Earl H.
Cook, John A.
Dalton, Thomas Sr.
Davis, Ashton
Dougherty, Wilmot E.
Easterling, Dees W.
Gill, Roland F.
Gustafson, Russell C.
Hardned, Shirley R.
Harry, Jesse R.
Hajovsky, Henry J.
Hedrick, Bernell W.
Heston, Newton
Jett, Alvin O.
Jones, Earl R. (Dr.)
Kolter, Gilbert P.
Long, Glenn Hugo
Myers, Joe, Jr.
Moss, Edward W.
Nagel, Lawrence E.
Overroeder, Reynold H.
Pogorel, Joseph V.
Porter, Dick W.
Prantl, William J.
Rabel, Henry Ed.
Redmon, Thomas
Schulze, Albert H.
Shanks, John F.
Shaw, Stephen H.
Sheaffer, Earl E.
Sorenson, Thomas R.
Strehle, Malcom L.
Swanke, Harold L.
Torpey, William
Van Tassell, Lloyd R.
Wakefield, Arthur
Whetsel, Robert F.
Wirick, Lionel
Zedler, Donald P.

Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Co. G, 222nd Inf.
Co. G, 222nd Inf.
H2B, 232nd Inf.
Co. F, 232nd Inf.
Co. I, 242nd Inf.
Can. Co., 222nd Inf.
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
42nd Recon
A/T Co., 222nd Inf.
Hqs. Co., 232nd Inf.
Co. I, 222nd Inf.
742nd Ordnance
Co. E, 222nd Inf.
232nd F.A.
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Reg. Hqs., 242nd Inf.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
H2B, 232nd Inf.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
H1B, 232nd Inf.
H1B, 242nd Inf.
Co. M, 242nd Inf.
Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Co. B, 222nd Inf.
Div. Band
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Div. Hqs.
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Hqs. Bty., 392nd F.A.
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Co. B, 122nd Med. Bn.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Co. D, 222nd Inf.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Co. G, 222nd Inf.

Co. E, 242nd Inf.
Barnes, Robert
Jones, Elmer
Pardash, Steven
Johnson, Vercel

Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Hammerling, Henry
McFarlane, James

Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Carter, Lee

Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Baca, Macedonia
Bielak, John J.

Co. H, 242nd Inf.
Larochele, Joseph L.
Kiehl, Harold E.
Marino, John C.
Myrick, Traver

Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Orlando, Henry
2nd Bn, 232nd Inf.
Pittard, Wm. H., Jr.

742nd Ordnance
Belcher, Glen W.

Unknown
Ackerson, Henry J.
Bolton, Elmer
Everin, Roger, Jr.
Johnson, Lester B.
Tulow, Jack

Co. B, 222nd Inf.
Fate, Harold

Co. C, 222nd Inf.
Hall, Arthur

Co. I, 222nd Inf.
Casazza, P.L.

132nd Signal Co.
Kline, Robert D.

542nd F.A.
.....Clodfelter
Gipson, Charles
Herbers, Joseph
Miller, Joseph
Swackhammer, Claude

Public Law 106-117 Veteran's Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of November 30, 1999

This act amended the law to place veterans awarded the Purple Heart medal in Enrollment Priority Group 3, and to exempt these veterans from co-payment requirements associated with provision of hospital care and outpatient medical services.

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration,
Washington, D.C.**

**VHA Directive 2000-006
February 29, 2000 - VHA Directive
Purple Heart Eligibility**

Directive purpose: The Veterans Health Administration Directive (above) implements new eligibility and enrollment requirements for veterans awarded the Purple Heart medal. Department of Veterans Affairs will, effective immediately, effect changes in the VHA Information Systems necessary to accommodate provisions to Public Law 106-117 relating to Purple Heart medal recipients by placing those veterans from co-payment requirement associated with hospital care and outpatient medical services. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are to be reimbursed for any medical care co-payments paid for medical care provided on or after November 30, 1999.

*Thomas L. Garthwaite
Deputy Under Secretary for Health*

7th Army Battles

continued from September issue

January 27: Allied Supreme Headquarters reported: "In northern Alsace, German forces which penetrated to Schillersdorf and crossed the Moder River farther east were driven back at all points. Our positions were restored and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, we have reoccupied Mulhausen and Bleholz. Northwest of Colmar, we have made a slight gain and have entered Blewir. Further local gains have been made northeast of Mulhouse, where our forces are clearing the enemy from the Potash Mining Area. Fighter-bombers destroyed a railway bridge over the Moselle, 10 miles northeast of Trier,

attacked a railway yard northeast of Kaiser-Lautern, and road and rail transport in the Bitche and Colmar areas, bombed and strafed a convoy west of Karlsruhe and struck at targets northwest of Haguenau.

January 29: Associated Press reported: "American and French troops advanced more than two miles to a point on the Colmar Canal barely more than a half mile from the outskirts of Colmar (46,000), historic capital of Upper Alsace. Colmar is 38 miles southwest of Strasbourg. The Seventh Army front in Alsace was quiet-snowbound. The doughboys had to flounder forward almost Indian file through waist deep drifts and virtually shovel their way toward the German border. The advance hardly could be rapid. It was more of a line straightening operation.

January 30: Supreme Headquarters reported "Northeast of Colmar, we made local gains. Fighter-bombers made a number of attacks on targets at Eisenheim and on enemy units outside the town. Associated Press reported: "South of Strasbourg, American and French troops crossed the Colmar Canal and further encircled the city-largest French city still in German hands, except for the long bypassed Atlantic ports. Paris newspapers said the Colmar defenses were under attack. At late reports, the Allies were half a mile from the city limits.

February 2: Supreme Headquarters in Paris reported: "Southeast of Haguenau near the Rhine, our forces broke a six day lull in the northern Alsace Plain with an attack which gained up to two miles against strong resistance. We crossed the Moder in these operations. Hard fighting is in progress at Oberhofen. Farther south, the forest of Stainwald, north of Gamsheim was cleared. South of Strasbourg the area between the Ill and Rhine Rivers largely has been cleared by our infantry and armor. We have reached the Rhine at several points northeast of Colmar. Gains up to three miles were made in our continuing drive south of the Colmar Canal, in this area fighter-bombers attacked targets at Arzenheim, Balzenheim and Blesheim, close to the west bank of the Rhine. Our artillery has been firing on the enemy held Breisach Railway Bridge over the Rhine. Enemy resistance continued strong on the southern edge of the Colmar sectors, where only local gains were made.

February 4: United Press headlined a report that the Nazi front had been split open near Colmar. London radio reported the Allies now hold the left bank of the Rhine River for nearly 50 miles from a point north of Strasbourg to another east of Colmar. Speeding south from captured Colmar, French armor and American Infantry forces advanced four to five miles across the narrowing neck of the Colmar pocket to reach within 13 miles of other French forces fighting northward to close the gap. (British radio said that 5,000 Germans were killed and 3,000 taken prisoner in the battle for Colmar.) Sharp fighting also flared along General Patch's Seventh Army front, south of Oberhofen where American doughboys have been fighting in the streets for three days.

(In early February, while I was hungry and cold in Stalag 4-B, Rainbow Division soldiers were preparing to be part of the Seventh Army advance across Germany and into Austria. I would have rather been with you.)

Jim Warren, Company B, 242nd Regiment, 42nd Rainbow Division

Honored Dead

H1B/242nd Inf.
Baker, Eugene H.
Barton, William
Billinger, Julius
Booth, Norman
Brauch, Charles
Burlholder, Leo
Cates, Albert T.
Cramer, Harold E.
Crap, George
Dampier, Daniel H.
Davis, William H.
Draughn, Virgil
Edelman, John E.
Feltwell, Clair
Fligiello, Joseph D.
Fouth, Smith
Gothreau, Joseph H.
Henry, Wesley
Kelly, Peter F., Jr.
Kindy, John
Kinser, Oscar R.
Kranich, Ernest B.
Krug, George J.
Lebertadore, M. Legros
Lowe, Harold L.
Magee, Henry C.
Mara, John H.
Maze, Leroy A.
Meglone, Paul
Nespica, M. Romolo
Richards, Elmer
Santistevan, Joseph S.

Shorter, Lawn W.
Smelser, Paul G.
Walker, William

Div. Hqs.
Persico, Ralph
Prazak, Raymond R.

Hqs. Co, 242nd Inf.
Pratt, Robert T.
Med. Det. 242nd Inf.
Sheppard, Robert A.

Co. A, 242nd Inf.
Hinckly, John A.

A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Clancy, John
Hicks, Charles A.
Long, Ralph W.

Co. B, 242nd Inf.
Berchenbriter, Gerry
Manisculo, Vincent
Smith, John Gary
Weeks, Darwin J.

Can. Co, 242nd Inf.
Shea, Robert F.
Westerbark, Ivan

Co. D, 242nd Inf.
Nelson, Keneth

Rainbow Makes an Impact on Fort Drum and the Army

by Capt. Richard Goldenberg
Division HQ Chapter

TROY, N.Y. – The men and women of today's Rainbow Division, Army National Guard, achieved unparalleled success this summer during one of New York State's largest annual training exercises.

While Rainbow Veterans gathered in Cincinnati for the annual reunion, the thunder of M1 Abrams tank gunnery echoed throughout New York's North Country as all three armor brigades from the division rotated through Fort Drum's ranges. The 86th Brigade from Vermont, the 3rd Brigade from New York, and the 50th Brigade from New Jersey all descended upon the former Pine Camp training facility for gunnery qualification and tank training with the world's most lethal armored vehicle.

Unfortunately, in the storm of activity that is the National Guard's busiest training season, our Headquarters Chapter missed the wonderful opportunity to travel to Cincinnati to meet Rainbow veterans from our fellow chapters. As fellow RDVA members certainly know, "duty calls."

Coordinating and leading all these tanks, trucks, helicopters, and thousands of soldiers across New York and the United States was the headquarters of the Rainbow Division.

Deploying command and control elements to Fort Drum for the 27th Infantry Brigade training exercise, the division also provided its Aviation Brigade Headquarters and the Rhode Island based Long Range Surveillance Detachment for the largest National Guard field exercise at Fort Drum in decades. Providing the "enemy" opposing force, or OPFOR for the National Guardsmen from the Orion was the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Regiment from New York City.

Only weeks after the final redeployment from summer training, the division immediately turned its attention to the new training year. A highlight for 2001 will be the Division Headquarters' training at the Battle Command Training Center at Fort Leavenworth to provide a higher headquarters to the 38th Infantry Division's combat simulation evaluation. The division last deployed to train-up the 29th Division in 1998.

Lastly, the Army announced in mid-September that a redesign of National Guard combat divisions will align the 42nd Infantry Division with the 18th Airborne Corps, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The corps is the Army's premier rapid deployment force to intervene in hotspots around the world and the Rainbow joins the 28th Infantry Division from Pennsylvania and the 29th Division from Maryland and Virginia in supporting the 18th Airborne Corps. The result is a more clearly defined focus for National Guard training and readiness for the Rainbow's wartime missions.

HQ Chapter Welcomes New Officers

by Capt. Richard Goldenberg
Division HQ Chapter

TROY, N.Y. - As the RDVA Division Headquarters Chapter enters into its second year, the chapter expanded its recruitment of members to Rainbow veterans of years past. With the responsibilities of leading the division in peacetime operations and wartime training, the members of the National Guard welcomed former Rainbow members to the RDVA.

A highlight of our spring meeting of the RDVA Chapter was election of new officers. The Headquarters Chapter welcomes President Martin Allen, Vice-President Thomas Sweeney, Secretary Walter Passineau and Treasurer Mel Lamphron. All of our new chapter officers are distinguished members of the Rainbow Division's accomplishments. In the months to come we expect our current membership of just under 50 to continue to grow.

Some of the items discussed for chapter events include veteran lectures, historical reviews, and memorabilia displays for the young soldiers now entering into the 42nd Division. Passing on the history of the division to new soldiers is one of the best ways to provide for the continuing legacy of the Rainbow and the chapter looks forward to the challenge.

The 42nd Division Headquarters Chapter welcomes all upstate New York or Western Massachusetts Rainbow combat and National Guard veterans. For more information about the Headquarters Chapter and its events, please contact Master Sgt. Arthur Normandeau at (518) 786-4493.

Rainbow Miracle?

Bob Denny was never in the Rainbow, but he had quite a few friends there. He served in the 31st Combat Engineer and Vienna Area Command 1945-46. During the latter part of world war two. He has compiled a booklet of his letters to his parents. The last paragraph strikes your editor as very moving and rainbows should enjoy it: "On some occasions I saw family members arrive in Vienna at the Franz Josef Bahnhof, and I saw soldiers leave from the same rail station to begin their return to the States. In my letters, I made mention of the Rainbow Division and its presence in Vienna. I will never forget the time when some soldiers who had served in the Rainbow Division left Vienna. I was at the Franz Josef Bahnhof, saying goodbye to some of the soldiers who I had known in Vienna. Just as the train started leaving the station, a most vivid and beautiful double rainbow appeared in the sky over Vienna. One end of the rainbow appearing to come out of the spire of St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna's most prominent landmark. What

a wonderful omen for the start of the trip home to the states! Many of those former Rainbow Division veterans leaned out of the train and saluted the rainbow. Such a phenomenon, as this rainbow appearing in the sky at the exact moment the train leaves the station, tends to make one believe in miracles.

The Constitution

The peculiar glory of the Constitution is that it is not a charter of rights granted by government to the people, but a limit of powers to which a vigilant people restricts its government. It is not a government edict which the people must obey, but a people's law which government must obey. "We the people of the United states" ... these seven words are the most revolutionary words on record. The fathers of the Constitution were not a group of casual people. They had studied the ancient civilizations and the methods of government employed therein. They had studied medieval systems and the great classical writings on the subject. They knew the results of the experiments in government through the ages. Above all, they knew that man is here on Earth to become self-reliant, self-expressive, and self-determined in order to glorify his creator.

It is often asserted, nowadays, that this generation knows more than did the Constitution makers. So we do. . . but not about government. We could have known more, had we been interested, but within this framework of freedom erected by the fathers, we have been busy building the country. Their special wisdom in the field of government left us free to do that. They made the blueprint, laid the foundations, reared the scaffolding, and started the building, and we have by no means filled in that framework of destiny and freedom.

Our fathers knew better than we that the specific temptation of government in all times even an American government is to seize more power than is allotted to it, or misuse the power it has. They foresaw the always possible use of dazzling personal leadership: they foresaw the displacement of law by temporary emotion: the tendency to unwise action under stress: and to prevent these evils, they erected certain barriers. The Presidency, the Congress, and the courts were made subordinate to the Constitution. These three powers of government, with officer's oath bound to the Constitution are established in complete independence of each other, on the supposition that never would all three of them combine against the people or the law that gave them being.

The Constitution gives us the foundation for a free, prosperous and independent life for every citizen, but each generation, in time, must work for and claim it, otherwise, through carelessness, or indifference, the rights and liberties we have enjoyed may vanish.

Blocking Mission

Continued from front cover

the east and northeast supported by heavy artillery and mortar barrages. The next eleven days would feature a vicious see-saw battle between German tanks and artillery and U.S. tanks and infantry to control the towns of Hatten and Rittershoffen. In the course of the battle both towns were destroyed: fires raged in both towns and lit up the sky: planes bombed and strafed: flame throwing tanks kindled the blaze, and many hundreds of Americans and Germans became casualties in the bitter fighting. From our defensive positions, we watched and listened to this orchestra of death and destruction play its deadly music. Many times each day we were subjected to artillery and mortar barrages and suffered a number of men killed and wounded. Leiterswiller, which was untouched by war when we arrived, was a shattered mess twelve days later. A constant rain of 88s, 105s, 120s, and other artillery and mortars made a shambles of the town. Many of my recollections are bits and pieces of our nightmare of the twelve days we spent in the freezing, snowy frontline environment. After a day or so, we were allowed to go in shifts, at night to sleep in houses in Leiterswiller. Five men occupied a separate house. We would cook our K-rations (and an occasional chicken) on the small wood stove in the kitchen and sleep on the kitchen floor. When we heard German artillery coming in, we would lift a trap door and scramble into the root cellar for added protection. Our little house was hit many times by shells. One morning. An 88mm shell hit just outside the kitchen door, exploded, and the flying fragments shredded our nice wooden door. Fortunately, we were in the root cellar.

Artillery/mortar barrages are fearsome experiences. The Germans appeared to have plenty of ammunition and used it quite freely in hammering Hatten and Rittershoffen and pounding our positions on the outskirts of Leiterswiller. We experienced many barrages as the Germans pressed their armored and infantry attacks on Hatten and Rittershoffen. The open countryside was ideal for tank warfare and provided excellent observation for artillery fire. During the daytime, you always had to be cautious in moving around. Any degree of movement could bring down a barrage: an awesome and terrifying experience of ear shattering explosions followed by the whirring, whining and buzzing of flying death dealing shrapnel. I recall peering above the edge of our mortar position and watching an approaching creeping barrage. It started a hundred yards or so in front of us and you could watch the slowly advancing shell explosions approach your gun position, crash and explode all around you, and then proceed to the rear. You were helpless, locked in fear, curled up in the

foxhole and praying not to become a casualty. This continued on and off for twelve days.

Snuggled up against the south corner of the red brick house on the edge of Leiterswiller sat a large, imposing U.S. tank destroyer with a long menacing 90mm high velocity cannon poking out of its turret in the direction of Hatten and Rittershoffen. A black crew of a T.D. Battalion manned the T.D. Their job was to help protect us and the town from a German tank attack from Rittershoffen and Hatten. It was comforting to us infantry men to have that T.D. backing us up. The crew was friendly and we would stop to chat with them on our way to or from our positions in the fields.

Several times during our stay in the field outside Leiterswiller, twenty or thirty Sherman tanks from the 14th Armored would rumble into the western edge of town and sit with engines running and radios working. This would bring the attention of the German artillery and the area would be blanketed with a heavy barrage. The tanks would button up and then withdraw, but we poor infantrymen would feel full effect of the exploding shells in our foxhole positions. (Your editor recalls similar occurrences with the 12th Armored at Weyersheim.) We seldom appreciated the appearance of the tanks in these circumstances. On a couple of occasions, the tanks attacked across the field from Leiterswiller toward Hatten and Rittershoffen. Supported by infantry from the 313th, 242nd and 14th Armored Infantry. The results were always sad to see as the tanks and infantrymen never got more than halfway across the mile of frozen, snow covered fields before the German artillery chopped them up and forced them to retreat. In turn, the Germans had no better luck in attacking Leiterswiller. U.S. artillery, mortar and T.D. fire overwhelmed the attacks by tanks and infantry.

And so the fighting dragged on until January 20th. The word was circulated that we were going to make a "strategic withdrawal" that night and set up a shorter defensive line to the south. Withdrawals are always very ticklish operations because, to be successful, they must be carried out without the enemy becoming aware of the withdrawal. Late that day it began to snow again and continued far into the night. After dark, we abandoned our positions, and began the cold, miserable hike to the rear through the falling snow.

(This account ends here as we have read many other accounts of the withdrawal to Haguenau.)

Children Talk About Love

"No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorants are so popular." – *Mae, age 9*

"I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest

of it isn't supposed to be painful." – *Manuel, age 8*

"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too." – *Greg, age 8*

"Lovers hold hands because they want to make sure their rings don't fall off, since they paid good money for them." – *Gavin, age 8*

"Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I've been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me." – *Dave, age 8*

"I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough." – *Regina, age 10*

"One of you should know how to write a check. Because, even if you have tons of love, there are still going to be a lot of bills." – *Ava, age 8*

"Lovers will just be staring at each other and their food will get cold. Other people care about the food." – *Bart, age 9*

"Don't forget your wife's name. That will mess up the love." – *Erin, age 8*

21 Gun Salute

The 21 gun salute originated as a British naval custom. The reason for any cannon shot being offered as a salute was that firing a round meant that the gun was disarmed for the considerable amount of time it took to reload. This period of disarmament, even more than the bang, was the real sign of respect. A person of great stature was given a multi-shot salute, but always an odd number because sailors thought even numbers brought bad luck. Heads of state got the maximum 21 guns, because that's how many cannon were mounted on the side of a ship of the line.

Little Known Facts about the American Revolution

More American revolutionary soldiers died as prisoners of war than were killed in battle.

George Washington's class room education ended after only a few years of elementary school but John Adams was graduated from Harvard.

The first known use of dental records to identify a corpse was when Paul Revere identified Joseph Warren, a patriot leader killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Henry Lee the patriot firebrand who agitated mobs against the hated stamp tax, had originally applied for the job of collecting the taxes under the new law. He only began opposing the tax when the job went to someone else.

Feminists were not unknown. So-called "antick virgins" made public displays of their independence and equal rights. Sarah Henderson whose family included 2 signers of the Declaration of Independence and several future presidents refused to say she would obey her husband during her wedding ceremony.



Contributions:

Millennium Fund Raising Campaign

Scholarship Operating Fund

Martin H. Benter/50; John F. Smith/10; I. R. Vazquez/25; Robert J. Calhoun/100; Peggy Samolinski/25 in memory of Don Samolinski and Jack Hildreth.

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Mary Weiser/25 in memory of John David Weiser

Foundation Operating Fund

Russell G. Jeske/20; Major John C. Tillson, III/25; Otto J. Steinfeldt/20; Paul H. Graham/50; Cheryl A. Cook/25 in memory of Elmer H. Cook, Louis J. Hendricks, Jr./25; Jacob Kizirian/100 in memory of Robert E. Trout; Ray C. Essig/50 Repository Maintenance.

Foundation Endowment Fund

Joseph N. Telecon, Sr./30; Wm. Keithan, Jr./100.

"500Club"

Foundation Endowment Fund

Edward F. Bock/48.00.

Scholarship Operating Fund

Frances Hutnik/53.

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Artillery Chapter/300; Betty Owen/10 in memory of Effie King, WW I widow; Betty Owen/10 in memory of Monalete Hoy, WW I widow; Stanley Schrager/50 in honor of Herbert Altneu's 78th birthday.

Foundation Endowment Fund

222nd Auxiliary, RDVA/229.

Foundation Operating Fund

222nd Auxiliary, RDVA/229; Mayland Crosson, in memory of Orland and Jack Ledger; 142nd Engineer Battalion/100 in memory of Arthur Bush; Hazel Nowinski/100.

Memorial Plaque Fund-France

Charles L. Bieler/50; Edward F. Bock/500, 15 shares Fleet Boston stock; Charles Bieler/50; Edward Bock/500.

Rainbow Scholarships

The number of Rainbow scholarships granted is determined by the number of scholarships available from 20% of the money in the Scholarship Operating Fund. This year, contributions to the Scholarship Operating Fund were \$8,000 less than the amount of the scholarships granted. This will reduce the number of scholarships available from 35 to 32. Since the status of the Scholarship Operating Fund on December 31, 2000 determines the scholarships available next year, there are still two months in which the reduction can be alleviated. There is no shortage of comrades for whom to make memorial contributions, as every week brings news of friends who have died.

President's Message

Continued from front cover

to put the history on CD-ROM disks and provide them to others who either have computers, or have children or grandchildren who could print them out, for them. They will cost \$10 each plus the cost of a disk and mailing. This would be a total of \$14. The check should be sent to the foundation for the full amount and it can reimburse me for my expenses.

In Rainbow, Pete

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