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Rainbow On-Line: www.rainbowvets.org

SAN DIEGO WAS SUPERLATIVE



Jean Jones Receiving the Charter for the Millennium Chapter

The Mid-Year Reunion, held on February 2-5, 2000, at the Handerly Hotel in San Diego, CA was superlative in every way from beginning to end. The beautiful weather was a welcome sight to those of us who came from cold and snowy areas. We all enjoyed the food at the luncheon and banquet, and the hospitality room was splendid. Over 177 Rainbowers are indebted to Chairman and PNP Don and PNAP Pearl Segel. They had the able assistance of GIL and PNAP Beverly Koehler, PNAP Delores Kallaher and PCP 222nd Inf. and former Red Cap Clarence Griffith.

Of great interest were the many tours available in the beautiful city of San Diego and nearby Tijuana. A videotape of Dave Dann's "Trail of the Rainbow" was shown in the hospitality room and drew great praise. It is available for sale as is the great documentary on our own Paul Jarrett, "The Return of Paul Jarrett."

Six new Rainbowers showed up and three daughters of WWI veterans were on hand: Rita Kurtz, daughter of Walter, 149th F.A. and Sharon Gregory and Josephine Mosier, daughters of Otho Lord, 117th Engrs. We also welcomed descendants of Paul Jarrett: daughters Paula Raney, Jeanine and husband Daniel Bohning Newhall, their son Mark: grandsons Clark Jarrett and Brad Jarrett and his wife Diane. Chuck Woelfer, son of our sorely missed PNP Carlyle Woelfer, presented President Melinek with a 48-star flag which had belonged to the Colonel. The Charter for the new Millennium Chapter, composed of children and grandchildren of Rainbow soldiers, was presented to Jean Jones, Secretary of the new Chapter.

At the head table were president Harold and Edna Melinek (whose family was well represented), President-Elect Pete Pettus, Auxiliary President, Barbara and Red Cap and PNP Dee Eberhart, and Chairpersons PNP Don and PNAP Pearl Segeel.

The banquet capped off what was one of the finest mid-years experienced by your editor. Until we meet again may the good Lord hold you in the palm of His hand! God bless and take care!

President's Message



Our President Vic-Sur-Seille, France, February 1945

Dear Rainbow Family and Friends,

We came, we saw, we conquered. The Handlery Hotel at the Hotel Circle will never be the same after the Rainbow left. The Mid-Year was one of the best to be remembered, as we had 177 people for the luncheon and 197 for the banquet on Saturday evening. Don Segel and his wife Pearl chaired the event with a committee made up of Bev Koehler, Clarence Griffith and Delores Kallaher. There was a lot of action at the hospitality room, and around the pool area with tables and chairs for everyone to hang out and trade stories.

We were fortunate to have 2 TV stations interview Ken Carpenter, Bill Kenny, and Ted Johnson. The interviews were shown on 2 succeeding nights and on 2 different channels.

One of the highlights of the luncheon was the introduction of 6 first timers (where they were hiding all these years I don't know).

After the luncheon, Josh Dann, son of Sam Dann, showed the video "Trail of the Rainbow," a very well put together film. I feel it is a must for every Rainbower to have in his library and to pass on to a son, daughter, and grandchild.

At the banquet we were presented with the U.S. flag that Col. Carlyle Woelfer had in his office at home. His son Chuck made the presentation and remarked, "The Colonel would have wanted the flag to be with the 42nd." After the banquet the flag was given to Bill Keithen, our archivist.

For me, as President, the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the National Charter to Jean Jones, the interim Secretary-Treasurer of the new Millennium Chapter. I feel the Chapter can be the one that will carry us on past the year 2010. All that I ask is that we give these young people the support you have given the RDVA all these years.

We were also honored at the banquet to have the children and grandchildren of 3 World War I veterans attend this affair, and they were given a great round of applause.

After the luncheon, a committee sat down with a representative of the Armed Forces Reunion Company and spoke to them about handling our reunions. No final decision was made, but it seems to be the consensus of opinion that something has to be done. We are not getting any younger, so until maybe the Millennium Chapter can take over, this might be the way to go.

Also I appointed a committee to see that no contracts were to be officially signed by anyone until the committee read them over and gave their approval.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Cincinnati at the National Reunion.

In Rainbow, Harold

> CUT-OFF DATE NEXT ISSUE May 1, 2000

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE Official Publication of the RAINBOW Division Veterans Founder & Permanent Honorary President: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (Dec) Permanent Honorary Presidents: Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec) General Henri Gouraud (Dec) Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec) Honorary President: Richard J. Tisch. 502 Fairmont Ave, Chatman, N.J. 07928 PRESIDENT: Harold G. Melinek, 128 Irving Place, Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920 PRESIDENT ELECT: James P. Pettus 1121 N. Desloge Rd. (B-1), Desloge, MO 63601-2944 VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH REGION: H.J. (Herm) Bergeth, 25849 Ontario Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248 VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTH REGION: Charles O'Hagan, 572 Crooked Pine Pl., Calabash, NC 28467 VICE PRESIDENT, EAST REGION: Walter L. Peirce, 400 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02154 VICE PRESIDENT, WEST REGION: Joseph T. Karam, 11291 Biscayne Court, Garden Grove, CA 92614

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO: Publishing Editor: Hugo E. Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200 SEND DUES' REMITTANCE SHEETS AND MEMORIAL FORMS TO: Herb Butt, 16916 Geo. Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055 Subscription \$10.00

Chaplain's Prayer

We ask your guidance, Almighty God, as we make plans to meet in Cincinnati this July. We celebrate the lives of those who have gone over the Rainbow - we thank You for their friendship and comradeship in combat and in the years since then. We remember those who, because of sickness or infirmity, cannot be with us at convention. They surely will be with us in spirit. We look forward in confidence to this new century, when once again Rainbow soldiers will be poised to make a mark on history, defending the principles of Democracy, and promoting peace among the nations of the earth. Bless us as we strive towards these worthy goals. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

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

Over the Rainbow

Donald R. Samolinski 232nd Reg't. F.A.

In 1988 I was at a regular breakfast of a Flying Club I belonged to and I was asked in what branch of service I had served. After giving the answer of the 42nd Infantry Division, someone said, "So was I." This was my introduction to Don Samolinski and the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Association, a friendship and an association that grew and flourished over the years.

On December 1, 1999 Donald R. Samolinski passed over the Rainbow and Rainbow lost one of its finest, hard-working members. Don was the kind of man that has been the strength of Rainbow over the years.

Some of you may not have known Don as well as I did, but he has touched your lives in many ways over the years. Don has been the long-time Secretary of the Artillery Chapter. He was the National Reunion Chairman of the 1992 Milwaukee Reunion. When the National Reunion Chairman for the 1998 National Reunion in Duluth resigned, I took over that job with the understanding that Don would be my backup in case anything happened to me. As luck would have it, I ended up in the hospital for the whole Reunion and Don stepped in and ran the Reunion in my place. For years he was the Liaison Officer establishing locations for the National Reunions. As of last May 1999 he took over a Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin Chapter. With all of these activities Don still was more involved in constantly helping where needed, such as, working the Registration Desk at the Charlotte, NC Reunion for the entire Reunion because they were so short handed. Don and men like him are the strength and success of Rainbow and he will be sorely missed.

Don was very laid back by nature but his strength and support was always in evidence whether it was helping to build the Wisconsin Chapter or heading up National Reunions. He was a tireless worker and most of all a valued friend to me personally and to Rainbow over these many years.

Written by Herm Bergeth

Military Honors for Vets' Funerals Now Guaranteed

The more than 500,000 U.S. veterans who are likely to die this year will be the first to be guaranteed military honors at their funerals under a defense department policy that went into effect January 1, 2000.

Late last year, President Clinton signed into law legislation requiring the Defense Department to provide military funeral honors to all eligible veterans. The new policy guarantees at least two uniformed military personnel, the playing of Taps and the folding of the American flag at veterans' funerals in public or private cemeteries throughout the country, if requested by family members. Congress has allocated \$5 million to pay travel expenses and a small stipend to members of the Reserve and National Guard who volunteer to participate. The Pentagon has enlisted the aid of the nation's 24,000 registered funeral home directors to get out the word

Until a decade ago, there was seldom a shortage of active duty personnel available. But, even as the number of dying veterans has increased, the number of military bases and military personnel has shrunk. During the last 10 years, more than 90 of 495 major military installations have shut down, reducing the ranks of active duty personnel available for honor guard details. Around the nation, volunteer honor guards have stepped into the breach, training themselves in the protocol of military honors, borrowing blanks and old guns to fire salutes, and buying their own uniforms. But many of the veteran volunteers are in their 70s, and their ranks are fast diminishing. Under the new policy, the honor guards can be two or more active-duty military, retired service members of reservists. At least one member must be a member of the service in which the deceased has served. The policy requires military bases around the country to ensure that a trained honor guard is on hand, at all times, and mandates that veterans and others who volunteer for the program undergo training in how to conduct them. The Defense Department must reimburse veterans for other costs associated with their honor guard duties.

Leave a Legacy

What is the purpose of Leave a Legacy? The answer to that is evolving in a most interesting way. The project originated in the Woman's Auxiliary as a way to help individual veterans by encouraging them to write their stories for the benefit of their own children and grandchildren. It has expanded as a vehicle to collect stories for the Rainbow Archives. The response has been gratifying.

Many of the veterans who have written about their war experiences have been invited to speak at high schools, colleges, civic meetings, churches and synagogues. The response to their talks has been very (continued on page 7)



National Reunion

Cincinnati, Ohio July 12-13-14-15, 2000

Our 2000 National Reunion will be held at the Cincinnati Regal Hotel, 150 West 5th St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. The dates are Wednesday through Sunday, July 12-15, 2000. Saturday is the night of the banquet. If you want to attend the banquet, be sure to make your hotel reservations to stay over Saturday night and depart on Sunday, the 16th. Rates are \$80.00/person plus 10.5% tax for single, double, triple or quad. Mention the Rainbow Division when making reservations. Rates are the same, two days before and two days after the reunion. Telephone numbers are: National Reservations 1-800-8888; Direct Hotel Reservations 1-800-876-2100 and the regular number is 513-352-2100. Parking at no charge. The shuttle service to and from the airport is \$12.00 each way. If you require a special room, it is important to register early.

Special plans are being developed for tours with special interests to you and will be in the next issue. We also will inform you of any R.V. accommodations. One special happening is that we will have Fred Olivi with us to share his experiences of his flight in the plane that dropped the final A-bomb on Japan. We also hope to have Ken Eidnes, a member of the "Enola Gay" crew that dropped the first A-bomb.

Registration is \$40.00/person plus an optional \$5.00 chance on a free 4-day hotel stay. Checks should be made payable to RDVA and together with the forms sent to Louis J. Hendricks, 6609 Mariemont Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45227-4234. Tel. 513-271-6125. Contact Lou if you need forms.

Driving directions to hotel: traveling north on I-75: stay in right lane while on bridge over Ohio River. Take Vine St. exit, turn left on Vine to 5th St., turn left to Plum St., turn left to 5th St. auto entrance. Traveling south on I-75: take 5th St. exit to auto entrance. Traveling south on I-71: take 3rd St./Elm St. exit, continue straight ahead on Elm St. to 5th St. auto entrance. Traveling east on I-74:

take I-74 east to south I-75, exit 5th St. to auto entrance. Traveling west on Rt. 52: take Rt. 52 west, merge I-71; take 3rd St./Elm St. exit, continue straight on Elm St. to 5th Street auto entrance.

Cincinnati Delta Kings Chorus to Entertain at Reunion

Arrangements are complete to have one of the premier men's chorus groups entertain us at the 81st National Reunion in Cincinnati in July. The Delta Kings Chorus has been a vibrant part of the Greater Cincinnati community for 55 years and we will be comprised of approximately 60 voices. They have taken particular pride in bringing our American musical heritage to many veteran organizations over the years. They will perform in the evening on Thursday, July 13th and is one more reason that Cincinnati 2000 National Reunion is shaping up to be one great Reunion.

Cincinnati via Continental Airlines

Continental Airlines will be the official carrier for the National Reunion in Cincinnati July 12-16, 2000. When booking Continental please use the following: JEQFJP Code ZKGN. Tickets must be purchased 60 days in advance. You will receive a 7% discount plus a 5% discount. There is also a separate senior citizen discount, also a 4 trip Senior Freedom Flight Coupon Book. Check and see which one might be best for your needs. Regardless of which flight you book with Continental, please use the letters and code listed above. The phone # for Continental is 1-800-525-0280.

Join Us for the First Headquarters Chapter 42nd Rainbow D.V.A. Reunion

Troy, New York June 9-10-11, 2000

Our fabulous reunion package includes lodging at the Best Western Rensselaer Inn, 1800 6th Ave., Troy, NY 1280. Tel: 518-274-3210. Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10.

PACKAGE #1:

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$225.00

Includes: Room accommodations for two nights, full breakfast Sat. and Sun. mornings, banquet Saturday evening.

PACKAGE #2: SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$200.00

Same as above, except single occupancy.

PACKAGE #3A: SAT. NIGHT, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$145.00

PACKAGE #3B:

SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$120.00

Includes: Room accommodations Sat. night, banquet Sat. night, breakfast Sun. morning.

PACKAGE #4: BANQUET ONLY \$24.00

HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER HOSPITALITY SUITE WILL BE OPEN FOR ALL!

- Free shuttle service between hotel and Albany Airport
- · Ample complimentary parking
- Complimentary bus tour to Saratoga Springs on Saturday, June 10
- Rainbow Division band Saturday night
- 42nd Division Armory tour Sunday

Please do not call the hotel. Send reservations and payment to M/Sgt. Art Normandeau, 42nd Division, Mechanized, 137 Glenmore Rd., Troy, NY 12180-8398. Make all checks payable to "Headquarters Chapter, RDVA." Give your name, name of guest, address, phone, and division unit. Designate the type of package you desire and select an entree for each person attending: beef, fish, or vegetarian. Taxes and gratuities are included, refund for emergency cancellation, all family and friends of Rainbowers welcome. The hotel will confirm your reservation.

Questions? Call M/Sgt. Normandeau (518-786-4493) or R.J. Tisch (973-635-2559). If you require a reservation form, call Dick Tisch. A number will be sent out, primarily along the east coast.

Remembering

Why do you still march, old man, with medals on your chest?

Why do you still grieve, old man, for those friends you laid to rest?

Why do your eyes gleam, old man, when you hear those bugles blow?

Tell me why cry, old man, for those days so long ago?

I'll tell you why I march, young man, with medals on my chest.

I'll tell you why I grieve, young man, for those I laid to rest.

Through misty fields of gossamer silk come visions of distant times.

When boys of tender age marched forth to distant climes.

We buried them in a blanket shroud, their young flesh scorched and blackened,

A communal grave, newly gouged in blood stained gorse and bracken.

And you ask why I march, young man?
I march to remind you all,

That but for apple-blossom youths, you'd never have known freedom at all.

Lest we forget!

An Infantryman's Story of the Battle of the Ohlungen Forest

by Bob Clemens (M Co./222nd Inf.)

I feel I would be remiss if I did not take the time to put into words my experiences as a combat infantryman with the 2nd Platoon, Co. M/222 Inf., in Alsace, France, during the winter of 1944-45, and specifically the Platoon's action for the period 24-26 January 1945 in the Battle of Ohlungen Forest.

Previously, when we were in position on the Maginot Line, our Section Sgt. John Summers had been wounded and I became the acting Section Leader of the Second Section of the Second Platoon. That meant that I had to leave my favorite Squad, and now I had two Squads of heavy machine guns, about 18 men that I was responsible for. Like all men of every Combat Platoon of Task Force Linden, we had been together only a few months and friendships had been established in combat. I had great confidence in the men of my Section. I didn't know the men of the first Section as well. Although we were assigned to the same Rifle Co., the two Sections were always separated geographically. The Squads were always positioned to be mutually supporting and lived or, died by that credo. The 3rd and 4th Squads were well aware

We retreated from the Maginot Line (some called it a tactical withdrawal) on a stormy winter night. The roads were crowded with military vehicles, troops, and civilians fleeing from the Germans. All of our HMG Squads had a Jeep and a trailer. The ninth member of the Squad was the driver. The 4th Squad driver was Sam Harrington, or Harry as I called him. My 4th Squad Gunner, Vern Smith became the 4th Squad Leader. He was a 6 foot 6 inch giant and I called him Smitty. Vern and I were often foxhole buddies and our favorite gripes was that we had to dig too deep for him and too wide for my girth. The latter became less of a problem as time went by, as very little food gets to the Infantryman in combat.

Our section was assigned to the MLR just east of the hamlet of Neubourg, which was located on the road which ran from Strasbourg through Haguenau to Bitche. It was a narrow macadam road and covered with snow. Our two machine guns were placed on the edge of the woods parallel to the Moder River, which was to our front. The woods were a mix of conifers and deciduous trees. Our field of fire was quite flat and snow covered. Our 3rd and 4th Squads were mutually supporting. Each Squad dug their gun positions plus a Squad dugout to warm themselves in. The dugouts were far enough back in the woods that we could have small fires without the enemy detecting the smoke. The roof was made of logs and some planks that we found. That roof was invaluable as we were soon under very heavy artillery fire. The 3rd Squad had a zig-zag trench leading from their dugout to their gun position, which repeatedly saved my life.

Our Platoon C.P. was located in a school-house in Neubourg, which was about 300 yards down the road into the town, which was to the west of our positions. It was not to the rear, as it normally would have been. S/Sgt. Wayne Hanson, was now the acting Platoon Sgt. When the battle began, we were in telephone communication with the Platoon C.P. and communication between the Squads by the soundpower (battery) telephones.

The battle began in earnest on the evening of January 24th as a heavy German artillery barrage hit the entire MLR of the 222nd Regiment and lasted for several hours. I mentioned the road behind our positions. I would estimate the woods north of the road to be not more than 30 to 40 yards wide at any point along the

line. I used the road and its deep parallel ditches repeatedly while traveling back and forth between gun positions. We had laid our telephone wire inside the forest edge of the woods. Keeping that phone wire in one piece between the two guns was my job. There were no K Company Riflemen in our immediate area, but the K Company C.P. was to the rear of the gravel pit, which in turn was immediately to the rear of our HMG Section and within about 200 yards of the road. There was a ravine or draw to the rear of C.P., giving them a concealed route to and from it. My two drivers, with their Jeeps, were in the same area to support us with ammunition. As soon as the German artillery barrage let up, their Infantry attacked. They came at us out of a grove of trees, shouting and shooting. The grove of trees was to the left front of Sgt. Smith's 4th Squad. That Squad began firing and continued firing burst after burst almost all night. German Infantry repeatedly came out of the Moder River bed directly at our 3rd and 4th Squads. Others were seen going to the right around the grove of trees toward the town of Neubourg. There was a stone wall, about 8 feet tall behind the grove of trees which was an obstacle to the Germans. Early in the action the 3rd Squad lost its Squad Leader. Sgt. Clifton Young was wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. He was severely wounded and evacuated immediately. I appointed First Gunner William White to take over. He proved to be a fine Combat

The continuous firefight to the front of the 2nd Section seemed to go on all night. We were able to continue firing because our drivers, Harrington and Hughes were constantly bringing up ammunition. There was a continuous German artillery fire all along the MLR. Shrapnel repeatedly cut our communication wire. As this wire was vital to our survival, I, as Section Leader, had to run the lines constantly, carrying the wire through my gloved hand until I found a break. Then I would strip the insulation and splice the wires together, sticking a twig between the bare wires to prevent a short. Sam Harrington would tell us what he knew about the battle whenever he brought ammo. We didn't know where our Platoon Leader, Lt. Yanke Was, but Sam told us he was over to our right on the right flank of K Co. trying to rally K Co. troops where the Germans had broken through.

The draw up the road east of 3rd Squad was really a culvert and separated the two sections of the 2nd Platoon. The draw was clear of trees on both sides of the road. The Germans had obviously penetrated the area as their machine guns remained a thorn in the side of the 3rd Squad all night, but it seemed that the Germans were satisfied to contain rather than eliminate us at that time. The 3rd Squad had constructed a roof over their gun position. The HMG was mounted on top of the roof and as they were under flanking fire, they would reach up, adjust and fire, without exposing themselves. About 0200 hours, I heard Whitey yelling, "Smitty's gun is down, will you come and help?" I made my way back to the 4th Squad position to find the gun still out of action. Smitty was working on it in the dark. He had to break it down completely to replace a driving road spring in the bold. I organized the rest of the squad into a covering force of rifle fire. The enemy seemed aware of our loss of firepower, and were only about 50 yards out in front of us and easy to see in the snow. Prior to the attack we had stretched concertina wire (left by the engineers) in front of our positions.

proved very effective in slowing them down. We also asked the 3rd Squad to give us grazing fire out in front. This held off the Germans. Soon Vern Smith and Bill Cody had the HMG back together and began firing which ended the attack.

At about 0900 on the 25th, I checked out where the enemy had been all night. I found two K Co. men still in their foxhole in the midst of where the Germans had been. They came with me as I continued my reconnaissance. We made our way along the ditch on the north side of the road and came across Pfcs. Earl Sheaffer and Ed Gendron of the 1st Section crouching in the ditch. They told me that the rest of the Section would be along shortly. We moved about 50 yards up the culvert from where we could see American soldiers running along the edge of the woods across the draw carrying HMGs. Not far behind was a group of German Infantrymen. My group began firing, enabling our men to escape and join us. Pfc. Earhart told me how they had escaped a German with rifle at port arms approached their position and ordered them to surrender. Earhart came out of the MG position, also with rifle at port arms and shot the German. The rest of the men gathered up their machine guns and ran.

We withdrew across the road, where they dug in and set up their machine guns just in time to engage in a ferocious fire fight with the attacking Germans. Cpl. Powlishen and Pfc. Guimond did a terrific job with their gun and Jamie Thompson was throwing hand grenades with deadly accuracy. It had now grown quite foggy, and suddenly the woods behind us were full of approaching Infantry. We didn't know who they were but they proved to be Co. I of the 314th Infantry, 79th Division. With our First Section MGs providing a base of fire, these men charged forward, firing from the hip. They were eventually halted however, and had to retreat to the gravel pit behind the 4th Squad. We pulled all four guns back and dug in to establish a perimeter defense, along with the 314th Riflemen. We were still under constant artillery fire, but no longer under Infantry attack.

Just before dusk, the Lt. from the 314th received a radio call telling him to move out to the east. Just as they were moving out, an artillery tree burst exploded over the foxhole I was sharing with Pfc. Whittaker and Cpl. Powlishen. Whittaker took shrapnel in the left shoulder. I decided to try to take him back to the Co. KCP to find a medic. While there I met Lt. Yanke who told me to move the whole Platoon back to the former MLR positions, where it would be much safer than in the gravel pit. We did that, and shortly after pulling out, a white phosphorus shell hit the former 4th Squad position at the gravel pit. It was obvious that they would all have been killed had we stayed there.

We continued to receive artillery and mortar fire during the night, but the main Infantry attack had swept by us. Although we were not aware of it, it was the next morning that Lt. Yanke and K Co. C.O. Lt. Carlyle Woelfer made their ill fated attempt to recover the body of Capt. Bugno, Bn. Exec. Yanke was wounded and later died. He was awarded the DSC, posthumously. Later that day, we were relieved by men of the 101st Airborne Division. In retrospect I, like my comrades, was happy to be alive. Later, I realized that we had been battle tested and not found wanting. A brotherhood was established that exists to this day. This battle had a profound effect on me all my life and I relive it each January. This January will be easier.

It's a Small World

Eugene McKinney - B Bty., 392 F.A.

After graduating from O.C.S., I was sent to Camp Gruber and went to Europe with the 392nd F.A. During combat, I was a forward observer with G Co., 222nd Inf. I remained with them until the end of the war. Upon discharge, I had no further contact with Rainbow until I attended my first reunion in Denver in 1998. Here I was reminded of a unique situation pertaining to the 392nd. The commanders of A. B. and C Batteries were all graduates of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Class #24. The three officers were Otto Schultz (A Bty.), Edward Hoffman (B Bty.), and Fred Barrel (C Bty.).

Otto Schultz: Served in the 3rd and 7th Armored attaining the rank of First Sergeant. In 1942 attended O.C.S. Class #24. As a Second Lt. he served as Instructor in the F.A. Replacement Center, then the Officer Advanced Course and became Assistant S-3. From Feb. 1944 to April he was Assistant Communications Officer and Liaison and Assistant S-3 to Sept. 1944. He then served as a Bty. Commander 392nd F.A. until Dec. 1945.

Edward Hoffman: In Colorado National Guard and attained the rank of Corporal. In April 1942, he entered O.C.S. Class #24. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 102nd F.A. He was promoted to First Lt. and transferred to Camp Gruber in June 1943. He was promoted to Captain and given command of B Bty. He later served in the Reserves and was promoted to Major. He is still active in the Reserve Officer Assn.

Fred Barrel: Fred enlisted as a Private in 1940, and served in the 703rd T.D. Battery of the 3rd Armored. He was a Staff Sergeant when he entered O.C.S. Class #24. His first tour of duty was with the 103rd Division. He became Commander of C Bty. in July 1943.

During training, he found out that Hoffman was also in Class 24 at O.C.S. Shortly after a change was made in a Bty. and the new Commander was Schultz Class 24.

What makes this so interesting is that none of them knew they were all in the same class until they met one another at Camp Gruber. This shows that it is a small world after all.

The Millennium Chapter

At San Diego, the Millennium Chapter received its charter as President Harold Melinek presented it to Jean Jones, Sec-Mrs. Jones reported that the Chapter has 67 members. Chapter dues are \$5.00 per year (in addition to \$10.00 national dues). Make checks payable to RDVA, Millennium Chapter and mail to: Mrs. Jean Jones, Secretary/Treasurer, 1825 Wood Dale Road, Cedar Hill, TX 75104.

500 Club

If you are like most of us senior citizens you are not living in the seat of luxury. Still you would like to help all you can to continue to support the worthy objectives of the Memorial Foundation. There is an avenue you can take and it is virtually painless. The 500 Club, brainchild of PNAP Beverly Koehler, is available to you. The aim is to donate \$500, and you may donate it in increments, at your leisure. When you have reached \$500, you will receive a beautiful pin denoting that you gave for a great cause.

Rainbow Video Tapes for Sale

Trail of the Rainbow: The documentary as seen on WLIW 21. Each cassette is \$19.95 plus \$3.95 S&H. Conn. residents add 6% sales tax. Make check or money order payable to: Brooksides Associates, 15 Dorado Ct., Wilton, CT 06897. Allow up to four weeks for delivery.

The Return of Paul Jarrett: Ten years in the making, this is the story of the 42nd Division during the Great War as seen through the eyes of Paul Jarrett. Officer, Hand-to-Hand Combat Instructor, and Legion of Honor Winner, Lt. Jarrett saw the war as few others did. This is his story as he travels back in time to visit those battlefields and memories. Complete with archival footage, interviews and computer graphics. Total running time: 2 hours, 32 minutes. Special Rainbow Division price: \$59.95 for the entire three-tape series. (Normally sells for \$99.95.) Send check for \$59.95 to Clark Jarrett, 1723 Amherst Ave., Los Angeles,

Recommended Reading

"Forged by the Furnace and the Fire" by Bob Maynes, I Co., 222nd Inf. A Combat Infantryman's experience in World War II. Sells for \$25 plus \$4 S&H. To order send to Bob Maynes, 607 Baker, Cortez, CO 81321 or call 970-565-3976.

Sponsored by the 242nd Infantry: "Men of Love Company" - \$10. "Kaltenhouse Remembered" - \$10. Order through: Norm Thompson, 1739 S. Douglas, Suite E, Anaheim, CA 92806.

"Five Years, Four Fronts" - Georg Grossjohann. Georg began as an N.C.O. Aspirant in the Polish Campaign and ended as a Regimental Commander. In between he earned numerous decorations including the Knight's Cross. He served in five Infantry Regiments, including service in Russia 1941-1944, to the south of France and mountain fighting in the High Vosges in late 1944 and early 1945. He was a professional enlisted man turned officer by a Wehrmacht in need of commissioned leaders. He was a decent straightforward soldier who shared hardship with his men, set an example, did his job and expected others to do the same. Order from Aegis Consulting Group, P.O. Box 629, Bedford, PA 15522. Paperback -

\$19.95 plus \$2.50 or hardback \$29.95 plus \$3.00. Foreword by BG Theo. Mataxis, Recipient of the CIB, Third Award and Woelf Zoepf, Former Officer of the 6th S.S. Mountain Division (Nordwind).

Tell the Children

Tell the children, they ought to know, Why there's freedom here today. Tell the children, make them understand, The price some had to pay. Of those who stood up for freedom. Teach them never to forget Of the fields scarred with sacrifice, By those they never met Tell the children they can dream of tomorrow Because of brave men yesterday, Who fought on desert sands and stormy seas. In places far away. Tell the children about our veterans, So they need not ask why. And to feel the pride within,

As they fly our flag on high. Tell the children so that they will know, Why there's peace here today. And perhaps when childhood passes through, They will honor yesterday.

Your Editor

Those who long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time, that men have died to win them....FDR in a speech delivered Dec. 15, 1941.

Liberty Memorial Walk of Honor

As of the Mid-Year meeting, donations for bricks on the Walk of Honor at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri now total \$4,450.00. We have received donations from the RDVA Foundation, the Auxiliary Chapter, the Artillery Chapter, the Mo-Kan Chapter, the Muskogee-Tulsa Chapter and 14 individuals. At the Mid-Year, we also received pledges from the RDVA Association and the 242nd Infantry Chapter for \$1,000.00 and a donation in memory of Don Samolinski for \$250.00, bringing our total to date of \$6,700.00. We are looking for donations from the other Chapters and any individuals who would like to remember friends or relatives, by buying a brick in their honor or memory.

We have set a goal of \$10,000.00 and as Rainbow was very much involved in the building of the original Memorial, we feel that this should be a Rainbow project. We have been told that if we have our donations in by the Annual meeting in July, that all of the bricks donated by Rainbow people will be grouped in one

location.

If anyone has any questions in regards to making a donation or needs a form, please contact Herb Butt at 16916 George Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055, telephone (816) 373-5041 or Charles Fowler, Memorials Officer, at P.O. Box 64, Londonderry, NH 03053-0064, telephone (603) 432-2635. Let's help Rainbow pave the way.

Book Reviews on "The Final Crisis"

Brian Slattery of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation: "The History of World War II in Europe" is woven with place-names where the fighting was most furious, and turns in the tide of war were made. Richard Engler adds another name to the fabric with his book, "The Final Crisis: Combat in Northern Alsace, January 1945." He tells the story of one of the last campaigns of the war, in which American forces repulsed a German attempt to seize the historically contested region of Alsace. In the telling, however, Engler also introduces us to the soldiers who fought in the campaign, following their lives from the day they enter service to the day they leave it. We learn about the arguments they had and the friendships they formed, and finally - at least for some of them their return to America after Hitler's defeat. Engler's book is thus both military history and biography, showing not only how the Allies successfully defended Alsace, but how its soldiers managed to create, even during wartime, a semblance of society. The text is vividly illustrated by on-the-spot sketches by Ted Mackechnie.

John McManus: "Journal of Military History in the Final Crisis" Richard Engler has written something quite remarkable. Most veterans' memoirs focus exclusively on the experience of the protagonist - the so-called "worm's eye view" of war. Superbly researched and well written, Engler's "Final Crisis" tells the story of Hitler's Nordwind Offensive in January 1945 from many different American perspectives. The focus of the study is not just on his own experiences, but also on those of various other American soldiers who braved bitter cold weather, supply problems, and hordes of well trained German soldiers to foil Germany's final Offensive on the Western Front. In terms of its insights into American combat soldiers as well as the U.S. mindset in late 1944 early 1945, "The Final Crisis" is an important scholarly contribution. Engler can now be added to the growing list of scholars who have rescued the American combat soldier from years of one-dimensional neglect.

\$29.95 plus \$4 S&H. Aegis Consulting Group, Box 629, Bedford, PA 15522.

Freedoms Foundation

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian, educational organization, founded in 1949 by Dr. Ken Wells and other prominent business leaders. President Dwight D. Eisenhower served as our first chairman and chairman emeritus until his death in 1969. Our mission is to help preserve the ideals and principles upon which the United States was founded and to inspire Americans, especially young Americans, to become informed, responsible, and active citizens in the social, political and economic life of our nation, states, and communities.

Freedoms Foundation's America's School for Citizenship Education conducts history and citizenship educational and free enterprise programs for high school, middle school and elementary school students, as well as graduate credit workshops and seminars for history, civics and social studies educators. Each year, approximately 4,000 students and 300 educators participate in Freedoms Foundation programs. Elementary students see for themselves some of the local sites rich in history. Middle and high school students are exposed to a more demanding curriculum emphasizing the tenets

of citizenship necessary to perpetuate a free society. They learn the complexities of balancing rights and responsibilities in an increasingly complex world. Educators participate in fully accredited seminars and workshops studying issues relating history to today's problems, responsible citizenship, and the benefits of the free enterprise system.

Volunteer chapters are organized structured groupings of members that work to support Freedoms Foundation's mission throughout the nation. The Foundation has 29 volunteer chapters in 17 states, combining the effort of nearly 4,000 volunteer members. Chapters help recruit and finance education programs participants, coordinate the various awards programs, and conduct local events that better their communities and raise awareness of the need for responsible, engaged citizenship.

Freedoms Foundation conducts three awards programs; the National Awards, the Foundation's oldest program, honor individuals, organizations, corporations and schools for their promotion of responsible, engaged citizenship and the perpetuation of a free society.

The Medal of Honor Grove – America's National Trust for Valor – is a 52-acre wooded area designed as a memorial commemorating the sacrifices of those Americans who received our nation's highest honor for valor – the Congressional Medal of Honor. A one-acre parcel of the Grove is dedicated to each of the 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It contains a permanent obelisk resembling the Washington Monument, and is filled with trees planted as living memorials to each medal recipient.

As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational foundation, Freedoms Foundation is supported by voluntary contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, patriotic and service organizations, endowment funds and its volunteer chapters. The Foundation employees a full-time staff of 25 and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.7 million. The Foundation's total endowment stands at approximately \$7 million.

Contributions to further the mission of Freedoms Foundation can be sent to the Foundation in care of the Development Department at the following address:

Development Department Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge 1601 Valley Forge Road Valley Forge, PA 19482-0706

Memorial Foundation Constitution & By-Laws Revision

Summary

The C&BL Committee has been reviewing and incorporating recommended changes into

a revised C&BL for final approval by the Foundation members. The purpose is to provide an updated document to guide the affairs of the foundation after the merger. This includes the Association and possibly the Auxiliary. The Foundation, unlike the Association, is a nonprofit corporation structured to continue its operations indefinitely. Some of the major changes recommended include:

- 1. Additions to the Foundation C&BL
 - "Purposes" are to assume:
 - Responsibility to designate and support Rainbow memorials.
 - Responsibility to continue selected operations initiated by the original Association and Auxiliary, including support of:
 - 1. Newsletter publication.
 - 2. Future reunions as long as WWI and WWII veterans are able to attend.
 - 3. Rainbow archives and museums.
 - 4. Electronic database and web site.
- 2. Membership eligibility to include:
 - a. All Rainbow extended family members.
 - Members of the 42nd Infantry Division Mechanized.
 - c. "Honored Members" who have performed outstanding service to Rainbow.
- Dues. After the merger of the Association, dues structure for the Foundation will be determined by the members.
- 4. Board of Trustees:
 - a. After RDVA merger, a majority of the trustees shall always consist of World War I or II veterans or their wives, descendants or other family members.
 - b. After merger of the Association, trustees shall elect officers.
- 5. Foundation funds:
 - a. No elected trustee, other than Secretary, Treasurer, shall receive any salary.
 - Annual audit: an annual financial audit will be conducted and reported to the trustees and membership.
- By-laws have been added, based upon by-laws of the RDVA and containing a listing of Rainbow archives, museums and memorials.

(The revised C&BL has been approved by the Board of Trustees at the mid-year in San Diego, and will be presented to the membership for approval in Cincinnati, July 2000. Anyone wishing to review the C&BL as recommended for approval, should send \$2.00 for your copy, to cover reproduction and mailing. Apply to Dee Eberhart, C&BL Committee Chairman, 750 Vanderbilt Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926.)

(see page 5)

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What the Folks at Home Read About 7th Army Battles in January 1945

by Jim Warren (Co. B, 242nd Inf.)

When Rainbow was on the front lines near Strasbourg in January 1945, I never could figure out what was going on. After a few days, I was captured at Hatten. In researching newspapers for a book I'm writing about the war, I decided to make copies of press reports concerning the 7th Army during that fateful January. As a result, I now understand more of what went on before and after being captured on January 9th. Here are some items I found interesting.

The first item describes an earlier battle and helps understand why we ended up where we did. It occurred about the time we left Camp Kilmer bound for Marseilles.

Nov. 26, 1944: "Yanks streamed 11 miles through dismembered German defenses north of Strasbourg. Swiss radio reported Allied forces had crossed the Rhine River over undamaged bridges at Kehl, just east of Strasbourg on the right bank of the river. The Germans were reported in general retreat into the Siegfied line, faced with double envelopment by United States Seventh Army troops swinging down the Rhine from Strasbourg and the U.S. Third Army's expanding front in the western Saar. About 40 towns were captured during the day, most of them by the U.S. forces in the Strasbourg area, which registered advances up to 11 miles. United Press dispatches from the Seventh Army front report bitter attacks by the Germans north of Saverne Gap with the 44th Division stemming a Panzer attack during which it knocked out seven German tanks. Mopping up inside Strasbourg was completed except for a few snipers, and 5,000 prisoners had been taken. In the most spectacular advance of the day, infantrymen of the Seventh Army drove 11 miles north of Strasbourg to capture Weyersheim."

Moving to January 1945 with Rainbow soldiers at the front:

January 1, 1945: "The Germans smashed at the U.S. Seventh Army line on a 10 mile front on both sides of Bitche late yesterday and early today in five successive attacks, two of them in battalion strength, in what may be another major blow by Von Rundstedt. Bitche is a strong point in the old Maginot line. The succession of attacks against the flank of the Seventh Army late yesterday afternoon was not affected by the 36 hour blackout in effect on the Luxembourg-Belgian Bulge front. A battalion of Germans hit the Seventh Army front at Bannstein, five miles southeast of Bitche. A force of equal strength lashed out south of Bannstein. Others were mounted west of Bambach and west of Bitche. Other German forces were probing the French First Army positions due west of Colmar, below Strasbourg. German broadcasts from Berlin reported "In Alsace-Lorraine our troops made a number of assaults against the U.S. front from which major forces have been withdrawn now. On both sides of Bitche, positions of enemy outposts were attacked on a wide front. Enemy attacks were repelled on the main fighting line."

January 2, 1945: An Associated Press release said: Field Marshal Karl Von Runstedt was reported by American airmen to be pulling armored columns eastward away from the Belgian Bulge. To the southeast, the Germans were building up an attack of considerable strength on a front about 50 miles between the Saarland and the Upper Rhine. The new German push was centered in the Bitche area of northeastern France. Supreme Headquarters announced that around Bitche the Nazis gained a mile and a half, cut the road running five miles southeast of Bannstein, probably

captured the latter town and were pressing on. January 3, 1945: "American forces have lost all of their bridgeheads in Germany along a 55 mile stretch between the Sarreguemines area

and the Rhine, in a withdrawal to Lorraine in northeastern France, dictated by develop-

ments elsewhere.'

(The developments elsewhere which sucked the American Seventh Army out of its German footholds appeared to be the Ardennes breakthrough against which the American Third Army swung formidable forces from positions on the left flank of the Seventh, which had to take over the vacated Third Army positions.)

"The German Army lashed out furiously at a dozen places along the undulating 70 mile front from the Saar to the Rhine in diversionary assaults. The Lorraine attacks may yet prove to be another burst in Field Marshal Rundstedt's offensive. So far the American line was holding the Germans to limited gains, but the Nazis were striking along their two mile deep and five mile long dent southeast of Bitche.

January 4, 1945: The United States Seventh Army blunted the German drive south of Bitche below the German Palatinate. The enemy, however, had advanced up to four miles a day and had struck within two and a half miles of the open Alsace plain. There he could threaten Allied positions in the Wissembourg Gap into the Palatinate and to Strasbourg on the Rhine.

January 5, 1945: The latest southward surge of the Germans carried through part of the old Maginot line and within two miles of the Sarreguemines-Haguenau Road. German patrols crossed the Rhine north of Strasbourg in undetermined strength, possibly with the intention of clamping on pincers that would squeeze out the Allied salient point toward Karlsruhe. "In Alsace, where the Seventh Army has been driven off German soil, villages changed hands time and again, with the deepest German penetration seven to ten miles. The latest shift put the Americans in control of Meisenthal 12 miles south of the German border and 15 miles north of Saverne, the gap through which the Seventh Army poured eastward and captured Strasbourg just before Thanksgiving.

January 6, 1945: "The Germans' winter offensive threatened Strasbourg from three directions today. The second drive burst through Seventh Army lines for 15 miles in five days, southeast of Bitche in northern France. The Americans still fought to wipe out an advance guard, which had filtered into Wingen on the Moder River, nine and one half miles southeast of Bitche and 28 miles northwest of The enemy landed in battalion Strasbourg. strength. At least, along a seven mile stretch on the west bank of the Rhine within seven miles north of Strasbourg, and lashed from the northern rim of his Colmar bridgehead and drove into Neunkirch, 19 miles south of Strasbourg. Although front line dispatches said this new offensive had been blunted, it threatened to pinch out a 30 mile deep Allied salient between the Saar and the Rhine, which had been pointed into the Wissembourg Gap toward the German Rhine city of Karleruhe. The Americans are drawing back from the Wissembourg area and Allied authorities are battling to prevent the spread of panic flight among civilians in Strasbourg and Haguenau.

January 7, 1945: U.S. Seventh Army troops are said to have brought under control, for the moment, the most dangerous of the enemy's southern thrusts - that seeking to get to Strasbourg from the west through the Saverne Gap. But at the same time the enemy reinforced small groups which crossed the Rhine northeast of Strasbourg and reinvaded Alsace through the Wissembourg Gap to the northwest to a depth of five miles in a possible effort to link up with the Rhine bridgehead. The stubborn Colmar pocket on the west side of the Rhine was expanded by the Germans to where they are only 17 miles south of Strasbourg, thus placing the old Alsatian capital under a four way threat. Late dispatches to Allied Headquarters said the Americans had surrounded the remnants of two German battalions at Wingen on the Haguenau-Saarbrucken Highway, where the enemy was probing toward the Saverne Gap.

(to be continued)

Leave a Legacy

(continued from page 2)

enthusiastic. People who know little about the war which was the defining moment of the 20th century are hungry for more information. Veterans' stories have been given a major boost because of the awareness brought about by Steven Spielberg and Tom Brokaw. The momentum is there and we hope to continue it.

Since I have been collecting the stories I have been both enlightened and moved by the simple, straightforward accounts of the men who were on the firing line more than half a century These citizen soldiers, heroic in their youth, looked for no accolades when they came home from a bitter struggle. All they wished for was a return to a normal life and to many of them this was granted. Now, as they approach the time when their working days are over and they have more time to reflect, we call upon them again to make their narrative journeys available so a new generation can penetrate the humanity of the war experience.

William Manchester, a historian who wrote extensively about the 16th century, one day realized how parochial his precious works had been. "I had no sense of the spirit of the time. Its idioms fell strangely on my ear. I didn't know enough to put myself back there, to see it, hear it, even smell it, and because I had never pondered the minutiae of that age, I had no grasp of the way the webs of action spun out, how each event led to another, then another."

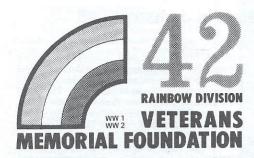
That quote speaks eloquently to what we are doing, drawing a picture capturing the essence of what life was like for men in the war. The portrait of war painted by the individual experiences of the soldiers deserves to be memorialized in the minds of future generations.

A fine example of what we are striving to accomplish is the documentary put together by Sam Dann's son, David Dann. This film immortalizes the deeds of the Rainbow Division concentrating on Nordwind, the last German offensive of World War II. The film is both a chronicle and a tribute to the sacrifices made by our soldiers in order to secure freedom. This film, called "Trail of the Rainbow," has had several TV viewings and consequently has reached a large audience.

The only way the heroism of World War II veterans can be repaid by succeeding generations is to motivate them to secure the peace which was so hard won. That is the great thrust of the Rainbow Division Veteran's Association.

We welcome memorabilia, pictures, letters, and information that helps us to develop a kaleidoscope that allows us to view the war experience in its many forms.

Mary C. Kenny 1 Chadwell Place, Morristown, NJ 07960



Contributions Millennium Fund Raising Campaign

Foundation Endowment Fund

Alvin R. Cahoon, 25, in memory of Everett Wittman & Vito Bertoldo; Natalie H. Goodman, 10, in memory of husband, Fred; Ralph Nurnahan, 250; John S. Butcher, 10, in memory of Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins; Irma S. McHugh, 100, in memory of Lt. Col. Stanley McHugh; Chas. F. Hawkins, 50; Anthony J. Barese, 100, in memory of Richard Morseth; Joseph W. Hasson, 50; Peter J. Bernardi, 50; Joe Bradac, 50; George W. Whitmire, 250; Wm. T. Kenny, 500, in memory of John Powers; Earl J. Horn, 100, in memory of departed B Battery, 392 FA; Dee R. Eberhart, 100, in memory of Carlyle & Helen Woelfer & Helen Lee.

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Scholarship Endowment Fund

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Scholarship Operating Fund

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"500" Club

<u>Foundation Endowment Fund</u> Harvey Snapp, 50; Herb Klinedinst, 100; Dee Eberhart, 100.

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Other Contributions

Foundation Endowment Fund

Vassil J. Evanoff, 500; Illinois Chapter, 100; Charles S. Fowler, 50.

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Forest C. Scott, 25 each, in memory of John Dudley, George Jackson, & Uuno Murto; Betty Owen, 10 each, in memory of Jean MacArthur, Laura Alma Stewart & Lauretta Taylor; Janie Sharpless, 10, in memory of brother, George Paul Moses, WWI.

Scholarship Operating Fund

Mo-Kan Chapter, 25, in memory of Lauri Taylor; Paula Ranney, 50, in memory of Dad, Paul Jarrett; Pacific NW Chapter, 25, in memory of Rodman Heidbreder; Jack R. Hildreth, 100, in memory of Don Samolinski; Rosemary & John McGovern, 100 each, in memory of Don Samolinski, Ray Bochat, Rod Heidbreder & Helen Lee; Steve J. Hutnik, 50, in memory of Don Samolinski; Carroll R. Anderson, 25, in memory of Don Samolinski.

Foundation Operating Fund

Justin C. Walker, 100, in memory of Vincent A. Verhaeren & Raymond Bochat Sr.; Frank Lombardi, 100; Molner Foundation, 500, in the name of Col. M.J. Barnard; John Spaulding, 200, in memory of John Baldwin; Samuel H. Dann, Royalty, "29TH APRIL, 1945" book; Solomon Feingold, 50, in memory of Helen Lee.

Sam Dann Book

The royalties from the Sam Dann book "29TH APRIL, 1945" have exceeded the contribution that the Foundation made toward the cost of preparing the book for publication.

Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Committee met at the San Diego Mid-Year and discussed the procedures for reviewing the applications.

Using 1/5th of the Scholarship Operating Fund, as we have been doing for several years, there is money available to fund 36 regular scholarships and 2 Duhascek scholarships for the coming school year.

The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1, 2000. Mail all applications to Scholarship Chairman Ted Simonson, 230 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Telephone & fax (408) 354-0718, e-mail is tigerted@ricochet.net.

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