



Vol. LXXXIX

September 2000

No. 1

Rainbow On-Line: [www.rainbowvets.org](http://www.rainbowvets.org)

## CINCINNATI REUNION MAKES A HIT!

650 Rainbow veterans, wives, and offspring gathered at Cincinnati, July 12-15, 2000, at the Cincinnati Regal Hotel. It was one of the most memorable, due to the sterling efforts of Chairman Herman, his wife Marcia, and Edna Melinek, wife of President Harold. The first business meeting was highlighted by bagpipers from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, which led to the Advancing of the Colors by the Honor Guard. We were welcomed by Alexis Callander of the Cities' Convention Bureau. Tours were enjoyed by many, and we had a special treat of golden oldies by the Delta King Ensemble, who continued after the show, entertaining us far into the night.

Our luncheon guest was Fred Olivi, pilot of the "Boxcar": the plane that dropped the second atom bomb on Nagasaki. Fred held us entranced as he described the harrowing flight and the many problems faced: eventually running out of gas as they landed on the runway at Okinawa, at the very end of the tarmac.

The memorial service was ably conducted by our three chaplains, Rev. Norman Forde, Fr. Robert Weiss, and Rev.

Ray Willemsson. As always, it is a special treat to hear PNP Ted Johnson commemorate the champagne hour in his somber, baritone delivery. Chorales were by Jeanette Lavoy, richly talented daughter of Wilson Lavoy (H/242). She even played Taps when the recording system went awry.

The showpiece, the banquet was emceed expertly by PNP Bill Kenny. Honored guests were President Pete Pettus, Auxiliary President Dotty Smith and Red Cap Joe, PNP and Outgoing Auxiliary President Barbara Eberhart, Norm and Shirley Forde, Foundation Chairman Bill and Mary Kenny, Outgoing President Harold and Edna Melinek, and Chairman Herman and Joan Bergeth. Miss Lavoy again serenaded us in lovely songs, especially "Lili Marlene."

Thus ended another great gathering of the brethren as we were magically transported, for one night back in time: "When all the world was young, lad, and all the trees were green; and every goose a swan, lad, and every lass a queen." Till we meet again - God bless Rainbow and God bless the U.S.A.

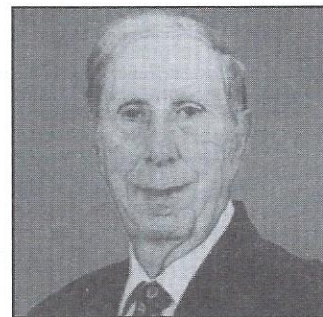
### Living PNPS

1964-1965	Theodore A. Johnson
1971-1972	Charles F. Marshall
1972-1973	Herbert E. Klinedinst
1977-1978	Ivan H. Wallace, Jr.
1978-1979	Hugo E. Grimm
1982-1983	Vassil J. "Rube" Evanoff
1984-1985	John D. Carr
1986-1987	Frederick W. Goldsmith
1987-1988	Dee. R. Eberhart
1988-1989	John M. Keyser
1989-1990	Dolian Harris
1990-1991	Donald L. Segel
1991-1992	Rev. Robert F. Weiss, SJ
1993-1994	Romeo J. Fagiolo
1994-1995	John J. McGovern
1995-1996	Vern Smith
1996-1997	John L. Whisler
1997-1998	William Kenny
1998-1999	Richard Tisch
1999-2000	Harold G. Melinek

### Living PNAPS

1964-1965	Frances Marshall
1970-1971	Mary Brewer
1972-1973	Nan Klinedinst
1979-1980	Edith Sayers
1980-1981	Oriana Grimm
1981-1982	Jean Kemmerer
1982-1983	Winnie Baldock
1983-1984	Blanche Trout
1984-1985	Bee Miller Burge
1986-1987	Loretta Schneider
1987-1988	Pearl Segel
1988-1989	Catherine Woods
1989-1990	Pear Emlatt
1990-1991	Joanne Dart
1991-1992	Myrtle Wallace
1992-1993	Peggy Fleming
1993-1994	Beverly Koehler
1994-1995	Virginia Duhaček
1995-1996	Betty Owen
1996-1997	Mildred Fagiolo
1997-1998	Mae Coyle
1998-1999	Delores Kallaher
1999-2000	Barbara Eberhart

## President's Message



Our President

As always, the Cincinnati Reunion was a huge success. There were over 600 present. The Early Bird Party was well attended on Wednesday evening. There was excellent entertainment presented by the Cincinnati Delta Kings on Thursday.

The luncheon was great and the guest Speaker, Fred J. Olivi, talked about what it was like to be a co-pilot on the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. He explained how close the mission came to failing because of a variety of circumstances and how they landed after the successful mission with practically no fuel.

Most of the committees met on Friday which otherwise was an open day. The Memorial Service was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday. As usual, it was the highlight of the reunion. Jeanette La Voy presented the musical selections. National Chaplain Rev. Norman Forde, and Associate Chaplains Rev. Robert Weiss and Rev. Raymond Willemsson, conducted the service. Ted Johnson, as usual, did a great job in presenting the Champagne Hour.

Attendance at the Thursday business meeting was great, but the attendance Saturday left something to be desired. Let's try to do better next year. The customary announcement was made, asking for first-time reunion attendees to stand and introduce themselves. There were seven men who did so. They were given a warm welcome.

Suellen McDaniel, the newly elected President of the Millennium Chapter, gave a report on their progress and stated that the membership is approximately 130 now. Suellen is also the new National Membership Officer. Let's get behind her 100% and urge our children and grandchildren to join the Millennium Chapter. They are the future.

Tulsa was chosen for the 2002 reunion site and the month will be July. It will be great to return to our old stomping grounds. It is hard to believe that we were last there in 1982.

*Continued on page 4*

**DUES 'R DUE !!!**

**Your Reminder**

**CUT-OFF-DATE  
NEXT ISSUE  
October 1, 2000**



**THE RAINBOW REVELLE**

Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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General Henri Gouraud (Dec)

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Vol. LXXXIX September 2000 No. 1

**THE RAINBOW REVELLE**

Published September, November, January, April  
and June for/by members of the Rainbow Division  
Veterans Association.

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**DEADLINE FOR COPY:**

November Issue - October 1, 2000

**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**

Heavenly Father, we commend to  
Thy gracious care and keeping all  
the men and women of our Armed  
Forces, at home and abroad. Defend  
them by day with Thy heavenly  
grace; strengthen them in their trials  
and temptations; give them courage  
to face the perils that beset them;  
and help them to know that none can  
pluck out of Thy hand those who put  
their trust in Thee. In Thy Holy  
Name we pray. Amen.

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

**The Final Inspection**

The soldier stood and faced God,  
which must always come to pass  
he hoped his shoes were shining  
just as brightly as his brass.  
"Step forward now, you soldier,  
how shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other  
cheek?  
To my church have you been true?"  
The soldier squared his shoulders and

said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't  
because those of us who carry guns  
can't always be a saint.  
I've had to work most Sundays  
and at times my talk was tough,  
and sometimes I've been violent,  
because the world is rough.  
But, I never took a penny  
that wasn't mine to keep. . . .  
Though I worked a lot of overtime  
when the bills got just to steep,  
And I never passed a cry for help,  
though, at times I shook with fear,  
And sometimes, God forgave me  
I've wept unmanly tears.  
I know I don't deserve a place  
among the people here,  
They never wanted me around  
except to calm their fear.  
If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
it needn't be so grand,  
I never expected or had too much,  
but if you don't, I'll understand,  
There was a silence all around the  
throne where the saints had often trod  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
for the judgment of his God,  
"Step forward now, you soldier,  
you've born your burdens well,  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell."

(unknown)

**PNAPS at Cincinnati**

Back row, left to right: Nan  
Klinedinst, Betty Owen, Pearl  
Segel, Virginia Duhacsek,  
Frances Marshall, Oriana  
Grimm.

Middle row, left to right: Mil-  
dred Fagiolo, Loretta Schnei-  
der, Beverly Koehler, Cather-  
ine Woods, Delores Kalleher.

Front row, left to right:  
Joanne Dart, Barbara Eber-  
hart, Winnie Baldock, Jeanne  
Kemmerer.

Not shown: Peggy Fleming,  
Mae Coyle, Mary Brewer,  
Blanche Trout, Edith Sayers,  
Pearl Emlett, Myrtle Wallace,  
and Bea Miller Burge.

**PNPS at Cincinnati**

Back row, left to right: Ted  
Johnson, Dick Tisch, Herb  
Klinedinst, Charles Mar-  
shall, Hugo Grimm.

Middle row, left to right: Fr.  
Bob Weiss, Romeo Fagiolo,  
Jack Keyser, Don Segel.

Front row, left to right:  
John McGovern, Rube  
Evanoff, Dee Eberhart, Bill  
Kenny.

Not shown: Ivan Wallace,  
John Carr, Fred Goldsmith,  
Dolian Harris, John  
Whisler, Vern Smith.



## 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.

## West Coast Get-Together

September 24, 25, 26, 2001

Let's get together again for a good time in Laughlin! We've got the Ramada Express Hotel & Casino waiting for us. They love the veterans! If you're an earlybird, you can watch the flag raising every morning and have some coffee and doughnuts. There is a WWII museum for your enjoyment and a free cocktail hour every afternoon. They'll give you a free breakfast buffet and a fun book, too. All this for \$19 a night in the adults-only tower. We'll have a nice hospitality suite where you can rest and count all your winnings, have a cold drink and a snack and head for the outlet (free shuttle, of course) where you can spend all those dollars you've won.

For reservations, call 1-800-243-6846 and ask for Code #5238. Reservations have to be in by September 9 and the get-together is September 24, 25, and 26. We have reserved 20 rooms but if they all go fast, they feel sure they can give us more. Come join us for lots of fun.

*Yours in Rainbow,  
Don Carner*

## HQ. Co., 232nd Inf. Reunion

October 5, 6, 7, 8, 2000 • Valley Forge, PA

Our company reunion will be held at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel at Valley Forge, PA, Thursday through Sunday. Friday evening will be our reunion dinner. Saturday, we will attend a dinner and show at Lily Langtry's. Excellent food and show.

Current members will be advised by mail. If you served with us during our stay at Camp Gruber on into Salzburg,

contact Bill Harrigan, 715 Joseph Ave., Warminster, PA, 18974. A complete package of information will be sent to you by return mail.

## Veterans' Day Celebration

Nov. 9, 10, 11, 2000 • Birmingham, Alabama

Nov. 9: Dinner-5:30 p.m.: Nov. 10: Breakfast-8:00 a.m. Visit Rainbow Monument, located V.A. Hospital. Memorial service, Rainbow Viaduct. 7:30 p.m. Awards dinner (all veterans). Nov. 11: 9:00 a.m.-Memorial service; 10:30 a.m.-Peace luncheon; 1:30 p.m. Parade (bus provided).

For more information, call Aleen Walker (widow of Guy M. Walker, HQ/242 Inf.), 205-647-6815. Reservations by October 10th: Aleen Walker, 2121 Red Hill School Rd., Hayden, AL 35079.

## Journey to Ourcq

On Sunday, May 27, 2001 the Rainbow will dedicate a memorial plaque commemorating the Rainbow Division's first offensive action during World War I, "The Battle of the Ourcq River." In nine days of intense hand to hand combat the citizen-soldiers of the 42nd defeated the 4th Prussian Guard. The price was staggering.....

6,459 casualties including 1,410 killed. Battles at La Croix Rouge Farm, Hill 212, Sergy, Meurcy Farm, Bois Colas, and Seringes et Nesle will live forever in Rainbow history.

This battlefield is tucked away in a beautiful rural area of the Champagne district in northern France, an easy hour drive northeast of Paris. The plaque is to be mounted in an appropriate location at the Meurcy Farm which is adjacent to the Oise Aisne. Almost 400 men of Rainbow are buried in the cemetery including our poet, Joyce Kilmer.

The proprietor of the Meurcy Farm, Jacques Damery, who is Mayor of Seringes et Nesle, has extended an invitation to all veterans of the Rainbow and their families to attend the 4:00 PM Memorial Day Ceremony at the Oise-Aisne Cemetery and then move, with other French and American dignitaries, the short distance to the Meurcy Farm to dedicate the "Battle of the Ourcq River" plaque. This will be followed by a "Vin d'Honneur (reception) at the farm.

For those who do not wish to travel on their own, the possibility of forming a group is being investigated. It would also travel to other points of interest to the group. If you are interested in joining in such a tour please write:

Bill Shurtleff  
7430 Windmill Ln.  
Garland, TX 75044

or e-mail to: wshurtleff@prodigy.net



## National Auxiliary Rainbow Division Veterans

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WI	Wisconsin State	Royal Lunde
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1st Bn. 232nd Infantry  
2nd Bn. 232nd Infantry  
3rd Bn. 232nd Infantry  
HQS Co. 232nd Infantry  
Can. Co. 232nd Infantry  
242nd Infantry

Co. H 242nd Infantry  
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Bill Shurtleff  
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## President Elect

We are pleased to announce that the President for the year 2001-2002 is Ted Simonson. Ted served with Company I/242nd Infantry Regiment. He resides at 220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

## 2002 Reunion

The 2002 National Reunion will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in July.

## Queen of Battles Award

This plaque is awarded by Company G/242nd Infantry to the Line Outfit having the most members present and is called the Johnny Frassel Award. It was won by Bty. C, 392nd F. A.

## Winner of John Carr Life Membership

The winner was Walter Buhr.

## Winner of Four Night Hotel Stay

The winner was Leonard Olender.

## Rainbow License Plates

Rainbow license plates are for sale? Send \$5.00 to Hugo E. Grimm P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357-1200.

## Regimental Crest, 232nd Inf.

There are still some regimental crests available. Send \$6.00 to Betty Owen, 813 Westwood Dr., Richardson, TX 972231-5995.

## Comrades Need Help

Charles Peeler would like to purchase a copy of the 232nd Infantry book published at Camp Gruber. Contact Charles at 1315 Wessor Rd., Shelby, NC 28152. Also Larry Rosen would like a copy of the Red Artillery Book. Contact Larry at 199 Rollins Ave., Apt 422, Rockville, MD 20852, Tel. (301) 230-2923. Also, Larry would like to hear from anyone who has information on the following men who were in the personnel section of the 542nd F.A Bn.: Warrant Officer Charles L. Brown, Warrant Officer Glen M. Stacy and Mail Clerk Mensmen.

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

Saturday evening came all too soon. The new officers were introduced. The gavels and other mementos were passed on to them and thus came the end of the 81st annual Rainbow Reunion.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Tempe in February. I hope to visit as many Chapters as possible during the coming year. I will delay my usual departure for my winter quarters in Arizona for a couple of weeks so that I can be at the Veterans' Day events in Birmingham, Alabama.

I also plan to attend the Rainbow events in France in May 2001 and hope to see a large group of Rainbow people there. Watch for announcements in the Reveille for the plans as they develop.

In Rainbow,  
Pete



## 7th Army Battles

*continued from June issue*

**January 19:** associated press reported: "the Germans burst out of the northern end of the Rhine Bridgehead above Strasbourg and linked up with other forces in Northeast Alsace, forming a solid line against the U.S. seventh army along 40 miles of the Maginot Line as far west as Bitche, in a short setback for the Americans. "German positions in Alsace were strengthened despite Seventh Army counterattacks. This heightened the threat of a Nazi squeeze on Strasbourg, the Alsatian capital and political prize for both the Germans and the French. The situation on the Southern sector was regarded at Supreme Headquarters as increasingly grave. Into this potential springboard for another big attack, the enemy was pouring a steady stream of reinforcements over ferries and pontoon bridges, thrown across the rhine from Strasbourg to Karlsruhe. The Seventh Army lost the villages of Herrlisheim, Sessenheim, Dalhunden, Stattmatten, and Dengolsheim, north of Strasbourg, but captured Auenheim and Leuterheim, below Hatten, in the area where the Maginot Line closes up to the Rhine. The Colmar pocket south of Strasbourg, remained quiet. Germans, however, had enough force there to pose ever present danger.

**January 20:** Supreme headquarters in Paris reported: "At Hatten, following a lull, the enemy attempted again to break through our Maginot line positions with a tank-supported assault from three directions and again was turned back. Enemy efforts to advance in his Rhine Bridgehead north of Strasbourg were checked. Our forces reached Sessenheim in an attack, but were unable to hold their gain, and retired as weather curtailed air operations," from Berlin the Germans reported: repeated American attacks to relieve their encircled forces near Riepertswieler failed. Their attacks near Rittershoffen in Alsace and near Sessenheim were also unsuccessful. The Americans lost numerous tanks. During an attack our forces reached the eastern fringes of Weyersheim.

**January 21:** The Allied summary: "German attacks threatening Strasbourg in the southern sector of the western front were countered by the French First army that opened a surprise drive against the German pocket south of the Alsatian capital, while Americans battled the German forces that penetrated to Weyersheim, north of Strasbourg."

**January 22:** Supreme headquarters reported: "In the Bitche Salient, recent enemy aggressiveness subsided to normal patrol clashes. Our force repulsed an attack in the enemy Rhine Bridgehead north of Strasbourg and knocked out four of 18 supporting tanks. "Targets at Herrlisheim were bombed by a small number of fighter-bombers. On the southern flank of the Colmar sector, our forces pressed their attack vigorously despite stubborn opposition and heavy snow. Several hundred prisoners have been taken. From Berlin the Germans reported "In lower Alsace at the front between Rittershoffen and Weyersheim, Americans were thrown out of their positions. Numerous localities including Weyersheim and Soufflenheim were liberated and several hundred prisoners were taken. Between there and Mulhouse the enemy made only minor attacks. By our counter-attacks, he was again thrown back in numerous sectors.

**January 23:** Supreme Headquarters reported: "In the Bitche Salient, the enemy made aggressive attempts to infiltrate. Our forces mopped up hostiles on the Rhine west bank, north of Strasbourg, but no major fighting

developed. Late reports disclosed that 12 rather than four tanks were knocked out in Sunday's action. On the south side of the Colmar sector, the principal suburbs of Mulhouse have been cleared in our attacks of the last three days and gains have been made in the vicinity of Cernay. This progress was made against stiff resistance, through snowstorms and icy roads. German reports did not agree with those of Supreme Headquarters. Theirs read: "Under the weight of our concentric attacks on the Rhine Bridgeheads north of Strasbourg and from the lower Vosges, the American front north and east of the Haguenau forest collapsed. The enemy retreated in the direction of the Moder River sectors. In hot pursuit, our troops captured the forts of the Maginot line in this sector and liberated a vast area of old German territory. Many places including Niederbronn, Reichshoffen, Woerth and Froschweiler were recaptured from the enemy. Haguenau Forest is also largely in our hands and enemy counter-attacks from Bischweiler."

**January 24:** Allied Supreme Headquarters reported: "Near Bitche, approximately half of an enemy column of 30 vehicles was destroyed by our artillery. Groups of hostile infantry and tanks were dispersed by artillery fire east of the Bitche salient. In Northern Alsace, we have made a limited withdrawal to more advantageous positions in the general area and north of Haguenau. The movement carried out according to plan and without any enemy interference. No large towns were yielded. North of Colmar, our forces launched a surprise attack. Further limited progress against stiff resistance was made in our attack, which continues along the southern edge of the Colmar sector in the Mulhouse area. A number of enemy tanks have been knocked out or captured in these engagements. Fighter-bombers struck at enemy east of Bitche, a railway yard at Gambenheim, a fuel dump at Zell, northeast of Strasbourg, and targets at Chenheim, Eisenheim, and Mackenheim northeast of Colmar. 32 enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and three on the ground.

**January 25:** Supreme Headquarters, Paris reported that the Germans opened a desperate new offensive against the western front in Northern Alsace. "The attack possibly is a Supreme effort to win back the whole northeast France province. Attacking on a 20 mile front from Haguenau northwest into the Vosges Mountains, the enemy crossed the Moder River at places 15 miles below the Reich frontier. Haguenau was by-passed on both sides. Enemy gains were up to two miles. the enemy offensive in Alsace was in the area where the Seventh Army had plenty of rugged space to trade in time to reinforce. The assault may signal the start of the final battle for Alsace Associated Press reported from Seventh Army headquarters. Earlier, the Seventh Army had withdrawn from seven to ten miles along a 20 mile sector of the Karlsruhe Corner, leaving Strasbourg jutting out at the end of an allied salient. Associated Press said the Americans were inflicting heavy losses and had destroyed at least five tanks and 14 armored vehicle in early hours of the drive. "Large German forces began crossing the Moder River Line, which general Patch's army had taken up after withdrawing from the Hatten area North of the strategic Haguenau Forest. The Germans were reported using five or six first-class divisions along the attack front. The enemy punched forward into

the woods on the south bank of the Moder River in the Schweighausen-Senneubourg, two miles west of Haguenau, a traffic center 20,000 and once a major German base. Farther northwest and about two miles north of the Moder, the Germans attacked in the Bitcholz-Mulhausen area, 15 miles south of the Palantine. Farther into the snowy Vosges, the enemy threw strong blows at Reipertswieler, eight miles south of Bitche. Other Germans made strong counterattacks against French troops on both the northern and southern flanks of the Colmar-Mulhouse Pocket. The Germans were within ten miles south and 11 north of Strasbourg. The prized capital of Alsace, which the French and German both declare their own. Whether by design or accident, the German offensive started in weather similar to that prevailing when Field Marshal Von Rundstedt attacked in the Ardennes. Deep snow, cold fog, and poor visibility reduced allied air support to a minimum. Some Germans crossed the Moder River just east of Haguenau, spurred by assertions that they were freeing ancient German soil. All fell back except a score surrounded in the Hartz Woods. Commanders in the field said they believed the situation there was entirely restored. The main thrust across the Moder was a three mile area west of Haguenau between Schweighouse and Neubourg. Assault boats ferried some men across. Others used a bridge, no armor, however, was reported across the bridge. The Germans were observed moving considerable numbers of troops and much material east of the Rhine. The men and tanks were possibly going to the Eastern front to meet the Russian threat to Berlin, but may be merely going to the interior for rest and refitting.

**January 26:** Supreme Headquarters: In the northern Alsace plain, the reinforced enemy launched a series of attacks against our new positions and scored initial gains, but by the end of the day, these were largely offset by counter-attacks. Hostile forces penetrated more than a mile to Schillersdorf and occupied nearby Muhlhousen. They were halted in hard fighting, which was continued in Schillersdorf. West of Haguenau, 90 of the enemy company which crossed the river were captured and the rest forced back, fighting continued north of Colmar and along the southern edge of the Colmar sectors, with little change in the situation. Evening papers on January 26 headlined the story that the American Seventh Army completely restored its lines in northern Alsace today, hurling the Germans back across the Moder River and breaking up their dangerous offensive on mile front westward from Haguenau. The crackup of the German drive threatening the Alstian capital of Strasbourg, reported in front dispatches late today, appeared to have robbed the Nazis of their only initiative on the western front, where there had been signs of a full-dress allied offensive. Ludwig Sertorius, Berlin Military correspondent, said today that present allied regroupings likely were to be the preliminary to a major offensive, but is was not clear how or when it would begin. Clinton Conger, United Press correspondent, reported from the Seventh Army front that Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's Forces had inflicted heavy losses on the Germans in wrecking their Alsace offensive. Heavy snow fell for the third day, aiding the Americans. A joint American-French attack carried to the village of Houssen, three miles north of Colmar, and that long-standing anchor of the German Pocket in southern Alsace appeared threatened.

*(to be continued)*



## These Men of Rainbow – Who Are They?

Just who are these men who comprise the ranks of Rainbow? Where do they come from? These questions were ones I asked fifteen years ago when I attended my first RDVA reunion. Since then, each year at their get-togethers, I have been privileged to meet these men and listen to them recounting their wartime experiences late into the night. In the past two years I have been collecting and reading the stories they send to me through the LEAVE-A-Legacy project. Now I know who these men are.

They are the embodiment of the vision General McArthur had when the Rainbow Division was formed in 1917. He pictured it a division spreading all across the United States "like a rainbow." Twenty-seven years later in 1944 a group of young American men of Rainbow landed in France with one thing in mind, win the war and make way for peace. These citizen soldiers hailed from all parts of the country, from all walks of life. There was the fellow from the farm in Iowa, the bus driver from Kansas, the postman's son from Connecticut. With them were a couple of boys from Northeast Prep Schools, the son of a Union man from California, the teacher's son from New England, the kid from the ranch in Texas. They even boasted a mule-skinner from Minnesota. Many of these youths were seniors in high school, boyishly eager to jump into the fray.

Some from the southern states came from families who worked in the mines or the ironworks. They marched side by side with the inner-city boy from Philly, and the kid who was raised on an Indian Reservation. One of them was the father of five, a volunteer from D.C.

Another select group who joined Rainbow were students from the ASTP college program which was abruptly shut down because more men were needed at the front. These fellows overnight became ordinary dog faced soldiers. All of these young men, the cream of America, came together at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma for training. There they were joined by some early draftees from the Aleutian Islands and the Panama Canal who were already "seasoned" but not yet "bloodied."

This was the army of youths who marched over the fields and through the villages of Alsace, fighting gallantly under heavy siege, dodging barrages of enemy fire, frightened by the tree bursts exploding all around them. But as they were suffering heavy losses in those initial harrowing days of combat, they were also forging the bonds of enduring friendships. Boys that had been delivering newspapers and mowing lawns a few years ago quickly became MEN under fire. That is who Rainbow men WERE.

Who are they now? When these soldiers returned to civilian life, their mission heroically accomplished, a veil of silence fell over them. Their experiences were too painful to put into words and some things are better left unsaid. The men chose instead of talking to get on with their lives, get married and raise families.

Fortunately for them, American leaders, displaying wisdom and vision seldom experienced in public life, instituted the GI Bill

of Rights. This entitled veterans to receive a college education at the government's expense, an opportunity that many would not have had otherwise. The result was a highly educated generation entering the work force. These men were destined to drive the engines of progress and lead the country to an era of unprecedented prosperity.

As civilians these former soldiers became doctors, lawyers, judges, teachers, scientists, engineers, businessmen, corporate leaders, ranchers, farmers, oil men and entrepreneurs. Their combined skills are what contributed to making America the world leader it is today.

Rainbow men have been witnesses to an extraordinary time in history. The ordinary men, when called upon by the events they encountered in wartime, drew from the strength within them to release qualities that made for their moment of greatness. Today their monument is carved in their memories and in the legacy they leave to us.

Mary C. Kenny March, 2000



Col. Joseph Taluto, PNP Bill Kenny,  
Honorary President Richard Tisch, President  
Harold Melinek and General George Garrett

## First Reunion

42nd National Guard  
Headquarters Chapter  
Troy, New York

June 9-10-11 were the dates that the 42nd A.N.G (MECH.) held their first reunion as an official chapter of the R.D.V.A and it was a roaring success.

Both the New Jersey and the New England chapters (including Charlie Paine all the way from North Carolina) supported this endeavor and we had a turnout at the final banquet of well over 100 men and their spouses. They really rolled out the red carpet for us.

On Saturday we were transported in mini-buses to the historic Saratoga Battlefield where Major Chris Heidorf, a well informed historian, delivered an exciting lecture and tour. The weather was bright and sunny as we stood on the ground where the Battle of Saratoga proved to be the turning point of the Revolutionary War. It was also the first major defeat of the British Army.

After the tour we lunched on boxed lunches and cold drinks supplied by our hosts. The site was overlooking the beautiful and scenic Hudson Valley. After lunch we visited the famous Saratoga race track where volunteer guides gave us a 101 course on how to train a race horse. I think we all came away with the realization that to have a winner you need a lot of money. It was a

really great day.

Saturday evening we dined and danced accompanied by the 10 piece Guard band. The three most recent Presidents of the R.D.V.A. sat at the table with General George Garrett and Gen. Winter, the newly appointed commander of the 42 NG and Col. Joseph Taluto with his most attractive wife. Sixty members of the Guard were in attendance which offered a great opportunity for RDVA men and their wives to get acquainted with their National Guard hosts.

On Sunday we were invited to the armory where we watched a new Black Hawk helicopter fly in. We were able to climb into it and inspect it. There were many tanks and specialized vehicle on display and the children of the Millennium members had a grand time climbing in and out of them and posing for pictures. Honorary President Dick Tisch, his son, daughter-in-law and daughter, as well as his grandson, all climbed up and into the tank; that is all but Dick, he said something about a bad knee, I'm sure we all can appreciate that. He was a very proud Father and Grandfather.

It struck all of us that the future of Rainbow is in competent hands. The comradeship and solidarity of the Guard is much the same as that which exists in Rainbow. The men and women we met (many of them generational) are energetic and enthusiastic and proud of their association with RDVA. Since most of the Guard members are in the same age category as the Millennium Chapter members, it seems to me there will be a natural alliance between these two groups. Their internet exchanges should expedite this relationship. A fresh new breeze is blowing through Rainbow and this portends well for the future.

## Cemetery Superintendent

I have just received word that Gene Dellinger, who was the Superintendent of the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and a very good friend of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association has been transferred, and is now the Superintendent of the Normandy American Cemetery. Mr. Dellinger, for many years was our man behind the scenes at the Navarian Farms Memorial ceremony held annually in July. He was the main reason, we were always so well recognized at those ceremonies. We have lost a good and loyal friend, and the Normandy Cemetery at "Omaha Beach" has gained an excellent Superintendent.

Mr. Dellinger states "This is great for my family and I since my daughter lives in Bayeux (Normandy). She is an English Professor. So now I am near her and family (two grandsons). Also, Bayeux is where we plan to retire. I have already purchased our home there."

Mr. Dellinger was nominated and decorated by French Government with the highest French decoration, "Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur". Congratulations and the best to you in your new position.

Anyone who would like to contact Mr. Dellinger, his new address is: Superintendent, Normandy American Cemetery, 14710 Colleville-Sur-Mer, FRANCE.

Charles Fowler, Memorials Officer





*The 42nd Division Band at the Saturday evening dinner.*

## HQ Chapter Welcomes Veterans for a View of the Rainbow Today

*by Capt. Richard Goldenberg and Sgt. First Class Hank Hussman*

Troy-- New York Army National Guard soldiers from the Headquarters Chapter celebrated their second year of membership in the Veteran's Association by hosting nearly fifty fellow RDVA members this June to the Capital District. The National Guard Rainbow soldiers provided a view of the changes the 42nd Division has made to state and nation over the past 55 years.

Governor George E. Pataki, New York National Guard Commander in Chief said, "Whether it is their excellent performance in their federal military role, or their invaluable service to the people of New York during 1998's North Country Ice Storm and Capital Region Tornadoes, New York's Rainbow Soldiers are proudly carrying on the historic legacy of the 42nd Infantry Division."

Saturday evening found the RDVA members enjoying a formal dinner sprinkled with a great deal of conversation and camaraderie. The talented 42nd Rainbow Division Band provided music for the evening.

Brigadier General George Garrett, the Division Commander, spoke to the Veterans Sunday morning, the 11th of June as part as the National Guard's open house tour of the Glenmore Armory. On display were a variety of vehicles and equipment used by today's 42nd Division along with soldiers and memorabilia.

"From the WWI trenches of France, to the liberation of Dachau in WWII, Rainbow veterans were there," said General Garrett. Through the training and vigilance of Rainbow National Guard members during the Cold War and Gulf War, Rainbow soldiers were there. In the disaster response missions of recent years for the people of New York State, the men and women of the 42nd Division today are there to carry the spirit of the Rainbow Division ever forward."

The Rainbow Division transitioned to the Army National Guard in 1947. The Division is a now multi-state National Guard Division with more than 12,000 members across eight states. The Division includes National Guard troops from New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and Illinois. It continues the illustrious history of the veterans of World War One and World War Two in its vigilance in nation's defense while at the same time serving in times of disaster for their states and communities.

## Archivist's Column

Reported at reunion was a visit to the United States Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA. They hold the bulk of Rainbow service connected material, while the University of Nebraska receives the Association, Foundation, Auxiliary materials. They also maintain the special Dachau collection.

The U.S.M.H.I. has underway plans and fund raising for an entirely new building. There is part of a consistent trend at all of our officially designated repositories.

The museums in Madison and Newport News have taken over additional state facilities. Carlisle's increase is matched at Lincoln with a re-do of the Love Library.

New museums are constantly being initiated. A D-Day museum recently opened in New Orleans. One in Centralia, WA is about to begin a new building, There is to be a new one opening in Boise, and even the railway station in Muskogee will soon become the "Three Rivers Museum".

Collections continue apace.. The family Colonel Woelfer has sent along 4 boxes of his service memorabilia. National Secretary Herb Butt delivers a similar amount of his records. Minnesotan B.C. Hart has sent a considerable amount of WWII Rainbow newsletter publications of many units, plus a 100 page Scrapbook of Division news clippings. President Pettus a notebook assembled from his trip to Naverin Farms to celebrate the 80th anniversary of World War I.

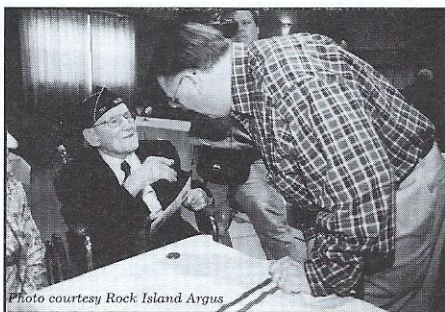
A WWI collection was received from the grandson of a MN participant. It includes a drum used to mount the colors at chapter meetings. Some of the textiles illustrate the urgent need for speed in sending along your collection to be accessioned. A WWI blanket and clothing showed more holes from moth damage than the fabric when held up to the light.

Remember that paper items, untreated and unprotected are really subject to rapid deterioration. Your letters home are eagerly sought by our repositories. Please send them along.

Keep Well & Happy.

*Bill Keithan, Archivist*

## WWI Rainbower Honored



*Photo courtesy Rock Island Argus*

In 1918, Franke Proske entered the conflict known as WWI. The young infantryman boarded the ship and headed for France. On April 28, 2000, the government of France thanked Proske, now 104, in his hometown of Blue Grass, Iowa, as Proske received the French medal of honor, the council general

of France, showed his country's gratitude. When the medal was placed on Proske's lapel, it prompted a standing ovation from the crowd of 400, including sen. Tom Harkin and Sen. Charles Grassle.

Mr. Proske was a member of Iowa's 168th infantry regiment, and one of 3,605 Iowans who served in the famed Rainbow Division.

## New Jersey Reunion

The New Jersey Reunion will be held on October 18, 19, 20, 2000 at the famous Port-O-Call Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, NJ. A great time is promised. For more information, please call or write Allan Ball, 54 Mandeville St., Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442, Tel. 973-835-7116 or Pat Guida, 2431 Steuben St., Union, NJ 07083, Tel. 908-687-5013.

## Memorial File Error

At the Memorial Service in Cincinnati, it was stated that William H. Walker, Co. G/242nd Inf. had passed away. This is not so as William is alive and well, and would like to have this corrected. We have no idea who reported this or how it occurred. We will delete William's name in the November Reveille Memorial File. We apologize for the error but are happy that William is still with us. William lives at 1014 Main St., Edgerton, WI, 53534.

## Wheat's Message Center

*(The following excerpt is taken from the records of the official Seventh Army report of operations, which details the decisive role played by the 222nd Infantry in the Battle of Ohlungen Forest.)*

During first hour of the barrage, almost all the vital wire lines of the regiment went out. From Schweighausen, officers went out, themselves, to company F's left to find out what was going on. The C.P.S. of the 3rd Battalion and Companies I and M had to depend on one station for communication for the next two days. That was Lt. Tillman L. Wheat's 2nd section (3rd platoon of M company) C.P. which because its lines stayed in was the only communication for the Battalion. It became known as Wheat's Message Center, and sent runners out to the machine gun and rifle platoons. (Some of the men who ran these hazardous missions were S/Sgt. Kalbfell, Pvt. Dock M. Cox, Pfc. Raleigh W. Rollins, Pfc. Anthony G. Keaup, S/Sgt. Robert L. Turcotte, Pvt. Roland J. Deskarneis, and Lt. Wheat.)

On the 24th, at 1800, furious artillery fire hit Schweighausen, grew fiercer at Neubourg, and spread until it was falling all along the lines. This fire, composed of 88s, 105, 150s, and rockets shells continued for an hour and a half, and then every 20 minutes throughout the night. Wheat's message center remained the only source of communication throughout.



## MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Pat Donahue, Battery "C", 392 Art., has been selected to represent Rainbow and receive the Bnai Brith Rolf Wallenburg award in Berlin as a Dachau liberator. Pat drove General Linden's jeep as they entered the Dachau Camp and witnessed the surrender of the camp.

Treasurer Jon Janosik reported that the net worth of the Foundation is \$397,977.89 as of July 1, 2000. He also reported that the Foundation's contribution to the expenses of the Sam Dann book has been repaid from the Foundation share of book sales and a small profit has accrued.

After two very minor changes, Dee Eberhart submitted the Foundation Constitution & ByLaws to the membership and they were unanimously approved.

Ted Simonson, Scholarship Chairman, announced that two Duhaseek \$1,000 and 33 regular \$500 scholarships were recommended, which were approved by the Trustees and Foundation membership.

Beverly Koehler reported that the 500 Club had raised \$28,810 since inception.

Chairman Bill Kenny was interviewed by a German TV company for a history of the Holocaust Camps that will be shown on the History channel early next year.

Dee Eberhart was named to chair a Foundation committee that will work with an Association committee and the Auxiliary, examining the issues associated with the folding of the Association into the Foundation in 2008 or sooner. The Foundation committee consists of Fr. Bob Weiss, Romeo Fagiolo, Don Segel, Suellen McDaniel, Ted Johnson, and Ted Simonson.

Herb Klinedinst, Basil Manly, & John McGovern recommended the following nominations to the Foundation Board, which were subsequently approved by the Trustees and the Foundation membership. 3-year terms; Dee Eberhart, Herb Klinedinst, Rube Evanoff, Ted Johnson, and Auxiliary nominees, Loretta Schneider & Frances Hutnik. For term ending July 2001; Rev. Norman Forde. Charles Marshall was named a Trustee Emeritus for the work he's done since the Memorial Foundation was only a gleam in our eyes.

Charles Fowler asked that the Freedom Foundation plaque and memorial and the Kilstett Task Force Linden plaque be named National memorials. This was approved.

Bill Shurtleff reported that the previously approved plaque will be hung at Mercy Farm on May 27, 2001.

### Contributions

#### "500 Club" Scholarship Endowment Fund

Marion Schenck, 200; Dee Eberhart, 100; Gerald & Marjorie Eaton, 500; 242 RDV Aux. 500; Jack Keyser, 100; Patricia Bell, 100; Justin & Gloria Walker, 100; Carlton & Edith Johnson, 100; Richard Tisch, 200.

#### "500 Club" Foundation Endowment Fund

Bruno Matas, 500.

#### Scholarship Endowment Fund

PNW Chapter Aux., 100; 3rd Bn. 232nd Inf., 100; In memory donations; Donor/amount/in memory of; David Diaz/50/Juno Merritt & John Dudley; Mary Cooper/100/Jack Hildreth; Samuel Polls/15/George Sotak; Gil & Beverly Koehler/25/Jack Hildreth; Also Past Natl. Aux. Officer/25/in honor of PNAP Barbara Eberhart.

#### Scholarship Operating Fund

Vincent Banas, 100; Deerfield Academy, MA, 150, Honorarium given to Bill Kenny for Dachau talk; Ted Johnson/50/Jack Hildreth; Tom Owen/20/Jack Hildreth & James Wood; 232nd Aux./10/Joseph Hasson; MP Chap. Aux./10/Marie Campbell; Irwin & Natalie Ross/100/Stan Kuznetz; John & Rosemary McGovern/100/Dr. Earl Jones.

#### Foundation Endowment Fund

George Whitmire, 2000, final on \$10,000 pledge; 3rd Bn., 232nd Inf., 100; 2nd Bn., 232nd Inf./75/Thomas Conger & Thomas Dalton & Carl Tinkam; Dee Eberhart/100/Jack Hildreth & Col. & Mrs. Bradish Smith; Charles Fowler/25/Jack Hildreth.

#### Foundation Operating Fund

Slaughter/Hanson & Assoc./25/Jack Hildreth; Anthony Stanin/50/Jack Hildreth; Ted Johnson/75/Starr West Jones & Don Samolinski & Jack Hildreth; Mary Joan White/50/Jack Hildreth; Ted Johnson/25/Dottie Pizzi.

#### MILLENNIUM FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

##### Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bernard Mellman, 25; Nicholas Maltera, 50; Arnold Crouch, 25; Robert Wood, 10; Jane Copeland/100/Richard Copeland.

#### Scholarship Operating Fund

Bernard Mellman, 25; Robert Davenport, 25; James Wood, 100; George Veteto, 50; Ronald Hackey, 50; W. H. Bode, 50; Jerome Zurowski, 100; Col. Norman Forde, 100; Robert Lyter, 50; Joseph Cincotta, 10; J. S. Plummer, 20; Raymond Zander, 50; Edmond Davis, 100; Ralph Young, 25; John Barker, 50; Vera Fiechter, 25; Rev. Sidney Burgoyne, 50; Em. J. Ghianni, 25; Alva Christopher, 50; Charles Peller, 100. Raymond O'Connor, Sr./50/deceased members "C" Btry., 392 FA; Joe-Kay Ent./50/Joseph Walterscheid, Div. Hq.; Herbert Altneu/50/Lt. Neal Frank, KIA '44; Pauline Shacklette/50/Homer Shacklette; Earl Horn/250/departed members "B" Btry. 392 FA; Eugenia Whitaker/25/"Luke" Whitaker; George Thompson/100/Burt Taylor & David Yohannan, KIA; Paul Pica/250/KIA, MIA, WIA & POW AT Co. 232; Theodore MacKechnie/25/Capt. James McCahey, Aid-de-Camp; Eugene McKinney/100/John Igoc; Ben Wallace/50/Charles Sayers & Dale Hodge & George Menas & James Bianchi; Thomas O'Neil/50/Cpt. James Campbell, Co. "B", 242; Robert Africa/50/1st Lt. John Ball, KIA Vietnam; Edward Magocs/232/Leroy Reynold.

#### Foundation Endowment Fund

Nicholas Matters, 50; Leonard Schwarm, 100; James Davis, Jr., 50; Henry Zimmer/100/John Furber, KIA; Anthony Baurrese/50/Gilbert Koltar; Hazel Nowinski; John Ciofari/25/Frank Delmonico; Herbert James/30/J. Herbert James.

#### Foundation Operating Fund

Richard Faulkner, 10; John Veitch, 15; Jack Werner, 50; Majon Huff, 100; Joseph Barramone, 10; J. Harvey Phinney, 25; Stanley Fischer, 25; John Banks, Jr., 20; Jeff Johnson, 20; Jack Falleuer, 100; Harold Johnston, 20; William Ford, 20; Michael Diglio, 25; O. Kent Anderson, 50; Basil Manly, IV, M. D., 100. Robert Tweek/25/John Smith & Don Schneider; Carroll Anderson/50/Paul Jarrett. WWI; Eugene Strain/100/Co. "B" comrades in Battle of the Bulge; Evelyn Bleil/250/Harry Bleil; Alvin Cahoon/100/S/Sgt Everett Wittman; Paul Pederzani, Jr./Tom Crosson; Robert Hamilton/100/William Kallaher; Ralph Murnahan/250/Arthur "Joe" Bush, 142 Eng., who was carried from the hospital when born to his house in Gen. Pershing's Packard.

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