



Vol. LXXXIX

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No. 4

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

## MID-YEAR REUNION

Your editor was unable to attend the Mid-year reunion held in Mesa, Arizona. Our heartfelt thanks to PNAP Beverly Koehler for sending us a report. Beverly and husband Gil chaired the reunion. They always do a superlative job.

There were 145 registered at the Mid-year ... 10 PNP's and 6 PNAPs. Rubin Townsend was the guest speaker. He was in the 2nd Division in Korea and was a POW. He had been in the 42nd for a while and was a personal bodyguard for General Linden.

First timers were Lilian Wilson: widow of Charles (Co. C, 242nd Inf.) and grandson Timothy W. Wilson. Another first timer was Sue Cullumber, daughter of Hiram Thompson, (Co. A, 232nd Inf.), Brian Smith, son of PNP Vern Smith brought his mother and Vern. Steve Brno was a first timer at the luncheon. He was in the 42nd and National Guard in NY.

The big raffle winners were: Presi-

dent Pete Pettus, the John Wayne decanter; Harvey Snapp, the wall Rainbow clock; PNP Ted Johnson, the Rainbow belt buckle; PNAP Dodo Kallaher, the Rainbow watch; Tom Owen won the three piece sand paintings; the three piece Rainbow luggage set was won by David Ashdown; the Bradley pen and pencil set was won by Bill Shurtleff and Red Cap Joe Smith won the set of collector pennies. Small raffle items were won by Tom Owen, John Walker, Charles Fowler, Mable Compton and David Cohen.

Many remarked that they enjoyed the luncheon, banquet and hospitality room. Everyone had a good time. Success depends on the Rainbowners, guests and everyone attending. Thanks to everyone who came and everyone who helped us, Gil and Bev.

## REMEMBRANCE OF WAR

To reconstruct a battle over 50 years old, you must have survivors, there is what you knew at the time and what you know now; places that have remained and places that have disappeared; and there are contradictions to be resolved. The memories of chaos are both sharp and blurred, but it is on the recollection of single moments that the story rests. They form a shaky rope bridge of memory that takes you backward, not necessarily from day to day, but from horror to horror. That is how you piece it together again.

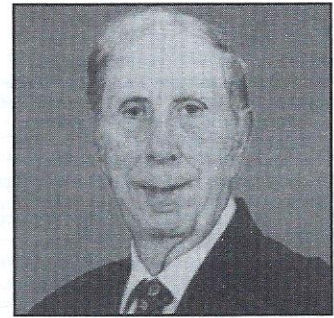
Perhaps you remember the headless soldier on the bridge, or the drawled and deflating lines of a joke from a man risking death. Or how the heat from the body of a dead man facedown forced a cast of his features in the ice. Whatever you remember, those few weeks in January 1945 that were the second half of the Bat-

tle of the Bulge were disjointed and chaotic. Scarcely a platoon remained intact, scarcely a commander survived from one assault to the next in the battles that became known as "Nordwind". Later, reconstructing histories from both sides of the war, American survivors realized that Nordwind was Hitler's last act of vengeance against the allies.

At the time you could attach no overall significance to the thousands of Americans killed. Instead you remember chaos. You remember the confusion of advancing and withdrawing over a few frozen, snow covered miles near the Rhine river, sometimes in daylight, sometimes in dark, sometimes without food or communication. Intelligence had warned that a re-invasion of France was most likely to occur on New Year's Day 1945, but no one was prepared for the immense Panzer Divisions that charged

*Continued on page 4*

## President's Message



Our President

Dear Rainbow Family and Friends,

The Mid-Year Reunion in Mesa was a great success. There were approximately 150 present. There was much business taken care of and lots of Time for fun activities.

One of the more important business meetings was the Merger Committee Meeting. This was the first official meeting of this committee and was chaired by Dee Eberhart. Many important ideas and suggestions were made and discussed at length.

The RDVA existing offices were studied carefully and it was decided by the committee which ones should remain after the merger and which ones would no longer be needed. Committees were chosen also to remain after the merger.

The target date for the merger was discussed at length. The overwhelming consensus was that the date of July, 2003 was the ideal date to strive for.

I wish personally to thank the Merger Committee, and especially it's chairman Dee Eberhart for all the preparation, that was done in advance, for this meeting.

Plans for the trip to France in May of 2001 are mostly complete. We will have approximately 30 people going.

I am looking forward to seeing all of these people in May and all the rest of you in July.

\*\*\*\*\*Note there will be sign up sheets on the bulletin boards for the Regimental Dinners so that you may see them as soon as you arrive at the hotel. I am also asking Herb Butt to post the committee assignments so they can be seen upon arrival. I hope this will alleviate the problem of not enough members present to properly conduct business at some of the committee meetings.

Pete

**DUES 'R DUE !!!**  
Your Reminder

**CUT-OFF-DATE**  
**NEXT ISSUE**  
**May 1, 2001**

### CAMPAIGNS

**World War I: Lorraine-Champagne- Asne-Marne- St. Mihiel-Meuse-Argonne.**  
**World War II: Central Europe- Rhineland- Alsace-Ardenne.**



**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**

Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**

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**Chaplain's Prayer**

God of our Fathers, we thank Thee  
for Thy providence which has guided  
and protected us thus far in our des-  
tiny.

We acknowledge the many privi-  
leges and blessings which Thou hast  
showered on us in such abundance-  
no other nation has ever had the  
material wealth and the total freedom  
for its citizens that we enjoy.

Long ago we were soldiers, in the  
Rainbow Division. In wartime and in  
time of peace we have been kept from  
harm's way and have been privileged  
to again serve our country in many  
and varied ways. Now we ask your  
blessing on us this summer as we  
journey to Wichita, Kansas, for yet  
one more reunion of Rainbow Divi-  
sion Veterans. We will remember  
those who have Passed Over The  
Rainbow since last we met. We will  
remember those who are unable,  
because of illness or infirmity, to join  
us in reunion.

We ask, O Lord, that You would  
guide us as we plan for future  
reunions of RDVA and for each of us  
as we continue to work for God and  
Country.

In Your Name we pray, Amen.

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

**Recommended Reading**

**Seven Days in January:  
The 6th SS Mountain Division  
in Operation Nordwind**

(225 pages, photos, 18 maps)

The first published account in Eng-  
lish of the 6th SS in Operation Nord-  
wind. The author was an officer and  
veteran of the 6th SS, it provides a first  
person detailed account of Herr  
Zoepf's Battalion Action in the Vosges  
Mountains. Covered are accounts of  
infiltration, raids, the capture and  
release of over 250 Americans  
unharmd; considerable close combat;  
and jointly conducted SS and US med-  
ical care for the combined wounded.  
The author was wounded and captured  
in this battle. This book is loaded with  
information on this practically  
unknown battle. \$20.00 plus \$5.00 S&H.  
Aegis Consulting Group, P.O. Box 629,  
Bedford, PA 15522.

**Archivist's Column**

The Archivist's report to the mid-year  
meeting included details on the Universi-  
ty of Nebraska's updating on their RAIN-  
BOW collection re-classification effort  
completed as the result of the Memorial  
Foundation's grant. Their work illustrates  
the School's commitment to RAINBOW in  
the detailed and professional work they  
have undertaken. There are well over a  
thousand references. The inventory and  
supporting information is on the Universi-  
ty's web site at:

<http://www.unl.edu/libr/libspec/specar1.html>

PNP John McGovern along with  
Suellen McDaniel have offered to seek  
assistance to do the necessary transcrip-  
tion work to publish the many stories of  
RAINBOW P.O.W.s. Both John and Suellen  
will be seeking individuals prepared to  
accept the transcription challenges. Have  
no fear to volunteer!

2001 RDVA Archive goals will be to put  
out the P.O.W. stories; seek more publica-  
tions, i.e. 'Books on the RAINBOW, for an  
ever increasing number of newly estab-  
lished military repositories; complete the  
'Histories, First Person Stories, and Rec-  
ollections of RAINBOWERS'; and to con-  
centrate on the collection of yours, family  
and friends wartime correspondence to  
be archives. While wartime stories told  
time and time are likely to become  
embellished, the correspondence of the  
time portrays the time picture of the  
moment, events and places.

A veritable treasure trove of material  
was recently received from Val Spiegel.  
Val published the book 'ACTION IN THE  
STRASBOURG AREA, WITH EMPHASIS  
ON THE ROLE OF THE 232nd, 2nd BAT-  
TALION, (42nd) DIV, JANUARY 1945'. He  
has sent along his collateral material to  
be archived. There are many first person  
stories in the collection heretofore not  
seen.

From the new THREE RIVERS MUSE-  
UM, soon to open in Muskogee, OK, comes  
the announcement that some Camp Gr-  
uber materials will be on display there.  
The LIBERTY MEMORIAL MUSEUM in  
Kansas City's newsletter is prominent in  
thanking individual, Foundation, Auxil-  
iary, Artillery and MO-KAN Chapters of  
the RDVA for contributions.

Please bring your archival and memo-  
rabilia materials to the July Wichita  
Reunion. It is the intent of your archivist  
to drive the distance and there will be  
plenty of room to pack and bring back  
your materials. If you do not intend to  
make the reunion - send them now.

Keep well & happy, In RAINBOW,  
Bill Keithan

**If You Must Speed on the Highway, Sing These:**

45 mph	.....	God Will Take Care of You
55 mph	.....	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph	.....	Nearer My God to Thee
75 mph	.....	Nearer Still Nearer
85 mph	.....	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	.....	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	.....	Precious Memories



## National Reunion

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

The National Reunion will be held July 11-14, 2001, at the Hyatt Regency, 400 West Waterman, Wichita, Kansas 67202. Note change in phone number 1-800-333-1334; fax 316-293-1200. Rates are \$85 plus 11.9% for single, double, triple or quad occupancy. Rates are good for two days before and two days after the reunion. When making your reservations, be sure you arrange to leave the morning after the banquet which is Saturday night, the 14th. Reservations must be received by June 8, 2001. Registration will be \$40/person with an optional \$6 on a chance to win 4 nights accommodation. Forms were distributed in Cincinnati and are available by writing Harvey Snapp. Your check must be made out to RDVA Reunion 2001, and together with the form sent to: Harvey Snapp, 900 N. Poplar, P.O. Box 581, Newton, Kansas 67114: Tel. 316-283-9200 (office) and 316-283-4298 (home).

Parking is free and the airport shuttle is free. You may park your R.V. at the hotel but there is no hook-up available.

There is an agreement with United Airlines for reduced air transportation. Contact Menno Travel Service, Box 505, 717 Main, Newton, KS 67114. Tel. 1-800-835-0106. Fax 316-283-2397. E-mail: harold@mennoks.com. Specify Convention #593QD and mention Rainbow Division.

**Directions to Hyatt Regency:** If you are driving to Wichita from north or south, stay on I-35 until you get to Kellogg (Highway 54). Take the Kellogg exit at the Central Business District sign and proceed to Broadway. Take Broadway north to Waterman. Turn west (left) on Waterman; go 3 1/2 blocks to the Hyatt Parking Garage.

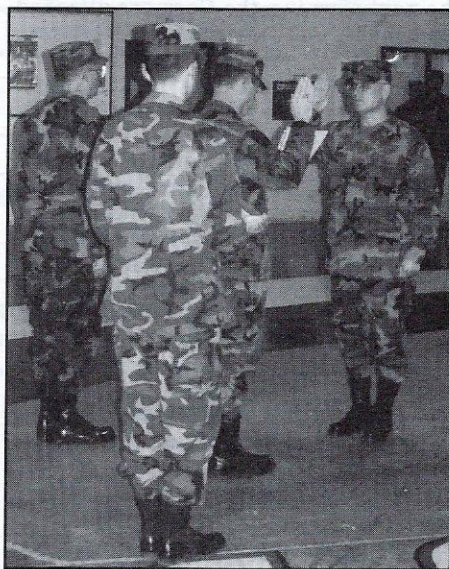
If approaching from the east or west, stay on Highway 54 and follow the same route as set above. Exit at the Central Business District sign and proceed to Broadway. Take Broadway north to Waterman. Turn left on Waterman and go 3 1/2 blocks to the Hyatt Parking Center.

## Rainbow Leader Promoted to Brigadier General

by Major Richard Goldenberg  
Headquarters Chapter

**TROY, NEW YORK** – Maj. Gen. Michael Van Patten, Commanding General of the New York Army National Guard announced the promotion this past January of New York Army National Guard Colonel Joseph J. Taluto to the rank of Brigadier General. Following two tours as the Rainbow Division's Chief of Staff, a position first held in the division in 1918 by (then) Colonel Douglas A. MacArthur, General Taluto will serve the Troy-based Rainbow Division as its new Deputy Commander for Maneuver.

Taluto, a native of Schenectady, New York, is a 35-year Army National Guard veteran who has commanded troops dur-



*MG Thomas Garrett issues the oath of commission to newly promoted Brig. General Joseph Taluto.*

ing some of the Rainbow Division's most significant state emergency response missions. As Chief of Staff for the 42nd Infantry Division, Taluto played an instrumental leadership role in the National Guard's response to both the 1998 North Country Ice Storm, and the tornado that ripped through Mechanicville and Stillwater the same year.

Maj. Gen. George T. Garrett, 42nd Infantry Division Commander, said "People throughout the North Country of New York and the residents of Mechanicville and Stillwater have directly benefited from the effective leadership that characterizes General Taluto's career as an Army National Guard officer."

Maj. Gen. Van Patten said "Joe Taluto is and will continue to be a great asset to the New York Army National Guard and the people of the State of New York. His promotion is well deserved."

Taluto deployed with the Division's headquarters in 1998 and 1999 to the Army Battle Command Training Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas where he was cited for exceptional leadership in coordinating and synchronizing the division's go-to-war skills. The exercises simulate combat operations to challenge leaders and soldiers in crisis management.

Taluto is a 1968 graduate of the Empire State Military Academy's Officer Candidate School (OCS). His New York National Guard assignments include Deputy Commander, 27th Infantry Brigade, and Chief of Staff for State Area Command, Chief of Staff and Operations Officer for 53rd Troop Command, and command and staff positions with the 1st Battalion, 210th Armor.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hourglass device, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal

with six Oak Leaf clusters, Army Service Ribbon, Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, and various New York State Awards.

Today's Rainbow Division is a multi-state National Guard Division with more than 12,000 members across seven states. The Mechanized Infantry Division includes National Guard troops from New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Illinois.

## Tours (Reunion)

Information on the tours is not quite accurate in previous releases. Reservations for all three tours are to be sent to: Clif Sommerfeld, 820 West 4th, Halstead, Kansas, 67056 ... Tel. (316) 835-2167.

**Eisenhower Center ... Tuesday, July 10, 2001 ... Abilene, Kansas.** The tour will depart from the Hyatt at 9:00 a.m. by air conditioned bus. Lunch will be at the Brookville Hotel, a real Kansas fried chicken lunch. Tour includes a city tour of the cowboy town of the 1800s. It will depart for the Hyatt at 3:00 p.m. Wheel chairs available if requested. Price: \$40.00/person including lunch. Please give name, address and home telephone.

**Cosmosphere & Space Center:** Your deluxe motor coach departs from the Hyatt and Broadview Hotels at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2001. We will stop at the Carriage Crossing Restaurant for lunch before arriving at the Space Center. You may tour the museum, see a feature at the Omnimax Theatre and have time to browse before departing for your hotels at 4:00 p.m. arriving at 5:00 p.m. \$52.00/person includes deluxe motor coach, admission to the center, escort on site, and lunch. Full payment is due by Monday, June 11, 2001; non-refundable. You will have plenty of time to attend the early bird party. All reservations are to be sent to Clif Sommerfeld at above address.

**Prairie Rose Chuckwagon:** The Prairies Rose Dinner Theatre Group will depart from the Hyatt on Thursday, July 12th, at 5:00 p.m. on air conditioned buses. Return at 10:00 p.m. The tour includes three fun filled hours of wagon ride, great food, and all the barbeque you can eat plus musical entertainment consisting of harmonies about the romantic American cowboy and great western humor. Cost: \$28.00/person. All reservations are to be sent to Clif Sommerfeld at above address.

## East Coast Reunion

The New Jersey Chapter RDVA will be hosting an East Coast Reunion on May 9-10-11, 2001, at the fabulous Port-O-Call Hotel, Ocean City, N.J. A great time is planned. All Rainbowners are welcome to attend. For more information please call Harold G. Melinek, PNP 1-908-604-9181.



## Remembrance of War

*Continued from front cover*

out of Germany into Alsace, black against the snowy fields.

Suddenly, in the thick of battle, you were alone, and then you were not, moving from one miraculous reunion to the next. In the protection of the flooded woods where the ground was two feet of black ice, you met, suddenly, with a boy you had trained with at Camp Gruber, or a man you had ran with, just days ago, through a barrage of German artillery, then lost and imagined him dead. Each of the survivors has memories like these. They make a record of them- on tape, or blurry maps marked by hand drawn arrows, with ironic notations in the margin of military histories or comments near the photos of men in uniform. They form skeletons of recollection that fit together with the next man's to shape the body of the Nordwind battles. And one day a few survivors look at each other and realize: we were fighting together but did not know it. Alone, but together, we held the Germans. And what if we had not?

If they had not? Today, Joe Neilson finds it hard to consider, now that he knows what they were up against. He knows that behind the few orphaned American infantry regiments that held the line against the last German offensive, there was nothing. There were no allied defenses between those monstrous German divisions crossing the Rhine and the interior of France. If the men who fought in Nordwind had not held, the Panzer columns could have made it halfway to Paris.

When he arrived in Marseilles on a rainy day three weeks before Christmas, the young Maryland boy had less than six months of training behind him. And he was trained mostly for the jungle, since fresh troops were expected to be needed in the Pacific, not Europe. But he was better prepared than many of the Rainbow Division, assembled hastily when orders came for replacements. Most people expected the war in Europe to be over by Christmas, and Neilson and his fellow soldier never really thought they'd see action.

But by January 5, scattered companies of the three infantry regiments of Rainbow's task force, Linden met their first German assault at Gambsheim, a small town near the German border in the Alsace region of France. The town was taken in an overpowering display of German military strength and losses were heavy. Further north, other German divisions had moved on France as well, and American soldiers were engaged in a battle that left the allies reeling. Neilson's company was sent to help defend Gambsheim. They slept in the snow outside the town that night of January 5th, with German tracers lighting the night sky in jagged streaks. Early

the next morning, the Germans attacked with tanks, and American forces began to scatter. It seemed to Neilson that every spot of ground he passed blew up behind him. He ran from woods to ditch, finally grabbing a handhold on a Jeep speeding out of Gambsheim. That night, outside the town, they dug foxholes in frozen ground. The soldier with Neilson was trembling with convulsions. The two men spent the night in the wet ditch, the icy water seeping up around them. They stripped down at the chest to their T-shirts, to share body heat. It snowed again that night. They stayed there for a day, and on the 8th were loaded up and taken to Rittershoffen. On the 9th, the Germans attacked Hatten, less than a mile to the east.

A day later, the Germans moved in a concentrated attack through Hatten and into Rittershoffen. The two tiny towns, with populations of less than 1200 each, were nearly leveled. German and American tanks parked on either side of single houses, blasting away at each other through the walls. In the houses left standing, German and American soldiers held out next door to each other in cat and mouse warfare.

Nordwind was to last until the end of January with American Forces stopping the German advance at the Moder river, some 20 miles east of Hatten and Rittershoffen. Finally, Hitler abandoned the attack to counter an offensive from the Russians at Germany's eastern front, and the Nazis withdrew across the Rhine. Neilson was more fortunate than many of his friends who died in Nordwind. Survivors of Nordwind, working to reconstruct what happened there, estimate their losses at 25,000.

## Merger Information

To: Merger Committee Members

Dear Rainbow Friends:

As all of you know, we had our first Merger Committee meeting in Mesa on February 1, 2001. Excellent, searching questions were posed and in depth discussions ensued. A summary of results of our three-hour meeting are covered by the enclosed Minutes.

I presented verbal reports of our Committee's progress to both the RDVA Executive Committee and to the Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees at their respective sessions.

I have not yet seen a program for the July Wichita Reunion; however, the schedule will probably be a full one. Therefore, I have requested a meeting room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita for our Committee meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2001 the first day of the Reunion. If for any reason any changes are necessary, I will notify you in advance.

To those of you who attend Area or Unit Chapter meetings, will you please

report to your members information about the forthcoming merger?

Thank you.

Yours in Rainbow,  
Dee R. Eberhart, Chairman

## Minutes

*Merger (Transition) Committee Meeting  
Mesa, AZ, February 1, 2001*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** PNP Bob Weiss; President-Elect Ted Simonson; PNP Ted Johnson; PNP John McGovern; PNP Donald Segel; Secretary Herb Butt; Auxiliary President Dorothy Smith; Auxiliary Honorary President Barbara Eberhart; Auxiliary 1st Vice President Grace Walker; Advisors, Foundation Trustee, Long Range Planner Bill Shurtleff, and President Pete Pettus; PNP Bill Kenny, Board Chairman, PNP Dee Eberhart, Chairman.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** PNP Romeo Fagiolo; President Millennium Chapter Suellen McDaniel; Treasurer Jon Janosik.

Guests: PNP Jack Keyser; Jud Walker, John Walker, Bill Keithan, Charles Fowler, Tom Heaton, Betty Heaton, Ralph Rundquist; PNAP Beverly Koehler; Mr. Thompson; Elliott Dodson.

Introduction and welcome to new Committee member Grace Walker, 1st Vice President, Auxiliary

Impact of merger on IRS Exemption

Ted Johnson has discussed the merger with the Foundation lawyer. It appears that the tax exemption of the Foundation will remain intact and that those Rainbow delegates attending Foundation sponsored reunions in the future will continue to be able to deduct appropriate expenses in their tax filings.

A motion was made, amended and passed that the Merger Committee recommend that specific offices and responsibilities not now specified for the Foundation be identified and administered by a new Foundation Committee comprised of the Past National Presidents of the RDVA, Foundation and Auxiliary Presidents and that the serving Secretary and Treasurer be members of that Committee.

The existing Merger Committee passed a motion to recommend that at the time of merger, the following listed offices and responsibilities (committees) specified by the RDVA Constitution & By Laws (C&BL) but not by the Foundation C&BL be assumed by the Foundation.

Offices: Chaplain; Associate Chaplain; Historian; Memorials Officer; Assistant Memorials Officer; Reunions Officer; Honorary President; Archivist; National Membership Officer; Sergeant At Arms; Judge Advocate; Public Relations Officer.

The RDVA Secretary and Treasurer

*Continued on page 5*







## A Belated Tribute



Steve and Charlie Paine

On December 18, 2000 a long belated ceremony took place at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It was here that the Silver Star was awarded to Charles Paine, Company G, 242nd. For an heroic action that took place more than 55 years ago during the final days of World War II.

Charlie had called me in November and told me about the pending ceremony and asked me if I would attend. I accepted with honor.

On the morning of the event I accompanied Charlie, his wife, Irene, his son, Steve and many friends from the Pinehurst area to the army base at Fort Bragg. We were met and escorted into a large hall bedecked with flags. Every General on the base seemed to be present. In the awe inspiring ceremony that followed, the Silver Star was presented to Charlie. General Garrett, the Commanding General of the 42nd. National Guard made the presentation.

Although Charlie had been awarded this honor 55 years earlier, he had never received it nor did he know about it. Art Lee found out about it through the Internet and notified Charlie. Things progressed from there.

It was my privilege to be present as I was with Charlie during the action that merited him the award. All of Rainbow is honored when one of its men is recognized.

Submitted by: William T. Kenny

## The Folding Ceremony

The point of honor of the flag of the United States of America is a canton of blue containing stars representing the states our men served in uniform. The point of honor of the flag of the United States dresses from left to right and the only time it is inverted and displayed in the manner in which you see it today is when it comes to serve as a pall on the casket of a veteran who has served his country honorable in uniform.

In the evening, in the armed services of the United States at the ceremony of evening colors the flag is lowered and folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out at the ceremony

of morning colors, and is run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life, and this fold we make in honor and remembrance of the veterans whom we commemorate today, for he too, gave a portion of his life for the defense of our country and our flag, and are here today to perform this flag folding ceremony in order to show you that his efforts to attain peace throughout the world has not been in vain and shall not be forgotten. We fold again in the shape of a triangle, for this is where our heart lies ... and it is with our hearts we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the republic for which it stands ... one nation under god, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

We fold again in the shape of a triangle, representing our weaker nature; for we as American citizens, trust in God, and it is to him we turn in times of war for his divine guidance.

We fold again as a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through these same forces that we protect our country and our flag from all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic. We fold again as a tribute to our country, for in the words of the immortal Stephen Decatur, "our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right: but it is still our country, right or wrong". We fold again as a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and this fold is made to honor mother for whom it flies on mother's day.

Their faith, loyalty, and devotion that the characters of the men that have made this country great have been molded.

We fold from the stripes toward the stars; for whereas the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies that founded our republic, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the stars, so that the stars cover the stripes.

We fold again in the shape of a triangle; for in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, this represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

We fold again in the shape of a triangle; for in the eyes of the Christian citizen this represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

When our flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a three cornered cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, and followed by their comrades and shipmates in the armed forces of the United States have preserved for us the rights, privileges and freedom which we are enjoying today.

## Moral of the Story

A man had been unemployed for several months when he got a job with public works. He was to paint lines down the center of a rural road. The supervisor told him that he was on probation and that he must stay at or above the set average of 2 miles per day to keep his job.

After the first day, the supervisor checked and found that the man had completed 4 miles. He thought, "Great, this man will work out."

The next day the supervisor found that the man had only done 2 miles. He thought, "Well, he is still at the average and I don't want him to get discouraged."

The third day, however, the man painted only one mile and the boss thought, "I need to talk to him."

The boss pulled the new employee aside and said, "Son, you were doing great the first day. You did 4 miles. The second day, 2 miles, but yesterday you only did 1 mile. Why? Is there a problem? An injury? Equipment failure? Anything keeping you from doing the 2 mile minimum?"

The man replied, "Well, I keep getting further and further away from the bucket."

And that my fellow Rainbow Division Veteran when you don't attend re-unions, you are getting further and further away from you Rainbow Division buddies.

Submitted by Jack Baker

## On the Lighter Side

An army officer is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes that he is lost. He reduces height and spots a man down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts "excuse me. Can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him a half hour ago, but I don't know where I am".

The man below says, "Yes. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering approximately 30 feet above this field. You are between 40 and 42 degrees north latitude, and between 58 and 60 degrees west longitude." "You must be an enlisted military policeman," says the balloonist. "I am," replies the MP. "How did you know?" "Well ..." says the officer "everything you told me was technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information and the fact is I am still lost." The MP shouts, "You must be an officer." "I am," replies the officer. "How did you know?" "Well ..." says the enlisted MP, "you don't know where you are, or where you are going. You made a promise, which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are in the exact same position you were in before we met but now it is somehow my fault."



## France Issues a Certificate to WWII Veterans

The Ambassador of France to the United States, H.E. Francois Bujon de L'Etang, has informed acting Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, the Honorable Hershel W. Gober, that the French authorities are issuing a certificate to recognize the participation of all American soldiers who contributed to the liberation of France. The certificate is meant to express the gratitude of the French people to the soldiers who participated in the Normandy landing and liberation of France, on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace, between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945. The certificate will not be issued posthumously.

The ten Consuls General of France in the United States will issue the documents on behalf of the French authorities in coordination with State Veterans Affairs offices, Veterans' Service Organizations and Veteran's Associations. An application form to be filed by veterans is available on the French Embassy's website: <http://www.info-france-usa.org>. It can also be obtained through veteran's associations.

## Alsatian Gentleman Remembers!

An order for five copies of Dick Engler's book "The Final Crisis" was recently received with an express request to have them by Xmas. The order was from Steve Klein who lives in a suburb of Chicago. His father, Roger Klein, was a 10 year old boy living in Dalhunden in January of 1945, and emigrated to the United States in 1950, speaking only the German with which he was raised. For 56 years, Roger Klein has wondered why there were no books about the fighting in and around his hometown. In particular, he remembered a field west of Herrlisheim where there were (what seemed to be in his young boy's eyes) "hundreds of burned out American armored vehicles, and given the degree of carnage and destruction all around his home, he has always been incredulous that there has been no book about this subject.

His son, Steve, found the Final Crisis through the Internet and ordered copies for his father as well as for himself and his siblings. Steve later called to say that his father cannot leave the book alone. As it confirms his memories and explains the tumult of the events of that long-ago winter. Steve also said that all of his siblings are enjoying it immensely, as they finally understand so much more about the momentous events in their not-too-distantly removed ancestral homeland.

Steve would welcome any calls from Rainbowners at 630-469-510. His address is 434 Oak St., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. His

father is still alive and completely lucid: he would probably have some really great stories and can be reached through his son. (Members of the 232nd infantry are especially asked to contact Steve.)

## Flanders Fields, Old Shells Kill

Ypres, Belgium ... All is not quiet on the western front. Here, on one of World War I's busiest and bloodiest battlefields, unexploded artillery shells stir from an 80 year slumber, rising by the thousands from the mud of Flanders. Some are awakened by plows and backhoes. Others are simply heaved to the surface by the steady working of frost and thaw. Having outlived everyone who once built them, fired them, or cowered beneath their flight the shells remain ready to kill. And sometimes not even the full time efforts of 73 Belgium soldiers and civilians are enough to stop them.

"For us, the first world war has not stopped," says Phillippe Pille, commander of a bomb disposal unit that might be called Thewar's last detachment, based at the edge of a forest where ferns and birches hide the contours of old trenches and shell craters, his unit retrieves ordnance each day from the rolling landscape where four of the war's great battles were fought. Each occurred in and around a bulge in the front known as the Ypres Salient, and the deadliest came in July 1917, when about 250,000 British troops died, capturing a few square miles of mud around the village of Paschendaele.

The enemy, then, was German. Today, it is a multinational arsenal of shells—long ones, short ones, fat ones, skinny ones, each coated heavily with rust, and about one of every ten containing poisonous gas, a weapon that made its military debut during a German attack in April 1915. Each year at least 3000 shells turn up in the area, although the totals are likely higher. There are so many that the annual haul is measured in tonnage rather than projectiles. "We are finding more shells this year than last year, and last year we found more than the year before that," says Cpl. Bart Guillemin. "Maybe it is because it has been a wet year and they're coming up to surface, or maybe it's because farmers are using better and heavier equipment, and digging deeper." Whatever the reason, the heavy harvest offers a cautionary tale for every other country where artillery and land mines remain buried.

Baltimore Sun Foreign Staff

## Lost Records Found

National Archives has sent notice to the VA that nearly ten million "lost" service medical treatment and hospitalization records have been found.

These records cover the years 1942-45

and 1950-54. They involve individuals who served in the Army and Army Air Corps and may include personnel from other branches of the service who were treated in Army hospitals. Veterans who have had claims denied are now advised to contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for reopening their VA claims. For more information, write the Records Center. Inquiries will be processed more efficiently if a copy of the last DD 214 is included. The address is: National Personnel Records Center, NPRC/NCPMF-C, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

## The Order Under Which the WWI Rainbow Fought in Champagne

To the French and American soldiers of the Fourth army:

We may be attacked at any moment.

You all know that a defensive battle was never engaged under more favorable conditions.

We are awake and on our guard.

We are powerfully reinforced with Infantry and Artillery.

You will fight on a terrain that you have transformed into a redoubtable Fortress. This invincible Fortress and all its passages are well guarded.

The bombardment will be terrible. You will stand it without weakness.

The assault will be fierce, in a cloud of smoke, dust and gas.

But your positions and your armament are formidable.

In your breasts beat the brave and strong hearts of free men.

None shall look to the rear; none shall yield a step.

Each shall have but one thought: to kill, to kill a-plenty, until they have had their fill.

Therefore, your General says to you: you will break this assault and it will be a happy day.

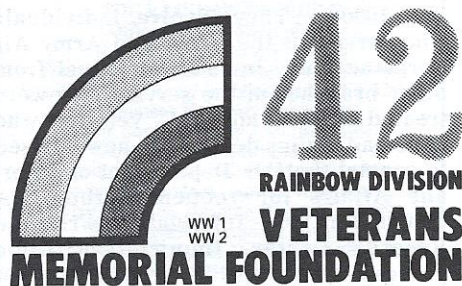
(Signed) Gouraud

By authority of the Chief of Staff  
Pettelat.

## Does Anyone Know This Rainbower?

James Caughron of Sand Springs, Oklahoma informed me that he took Basic Training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma and went overseas with the 42d (Rainbow) Division. He doesn't remember what unit he was in. He remembers that he was assigned to the Message Center of his unit. Nothing wrong with him mentally, he just doesn't remember. His home during WWII was Tulsa, Oklahoma. If anyone remembers him, let me know, Olin L. Hawkings, 309 W. 35th Place, Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063.





## Contributions:

Send all contributions to the Treasurer - address page 2 (except for 500 Club)

### MILLENNIUM FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

#### Foundation Endowment Fund

Corey J. Eberhart, 100; James T. Bartholemew, 25.

#### Scholarship Operating Fund

Gerald M. Quiat, 50; Mary C. Keep, 20, In memory of Ralph A. Keep; John P. Harrison, 100; Harry D. Gruel, 25.

#### Foundation Operating Fund

Stillman F. Sawyer, Jr., 2,000, In memory of Stillman F. Sawyer, Sr.

#### "500 Club" Scholarship Endowment Fund

Herb & Nan Klinedinst, 200; Richard Besancon, 100; Justin C. Walker, 200; Harvey J. Snapp, 50; W.C. Shurtleff, 100; Samuel W. Kelly, 100; John R. Walker, 250.

#### "500 Club" Scholarship Endowment Fund

Harvey J. Snapp, 50; John R. Walker, 250.

#### Scholarship Endowment Fund

Herb Klinedinst, James Ringwood, Forrest Jones, Dan

Warreno, Conrad Cadoret, Clifford Lumbert & Ted Pepchinski, 160, In memory of Nicholas Becking; Betty Owen, 10, In memory of Verna Finell, WWI widow; Samuel Polis, 50, in memory of Redmond J. Davis.

#### Scholarship Operating Fund

Dee & Barbara Eberhart, 100; 232nd Aux., 10, In memory of Alfred Pekrul; Hortense Broadley, 25, In memory of Ann Sabo; Tom Owens, 50, In memory of Teems; 232nd Aux. 10, In memory of Rex Luna; John Parry, W.C. Shurtleff, & Karl H. Wagner, Jr., 50 each, In memory of Mac McCarthy.

#### Foundation Endowment Fund

PNW Aux. 100; Dee R. Eberhart, 100, In memory of Arthur S. McCarthy.

#### Foundation Operating Fund

Pete Pettus, 28, CD Rom disc; sue McDowell, 10, In memory of Jack Hildreth; Illinois Chapter, 100, In memory of John H.S. Cook & John D. O'Neill.

## Journey to the Ourcq River, France ... May 26, 2001

38 members of RDVA, Auxiliary, and friends plan to attend and participate in the dedication of the "Battle of the Ourcq River" plaque. The superintendent of the Oise Aisne American Military Cemetery is coordinating the event and has included the dedication as part of the Memorial Day ceremony. Both American and French honor guards will participate. An audience of over 1000 is expected. The service will begin at 1600 on Sunday, May 27th. A reception will follow at the Meurcy Farm.

Rainbow veterans attending this salute to our WWI comrades include President Pete Pettus, President-elect Ted Simonson, Memorial Officer Charlie Fowler, Foundation Chairman Bill Kenny, Foundation President Ted Johnson, and the originator of the trip, Bill Shurtleff.

Many of the Rainbow delegation will travel on to view again our battlefields in Alsace and visit with Lise Pommois. A few will then move on to Munich.

## Mesa Reunion

### Merger (Transition) Committee Meeting

It appears that the Foundation tax exemption will remain intact after the merger. Merger Committee recommended that offices not now specified for the Foundation be administered by a Foundation Committee composed of RDVA PNP's, Auxiliary PNP's and existing Secretary and Treasurer.

The committee also recommended that essential RDVA offices be assumed by the Foundation.

Also recommended that the RDVA Secretary and Treasurer offices, file and serving officers should be transferred to the Foundation.

It is recommended by the Committee that the merger be finalized at the National Reunion in July 2003.

### Scholarship Committee

The Operating Fund will provide two Duhascek scholarships and 34 \$500 Rainbow scholarships. Essay on Rainbow goals will be given additional weight in determining scholarship rank. Scholarship applications must be mailed to Chairman Ted Simonson by May 1, 2001. Call him at 408-354-0718 with questions.

### Memorials

Charles Fowler reported on the status of Rainbow Memorials. The Rainbow Amphitheater has been damaged and is in need of repairs.

### 500 Club

Beverly Koehler reported that the "500 Club" raised about \$2,000 since July, and that the Scholarship Operating Fund has been added to the donation sites of the Club.

Millennium Chapter President Suellen McDaniel submitted a report that membership is at 158. They are working on the draft of their constitution and also forming a library/archive that will assist Rainbow descendants in finding basic information about their relative.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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