



Vol. LXXXIX

June 2001

No. 5

Rainbow On-Line: www.rainbowvets.org

WICHITA IS WAITING!

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 1-800-233-1334; 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 Water-

man. Turn left on Waterman and go 3 1/2 blocks to the Hyatt Parking Center.

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.

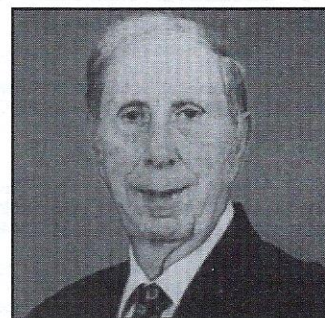
Eisenhower Center ... Tuesday, July 10, 2001 ... Abilene, Kansas. The tour will depart from the Hyatt at 9:00 a.m. by air conditioned bus. Lunch will be at the Brookville Hotel, a real Kansas fried chicken lunch. Tour includes a city tour of the cowboy town of the 1800s. It will depart for the Hyatt 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.

WICHITA IS WAITING!

President's Message



Our President

Dear Rainbow Family and Friends,

My, how the year has flown by. It has been a very busy year but I have enjoyed it tremendously. Everyone has been so helpful in making my job as President easier. I wish to thank all the Past National Presidents and others who have given me help in learning all the presidential duties and making it easier for me to perform them.

Plans for the trip to France and for some on to Germany are completed and I am sure it will be a great event for all involved. After we return it will only be a little more than a month and the Wichita Reunion will be coming up.

Let's make a maximum effort to all be there!

Rainbow Men! Please note that the committee assignments will not be read at the Business Meeting this year, as they have been in the past. They will be posted on the bulletin board near the Registration Desk. Be sure to look for your assignment as soon as you register and we need all assigned committee members at their meeting. Last year we had only three men at the audit committee meeting. That is not enough people to do the job in the time it should be done.

Pete

President-Elect's Message

I am trying to prepare an itinerary of visitations to chapters still holding meetings for next year. It would be helpful if the chapter officers would send me the time, date and place of their planned meetings. Since I am on the west coast, it is a long trip to most meeting places. I would like to visit as many chapters as possible during one trip to the east coast, midwest, or southern states. If a chapter does not yet have meeting dates set and would desire a visit from the national president, I would appreciate a communication giving their name, address, phone number, and e-mail address so we can be in touch for a possible visit.

CAMPAIGNS

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

CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
August 1, 2001

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

Founder & Permanent Honorary President:
General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (Dec)

Permanent Honorary Presidents:
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General Henri Gouraud (Dec)

Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)

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128 Irving Place, Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920
PRESIDENT: James P. Pettus,
1121 N. Desloge Rd. (B-1), Desloge, MO 63601-2944

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220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95032

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Youngstown, OH 44511

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ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:

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Londonderry, NH 03053-0064

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Donald L. Segel, 650 Jacon Way,
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Newton, NC 28658-9452

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2226 Eastmont Way West, Seattle, WA 98199

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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**SEND DUES' REMITTANCE SHEETS AND
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Franklyn Drive, Independence, MO 64055

Subscription \$10.00

2001 VETERANS RDVA PROGRAM

(Rooms to be assigned - Program subject to change)

Wed., July 11

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration
9:00 am - 10:00 pm Mergers (transition) committee
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Auxiliary Bazaar
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm 222nd Chapter, 232nd 1st Bn. Chapter,
2nd Bn. Chapter, 3rd Bn. Chapter, 242nd Chapter,
232nd Auxiliary, 242nd Auxiliary
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Memorials Committee
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Scholarship Committee
6:00 pm Co. L, 222nd Dinner
7:30 pm - 10:30 pm Early Bird Dinner

Thurs., July 12

9 - 11 am & 1 - 6 pm Registration
8:30 am - 10:30 am Executive Committee Meeting
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Auxiliary Bazaar
10:30 pm - 12:00 pm Memorial Foundation Trustees
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Past Presidents Luncheon
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Joint Opening of Business Meeting
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm RDVA Business Section
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Chapter Secretaries Meeting
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm Memorial Foundation Audit

Fri., July 13

9 - 12 pm & 1 - 4 pm Registration
8:00 am - 9:30 am Banquet Table Reservations
8:30 am - 10:45 am Credentials Committee
8:30 am - 11:00 am Audit Committee
8:30 am - 11:00 am Constitution & By-Laws Committee
9:30 am - 11:00 am Budget Committee
10:00 am - 11:00 am Nominating Committee
10:00 am - 11:00 am Memorial Committee
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Auction Bazaar
10:30 am - 11:30 am Membership Committee
11:30 am - 1:30 pm Luncheon
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Auxiliary Bazaar
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Millennium Chapter Meeting
6:30 pm 222nd Banquet, 232nd Banquet, 242nd Banquet

Sat., July 14

8:00 am - 9:00 am Auxiliary Past President's Breakfast
8:00 am - 10:00 am Banquet Table Assignments
8:30 am - 10:00 am Resolution Committee
8:30 am - 10:30 am Time & Place Committee
9:00 am - 11:00 am Auxiliary Bazaar
10:00 am - 11:30 am Memorial Service
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Closing Business Meeting
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Church Services - Protestant, Catholic
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm President's Reception (Cash Bar)
7:30 pm Rainbow Banquet

2001 AUXILIARY REUNION PROGRAM**Wed., July 11**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Bazaar Set-Up - Trail Room
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Bazaar - Trail Room
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Unit Meetings: 222nd Auxiliary,
232nd Auxiliary, 242nd Auxiliary
7:30 pm - 10:30 pm Early Bird Party

Thurs., July 12

8:30 am - 10:30 am Auxiliary Executive Meeting
10:30 am - 12:00 pm Auxiliary Bazaar
11:30 am Auxiliary PNAF Buffet Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Joint Opening Sessions
10:30 am - 12:00 pm Foundation Trustees Meet
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Auxiliary Business Session

Fri., July 13

8:00 am Auxiliary Presidents Breakfast
9:00 am - 10:00 am Auxiliary Chapter Secty. Meeting
9:00 am - 11:00 am Auxiliary Bazaar
11:30 am - 1:30 pm Luncheon
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Auxiliary Bazaar

Sat., July 14

9:00 am Auxiliary Bazaar
10:00 am - 11:30 am Memorial Service
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Auxiliary Closing Business Session
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Church Services
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm President's Reception
7:30 pm Rainbow Banquet

(Final room assignments will be definite at the Reunion)

Chaplain's Prayer

We thank thee Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

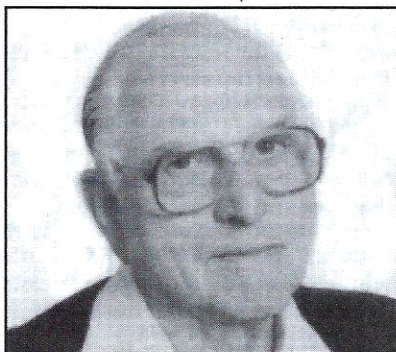
Especially we are grateful for this nation, for all those who have sacrificed their lives in its service.

Strengthen, we pray Thee, those who now labor to keep it strong;

And do Thyself be our defense against all our enemies, so that peace and harmony may ever flourish among us, and spread from us throughout the world.

Amen.

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



Vern Smith

Over the Rainbow

Even though it is Sunday, it doesn't make it any easier to notify you, if you haven't already heard it, that PNP VERN N. SMITH, while he gave the battle with lung cancer a good fight, he lost. Vern passed away March 13th in Anchorage, where he had returned after Mid-Year.

According to Vern's membership card, he has been a member of the Rainbow Division Veteran's Association since 1977. He was a Machine-Gun Squad Sergeant in Co. "M," 222nd Infantry. Vern joined 3M Company in St. Paul, MN after graduation from college and was transferred to Alaska in 1959 and remained until retirement in 1985. In retirement he was in a better position to take a more active part in the Association. He was National President during Membership year 1985-86, as well as Pacific Northwest Chapter President, Reunion Chairman in 1995 and Assistant Archivist.

Vern is survived by his widow, Ellen, sons Bruce and Brian Smith as well as one daughter, Karen Luecker and three grandchildren. It is the family's wish that instead of flowers, memorials may be made to Cancer Care or Rainbow Division Foundation.

I am very sorry for the lateness of the notification, but vital information was not available until now.

Respectfully,

Herbert A. Butt
Secretary

Archivist's Column

Seattle's now month old earthquake shake combined with a two-month outage of a bum photocopy machine, necessitating a complete replacement unit, substantially slowed archival activities. They continue, but at a slower pace.

From the daughter of a WWI, 117th Sanitary Train bugler, a thick scrapbook has been received. It contains 211 postcards and 56 photographs, illustrating

Edward Bent's many venues he visited in RAINBOW service. A most interesting pictorial record.

Val Spiegel's collateral material for his book, "ACTION IN THE STRASBOURG AREA, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE 232ND, 2ND BATTALION, JANUARY 1945" has been processed in minute detail, as yet unacknowledged. The material will add considerably to the Battalion's history.

RAINBOWER Richard Metzger has sent me his photographic collection in a unique form. He has scanned most of them and entered them on a CD-ROM and sent them along on a disk. I'm looking forward to the results of his efforts and how they might be accessioned.

Stealing a march is the slang term, referring to the War Poster "Uncle Sam Needs You," with finger pointed menacingly, "Your Archives Needs You!"

Here is how:

1. Transcribers for POW stories and those of first person recollections requiring better legibility. Contact your archivist.
2. Provide wartime correspondence to and from RAINBOW soldiers.
3. Send books about the RAINBOW's activities in two World Wars.
4. Gather and send any and all archival and manuscript, including memorabilia items to accession that represent the history of the 42nd Division.

Your archivist reminds you of his intent to attend the 2001 Wichita annual reunion with wheels. What better time to bring along your items for processing and accessioning. Ladies, What an opportunity to clean out that old junk!

Keep well and happy, In RAINBOW,

Bill Keithan

A Clarion Call

One of the most satisfying aspects of the Rainbow experience is serving on the Scholarship Committee. Each year we have the privilege of awarding two Duhacsek Scholarships of \$1000 and approximately thirty scholarships of \$500 each to children, grandchildren, and relatives of Rainbow Veterans. The high

quality of the candidates is impressive. Also outstanding are the essays they are required to write concerning how they propose to influence society in keeping with Rainbow goals promoting universal brotherhood and permanent peace.

Up to the present we have been able to provide scholarships to everyone who has applied. In order to continue this we need to raise more funds to service the increasing number of applicants.

Supporting the Scholarship Fund is one of the most effective means of passing on the noble traditions of Rainbow to future generations.

If you join Beverly Kohler's "500 Club" you can designate your contribution for the Scholarship Endowment Fund or the Scholarship Operating Fund.

You may send contributions directly to Rainbow Scholarship Fund, c/o Jon M. Janosik, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, Oh. 44511. We are counting on your usual generosity. All contributions, small, medium, large, and extra large are welcome as well as bequests. Remember they are all tax deductible too.

NOTE: Requests have been received for 32 scholarship applications. Material is being sent out to those persons. We can probably fund six more requests. Contact Scholarship Chairman Ted Simonson, 220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95030. Tel. and fax nos. are both (408) 354-0718 and e-mail is tigerted@ricochet.net.

Millennium Chapter

RDVA membership is growing steadily through its Millennium "Family" Chapter. The RDV Membership Committee is combining its efforts with the National Auxiliary and with veterans who are volunteering their time and expertise to help locate "lost Rainbow veterans. Veterans recently located for the first time are encouraged to become active members of the Association through the Millennium Chapter and within the last two months, six newly found veterans have enthusiastically joined. They, too, are interested in finding old friends and are requesting the names and addresses of men with whom they served. If you would like the National Membership Officer to locate wartime buddies with whom you have lost touch, please send your request to Membership Committee Chairman, Suellen R. McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Drive, Newton, NC 28658-9452 (828) 464-1466, e-mail JMAC1400@aol.com.

The Iowa Chapter met on April 18th at the Royal Jack in Mason City, Iowa for a noon meal and meeting. 21 attended from Iowa and two from Wisconsin. The fall meeting will be held in Waterloo, Iowa in September.

President Edwin Speich
1129 110th St.
Ottosen, IA 50570-8701

222nd Infantry Awarded Presidential Unit Citation

In 1983, while researching for "The Final Crisis," Dick Engler found a petition from General Collins, for a Presidential Unit Citation for the 222nd's defensive stand at Ohlungen. Dick sent Martin Davis, then Reveille editor, a copy of the request. Martin had many contacts with the military, but was unable to reinstate the request. He did learn that the request had been mistakenly sent to the Third Army instead of the Seventh Army. In 1996, a law was passed by Congress negating time limitations which opened the door for past requests to be considered. John McCormack, editor of the M Co./222nd Yanke newsletter pursued the matter with Congressman Lane Evans, who directed John to the Veteran's Affairs Officer in August 1998.

On January 10, 2001, John was informed that the 222nd Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The award will be presented to the Regiment during the 2001 Reunion in Wichita. In John's words, after 56 years the heroes, both dead and alive, are finally getting recognition for their deed.

Honorable Lane Evans
Representative in Congress
1535 47th Avenue #5
Moline, IL 61265

Dear Mr. Evans:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL
COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-0471

February 20, 2001

The purpose of this letter is to provide you further information concerning a Presidential Unit Citation recommendation for soldiers of the 222nd Infantry Regiment in recognition of their heroic service during World War II. You referred the recommendation to the Secretary of the Army on behalf of your constituent, Mr. John W. McCormack.

The recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation was forwarded to the Army Unit Awards Board for consideration. The Board determined that the degree of action met the criteria for the proposed award. On January 10, 2001, on behalf of the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved an award of the Presidential Unit Citation for the 222nd Infantry Regiment.

The citation and certificate for the Presidential Unit Citation are enclosed. The individual ribbons (emblems) will be issued by the Soldier Support Center, Philadel-

phia, Pennsylvania upon verification of each eligible individual's entitlement by the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri. The Center of Military History will process the appropriate streamer for the 222nd Infantry Regiment and it will be furnished from the Commander, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, Soldier Systems Directorate, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This correspondence will serve as authorization for the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to be annotated to military personnel records, pending announcement in Department of the Army General Orders.

Consistent with tradition and Army regulation, awards and decorations should be presented with an appropriate degree of formality in a fitting ceremony. If you need assistance to have this award presented, please contact the Adjutant General's office at your nearest Army installation.

It is an honor to issue this symbol in recognition of the faithful and dedicated service to our Nation by the soldiers of the 222nd Infantry Regiment.

Sincerely,

Laurel D. Cunnane
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch

Army Sets Five-Year Balkans Rotation Rainbow Division Headquarters Slated for SFOR 16 in 2004

By Major Richard Goldenberg
HQ, 42nd Infantry Division (M)

WASHINGTON, DC - Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced this past winter which active and reserve forces will see service in Bosnia and Kosovo through May 2005. After 60 years of service in the United States, the Division Colors from the Rainbow Division will again return to Europe in 2004.

The New York Army National Guard's 42d Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company from Troy, NY will lead SFOR rotation 16, from October 2004 through April 2005. The task force will primarily include the headquarters command and staff with supporting elements of the 642nd Military Intelligence Battalion.

"This is proof positive of National Guard Divisions' worth to our Army and Country," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Taluto, Deputy Division Commander. "Even though 2004 is pretty far out on the horizon, it gives our Headquarters soldiers and staff time to ready ourselves for the mission and prepare our employers and our families for our absence from home."

Army spokesman Maj. Tom Artis said the announcement provides predictability for our soldiers and units to ensure they are given adequate time to train for the Balkans mission.

"As the XVIII Airborne Corps assumes responsibility for the Bosnia mission, the Rainbow Division stands ready to support our higher headquarters if and when SFOR 16 comes up in 2004," Gen. Taluto said.

The use of National Guard divisional headquarters follows the unprecedented deployment in 2000 when the 49th Armored Division, Texas Army National Guard, deployed to Bosnia in command of Active Army combat forces conducting the SFOR mission from March - October 2000.

"With approximately 54% of the Army now in the reserve forces, the Army routinely calls on the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard to help carry out national military strategy," Maj. Artis told the American Forces Press Service for the Army's news release.

"2004 may very well mark the 60 year anniversary of the Rainbow colors again flying in Europe with the Army," noted Major General George T. Garrett, 42d Infantry Division Commander. "With a history as prominent as the shoulder patch we wear, the Rainbow will return with pride to support the Army and NATO mission of peace."

Under the plan, units from the active Army and reserve forces will continue to support the Stabilization Force mission in Kosovo, known as KFOR, for six-month periods. The Army recently reduced the length of overseas deployments from 270 to 180 days. The Kosovo Force mission will continue under the control of Active Army units. Units supporting KFOR rotations through May 2005 will consist primarily of commands from the Army's III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas; V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; and the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.

SFOR rotations from April 2001 through April 2005 include the divisional headquarters of the Army's 3rd Inf. Div., Ft. Stewart, Georgia, then the 29th Inf. Div., Virginia Army National Guard, 25th Inf. Div., Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 28th Inf. Div., Pennsylvania National Guard, 35th Inf. Div., Kansas National Guard, 34th Inf. Div., Minnesota National Guard, 38th Inf. Div., Indiana National Guard, and the 42nd Inf. Div. from New York. Units for follow-on SFOR rotations will be identified at a future date.

"The Rainbow has always been a sign of optimism," Gen. Taluto said. "After years of emergency response for New York State and division training exercises for the Army, the Rainbow Division will excel in its peacekeeping mission. We're looking forward to this mission!"

\$100 for a Shovel

by Richard Hasty
Co. I/232nd Inf.

Company I was stationed in the town of Lichtenberg, which was located high on the tallest mountain with a castle that overlooked all of the area for miles around. The Company was in third battalion reserve ready to go into action if needed.

One morning after breakfast, Howard Bless and I were walking down a cobblestone street. He turned to me and said, "Why don't we go through some of these bombed out houses?" pointing to a house with lots of shell damage. "Sounds good to me," I said, and we entered the house through a large opening where the front door used to be. Bless was in the kitchen going through the cabinets and I was in the other part of the house. I stepped over piles of old boards and debris to reach a door that led to the garage. Upon entering the garage, there was a stair landing that led to the floor below. I saw this beautiful black four-door car. Looking at the car I thought maybe we could come back later with someone to help us get it started. Bless called out to me, "Come see what I have found". Upon entering the kitchen, there was Bless with some spices and other things laid out on the countertop. Looking at me he said, "We could make a lemon pie. It's all here - everything we need". The thought of just the two of us splitting a whole lemon pie made my mouth water.

Bless said that we should check in with someone at platoon headquarters to let them know where they could find us. When we returned to our billets everyone was talking about orders to prepare to launch an attack. All of the sergeants and officers were in a meeting. After what seemed like hours the meeting finally ended and we were informed that General Eisenhower had given an order for all allied forces to attack the Germans across the whole western front. This is the attack that would finish the Germans and end the war. Gene Ryker and Philip Lock were throwing away personal things saying that they needed to keep their loads as light as possible.

During our evening meal I thought to myself that this would be the last of the good hot food. No more chip beef on toast for us. No more creamed potatoes. We were about to go on a K-ration diet. My thoughts were interrupted by O'Doherty putting his hand on my shoulder saying, "They say it's time to get some rest because we may be up all night."

Sometime after midnight we were awakened and told to saddle up, it was time to go. The company formed up and we moved off into the night. We started toward our jumping off point walking slowly through the woods. Everyone was trying to be as quiet as possible. All of the mortar ammunition bearers were beginning to sweat, partly due to the heavy

clothing that we were wearing. Sometime before dawn we arrived at the appointed spot. We were on the forward slope of a hill with a small stream between our hill and the Germans' position. All of the men of the mortar section dropped their loads and took off their field jackets to cool down. Someone said maybe we should leave our sheep skin underliners because they didn't think the weather justified our keeping them. We all threw our liners into a pile thinking that we had done the right thing to lighten our loads.

As the sun came up I said to myself that it wouldn't be long before the artillery would open up and the attack would begin. One hour passed and no artillery barrage. We were all wondering why it was taking so long to get the attack started. I was sitting down looking across the ravine toward the German lines when much to my surprise General Collins, our division commander, kneeled down beside me. This was the first time that I had ever seen the General. He asked me if I was ready to go. I replied, "Yes sir, we are ready to go." He gave me a pat on the shoulder and walked on down the line shaking hands and talking to the men. I said to O'Doherty, "You know, he is my type of General." O'Doherty said, "Mine too".

Finally the word was passed down the line that the attack would start without any artillery preparation. The reasoning from the powers above was that we would surprise the Germans if there was no artillery barrage. The next thing I knew the lead platoon moved out. Down the hill they went jumping across the small stream and on up the hill. The other rifle platoons followed their lead and proceeded up the hill. I looked at my watch, it was 10:00 a.m. The weapons platoon had a hard time making it to the top of the hill due to their heavy loads. We were all buffing and puffing and out of breath. About this time the Germans reacted to our intrusion with a rain of mortar shells and small arms fire. We hit the ground fast to make ourselves as small a target as possible. I thought to myself that this would be a good time to dig a shallow foxhole. The ground where I was lying had an outcropping of solid rock so the foxhole idea was out. There was a lot of hollering, "Medic, medic, I am hit." The Browning automatic rifles were firing making their low roar and the M-1s firing bam-bam-bam in rapid succession. The mortar shells just kept coming and I hollered over to Lock, "Do you think the shelling will ever stop?" and he said, "I sure hope so". Soon the order was given to advance and catch up with the rifle platoons.

As it turned out, we were not far behind a rifle platoon which was firing their rifles in rapid fire, keeping the Germans pinned down. As I was watching a line of riflemen about ten yards in front of me approach a German trench line, the Germans lofted several hand grenades. When they exploded they knocked three of the riflemen down. They rolled down

the embankment head over heels, and I thought that they had been killed. Much to my amazement the men got up on their feet, charged up the embankment and fired their rifles into the trench killing the four Germans. The battle was a tree to tree fight where the Germans would hide behind trees and shoot at us. When our men got too close for their comfort, the Germans would try to run. This was a mistake because three or four of our riflemen would fire at them killing or wounding them. Our medics were kept busy tending the wounded, going from one wounded soldier to another. As we advanced through the woods we came upon a large dugout with two Germans firing at us. The rifleman ahead of us, much to my amazement jumped into the dugout and killed both Germans. He was a replacement who had come overseas with me.

The company kept on the move and our advance continued throughout the day with everyone so keyed up that there was not any thought of food or water. The sun had set and the platoon was walking single file crossing over a ridge. A German on the next hill was firing his submachine gun at everyone as they reached the top of the ridge. He was either a very bad shot or his submachine gun just would not reach us. As I crossed the ridge a chill ran up and down my spine. Soon we were in the shadow of the other hill and out of danger from the submachine gun. We walked on for a few minutes to the base of a hill with an open area devoid of trees. I looked around and there weren't any other elements of the company in sight. The order was given to dig in and everyone got out their shovel and started to dig a two-man foxhole. Everyone had a buddy assigned to them to look after each other and dig foxholes together. We were all scared and everyone was digging like mad when someone hollered out, "I'll give one hundred dollars for a shovel". Needless to say, no one took him up on his offer. One man in each foxhole would stay awake for two hours then the other one would take the watch. We spent a fretful night with everyone watching for any movement and listening for the slightest sound.

The next morning we made contact with the rest of the company. While the platoon leaders were learning the plan for our next attack, we ate a cold breakfast ration. The platoon sergeant pointed at the hill to our left front saying, "That is the one, but the problem is that it may be covered with mines". The company lined up in an attack formation and soon the order was given to move out. The lead elements headed up the hill walking very slow, taking their time placing their feet in the same spot as the man in front of them. When it was our turn to start up the hill I said to Gene Ryker, "Do you think the hill is really mined?" and he said, "I don't think so because someone would have already stepped on one", I kept my eyes glued to the ground until we reached the top of the hill.

Follow-Up on French Certificate

You can contact the American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc. (not the RDVA) for forms and instructions. Also you can get a form from the French Embassy. When you fill out the form, include a copy of your discharge. You may send it to your local Veteran organization (American Legion, etc.), or the nearest French Embassy. They are as follows:

Atlanta (Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee) French Consulate "Thank You America" Prominence in Buckhead; 3475 Piedmont Rd., NE, Suite 1840, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Boston (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) French Consulate "Thank You America" Park Square Building, Suite 750, 31 St. James Ave., Boston, MA 02116.

Chicago (North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin) French Consulate "Thank You America" 737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2020, Chicago, IL 60611.

Houston (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas) French Consulate "Thank You America" 777 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 600, Houston, TX 77056.

Los Angeles (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico) (For California, send to L.A. if your zip code is under 93400.) French Consulate "Thank You America" 10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Miami (Florida) French Consulate "Thank You America" 1 Biscayne Tower, 17th Floor, 2 S. Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33131.

New Orleans (Louisiana): French Consulate "Thank You America" The Amoco Building, 1340 Poydras St., Suite 1710, New Orleans, LA 70112.

New York (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York): French Consulate "Thank You America" 934 5th Ave., New York, NY 10021.

San Francisco (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington State, Wyoming) (For California, send to S.F. if your zip code is above 93400.) French Consulate "Thank You America" 540 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108.

Washington, D.C. (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia) French Consulate "Thank You America" 4101 Reservoir Rd., Washington, DC 20007.

Divarty Air Station

by R.M. Clarke
402 F.A. BN.

Composition of the Section

To my knowledge there was no T/O for an Air Section as such when we arrived overseas. There may have been the positions of pilots and possibly enlisted crews in DivArty and each of the battalions, but there was no such position as Air Observer in the battalion.

I remember that we had 10 L-4 Piper Cubs equipped with the large engine (65 HP)—two from DivArty and two from each of the four

battalions.

All pilots were artillery officers who had gone to the artillery fight school and learned to pilot under the special conditions required for artillery observation. The observers were artillery officers pulled out of the battalions with no special training, but expected to be able to read maps and be able to adjust artillery fire rapidly.

DivArty and each battalion had a Crew Chief who supervised the maintenance and repair of his planes. Each Crew Chief had two enlisted personnel to assist him.

It was apparent that it was never planned for the Air Section to be consolidated and be remote from Division location, since no provisions were made for equipment to maintain ourselves. No kitchen stoves, no radio for the radio shack, and no automotive vehicles. We got a cook and a kitchen stove from B 402, we scrounged another stove (but that is another story [Ja-051] and got a second cook from C 392. We got an SCR 608 base radio, and two communications men (a T/3 and a T/4) from DivArty, and a radio operator from HQ 402. Each plane had an SCR 610 radio installed in it.

We had a total of 39 in the section.

Reminiscences (and Favorite Lies)

1. General Mission

We were expected to be the "eyes in the air" for the artillery of the division. We were expected to direct the fire of the field artillery units from our observation aircraft, a L-4 Piper Cub. We were also charged with locating targets of opportunity such as enemy troops, fortifications, and installations, and through communication with the Fire Direction Center by radio, giving the location of the target by map coordinates or reference point, bring fire on the target. The result of the fire was observed and adjustments made to maximize the effect.

To effectively perform these tasks, we kept a plane in the air and over the front lines at all daylight hours. The aircraft held a three-hour gasoline supply (under the best of conditions), so each patrol was relieved after one hour of duty. Most of us searched for targets of opportunity for about a half hour (or otherwise goofed off) before we returned to the airstrip.

It was during such times that targets like the supply dump [11 Mar, Bc-05; also Ja-091 and ten German tanks moving to support their troops [18 Mar] were neutralized. And a large column of horsedrawn vehicles and men were seen retreating before the advance of our infantry and were brought under fire:

one battalion of light artillery and two battalions of medium artillery quickly decimated the enemy [Be-261].

While we were in the Hardt Mountains campaign, the forward observers, who were with the infantry, had a very limited view of the battle area because of the hills and mountains in the area. The Air OPs were kept busy providing the Fire Direction Center with registrations on base points and check points throughout the sector on a daily basis. These registrations gave them daily corrections to apply to the guns to allow them to provide the infantry with unobserved fire whenever needed. One such base point was the crossroads in Melch, a little town in Alsace, easily identified from the air and located on the map in the center of our sector, so it was a perfect base point. We registered on the crossroads daily and in the process many tiles were blown off the roofs of the houses in the vicinity of the crossroads. The next day, when we went back to register again, all the tiles had been replaced, only to be blown off again.

All the pilots were rated flight personnel and as such received extra pay, 50% of base. The observers were placed on flight status, but not being rated flight personnel, we received a flat \$60 per month while on flight duty. Our flight personnel received an Air Medal for 35 missions on the front lines, and most of us received an Air Medal every 10 days, so we were flying an average of 3.5 missions per day.

We could not fly at night because there were no night instruments in the plane; in fact the only instruments we had were a compass, an air speed indicator, and an altimeter. The gas gauge was a wire on a cork floating in the gas tank right in front of the pilot. You could tell how much gas you had left by seeing how high the wire stuck up above the cowl. Our minimum speed was 42 mph (below that you would stall out), and the plane was redlined at 65 mph. The only time I saw it above the red line was near Schweinfurt, where anti-aircraft fire forced us to descend rapidly. When Lt. Simpson pulled out (well over red line), the rivets that hold the covers over the space between the wings and the body had sheared off.

We always set the altimeter at zero on the airstrip we were operating out of. One time it caused a problem. Lt. Papa came back to the airstrip with several small arms bullet holes in the wings. Ordinarily we flew at 3000 to 4000 feet above the strip and usually out of range for accurate small arms fire. Checking the maps, we found that he was flying over

Continued on page 7

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Mail to: Beverly J. Koehler, 1269 E. Manhoten Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282-5577

Divarty Air Section

Continued from page 6

peaks which were over 1000 meters above our field, so maybe 100 to 300 feet below the plane and in range of a lucky shot or two. He said that he did not know that the peaks were occupied by Germans.

Our original instructions were to stay behind the lines, but with the air superiority we had in the later part of the war, we occasionally went across the lines to be out of the flight path of our and other artillery shells. Even mortar shells, particularly 80-mm, went high enough to be in our flight pattern. One time while on a front-line mission, an 80-mm white phosphorus mortar shell was fired and the fuse malfunctioned, leaving a trail of white smoke as it flew. We saw it coming in our path and were able to dodge and miss being hit by it. Several times the planes would suddenly lurch for no apparent reason while flying on a mission, and in all cases it was assumed that an artillery shell, either ours or from some other unit, passed very close to the plane. It was a concern.

2. Eating and Sleeping

The 42d Div relieved the 45th Div and occupied their positions about 16 Feb, 1945. The Air Section was no different, we took over their airstrip in La Petite Pierre, their radio shack, and the billets they were using in the town. It was there that we first realized how much we did not have that we would need to survive during the fighting. We were remote from our outfits, and there was no way they

could support us because we came together from five different outfits, and the closest of those was over ten miles away. Food was naturally our first concern. We got a cook from B 402 and one from 392, one field kitchen (stove) from A 402. That was the only stove anyone in DivArty would give up, so we went to a supply depot in I think Luneville and tried to requisition one field kitchen. We were told that we were not authorized a field kitchen, but if we were, he could go to the third row back and get one; but he could not, so we just as well leave because he had to go and get some coffee and that he wouldn't be available for a few minutes. So when he left, we went back where he told us and got a stove.

But that was just part of the problem. We went to Quartermasters to draw rations, but they told us they would only issue rations in even hundreds. So we drew rations every third day for 100. It was feast the first and second day and famine the third, but we made out just fine using the K C, and Z rations to supplement our meals. Our cooks were very inventive, even made pizza for us once, the first pizza I ever saw or heard about. There wasn't much they could do with the powdered eggs to make them anything but barely palatable. The cook, Gross, could speak a little German and I think that he supplemented our meals with some local supplies.

When we took over their billets, I was given a room on the main street, about 2 blocks from the radio shack and ready line and over the only bar in town. The second night I was there, some 20th Armored troops came in the bar, got a little rowdy and fired a small arms round

through the floor and about a foot from my bed. I packed up and got out that night. There were about 50 to 75 houses in the town, so almost every house had one of us living there. I know it must have been a hardship for them, but I did not think about it then. We were in La Petite Pierre, also called Lutzlestein and Petersbach (all those names meant Little Rock) for about a month before the push began towards the end of the war.

We did not always have houses to stay in. When we had a strip at Langensoultzbach Fr, we were remote from any town and had to set up pyramidal tents for all operations and sleeping. I never know where they came from. Sgt Loesch got up a detail and left in a truck. He soon came back with enough tents to take care of all our needs. We did not ask where they came from because we were sure that we didn't want to know. We rarely had facilities for personal hygiene. The only hot shower I can remember until after Germany surrendered was at Wingen, an army shower set up in a big tent to service the 402 FA Battalion. We usually bathed in a nearby stream or river. It was well into April before the water was much warmer than ice. And of course we had no movies; we did not even know that there were movies anywhere near the front. We did not get out of sleeping in tents until after Germany had surrendered.

The first house we were billeted in after the krauts called it quits was at Oberaudorf. The house we were in was owned by and was a summer house for the man who owned the Carta Blanca Beer brewers, sold widely in Mexico, South Texas, and many other places.

AIR SECTION LANDING STRIPS 07-22-98 R. M. Clarke

Source	Date	Item	Coordinates	Town	Map
S-3 Rpt	17/18 Feb		656 305	La Petite Pierre	Bouxwiller 1&2
Unit Jnl	26 Feb	489	625280	LaPP	Not on any map I have may have been fall back strip
Log Book	20 Mar		813-313	Ingwiller	Bouxwiller 3-4-
Photo	27 Mar		005 402	Langensoultzbach	Lembach38/13-
Mem	29 Mar		365 455	Rohrbach	Zabern
Memory	31 Mar		391 685	Nuestadt	Zabern
Da 17	1 Apr		555 105	Lampertheim	Mannheim
Unit Jnl	5 Apr	1787	504 304	Effingen	Wurzburg
"	11 Apr	1936	WOZGFDSM	(Worms)	
"	17 Apr	2300	221 045	Langenzen	Nurnburg
"	22 Apr	2558	294 735	Wassermungenau	Nordlingen
" & Photo	24 Apr	2691	186 346	Wemding	Nordlingen
" & Photo	26 Apr	2805	237 244	Kaisheim	Nordlingen
Unit Jn	27 Apr		247 182	Donauworth	Augsburg
" & Photo	28 Apr	2959	334 056	Munster	Augsburg
"	29 Apr	3012	367 875	Muhlhausen	Augsburg
"	29 Apr	3023	334 056	Probably a mistake, see 2959 above	
" & Photo	30 Apr	3048	738 682	Mitterndorf	Landshut
	2 May	Be-01	605-904	(Dachau)	
				Perlach	Munchen
				(Munich)	
Memory	3 May	Be-01	028-743	Egmatting	Munchen
Photo	4 May		265-278	Rosenheim	
Photo	6 May		658-452	Palling	Salzburg
UnitJnl&Photo	8 May	3289	539-393	Pullach	Salzburg
Photo	14 May		308 145	Nussdorf	Schliersee
Photo	17 May		325 047	Oberaudorf	Schliersee

THE DIVARTY AIR SECTION

By R. M. Clarke
(October 1994)

See also: *Training Schedule of DivArty Air Section, Ea*
Clarke: The DivArty Air Section, Ka

Personnel

	DivArty	232 FA	392 FA	402 FA	542 FA
Pilots*	Evers Coyne	Shartman Olsen	Papa Willigan	Simpson Hucher	Bracken Murphy
Observers†	Bruner Decker	Madley Cabaniss	Feeney Rooker	Clarke Van Gilst†	DeArment Hogan
Crew Chief	T/Sgt Loesch	1	1	T/3 Mael	1
Maintenance	1	1	1	T/6 Lisenbee	1
Communications	T/4 Franks	—	—	—	—
	T/5 Donovitz	—	—	—	—
Base Radio	—	—	—	Cpl Arnheim	—
Cook	—	—	1	T/5 Gross	—

* Maj Evers (the Air Officer), and Capt Coyne; all others lieutenants.
† All lieutenants. ‡ Also Layton served briefly as Observer (Ee-04).

Anyone having the missing names is asked to contact Richard M. Clarke, 4538 Parsons Rd., Springdale, AR 72764.

Kenneth Carpenter
Pasadena, MD 63357

Dear Kenneth:

In the next Reveille - please plug and mention -

WICHITA REUNION -
PRAIRIE ROSE DINNER
THEATER - Wear your blue jeans, boots and cowboy hats (if you have them). It will be a fun evening with barbecue and cowboy music.

Thanks!!

Ralph Rundquist
(Assistant to Harvey Snapp with the Reunion)
Box 314
Assaria, Kansas 67416

CC: Harvey Snapp
Cliff Sommerfeld



Contributions:

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

Millennium Fund Raising Campaign Foundation Operating Fund

In memory of Emil W. Larson, Nora Jo Larson, 250; Robert E. Ellis, 10.

"500 Club" for the Scholarship Operating Fund

Arizona Chapter #1, Chapter disbanding, 1,000; Stanley Hasterlo, 100 (final installment)

Foundation Endowment Fund

Minnesota Chapter Auxiliary, 150 (Chapter disbanding); In memory of Vern Smith, Dee Eberhart, 100 and J. Win. Keithan, contribution; In memory of America Tancrasi, Walt and Gladys Pope, Donald

Vining, Clint Murphy, Rose Schaible and Warren A. Schultz, by Mayland D. Crosson, contribution; George W. Whitmire, 250; In memory of John Smithen, Rex Luna, Lawrence E. Nagel and Alfred Pekrul by the 2 d Bn., 232nd Inf., 100.

Foundation Operating Fund

In Memory of Vern Smith, RDVA, 25 and Theodore A. Johnson, 25; Basil Manly IV, M.D., 100; In memory of Carol Watts, Texas Auxiliary, 10; In memory of Art Lowe, MO-KAN Chapter, 50; In memory of Zoltan Nagy, Doris Hildreth, 50.

Scholarship Operating Fund

In memory of Vern Smith, Pacific NW Chapter, 25; Mid-year reunion contribution, 350; James V. McNicol, 500; In memory of George Collins, Dee Eberhart, 100 and Pacific NW Chapter, 25; In memory of Vern Smith & Zoltan Nagy, John McGovern, 100.

Dedication of the "Battle of the Ourcq River" Plaque

The plans for the dedication of the plaque to honor the WW I men who fought in the "Battle of the Ourcq River" in 1918 are essentially complete (May 1). The plaque has been forged, weighing 90 pounds and is being shipped to France - probably to the American Embassy in Paris to avoid French customs entanglements. The dedication will begin with a

parade (motorcycle escort) from Oise-Aisne Cemetery, the resting place of Joyce Kilmer, and which will include a detachment from the 1st Division, a detachment of French troops, a band, a color guard, a French veterans group, Rainbow group and other dignitaries.

After the plaque hanging, everyone will move to a reception hall for introductions and speeches. The speakers will include the mayors of Seringes et Neste and Fere en Tardenois, B/G Robert Williams, Deputy Commander V Corps, Ted Johnson, President RDV Memorial Foundation, and Jacques Darnery, from Meurcy Farm.

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