



RAINBOW DIVISION REVEILLE



42nd RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION and RAINBOW MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Vol. LXXXIII

November 2002

No. 2

Rainbow On-Line: www.rainbowvets.org

CAMPAIGNS

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

P.O.W.

Editor's Note: The Foundation is in the process of collecting stories from former Prisoners of War. If you were a Prisoner of War and fought with the 42nd, we would encourage you to contact John McGovern at 7052 Applecreek Rd., Sylvania, Ohio 43560. Tel. 419-882-5697. The following is one such story submitted by Ray Essig, Co. G, 232nd Inf.

The most disturbing situations I have been subjected to are the experiences I had as a German POW during the later months of WWII. The entire episode was traumatic, frightful, uncertain, difficult and unforgettable. During the Battle of the Bulge there was an associated German offensive in the Alsace-Lorraine region called Operation Nordwind. The 42nd Rainbow Division Infantry Regiments had been assigned to a combat zone along the Rhine River in and around Strasbourg, France from early December 1944. The Division's artillery units were still stateside. We encountered very little action until January 5, 1945 when Operation Nordwind began. The defense of Strasbourg was assigned to the Free French Army and our Regiment was evacuated from the city and dispersed along a 25-mile stretch just to the north. One rifle squad and a 30-caliber machine gun squad from our Company were positioned near the eastern edge of the village of Offendorf just before dusk on January 4th. I was first gunner of the machine gun squad and my 2nd gunner and four riflemen occupied a small pill-box 10 or 12 feet in diameter on the eastern edge of the village. As dawn was breaking the next morning, our lieutenant sent orders to retreat to a church near the center of the village. The church bell tower had provided a good view of the surrounding countryside and the lookout was able to see, through the morning mist, an overwhelmingly large German force approaching our tiny bunker.

Note: We learned later the Germans had crossed the Rhine during the night and at 7:45 on the morning of January 5th launched an attack against the towns of Gambsheim, Offendorf, Herl-

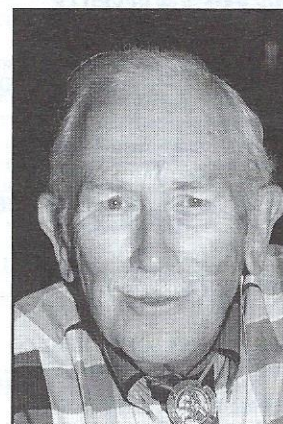
isheim and Kilstett with an infantry regiment and two battalions of SS troopers. Supporting the force were 20 self-propelled guns and tanks, 81mm and 120mm mortars, self-propelled 75mm anti-tank guns, and 75mm field howitzers and artillery. This concentrated force was attacking infantry companies so widely dispersed that they were occupying fronts normally assigned to battalions or even larger units. More important, these companies had no artillery support and initially no tanks or tank destroyers. It was riflemen against armor and self-propelled guns.

Shortly after we received orders to withdraw, we also observed the activity at ground level and without further hesitation, followed instructions. During our withdrawal, our bunker crew of six was detected by the German infantry and we were sprayed with burp gun and rifle fire. We successfully dodged the bullets and were hit only with the twigs and debris blasted from the trees along the roadway.

From the church we exchanged rifle and machine gun fire most of the day, but at mid-afternoon the Germans directed two or three tank-mounted 88 shells at the church and shortly thereafter, their Infantry broke into the main section of the church and shot several of our riflemen. I was alone guarding the side anteroom containing the stairwell to the bell tower. Hearing burp gun bursts, I looked to my rear toward an open door to the pew section of the church and saw two or three of my comrades shot, with their arms raised high. It was like watching a movie until I awakened to the reality of the situation. I was not able to see the source of the firing and not wishing to peek around

Continued on page 6

President's Message



Let me assure you that it is great to be a Rainbow Soldier, especially when you can meet others on their home ground. It is even better when you have the opportunity to break bread with them.

The local MOKAN Chapter took it upon themselves to issue some out-of-town invitations for folks to join with them on their usual monthly luncheon and to help open the Presidential year. Lo and behold, the Grimms from Lake Sherwood, the Ralph Runquists from Assaria, and post-war buddy Levan Thurman from Richmond took them up on it. We had a very nice visit all around: an auspicious start to a very auspicious year.

To get even with the Grimms, we went to visit the St. Louis Chapter with 25 of their members via Amtrak. I am not so sure that I will do that again. Going down we traveled with a soccer team of 11-year-olds bound for a tournament. The coaches felt they were entitled to at least one train ride in their lives. You don't really get much reading done under those circumstances. On the return I sensed something may not go well when we watched five freight trains go by before we ever left the Washington, Mo., station. I grew up knowing during the few trips to the farm, all trips by train meant stopping at all stations to pick up the milk cans. This time we stopped to let the freight trains go by. A four-hour trip took us almost eight. But it was in the interest of Rainbow. We have gone back and forth with the St. Louis Chapter for years and it has become almost a second chapter for me. We enjoy their friendship and grieve with them in their losses.

We are scheduled to go to the NJ meeting next week, but you can pretty well bet the farm we won't go Amtrak. We have heard about this meeting and look forward to experiencing all the joy of making new and renewing earlier friendships.

And with all the travel, RAINBOW work continues. Some of you Chapter

Continued on page 3

**CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE
December 1, 2002**

THE RAINBOW REVELLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans

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THE RAINBOW REVELLE

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DEATH NOTICES TO: Herb Butt, 16916 George
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Subscription \$10.00

Chaplain's Message

God of Life, God of Hope - in your mercy hear our prayer. Grant us those things that will lead us forward to victory in this present war against terrorism.

Refresh and strengthen, and give deep wisdom to President Bush and all those in roles of authority and leadership.

Unite our Nation in one resolve, and protect the foundations of our liberty.

In your Grace bless us at this time with Your Holy and Life-Giving Presence, that we be enabled to do what must be done at this time.

Amen.

Norman P. Forde

Chaplain (COL) USA ret.

RDVA Chaplain

WWII Memorial Tour of Europe

A 16-day escorted tour featuring Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and France will be conducted Thursday, May 8, 2003 to Friday, May 23, 2003 by Image Travel. The trip includes Rainbow battle areas in Alsace as well as all the other trail of the Rainbow battles. Join hosts Lou and Dee Kramer in this tour whose departure date was reserved exclusively for Rainbow. For further information call Image Travel at 1-800-968-9089 ext. 289 and ask for Marion Vanede. The trip is open to anyone. Cornelius Benyak of the 222nd went on this very trip a few months ago and rated the trip very highly. Depending on the area you live in, rates range from \$2,870 to \$3,290.

Army Taps New Worker to Lead Rainbow Division

Just one year after commanding all National Guard forces responding to the terror attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Army has selected Brig. General Joseph J. Taluto as the new commander for the Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division.

Known as the Army's "Rainbow Division," the Troy-based 42nd spans nine states and its units comprise about 1/3 of New York's Army National Guard force.

On the parade field of Camp Smith, New York, unit colors from every combat uniform every state of the Rainbow Division gathered to honor the outgoing and incoming division commanders. Hundreds of 42nd Division soldiers from every state were represented in the change of command ceremony. During the ceremony, Taluto received the division's colors, signifying the assumption of command responsibilities.

"From the North Country ice storm to the World Trade Center tragedy, Joe Taluto has led New York National Guard

troops during some of their most challenging and important missions. We are confident that his selection to this important post will be a benefit to the Army, the New York National Guard and ultimately the people of New York," said Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire Jr., the Adjutant General of New York.

A 1968 graduate of the New York National Guard's Officer Candidate School, Taluto is a 30-year veteran of the New York National Guard and has served at nearly every level of command. He has led Guard troops through some of their most significant state emergency response deployments including the devastating 1998 North Country ice storm and the 1998 Stillwater/Mechanicville tornado, and played a key role in the Guard's unprecedented response to the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack.

From September 18 to November 2, 2001, Taluto served as the Joint Task Force Commander for all the state's military forces performing New York City-based state missions in response to the World Trade Center attack. While in command of nearly 2,000 National Guard troops in Manhattan, Taluto led military efforts to secure ground zero, assist law enforcement credentialing recovery personnel, administer and operate relief supply warehouses, and provide additional security to key bridges, tunnels and rail stations throughout New York City.

"Everything the Rainbow Division achieved in New York City is a direct result of the hard work and tireless efforts of the men and women who willingly serve their communities in peace and their nation in war," Taluto said. "I am honored to take command of the Rainbow Division and am committed to continuing the Division's legacy of excellence dating back to World War I."

Most recently, Brig. Gen. Taluto federally mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle and was assigned to the Army's Forces Command as Director of Mobilization Forces from March 23 to June 30, 2002.

Taluto assumed command from Major General George T. Garrett, who retires this fall after 36 years of military service in the New Jersey and New York Army National Guards. Garrett served as the 42nd's division commander since 1999.

The 42nd Infantry Division is one of only 18 combat divisions in the entire Army, both active and reserve. Rainbow soldiers have the distinction of simultaneously performing duties responding to the Army in the nation's War on Terror while supporting its home state communities to assist in homeland security missions and disaster response preparedness.

The Division is an Army National Guard multi-state force of over 14,000 soldiers, including National Guard troops from New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Illinois, Connecticut and Delaware.

Mid-Year Reunion February 6,7,8, 2003 Orlando, Florida



The Mid-Year Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Orlando Airport, 5555 Hazeltine National Drive, Orlando, FL 32813. Tel. (407) 856-0100; Fax (407) 855-7991. Reservation is \$89/room/person/night king or double. Request smoking or non-smoking. Cut-off date is January 16, 2003. Complimentary airport transportation; a short drive from Disney World. Continental breakfast each morning and hors d'oeuvres each evening.

Registration fee \$40/person (free gift to all who register by January 3, 2003). Make check payable to Hugo E. Grimm, RDVA and mail to Hugo Grimm, RDVA, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357. Tel. (636) 398-5962. Contact Hugo for forms.

National Reunion July 15-20, 2003 St. Louis, Missouri

This reunion is being held by Armed Forces Reunions, P.O. Box 11327, Norfolk, VA 23517. (757) 625-6401, 1-800-562-7226. The reunion will be held at the St. Louis Marriott Hotel, on July 15-20, 2003, in St. Louis, Mo. Room rates are \$85/person plus 14.75% tax. Reservations can be made via toll-free 1-877-264-8771. The rate applies for two days before and two days after. There will be free parking and free airport shuttle. There will be a 15% discount in the hotel restaurant. We will let you know about planned tours when we receive the information. Registration will be \$40 and voluntary raffle ticket (\$5 chance on four-night hotel stay). Armed Forces Inc. will handle reservations. Forms should be available from them or by contacting Chairman Pete Pettus at (573) 431-6184 or Justin Walker at (914) 476-3508.

Birmingham Veteran's Day November 9-10-11, 2002

Veteran's Day falls on a Monday this year. Festivities will begin with the luncheon (\$18) on Saturday. Sunday will be the Dutch treat breakfast and the tour following. You will be asked to donate towards the cost of the bus. The peace banquet (\$20) will take place Sunday night and the parade on Monday.

The hotel will again be the Sheraton Civic Center. \$59/person per night plus tax. Telephone (205) 324-5000 for reservations. They must be in by October 13th. For further information, call Aileen Walker (205) 647-6815.

Recommended Reading

The following books are steadily receiving more and more acclaim:

The Black Edelweiss: A precious gift to historians and students of WWII. It provides a glimpse into the attributes that made the German armed forces a formidable foe, but squarely confronts the most painful issue facing German WWII veterans and Waffen SS veterans in particular. \$19.95 plus \$4.00 S&H.

Seven Days in January: The first detailed English language account of Operation Nordwind from the German perspective. \$19.95 plus \$4.00 S&H.

The Final Crisis: Rainbow's own Dick Engler's story of Nordwind. Vivid memoir of combat by a BAR man who later fought in the Korean War. Insights into individual and collective behavior of incompletely trained but ardent American soldiers flung into the crucible of the last German offensive in the West. \$39.95 plus \$4.00 S&H.

Into the Mountains Dark: A rising Harvard cross-country star finds himself in the lead division of history's first successful attack in the rugged Vosges mountains of France. \$19.95 plus \$4.00 S&H.

The Aberjona Press: P.O. Box 629, Bedford, PA 15522. Toll-free (866) 265-9063. E-mail: aegis@bedford.net. www.aegis-publishing.com/aberjona.html

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Secretaries have failed to let us know if you will continue as a Foundation Chapter. We expect all of you to continue, but according to the merger plan, we need to have your information. Also, dues are just about past due. HAVE YOU PAID YOURS?

MID-YEAR REGISTRATION



DATE: _____

VETERAN _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
UNIT FOR BADGE _____

WIFE/GUEST _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
NAME FOR BADGE _____

\$ _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED
(\$40 per person)

EARLY REGISTRATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Rainbow Division Veterans

MEMORIAL FILE — JULY 2001 - JULY 2002

WORLD WAR I

McGee, Charles
149th F.A.

WORLD WAR II

Aylward, Robert J. Division Band
Baker, Duane S.
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Banas, Vincent
Can. Co., 242nd Inf.
Bartyzel, Edward
42nd M.P. Platoon
Belcher, John G.
Co. D, 222nd Inf.
Bennett, Steve T.
Co. I, 242nd Inf.
Benson, Bradford M.
Co. I, 222nd Inf.
Biasiotto, Virgil F.
Co. I, 222nd Inf.
Blaszowski, Frank
Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Bouza, Reuben
Co. C, 232nd Inf.
Boyer, Gregory B.
Can. Co., 232nd Inf.
Braclett, Royce L.
MP
Brakebill, Clovis
Hqs., 542nd F.A.
Branks, James D.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Broadly, Melvin A.
Co. A, 242nd Inf.
Bryant, Broadus
H1B, 222nd Inf.
Cammers, Edward T.
Co. A, 232nd Inf.
Carlson, Walton B.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Carney, Edward J.
Can. Co., 222nd Inf.
Caserta, Frank (P.O.W.)
232nd Inf.
Churchhouse, Robert A.
H3B, 242nd Inf.
Clark, Charles K.
132nd Signal Co.
Clunk, Howard L.
Co. M, 232nd Inf.
Cohen, Harold S.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Coccetti, Allen P.
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Coker, J.C.
Bty. B, 392nd F.A.
Conley, Troy L.
Co. C, 232nd Inf.
Cooksey, Gene E.
Bty. C, 392nd F.A.
Crabb, John
Co. G, 222nd Inf.
Cronin, John E.
Co. M, 242nd Inf.

Crook, William
Hqs., 242nd Inf.
Dahlinger, Harold E.
Bty. B, 392nd F.A.
Davis, Frank W.
Hqs. Co., 222nd Inf.
Deibler, Richard Jr.
Division Hqs.
Elbert, William J.
A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Enders, Donald E.
Co. B, 242nd Inf.
Evans, Richard G.
Co. E, 242nd Inf.
Falch, Hal
Bty. C, 232nd F.A.
Faris, Max E.
H3B, 222nd Inf.
Fedick, Walter
Co. E, 242nd Inf.
Ferguson, John
Hqs. Bty., 542nd F.A.
Fishback, Watson T.
H2B, 232nd Inf.
Fisher, Watson T.
H2B, 222nd Inf.
Flannigan, Jerry J.
H1B, 222nd Inf.
Folsom, L.A.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Franklin, William
Co. C, 242nd Inf.
Froede, James A.
Can. Co., 232nd Inf.
Ganzekaufer, Edward
Co. A, 242nd Inf.
George, Wilbur R.
Co. L, 232nd Inf.
Gerber, J.E.
A/T Co., 222nd Inf.
Griffin, James P.
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Griffith, Walter D.
Hqs. Bty., 542nd F.A.
Groesback, James G.
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Hargis, Lee E.
Svc. Co., 222nd Inf.
Hassenpflug, Lawrence
Med., 542nd F.A.
Hawk, E.L.
Division Hqs.
Heaton, Thomas R.
Co. G, 222nd Inf.
Heikkinen, Solo
H2B, 232nd Inf.
Hodor, Stanley J.
MP
Holder, Rex E.
402nd Hqs. F.A.
Hough, Raymond
Co. F, 222nd Inf.
Jelinck, Frank T.
Bty. A, 232nd F.A.

Johnson, Coy V.
Co. F, 222nd Inf.
Johnson, Donald W.
Co. G, 222nd Inf.
Keller, Joseph G.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Kilpatrick, Custer W. Jr.
Hqs. Co., 222nd Inf.
Koss, Roy M.
Medic, 242nd Inf.
Kjeldahl, George
Co. F, 222nd Inf.
Kuhlbank, George
Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Lanthrip, Eaton M.
Co. M, 232nd Inf.
LaPlante, Allard
Co. B, 122nd Med. Bn.
Larson, Howard A.
Division Hqs.
LeBeau, Eugene
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Legore, Paul B.
Co. H, 222nd Inf.
Lepper, Homer L.
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Lewis, Hobart E.
392nd F.A.
Linday, Carrol L.
Bty. B, 402nd F.A.
Lipman, M. Irvin
Medics, 242nd Inf.
Livesay, Warren
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Lovercamp, Earl
Co., M, 232nd Inf.
Lyons, G. Keith
Co. B, 142nd Engrs.
Maher, Herman D.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Mainard, James C.
Co. I, 222nd Inf.
Malmquist
Co. C, 222nd Inf.
Maltbie, Kenneth
Can. Co., 232nd Inf.
Martens, Amilcar (Mickey)
Co. I, 222nd Inf.
Matuski, Henry S.
Co. A, 242nd Inf.
McAllister, William F.
A/T Co., 232nd Inf.
Meitzler, Frederick B.
Band - Reveille
Miechowski, Chester
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Milauskas, Anthony
Co. E, 222nd Inf.
Miller, Robert H.
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Mitcham, Vernon P.
Bty. A, 542nd F.A.
Mocherman, William (Rev.)
H2B, 222nd Inf.

Myers, Joe
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Nassoiy, Eugene F.
Co. K, 232nd Inf.
Newhouse, James C.
Hqs, 542nd F.A.
Nicholson, I.A.
A/T Medics, 232nd Inf.
Oeder, Harold C.
Co. H, 232nd Inf.
Oles, John S.
Co. K, 222nd Inf.
Oliver, Norman
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Palos, Jesus Jr.
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Pauchey, Henri J.
H2B, 222nd Inf.
Peltier, Frank R.
Co. H, 232nd Inf.
Peterson, Cunnard C.
Co. I, 242nd Inf.
Petrauski, Thomas F.
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Pietruszka, Anthony J.
Div. Arty.
Polifero, Pasquale Jr.
Co. D, 232nd Inf.
Poorman, Oda E.
Co. C, 222nd Inf.
Raff, Kenneth E.
Co. I, 242nd Inf.
Reese, D. Milton
Svc. Co., 222nd Inf.
Reuser, M. Joseph
MP
Rivera, Jesus O.
Co. A, 122nd Med. Bn.
Robins, James W.
Bty. B, 232nd F.A.
Rogers, Amos Jr.
Co. A, 222nd Inf.
Rosalia, Joseph
H2B, 222nd Inf.
Sabin, Fred C.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Salopak, John
Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Saunders, Clayton D.
Co. C, 232nd Inf.
Saylor, Hayes
Co. B, 242nd Inf.
Scheel, Charles
MP
Schreiber, Wilfred
Co. E, 232nd Inf.
Schwartz, Sam
Hqs. Bty., 392nd F.A.
Selvage, Donald
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Shelton, Earl T.
H3B, 222nd Inf.
Sherrard, Robert G.
Div. Hqs. (C.O.S.)

Sholar, Willie E.
242nd Inf.
Smith, Joseph
Hqs., 222nd Inf.
Smith, Lester
42nd Q.M.
Spaulding, John F.
Co. K, 222nd Inf. (Ranger)
Squires, Alvin E.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Stitt, Roy W.
Co. B, 232nd Inf.
Stayner, Reid L.
Hqs. Co., 242nd Inf.
Stillman, John
542nd F.A. Serv.
Stoneking, Ivan
Svc. Co., 232nd Inf.
Stopski, Stanley J.
122nd Med. Bn.
Suppes, Wendell J.
42nd Recon.
Szpicksi, Casimir T.
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Taylor, Fred F.
742nd Ordnance Co.
Taylor, Thomas
Co. L, 222nd Inf.
Thompson, Harlan T.
Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Thompson, Henry D.
Co. C, 142nd Engrs.
Tocco, Peter S.
Svc. Co., 222nd Inf.
Trantham, Dolph
Co. F, 242nd Inf.
Tuttle, George
Co. C, 222nd Inf.
Vance, Kenneth C.
132nd Signal Co.
Van Der Voort, Arthur W.
Co. B, 242nd Inf.
Vlasaty, Carl G.
Co. L, 242nd Inf.
Wallace, Ben
Co. H, 232nd Inf.
Walker, Clayton G.
A/T Co., 232nd Inf.
Werner, Jack
Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Wilcher, Lee
Unknown
Wilhelm, Albert K.
Co. K, 242nd Inf.
Williams, Roy
Co. K, 222nd Inf.
Witesky, Charles A.
Co. M, 222nd Inf.
Yocum, William F.
Hqs., 232nd Inf.
Young, Ernest J.
Can. Co., 232nd Inf.
Zezulka, George J.
Svc. Co., 242nd Inf.

Honored Dead (Never Belonged to Assn.)

232nd INFANTRY

Co. A

Boldi, George
 Hatton, Levi S.
 Johnson, Harry G.
 Justice, Audi
 Kettner, Kay J.
 Kutznetz, Stanley A.
 O'Brien, Gerald R.
 Rice, Leonard W.
 Rutelonis, Joseph J.
 Slinn, Arthur N.
 Smith, Harry E.
 Sotak, George
 Wendler, Donald J.

MEDICS

Ingrim, John T.
 Solof, Jack

Co. K

Berry, Roderick
 Collins, Milton
 Friedrich, Henry
 Koenig, Charles
 Martin, Earl
 North, Richard
 O'Connor, William
 Patrick, Edmond
 Roy, Sanford
 Shepherd, Loren
 Thomas, Leo
 Vint, James
 Welch, Edward

H1B

Adolphson, George H.
 Bennie, Henry D.
 Deer, Frederick
 Hardung, Joe A.
 Moser, Henry
 Mrazek, Vernon F.
 Ommen, Andy J.
 Pastirak, Joseph J.
 Raess, Roy G.
 Rains, Harold
 Salvadore, Sansone
 Schneible, Arthur
 Sorkin, Abraham
 Tomaszewski, Joseph
 Utter, Allen
 Young, Vernice

CANNON CO.

Dettweiler, Arthur L.
 Erbes, Ernest
 Kendall, Walter H.
 Kollasch, Paul J.
 Pittman, Robert F.
 Waterstrat, Edward C.
 Whitaker, Charles M.

Co. C

Grider, Robert E.
 Krcik, Jaroslav
 Mansuetto, Morano
 Mennom, Harold
 Walsma, George A.

242nd INFANTRY

Co. F

Morgan, Harold
 Peek, Harry K.
 Slinger, Robert E.

Co. G

Long, Glenn H.
 Malitzke, Glen C.
 Maybee, Ronald
 Surak, Andrew
 Tancredi, America
 Wolda, Tony J.
 Yucca, Edward W.

Co. I

Balling, Arthur W.
 Bennett, Steve T.
 Briggs, Elmer H.
 Carroll, Tommy Y.
 Cook, Charles
 Diggins, George A.
 Distefano, Vincent
 Earnest, James E.
 Flowers, Oliver J. Jr.
 Haas, Glen C.
 Hofftoege, Siero W.
 Jordan, Kenneth E.
 Kwoka, John S.
 Leiner, Charles E.
 Manes, George O.
 Mathews, Floyd
 Metz, Raymond C. Jr.
 Muskett, Naswood

Nerison, Roland C.
 Nicholls, Clarence W.
 Norton, Fred M.
 Paruszkiewicz, Joseph A.
 Penneau, Peter L.
 Reime, Raymond
 Roberts, Hugh R.
 Robinson, William H.
 Rohde, Richard
 Seifferly, Raymond J.
 Swagger, Lewis J.
 Swope, William

Co. K

Amstutz, Dorwin
 Calliot, Joseph E.
 Clay, Brinton R.
 Dale, Andrew
 Hoyle, Wesley R.
 Jumper, Frank T.
 Kingseed, Paul F.
 Lilliman, Ira H.
 Manier, Alexius
 Paschal, Arvis S.
 Reinarts, Harley
 Seaton, Elson J.
 Smolinsky, Stanley J.
 Snow, Morton P.
 Szymkowski, Norbert F.
 Tarczynski, Casimir

242ND INF.

Mason, Hughes A.

Deaths Reported Since Tulsa

Altier, Theodore A.	Co. D, 232nd Inf.	Marshall, Elmer F.	A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Barrat, Glen C.	A/T Co., 242nd Inf.	Mayberry, William E.	Co. H, 222nd Inf.
Bass, Wesley H.	Co. A, 232nd Inf.	Mays, Ben J.	Co. E, 232nd Inf.
Boren, Homer C.	Co. B, 242nd Inf.	Nowak, Walter I.	Unknown
Bowman, Milton R.	Co. D, 232nd Inf.	O'Connell, Frederick	Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Caggiano, Michael O.	H2B, 222nd Inf.	Opkins, Larry J.	Hqs. Co., 232nd Inf.
Campbell, Jack	Co. B, 222nd Inf.	Parry, Russell	Co. G, 242nd Inf.
Christi, Gray L.	Co. F, 222nd Inf.	Prytula, Michael Sr.	Bty. C, 542nd F.A.
Damiano, Samuel A. Sr.	742nd Ord. Co.	Rohr, Wilfred	Co. M, 232nd Inf.
Deane, James A.	Hq & Hqs, 222nd Inf.	Shoemaker, Benjamin	Bty. A, 232nd F.A.
DeCroot, William C.	A/T Co., 222nd Inf.	Seifferly, Raymond	Co. I, 242nd Inf.
Erb, Charles (Rev.)	Hqs, 222nd Inf.	Siebold, Lester	Unknown
Fava, Frank	Co. B, 242nd Inf.	Stocker, Robert	A/T Co., 222nd Inf.
Gordinier, Ted E.	Co. M, 222nd Inf.	Townsend, Eugene F.	Co. M, 232nd Inf.
Hade, Robert L.	H3B, 232nd Inf.	Trolio, Joseph R.	A/T Co., 242nd Inf.
Hoekstra, Richard C.	Bty. A, 392nd F.A.	Underhill, Harvey	H1B, 232nd Inf.
Jelsing, Quinton	Co. A, 242nd Inf.	Walker, H. Dale	Co. I, 232nd Inf.
Ladlee, Richard	H3B, 232nd Inf.	Wilson, Robert W.	H3B, 222nd Inf.
Lang, Charles F.	H1B, 242nd Inf.	Wyolda, Tony J.	Unknown
Leiner, Charles E.	Co. I, 242nd Inf.	Zepplin, Byron B.	Co. M, 232nd Inf.

42nd Rainbow History Book WWII

This is the 2nd revised reprint of the condensed copy of the WWII blue history book. A complete update of all Rainbow memorials and monuments around the world inside the back cover. All written material from the original book, plus selected number of photos make up the interesting book. The cost of these books is \$5 plus \$1 for postage. Checks are to be made to R.D.V.A. and mailed to Hugo E. Grimm, P.O. Box 1200, Lake Sherwood, MO 63357. These Rainbow books make a great gift for children and grandchildren.

Over the Rainbow

It is our sad duty to report the passing of our beloved Chaplain, Father Charles Erb. Father Charles Gerard Philip Erb, Society of the Divine Word, was ordained a priest in 1933. He volunteered for military duty in World War II and was assigned as chaplain in the 222nd Infantry Regiment. He entered the infamous concentration camp of Dachau on April 29, 1945. Of the 1,100 Catholic priests held there, he found 15 members of his own order who soon identified themselves priests and brothers. Father Erb stated that the final official count of clergymen in Dachau was 2,720 Catholics, 137 Lutherans and 57 other denominations. 1,034 clergymen lost their lives there. Father Erb took two of his brethren, one ordained with him in 1933, out in his Jeep.

From 1947 on, Father Erb was a missionary in Ghana, West Africa. He completed his missionary work and returned to the USA in 1977. After several years he returned to Ghana to continue his work as a hospital chaplain. In the last 10 years, Father Erb has retired to New Jersey and Illinois. A truly saintly man, Father Erb will be sorely missed.

P.O.W.

Continued from page 1

the corner to evaluate an unknown scenario, I chose to run up the stairs to join the riflemen in the bell tower. After another 88 shell hit the tower, we were instructed by either our Sgt. or the Lt. to surrender. One of the riflemen spoke German and hollered down from a hidden area of the stairwell. We were able to surrender without further casualties. Having seen the actual shooting of some of the riflemen on the first floor and perhaps being more frightened than the other teenagers in our group, I was the last to come down from the bell tower. Had I known what lay ahead, I would not have been so compliant.

We were taken across the Rhine River and marched for several days through sections of the Black Forest to a POW camp near Stuttgart. A few days later we were loaded into railroad boxcars, 60 or more to a car, and spent the next week or ten days traveling north and then east across Germany. This was the first very difficult experience we had as POW's. The boxcar conditions are well depicted in such movies as *Slaughterhouse Five* and the documentaries of the Holocaust. Space was limited, and one could not lay down or even sit without overlapping arms and legs with adjacent bodies. This was perhaps a blessing in disguise, as the winter of 1944-45 was the most severe in northern Europe in 18 or 20 years. Other than body heat, there was no heat in the cars and other facilities consisted of but one slop bucket. By this time many of the prisoners had dysentery, making the conditions even more repugnant. During this trip I recall that we had a bucket of water or were unloaded briefly to eat some snow two or three times. Our food rations on only one occasion was a loaf of country rye bread for eight prisoners. Our rail route took us to Frankfurt, then Leipzig and then to Stalag 4B at Muhlburg on the Elbe River. The train moved only at night. During the day we sat in rail yards or on sidings and on one occasion Allied bombers hit the rail yard where we were parked. Our car bounced around on the track and the walls were punctured by several bomb fragments and the little hinged, barbed wire covered window on one end of the car was blown open. I don't recall any of the group in our car being wounded during the raid. There was no way for us to observe or assess the damage to the yard or to the other boxcars. After a few days in Stalag 4B at Muhlburg (north of Dresden) we marched to a work camp, Stalag 4A, about 25 miles south and east of Dresden.

In the 1940's and early 1950's, up to the Vietnam era, except for the Baatan Death March survivors and perhaps Air

Force personnel who had no control over when their aircraft would be shot down, it was not popular to be an Ex-POW. For USA ground troops, the general attitude seemed to be either death or dishonor - much the same as the Japanese Kamikaze pilots. Many U.S. soldiers participating in the European operations during WWII have similar stories, but some details are different and perhaps worth describing. Some are humorous, some pathetic and some are simply a little unusual.

We were captured by seasoned combat troops, dressed in winter white camouflage capes and helmets and apparently they had spent some time on the Russian front. They seemed quite short in stature, under 5'5", but appeared to be almost as broad in the shoulders! They were pretty rough with their captives. We were ordered to keep our hands on top of our head and herded into a small barn where our pockets were emptied and any rings, watches or other items of supposed value were confiscated. Wallets, pictures and trivia were tossed on the ground. We were closely guarded, but the Germans who were going through our pockets had their rifles slung on their shoulders and if there was not strict compliance with the orders, they grabbed their rifle straps and swung the rifle butt into our ribs or kidney areas - the action was effective and our response was quick. I escaped the punches, mainly because the kraut cleaning my pockets discovered two or three 45 caliber pistol shells and wanted to know where I had dropped my pistol. He held the shells in one hand, somewhat under my nose and kept asking, "Pistole?... Pistola?... Pistolay?" I pretended not to understand and after a few minutes he gave up trying, but by then things had settled down and we were marched off toward the Rhine River and the Siegfried Line.

One of our group, Edward Smith, had a severe leg wound and we carried him in a small wagon-type vehicle for several miles. He would wince and grit his teeth at each jolt along the path we followed. (He survived POW status and later reported that he had been treated fairly well.) At one point, several of us tried to carry Smitty over a stream on a rustic footbridge with a handrail tied on one side. The bridge was quite narrow, and foolishly we tried using four men to do the carrying. I slipped off the bridge and was immersed up to my waist in the icy cold, swift-flowing stream. This caper did Smitty no good, but after they got him a few more feet toward the landing side, I was able to pull myself back onto the bridge. It took a few days to get thoroughly dried out.

We marched in small, closely guarded groups and after crossing the Rhine River, any plans or hopes of escape were abandoned. About the second

night we were herded into a barn for safe keeping. There of course was no heat, but there were several piles of hay, which made us somewhat comfortable. It was there, when I pulled my knees up trying to get my legs and feet under my overcoat, that I discovered I still had my trench knife stuck inside my combat boots. Since we were well guarded and on the eastern side of the Rhine in the dead of winter and quite subdued by casualties of war and not just practicing a scenario of Hollywood heroism, it seemed prudent that I just slip my trench knife into the hay pile and shiver myself to sleep.

The next day we were standing near the main building of the farm and I saw one of the cooks from our Company inside the door of the kitchen, bedecked with an apron! I was able to briefly ask him what was going on, and he shrugged his shoulders and said he had been directed to work in the kitchen. Willie had a distinct German accent and could remind one, by both his manner and stature, of the lovable Sgt. Schultz in the television series *Hogan's Heroes*. I had assisted Willie on the previous Christmas Eve on the outskirts of Strasbourg when he baked dozens of loaves of bread in a village baker's wood-heated oven for our Christmas dinner the next day. I did not consider "Villie" a traitor or turncoat, then or now - he was just doing what he knew best and what he had been ordered to do.

After being captured, we were marched to the east and a bit north to our first Stalag. The camp was near Ludwigsburg, north of Stuttgart and at a distance of over 100 kilometers from our last locale of combat. We were traveling lightly as we had no weapons, ammunition, blankets, backpacks or food supplies to hamper our movement. It was still an ordeal as January was damp and very cold. Most of us were fortunate to have overcoats, but we did not have winter footwear nor other winter clothing. The area we traversed was over rolling wooded hills in the vicinity of the Black Forest. I recall seeing a road sign pointing to Baden-Baden, a famous resort town, and we must have traveled near the town of Pforzheim on our way to Ludwigsburg. I learned many years later that four of my father's cousins resided in Pforzheim! My grandfather had immigrated to the United States from the village of Calw, which is in the Black Forest about 26 kilometers south of Pforzheim.

At one rest stop on our journey to Ludwigsburg we were allowed to enter a small pub or beer hall and given a wedge of dark bread to eat. It was a little surprising to see three or four boys, who appeared to be no more than 11 or 12, in one of the guest areas joking and laughing and drinking beer.

To be continued

My Wartime Memoirs

Dear Ken,

Here is a copy of a letter from a German soldier I received a while back. As you can see, he fought against us in Wurzburg. Thought it may be an interesting article for the "Reveille."

He refers to the southern part of Wurzburg which was 222nd area with Co. "C" on the southernmost part of town. The action by the hospital was the 232nd sector.

I am not sure, but I think the town of Augsburg and Gasing was in the 42nd Division sector.

I think it was pretty nice the way the soldiers handled their questioning of Rudolf about his photograph.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dan Schaetzel
Co. "C," 222nd Inf.

My personal details are as follows: I was born in 1927 and until I was 14 years of age I lived with my grandfather on a farm at the Ammersee which lies west of Munich.

My three-year apprenticeship in a bank was interrupted on April 1, 1944 when I was 16. I was called up to the RAD (Reichsarbeitsdienst = labour service of the Reich). After my military training on the 88mm cannon with an anti-aircraft unit in Regensburg, I was posted to Paris.

Because of the invasion on June 6, 1944 in Normandy and the advance on Paris by the Allied troops, we were sent back to Germany because of our age and in October 1944 sent to a pioneer company in Ingolstadt. After this training my comrades went to the East Front. I was chosen for an NCO (non-commissioned officer) course which was to begin in February 1944 in Mittenwald by Garmisch. The West Front rolled further over the German borders. The Allies already stood in the middle of Germany shortly before Wurzburg.

As a result our company was transported by trucks to Wurzburg at the end of March 1945. Armed with infantry weapons, we marched from Rottenburg, which lies south from Wurzburg, into the ruins of Wurzburg at the beginning of April. The bricks of the burnt and collapsed houses were still warm from the allied bombing which 10 days earlier had destroyed 85% of the city.

The order which came from GFM Kesselring to the city commander Oberst R. Wolf was to defend every house and street to the last man.

As we approached the city cemetery near the Residenz (southern sector) we suffered our first wounded. We ran into heavy American machine gun fire. Afterwards we took up positions on the railway embankment east of the city cemetery. Divided by a subway, this embankment had to be held. We had not yet been properly briefed on our defense positions when suddenly an American jeep, probably by mistake, came through the subway into our area. In the following exchange

of gunfire, the driver of the jeep was killed and the passenger taken prisoner.

The weather was fine the next morning when we were posted to the embankment. We lay between the rails and hardly had any cover from the machine gun fire. A US spotter plane, a light aircraft with limited speed and known by us as "lame duck," directed accurate grenade fire at every movement. Our losses were very high. By rescuing the wounded our medical officer was killed. Towards evening things quietened down.

At dawn of April 3rd or 4th, we received orders to launch a counterattack. We took over about half the street opposite the embankment. Towards midday we were forced back to our starting position on the embankment by American tanks. The result of this senseless action was wounded and dead. The chocolates and cigarettes from the jeep captured in the action was like a present for us. We had not had any food in the past two days. At night during the pause in battle we searched the accessible cellars of houses for something to eat.

In the afternoon of April 4, with the help of a comrade, I carried one of our wounded to the field hospital on the "Monchsberg." Today it is a US hospital. In the entrance hall lay 20 unattended American and German soldiers. Shortly before reaching the hospital on an open clear space we were shot at several times. Despite that, we arrived at the hospital uninjured. We had to leave our weapons in the garden of the hospital.

After delivering our wounded comrade, hospital nurses suggested that I stay there and surrender later to the American troops. Since I was only 17 years of age I struggled with my thoughts over what I should do. I thought what would happen to me as a prisoner of war or if the SS came to the field hospital. I decided to leave but couldn't reach my company anymore as the American troops had advanced further. By taking a detour, I managed to reach another company near Rottendorf and there had to man a machine gun.

During the six days of this senseless battle in Wurzburg, 1,000 of the 3,000 German soldiers lost their lives. I don't know how many dead and wounded the Americans suffered.

In the following evening our troop of about 40 men set off in an easterly direction to Dettelbach am Main. There we were forced in a southerly direction towards Zirndorf near Furth (Nurnberg) up to Ingolstadt. During these three weeks of withdrawal (with the occasional exchange of fire) all done by foot we only had cold food. In Ingolstadt we had our first warm meal.

After crossing the Danube at Ingolstadt, two of us lost touch with our company. We decided to walk back to our home town of Dasing near Augsburg which is 60 km from Ingolstadt. We arrived there on the night of April 27-28, 1945. The following morning the Ameri-

cans marched into our village. About six American soldiers came into my parents' house. A picture of me in uniform stood on the radio. A German-speaking American asked me if I was the person in the photograph. I replied that this was my twin brother. He smiled and accepted my reply. Already dressed in civilian clothes, I avoided being taken prisoner.

The war fortunately had ended for me.

Rudolf Decker

Pfarrer-Grimm Strasse 22

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Story of an Unsung Hero

It was late in WWII when the brass decided to have a little R and R in lower France. So they found this French dance hall. I, being a mess sergeant, was put in charge of refreshments. I was cleaning up the bar. The band, to my right, was warming up. There were two French women across from me, in the hallway, where the rest rooms were located. At the end was a kitchen. We were all busy when a supply sergeant with a can of gas for the stove appeared. I watched him hook it up and light it. The line had a leak and caught fire. He grabbed the can and tried to run but, being attached to the stove, it pulled out of his hand and whoosh! It went up as gas does.

The band broke up and went out the plate glass windows. The sergeant followed. I remembered a fire extinguisher in the storage room. I got it but the fire was so hot that the ceiling started to fall down. I ran upstairs to get people out of their apartments.

I came downstairs and outside. I met a sergeant I knew and asked him to come with me because I knew where I left the extinguisher. Between us we put the fire out just as the fire engines came up the street. Everyone was saved!

S/Sgt. Joseph Kurz

Mess Sgt., H3B 232nd Inf.

Fund Raising

It was very heartening after the June Fund Raising letter to get enough contributions to require more than the back page of the September Reveille to record them. However, after the initial surge, contributions have taken a precipitous drop, in total dollars if not in numbers.

The needs still remain. We have been able to grant Rainbow scholarships to all who have completed their applications. This has required as much as \$30,000 each year.

There are many Rainbow memorials in this country and in Europe, many of which have been added since the Foundation was formed. These require occasional maintenance, and wreaths are laid at some of these.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

The Memorial Foundation supports archives that will be available to Rainbow descendants and researchers for many decades, if not centuries. There are now about 1/2 million Rainbow descendants and more are arriving every day.

The Foundation is also supporting an oral history project, thanks to Mary Kenny and the Millennium Chapter, that will make individual Rainbows' stories available for future generations.

The Foundation is also supporting the publication of more than 100 Rainbow POW stories.

The Foundation maintains a web site that enables Rainbow descendants to locate their ancestors, and to learn about the battles they fought.

The Foundation has assumed the burden of organizing reunions as the WWII veterans are less able to handle this task.

As the year is ending, this is an opportunity to give memorial contributions for the 700+ Rainbows killed in Europe and the thousands that have since died.

RDVMF Family Files

A reminder to our veterans that the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation Family Information continues to be recorded in the RDVMF Family Files. The Rainbows.org web site "Family" page describes this project,

and includes instructions for submitting the information by U.S. mail or by e-mail. The submitted information is recorded and printouts of the records are returned to the senders for review. Veterans who have no computer access may submit "Family Information" to Dee R. and Barbara C. Eberhart, 750 Vanderbilt Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926.

POW Stories

The Rainbow POW stories publication is reaching the end of the tunnel. Stories that are received before the end of the year can still be part of the book. If you would like your story published, notify Millennium Chapter Secretary Suellen McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Drive, Newton, NC 28658-9452, as soon as possible and send her the completed document prior to January 1, 2003.

Memorial Foundation

2002 FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND

John R. Glistner, 10, in memory of Dad, John G. Glistner; Ruth Marie Carroll, 24, in memory of Rev. Orrin T. Carroll; William J. Finley, 100, in memory of Co. G, 242nd; Evelyn I. Bleil, 20, in memory of Harry T. Bleil; Nicholas S. Matera, 50;

Ruby Miller, 100; Charles Podhaiser, 50; Robert L. Rooker, 100; Robert B. Turfin, 10; Clarence E. Graves Jr., 50; Sam J. Russo, 100; John C. Bruffey Sr., Frances E. Mannion, 10; Gerald Eisner, 50; Orville J. Field, 20.

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Forest C. Scott, 50; Maj. Gen. Robert C. Davenport, 25.

SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND

Mandy Donaldson, 10, in memory of Allen Ahlfield; Eugene McKinney, 50, in memory of John P. Igoe, 392 FA; John J. Willsey, 50; Willard A. Nelson, 50.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

PNW Chapter Auxiliary, 500.

SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND

PNW Chapter Aux., 500, in memory of Vern Smith, PNP, Co. M, John Spalding, Co. K, Gene Cooksey, 392 FA, George Kulhbank, Co. K, 242; Anonymous, 500, in memory of Frank D. Graves, 1st Lt. John D. Fitchet; 222nd Aux. 185.55; 232nd Aux., 200; Jean Hollar, 50, in memory of Dad, Ray Hollar, 132nd Signal Co.

FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND

222nd Aux., 185.55; Field Artillery Aux., 250; Betty Owen, 10, in memory of Hazel Messig, WWI Aux.

"500 CLUB"

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

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