

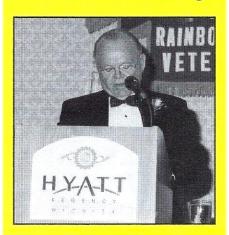
# REVEILLE

VOL. LXXXIV

SEPTEMBER 2003

NO 1

# Foundation Chairman's Message



Rainbow greetings to all of you fellow Rainbowers, from the youngest Millennium Chapter member to the eldest of we old-timers. On July 19, 2003, in St. Louis, at the close of the annual reunion, our last RDVA meeting was conducted by outgoing president Herbert Butt. It was a great reunion, filled with fun, laughter, camaraderie and the fellowship we regular reunion attendees have come to cherish. Everyone with whom I had contact said the whole affair was wonderful.

WONDER best describes the fact that the final RDVA Reunion is not, was not, and WILL NOT BE the last hurrah of our beloved Rainbow.

**DOUBT**: The business meetings of both organizations maintained a determined focus on the task, and the job of transferring all of the essential activities and adopting a new Memorial Foundation Constitution and By-Laws was efficiently completed.

MIRACLE: We had our own Miracle Worker in Dee and Barbara Eberhart, who so capably led the Transition Committee through three years of labor to craft a process and organizational structure that was acceptable to everyone present.

Continued on Page 2

#### **CAMPAIGNS**

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

#### St. Louis Reunion a Hallmark!

Approximately 462 Rainbowers gathered at the Airport Marriott Hotel July 16-20, 2003 in St. Louis, Mo. (the 84th reunion). This reunion was put on by the Armed Forces Reunion Group and they did a marvelous job, spearheaded by Molly Dey, who seemed to be everywhere at any time. She was extremely gracious and was a font of information at all times.

This reunion was the occasion where the Association was officially dissolved, and we continued on as "The Memorial Foundation." Basically everything remains the same and gives us more time for social matters. Pete Pettus, the Reunion Chairman, and his wife Rose performed admirably in handling the nuts and bolts of all activities. Business meetings were smoothly carried out and many Rainbowers availed themselves of the many tours offered. Others inhabited the various hospitality rooms to partake of the old camaraderie.

At the second business meeting your editor's old foxhole buddy PNP Ted Johnson was presented with a plaque recognizing his countless Rainbow contributions including the inception of the Memorial Foundation concept.

The Memorial Service was conducted by our three chaplains, Father Forde, Father Weiss and Rev. Willemmssen. It consisted of the Invocation; hymn, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"; Scripture readings; prayers for departed, comrades; reflections on Rainbow in this war year 2003; the National Hymn, "The Star-Spangled Banner"; and the rendering of "Taps"

The banquet was emceed very ably by D. Ray Alford. VIPs at the head table were PNP Pete and Rose Pettus; PNP Ted Johnson and daughter Julia Sturgeon; President Herb Butt and Arnietta Schwab; PNP Ted Simonson; PNAP Dee and Redcap Lou Kramer; PNP Father Bob Weiss; Auxiliary President Marge and Redcap Gerald Eaton; Mr. and Mrs. Alford; and St. Louis Chapter President Richard and Esther Pierce.

Most moving was the changing of the guard: President Herb Butt turned over all the Association business to Foundation Chairman Bill Kenny at 9:30 p.m. The Association become the always remembered past. The champagne hour followed, conducted by our own Ted Johnson in his unique and somber style. The retiring of the colors followed.

We hope we will all be able to attend the Memphis reunion next July. God bless Rainbow and God bless America.

## PNPs at St. Louis



Left to right, front: Ted Johnson, Charles Marshall, Ivan Wallace, Hugo Grimm, Rube Evanoff, John Carr, Dee Eberhart, Don Segel. Back row, left to right: Romeo Fagiolo, John McGovern, Bill Kenny, Dick Tisch, Harold Melinek, Pete Pettus, Ted Simonson, and Herb Butt. Father Bob Weiss present but not in photo. Not present: Herb Klinedinst, Fred Goldsmith, John Keyser, Dolian Harris, John Whisler.

#### PNAPs at St. Louis



Left to right, front: Frances Marshall, Oriana Grimm, Winnie Baldock, Pearl Segel, Joanne Dart, Myrtle Wallace. Left to right, back row: Dee Kramer, Grace Walker, Barbara Eberhart, Delores Kallaher, Mildred Fagiolo, and Betty Owen. Loretta Schneider present but not in photo. Not present: Ginny Duhacsak, Nan Klinedinst, Mary Brewer, Catherine Woods, Bea Miller Rodgers, Tiny Trout, Beverly Koehler, Peggy Fleming, Jean Kemmerer.

#### THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the **RAINBOW Division Veterans** Memorial Foundation

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# Chaplain's Message

A Prayer for the President of the United States and All in Authority

O Lord our Governor, the whole world is filled with your glory: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that we may follow your guidance and live in your peace. Give to the President of the United States and to all in authority in government, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them always to remember that they are called to serve this nation in the fear of your righteous judgments. And as we pursue the present War on Terrorism, may the goal be to establish peace and freedom in all the world. Amen.

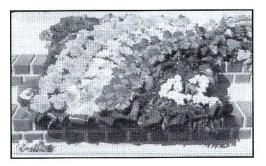
Norman P. Forde Chap. (COL) USA ret. RDVA Chaplain

# **Wolfgang Robinow** Receives Germany's **Highest Civilian Award**

We received notices from both Harvey Snapp and Warren Koenig regarding the awarding of "The Bundesverdienst Kreuz, First Class." A good translation is "Federal Cross of Merit," and Wolf got the highest class signed by the President of Germany and presented by Dr. Stoiber, the Governor of Bavaria. This was because of the talks he gave to high school students during the past eight years. The talks were primarily about the Rainbow's entry into Munich, about people he had arrested and people in the internment camp he ran in 1947-48.

Wolf was born in Germany but escaped to the U.S. in 1938. He joined the Army in 1941 and ended up in military intelligence. After serving in British intelligence, he was attached to the I&R Platoon of the 242nd Infantry in March 1945. Both Harvey and Warren recall that Wolf led the way and was the first American soldier in Munich. Wolf now lives in Munich and was responsible for the 50th celebration Rainbow anniversary reunion in Munich.

# 42nd (Rainbow) Wreath at Navarin Farms



# Foundation Chairman's Message

Continued from Page 1

ASTONISHMENT: The Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. with its president's wife, Molly Dey, in command and with excellent support from members of the St. Louis Chapter carried off a reunion that was astonishingly smoothly run.

MARVEL: Do you remember Captain Marvel of comic book and Saturday serial movie fame? He was a sort of pseudo Superman. Well, our very own Marvel, Rainbow Chairman James "Pete" Pettus, was a real superman in seeing that everything that had to be thought of and in place for the reunion was done to perfection. Pete is a quiet type, but he always gets the job done. This bodes well for the upcoming midyear reunion in Tucson, Arizona because Pete has agreed to serve as chairman for this bash also.

SURPRISE: No! I am not surprised that we have so many dedicated people, but I am enormously aware of the challenge before us, and as Chairman of the expanded 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, I am both humbled and challenged by the good work so many of you have done in the past and will continue to do to see us through to a flourishing future for Rainbow. I will work to be worthy of the company I have been privileged to join.

Now, to speak of the immediate future: The way to enjoy Rainbow to the fullest is to be involved, to meet other Rainbowers, to enjoy the company of some of the finest people in this land. Your very next, very best opportunity to do this arrives on November 9, 10 and 11 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Immediately ahead for me, President Fr. Robert Weiss, and the 24 members of the Board of Trustees is the study of a series of recommendations for amending the constitution and by-laws adopted in St. Louis. The trustees will be hearing from me in a few weeks when I send them individual assignments. The membership will be hearing of the work the trustees will accomplish before and during the mid-year reunion in Tucson, both at the meeting and in future Rainbow Reveilles. As your Chairman, I welcome any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have. Please feel free to write or e-mail me at 220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95030 (tigerted@mail.com).

Yours in Rainbow, Ted Simonson

# National Reunion July 13-18, 2004

# Memphis Marriott East Memphis, Tennessee (800) 627-3587 or (901) 362-6200

The Memphis Marriott is located at 2625 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38118. The Marriott is located just minutes from the Memphis International Airport. Please contact the hotel directly for accurate driving directions. For your shopping pleasure, two malls are 5 to 20 minutes away. Indoor and outdoor pools, a health club, sauna, whirlpool, and exercise room gives guests the perfect opportunity to relax. Valet and dry cleaning services, safety deposit boxes, in-room iron/ironing board, and morning complimentary coffee in the lobby are just a few of the services offered for hotel guests' convenience. Hotel parking is free and ample. Check in time is 3 p.m. and check out is 12 noon. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are also subject to availability. Please be sure to request these types of rooms when making your reservation. Blue Shoe Bar & Grill (American) open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Corky's Bar-B-Que, nearby, is open for lunch and dinner. Folks Folly, a steakhous nearby, is open for dinner. P.F. Chang's China Bistro, a Chinese restaurant nearby, is open for lunch and dinner. Room service is available.

The Marriott provides complimentary shuttle service from the Memphis International Airport. The shuttle runs from the hotel on the half hour. Upon

arrival at the airport, proceed to Baggage Claim. A phone is available in this area to call the hotel for pick-up. You may want to consider other transportation, as space is limited on complimentary services.

RV parking is allowed for guests of the hotel. There are no hookups on the premises. Graceland KOA Campground is approximately 6 miles from the Memphis Marriott. Please call 866-571-9236 for information, reservations, and directions. Please make your reservations at least three months in advance.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at 888-441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

# 56th Annual Veteran's Day Nov. 9-10-11, 2003

#### Birmingham, Alabama

Once again, arrangements have been finalized by the very capable Aleen Walker.

You must register directly to Sheraton Civic Center Hotel, 2111 Richard Arrington Blvd.,, Birmingham, Ala. 35203. Tel. (205) 324-5000. \$59 plus tax. When you call the hotel, ask for the front desk and in-house reservations. Otherwise, you will be shuttled to a central booking operator who will have no listing for the special Rainbow rate. The schedule: Nov. 9 – Evening get-together at the hotel. Nov. 10 – Rainbow breakfast, special organ performance, awards banquet. Nov. 11 – Memorial service, luncheon, and parade.

Tickets to award dinner: \$20 Peace Luncheon: \$18 Bus: \$10 Total: \$48

Send money for the above to Aleen Walker, 2121 Red Hill School Road, Hayden, AL 35079 no later than Oct. 12, 2003. Tel. 205-647-6815. See you in Birmingham!

# **New Jersey Chapter Meeting**

The New Jersey Chapter Rainbow will be holding their semi-annual reunion on October 1-2-3, 2003 at the famous Port-O-Call Hotel, Ocean City, New Jersey. All Rainbowers, family, and friends are most welcome. For more information, call John Harrison (215) 860-6348 or Harold Melinek (908) 860-6348.

#### **Dachau Survivor**

Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD, a survivor of Dachau concentration camp, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by a group of lay persons in Poland and India where Fr. Marian has worked since 1948.

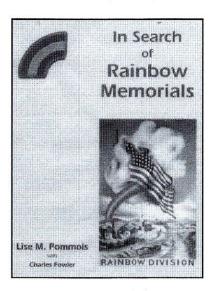
Since 1975 Fr. Marian has worked in the city of Puri where he organized a leper colony. Today there are more than 600 permanent residences in the colony. Children receive special care in the colony's school. The colony also has its own hospital and dental clinic, as well as a textile factory, tailor shop and clothing store. There is also a shoemaking unit which specializes in designing and making shoes for residents whose feet have become disfigured by leprosy. Residents raise vegetables and chickens to supply food to the colony.

In writing to the Nobel Committee, the nominators wrote:

We are strongly convinced that real and permanent international peace depends very much on the lives and actions of individuals who inspire the hearts and minds of people in order to build up a harmonious world society. Therefore, we understand that Fr. Zelazek's achievements deserve international recognition. It is because of these reasons that we nominate Rev. Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD, for the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

# Mid-Year - Tucson, AZ

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL (OR XEROX)
National Rainbow Division Veterans - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM REUNION DATES: July 13-18, 2004
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RATE: \$79.00 + tax (currently 15.95%) for 1-4 people in room.  CUTOFF DATE: 6/14/04. After this date, reservations will be processed on space & rate availability.  CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 6pm on your arrival day.  All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit enclosed. AMEXDINERSVISAMASTER CARDCARTE BLANCHEDISCOVER
CREDIT CARD NUMBEREXP. DATE
SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method)
Mail to: Memphis Marriott East, 2625 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38118



#### The Book Shelf

"In Search of Rainbow Memorials" by Lise M. Pommois, distinguished author of "Winter Storm" and the Memorial Foundation's first honored member, with Charles Fowler, Memorial Officer, should be on the bookshelf or coffee table of every Rainbower. Locations, descriptions, and pictures, plus driving directions to. Rainbow memorials are compiled and presented in a single document.

This book contains much more. It profiles leaders and other Rainbow men who rose to prominence and provides a running Rainbow history of WWI and WWII. This book is great for use as a reference work. The final photograph is of the inscription engraved in a pillar in the Strasbourg Cathedral, France, which reads in both French and English: "1944-1945 In Memory of the American Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers Who Gave Their Lives to Free Alsace.'

To secure your copy, contact Aegis Consulting Co. at 432 S. Juliana St., Bedford, PA 15522. You may also order by phone (814) 623-8308, fax (814) 623-8668 or e-mail aegis@bedford.net. The price is \$14.95 plus \$3 S&H.

NOTE...RETRACTION: The price of the book was quoted in error as \$13.95 in the Regimental Colors last newsletter. They have asked me to apologize for them. The book sells for \$14.95 plus \$3 S&H.

# **General Henning** Linden's Chateau

I read with great interest the article submitted by Herb Altneu of the Anti-Tank Company of the 242nd Inf. in the April issue of the Rainbow "Reveille" about his 3rd Platoon. They were to provide protection around General Henning Linden's Headquarters' Chateau located in Strasbourg, France in December 1944.

I would like to continue the article from

about the 28th of December 1944 till about the 6th of January 1945, if I may.

My 1st Platoon from Company "B" 222nd Infantry was assigned to provide this protection of General Henning Linden's Headquarters of which I was a member. My 1st Platoon lost many on the morning of January 25th when we stopped the German attack at Uhlwhiler, France and earned the Presidential Unit Citation. How many of this 1st Platoon are still around that served on this detail I am not sure. We were not issued any knives as Herb Altneu was as they must have felt that we could use our bayonets if the occasion arose that we would need them.

My assigned guard post was near the back of the Chateau near a brick wall that had broken glass embedded on the top so if someone tried to get over the fence he would be cut in the attempt. Also, it looked out over the railroad tracks that went through the city of Strasbourg. Our quarters were located in the servant's near the Chateau and were the best I had while in France except when in the hospital. The food was also top-notch.

I remember New Year's Eve listening to the artillery duel over the Rhine River, between the U.S. artillery whoever they were, as ours were not in France yet, and the German artillery. One other incident I remember well was the time I rode shotgun on a jeep with the Surgeon General and his driver to a Field Hospital located in some small town outside of Strasbourg. I got a scenic tour of the city and country side for my only time I ever volunteered for a duty that I can remember. A number of the 1st Platoon were also lost on the morning of March 15, 1945 as we were the point of the 222nd Inf. when the 7th Army launched the major attack to drive the Germans out of France. I also left the company around noon on that day when hit by a rifle bullet, never to return to the company. It earned me an airplane ride home in late April 1945 of which I can give God the credit for His protective hand.

Lou Kramer 36984021 Co. "B." 222nd Inf. 42nd Rainbow Division

## The Aid Man

The author of "The Aid Man" which appeared in the June 2003 issue of the Reveille was Dr. Marvin Green, 1540 Clair Pt., Valley Stream, NY 11580. Marvin served in the medical detachment in the 232nd Field Artillery Battalion.

# Thank You, Norm!

Your editor would like to thank our photographer, Norman Vaughn, for his superlative work ethic and enthusiasm in being everywhere and everyplace at our reunions. His sacrifice to Rainbow is greatly appreciated and made note of by all Rainbowers.

#### Over the Rainbow

Morton John Barnard, former Captain Division Headquarters. He served as Assistant Division Judge Advocate, Morton was one of the original trustees in on the inception of the Memorial Foundation. He delivered the Rainbow tribute at General Collins' gravesite in Salzburg in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, his son, James W. Barnard (a member of the Millennium Chapter), two granddaughters and two grandsons.

### Grandson Carries On



Lewis K. Waterhouse S/4, grandson Wilbur R. Miller. Retired. MSG. who served in the 142nd Engr. (C) Co. C of the 42nd Division, is a member of the 42nd Divi-(Rainbow) sion National Guard serving in the 142nd Aviation

Company. His specialty being a Helicopter Mechanic. In which he has served five and a half years.

After the 9/11 attack in New York, his unit was deployed to NY to assist authorities there, staying almost two months. His unit was also deployed to Medina, NY, where they assisted the Border Patrol, staying there for 10 months.

Lewis has attended five Rainbow National Reunions with his grandparents. He is a life member in Rainbow and also a member of the 142nd Engr. Chapter.

He will leave the National Guard on 13 August 2003 at which time he will report to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he will begin his induction into the Regular Army.



## In Memoriam

The RDVA has always had members known for their loyalty and dedication. Herm Bergeth was one of this group. When transferred from ASTP to Camp Gruber, he decided that he did not want to be just another GI "embedded" with the 42nd, he was going to be the best soldier in the outfit. He continued on this path until badly wounded at Furth, following which, he was hospitalized for over a year. When he came to his first National Reunion and found none of his old L Co. 222 cronies on hand, he went into action. The next year, 10 were present. He then started the "Annual L Co. Banquet," complete with programs, patriotic music and a forum for treasured memories. Those in attendance considered it the highlight of every

With similar enthusiasm, he worked tirelessly for the Wisconsin Chapter and was proud to see it shine as one of the best in the Association.

In recent years, Herm served as National Vice President of the Western Area and also as Liaison Officer. In this capacity he visited hotels all over the country arranging for future reunions. The contracts he negotiated were always meticulous and financially favorable. Even as his health declined, he continued to contribute, relying on the unfailing help of Joan, his spouse of 50 years.

Herm Bergeth will be remembered. He wore the Rainbow on his shoulder. He wore the Rainbow in his heart.

# The Burial of Charles G. Paine Jr.

# 42nd Div., 242nd Inf., Co. G, 2nd Platoon

On June 7, 2003, long-time Membership Chairman at Arlington National Cemetery, about 50 family members and friends gathered together at the chapel for Charlie Paine's memorial service. The resident chaplain said a few words followed by Charlie's brother Lou, who told family stories and spoke of their childhood in Maine at a family camp.

Bill Kenny, who had accompanied Charlie on the mission that precipitated his receiving the Silver Star, spoke next. He described the circumstances they encountered when they found themselves behind enemy lines and told of Charlie's heroism which led to his receiving this medal. Bill described Charlie as one of the most brave, fearless individuals he ever knew.

Richard Rausch, a prominent educator in West Hartford and Danbury, Connecticut, spoke next. He outlined Charlie's numerous contributions in his chosen field.

When we left the chapel, we were met by a full military band and a cadre of soldiers in full dress assembled to lead the funeral procession to the gravesite. A team of six white horses, mounted by soldiers in uniform, along with one gray riderless horse, boots turned backwards in the stirrups, pulled the caisson draped with the American flag.

At the gravesite a chaplain recited the 23rd Psalm. A three-volley gun salute followed, and then taps. Finally, the uniformed pallbearers ceremonially folded the flag and solemnly handed it to Irene.

The ceremony was most impressive and well deserved for a man who in the words of Richard Rausch was "a patriot who fought in war and peace for what he believed in and what our country stands for yesterday, today and tomorrow."

# **Bravery Remembered**

by David Hartwig

Forced by Japanese troops to join the Bataan Death March, a U.S. Army chaplain is bayoneted and left for dead. Found by Filipino guerrillas, he recovers and helps direct guerrilla attacks against the Japanese. Wounded again, the chaplain is captured and becomes the only officer ever to beat a Japanese court martial.

Now a prisoner of war, he is put on a ship bound for Japan that is bombed by the Allies. Injured, he swims ashore, saving a non-swimmer on the way. He steals a U.S. flag from a Japanese soldier and hides it under his clothing until he could give it to a fellow chaplain, asking that it be sent to his family in case of his death. When the war ended, he is one of the first soldiers sent home due to his medical condition.

No, this man is not the subject of a new World War II movie coming soon to a theater near you. This is the story of local priest and war hero, Father John E. Duffy, who was inducted posthumously last fall into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in Columbus.

Born June 26, 1899, in Lafayette, Ind., John Duffy fought in World War I with the Rainbow Division. Just a teenager, he saw 11 months of front-line action.

After the war, he prepared for the priesthood by studying at the University of Notre Dame, St. Louis University and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati. He also later taught at St. Louis University and at the seminary.

John Duffy was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Toledo on June 2, 1928, at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Toledo by then Bishop and future Cardinal Samuel A. Stritch.

From 1928 to 1932, Fr. Duffy served at three parishes in the diocese: St. Wendelin in Fostoria, St. Ann in Fremont and St. Ann in Toledo.

In 1932, Fr. Duffy was commissioned a First Lieutenant Chaplain of the U.S.

Army. Later that year, he sailed to the Philippines and build Holy Cross Church, where he served as pastor until he returned to the United States in 1936.

For the next four years, Fr. Duffy was stationed in Texas and Massachusetts. In 1940, Fr. Duffy returned to the Philippines, where he built another church, Our Lady of Lourdes, in Pampanga.

In that year, tensions and conflict between the Philippines and Japan escalated. When armed conflict reached Pampanga in 1941, Fr. Duffy served in the defense of Clark Field, where he administered absolution to all casualties during the battle and helped bury over 100 dead, including five Japanese soldiers

Soon nations in the Pacific were embroiled in World War II. After the United States entered the conflict following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, General Douglas MacArthur transferred Fr. Duffy to the North Luzon Force to serve under General Jonathan Wainwright in Bataan. When the Japanese overran Bataan, Fr. Duffy was forced to surrender and join the infamous Bataan Death March.

During the horrific march, Fr. Duffy was bayoneted twice, and left for dead. He was rescued by Filipino guerrillas and helped direct their guerrillas activities. Later, while he was in a hospital being treated for blood poisoning, Fr. Duffy left the hospital to avoid being captured by Japanese troops.

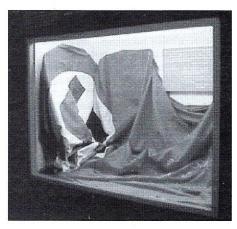
Despite that successful escape, the Japanese did capture Fr. Duffy on January 5, 1943. He was beaten unconscious and brought before a Kemptai Court Martial to be tried as a guerrilla. Remarkably, he was not convicted, making Fr. Duffy the only U.S. officer to ever beat a Japanese court martial.

As a prisoner of war, Fr. Duffy traveled from the Philippines to Japan on two Japanese "Hell Ships." The first ship was sunk, and despite wounds in his arm and neck, he still helped a nonswimmer reach the shore. The second ship also was bombed. Three hundred men were killed instantly, and Fr. Duffy was injured, but he still helped the wounded.

During his service, Fr. Duffy once stole an American flag from a Japanese soldier. He tied it around himself, hiding it under his uniform, until he could deliver it to a fellow chaplain. Fr. Duffy ordered the chaplain to deliver the flag to his family if he died during the war.

In 1945, still a prisoner of war, Fr. Duffy became ill and was sent to a prison hospital in Manchuria. When Japan surrendered, ending World War II, Fr. Duffy was immediately transferred to a Chinese hospital.

At last, in September 1945, he was able to return to the United States via Calcutta in India, Cairo in Egypt and Casablanca in North Africa. He retired from the army as a full colonel one year later.



# **Symbol of Triumph**

World War II. May 1945. Allied military victory in Europe by air, naval and ground forces. Jubilation by the living. Profound sorrow for those who made the supreme sacrifice. This story is about one particular unit – the 305th Bombardment Group – whose actions were linked to those of the 42nd Infantry Division. The common bond was Schweinfurt, Germany.

After VE Day, Major General Harry J. Collins, Commander of the 42nd Rainbow Division, sent to Major General Carl A. Spaatz, Commander of the Eighth Air Force, a large Nazi flag that had flown over Schweinfurt when the Division captured the city just weeks earlier.

General Spaatz personally selected the 305th Bombardment Group to receive this trophy. The 305th was based at Chelveston Airfield, north of London, England and near the town of Rushden. Chelveston was one of three bases from which B-17 Flying Fortresses flew their missions. The field was capable of accommodating about 3,000 personnel and 60 Flying Fortresses.

Schweinfurt, center for the manufacture of low-friction ball and roller bearings, was a major strategic target for allied bombing attacks. Roughly half of the German bearing roller industry was located in this city. Missions deep into the continent from England very often were without fighter cover because of the distances involved. Fighter escorts typically had to turn back over Aachen, which was just inside the border of Germany. The first mission of the 305th occurred on August 17, 1943 during which two aircraft and crews were lost. The 305th's second mission, however, was without parallel.

"Rightly called 'Black Thursday' by veterans, the October 14, 1943 mission to Schweinfurt, Germany was the most arduous of the war. Incredibly, of the 15 group aircraft able to participate in the mission [18 B-17's took to the air under adverse weather conditions but three aborted], the Luftwaffe claimed 13, and 130 crew members. Rocket-firing German Messerschmitt-110's and Messerschmitt-210's destroyed most of the 305th

BG before they even reached the Rhein River – some 115 miles short of the target." "In just 22 minutes, 10 of the 15 B-17's from the 305th Bomb Group had fallen to the enemy."

"Only three of the group's B-17's made it to the target area – one of those crews released its bomb load while the aircraft burned. Only two B-17's and their crews managed to survive the long trip back to England. Of the downed airmen, 40 died and 20 were wounded, while another 79 became prisoners of war. Four airmen evaded capture and eventually returned to duty, while the remaining crewmen spent the war interned in Switzerland. No group ever again suffered the horrendous 87% attrition rate the 'Can Do' group did that October day."

"Chelveston's loss ratio was probably the heaviest ever suffered by any American air unit." "The 305th suffered more casualties than any of the 19 other bombardment groups that participated."

For that October 14, 1943 mission, "291 B-17's left England, 229 bombed the target, and 60 bombers were lost. Crew casualties amounted to 639 men." "The battle over Schweinfurt has been called the most savage battle in the history of air warfare." "Many historians consider it the world's greatest one-day air battle of World War II."

"The 305th lost 117 airplanes during the war and 665 men were killed in action."

The presentation of the Nazi flag to the 305th took place in June 1945. The banner headline of the Rushden Echo & Argus newspaper proclaimed, "Chelveston Holds the Schweinfurt Flag"; a picture caption read, "A great assembly in the main hangar greets the arrival of the Schweinfurt flag."

Colonel Henry G. MacDonald, Commanding Officer, presented the 8-by-15 foot flag to members of the 305th Bomb Group saying,

This flag behind me was flying over the city of Schweinfurt when the 42nd "Rainbow" Division captured the German ball bearing center with only 60 casualties. Major General Collins, commander of the 42nd, decided the captured emblem would be a fitting symbol of triumph for the Eighth's air warriors. Accordingly, he sent the flag to General Spaatz, who selected the 305th because our operations were typical of the Eighth's performance on the crucial Schweinfurt missions. I'm sure you all join me in thanking the "Rainbow" Division for this trophy, which is the first of its kind to be given to an air force in this theater. The inscription reads, "The 'Rainbow' has avenged your losses at Schweinfurt."

"In April 1945, after more than 20 bombing attacks in 18 months, much of the city of Schweinfurt was left in ruins. Although only the ball bearing factories had actually been targeted, collateral damage to the city center and surround-

ing areas was severe. Over half of the houses in Schweinfurt were uninhabitable. During the war, the city's population dropped by 50 percent due to departing refugees."

The final ground assault against Schweinfurt began on April 6, 1945 when the Rainbow Division, having been directed to take the ball bearing capital. moved out of Wurzburg and started northward... with the 4th Division on the right and the 3rd Division on the left. Chief obstacle to be overcome in taking the city would be the rings of 88-mm guns which defended it. These guns were originally placed as anti-aircraft defenses to guard the ball bearing factories, and they had made the city one of the most costly targets ever attacked by our air force. Now the same guns could be used as a defense against ground troops. Town by town, the Rainbow advanced toward Schweinfurt, moving forward against fire from 88-mm gun's and automatic anti-aircraft weapons as well as infantry defenses. By April 10, the Division had fought its way through the outer defenses of the city. It was decided first to completely circle the objective. Now air power was called in to smash the German artillery defenses. The [medium] bombers flew three raids on the city and a total of 192 planes dropped their bomb loads on its defenses. When the 88-mm guns opened fire on the planes our artillery opened fire on them and effective counter-battery fire destroyed many of the installations which would have checked the Rainbow advance. Despite counter-battery fire, 15 planes were damaged. The 42nd Division artillery also poured shells on all roads leading out of the city and prevented any mass flight of enemy troops from the city. The three infantry regiments attacked from different directions and, despite fierce opposition, moved into the city - a city almost entirely destroyed by bombing and artillery fire. Rounded up in the city and its outskirts were 3,000 prisoners, which made a total of 6,680 German soldiers captured by the Rainbow since it left Wurzburg. During the same time the Division cleared 100 square miles of Nazi territory and captured 50 towns and villages.

Moving now to the present, Mr. John Craven, Newsletter Editor of the 305th Bomb Group Memorial Association, wrote, "At our reunions a large Nazi flag has been displayed, always to memorialize the 305th's second mission to Schweinfurt where 13 of the 15 planes sent didn't make it back. So a Nazi flag has been part of our tradition." Mr. Glenn Nelson, writing about the flag said, "It reminds us of that day on the raid on the ball bearing plants in Schweinfurt, Germany. We called in 'Black Thursday' because we were almost completely wiped out and it took some time to rebuild our combat crews and aircraft as well as

Continued on Page 7

#### A Tale of Two Wars

Any serious historian will readily admit each war has its own distinctive characteristics. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the analysis of the war our Rainbowers fought as compared to the recent War on Terrorism as played out in Iraq. Upon reflection, though, we do recognize some similarities along with undeniable differences.

#### **SIMILARITIES**

All wars are hell. Whether they are fought willingly for a noble cause or come as a result of a historic imperative, it is an unfortunate fact of history that war is a recurring reality of the human condition. As of now, no one seems able to prevent periodic episodes from breaking out.

As we watched the recent War in Iraq unfold from our front row seats in the living room, it was inevitable that we make comparisons. Many long forgotten images of World War II flashed through the minds of the men who fought in it. Those who could only stand and wait on the homefront in the years from 1941 to 1946 became eyewitnesses to this recent conflict.

In both wars, young men took the journey from the innocence of boyhood to the strange, new realm of death, suffering, and loss. These young people traveled through the defining moment of their lives characterized by the intensity of feeling inherent in combat and the development of lifelong friendships with their comrades in battle.

As the current crop of servicemen trooped along in the heat and dust of a faraway desert securing bridges over the Euphrates, it was reminiscent of other foot soldiers trooping through the cold, white fields of France in the winter of 1945. They too secured bridges, but they were over the Rhine and the Danube.

Unfortunately, common to both wars are casualties resulting from friendly fire. No matter what preventative measures are in force, there will always be casualties inflicted by our own. Accidents happen. Civilians today are taken aback, as well they should be, but it is no surprise to those who have been to battle that friendly fire is a fact of war.

In both wars it was exhilarating to witness the vitality, enthusiasm, and patriotism of the youth who are called to fight. Today's soldiers are highly trained, well-spoken young men and women who would make any American proud of the country that produces citizens such as these.

In WWII, the Army consisted mostly of boys recently out of high school or college who either volunteered, were called up or drafted. They had little military training before they were shipped to foreign fields, but what they lacked in skills they made up for in vitality, enthusiasm, and love of country just as their

counterparts today.

Both wars were precipitated by an attack on our country by an enemy intent on destroying us. The first at Pearl Harbor, the latest at the World Trade Center. These unprovoked attacks caused our citizenry to mobilize quickly as they became acutely aware of the dangers in the world we live in.

There is one enduring certainty in all wars. No matter how proficient the technology, and the War in Iraq was a technological triumph, in the end it is the infantrymen, the foot soldiers, who are the backbone of any fighting force. No war can be won without brave, young soldiers confronting the enemy on the ground.

#### DIFFERENCES IN THE WARS

A stark difference is in the preparation for these two wars. In the Iraq War, we had an all-volunteer army fully equipped to go into battle. In WWII we had mostly citizen soldiers with no military training, caught in the web of history. The country was unprepared for massive military movements.

There was a real lag between the time young men were sent into battle and the arrival of the necessary artillery and special forces. Soldiers were often orphans on the battleground.

A major difference in the two wars was the absence of women in WWII. In Iraq, women were very much in evidence, especially noticeable when two of them were taken prisoners of war. We were also made aware of the many soldier-mothers who were forced to leave small children at home when they went off to battle. This is a new aspect of military service.

The proficiency of communications was a stark contrast in the execution of the two wars. In World War II, the Post Office was the center of communication. Snail mail, as it is known today, took weeks and months to arrive both at home and at the front. News of the war came only sporadically on the radio and in the newsreels. The whereabouts of loved ones was mostly unknown to those waiting anxiously at home.

In this latest conflict, embedded reporters brought news of the battles 24/7. Families kept in touch with their loved ones on the Internet, through Web logging, and sometimes cell phones. Many were aware of the location of the various units as they progressed.

As far as casualties are concerned, we lost more men in battle in one day in WWII than in the entire conflict of Iraq. The duration of the wars was another stark contrast. WWII took years, the War in Iraq only weeks.

In WWII victory was decisive; in this current war, victory is more elusive. World War II brought peace for more than half a century. What the War in Iraq will bring remains to be seen.

Mary C. Kenny May 15, 2003

# Symbol of Triumph

Continued from Page 6

morale." Mr. John Collins Jr., Colonel USAF (Ret.), was a pilot and Operations Officer of the 305th Bomb Group from September 1943 to October 1945. In his words, "The presentation [of the flag] remains one of the finest stories in World War II history and a source of great pride to the members of the 305th."

In order to ensure preservation of the flag for future generations, it was donated in 1967 to the United States Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "The banner is part of the national collection of the Air Force. It is on display in the Museum's Air Power Gallery, where it helps tell the story of the end of World War II in Europe. The inscription on the banner reads: 'The Rainbow has avenged your losses at Schweinfurt in the summer of 1943. This flag was captured by the 222nd Inf. 42nd (Rainbow Div.) on April 12, 1945. Harry J. Collins, Maj. Gen." The display placard reads, "Nazi banner captured at Schweinfurt, Germany by the 42nd Rainbow Division, U.S. Army, on April 12, 1945. It was sent to the AAF's 8th Air Force in England by the Commanding General of the Rainbow Division in recognition of the heavy losses of aircraft experienced by the 8th in bombing the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt in 1943. Donated by Lt. Gen. William E. Kepner, USAF (Ret.), Orlando, Fla."

The author is greatly indebted to: John Collins Jr. of Alexandria, Virginia, John Craven of Middlebury, Vermont, Marlyn Gillespie of West Des Moines, Iowa, and Glenn Nelson of Cleveland, Ohio, all of the 305th Bomb Group Memorial Association; Ardella Ramey of Research/Hellgate Press; Leslie Shores of the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming; and Susan Carlson of the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Without their help, the writing of this history would not have become a reality.

So ends the chronicle of the Schweinfurt symbol of triumph that began 60 years ago at Chelveston Airfield in England. Members of the 305th Bombardment Group and of the 42nd Rainbow Division justifiably take pride in their respective roles.

George A. Cramer (Sgt.), Weapons Division Company K, 232nd Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division May 2003

#### **Memorial Foundation**

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND

2nd Bn. 232nd Inf., 150, in memory of Louis G. Sandaut, Ignazio R. Vazquez & Ray A. Bottrell; Jean D. Hollar, 100, in memory of Dad, Raymond D. Hollar, 132nd Signal; Mayland Crosson, in memory of James Robert Collins and Charles Paine, G, 242nd; Harry J. Collins Chapter, 125, in memory of Rex Luna; 232nd Auxiliar, 1,000; 222nd Auxiliary, 141; James E. Kanost, 500; Charlotte Ogg Garske, 25, in memory of Herm Bergeth; Mayland Crosson, in memory of Glen C. Maletzke; Kelly J. Cobb, 350.

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Charlotte Garske, 100, in memory of husband, Al Garske; Charles Fowler, 50, in memory of Herb Bergeth; John L. Whisler, 100, in memory of wife, Jane Keohe Whisler; Jean Hollar, 100, in memory of Dad, Raymond D. Hollar; Leo M. Abraham, MD, 25, in memory of Marty Pawlak; Faye Keithan, 40, in memory of Marilyn Hasterlo.

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# Merger

The many meetings of Chairman Dee Eberhart's Merger Committee and the mailing of the new Foundation Constitution & By-Laws to all dues paying Association and Auxiliary members resulted in a smooth transition at the St. Louis reunion. A number of minor changes were made in the new C. & BL at St. Louis and the more substantive suggestions for change were deferred for discussion at future reunions.

Fears of the "End of the Rainbow" were abated with the smoothly functioning reunion and the announcement of the midyear Feb. 13-15 in Tucson, the 2004 reunion in Memphis and the 2005 reunion in Milwaukee.

## **POW Stories**

We were able to bring a few "draft" copies of the POW book to the reunion. Collecting and editing the stories is essentially complete. We are still attempting to contact a few of the authors or their next-of-kin to show them the edited version of their stories. Because the book is getting large, most of the stories not connected with combat or prisoner of war time were omitted. We are also attempting to add WWII-era pictures to the stories. These will be mostly the pictures taken at Camp Gruber.

**Company Rosters** 

Val Spiegel still needs help typing company rosters. Nearly all the infantry companies are complete, but I believe there were supporting troops there (artillery, etc.), although I missed them by being captured January 18th. Once these rosters are complete, they will be available to any authorized researcher. Val will send rosters and instructions to anyone who volunteers by contacting him by e-mail at spiegel-val@worldnet.att.net.

**Fund Raising** 

Although the 232nd Auxiliary gave a couple of the funds a boost with \$1,000 contributions, the Scholarship Fund is slowly shrinking. Thanks to Virginia Duhacsek's outstanding gift a few years ago, no scholar that completed the application has been turned down. This happy situation may end in the next year or so without the addition of substantial funds.

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