



RAINBOW DIVISION  
Veterans Memorial Foundation

# REVEILLE

VOL. LXXXVII

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NO. 2

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

## Chairman's Message

Once, on a side trip after a New Jersey Chapter Reunion, I visited Eleanor Roosevelt's private residence in Hyde Park, NY, and came away with this quote: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that's why they call it the present."

The occasion that brought this to mind again was a quick visit to a doctor for an angiogram, a day for recommended angioplasty and the surprising placement of seven stents in my coronary arteries. This gave me two days of inactivity (one at the hospital and another at home (Actually, Patti Hughes' home) and then back to work with increased stamina. Lucky me!! The whole episode involved no pain or strain; I've had hangnails that were more aggravating.

However, signing a "Foot High" stack of disclaimers indicating I knew doctors were fallible and that losing all future "presents" would be my own fault did get my attention. It sharply reminded me that the daily gift of "presents" will not continue forever and that there were some things that ought to be completed as soon as possible and others that should be enjoyed now.

With "Rainbow" and the twin goals of completion and enjoyment in mind, by the time you folks have read this I will have visited the Eastern Region reunion in Troy, NY, and the Northwest Chapter reunion in Long Beach, Washington. I will also have followed these with a few days in Birmingham celebrating Veterans Day. Enjoyment in all three venues is guaranteed. I will have seen a lot of you great folks at all three. It is both my goal, and great hope, for the future of Rainbow as well, that the Troy meeting will be the "break-through" occasion for starting a flow of 42nd Mechanized Veterans into our Rainbow Foundation family.

While I do not foresee a turnout of the Mechanized vets at our

*continued on page 7*

### CAMPAIGNS

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

## Birmingham Veterans' Day

February 20-22, 2007

Laughlin, NV

Please make your registration and hotel reservations as soon as possible.

The hotel is the Ramada Express hotel. The hotel rates will be \$18 per night plus tax. You must give the Rainbow Code number to get this rate. The code number is 11520. You can call the hotel seven days per week 7 am until 10 pm. The telephone number is (800) 243-6846.

If you are flying you will probably fly to the Las Vegas Airport. There is bus transportation from the airport to Laughlin. But the departure times are limited to 6:30 am, 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm. The fare is \$65.00 round trip. It is about an hour and a half drive one way.

Because the hotel rates are so low compared with our normal Mid-Year rates we feel that renting vehicles and driving would be the best way to go. Most everyone should be able to find others to share a rental car or van with if you wish. RV's can be parked on the hotel parking lots at no cost, but there are no hook ups available.

Please note, as the registration form shows, the jet boats are limited to 34 passengers. Therefore the first 34 registrations will get the group rate of \$59 per. Others can get the regular rate of \$65 on a second boat.

We won't know until Feb. 1 if the Gold Mine will be open. If so those who want to can tour it. The cost is \$12 per adult.

Our Tuesday lunch and Thursday dinner will be covered by the registration fee. The other meals will be on your own.

## Story of a Patch

It's dirty with dirt from a hundred holes, and the dust of a hundred cities, and the stain from manure and grass and floors.....

It was bright and shiny when it started and it graced the clean, neat coat of a youngster; but now, like the youngster and the coat, it has grown old and tattered with war.

In its infancy, it rode through liberated France amid never ending cheers from a people who loved delicacies more than freedom itself and they would pay with their very own souls.

As it neared the Rhine; the roaring cannon, and the formidable man-made lines, it felt what many feared— the inevitable clash- the inevitable clash!! Yet, when it came, even the wary and pessimistic were surprised by its suddenness and force.

There on the frozen soil of Alsace-Lorraine a battle flared, and beet fields became battle fields; quaint old farms became modern forts, and a neighbor's yard was "no man's land" . For every rainbow there were a hundred Iron Crosses, but though it was overwhelmed, it never retreated. It saw other patches, stained with blood, buried with their silent owners. It saw snow and ice and sleet and rain and holes half full of mud and water. But the duped fanatics had failed in their try for the Gem of the Rhineland.

Later, when the weather and the Lord were with it, the patch started on its long and tiresome journey into the land of its enemy-towards its one goal - peace.

It crossed the Rhine and the Mainz and the Danube and took Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Nuremburg and Munich in the South and a thousand little towns and hills and holes.

Now, it's work is done. A new patch- a new jacket- a new war- only the man is the same. May the threads always hang and the dirt always stay on the tattered patch I love.

*Written in May of 1945 by  
S/Sgt Theodore A. Johnson*

**DUES ARE DUE!!!**



**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**

Official Publication of the  
RAINBOW Division Veterans  
Memorial Foundation

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**THE RAINBOW REVEILLE**

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## Chaplain's Prayer

Almighty God, by your grace we all gain courage by looking at the lives and achievements of our heroes of all the wars that we have fought to gain and maintain freedom for all. We lift our hearts in gratitude for all who have lived valiantly and died bravely that there might be truth, liberty, and righteousness in our land. Help us to prize highly and guard carefully the gifts which their loyalty and devotion have bestowed upon us. May we all be true as they were true, loyal as they were loyal, and serve thee and our country selflessly all the days of our life and at last receive the victor's crown.

Amen.

Norman P. Forde

## We Get Letters

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

Headquarters, 42nd Infantry Division  
(Mechanized)

New York Army National Guard

137 Glenmore Road, Troy, New York 12180

July 10, 2006

Office of the Commanding General

Rainbow Division Memorial Foundation

Dear Comrades of the Rainbow Division:

I am honored to have received your invitation to join with our fellow Rainbow Division combat veterans, their families and descendants in order to sustain our spirit of camaraderie and remembrance.

I regret that military operations here in New York keep me from joining you all personally. During this year's annual reunion of the Rainbow Division Memorial Foundation I will be conducting training and operations with today's 42nd Infantry Division troops across the State of New York. From responding to the recent flooding in New York's Southern Tier to deploying forces to assist our nations's homeland security along the Southwest Border or simply conducting the annual training preparations that keep our Citizen Soldiers manned, trained and equipped for any contingency, know that the modern day Rainbow Division continues in the same spirit of sacrifice found in the Rainbow Soldiers of war past.

I especially appreciate this opportunity to share my words during the reunion's Memorial Service.

For nearly four generations, the Soldiers of the Rainbow Division have gathered to remember their fallen comrades. In 2004, our division adopted the motto "Never Forget" in order to carry forward the legacy of the past and ensure that today's Soldiers recognize the sacrifice of those who have served before us.

"Never Forget" reminds us of the heroic Citizen Soldiers who first formed ranks at Camp Mills, Long Island to create the Rainbow Division in 1917. The cry to "Never Forget" also reminds us of the

tremendous achievements of the liberators of Dachau, forever associating the Rainbow Division with freedom and liberation. And though few need a reminder of the horrific attacks on our nation's soil, "Never Forget" keeps today's Rainbow Division Soldiers focused on the real need to secure our nation at home and take the fight against extremism to our enemies overseas.

Their faces, their names and the places they fell will forever remain with the Rainbow Division, our Soldiers, our veterans, our families and our decedents.

They served in places like Lorraine, Champagne, the Argonne, Haguenau, Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth, Munich, Taji, Tikrit, Baghdad or Baqubah.

No matter where they served or where they made the ultimate sacrifice, they shall ever be remembered for a symbol of the Rainbow under which they served. The colors of the Rainbow Division are forever part of their memory: the blue of their valor, the gold of their love and the red of their sacrifice.

"Rainbow, Never Forget!"

Sincerely,

Paul C. Genereux

Brigadier General Commanding

## Notice to All Life Charter Members!

One of the perks of being a Life Member, we recognize, is that you do not have to pay National Dues! There are a few Life Members that continue to pay dues to help maintain a Chapter's charter or just to help with Chapters expenses. Without dues payments we do lose some contacts. That can be both good and bad. We put together the recent survey in hopes of answering some of these questions. 270 first class postcard surveys were mailed. The Post Office was unable to deliver for one reason or another 13 cards. It was reported that 14 were deceased members, 20 had moved and left no forwarding address. It doesn't really matter but 70 of you failed to return your card as requested. Are you aware that Rainbow paid approximately \$1000 to cover the return postage for undelivered correspondence and publications? That was another reason for the survey. In the event you still wish to return your card, please do so. We thank you for your participation.



## Millennium Chapter

Now on CD and available from the RDVMF Millennium Chapter are the five pictorial and review books holding the photos of men who trained in the 42nd at Camp Gruber, OK in November 1944. For further information please see the Book page on the rainbowvets.org web site or be in touch with Suellen McDaniel, Millennium Chapter secretary, who will also process your orders: 1400 Knolls Dr., Newton, NC 28658-9452. (828) 464-1466. Cost of this CD is \$30 including S&H. This is also the address to contact for *Hold at All Costs* book ordering.

## Reminder to Veterans and Widows

The RDV Memorial Foundation is in need of a name and contact information (mailing address, e-mail address) for a member or extended family member who will act as a "link" to your family and descendants. For more information please go to [www.Rainbowvets.org](http://www.Rainbowvets.org) and click on "Rainbow Descendants," or send inquiries to Barbara C. Eberhart, 750 Vanderbilt Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926.

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## COMBAT . . . IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE READ ABOUT IT IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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**MID-YEAR REUNION – LAUGHLIN, NV, February 20, 21 & 22, 2007**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> RAINBOW FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to Pete Pettus in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Please submit your registration form and payment on or before January 10, 2007. **The sooner you make your reservations the better it will be.**

We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

**2007 RAINBOW MID YEAR % JAMES R. PETTUS**  
**600 MEADOWBROOK CT.**  
**DESLOGE, MO 63601**  
**ATTN: 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division**

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

<i><b>January 10, 2006 will be the cutoff date for Pre-Registration</b></i>	<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>REGISTRATION FEE</b> Includes Lunch On Tuesday. and Banquet on Thursday	\$ 40		\$
<b>OATMAN TOUR, (GOLD MINE TOUR if open \$12.00) Wed. Feb. 21, Lunch at The Famous Oatman Hotel</b>	\$ 35		
<b>LONDON BRIDGE JET BOAT TOUR (Thur. February 22, 2007)(ONE BOAT LOAD)</b>	\$ 59		
<b>Total Amount Payable to 2007 MID YEAR REUNION</b>			\$

THE OATMAN TOUR WILL LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 9 AM AND RETURN TO THE HOTEL BY 2 PM

THE LONDON BRIDGE TOUR WILL LEAVE AT 10 AM AND RETURN AT 2 PM. A BOATLOAD IS 34 PEOPLE. THE FIRST 34 REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED WILL HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR THE \$59 RATE. LATE COMERS WILL PAY \$65 AS PASSENGERS ON NON RESERVED BOAT. We will have lunch on your own in Lake Havasu City.

Oatman began about 90 years ago as a mining tent camp and quickly became a flourishing gold-mining center. In 1915 two miners struck a \$10 million gold find, and within a year, the town's population grew to more than 3,500.

Oatman was named in honor of Olive Oatman, who was kidnapped as a young girl by Mojave Indians and later rescued in 1857 near the current site of the town.

Oatman is a fun place to visit—an authentic old Western town with burros roaming the streets. The Oatman Hotel, built in 1902 is the oldest two-story adobe structure in Mojave County and has housed many miners, movie stars, politicians and other scoundrels. Clark Gable and Carol Lombard honeymooned at the Oatman Hotel March 18, 1939.

The Gold Road Mine Tour takes you into the original 1900 drift where it all began. You will be transported up to the drift and walk about 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile with a tour guide. The entire tour takes about one hour. About halfway through the tour you will be directly under Route 66.

The London Bridge's transfer from London to Lake Havasu was completed in October 1971, and is now an Arizona tourist attraction second only to the Grand Canyon. Originally dedicated in London in 1831, it was purchased for \$2.46 million by the late Robert P. McCulloch. When he died McCulloch willed the bridge to the city.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME (for nametags) \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT NAME FOR NAMETAG \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ ARE YOU FLYING? \_\_\_ DRIVING? \_\_\_ RV? \_\_\_



# *Rainbow Division Veterans*

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FILE — JULY 2005 - JULY 2006

Anderson, Chet 132nd Signal Co.	Ettinger, Harvey Hqs, 242nd Infantry	Lieber, Simeon Co. A, 232nd Infantry	Salic, Nicholas F. Co. K
Andrew, Hoyt H1B, 232nd Infantry	Faulkner, Richard L. Co. C, 232nd Infantry	Lightner, William T. Associate	Schatz, Edwin C.. Co. E, 232nd Infantry
Ball, Francis T. Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Feithen, William E. Co. C, 142 Engineers	Lifschultz, Martin Co. K, 232nd Infantry	Shaneyfelt, Donald L. Hqs. Co., 242nd Infantry
Bachenberg, Paul D Co. B, 242nd Infantry	Fenno, Robert Hqs., 3rd Bn.	Livingston, J.R. Co. F, 242nd Infantry	Shire, Joseph T. Bty. B. 232nd F.A.
Bennett, Herbert S. Sv. Co., 242nd Infantry	Gardenhire, Robert A. Co. M, 242nd Infantry	Lopez, Joseph E. Co. L, 242nd Infantry	Silen, Roy Rainbow U. Forestry Prof.
Bennett, Steve 242nd Infantry	Gardner, Glenn R. Co. I, 232nd Infantry	Lynch, William E. Co. L, 242nd Infantry	Sirna, Jerry J. Co. B, 242nd Infantry
Benvenuti, Silvio W. H2B, 242nd Infantry	Gessler, Norman Cannon Co., 242nd Infantry	Maleski, Michael 42nd Q.M.	Skare, Morris C. Sr. Co. L, 242nd Infantry
Betts, Forest Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Griffith, Philip 132nd Signal Co.	Martin, Darrell D. Co. G, 242nd Infantry	Smalley, Jerry 142nd Combat Engrs.
Berg, Harry R. Co. M, 232nd Infantry	Gruel, Harry D. Bty. B, 392nd F.A.	Mathenym, Delbert F. '90 Cannon Co.	Spenner, William Co. L, 242nd Infantry
Binau, Robert J. HQ Co., 232nd Infantry	Guillory, Fred A. Service Co., 242nd Infantry	McClellan, Donald M. Co. G, 222nd Infantry	Spragle, Horace W. Co. F, 242nd Infantry (Service)
Blohn, Ted M.P. Platoon	Hale, Landis Division Hqs	McCormick, Harold Not Known	Steffner, Robert F. Co. I, 232nd Infantry
Bledsoe, Lem Co. G, 232nd Infantry	Harlow, George H. Co. I, 232nd Infantry	McClure, Martin Bty. C, 402nd F.A.	Stroneski, Joseph Co. A, 242nd Infantry
Bossi, Eugene Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Hauk, Milton F. Division Band	Morrill, Robert J. Co. I, 242nd Infantry	Taylor, Jack W. 742nd Ordnance
Bradford, Edwin E. 242nd Infantry	Heelan, Joseph Q.M. Co.	McGovern, John J. (P.N.P.) Co. B, 232nd Infantry	Teale, Lloyd Co. G, 242nd Infantry
Brennan, Edward J. Jr. Co. L, 242nd Infantry	Helms, Aaron Co. K, 242nd Infantry	Millen, Max S. Co. E, 242nd Infantry	Telfer, Lyman Co. H, 232nd Infantry
Brown, Claude R. Co. F, 232nd Infantry	Ianucelli, Anthony H1B 222nd Infantry	McGuire, Bert Co. G, 222nd Infantry	Twohey, John J. Reveille 2005 Cannon Co.
Burdett, William A. Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Irwen, Wilbert A. Co. L, 242nd Infantry	Messick, Howard, Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Vaughan, Charles 132nd Signal Co.
Burkett, Frank P. Co. D, 232nd Infantry	James, Roland Co. D, 242nd Infantry	Montgomery, Robert L. Co. G, 232nd Infantry	Vasalauskas, Joseph Co. G, 222nd Infantry
Campbell, Leon Not Known	Janda, George A. Serv. Co., 222nd Infantry	Moser, Lawrence Co. M, 232nd Infantry	Veitch, John J. (Jack) Hqs.Bty., 542nd F.A.
Campbell, William R. Co. G, 242nd Infantry	Jarvis, Harrison Co. I, 242nd Infantry	Munson, James Co. F, 222nd Infantry	Walz, William L. Hq. 3B, 232nd Infantry
Cheek, Dillard J. Co. F, 242nd Infantry	Java, Frank Can. Co., 242nd Infantry	Myers, Wesley D. Serv. Co., 232nd Infantry	Weatherman, Gordon M. 132nd Sig.
Churchouse, Robert A. Hqs., 3rd Bn.	Johnson, Charles Co. C, 232nd Infantry	Nagle, John W. Co. D, 222nd Infantry	West, Rev. Clyde E. Co. K, 232nd Infantry
Clodfelter, William C. Co. D, 232nd Infantry	Kancianic, Frank J. Co. E, 242nd Infantry	Nelson, Walter B. 1978 Co. E, 242nd Infantry	Whitbeck, Joseph I. 242nd Reg., HQS
Cunningham, Donald J. 392nd F.A.	Kasdan, Irving Co. K, 242nd Infantry	Newton, Ted Co. A, 242nd Infantry	Wilkinson, Robert C. Co. M, 242nd Infantry
Davis, Joseph W. Bty. B, 232nd F.A.	Keller, William N. Jr. 132nd Signal Co.	Nozewski, Eugene Co. E, 232nd Infantry	Winkhart, Harry W. Reveille A/T 242nd
Desroches, Ernest R. Co. C, 242nd Infantry	Kenny, William T. (P.N.P) Co. G, 242nd Infantry	Oravetz, Matthew Co. A, 242nd Infantry	Woodman, Wayne R. Co. C, 242nd Infantry
DeToy, Charles J. Co. E, 242nd Infantry	Kercellus, Karl Co. E., 232nd Infantry	Patterson, Malcolm F. Med. Det., 242nd Infantry	Wright, Samuel J. Co. A, 142nd Engrs.
DeYoung, William E. Hqs Co., 242nd Infantry	Kiziran, Jacob Co. F, 222nd Infantry	Rankin, W. Penn 132nd Signal Co.	Zgoda, Arthur J. Co. E, 222nd Infantry
Dion, Teri Lyn Daughter of Gary Tuckey and Editor of 222nd Badge	Kosloske, Joseph J. Bty. C, 542nd F.A.	Robinson, M.B. H1B, 232nd Infantry	
Dunn, Harold F. H1b, 242nd Infantry	Kovacevic, Donald 132nd Signal Co.	Rock, Royden Division Band	
Dutton, Frederick G. Co. M, 232nd Infantry	Krawcykowski, Chester J. Co. I, 222nd Infantry	Rogers, Gordon Unknown	
Edelstein, Leon Co. D, 242nd Infantry	Krupa, Maynar Can. Co., 232nd Infantry	Rozger, Andrew Associat-1st Ordnance	
Emerson, Lynn W. Hqs. Co., 242nd Infantry	Lawson, Freeman T. Co. I, 242nd Infantry	Rusk, Carl V. Unit Unknown	

### AFTER REUNION

Kuehler, Gil  
232nd F.A.  
Parker, Howard  
Co. A, 232nd Infantry  
Monsen, Robert  
Co. I, 222nd Infantry



## Operation Nordwind (Final Crisis)

by Dick Engler

*Continued from June Issue*

Sessenheim, January 18-20. Men of the 232nd Infantry had held this town and out posts beyond it toward the Rhine for over two weeks. The ebb and flow of patrolling and limited attack and counterattack had led to rearrangements in their positions several times. But now the crescendo of heavy artillery built up and the scream of high-velocity shells denoted the concentration of German armor. Hold at all costs!

The company holding Sessenheim with stood the initial German assaults; but at nightfall its platoons pulled back to positions in buildings on the edge of town. German infantry infiltrated during the night. Communication severed, isolated pockets of American infantry continued to fire throughout the night. (Runners from the company CP sent through the night to contact these units did not return.) At morning light, white-painted tanks of the 10th SS Panzer stood boldly on the edge of town and began to knock down houses and buildings with their fire. Defenders on the upper floors were forced to the cellars. The survivors, shell-shocked and covered with the dust of smashed masonry, were herded into streets now filled with white-caped German infantry.

At the American company CP, a German tank appeared and began to fire at point blank range. The small headquarters party escaped into the woods in the direction of Soufflenheim. Other 232nd units in the sector also fell back toward Soufflenheim. One GI of the 232nd who crawled most of the way to Soufflenheim after dark on January 19 had escaped his German captors, feigning death after being shot down when his squad was executed after being captured. (Farther south, on January 20 a battalion of the 314th Infantry was destroyed at Drusenheim, also trapped in cellars by the fire of the tanks of 10th SS Panzer.)

In the holding action at Hatten and Rittershoffen an attack by 47th Volksgrenadier, supported by 12 battalions of artillery, punched at phantoms beginning to slip away into the forest.

Withdrawal, January 21. Perhaps the most coordinated event of January, an event common to all members of Task Force Linden, was the withdrawal to the Moder River. All were a part of it, although mainly rumors told men in the ranks that their entire corps was withdrawing.

They moved after dark. Some came from infernos; others moved from positions where quiet (but frigid) housekeeping had been the recent order of the day. Some rode. Most walked — at least part of the way. From far-flung foxholes and

bunkers in the Wissembourg Gap, Haguenau Forest and near villages on the Rhine Plain they strained and slipped and stumbled toward Haguenau and the Moder River. Twenty miles. It snowed all through the night. Roads and trails were frozen sheets that ditched many vehicles and tumbled many foot-sloggers. Rearguards, left to find their way behind the main body, followed trails of scattered equipment through the silent forest.

"Boche Kommen!" In tiny villages civilians joined the trek. And as the struggling columns closed into towns behind the Moder River, the words were heard again and again — at Kaltenhouse and Haguenau, at Schweighausen, Neuborg, Dauendorf and Ohlungen. "Boche Kommen!"

The Moder River, January 22-26. The Germans were coming, but they were slow in their follow-up. Once detected, the American fallback was expected. (at least at Himmler's headquarters) to continue as far as the Rhine-Marne Canal with only rear guards left in the Moder sector.

By January 23, however, the 7th Parachute Division had reached the Moder on both sides of Haguenau and found an entrenched enemy. The 25th Panzer Grenadiers and 47th Volksgrenadiers also moved up, concentrating west of Haguenau. 10th SS Panzer moved into position east of Haguenau. Since Haguenau appeared to be occupied by a strong American Force, the Germans intended to take the town by an attack from two sides.

The night attack across the Moder began at 2000 hours on January 24 as fog and a heavy snowfall blanketed the fields and woods around Haguenau. The 242nd Infantry met the 10th SS Panzer forming the eastern prong of the pincer; the 222nd faced elements of the 47th Volksgrenadier, the 25th Panzer-Grenadier and the 7th Parachute Divisions pressing the western prong through Ohlungen Forest. Each German Division was supported by five or six battalions of artillery.

On the homefront, where the shock of the Ardennes Bulge had created much apprehension at the course General Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe" was taking, the newspapers in late January had finally brought the happiness in Alsace to the front page. And now as the German attack on Haguenau was launched, the headline in the New York Times bannered:

### EIGHT GERMAN DIVISIONS LASH OUT IN ALSACE

The follow-up front-page story reported, gravely:

"The German threat to Strasbourg... became more menacing today.... Steadily increasing German forces in the Haguenau Forest sector... made a 2,000-yard penetration... and forced a crossing of the Moder River... Their initial successes made the outlook for Alsace and its

capital of Strasbourg look grave tonight... One [attempt to cross the Moder] succeeded in establishing a bridgehead into the woods on the south side of the river between Schweighausen and Neuborg, respectively, three and five miles northwest of Haguenau."

Another prominent story in that day's Times announced:

### 12,000 TROOPS AWOL IN PARIS; THOUSANDS JOIN IN BLACK MARKET

The thin line of American infantry at the edge of Ohlungen Forest between Neuborg and Schweighausen was overrun that night by the German attack. But the shoulders of the 2,000-yard penetration, anchored at the two towns, held firm. Surviving individuals and small groups in the woods began a terrifying night-long trek through deep snow and lurking shadows to avoid an enemy that was everywhere and find the new line of resistance. American machine guns, especially the heavies (although some were overrun), took a tremendous toll of spirited attackers who, by German accounts, were filled with "excellent fighting morale" (and, some GIs would swear, loaded with Schnapps as well).

In the close quarters of the forest, the American .45 caliber pistol also took a heavy toll in the fighting at surrounded strongpoints. At one strongpoint of light machine guns and mortars that held out through most of the night, gunners used their pistols to pile up milling panzer grenadiers who seemed bent more on pushing further into the forest than attending to the blazing nest of resistance. With ammunition nearly exhausted, the strongpoint finally fell in a deafening, stunning blast of grenades. A German captor boasted: "We're going to drive you clear into the sea."

But the Moder action was Hitler's last gasp in Alsace — and on all of the western front. He had ordered the Nordwind attacks to continue so long as there was a chance of destroying allied forces north of a line Haguenau-Saverne, or even of forcing them to withdraw behind the Saverne Gap. At Himmler's Army Group headquarters, sentiment was strong to continue the attacks and maintain the bridgehead established by 25th Panzer-Grenadier; and even von Runstedt still held hopes that an American withdrawal to the Rhine-Marne Canal and the loss of Saverne could be forced.

But down at German corps headquarters, in light of the heavy losses it was suggested to Army Group G on the evening of 25 January that a defensive line be established along the north bank of the Moder River and that the bridgehead be withdrawn. The evacuation took place that very night.

At the highest German command levels, attention now turned to meeting the Russian threat. Many of the best units committed to Nordwind soon began their moves to the eastern front.

### FINIS

*(Final Crisis is still available.)*



## Chairman's Message

*continued from page 1*

Midyear Meeting in Laughlin, Nevada, I'm putting my efforts behind getting a strong nucleus of Mechanized persons to come to Norfolk (actually Virginia Beach) in July. We WWII Rainbrowsers have been the beneficiaries of the early leadership of fellows like Romeo Fagiolo, Ted Johnson, Dee Eberhart and others who became the nucleus around which we coalesced and became an organization focused on the continuation of Rainbow history and tradition. Enjoyment of the Friendship, camaraderie and plain old fun, however, became the attraction and glue that have held us together over the years. Think of it—outside of family—what else in life has impelled so many of us to annually, semiannually, or even others' company? What a gift!! Truly the gift of a lifetime.

And that's the gift I, and I hope all of you, want to demonstrate and give to our 42nd Mechanized brothers and sisters who have followed us in service to our wonderful country. Plan now to seize the "present" that is still your and be in Norfolk this coming July. In so doing, you will help us both display and pass on the gift we have treasured for some six decades and guarantee the continuance of Rainbow.

*Ted Simonson  
Chairman*

P.S. A friend of mine has a grandson who is in this year's top-ranked company of the 82nd Airborne Division. Their prize was a trip to England to participate in joint jumps with some elite English Airborne troops. The extra special prize was WWII era paratroopers jumping with them wearing WWII uniforms and using WWII parachutes. He reported that the oldest jumper was 93 and walked with a cane. Can you make it to Norfolk?

## Holiday Inn Executive Center – Virginia Beach

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The Holiday Inn Executive Center, located at 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, is located between the Virginia Beach oceanfront and downtown Norfolk. The hotel is approximately 10 minutes from the Norfolk International Airport.

The Holiday Inn Executive Center has 331 beautifully appointed guest rooms which offer cable TV, voice mail, coffee makers, iron and an ironing board. An exercise room, jacuzzi, indoor and outdoor pools provide relaxation year-round for hotel guests. Complimentary coffee is served in the lobby each morning and at the

front desk Monday-Friday you can receive your complimentary USA Today. Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are available. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. Complimentary parking is provided for hotel guests. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out is at 12:00 noon. Ashley's Restaurant offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, in a warm and relaxing atmosphere, serving contemporary and traditional cuisine. Room service is also available.

The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service if you are flying into Norfolk International. There is a courtesy phone in the baggage claim area, which displays a code number for the hotel. Dial the number, and the hotel operator will send the van to pick you up free of charge. You may want to consider alternate transportation, as space is limited on courtesy services.

Should you require full hook-up service, please contact the following campgrounds for information, reservations and directions. Holiday Travel Park, 1075 General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 425-0249. KOA Campground, 1240 General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23451, (757) 428-1444.

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.

## For Sale for Holidays

1943 Camp Gruber Book – 32 pages of photos – \$5.00

*Year of Progress* by Gen. Collins – 28 pages – 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 – \$5.00

Trail of Rainbow Colored Map – 12 x 15 – \$5.00

All items prices include postage and handling. Mail orders to: Rainbow Division Veterans, Hugo E. Grimm, 32 Austin Hill Ct., Wentzville, MO 63385. Make checks payable to Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.

## We Get Letters

*Dear Ken Carpenter,*

Just wanted to write you a short note to tell you how I enjoyed the article written in the September newsletter entitled "The World's a Better Place Thanks to Geezers." It would be great if you could get it published in the New York Times as the message clearly speaks the truth! I happen to love "geezers" and wish I had more of them in my life! Please thank whoever wrote the article as it was not signed. And I too, thank God for geezers!

*Sincerely,  
Lisa Kenny*

*Daughter-in-law of the late Bill Kenny*

*Editor's note: This was printed in a Holidaysburg, PA, veterans' home magazine.*



## Muskogee-Tulsa Chapter

The Chapter meets once a month on the second Tuesday at Village Inn in Tulsa. There are usually 8-10 Rainbrowsers present. The Chapter has 28 members as of Sept. 16. Anyone interested in joining can send \$5.00 to Bob Haggard at 2807 Haddock Dr., Muskogee, OK 74401.

## Veterans Day

The Muskogee-Tulsa chapter of the RDVMF will have a memorial service on Veterans Day at the Amphitheater in Honor Heights Park. We meet at 9 a.m. for breakfast then start the service at 10:45. Breakfast will be at Golden Corral. We also meet on Memorial Day. If you're not going to Birmingham, come to Muskogee.

## Scholarship Winners - 2006

Michael Benash, Havertown, PA, \$500 Rainbow

Edward Casciotti, Catasaqua, PA, \$500 Rainbow

Shannon Donelson, Alpharetta, GA, \$500 Rainbow

John Elder, Clinton, MS, \$500 Rainbow

Jonathan Fritts, Severin, MD, \$500 Rainbow

Glenn Gardner, Long Beach, MS, \$500 Rainbow

Amanda Garlich, Greenwood, MO, \$500 Rainbow

Abigail Gavulic, Auburn Hills, MI, \$500 Rainbow

Hannah Hamblen, Eugene, OR, \$500 Rainbow

Elizabeth Kohlway, Westminster, MD, \$1,000 Kaiser

Amanda LaVassar, Clinton, WA, \$500 Rainbow

Caitlyn McCartney, Milwaukee, OR, \$1,000 Duhacsek

Alex McCray, El Dorado Hills, CA, \$500 Rainbow

Michael Scheinman, Portland, OR, \$1,000 Johnson

Ilana Schriger, Redmond, WA 98052, \$500 Rainbow

Eric Stramel, Cortez, CO, \$500 Rainbow

Brian Ward, Coatesville, PA, \$500 Rainbow

Matthew Wopata, Kansas City, MO, \$500 Rainbow



## Contributions to Memorial Foundation

### SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND

Lois Smith, 63, in memory of husband, George Smith; Rosemary McGovern, 50, in memory of Mildred Fagiolo; Betty Ann Heaton, 100, in memory of husband, Tom Heaton; Richard & Esther Pierce, 50, in memory of Dorothy Love; 222nd Auxiliary, 103; Samuel & Betty Polis, 100, in memory of Harold Penne; Anonymous, 200, in memory of Mildred Fagiolo; Dee & Barbara Eberhart, 100, in memory of Mildred Fagiolo and William Ford; RDV Northeast Chapter, 25, in memory of William Ford; Cliff & Irene Sommerfield, 20, in memory of John McGovern; Oklahoma Chapter, 25, in memory of August Reuben; Oklahoma Chapter Auxiliary, 25, in memory of Janella Vaughn; Sylvester & Dorothy Breunig, 50; Fulvio & Margaret Marchette, 100; Marsha Treat, 52.

### FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

232nd Regiment, 2nd Bn. Chapter, 50; in memory of Carl E. Davis.

### FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND

Tom & Betty Owen, 50, in memory of D. Ray Alford; Tom & Betty Owen, 50, in memory of Gil Koehler; Tom & Betty Owen, 50, in memory of Mildred Fagiolo;

222nd Auxiliary, 103; 242nd Auxiliary, 500; Dorothy Breunig, 10; Edward & Rosemary Schweigert, 25; Russell S. Applegate, 100; 232nd Regiment, 2nd Bn. Chapter, 50, in memory of Boris I. Bither; 232nd Regiment, 2nd Bn., 50, in memory of George Ckudoba; 232nd Regiment, 2nd Bn., 50, in memory of Joseph H. Messmer.

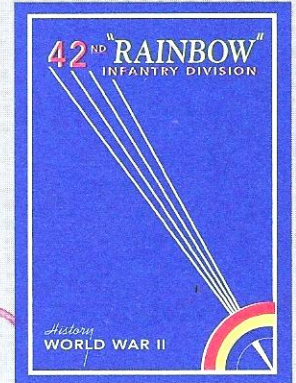
## 42nd Rainbow WWII History Book

We have reprinted the original WWII History Book in limited number. The book that was first published in 1946, has 166 pages and bound paper back in 8 1/2 x 11 page format. The cost of \$22 includes shipping and handling.

This would make a great holiday gift for the younger generation.

Please mail orders to:

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Mid-Year  
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