



REVEILLE

VOL. LXXXVIII

SEPTEMBER 2007

NO. 1

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.
War on Terrorism: Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chairman's Message

This message is the first of our new 2007-2008 fiscal year following our annual reunion held in Virginia Beach, Va. I want to dwell for the moment on the immediate past to express my appreciation for the support and work of those many people who keep our organization alive and functioning on more than a "life-support" basis. First, I thank all of you WWII vets and your dear ladies who continue to pay the dues that are our life's blood. I know that many of us have reached the age and time in our lives when we can no longer physically participate, but your continued payment of dues and charitable contributions to our Foundation and Scholarship Funds help us keep the organization viable as we strive to replace our aging membership with Millennium Chapter and present-day comrades and veterans of the 42nd Rainbow Division (Mechanized). I must thank all of the officers, trustees, committee chairs and committee members who carry out the work that achieves the dual objectives of maintaining memorials and providing scholarships to serve our overarching goal of keeping alive the memory of the achievements of "Rainbow's" citizen soldiers during three wars (WWI, WWII, and our present-day conflicts).

People who come especially to my mind for exceptional work done on behalf of "Rainbow" this last year are Jon Janosik, Herbert Butt, Suellen McDaniel, Ken Carpenter, Hugo Grimm, Art Lee, Dee and Barbara Eberhart, James (Pete) and Rose Pettus, John Walker, Rev. Norman Forde, Fr. Robert (Bob) Weiss and Jim Clemons. Those named are a far cry from the only workers; some of them work much more visibly than others, and some work entirely invisibly (Art Lee, for instance). I must especially thank "Pete" and Rose Pettus. "Pete" has carried out the year-length task of selecting venues, creating schedules, negotiating fees,

continued on pg. 8

National Reunion

The National Reunion was held on July 12-15, 2007, at the Holiday Executive Center in Virginia Beach, Va. We had attendance of 216, but the quantity was overcome by the quality as a goodly number enjoyed the various tours available and socialized in the hospitality rooms. The high point was the memorial service and the wreath laying at the MacArthur Monument. The featured speaker was the Chief of Staff of the 42nd Mechanized Col. Carl Pfeiffer. Other members of the 42nd Mechanized Division were Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg, Col. Eric Olsen, Sgt. Jeff Proctor, M/Sgt. Michelle Sheridan and Command Sgt. Major John Willsey.

Notables at the head table: Incoming Auxiliary President Judy and Red Cap Larry Rosen, PCP. John and PNAP. Grace Walker, Patti Hughes, Foundation Chairman and PNP. Ted Simonson, PNP Pete and PNAP. Rose Pettus, Col. Pfeiffer and wife Janet, Rev. Norman and Shirley Forde. As things came to a close, we all look forward to Salt Lake City.

MacArthur Museum



DUES 'R DUE!!!

Your Reminder We Do Not Send Out Invoices CUT-OFF-DATE
NEXT ISSUE DECEMBER 1, 2007

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Memorial Foundation

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THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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CHAPLAINS MESSAGE

Ken —

It's that time again, and it is less than 50 weeks until we go to Salt Lake City! Time didn't pass that rapidly when we were younger — or did it? Anyway it is time for Reveille again. I had an exchange of e-mails with LTC Goldenberg up at Troy. He mentioned that he might send something to you, presumably for inclusion in Reveille. But don't quote me. If he is typical of the staff at Troy I think they will do a first-class job of preserving Rainbow history and legacy.

Do you hear from Lise Pommois? I have written to her but have not heard back after the reunion. Yesterday I tried something that I often do with names of people I know. I put her name, just that, on Google. Right away it came up with over 100 Web site references with her name! I didn't pursue it for long — may do some more today. But in a short bio I saw that her mother, and maybe a sister, were in a concentration camp in WWII. And I didn't know that she has an MA and a PHD from Sorbonne. She is so modest that she never talks about such things — at least not to me.

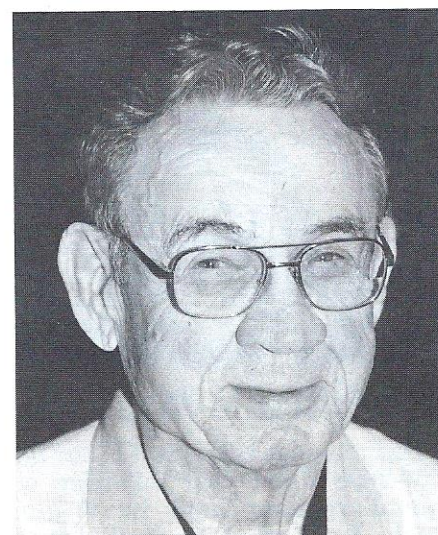
So here is a submission for Reveille.
Norman

Reveille September 2007

A Prayer for the Armed Forces

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth thine almighty power to strengthen and protect all the men and women who are serving in the Armed Forces of our country. We especially pray for members of the 42nd ID Mech, the Rainbow Division, as they prepare for more deployments: Shelter them in the day of battle; keep them safe from evil; endue them ever with loyalty and courage. In due time bring them safely back to their home and loved ones.

Amen

**Over the Rainbow**

We have been notified that JOHN L. WHISLER passed away during the night after a fall in his residence on June 21. John was a Sergeant when assigned to Rainbow at Activation as Cadre. He made his way through the ranks and left Rainbow as a Warrant Officer, assigned as Assistant Message Center Officer. He retired from military service as a colonel.

Funeral Mass was held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Lakeland, Fla. on June 25. Burial with full military honors was at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Fla.

John was preceded in death by his wife Jane in 2001. He is survived by two sons, John L. Whisler Jr. and Chester O. Whisler, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

John was a good "Rainbow Soldier" and I respected him for the way he served Rainbow. He was good to work with during his term as president and I enjoyed our association.

Respectfully,
Herbert A. Butt
Secretary

POW Book

There are still plenty of copies of "Hold at All Cost," the stories of 115 Rainbowers who were German prisoners of war. Send \$15 (includes shipping and handling) to Suellen McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Dr., Newton, N.C. 28658-9452. Read of their sacrifice to insure our freedom.

'Prayer List'

We just heard from Shirley that the hospital can do no more for Rev. Forde, Keep him in your prayers.

We Get Letters

If I heard correctly at the 2007 reunion meeting, the Foundation now has \$700,000. I couldn't hear everything the treasurer said and no written statement was available, so I have this question. What is this large amount of money being used for? I think this is a fair question and every member of the Rainbow should know. In the next five years, at least 50 percent of us will be dead. In 10 years, there will be mighty few of us left. Shouldn't some of this money be used to benefit the members of the Rainbow? Foundation!!!!!! Is it the Foundation plan to just give this money away? And if so, why? I believe all members of the Rainbow Foundation should be told just what is planned for all this money. I have a suggestion. The Foundation banquet meals are lousy! Why not use some of the Foundation's money (say \$2,000) to give us a decent meal at the banquet? I do believe this money belongs to the members of the Foundation! Can someone who knows the answers to the above please publish it in the Foundation News Letter and if this can be a topic of discussion at the next reunion?

Olin L. Hawkins

F-222

Larry Hawkins

Steuart Hihn Answer

Larry, I think these funds are to provide for the operation of the Foundation for the next millimium, the awarding of scholarships and maintenance of Rainbow memorials in the USA and Europe. This was the reason for the creation of the Foundation to replace the Association. The Foundation president should reply to your thoughts.

Steu Hihn

Editor's Comments:

As I understand this situation, Steuart Hihn has answered the questions which had been explained in copies of the constitution. It is our opinion that any member requesting a copy of all details be sent one upon request to the president or chairman.

P.S. Increasing the registration fee should provide for better meals. Maybe a donation from the Foundation. Possibly skip the luncheon.

Assistant Editor Addition

The Reveille staff is delighted that Suellen McDaniel has accepted the post of Assistant Editor. We have now put to rest the trepidations of your editor reporting the future.

In addition to her duties, Suellen will provide a column for every newsletter. Welcome aboard!!

Ken Carpenter

Honor Heights Memorial Service

What a great time I had in Muskogee! No, that's not a comment from 1943 or '44, although I'm sure many a G.I. from Camp Gruber had those feelings back then. Actually I speak of this past Memorial Day.

The crowd was good, with several Rainbow veterans from Oklahoma, Texas, and a good number of local folks from the area attending both the breakfast and memorial service.

As we gathered for the memorial service at the Rainbow Amphitheater what a great view from atop the high point of Honor Heights Park. The terrible ice storm of this past winter destroyed many of the trees in eastern Oklahoma and Muskogee in particular. They say every dark cloud has a silver lining and I guess the positive thing here is that so many trees are now gone, there is a beautiful view of land and sky all the way to Camp Gruber.

Those attending were treated to a wonderful rendition of "God Bless America" by Nichole Gatzman, a former contestant on "American Idol" and a Muskogee native. What a beautiful voice and young woman. To hear her sing was evidence of why she went so far in the competition.

These times of getting together and visiting about current times and days gone by seem to be an extension of the fellowship they have shared over the years. Who knows what the future holds but here is hoping there are many more Memorial Days and getting together at the Muskogee Rainbow Memorial.

If you have current happenings going on in your life and would like to share them with us, please send them along and we will be happy to put them in our newsletter. Without newsy things to share, there can be no news(letter).



Bob Haggard and Chaplain Earnie Owen



Part of crowd attending Memorial Service

Leadership In 1944-'45

DICK ENGLER F/222

Heroes come in many shapes and sizes. And perhaps the word is misused in most cases anyway. Certainly in the sophisticated modern day we are a bit embarrassed by the term. Maybe "leader" is a better word; and leadership too can come in many styles: John Wayne charging pigeon-toed in front of his men across silver screen battlefields; Patton with his brace of pistols, revelling in the shock effect of his profanity; MacArthur, cornucopia in mouth, calmly wading ashore at Leyte to fulfill his promise "I shall return." Most of us never felt the direct effects of those popular brands of leadership. But some of us were fortunate enough to have been touched by leaders of a different kind.

It was the First Platoon of F/222nd that first made the acquaintance of the skinny lieutenant with the long legs, the angular features, and the high-pitched voice. It was at Gruber, probably early September 1944. Some of the younger men weren't overly impressed at first. Infantry leaders were supposed to have commanding voices, weren't they? And they fixed you with a stern gaze when they spoke. They were like quarterbacks in football, swaggering up to the line of scrimmage to imbue their team with their own cockiness and self-confidence as they called the signals.

Frank Bulkley had plenty of self-confidence. He just lacked the swagger. His style was to lead by example. And the example he set was to take responsibility and to care about those under his command. The shiny bar pinned on his collar at OCS symbolized responsibility not privileges. And soon all of F Company, not just the First Platoon, felt the effects of his caring efforts in their behalf.

How the lieutenant fussed over them on that train ride to Kilmer. Some of the very young and naive wondered at his sense of urgency. "Hey, we're going to Europe, and the war's practically over in the ETO." But Bulkley kept them busy field stripping and reassembling weapons on tables set up between the Pullman seats. Especially the BAR men concerned him — many of them 18-year-olds newly assigned the weapon after coming to F from replacement training centers a few weeks before the company left Gruber. He wanted them to know the weapon just by feel, and he stressed how important the BAR was to the firepower of a rifle platoon.

By the time they got to CP-2, the message was coming across in First Platoon: The lieutenant was working for them. So they welcomed him to the platoon campfire where they sought warmth from the cold wind and freezing rain. And thereafter it was always Bulkley with his men — in the positions in and around Strasbourg, finding them shelter from the cold and fretting about the fairness of duty assignments. And it was Bulkley who stayed with the company in a barn (while other company officers seemed to disappear into houses) after the long night march when they abandoned Strasbourg temporarily; and it was Bulkley who then went out in the blizzard to retrace their route of march and guide in the rear-guard left in pillboxes along the Rhine.

A few days later, Kilstett by Gambshheim was their true baptism. They almost lost him there — in fact, they thought they had lost him. He led the company's patrol the night before the morning attack and returned soaked and freezing after breaking through the ice in those little ponds in that marshy ground near the Rhine. Then he went back out to lead his platoon in the morning attack "to clear a few snipers out of that little town over there by the church spire

across the railroad tracks" (the CO had said). The "few snipers" turned out to have quite a few 88s and a number of machine guns with them. Bulkley had been out in front, like John Wayne, but probably not moving as fast as The Duke would have moved. He was too tired; and besides, the ground was furrowed and snow covered. He had finally come to rest behind a small mound that barely gave cover from the machine guns that kept snapping at him whenever he moved. He lay there all day until dark when he could finally inch his way back to the ditch by the railroad tracks and so to the lines now drawn around Kilstett. On his way out of the field he heard one of the badly wounded BAR men calling for his mother, and somehow he managed to bring the big guy in with him.

Throughout the month of January the man gave of himself while they all learned the lessons of war at first hand. By the time of the retreat to the Moder River, they had come a long way toward emulating their leader in looking out for one another. And on that day of the breakthrough in Ohlungen Forest, when First Platoon started back into Schweighausen after a brief (ordered) withdrawal, Bulkley was in the lead. As the shrapnel began to shriek around them from the fire of the tanks and SPs in the factory district across the river, he turned to his pitiful handful and said: "I don't want you men to think this is a suicide mission." Some laughed sardonically at the crazy Coloradan with the charmed life. But they followed him. And they stayed in their positions until the counterattack finally brought relief.

Off the line in Einville, where the replacements arrived, the higher brass had a lot of questions about F Company. The company's officer ranks were depleted, and the feeling higher up was that a real disciplinarian was needed to whip the company into shape. So they sent them a foul-mouthed Little Caesar who communicated just two things with his staccato shouting: he cared nothing about them; and he was concealing his own terrors with his bombast. But the oldtimers knew, and the newcomers soon sensed, who would lead them when the next real trials came.

Little Caesar disappeared as soon as orders came sending the company back on the line. And, of course, it was the soft-spoken lieutenant who took them back up — and then led the entire company almost all the rest of the way. He never really changed his style, always going that extra step in giving of himself to give them the best possible chance at life while they performed their duties. And he made it almost to the end. Then when he was finally hit, way out front on a dark night checking out a roadblock on the road to Dachau, one of the men pulled a pistol and forced a tank commander at gunpoint to take his vehicle up the road so that they could use its cover to get to their lieutenant, bring him out and start him on his way home. For by then they had learned never to desert one another, and especially the man who had taught that lesson so clearly to all of them.

Companies have group memories. And many of the memories F Company men share are of Bulkley and what he meant to that group he treated like a family. The stories seldom are about heroics. Usually they are about caring. There is a story almost all remember about a three-man daylight patrol ordered by regiment and sent out to scout the very center of the German lines in those positions in the mountains in front of Wingen. At the time they wondered about the need for that patrol. (They didn't know that "Little Caesar," now a staff officer, had schemed up the affair.) The sergeant called on to lead it had said it was a suicide mission,

and as he started down the hill, he called back: "See you n heaven." Then he had done his duty and, in deed, was killed when his little reconnaissance group crawled to within a few yards of the German positions.

At a Rainbow reunion some years ago, I was talking to Jake Kizirian who had had dinner with Bulkley in Denver on the way to or from a previous reunion. Jake said the conversation had somehow gotten around to that three-man patrol in the mountains. And after all those years, Frank Bulkley still got tears in his eyes talking about *one man* that F Company might not have needed to lose.

Some of us are surely not qualified to judge the qualities of leadership needed today to make those complex life-and-death decisions in the Pentagon and other high seats of power. But I, for one, fervently hope that somewhere in those corridors of power there are men who once led a G.I. family and can still feel deeply about the loss of just one man.

Eastern Region Chapter

The Eastern Region Chapter held its semiannual reunion on May 16-18, 2007, at the Port-O-Call Hotel in Ocean City, N.J., with 65 in attendance.

At the banquet on Thursday evening among those attending were Col. Lori Thomas recently returned from duty in Baghdad as Commander of the 250 Signal Battalion, Col. Jorge Martinez recently appointed Commander of the New Jersey 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and CSM Wm. Kryscnski. Also M.G. Tom Garrett (Ret.) and CSM Marty Allen (Ret.).

A trip to Atlantic City for a show and buffet dinner were included.

The next reunion is planned for October 17-19, 2007. All Rainbowners are most welcome, for more information, please call Harold Melinek, 908-604-9181.

Hitler's Hat

On April 30, 1945, 19-year-old soldier Richard Marowitz stormed Adolph Hitler's apartment in Munich searching for military intelligence.

All he found was a black top hat.

What happened next was "the stomp heard 'round the world."

Directed by Jeff Krulik

Produced by Ann Petrone and Diane Bernard

Contact information:

3221 Connecticut Ave.,
Washington, D.C. 20008, (202) 966-5304 or visit www.planetkrulik.com

Decorations

U.S. Army in FTO or all decorations gave 82.32% to the Air Force; 9.3% to the Infantry; 3.5% to the Artillery; 1.5% to the Medical Corps and 3.38% to all others.

Statistics have been confirmed on Page 367 of "WWII Strange and Fascinating Facts" by Don McCombs and Fred L. Worth, Greenwich House, New York (1983).

42nd Rainbow Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Date: 7/13/07

To: Board of Trustees

From: Ted Simonson, Scholarship Committee Chairman

Subject: Scholarship Committee 2006-07 Report

Scholarship application materials were mailed out to applicants requesting them beginning on March 15, 2007. Materials were regularly mailed out as late as April 18, 2007. Subsequently, three applications were received during the time the committee chairman was hospitalized. He came home on May 24 and found the requests for application materials which, had they been sent out immediately, would have allowed the applicants about 15 days to respond. Each of these applicants was sent information packets and given an extended deadline of June 15 which gave these candidates at least 15 days to respond. None of these persons returned applications. The letters sent to them also advised them that they could reapply next year if they were still enrolled in school.

Counting the three late requests noted above, we had 33 persons who were sent application materials. Eighteen persons submitted completed applications; 15 persons did not return completed applications.

The 18 completed applications were duplicated and distributed to the committee members to evaluate. They were directed to select those students most eligible to receive Walter and Virginia Duhacsek, Edward and Lillian Kaiser and Theodore Johnson \$1,000 awards. Their recommendations were duplicated, and at our meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, the entire committee (**Dee Eberhart, Patti Hughes, Jon Janosik, Louis Kramer, Bill Shurtleff, Grace Walker, Robert Weiss and Ted Simonson**) reviewed the applications and selected those deemed deserving of the special awards and the standard Rainbow grants.

The list of 2007 scholarship winners is attached. The Committee's recommendation includes the granting of 18 scholarships consisting of 14 \$500 Rainbow scholarships, and one Theodore Johnson, one Virginia and Walter Duhacsek, and two Lillian and Edward Kaiser scholarships of \$1,000 each for a total expenditure of \$11,000. The Committee is authorized to expend up to \$23,538.95.

The Scholarship Committee Chairman commends all members of the committee for their willing and valuable participation and thoughtful input.

Respectfully submitted, Ted Simonson, Committee Chairman

Scholarship Winners 2007

Keith Barrell, 1590 Evergreen Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84406, 801-467-0489, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Scott Barrell, 1590 Evergreen drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84406, 801-467-0489, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Risa Burr, 24 Pioneer Drive, Duxbury, MA 02332, 781-582-2177, Duhacsek, \$1,000;
 Kyle Clayton, 627 Stanton Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Katie Couch, 4061 Shadow Mountain Trail, Idaho Falls, ID 83404, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Holly A. Fisher, 2676 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Michael N. Forde, 3228 Alafaya, Apt. 202, Orlando, FL 32817, 904-673-2955, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Markell Fuller, 560 Douglas, Idaho Falls, ID 83401; Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Kelly E. Garlich, 22 Robinwood Drive, Longwood, FL 32779, 407-829-2235, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Adam W. Howard, 112 Yellowwood Ct., Alexandria, KY 41001, 859-635-1650, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Samuel Jones, 1825 Wood Dale Circle, Cedar Hill, TX 75104, 972-291-7101, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Emily J. Murphy, 901 Stanton Avenue, Terrace Park, OH 45174, 513-532-8840, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Amy Pettus, 801 NE Jamestown Ct., Blue Springs, MO 64104, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Will Sanderson, 441 Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924, 908-221-0677, Johnson Award, \$1,000;
 Cara Singer, 5652 Olde Post Road, Sylvania, OH 43560, 419-882-4343, Kaiser Award, \$1,000;
 Benjamin J. Stephan, 1231 Misty Mountain Court, Barnhart, MO 63012, 636-464-1817, Rainbow Award, \$500;
 Elizabeth Wilkens, 1601 E. High Street, Davenport, IA 52803, 563-323-7545, Rainbow Award, \$500; and
 Stephen M Woldridge, 2241 Shannondale Road, Green Oakes, IL 60048, 847-680-4391, Kaiser Award, \$1,000.

Fund-Raiser

Dear Members of Friends of Rainbow:

After the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001, we decided to defer our fund-raising efforts. However, our needs are still there and it is more important than ever that we resume our solicitations; our numbers are declining and our needs are increasing. There are many programs that need our continued support, such as the scholarship fund, publishing The Reveille, running the reunions and maintaining the memorials.

The legacy of Rainbow of which we are so justifiably proud depends more then ever on your committed support.

Please be as generous as possible so we can keep the spirit of Rainbow alive.

Yours in Rainbow,

Ted Simonson

Chairman,

Rainbow Division Veterans

Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Romeo Fagiolo

President,

Rainbow Division Veterans

Memorial Foundation, Inc.

National Auxiliary Officers

Reunion Chairman Rose Pettus
 Bazaar Chairman Dee Ann
 Kramer

Your recording secretary is under way with the minutes of the Annual Executive Committee and the business meetings which should be in the mail to you by the end of this week. The Bulletin will be prepared after the minutes are in the mail.

The President of the Memorial Foundation is Romeo Fagiolo; Ted Simonson continues as chairman, and Marjorie Eaton continues as vice president. Best Rainbow wishes to you all.

Barbara

Editor's note: We believe that the following account involving the 2nd Bn./314th Inf. should be of interest to those of us attached to the 79th during Operation Nordwind. It helps us to see more of the overall picture.

Drusenheim Nightmare

(Courtesy of Dick Engler)

The tragedies of January, in Alsace, were no respecter of experience. Two proud and veteran units that had remained on the edges of Nordwind, through much of the month were caught in flare-ups of mid-January that brought disaster to both. Our narrative is restricted to one; the 2nd Bn./314th Inf. had won a Distinguished Unit Citation for daring, aggressive action in capturing Ft. du Roule at Cherbourg in June. They had been through the trials of Normandy when constant pressure to attack left companies depleted and exhausted. They had persevered in attack through the Forêt de Parroy in October, as they approached Saverne. Now, in January, for two weeks following the German attack across the Rhine north of Strasbourg, they watched and waited around the little Alsatian village of Drusenheim beside the Rhine. At this gateway to the German Reich, as they faced an enemy on the threshold of defeat, they found themselves more separated from most of their parent 79th Div. than they had ever been before. Even as they operated in a relatively passive role, the men of the 314th saw signs of German power raised to a new level of intensity. The entire regiment was gradually getting accustomed to heavy shelling. For once, the enemy had more artillery than we had. In the towns of Drusenheim and Rohrwiller, just answering an urgent call of nature took a great deal of courage. Worst of all, nothing could be done about it.

When the 3rd Bn. of the regiment first moved up to Rohrwiller, on January 6, it encountered one of the heaviest artillery barrages it had ever experienced, and this was **only from the original Himmler bridgehead force**. Now, in mid-January, **new German power had concentrated in the bridgehead**, and Drusenheim was the meeting point for the German forces from the north and the formerly isolated Himmler force. They were preparing to turn this into a springboard for offensive moves on Bischwiller and Haguenau. The roads through Roeschwoog, Auenheim, Stettmatten, Dengelsheim and Dalhunden **now offered a secure route for the Germans to move south**, along the west bank of the Rhine into the bridgehead. Also, ferries were operating, and much of the 10th SS Panzer, thus moved into the bridgehead, and were already engaged in battles south of Drusenheim (2nd Bn./232 and units of the 12th Armored at Weyersheim and Gamsheim). Americans in Drusenheim were being enveloped from three sides.

Operating with just two battalions (one had been loaned to the 45th Division), the veteran 314th Regiment had made Rohrwiller, Drusenheim, and the Drusenheim Woods its home during the two weeks since the first attacks had carried into Drusenheim and led to position warfare. The regiment's offensive moves had ended on January 7 after the successful attack by 2nd moved through Rohrwiller and into Drusenheim. One company had moved (F/314) toward Herrlisheim to capture a factory on the south bank of the Moder and about 3/4 of a mile southeast of Drusenheim. When the Germans moved in strength on Drusenheim from Herrlisheim on January 7, the 314th pulled its defenses back north of the Moder River in Drusenheim, and F/314th withdrew due north by wading across the Moder to take

up positions along the southeast edge of Drusenheim Woods.

There had been an effort on January 8 by the 3rd Bn. to attack northeast against the flank of the enemy facing the 2nd Bn. in Drusenheim. This attack encountered such heavy artillery and mortar fire, followed by a German counter-attack from Herrlisheim, that 3rd Bn. was forced on the defensive to prevent the enemy from crossing the Zorn.

A bridgehead at the waterworks at la Breymuhl, on the Rohrwiller-Herrlisheim road, was established and held. During the weeks of waiting, the regiment's position remained stabilized: the 2nd Bn. held Drusenheim north and west of the Moder River, with F Co. spread across the southeast edge of the woods . . . while also maintaining a bridgehead across the Zorn. After January 8, the battalions of the 314th Infantry were not called on to make major attacks. It was the 12th Armored ordered to assault Herrlisheim on January 8. The name "Purple Heart Lane" was given to the stretch of road between the footbridge across the Moder at Rohrwiller and the waterworks on the Zorn, by these same luckless men of the 12th Armored, not by men of the 314th, who had orders to hold fast in place and support these futile attacks.

Heavy enemy shelling became commonplace in Rohrwiller and Drusenheim. The only American artillery available were 8-inch shells from way back, and the big shells angled in so low over Rohrwiller that the G.I.s ducked with every round. The enemy shelling was rapidly reducing the availability of billets in the towns. As the situation became more desperate, even the limited diversions that the 314th was called on to initiate in support of the 12th Armored became more costly. At 0130 on January 16, the 2nd Bn. staged a diversion demonstration to assist combat Command B of the 12th Armored in its second attempt to take Herrlisheim. This touched off a reprisal shelling from the enemy which surpassed anything the 2nd Bn. had experienced, both in intensity and duration. By daylight, Drusenheim was a shambles and the shelling continued through the morning. Adding to the discomfort of the men of the 314th, the armored attack by the 12th Armored was stopped by noon, losing more tanks to German tanks and self-propelled guns firing from behind the railroad embankment. As the remnants of the attacking force withdrew back through the waterworks, enemy direct fire weapons took a heavy toll of men of L/314th in their exposed position at the Zorn bridgehead.

The signs were ominous. Renewed heavy firing and the sounds of tank battles to the south; uncertain conditions to the north, where only road patrols maintained contact with friendly troops in the Sessenheim sector. Concern about events to the north prevailed at higher command levels, and when the regiment's 1st Bn. returned from the mountains on January 16, it was sent north to help the 232nd Inf. in its deteriorating situation. Even 3rd Bn. at Rohrwiller was tapped for help. I Co./314th was sent early on January 18 to join 1st Bn./314th in efforts to screen Soufflenheim from the threatening German spearhead at Sessenheim.

All day on January 19, the enemy threat to Drusenheim increased. The greatest threat seemed to be from the northeast, and the 2nd Bn./314th concentrated automatic and anti-tank weapons in the section. A platoon of F/314 was moved from Drusenheim Woods to the furthest northeast zone of the Bn. defense of Drusenheim. However, the threat had to be countered from all directions, and the enemy made sure that threatening moves came from many quarters. At 11:00 A.M. a buildup south of the town was visible. Enemy tanks, infantry columns, and trucks were moving up behind the railroad embankment beyond the river. To the north, the platoon of F/314th received small arms and tank fire all day. At dusk, heavy

artillery and mortar fire descended on Drusenheim, and automatic weapons, tank and flak fire intensified to the south of the town. However, the swift, penetrating assault came from the north: down the railroad tracks and out of Sessenheim Woods; covered by fog and darkness, small assault teams infiltrated, so that, as in Sessenheim, a battle without lines soon had the 2nd Bn./314th embroiled in many isolated little actions in all parts of town.

Panzerfaust teams were in the lead followed by tanks and infantry. Four American TDs from the 813th TD Bn. and the 314th's 57mm AT guns were heard to fire only a few rounds before being silenced at the northeast corner. (An after-action report of the 813th states: "The snow, the haze or mist which hung over the area cut visibility to almost zero and facilitated every enemy movement. This was the same enemy that members of 1st and 3rd Bns./232nd had held off for 14 days at Sessenheim). The enemy assault teams then pushed along the railroad tracks to the station. Tanks and infantry quickly spread out to isolate the defenders in many pockets. Mortar positions of Co. H were quickly overrun and heavy machine gun positions were overwhelmed. By 6:15 the Bn. C.P. was isolated and all communication wires were cut. Some radio communication remained operative. German tanks roamed the streets, firing into cellars and cleaning up points of resistance. As the attack from the north quickly enveloped and penetrated 2nd Bn., the enemy also moved on Drusenheim from the south, crossing the Moder and penetrating into the Bois de Drusenheim. In hopes of developing an avenue of escape by establishing a strongpoint in northwest Drusenheim, F Co. was ordered to do so on the northwest corner of town along the road leading to Rohrwiller.

But there was to be no escape for most of the 2nd Bn./314th. From the surrounded C.P. a report to Regiment, by radio, told of the extent of the enemy occupation. The Panzers were moving unopposed from house to house firing into the basements. Orders were issued from regiment to attempt to break out to the northwest, but isolated groups could not be brought together to concentrate enough power for a breakout. Attempts to organize a breakout continued until midnight, when it was conceded that a breakout was impossible. F Co. was ordered to leave its strong point and withdraw before it, too, was encircled. "According to a pre-arranged plan, we pulled back into an open field behind the town. The Lord must have been watching old Fox that night because, just as we withdrew, a short snow flurry shielded us from the light of Jerry flares and burning houses. The snow lasted only about fifteen minutes, but it gave us time enough to clear the town." Four officers and 86 enlisted men of Co. F worked their way across the open field and trudged west to Bischwiller.

At 1:50 A.M., the last communications were received at Regiment. One man from the C.P. group, who managed to escape, said that at 4:30 A.M., permission was given for individuals to try to escape on their own. As at Sessenheim, the Germans flaunted the **ordeals of cold**. They took away the G.I.s gloves, and forced them to remove their shoepacs, and **stand in the snow in their stocking feet**. Required to stand for over an hour, with hands overhead, some GIs found their arms sagging as they tired; the German guards enjoyed punishing them with the butt of a rifle across the elbows. "Before long, all fingers were frozen, and some who had been slapped, found their hands bleeding. Also, men who had been wounded had to stand and take it with the rest."

At Drusenheim, the 314th Infantry received the worse drubbing dealt it during the entire war."

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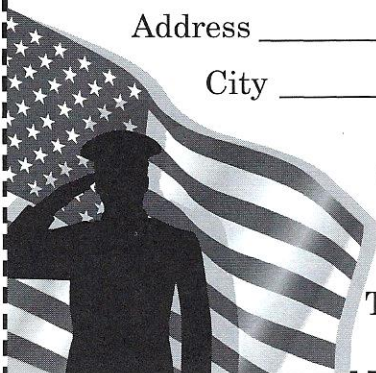
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**National Reunion
Salt Lake City, Utah
More Info Later**

Chairman's Message

continued from page 1

corresponding with hotel managers and staffs, and, finally, supervising all that goes on during both the midyear and annual reunions. In all of this work he is supported by and assisted by Rose, who this year also served as the Auxiliary President. They were one busy couple working on our behalf!!

Eastern Region Reunion

The troops have spoken. By a 3 to 1 margin they have voted for one meeting a year to be held in October. So please mark your calendar for October 17-19, 2007 and every October thereafter. Once again, to be held at the beautiful Port-O-Call Hotel, Ocean City, NJ. Do not be left out, come join the party. Send your reservations in early. 42nd National Guard units more than welcome. Looking forward to having you join us. See you in October.

For more information call:

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