

RAINBOW DIVISION
Veterans Memorial Foundation

REVEILLE

VOL. LXXXVIII

JANUARY 2008

NO. 3

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 — January 1, 2008

This first message of 2008 from your Chairman is being written three days before Thanksgiving in order to be assured of meeting Reveille Editor Ken Carpenter's deadline of December 1 and my hip surgery date of Monday, November 26. When you read it, we will be into 2008 and, with luck, I will be practicing dance steps on a new hip in anticipation of having a great time at our Midyear Reunion in Mobile, Alabama, (February 13-16). Thanksgiving is a "thank you" time, family-wise, in my home, and it is a good time to thank persons in our extended Rainbow family as well. In another Rainbow capacity I have enjoyed for years (Scholarship Committee Chairman), it is a propitious time to remind you that our scholarship program receives a good deal of its support from bequests and outright gifts made by members, their families and friends. Here's an abbreviated list of recent donors: Ed Bock (Friend of Ted Johnson), the Horace Woodmansee family, Jean Holler, the Eastern Region Auxiliary, Mike Diglio, the 1st Battalion 242d Chapter, J. Price, Lois Smith, Elizabeth and Stephen McLean, Margo Dumele, Robert Bowen, Two Anonymous Persons, Jim Schaefer, Martin Allen, Patty Heaton, Forest Scott and the Northwest Region Chapter. **My thanks to all of you on behalf of all Rainbowers.**

To further address our scholarship program, it is worth reminding everyone that requests for scholarship information are answered around **March 15 of each year**. This is because the Scholarship Committee meets during the February Midyear Reunion to decide precisely what the procedures and requirements will be for students to both initially qualify to apply and, subsequently, be awarded a stipend. One practice we have followed for several years, and one which I expect the Committee will continue to require, is that the person recommending the student for a scholarship **must be a current "paid up" member in good standing of the RDVMF**. Currently, I have thirteen requests for application materials on hand, and any of you readers who have been thinking of requesting scholarship applications should send your requests to me relatively soon in the new year. Later applications are welcome as long as there is time for the applicants to get the fairly complicated papers returned to me by the **submission deadline of May 15**.

Please understand you may be the person who requests information about scholarships, **but the student becomes the applicant and is responsible for completing the application**. Therefore, please include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if there is one) of each candidate you want to nominate. You will be notified when materials are sent to your nominee(s), but all correspondence thereafter will be with the student only!! Finally, insofar as scholarships are concerned, the grants in recent years have been \$1,000 and \$500 stipends. It is probable that this year we will continue the practice, but that is not a certainty until it is discussed by the Scholarship Committee at the Midyear meeting.

To return to the role of chairman, I want to remind you that the officers (Chairman, President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus all of our committees serve you **under the direction of the Board of Trustees**. Early in January, I will write to all of the officers, committee chairpersons, and trustees to obtain topics for the Midyear Trustees meeting agenda. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints you want to be addressed by our trustees, please contact one of them and explain what you want the Board to consider.

Let's all gather in Mobile. As our numbers shrink, each of us becomes more important to the happiness of others who gather with us. I pray that each of you will both want and be able to be there with us. Pete and Rose Pettus have a great time planned.

Ted Simonson, Chairman

Over the Rainbow

Rainbow suffered a crushing blow in the loss of Art Lee. Art provided invaluable help to anyone wanting it. He was tireless in giving us his great knowledge of research including the K.I.A. Book and the Dachau Book. He will be sorely missed. Until we meet again.

Ken Carpenter

OBITUARY FOR ART LEE

Arthur Norman Lee Jr., went to be with our Lord on November 16, 2007. Arthur was born July 20, 1926, and spent his first 17 years in Lexington, MA. Enlisting in the U.S. Army, on April 19, 1944, he trained as an Infantryman and 57-MM Antitank Gun crewman at Camp Blanding, FL. Assigned to the 1st BN 242nd Inf Regt. 42nd Inf. (RAINBOW) Div., he earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge while engaged in combat operations in France and Germany.

Enlisting in the Regular Army in Nov. 1945, he served as Regimental Sergeant Major, 242nd Inf. Regt. and Bn. Sergeant Major of two Regular Army units, the 1st Bn., 5th Inf. Regt. and the 1st Bn, 16th Inf. Regt., 1st Inf. Div., while stationed in Vienna, Austria.

In 1947 he was awarded the Army's Commendation Ribbon for his service as Sergeant Major, Headquarters Commandant, Vienna Area Command. During 1948-1949, he was the Operations Sergeant, Military Escort Detachment #5, 1300th Army Service Unit, Brooklyn Army Base Terminal, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Re-enlisting, in Nov. 1949, for the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps, he attended and graduated (Class B-59) from the CIC's



Art in Korea

Basic Agent Course, Camp Holabird, MD. During the ensuing 18 years, until his retirement from service on Sept. 1, 1968, he served as both a CIC Agent and as an Area Intelligence Specialist.

In addition to his foreign service duty during 1945-47, he had two tours of duty in Korea (1951-53 and 1954-56) and two tours of duty in Germany, (1959-62 and 1964-67). Units to which he was assigned included: 109th CIC Det., 441st CIC Det., 308th CIC Det., 704th CIC Det., 801st CIC Det., 218th DIC Det., 82nd CIC Det., 108th CIC Det., 116th CIC Det., 503rd MI Det., USACRF: USAINTC: 513th INTC Group: and, the 66th INTC Group.

He attended and graduated from the Area Intelligence Specialist School (Class 64-DE-3), Fort Holabird, MD in April 1964. In addition to the CIB and the Army Commendation Ribbon, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, (two awards), EAME Medal (two Bronze Service Stars), Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), Distinguished Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal (with 6 Bronze Loops), Korean Service Medal (three Bronze Service Stars), Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Korean Presidential Unit Citation, United Nations Service Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal.

For his service as a CIC Agent, he received 7 Letters of Commendation, 11 Letters of Appreciation and 3 Certificates of Achievement. He is a Lifetime Member of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association, the Division Veterans Association. During the period

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Cutoff date March 1, 2008 for April 2008 issue.

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Chaplain's Message

George Washington's New Year Prayer

Almighty God, we make our earnest Prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind so that we may be a happy and united nation. Grant these our supplications, we beseech Thee O Lord, as we pray in Thy Holy Name. Amen.

Norman Forde
Rainbow Chaplain

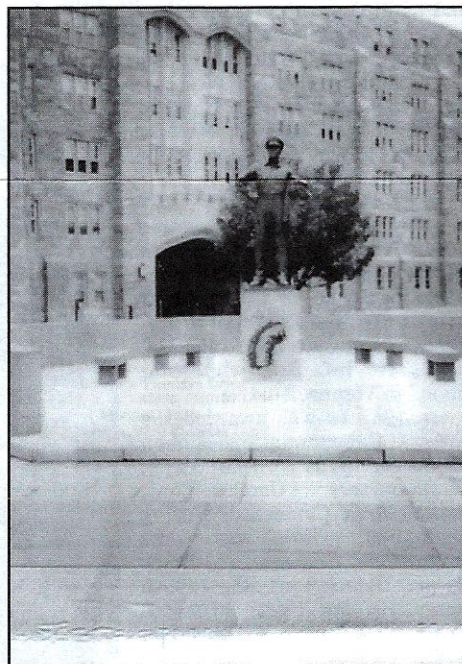


Photo by Marty Allen

MacArthur Statue at West Point Honored

As requested by the RDVMF Memorials Officer Jim Clemons, the statue of General Douglas MacArthur at the West Point U.S. Military Academy, was honored on November 11, 2007, with a traditional Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony headed by Mr. Martin A. Allen, President, Division Headquarters Chapter, Rainbow Division Veterans Association, Troy, N.Y. The RDVMF thanks the 42nd Division Headquarters Chapter and Marty Allen for making the event a success.

Birmingham National 60th Annual Veterans Day Celebration

By Jim Clemons

Rainbow Division veterans and family members attending the 60th annual Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham enjoyed a busy three-day event, graced with delightful autumn weather, culminating with National Veterans Day Parade on November 12. Following arrival of most of the group on November 10 and a get-together in a well-stocked hospitality room, thanks to Dodo Kallaher of Memphis and others who assisted. Sunday, November 11, saw a morning bus tour to Shoney's for breakfast followed by the traditional Rainbow memorial service for the 167th Alabama Regiment at the 21st St. Memorial Viaduct and in the evening the National Veterans Award Diner at Boutwell Auditorium. RDVMF President Romeo Fagiolo and Auxiliary President Judy Rosen, seated at the banquet head table, each presented brief remarks. The main feature of the banquet was an address by National Veterans Award winner H.C. "Barney" Barnum Jr., a Medal of Honor winner and currently Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs. On Monday, November 12, the Rainbow veterans group attended the Memorial Service which was followed by the World Peace Luncheon. At 1:30 p.m., following the luncheon, the annual Veterans Day Parade stepped off on the parade route through the streets of downtown Birmingham, AL.

Thanks to the photographic efforts of Rainbowners Jim and Evelyn Barton Schaefer, Davenport, Iowa, a photo (not included) of the 42nd Rainbow Division parade bus, shows the parade bus with WWII Rainbow veterans ready for the parade: L. to R., they are Tom Owens, RDVMF President Romeo Fagiolo, Wilbur Miller (US bearer), Larry Rosen, Pete Pettus (Rainbow flag bearer), Paul Jones, Jim Clemons, Jim Schaefer and Fritz Krenkler. There was an especially touching moment before the parade began when some Cub Scouts in the Birmingham area handed to some of the 42nd veterans handmade thank you cards with drawn pictures and notations such as: "Thank you for keeping us safe and free, Den 8 Pack 367." The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation gives its most sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to John Wallace, Millennium Chapter and a Birmingham resident for his superb efforts in putting together the RDVMF participation in this national historic event sponsored by some 27 national and regional patriotic and veterans groups including the American Legion, RDVMF, ROA, VFW, WACS Vets Association, Gold Star Wives and the American Society Sons of the Revolution. It's a meaningful and wonderful event for Rainbowners and families to attend. See ya next year!

Registration Forms

Registration forms should be mailed to Pete Pettus, 9639 E. Frito, Mesa, AZ 85208. Readers are reminded that they must keep a copy of the telephone number for transportation from the airport to the hotel, 573-330-1909 is the number.

A Long Delayed Letter of Thanks

From Suellen McDaniels
Assistant Editor.

09/23/07: From Charles P. Williams,
grandson of MG Harry J. Collins, 42D
Div. HQ:

To all, I can't thank all of you enough to learn about my Grandfather and hear stories of the past. Enclosed I have placed a letter from a German soldier who has waited until he was in his nineties to be able to send a letter to me. I was touched to the core over its content. Please use this letter to show all, that even though the war placed man against man, the men of the 42nd respected soldiers of the German army enough to treat them with dignity. I would love to be a part of this group that keeps the legend and the history of the 42nd alive.

The Subject:

A long delayed letter of thanks:

Mr. Charles P. Williams

September 19, 2007

Dear Sir:

My nephew, Erik Marrero, managed to find your name and e-mail address. I believe sincerely that I owe my life to your grandfather, Major General Harry Collins. My family lived in Munich, Germany, until January of 1947, when we were brought to the States under the Project Paperclip as property of the U.S. Force. My father, who had been working at the BMW works building aircraft engines, had been brought to the States in July of 1945.

I had served in the German Army, in the First Mountain Division, Regiment 98, out of Garmisch. During 1944 I was part of a reserve battalion, based in Annecy, Haute Savoy. From March of 1944 on we had been marching to and from between Lake Geneva and the Province, always on foot, carrying our 80 mm mortars on our backs. In spring of 1945 I was stationed at the Semmering Pass, at the eastern end of the Alps. Our unit was never told just when hostilities ended, and where the demarcation line between U.S. Forces and the Russians lay. We walked west, under steady Russian pressure until we reached the Enns River, at the town of Liezen. The river was in high flood, filled with ice from the recent breakup of the winter ice. We crossed at night, and found only a few GIs on the other side. They collected German soldiers at various checkpoints, and eventually trucked us to Mauerkirchen, a small town near Linz, Austria. There, in meadows with many branches of creeks running through them, some 160,000 German POWs were held in a collecting camp, 30,000 women and 130,000 men and boys. We had lived in our uniforms for months, and we were all filthy. So we took off our uniforms, and bathed as well as could and rinsed out our uniforms. Our first contact with General Collins came as he flew over the camp in his Piper Cub. He spoke down to us via his loud-hailer,

telling us that he had no food for us. We were to remain in the camp area, and that he had very few guards. As soon as he could find paper for discharge forms, he would discharge us.

For some ten days we ate grass and nettles, baked in the sun, and caught up on our sleep. By then General Collins had found some newsprint and printed up discharge forms. We were passed through cattle gates, to sort the women from the men, interviewed by German-speaking GIs, fingerprinted, and sent to some clay pits of a brick factory. After a wait of two days we were called up by name, read from lists by German sergeants. We were handed our precious discharge papers, duly signed by Major General Harry Collins. We were free!

The First Mountain Division had three trucks left and we were hauled, 40 to a truck, towards home. At first we had a jeep with a machine gun front and back escorting us. One of our fellows had grown up in New York City, where his father was Consul General. At the first pit stop he talked with the captain escorting us, and told him he did not need the guard jeeps, as no one was going to run, we were going home after all. He then asked the captain where he might be going. The answer was Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance. Would he, could he, detour and drop us five boys off at Munich. To our great surprise the captain agreed, and we were let off at the end of the Autobahn west of Munich. We thanked the captain, who was surprised to find an English-speaker among us, and we marched off towards home, hoping we would still find a home. Munich was 85 percent destroyed. After some six hours of walking I was home. The day was May 29, the time 4 p.m. As I entered the small street where we lived, my sister came riding out of the garden gate on her bicycle. She threw the bike away, and ran and hugged me. Then she held me at arm's length and said "you stink." Her cry had brought my mother to our door. She too hugged me, then stripped me on the doorstep, saying none of my clothes could come into the house, they would be boiled in the wash kettle. She was a medical doctor, and she inspected me for wounds and hurts, stuck me in the bathtub, scrubbed me, cut my hair and proceeded to cook me a feast. I can still not believe that after so long a fast I could managed to eat 19 plum dumplings with no ill effects.

Our house stood, even though the roof was damaged. The house was filled to capacity with 27 people, most of them refugees from my mother's family in Silesia. My five siblings were alive. My father was held at the BMW plant during the week, but he came home on weekends. It is difficult to describe my homecoming. Father had been on the Western Front for four years from 1914 to 1918. He could not believe I had survived, and was in one piece. I had been in hospital with the sergeant who kept the records of our division. He told me the division was rebuilt 14 times to its normal complement of 10,000. Of these 140,000 men and boys

only 800 had survived. I was stunned to be among the lucky ones.

Too many years have gone by, before I got around to this letter. I recall going to Mass on Pentecost Sunday in a small chapel on the grounds of the camp. I was very much moved to be alive. That was days before General Collins discharged me. Not long afterward General Eisenhower intervened and stopped the discharges, sending the balance of the camp in Mauerkirchen to the Russians. It was 1955 before Chancellor Adenauer managed to buy the survivors free. A mere 5 percent had survived the ten years in Russian captivity.

Later, when we could travel we made it a point to always include a visit to the grave of Harry Collins. It lies at the East end of the Old St. Peter's Cathedral.

It was not easy for a boy of my age to survive that long and murderous war. Let me give you an example. I belonged to a Jesuit youth group, the Congregatio Mariana. In 1942 some 72 boys in the group were still alive. When I visited our chapel in 1955, on our first visit to Germany, I saw a plaque on the wall that stated that of these 72 boys only three had survived the war. As it turned out two more came back, after ten years in Soviet captivity. You will understand the deep sense of gratitude I carry for your grandfather, General Harry Collins. He discharged me before Eisenhower could send me to Russia. I was able to make a life with my sweetheart from Latin School. On September 10 we were married 58 years. This very happy life I owe to your grandfather. May God reward him, a true gentleman, a fine soldier.

Pardon this long letter. I am obliged to my nephew Erik Marrro, who is a computer wizard, for finding your name and address.

With my most sincere gratitude, I am
Eric M. Ammann

OBITUARY FOR ART LEE

Continued from Page 1

March 1, 1969-January 15, 1988, he was Plant Manager of Rochester Midland, Rochester, N.Y., manufacturing/distribution facility located in Aurora, IL.

He is survived by two daughters, Blanche (Barry) Norris of Sugar Grove and Cassandra Lee of Oswego, four grandchildren and his brother, Warren Lee of Florida. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Helen, an infant grandson Sean Norris, and his sister Eleanor Figenbaum.

Arthur spent his retirement enjoying his grandchildren and researching the combat history of his WWII Unit, the RAINBOW Division. Art had many fond memories of his experiences as a CIC Agent/Area Intelligence Specialist and of those fine gentlemen with whom he had the pleasure of serving in the military. God Bless them all!

At Arthur's request, a private military funeral service will be held on a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.



Herbert Butt and Eugene Wopata

**Purchase of Rainbow Plaque to
Be Displayed at the
"Rosedale Memorial Arch,"
Kansas City, KS**

The National Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation approved a request of the Missouri/Kansas Chapter of RDVA for a Rainbow Plaque. The plaque is to be placed at the "Rosedale Memorial Arch." The reason for the Rainbow plaque is to show that the "Rosedale Memorial Arch," is now a recognized Memorial of the 42nd Division. Memorial Foundation. The "Rosedale Memorial Arch" is in Kansas City, KS.

**Tomb of a Known
Soldier**

This is the tomb of a known soldier.

*Known to his comrades
as a fiercely loyal and dedicated
soldier,*

*Known to his wife
as a loving and understanding
partner,*

*Known to his children
as a kind and nurturing father,
Known to his friends
as a helpful and humorous man,
And all along, known to God
as worthy to be in His presence.*

— **Elaine Buckler**

**In memory of her father Paul
Buckler, Co. G/23rd Inf.**



Pete and Rose Pettus convened with 96 square dancers in Munich in September. We traveled to Grassau, Germany, and stayed there two weeks for sightseeing and square dancing. We visited the Eagles Nest, the Oktoberfest in Munich, several castles, etc.

We visited Salzburg and Pete pointed out General Collins' grave and explained how he came to be buried there. Later, Rose and Pete were shopping and Pete mentioned to a young clerk waiting on us, that he was in the Rainbow Division during the war and the young man said "Did you know there is a Rainbow painted on a wall with a plaque paying tribute to General Collins?" We said, "No, we did not know it." He located the area on our Strasbourg map and we walked a few blocks and found the site.

Pete sent a photo and explanation to Memorials Officer Jim Clemons. It is not in our memorials book. He is going to try to find out more about it.

The plaque may not be readable in the picture I am enclosing. It says

THE RAINBOW WAS THE SYMBOL OF THE U.S. RAINBOW DIVISION 42ND INFANTRY DIVISION THAT UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HARRY J. COLLINS TOOK PART IN THE LIBERATION OF THE PROVINCE OF SALZBURG IN MAY 1945. IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SALZBURG.

Attached is a photo of the Rainbow plaque recently discovered on their trip to Salzburg by Pete and Rose Pettus. The painted Rainbow insignia extends around the corner. The inscription on the plaque, both in English and German states that the Rainbow was the symbol of the U.S. Rainbow Division 42nd Infantry Division that under the command of Major General Harry J. Collins took part in the liberation of the Province of Salzburg. The plaque is grateful remembrance. The provincial Capital of Salzburg.

This Rainbow plaque site is not listed in Charlie Fowler/Lise Pommies work "In Search of Rainbow Memorials" but should be along with its history. According to general information provided by Pete Pettus the plaque is on a wall surrounding a hospital or former hospital in Salzburg, near the Salzach River and in general proximity to the Mozart dinner theater.

It is the intent of the Memorials Officer to communicate with the Mayor of Salzburg in search of any background historical information and detail regarding the plaque and its sponsors which might be available from records, et cetera.

If any Rainbower has information regarding this newly discovered plaque in Salzburg, Austria, please do not hesitate to pass it along to me.

Jim Clemons
Memorials Officer, RDVMF
18 Fawn Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22406-8444
(540) 368-2493



Three Denver Rainbowners Meet

From left to right, George Bullene (82) 232nd Inf. Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Silver Star. COE 2nd Plat; Major Huff (95) 392nd FA Serv. Bat., and Dick Bayles (92) 392nd FA Hq. Bat.

Bayles is active in church work and gives illustrator talks on Dachau. Huff goes to the office on a daily basis. Bullene recently returned from an extended tour of Europe and Normandy.

The three often meet for lunch in the executive dining room of Huff's company. The conversation usually includes CP2.



**Northeast
Reunion
42nd (Mech/Div)**

**CSM John Willsey,
Col. Lori Thomas, Lt.
Col. Brian Scully, M.G.
Tom Garrett (Ret.) and
Col. Carl Pfeiffer,
Chief of Staff.**

Reflections on Lessons Learned From Task Force Linden

The late Dick Engler, author of "The Final Crisis," wrote this shortly before his death...

A few years ago, on Memorial Day, Joe Neilson, Bill Ryder and I visited the American Military Cemetery at St. Avold. It's a beautiful setting with flowers blooming in tended gardens. The long descending slope of the cemetery is a lush green, this time of year, so that the white crosses arrayed in perfect rows stand out in vivid contrast. On Memorial Day each grave is decorated with a tiny American and French flag.

On that Memorial Day, I was seeking the graves of two of the youngest of my old Infantry Company: teenagers who fell during our first attack in the last winter of World War II.

They lay almost side by side, Walter and Henry. I hadn't known them very well. But then none of us in that Company had had much time to become close friends. It was doubtless the fortunes of war that took them at so early an age while others of us were spared. But I feel they could have had a better chance. Walter had called out "help me" after the German shell sent shrapnel tearing into his chest; but the man he called to didn't stop to help as everyone scrambled to get out of that frozen field where the barrage from the 88's was falling. Someone did help Henry, bandaged his wounds, and then propped him against a tree for the litter bearers... who never came. Because in this makeshift attack, without artillery or tank support, the litter bearers were from another battalion; they were strangers. Henry probably froze to death.

We all learned something that day. That in the last extremity... in the final crisis... the people must fall back on their own inner strengths, we learned that lesson quickly, but too late to give Walter and Henry a chance.

Let me return to the group of Americans I observed closely that winter and then later in the spring. Men I came to know better than Walter and Henry and others who fell when many of us were near-strangers. They were just ordinary men and boys conditioned to independence and freedom in a time of depression and then of war. I remember some of them most clearly. The ones from whom I learned the most. That there is wisdom that doesn't come from books and college degrees. That even the most

cantankerous and self-centered are capable of deep commitment to one another. That where life itself is the issue, men who affirm life, their own but also the lives of the others around them. On that snowy field at Kilstett near Gamsheim, they made their first attack without artillery support and with no planning or preparation. It was a foul-up... common in war. And they left men behind in that frozen field when they fell back from withering machine gun fire and a barrage laid down by rapid firing 88's. A number of the living as well as the dead were left behind. It was a shattering experience as they first met the realities of war... the terror and the death. But that night in the cellar of a house in that tiny Alsatian village where the survivors awaited the next call to duty something strange began to happen. At first men huddled alone against the cold, lost in their own thoughts, trying to shut out the sounds of war interjected by the "chungs" of a heavy mortar just outside the cellar door. But then someone spoke up in the darkness that we'd probably never have another day like this and things were going to be all right. Another voice spoke up; and then another. Soon men were roving into little clusters, helping one another to prepare for whatever came next.

There were no formal declarations that night; and certainly few truly believed that things were going to be "all right." But very quickly, they became friends bound to a common fate. Somehow they realized that none of them were going to make it unless they began to work for one another as well as for themselves. And after that night, they never again left friends behind.

As a teenaged rifleman in that cellar at Kilstett, I thought I was witness to a miracle as that self-serving crew began to work together. But many years later, I discovered that what I had witnessed was a commonplace occurrence in times of crisis in the American story: situations where the diverse and self-serving many discover what they owe to one another. The wagon train companies in the mid-19th century were made up from small clusters of strangers who gathered near Independence, MO to form a larger party for the dangerous trip across the western plains and deserts. Usually they shared just one thing in common: a desire for opportunity and a better life. These parties of strangers came to the realization that none were going to make it to Sutter's Fort, and opportunity in the west unless they began to work for one another as well as themselves. Listen to the pledge adopted in 1849 and signed by all. "...In case any members of the company are deprived of the ability

to proceed with the Company in the usual manner, we pledge ourselves never to desert them, but to support and assist them to get through to Sutter's Fort, and, in fact, we pledge ourselves to stand by each other to the death."

Commitments unto death on the road to opportunity and individual fulfillment. And I saw this repeated almost 100 years later: how amazing. The miracle I witnessed in the midst of the trials of the Task Force Linden was simply a recurrence of a wellspring experience of our democracy. They didn't all make it to their Sutter's Fort beyond Dachau and Munich. But under the caring leadership of a 2nd Lieutenant they pooled their talents for the good of all and never stopped working to keep one another alive.

So Walter and Henry, I'm so sorry that we hadn't reached our prairie beyond Independence before that fateful attack when you fell. Because you deserved a better chance. And beyond Independence we would have done so much more to look after you... even as the others later looked after us.

(Dick's engrossing book "The Final Crisis" may be purchased by sending a check for \$33.95 (includes P&H) to Aegis Consulting Group, Box 629, Bedford, PA 15522. Tel. 814-623-8308. Fax 814-623-8668.)

Little Known Facts About the American Revolution

- More American Revolutionary soldiers died as prisoners of war than were killed in battle.

- George Washington's classroom education ended after only a few years of elementary school but John Adams graduated from Harvard.

- The first known use of dental records to identify a corpse was when Paul Revere identified Joseph Warren, a patriot leader killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

- Henry Lee, the patriot firebrand who agitated mobs against the hated Stamp Tax, had originally applied for the job of collecting taxes under the new law. He only began opposing the tax when the job went to someone else.

- Feminists were not unknown. So-called "antick virgins" made public displays of their independence and equal rights. Sarah Henderson, whose family included two signers of the Declaration of Independence and several future presidents, refused to say she would obey her husband during her wedding ceremony.



EUROPEAN THEATER, WINTER 1945, BY HOWARD BRODIE

GAMBSHEIM ... JANUARY, 1945

Information From German After Action Reports:

In the "earliest morning twilight" on January 5, the German Upper Rhine Force put a composite force of 1600 men using assault boats, across the Rhine near Gamsheim, north of Strasbourg. "On the night of the first day, both of the infantry regiments, the anti-tank battalion, four AA companies, consisting of two 8.8 cm pieces each, the observation battalion for the artillery, and a battalion of engineers had crossed to the other side." The four AA companies constituted an AA regiment which the Germans described as "richly equipped with 8.8 cm guns and richly supplied with ammunition." The commitment of the AA artillery regiment was especially effective when its fire was concentrated, owing to the high rate of fire of its 8.8 cm guns.

Note: Our intelligence called this a "Patrol".

The following describes how one company was called upon and met this threat:

Statement of Company Commander, Company E, 222nd Infantry

Upon arrival at La Wantzenau, the C.O., Co. E reported to the Regimental C.O., 2nd Bn., 232 Inf. at Weyersheim. Upon arrival at Weyersheim, the company commander reported at approximately 1630 and was told that an attack on Gamsheim was in progress; that his company would be in reserve, following E. Co., 232 at 600 yards. He was told that the aid station was in the town of Weyersheim, as was the Bn. Supply point. 2nd Bn. 232nd was composed of E Co. 232, plus E Co. 222, and was to attack on the right side of the

Weyersheim-Gamsheim road. On the left of the road were elements of the 242nd Inf., also attacking. All elements, less E Co., 222nd Inf., had already jumped off prior to E Co.'s arrival. The company commander returned to his company which had dismounted and started forward through the town. While leading the company through the town, the C.O. gave his approach march order and attempted to get his six SCR-536's working. Since radio silence prohibited this being done heretofore, it was found that only two of the six radios were calibrated. One of these two went out after ten minutes operation. All bazookas and bazooka ammunition was in the supply truck in the company convoy, and time did not permit breaking that truck down prior to moving out.

Upon arrival at the canal which runs North and South and bisects the Weyersheim-Gamsheim road, reorganization took place and E Co., 232nd again moved out in attacking echelon. About this time darkness fell. The Bn. C.O. stated that his C.P. would be a roving one with its axis upon the Weyersheim-Gamsheim road. The company commander of E, 222 placed a platoon leader in command of his company, and attempted to report to the Bn. Commander, after reaching Gamsheim. In doing so he walked down the road until he reached the first building in Gamsheim, without finding the Bn. C.O., but did meet there four tanks under their platoon leader. The tank commander was of the opinion that he was directly supported by E Co. 232nd, and the Bn. C.O. was in the immediate vicinity. The company commander of E 222nd told him that he had been looking for the Battalion C.O. and had not seen him or E Co., 232 enroute. It was later learned that E Co. 232nd Inf. had been ordered back to a position on the canal and the tank commander was not aware

of it. While retracing his route back toward the canal, the C.O. E Co. 222nd found his company approximately 400 yards west of Gamsheim with its base platoon on the road. In the darkness and because of lack of communication the company had passed E 232nd and was out in front by itself. It was ordered back to the canal by the company commander.

At the canal the Battalion Commander, 2nd Battalion 232nd ordered E Co. 222nd to form a perimeter defense west of the canal in the rear of E Co. 232nd. This was done. The 2nd Bn. C.O. went on reconnaissance and upon return ordered Easy 222nd to lead the Bn. as attacking company upon order across the canal bridge, reach the railroad running north and southwest of Gamsheim by dawn and seize Gamsheim. Said bridge was the only means within the immediate vicinity, of crossing the canal, which could not be forded (Easy Co. C.O. personally determined that factor). After several hours companies were ordered into company files and were told that they would follow elements of the 242nd over the bridge. A long delay was entailed when the point of the 242nd column was cut down by German automatic fire which enfiladed the bridge. Finally, it was decided that 2 tanks would precede both columns over the bridge, and that behind their fire companies would move out in file, cross the bridge and take up night attack formations. This was done. A long delay was entailed before the order to continue the attack was received. It was learned that 2 tanks would support the attack of the 242nd on the left side of the road and 2 on the right in direct support of Easy 222nd. Attacking echelons then moved out.

Easy 222nd received machine gun fire shortly thereafter from the right and from the woods, in front of the 242nd on the left side of the road. It pressed the attack, knocked out machine guns on the right and continued on. The 242nd was delayed in its attack on the woods, and by a reorganization, and fell behind Easy 222nd on the right. Because daylight was fast approaching and the terrain was flat and bare of concealment, Easy 222nd attacked as fast as it could in order to reach Gamsheim by dawn. It fought through outpost automatic fire to its front and right, and at dawn did reach the railroad tracks. However, crossed German machine gun fire pinned it down. During this attack, the tanks which were to support Easy 222nd fell behind and at this juncture were not in sight. Easy company commander 222nd had previously sent a runner for them with no results (it was later learned that he was wounded enroute, as were four of the five runners sent out). Easy Co. commander 222nd ran back to get the tanks which were several hundred yards to the rear, apparently doing nothing, he asked the tanks to hurry to Gamsheim and mounted the lead tank in order to guide them. Upon reaching his company position, he could not halt the tanks because they were buttoned up and no means of communication were available. He, therefore, jumped off the lead tank and managed to halt the fourth one, and lead it into position where it might support his company. The other tanks proceeded into Gamsheim. The tank the company commander had stopped, began firing on Easy Co. 222nd, and did kill two men and also wounded a platoon leader. During this time, attempts to force the tank to unbutton its turret by beating on the turret with rifles were unsuccessful. Easy company commander was only able to accomplish this by waving his arms in front of the tank driver's periscope. The lack of communication between tank and infantry caused the team to break-down, and it would have been better had the tanks not attempted to cooperate under those circumstances. It was later learned that the 3 tanks which had gone into Gamsheim, as well as the fourth tank had left the town. No notification of that fact was received by Easy 222nd.

Rifle grenades succeeded in break-

ing up the machine gun fire which had pinned the company down, and Easy company commander 222nd successfully assaulted the railroad station across the railroad tracks. In the meantime, nothing was seen of easy 232nd, and as daylight was fast approaching, the company commander 222nd ran back to expedite its arrival. The Battalion Commander, 232nd was leading them and he brought them into town. In the railroad station, it was learned that Easy 222nd had expended most of its ammunition in its fight into the town, and the Bn. C.O. ordered Easy 232nd to take over as the attacking echelon. Easy 222nd was given the mission of mopping up and securing a bridgehead in the western part of the town. Company limiting points were not given and it was assumed that the whole town was the Bn. mission; likewise limiting points between 242nd and 232nd were not given and sectors of responsibility were indistinct.

Although a forward observer, Field Artillery, had reported to Easy company commander, 222nd during the night, he was not present during the attack. A Field Artillery liaison officer was present in the railroad station, but as far as it is known, did not have a forward observer. An offer to act in the latter capacity by Easy Co. C.O. was declined. It was suggested that the liaison officer request artillery fire northeast of Gamsheim in order to screen the town from counterattacks; it is not believed that this was done. Whether or not an artillery overlay was prepared for use during the attack is not known. Easy 222nd did not receive one. During the early morning hours second platoon Easy 222nd was used by the company commander to establish a bridgehead and the first and third platoons continued the attack by house to house fighting through the town. An attack was made by elements of Easy 222nd upon the Gamsheim church in order to knock out the enemy observation; rifle grenades were again found to be useful in such work. The 2nd Bn. Commander 232nd personally led elements of Easy 222nd in house to house fighting through the town.

After several hours of strong fighting, a message was received from the Bn. C.O. to Easy Co. commander ordering him to withdraw his company immediately. The message state that five German tanks were counterattacking, and were supported by German infantry. Easy company commander 222nd notified all his men in his company whose whereabouts were known or could quickly be determined. The withdrawal was made by elements of Easy 222nd and Easy 232nd, and a small number of soldiers from the 242nd who had managed to cut through the German artillery fire which prevented their Battalion from entering Gamsheim en masse. Automatic fire was received from the left throughout the withdrawal, as the Germans continued to change positions. That fire was highly inaccurate and was made so by fire from the withdrawing companies; prisoners were taken during this fire fight. Some mortars and artillery fire was also received. The Germans did not pursue. It was necessary to leave the dead, seriously wounded, and those who were not notified of the withdrawal. Upon arrival in the canal defensive area positions were dug.

There it was found that the weapons platoon sergeant Easy 222nd had attempted to bring ammunition to his company during the attack, and had reached Gamsheim. However, German artillery fire, which prevented the 242nd from entering the town, also caught him and his party, and their attempt was unsuccessful. He was wounded and forced to withdraw. There was no resupply of ammunition during the attack, except for continuous collection of ammunition from the wounded and dead.

Despite the suddenness with which the attack was made, morale of Easy Company 222nd was high throughout the attack and withdrawal.

Riepertweiler — Hills 301 and 355 Forward

On the morning of January 14, 1945, the 157th Regiment, along with other elements of the 45th Division, launched a counterattack against the German forces of the 6th SS Division. The ensuing battle lasted until the evening of January 20th. While the German penetration was stopped, the regimental casualties were the heaviest of any single battle in 19 months of combat. Companies C, G, I, K, L and M were almost completely wiped out. On 19 January, the 179th Inf.'s Second Bn. was given the mission to attack, in conjunction with the remaining units of the 157th to contact the surrounded 3rd Bn. of the 157th. The attack gained nothing but heavy casualties. A heavy snowstorm on January 20 forestalled an air drop. On 20 January, the 2nd Bn., 411th Inf. of the 103rd Division made an attack with no success. The 3rd Bn. of the 157th attempted to attack to the rear to fight its way out. Only two men were successful and it was estimated that there had been fewer than 100 men still intact at the time.

On Feb. 14, the 45th Division was relieved by the 42nd Division. The following is submitted by Lewis E. Hubach, Co. B, 232nd Inf.

After landing at LeHavre on Jan. 16, we spent four days at a "Repple Depple" in Neufchateau. I left with a small group that I had met at Meade and hit the Division Replacement Co. at Cirey. We were there while the Division was moving back from the lines due to heavy losses. I was sure glad I had missed that deal. I was assigned to Co. B, 232nd Inf. After almost three weeks we moved to the hell-hole of Riepertweiler, where we heard that the 45th Division had lost a whole Bn. in trying to retake Hill 301. We were dug in and around Riepertweiler, almost a month, with two rifle companies on line and one back about 500 yards. All the positions were dugouts for at least three men.

On my 19th birthday, I was given a job, with two others, to dig a machine gun position — just in case. We dug a foxhole about 4 feet square and 5 feet deep, a dugout to sleep two, another foxhole adjacent to which to stand guard, and to serve as a counter from which we could eat, and a 2x2 trench about 10 yards long connecting the M.G. position with the dugout. It took us about 15 hours to dig and complete

the entire job. We stayed in that place eight days. From there, we assembled near the C.P. in the night, and attacked the next morning, March 15th.

We had, as a company objective, Hill 355 for the day. To reach it, we had first to cross Hill 301. That hill extended directly from the rear of the houses of the town. We started up at 0800. Our mortar squad was then headed by Sgt. Rosenweig, with Stan Tellvik as gunner, me as assistant gunner and Gorge Lalz, Joe Marshall, Thaden Hill and Hector Hernandez serving as ammunition bearers. As a matter of fact, we all carried 10 rounds each, each one weighing 2.73 lbs. We advanced up the hill about 150 yards when all hell broke loose. We had been spotted by Jerry through the heavy cloud of white phosphorous smoke laid down for us by our artillery. We hit the ground, while heavy small arms and automatic fire rained on us. He then zeroed in with several batteries of 88s, as well as mortars. We moved forward and hit the mine fields. They were as bad as the other stuff. The third platoon was hit the hardest, coming out with only six of the original platoon. I'm not quite sure how many they started with, but it was around 28.

I was sent down to the town again with one of the first casualties, the runner from the third platoon, who was hit in the legs. It was a break for me, as we had been under fire for three hours. Shortly afterward, I saw someone helping Joe Marshall down at the same time. Joe was hit in the face and legs. I had been ordered, but Joe's helper had volunteered.

The company kept up their push up the hill, while the area I was in was constantly raked by mortars and 88's. After helping the medics get the runner to the aid station, I proceeded to guide the litter squads up the hill as there were lots of guys still lying where they had been hit. In one area of about 10 yards in diameter, there were seven casualties from mines. The mines were of two types, one big enough to blow off a leg, the other designed for foot amputation. I helped to carry the two worst wounded from that area without any help from the medics. We had an awful time without any litters, but made it, purely with the idea that we had to get back or else. It wasn't until I took the second guy that I found out the area was mined. It had been a miracle that I hadn't stepped on a mine. One of the men I had come overseas with, was killed instantly, when he set the tripod of his BAR on a mine.

He was lying directly by the mine — not a pretty sight.

We worked the entire day on those boys, while the company proceeded on to Hill 355, repelling a fierce counter-attack. George, the other man who helped, and I, tried twice to return to our platoon, but each time we stuck our heads from around a corner of one building, a few more rounds of mortar fire came in. That night, we started up the Hill with a group taking rations and water to the company. When three were wounded and one killed by a mine in our path, we returned with the casualties. We returned to the company, the next morning, with a train of pack mules. I led one for the first time — what an experience. From there, the company pushed on. Overall, the company had suffered 52 casualties. Those Hills will always remain in my memory.

Murphy's Rules of Combat

MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMBAT

1. You are not a superman.
2. If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.
3. Don't look conspicuous — it draws fire. (This is why aircraft carriers are called, "Bomb Magnets.")
4. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
5. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
6. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
7. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
8. No plan survives the first contact intact.
9. All five-second grenade fuses will burn down in three seconds.
10. Try to look unimportant because the bad guys may be low on ammo.
11. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.
12. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
13. The important things are always simple.
14. The simple things are always hard.
15. The easy way is always mined.
16. If you are short of everything except enemy, you are in combat.
17. When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
18. Incoming fire has the right of way.
19. Friendly fire — isn't.
20. If the enemy is in range, "SO ARE YOU!!!!"
21. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
22. Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together.
23. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support desperately.
24. Anything you do can get you shot — including doing nothing.
25. Tracers work both ways.
26. The only thing more accurate than incoming fire is incoming friendly fire.
27. Make it tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
28. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share objectives to take.
29. When both sides are convinced that they are about to lose, they are both right.
30. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of amateurs.
31. Murphy was a dogface.

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October 1, 2007 — November 30, 2007

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Correction - Memorial File Nov. Issue: The name of Leo Mathis was included by mistake.



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