



REVEILLE

VOL. LXXXVIII

JANUARY 2009

NO. 3

Rainbow Online: 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, 2009

My first message of 2009 as your Chairman is being enshrined in print on Reveille Editor Ken Carpenter's "Drop Dead" deadline date of December 1, 2008. You will be reading it when we are well into 2009 — and, with luck, we will be on our way to another good year for Rainbow. Certainly, if we are, we will owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those folks who showed up for the Birmingham Trustees' meeting in November and laid out the preliminary groundwork to assure us of continuing to be an effective working organization in 2009. First, I want to thank **Marjorie Eaton** for bailing us out by seeing that the pressing work of the organization was completed. Marge, when she was working her way up the ladder through the Women's Auxiliary to become Vice-President of the Foundation, could never have envisioned a case where I (Chairman), Romeo Fagiolo (President), Herbert Butt, (Secretary), and Jon Janosik (Treasurer) would all "Jake Out" simultaneously and leave her "holding the proverbial bag" all by herself. What a bunch of good guys!! What a gracious lady!!

Fortunately, Marge had done the preparatory work for the Trustees' meeting and had great follow-up support from a bunch of fine troops. **Pete Pettus**, Reunions Committee Chairman, supported by wife **Rose** as a combination Right Hand Man, Dance Instructor and Fitness Coordinator, was in fine fettle. Everything — including the rough draft of Trustee Meeting Minutes — flowed forth from Pete without a hitch. We would have been dead in the water without him. Pete was working on a background laid by a "behind the scenes" heavyweight (young but mighty Rainbower) **John Wallace**. John is the "anchor" to which the Birmingham affair is moored. And, then, both before and during the whole meeting, contributions and suggestions from the likes of **Dee** and **Barbara Eberhart**, **Suellen McDaniel**, **Ken Carpenter**, **Romeo Fagiolo**, **Earnie Owen** and others who do not come to mind at this moment were instrumental in our eventual Birmingham success. There were at least nine voting Trustees present who I have not named here.

One of the markers cited by experts in organizational theory of what indicates an organization is strong is the fact that the team does not falter if its leadership is lost or temporarily disabled. Marge and a whole bunch of people made Birmingham and our whole organization look and feel strong. It gives me much confidence that we will see continued success down the road ahead.

Speaking of success, our Scholarship Program continues its successful journey forward. Look elsewhere in this issue of Reveille for complete information concerning the scholarship application process.

Here, in a bit of nostalgic recall, is another story of the success inherent in assumed leadership roles under pressure. One night in January, 1945, there was a nineteen-year-old Third Squad, Third Platoon, Company 1, 242nd Infantry BAR man (called "Shorty" by everyone) pinned down under fire by about 20 Germans with 10 to 15 yards — at the most — separating him from the Germans. His weapon was frozen and would not fire. To put it bluntly, he was a duck waiting to die. Another man from the same platoon who was a second squad lead scout was located up the Moder River about a hundred yards away — safely ensconced in foxholes with three other men. He took it upon himself to lead the three men under his assumed command to attack the larger German contingent — successfully shooting them off "Shorty's" back, and daylight came to find Shorty alive. His savior and "Shorty's" "hero for life" was Dee Eberhart. "Shorty" has been known ever after as happy Ted Simonson. Thanks, again, for everything you have done in leadership roles with Rainbow, Dee.

Ted Simonson, Chairman

Scholarship Information For Applicants

This letter is being sent to the three of you because:

1. I would like this notice in the January Reveille.

2. Barbara and Suellen, I'm hopeful that if you receive scholarship inquiries as you have in the past, you will simply forward the following notice to whomever has made the inquiry. It is my hope that this procedure will save both the two of you and me some work.

Rainbow love to all three of you hard-working Rainbow stalwarts.

Ted Simonson

P.S. The letter below is one complete picture and, it can be cut and pasted only as one whole object. The attachment above is the same document processed in Microsoft Word that can be cut, pasted and edited in the usual word processing fashion.

Pete and Rose Pettus

Pete and Rose will be moving to Arizona for six months from November 2008 to April 2009. They will be at 15606 S. Gilbert Road, Chandler, AZ 85225. Cell phone only, 573-330-1909, Pete; 573-2069, Rose.

Scholarship Information From Ted Simonson

The information needed to apply for Rainbow Scholarships will be distributed during March 2009. **Since all application materials are sent directly to the student applicant**, requests for applications must include the information listed below. In February the scholarship committee will determine exactly what information will be distributed to applicants for the year 2009 scholarships. **All applications must be accompanied by recommendation letter from a current member of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation (RDVMF).** Each applicant is also required to submit an essay related to RDVMF goals. Other than these two requirements, application for a Rainbow Scholarship will not require any materials beyond those requested in most scholarship and/or college applications.

Our scholarship applications are reviewed and winners selected in July of each year. Successful applicants are notified in August. Our scholarships are granted quite late in the year because our annual reunion is held in July, and it is at this meeting that the Scholarship Committee convenes to review the applications and grant awards. In recent years our scholarships have been in the amount of \$500 and \$1,000. We fully expect these amounts to be continued each year.

Postmarked no earlier than January 1, 2009, and no later than April 1, 2009, send the information listed below to:

Ted Simonson, 220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95030 or e-mail <tigtred@mail.com>

1. Full name of student applicant.
2. Address where information should be sent to student applicant.
3. Telephone number of student applicant.
4. E-mail address of student, if student has one.
5. Name, **relationship and contact information** (see items 1 through 4 above) of **Rainbow Veterans Memorial Foundation member** nominating the applicant.

NOTES:

1. Once the materials are mailed to the applicant, all further correspondence will be conducted between the student applicant and Ted Simonson.
2. Requests for applications made at any time other than between January 1 and April 1 will not be processed. The January issue of the "Reveille" will have complete information on scholarships.

Cutoff date March 1, 2009 for April 2009 issue.

THE RAINBOW REVELLE

Official Publication of the
RAINBOW Division Veterans
Memorial Foundation

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Vol. LXXXVIII January 2009 No. 3

THE RAINBOW REVELLE

Published September, November, January,
April and June for/by members of the
Rainbow Memorial Foundation

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Cut-Off Date, Dec. 1, 2008

Chaplain's Message

Reveille January 2009

Lord God of Hosts in this new year we commend our nation to Thy merciful care. Being guided by Thy providence may we dwell secure in peace at home, even as we work for peace among the warring nations of the world.

Grant to our newly elected president, and to all in roles of authority, wisdom and strength to do Thy will. May we all, as loyal citizens, help to maintain freedom and prosperity in our beloved country. Amen.

Norman P. Forde
Rainbow Chaplain

A Remembrance On Veterans Day



West Point Wreath at MacArthur Memorial

On a crisp windswept afternoon, the 42nd Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major Richard F. Fearnside and the 42d Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion Command Sergeant Major John J. Willsey ventured to that time-honored institution, West Point, New York. It was time once again to pay tribute to the Father of the 42nd Infantry Division, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

The 42d Infantry Division in conjunction with the Rainbow Division Veterans Association Memorial Foundation has been paying homage to this great officer and graduate of West Point for many years. The RDVMF, as they are known, are responsible for all of the 42d Infantry Division Memorials around the world.

Their responsibilities stretch much like the original Rainbow Division, from France, to Germany and back to the now Division Headquarters in Troy, New York, where a life-size original painting commemorates the 42d Infantry Division's role in the European Theater.

The Rainbow-shaped wreath was placed by the two Command Sergeants Major with little fanfare and placed at the foot of this historic statue dedicated to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. The student PAO staff from West Point was on hand to capture the moment to share with the Cadets of this great institution. With a silent salute and an about face, the Command Sergeants major exited this hallowed area near the Cadet quarters at West Point thinking to themselves that the roots of the 42d Infantry Division began with an idea brought to fruition by a young Lieutenant Colonel who eventually would return to the Pacific and be remembered as a Father to the 42d Infantry "Rainbow" Division. Mac, you're still looking good.

Willsey, John J.

CSM, NYARNG

Chief, Human Resources Sergeant Major

West Point Wreath

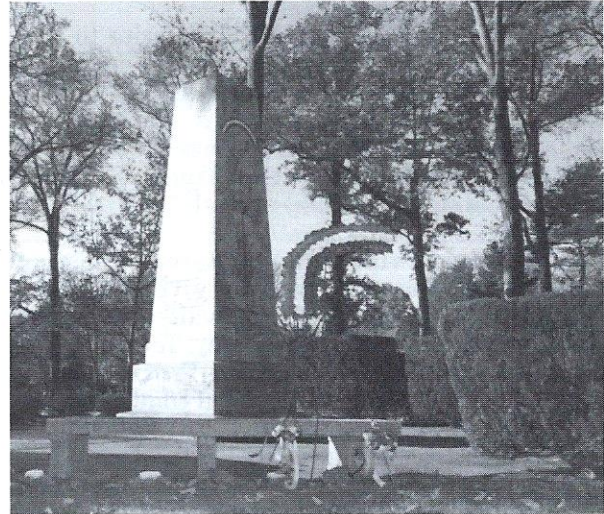


Veterans Day at Garden City New York Rainbow Division Monument

Dear John:

I must apologize for being a tad behind the curve regarding the Rainbow wreath laying at the WWI 42nd Division Monument at the Camps Mills site this coming Veterans Day. Have been deeply involved with the Purple Heart Jewel (www.purpleheartjewel.com) event which culminated in the dedication of the art jewel piece at the Virginia Holocaust Museum on Sunday, October 5, and the dedication of the Rainbow Division's POW memorial plaque at the Andersonville Historic Site POW Museum on September 19 which was National POW/MIA Recognition Day. So per our telcon this date this e-mail is in confirmation of American Legion Post 265 participation in the event. I will in a few minutes call Dinda Florists to arrange to have the wreath sent to you as in previous years with their floral charges being sent to Jon Janosik with a copy to me.

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



Regimental Histories CDs

Dear Suellen:

We have received copies of Bill Warde's and your e-mail correspondence about the CD Regimental Histories and also have recently spoken with Ken Carpenter about this. First of all, I have been negligent in telling you personally about how impressed I am with you for undertaking such work on top of everything else you do. Therefore, I correct my oversight here and now and thank you profusely.

As one Trustee only, it is my opinion that the Foundation should fully support your CDs of our regimental histories. However, as with every bureaucracy with fiduciary obligation to its constituency, the Foundation needs budget estimates in order to follow a project approval process. Since you are well underway with the 232nd History CD project, would it be overly burdensome for you to provide to the Foundation your best estimate of the total cost for preparation of the 232nd History CDs?

Procedurally, I suggest something along these lines, you, if you are willing, briefly describe, in general, the CD content as compiled or anticipated for the three regiments and request Foundation approval in principle for the three projects. And, more specifically, request project funding for the 232nd CD. Subsequently, when you have time and perhaps have more needed information at hand, submit similar funding requests for the 242nd and 222nd CD histories.

In the past, for several urgent projects, Chairman Ted Simonson handled requests for Trustees approval through electronic and postal services without waiting for the official meeting. As you know, the next Trustees meeting will be in July 2009 (in Dayton, OH).

Barbara and I will be at Cory's this week Wednesday-Saturday this week. After that trip, we plan to stay home for the winter, and can be reached at Cory's or at home thereafter.

Even though we have previously wished you Happy Thanksgiving, we do so again. We are especially thankful for you, Suellen, and your superhuman efforts on behalf of all of us. *Dee*

Editor's Note: We are just about putting the 232nd narrative to bed for dispersion. We don't feel as though we should wait six months until the National*. We propose to sell the CDs. We will submit costs for all their regiments and will settle accounts for the 232 after the trustees approve. We can handle this financial avenue. (*Some of us may not survive that long.) Also Suellen is in need of a new printer. The one she has is on its last legs.

New Revelations on "The Strasbourg Affair"

By Dick Engler - Co. F, 222nd Inf.

For 10 these many years, the Alsace phase of the German winter counteroffensive in 1944-45 has been treated by historians mainly through descriptions of "The Strasbourg Affair" — the controversy between Eisenhower and deGaulle over the abandonment or defense of Strasbourg in that bitter winter that brought the icy gusts of Nordwind to Alsace, France. Most of the descriptions rely on the memoirs of the prestigious participants; deGaulle, Eisenhower, and Churchill. Recently, an American military historian has fleshed out many more details on the situation surrounding that contro-

versy and the conflicting policies and positions involved.

Franklin Gurley, a veteran of the 100th Division of the U.S. 7th Army in World War II, lives today in Switzerland, and has been working on a biography of Gen. Jacob Devers for a number of years. He has many "French connections." Recently, he shared with me a paper he had prepared for a French military history journal which was devoting an issue to the Allied advance in 1944-45 from the Riviera Beaches to the Rhine. Frank's contribution to this special issue was an article about the defense of Strasbourg that winter — hence, a treatment of the central strategic and political issues surrounding Nordwind. His access to Gen. Devers' diary and to many other letters and memoranda of the 6th Army Group commander, as well as his use of French

historical sources, makes for the most complete and enlightening coverage of the "Strasbourg Affair" that exists, to my knowledge, in the literature on World War II. I have attempted to pull together, for the Reveille, some of the most salient revelations from Frank Gurley's article: Policy versus Strategy: The Defense of Strasbourg in December 1944" (in *Guerres Moniales Et Conflits Contemporains*, Avril, 1992.)

To most veterans, of Task Force Linden, who later read, postwar, about "The Strasbourg Affair," their recollections are of the order: "Oh yeh, that must have been the night we hiked off into the countryside in a snowstorm, then were trucked back into Strasbourg on Ducks a day or so later." But others, perhaps never having heard about the temporary evacuation of Strasbourg and its environs and the high-level machinations

continued on page 7

Coalition for Father Duffy

Dear Friends:

It is with a deep sense of pride that I write to tell you that the beautiful, newly renovated Father Duffy Square will open — in all its glory — on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

In attendance will be representatives from the Coalition for Father Duffy, Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Bishop Dennis Sullivan, key personnel from the Times Square Alliance, the Theatre Development Fund, other elected officials and members of the 69th Regiment family.

Enclosed herein, you will find an invitation from the 69th Regiment to a post-ribbon-cutting reception at our Armory (Lexington between 25th and 26th Streets) where we will toast the long-awaited completion of the project, as well as the memory of General Joseph Healey. Ten years ago he took up the fight to ensure that the new square “respected Fr. Duffy.” As part of the celebration, members of the 69th Veteran’s Corps will conduct tours of the Armory with special emphasis on our interesting Fr. Duffy collection. It’s important that you RSVP by October 9th so we can plan appropriately.

Under separate cover, you will receive a formal invitation to the ribbon cutting from the Times Square Alliance.

In closing, I think Joe would be proud. This renovation project restores a sense of glory to a true America hero and rightly puts him as the centerpiece of this place of reverence, remembrance and reflection.

I hope you’ll be able to join us at both the ribbon cutting and the Regimental reception.

Garryowen!

Sincerely,

Bruce Meyerson

Chairman

Father Duffy Square Revisited

On October 16, 2008, I had the unique privilege of representing Rainbow at the opening and rededication of the newly renovated Father Duffy Square in New York City. It was a memorable occasion “by invitation only” attended by numerous notables and dignitaries including Mayor Bloomberg.

I remember well the many hours Bill spent on the telephone representing the RDVA in the Coalition for Father Duffy. Many years of planning and hard work went into this enterprise since a group of local Rainbowers were welcomed by Mayor Giuliani to initiate this project. The fact that it has come to fruition is a tribute to the public and private sectors working together for a common cause.

Father Duffy Square is located at Broadway and 46th Street known as the “Crossroads of the World.” It is a setting visited by millions of tourists from all over the world. Unfortunately, over the years, the square had fallen into disrepair. The Coalition for Father Duffy, founded by General Joseph A. Healey, former Commanding General of the Rainbow Division and Commanding Officer of the 69th Regiment, set out to initiate its renovation. Bill worked closely with the General in spearheading and supporting the preservation of Father Duffy Square. (At the time it was even suggested moving Father Duffy’s statue to a less important location but this idea was quickly shelved.)

The ceremonies were truly inspiring as one speaker after another paid tribute to Father Duffy, a renowned scholar, a beloved and inspirational chaplain of the Fighting 69th, and a dedicated and courageous human being who was distinguished worldwide and was the recipient of many coveted honors including the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

Father Duffy’s statue now stands proud in a setting worthy of his stature. It is in a place where many visitors come and can learn about this legendary hero. We of Rainbow are pleased to share him with another generation and to perpetuate his memory.

Mary C. Kenny

Financing the CD of 232D Infantry Regimental Official History and Related Projects

Communication from Assistant Reveille Editor Suellen McDaniel and Bill Warde, editor of the 1st Bn 232D Newsletter.

That is very interesting news. It will be even more interesting to learn how the bequest from Stillman F. Sawyer, H1B-232nd Inf. Regt. will be used by the RDVMF.

Last year, when Alistair Innes, a family friend and the executor for the estate of Stillman Sawyer telephoned me, he told me that his friend’s bequest to Rainbow would be very generous, and so it is. Alistair had spoken with me as a name on the list of officers in The Rainbow Reveille. I referred him to Jon Janosik for further communication but we had quite an interesting conversation. Mr. Innes is a former member of a highly decorated unit in Scotland. I plan to send him a CD of the 232D History we are making available.

First, I’d like to tell you the status of our Millennium Chapter treasury so that your generous thinking will be seen in the perspective of our capability. After the December 2008 printing and mailing of Rainbow Trail, our Chapter treasury will hold less than \$1,000. Any help from the Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

Second, The process of requesting funds from the Memorial Foundation, from my experience in observing such requests, can take a long time, if such a request is considered at all. Art Lee recognized this delay and from the generosity of his heart as well as his amazing attention to “getting the job done” (his words), he would often, if the project were worthy, finance it from his own funds, not expecting any reimbursement. Then he would write, “GO, GO, GO!” He would sometimes suggest projects and it would be “understood” that he would personally send whatever funds were needed. The jobs were done swiftly and competently by volunteers who were not constrained by financial need. Some of the projects financed personally by Art have been:

The design and sale of Rainbow mugs and Rainbow caps; placing the 5 Camp Gruber books on CD for sale (the proceeds for which go directly to the Rainbow Scholarship Fund).

Third, the project now at hand is an offshoot of Art’s desire to provide to veterans and their families the official history of the unit in which they or their veteran served. Now that the 232D Infantry Regiment history has been almost completed (with the approval and critique of the 232D veterans), we are going to do the same for other units. We are already planning research for the 242D.

Fourth, I believe that the RDVMF (with the emphasis on the “Memorial” part of the mission!) would be greatly benefited by this project. I believe that funding should be set aside for the project and that those members who think so, too, would do well to make this recommendation to the Board of Trustees, possibly even before the meeting next July.

Fifth, we Rainbow families and chapter members still have at heart the desire to find and complete special projects through our chapter; however, now the spirited cry of “GO, GO, GO!” while still a motivation, will take us only a short distance without funding.

Finally, that is why I’ve explained the project and availability of the 232D history on CD. It will be printed in the December issue of our chapter newsletter. For now, we will have to rely on donations for cost in order to share this history. It had been my original intention to be able to send the history by e-mail attachment but as you see, the project has grown along the way and the now 238 pages of it with hundreds of images cannot be sent this way.

Thanks, Bill and Ken for your encouragement and support!

We have a great deal for which to give thanks, In the spirit of the Rainbow Division, Suellen

Suellen R. McDaniel, Secretary/Editor, RDVMF Millennium Chapter

Editor Note: I hear that Stillman F. Sawyer, H1B-232nd, who “Passed Over The Rainbow” 11-10-2007 left \$156,000 to Rainbow. His mailing address was 2149 W. Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro CA 90732

Now Available on CD Through the RDVMF Millennium Chapter:

The **NARRATIVE** of the 232nd INFANTRY REGIMENT, 42nd "RAINBOW" INFANTRY DIVISION WORLD WAR II Text of the NARRATIVE portion of this history was extracted from the monthly Reports of Operations, Headquarters, 232d Inf. Regt. that are on file at the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD, and cover the time period 25 November 1944 through 27 May 1945. The content of the 848 added 232D Division Medal Citations interwoven through the official history is taken from The General Orders, 42D Division. Only full text Citations are included in this NARRATIVE. There has been no attempt to include all of the many more hundreds of Citations for medals awarded to individuals of the Regiment; only those we have found that detail the action for which the medals were awarded, to illuminate the story of the 232D Infantry Regiment during specific times and at specific locations and to tell some of the individual stories of the Regiment; to provide a framework for greater understanding and to honor those Rainbow men who made the Supreme Sacrifice in service to their country. The stories through citations of the men who lost their lives number 51. When possible, citations for units in support of the 232D Infantry Regiment, 42D Division have been included.

The photos of individual soldiers have been taken from the pictorial and review books for men of the 42D Division who were in training at Camp Gruber, OK during November 1944. The eight maps are from the book, **42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History World War II**, written and edited by Lt. Hugh C. Daly, 1st printing 1946; and also other photos such as those reproduced below.

This CD is the first in a planned series that will be made available to Rainbow veterans, their families and descendants. The content holds 238 pages of official history. It is offered at basic cost of materials and postage. If you are able and would like to make a small donation that would allow us to continue our work to provide the history on CD of other Rainbow units, your help would be very much appreciated. These CDs of 232D Regiment history may be requested by contacting the secretary/editor of the RDVMF Millennium Chapter, Suellen R. McDaniel, 1400 Knolls Drive, Newton, NC 28658-9452, (828) 464-1466, jmac1400@aol.com

As of now, in view of money needs we are contemplating charging \$7 each for a CD (editor).

This leads to — Since Stillman Sawyer was a member of the 232nd, I strongly believe that he would have wanted any disbursement from his funds should be given first 232nd activities. The first should be to supplement the cost for publishing The Rainbow Trail and fully cover the cost of the 232nd Narrative Compact Disc that will be distributed to any 232nd veteran requesting the CD. I intend to request that a copy be sent to each active member on the 1st Bn-232nd Chapter listing. That will be about 130 for the first BN alone.

I would like to know more about this gift for recognizing it in The First News. The inheritance check was mailed to Jon Janosik who immediately asked Herb Butt for advice as to where the money should be spent.

*In Rainbow,
Bill Warde*



"Through the Maginot Line, doughs of the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, head for Germany, only two kilometers past this town."



"The 3d Battalion, 232d Infantry, marches past the stone marker in the foreground which is on the border of Nazi Germany."



"A familiar sight — soldiers moving to the front and civilians hurrying to the rear. The men are from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 232D Infantry"

A FEW WORDS FROM LUDWIG STOECKL

The Purple Heart Jewel will be given to the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation on June 15, 2008 as my expression of honor for the troops of the United States of America and especially the 42nd Rainbow Division veterans. It was these proud people who liberated my home town of Dachau in 1945. I want to thank the people of the United States for the friendship given to my country, Germany, and I want to affirm this friendship. Also I want to thank all who presently fight and have fought for freedom, liberty and justice, an ideal which liberated Germany and its many victims from the horrors of the Third Reich. There will be a donation program for support of current 42nd Infantry Division (New York National Guard) and I ask all to support it as much as possible.

The Purple Heart Jewel (PHJ) is hand made from 52 grams of 18 carat gold and set with 29 diamonds. Some specialized machines were also used. My artwork pertained especially to the outer shape and setting of the diamonds. The size is similar to the original medal by the PHJ is thicker. My idea was to create a unique3 art jewel and not simply a copy of the original.

Thank you!

Ludwig Stoeckl

The 42nd ID (M) Family Readiness Group is officially known as HCC, 42nd Infantry Family Readiness Group, 137 Glemore Road, Troy, New York 23280

The 42nd ID, FRG, is an officially sanctioned organization made up of volunteers from officer and enlisted personnel not currently deployed, family members of all unit member soldiers whether or not currently deployed, and interested civilians and military retirees.

The FRG provides information, acts as a support network for families and guard members, especially during periods of separation. A variety of services are provided families, service members, the command, and the community including family recreational and social activities; informational meetings about deployments and the emotional trauma often created. A support network is available.

Care packages are sent to service members during overseas deployments as are bulk shipments for general use by a group, such as sports equipment. The FRG sends packages for humanitarian purposes such as school supplies, toys, shoes and clothing for orphans within deployed areas. Distribution of such goods helps change the outlook of the local populace in our favor. The 42nd ID FRG assists with special projects such as support for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Donation support checks are welcomed. Checks should be made payable to 42nd ID, FRG and mailed to the Fund Raising Chair, Louise Carnesale, 4 Eckman Place, Rennselaer, NY 12144.

42nd FRG Donors, please put a note "WWII Rainbow" on the check, so that we can get an accounting of our donations.

2009 ANNUAL REUNION INFORMATION

The 2009 annual Rainbow reunion will be in Dayton, Ohio at the Holiday Inn, Dayton North, from Wednesday July 8 through Saturday July 11. The hotel address is 2301 Wagner Ford Road and the hotel telephone number is 937-278-4871. The hotel rates are \$85 plus a 10 % tax. Rainbow rates will be good for Monday through Sunday. Please call the hotel direct number, instead of calling an 1-800 number. State that you are a Rainbow member when making reservations. - Pete

Virginia Holocaust Museum Purple Heart Jewel Dedication

On Sunday, October 5, 2008, the Virginia Holocaust Museum held its formal dedication ceremony for the Purple Heart Jewel which the 42nd Rainbow Division presented them this past June in an event held at Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Purple Heart Jewel, created by Meisterjuwelier Ludwig Stoeckl of Dachau, Germany, and donated to the 42nd Rainbow veterans, has received considerable mention in the Bavarian media as has Ludwig Stoeckl for his generosity and idealism in the battle against tyranny.

Some 30 attendees, including three Rainbowners, were present to hear Director of the Richmond, Virginia Holocaust Museum give a brief introduction about the installation there of the Purple Heart Jewel. He then called on Jim Clemons, RDVMF Memorials Officer, to present two letters, the first a letter of appreciation to Ludwig Stoeckl from the Bararian Government 1st Undersecretary regarding Stoeckl's dedicated commitment to the veterans of the 42nd Infantry Division and the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice.

The second letter presented was from Herr Stoeckl to the Virginia Holocaust Museum and the high honor bestowed on him by the museum by accepting his Purple Heart Jewel and its meaning.

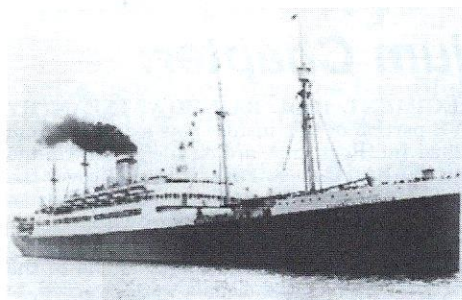
Director Ipson then called upon Pete Pettus who gave a brief history of the Purple Heart Jewel and the events which led to the RDVMF accepting the donation, its presentation to the Virginia Holocaust and information concerning the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation's obligation to raise \$20,000 for the families of our 42nd ID Mechanized troops. Pete Pettus stressed that donation support checks should be made to the 42nd ID, Family Readiness Group (FRG) and mailed to the Fundraising Chair, Louise Carnesale, 4 Eckman Place, Rennselaer, N.Y. 12144. He stressed that it was important the sender of the donation be identified as a member of the 42nd RDVMF to insure proper accounting and credit for the RDVMF.

Following the brief formal ceremony, photos were taken while the attendees enjoyed conversation and refreshments, among them Pete Pettus and Clinton Childress, two "foxhole buddies" of days long ago.

By Jim Clemons 10/14/08



Enlarged Purple Heart Jewel



SS Edmund B. Alexander

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS SALZBURG, AUSTRIA DECEMBER 1945

The American Red Cross
of the Enlisted Men's Club

Doris

Tulu

Eileen

Joan

Anne

Linney

Jean B.

Jean H.

Lula

Salzburg

Austria

WISHES YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

*They, too, served our country
both in peace and war*
George Cramer, Crystal Lake,
Illinois, September 4, 2008

Dear Rainbow Friends,

Thanks very much to Tim Robertson, son of Lyle Robertson, 222-F, for his great photography and attention to detail in reproducing the image of the pin sent us by Ken Carpenter, who designed the 232D Regimental Crest. For those of you who don't know Tim, he is a longtime member of the RDVMF and Millennium Chapter and has also over the past few years designed the Rainbow mugs, Rainbow caps and has scanned all five pictorial review books from Camp Gruber OK November 1944 onto CD, as well as being our expert in archival restoration of old photographs. Tim is copied here.

Suellen

Trial CD 232d The Narrative

On **25 November 1944** the 232d Infantry of Task Force Linden, comprising 154 Officers and 3,039 Enlisted Men under the command of Colonel ALFRED A. McNAMEE, steamed out of New York Harbor onboard the U.S. troopships SS Edmund B. Alexander and SS Bienville as part of a convoy of 14 ships and escorts.

The two ships docked at Marseilles on **8 December 1944**. The troops aboard the SS Bienville disembarked that same day, marched to a predetermined assembly point three miles northeast of the city, and proceeded from there to CP2 at Delta Base Staging Area about two miles northwest of Calas. After unloading baggage and equipment from the trucks, the fatigued troops pitched individual shelter tents, and suffered considerably from the cold, snow and mud. During the next two days, until the kitchen equipment was unloaded and put into operation, the troops ate K rations. The 232d Infantry personnel aboard the SS Edmund B. Alexander disembarked on **9 December 1944**, proceeded along the same route, part way on foot and then by motor convoy, joining the regiment in CP 2 bivouac area late that same evening.

Each day during the ensuing week the troops trained in the hills of CP 2 area, applying and reviewing principles of combat tactics. They stood ordnance inspection of weapons and organizational equipment, and drew new clothing and supplies.

The necessity for blackout precautions and general preparedness against attack from the air was stimulated by the appearance of an enemy reconnaissance plane over the bivouac area at 2130 hours on **12 December**, and was emphasized by its repeated visits on succeeding nights. Immediately the troops spread out their positions, dug foxholes and took other defense precautions.

On or about **15 December 1944** the 232d Infantry received warning orders to move by train and motor convoy to the vicinity of Metz.

At 1100 hours on **19 December 1944** the first train serial departed from CP 2, traveling in a generally north direction. In the afternoon the second train serial followed. A motor serial departed at 0615 hours the next morning, drove north to St. Rambert, bivouacked overnight and then continued north on the following morning, arriving at a bivouac area at Dijon at 1600 hours on **21 December 1944**. The final section of the motor convoy closed Dijon at 2000 hours on the same date.

(End)

behind it, still speculate about the reasons for the confusing happenings — the marches and countermarches — of those days that immediately preceded our baptisms of fire around Gambenheim. Some have wondered through the years whether our movements were deliberately designed to fool the enemy.

As Frank Gurley makes clear, there was confusion in abundance surrounding the decisions and actions on the defense and abandonment of the Strasbourg area during those years, long ago. But little of it had to do with efforts to deceive the Germans. Mostly, it revolved around the low status assigned Gen. Devers' 6th Army Group in SHAEF's plans for winning the war in Europe, the fact that the French 1st Army was a part of that 6th Army Group (along with the U.S. 7th Army), and the circumstance that the sector covered by Devers' Army Group encompassed, in the eyes of the French, some of the most "sacred soil" in France.

Gurley corroborates what many other historians have deduced regarding Eisenhower's treatment of Devers, and the Supreme Commander's views on the role of 6th Army Group in the campaigns to achieve the final victory. Devers was not one of the trusted inner circle of generals around Eisenhower. (Gen. Bradley is quoted, in *A General's Life*, as stating that he — Bradley — was #1 in Eisenhower's ranking of his generals, while Ike ranked Devers #24.) Also, Devers 6th Army Group was not to be given a major role in the breakout to and across the Rhine, leading to the final annihilation of Hitler's armies in the West. Thus, in spite of the fact that Devers' Army Group made the most spectacular successes in the Allied offensive efforts in November, actually reaching the Rhine at Strasbourg, it was then ordered to suspend all cross-Rhine plans and take on the mission of covering the southern flank of the main effort to be conducted by the star players to the north.

Gurley describes the high level meeting of commanders, soon after 7th Army forces, spearheaded by Gen. Jacques Leclerc's 2nd (French) Armored Division, dashed through the Saverne Gap and liberated Strasbourg on Nov. 23 (a feat which caused Gen. Patton to write to his wife that Devers' forces had "made a monkey out of me"). He writes: "As Devers and 7th Army commander, General Alexander Patch, prepared to mount a Rhine-crossing operation, Generals Eisenhower and Bradley hurried to Devers' Headquarters, in Vittel, to review the situation. Before the discussion had even begun, Eisenhower declared that 7th Army, instead of crossing the Rhine, would, instead, turn its forces northward and advance across Alsace-Lorraine to provide right flank support for General Patton's frustratingly slow advance toward Saarbruecken. Gen. Devers argued that a better approach would be to send 7th Army across the Rhine, and to bring 3rd Army into Alsace for a northward move along the

Rhine's west bank parallel to 7th Army's northward thrust on the far bank. Eisenhower refused to even consider this proposal.

General Patch and his 7th Army staff considered the cancellation of their Rhine crossing" virtually, a betrayal, since that was what their formal orders had cited as their objective and mission." Nevertheless, pushing vigorously along the prescribed northward axis of advance, 7th Army moved over the Rhine plain, and by mid-December had crossed the German border to penetrate the Siegfried Line between Wissembourg and Lauterbourg. It was at this juncture, on December 16, that the German surprise offensive against Bradley's 1st Army, in the Ardennes region, was launched.

Most of us know of the quick SHAEF decision, following the outbreak of the Ardennes Bulge, to have Patton's 3rd Army disengage in the Saar and wheel northward to attack the south shoulder of the German penetration. Also, we know that the 7th Army forces of Gen. Patch were then extended west to cover the sector being vacated by 3rd Army. But, few of us have thought about a bold alternative strategy for defeating the Ardennes counter-offensive which would have given a major aggressive role to the 7th Army.

Gen. Devers proposed such a strategy at the December 19 meeting, at Verdun, where the northward drive toward Bastogne, by Patton, was agreed upon. At that meeting, Gen. Devers argued that a strategy allowing Gen. Patch to continue his drive north, along the Rhine bank, leaving Patton in place, would pose a threat to the rear of the overall German position, and could greatly discourage and inhibit the Ardennes thrust. However, Eisenhower insisted that the 7th Army take over Patton's vacated positions and, in a defensive posture, free up reserves, in its formations for use in the main Ardennes battle.

In light of the status of the 7th Army and the 6th Army Group in SHAEF's strategic planning, the subsidiary role in the latest crisis was, perhaps, expected by Devers and Patch's staffmen, as they returned from the Verdun meeting. Devers and Patch, themselves, "were convinced that the enemy would never have been capable of launching the Ardennes action if the Supreme commander had allowed them to pursue the Allied offensive beyond the Rhine." Nevertheless, between December 20 and 26, the "vast operation of taking over more than 40 kilometers of Gen. Patton's front, as far west as St. Avold, was carried out without problem," even as signs began to appear "that the enemy might be weighing an attack against 7th Army's now highly dispersed front-line positions."

Then, on December 26, Gen. Eisenhower sent his SHAEF Operations Officer, Gen. Bull, to "inform General Devers that his Army Group must pull back from the Rhine plain to the defensive shelter of the Vosges

Mountains." Eisenhower felt that by pulling VI Corps back 50 or 60 kilometers from the Wissembourg-Lauterbourg salient, a "SHAEF reserve" of two divisions might be created for use in the Ardennes.

Devers had been prepared, on the basis of the Verdun meeting, to be told to withdraw a few kilometers. "But, to withdraw from the Lauterbourg salient, beside the Rhine, to Bitche, on the west side of the low Vosges, would mean a retrograde move of nearly 60 kilometers." Devers could not recall a single instance, in modern warfare of a voluntary retreat of such magnitude, in the absence of a serious enemy menace.

Reactions of the 7th Army staff to the new orders, from SHAEF, were uniformly negative — and somewhat bitter. Gen. Patch, who had recently lost a son, fighting with the 315th Infantry at Luneville in late October, "declared his firm opposition to withdrawal without a fight from ground so recently liberated . . . at such a high cost in casualties." Major Henry Cabot Lodge, Devers' liaison officer to 1st French Army, warned that the withdrawal could be a "political disaster" for the French Government. Other staff officers pointed to the comradeship that had developed between 7th Army and the 1st French Army in the campaign to the Rhine from the Mediterranean. One suggested "they owed it to the French to stand beside them in their hour of need." Everyone, from the 7th Army staff, at Gen. Devers' headquarters (newly located at Phalsbourg), "was convinced that the Supreme Commander's unexpected withdrawal order was just another example of favoritism toward Omar Bradley's Army Group on their left" — a pattern they associated with the friendship between classmates dating back to West Point, where, as Prophet for the class of 1915, Eisenhower "had predicted high leadership potential for Bradley."

Certainly, 7th Army's (and 6th Army Group) leaders had ample evidence, from the months of campaigning, in France, under SHAEF's supreme Command, that jealousies and personal friendships and antagonisms, within the American camp, continued to penalize their forces and limit their roles. But, on this occasion, in the midst of the winter crisis, their chagrin was misplaced. Frank Gurley writes, "In fact . . . General Eisenhower's decision, that Devers must pull back, had nothing to do with Bradley at all. The Villain of the piece was Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery . . .

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Next Issue

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