



## RAINBOW DIVISION

Veterans Memorial Foundation  
IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2009

*A poem written in 1988 by  
WWI Rainbow veteran and  
Poet Laureate, Kurt W. Frederick  
1894 – July 15, 1989*

"From the Blue Ridge Mountains  
of Virginia  
To the shores of the Golden Gate,  
The Rainbow Division was  
formed, World freedom to  
create.  
Came World War II and Camp  
Gruber, too;  
Again we carried through.  
And, should the need arise,  
We'll build a Rainbow in the  
skies."

Scenes from the Eastern Region  
reunion at Ocean City, NJ -



# REVEILLE

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NO.2

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## 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 - Operation Enduring Freedom

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### Greetings, Rainbowers everywhere!

It has been four short months since we last met in Dayton and life in the RDVMF has never been busier. I'm speaking for myself, of course.



Having just returned from the North East Reunion in Ocean City, NJ, I was reassured that Rainbow is alive and well in that area and the future looks bright. We had a great turnout of Rainbow vets, Millennium Chapter members and a good number from the current 42D Division. Current commanding BG Steve Wickstrom was there to address the reunion. COL Lori Thomas, LTC Brian Scully, CPT Benjamin Tupper and CSM



John Willsey were a very attentive audience as we discussed the past and future of Rainbow. Most of what I could share with them is history I've read, stories I've been told and what I've picked up over the past eighteen years of attending reunions, midyears, Birmingham celebrations and monthly chapter meetings. While I love and appreciate Rainbow's history and all that it stands for, I'm also excited about the future of our Foundation. We have an opportunity to educate present and future generations about Rainbow's great accomplishments during the wars of the past and our current involvement in the war on terrorism, with our new motto, gleaned from our current Rainbow warriors, "Rainbow, Sir! Never Forget!" With this, we are also having an impact with our philanthropic efforts, providing scholarships to our youth, who have taken on knowledge of Rainbow and its goals.

One point we need to address is the dissolution of chapters and what happens to the members who made up those chapters. I want to encourage you, if your chapter disbands, to transfer your membership to another chapter in your area. Even if you can only attend a meeting occasionally, this will be a way of staying linked up and receiving not only the Reveille, but also the local newsletter from that local chapter. I understand it is possible to be a member of the RDVMF without belonging to a local chapter, but being a part of a chapter means those folks will probably stay in touch and know about your well-being. In fact, you can belong to as many chapters as you wish.

Next year's reunion will be July 14-17, 2010, and yes, it seems to be a long way off, but just like every other reunion, it will be here before we know it. Please start planning and preparing now, for that great time of fun, fellowship and conducting Rainbow business in New Orleans. Encourage your family to come with you and let's make it a truly Rainbow Reunion to remember, in the "Big Easy". I have spoken with several who are planning to make it a family vacation and I look forward to a good turnout of our current 42D ID heroes. I promise, seeing the current 42D "Rainbow" Division soldiers will cause your heart to swell with pride.

--Earnest E. "Earnie" Owen, Chairman

Photos R – BG Steven Wickstrom addressing reunion; below – L-R COL Lori Thomas, CSM John Willsey, CPT Ben Tupper (photos taken by Earnie Owen); on the left, CPT Ben Tupper, Richard Tisch, Richard Marowitz and Donald Dart; Center – Jane and Frank Dippo, Joanne and Don Dart; (photos taken by CPT Ben Tupper)  
Photo lower left – L-R SGM Michelle Sharadin, SSG Karin Coons, WO1 Kelly Fancher (photo taken by Earnie Owen)



Cutoff date December 15, 2009 for January 2010 issue.



## THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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**DEATH NOTICES for MEMORIAL FILE,  
and \$10.00 DUES for RDVMF "at large"  
members who do not pay chapter dues:**

**TO SECRETARY HERB BUTT**

## A Prayer for the Nation

Our most gracious and benevolent God,  
We are reminded at this time of year just  
how blessed we are to live in a country of  
great freedom. As we reflect back on the  
great price paid, and sacrifices made, by  
many soldiers over the life and history of our  
country, we are made to realize there are still  
those paying that price, and making that  
sacrifice, even today.

Our most humble prayer is for your  
protection, especially for all of those in  
harm's way. Please encourage them and  
give them hope as we on the home front  
continue to support them and wait for their  
safe return from a job well done.

In this season of Thanksgiving, as we count  
our blessings, please give direction to our  
President and Congress. It is so important  
that they look to you for guidance. Bless the  
men and women of Rainbow and their  
families, both past and present. Hold us in  
the palm of your hand as we move forward in  
life with the desire to never let the world  
forget our purpose and goals of freedom and  
liberty.

Amen.

**Earnest E. Owen  
RDVMF Chaplain**



**M/Sgt. Walter L.  
Peirce, HQ Btry, 542D  
F.A. Bn,  
Camp Gruber, OK  
November 1944**

**HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY TO  
WALTER L.  
PEIRCE !!**

### A Letter from

**Larry Rosen, 542D F.A. Bn -**

"I was a member of the 542d F.A. personnel  
unit and saw Walter often in the Battalion  
HQ. He served as Battalion Sergeant-Major,  
under then Battalion commander, Col.  
George A. Carver, who in later years was  
promoted to Major General. An important  
job that Walter had was to coordinate orders  
from Col. Carver with all the field artillery  
battalion commanders. The field artillery  
battalions and other division units arrived in  
Marseilles, France on January 18, 1945 and  
most of us did not have any knowledge that  
the Rainbow infantry had already been  
engaged in heavy combat. While overseas,  
Walter, when he could find time, took flower  
orders from his buddies for birthdays and  
other happy occasions, which he sent to his  
family who were florists and delivered the  
requested surprises. When Walter was still  
traveling, he was very active as an officer in  
the Pacific NW chapter. For a long period of  
time, Walter was engaged in the fuel oil  
business. When I occasionally asked Walter  
when he was going to retire, his response  
was, "I retire every night when I go to bed."  
Walter has been a great Rainbow buddy and

I'm sure we all wish him many more happy  
birthdays."

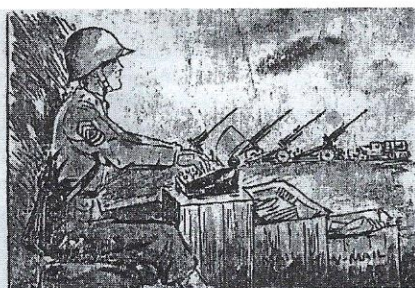
## FROM A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING OF THE

**TIME:** "On Mother's Day, May 13, mothers  
in places so widely scattered as Castlewood,  
Va., Munhall, Penn., St. Paul, Minn., and  
Armstrong, Ia., will open their doors to  
florists' messengers carrying bouquets  
ordered for them by their soldier sons in  
Germany. For these tributes of love and  
affection, the mothers will owe some of their  
thanks - though they probably won't know it  
- to a soldier from Waltham, who sets up an  
office in a haymow - or any other spot that  
offers itself - and sits up nights tabulating  
flower orders, counting cash, and typing out  
addresses and messages from members of  
his division to their families at home. The  
soldier is M/Sgt Walter L. Peirce, who in  
peacetime was by profession a rose grower,  
working with his father and uncle, the Peirce  
Brothers of 411 Waverly Oaks Road,  
Waltham (MA). Walter is now sergeant-  
major of the Headquarters Battery, 542d  
Field Artillery Battalion, Rainbow Division, a  
part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Army. Peirce's record,  
parenthetically, is one of the war's more  
unusual documents. Here is a man who set  
out to fight the Japs and finds himself, after a  
year and a half in the Southwest Pacific, in  
Germany for the final European curtain.  
Walter was in the 110<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of the  
Massachusetts National Guard before the  
war, having enlisted in January 1928, a few  
days after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. When the 110<sup>th</sup>  
was mechanized, he became a field  
artilleryman, and, as such, was shipped out  
right after Pearl Harbor to become a part of  
the American Division. He was in Australia  
for a few days and on New Caledonia for  
about a year. Then his battalion - the 247<sup>th</sup>  
- was sent to Guadalcanal, and Walter was  
stricken with jungle fever and jaundice. He  
thought he had recovered, went back to duty  
and suffered a relapse. They flew him out  
for hospitalization, in New Hebrides, in New  
Zealand, and - eventually - in San  
Francisco and Temple, Texas. He licked it  
at last and, after a visit home on sick leave,  
was reassigned to his present unit and  
became its sergeant-major. That's about  
tops among non-commissioned officers.  
While the 542d was training at Oklahoma, its  
men got to know that Peirce had been a  
florist in civilian life. All of them who had  
anniversaries or family birthdays coming up  
began to consult him about the mechanics of  
placing orders; soon Peirce found himself,  
willingly or not, in the order-taking business.  
He turned to the employees of his father's  
firm, at Waltham, for help. By last  
Christmas, under this arrangement, Peirce  
was doing thousands of dollars worth of  
business. He broke the Christmas record  
with the orders received for St. Valentine's  
Day - the Battalion was now in France and  
set a still higher mark with Easter orders, of  
which he had 591, amounting to \$5034.50.

The battalion newspaper, "Hits and Bits",  
took notice of it in this fashion: "In case any  
of you are wondering what Sgt. Maj. Peirce  
is carrying in those large brown paper



envelopes these days, here's the lowdown. He has so many 500 and 1000 franc notes that two wallets became totally inadequate and he had to start using those big envelopes to carry his stacks of money. It's all due to his motto, 'Say It With Flowers.' That there may be no slip-ups in filling the orders, M/Sgt Peirce sends two copies home – one by airmail to his father, another by V-mail to an employee of the company. The cash is cabled. Peirce Brothers are not retail florists, so the orders are turned over to Ruane the florist of Newtonville, a member of the florists Telegraph Delivery Association, which sees that they are placed with firms in the home towns of the addressees. Walter's letters – when, on a V-mail page, he can find room below the addresses and messages to write of himself – are a running commentary on the unusual job he is doing. "I hadn't intended to go into this so deeply, but our next higher echelon put out a sheet (a notice) on it, and heaven only knows how much will pour in tomorrow. I stay in the office so much that lots of fellows in my own outfit ask me where I've been, when they happen to see me at the messhall. I got a telephone message saying I can expect a terrific order tomorrow. I guess I'll be up all night." But he has his eye on growing things, too. "The French cultivate their fields extensively to grapes, and I have seen mountainsides just covered with them. They are careful gardeners and trim and train all sorts of trees and hedges. Practically everywhere you go the road is lined with huge sycamores, poplars or other shade trees trimmed through the years at different heights to make them branch out for shade." And in one letter he was able to impart the information that at last he had had his third bath since arriving in France. "Incidentally," he wrote at another time, "I don't know whether you're cussing me out for giving you all this extra work, or if you are able to take care of everything with your usual accuracy, alacrity, finesse, tact and finality." The answer was, of course, that everyone was happy to help, particularly after reading the messages which were to accompany the bouquets and corsages and plants. "Hi, Snooks! Love," wrote Lowell E. Hogan to his wife at Beresford, S.D., sending along a request for long-stemmed red roses. "To the best wife in the world," was Tolbert Pippin's message to Mrs. Pippin in Florida. "I'll be loving you, always," said Preston Brown to Mrs. Marion Brown of Selma, Ala. "These (red) roses are just like you," wrote Fred Whetsel to his wife in Oklahoma. Johnnie Dempsey, ordering an orchid for Mrs. Dempsey put in a message, "Remember, I love you." "Thinking of you at this time, Kitten," came from her husband to Mrs. C.E. Wyatt of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Florence Domainque of Ludlow read, "From grateful son who loves his mother dearly." Small wonder that, when a deadline was declared on Easter orders, M/Sgt. Peirce in France and his helpers at home turned to Mother's Day plans with fresh zest. Returns thus far indicate that the May 13 total of orders will exceed even that at Easter.



**Another Important Date worthy of a Beautiful Bouquet – on December 20, 2009, Walter Peirce and his family will be celebrating his 100 years of zestful living.**

**He can be reached at this address:  
400 Waverly Oaks Road  
Waltham, MA 02452-8406**

**REPORT FROM PETE PETTUS on the sale of the RDVMF book, Hold At All Cost/42D "Rainbow" Division Prisoners of War, 2004, 492 pages.**

To All Concerned: My VFW post has a POW ceremony in September every year and this year I asked the Post Commander if I could bring some of the Hold At All Cost books to sell and explained that the money all went to the Rainbow Foundation and he agreed. I made a big poster showing the Rainbow logo, the number of POW's we had, etc. I took a box of 16 books plus an opened one and made a short speech about them and all were sold. The next day I went to the St. Louis Rainbow Chapter meeting and sold four more. A few weeks ago I was telling a bank teller at my bank about the books and she wanted one and then two other people in the bank wanted them also. They are easy to sell if we just make an effort. I have been invited by a VFW man from the Farmington VFW who was my WFW and bought a book to come to their next meeting and bring the books to sell. I have paid for and given three books to our local library. **To all who don't have the book please consider ordering one or more by sending a check or money order for \$15.00/each, payable to RDVMF to Suellen McDaniel 1400 Knolls Dr. Newton, NC 28658-9452. Please include your telephone #.**

On October 1, the Vietnam Traveling wall came to the Desloge Park. I got over there at 7:00 AM to help put it up. It was there for four days and I worked for at least four hours or more every day on the computer looking up name locations for people. The two young men who were in charge were Iraq Veterans. They were really great. I showed one of them my history book and he started reading it immediately. He said he sure would like to have a copy and I told him I would bring him a disc the next day, which I did. Then I showed him our POW book and he said he wanted to buy one, which he did. Then I asked him and the

VFW Commander of Desloge if it would be alright to bring some books and try to sell them. They said that would be fine with them. Saturday at 6:00 PM the Desloge VFW had a POW ceremony and I gave a very short talk on the book and said I would be selling it at the name location tent as soon as the ceremony was over. I wound up selling 14 books.

We now have 318 Hold At All Cost/42D Rainbow Division Prisoners of War books for sale. There have been 132 books sold since Rose and I brought the books from Minneapolis. We are now making a profit on each book we sell, instead of going in the hole on all the books being sold when in storage at the Minneapolis printing company. **POSTSCRIPT: At the Eastern Region reunion in October, Pete sold an additional eleven books.**

**NOTICE – Ladies and Men who have bought Rainbow watches.** Because most people only wear their Rainbow watches when attending a reunion or maybe chapter meeting it is likely that the batteries will go bad and if they are not replaced fairly quickly after the batteries go bad they will corrode the watch and it will be almost impossible to get the back off to put in new batteries. Even if you get the back off and put new batteries in they may still not work. Please look at your watches often to prevent this happening. **Pete Pettus, watch provider.**



**Message from Linda Owen,** President, RDVMF National Auxiliary – Since we will no longer be having the bazaar to raise money for the

Auxiliary, we will be having a bake-less sale. Please bring your favorite recipes on a 3 x 5 recipe card to sell at the National Reunion in New Orleans. Bring lots!

**Contact Linda Owen**

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(918)-812-5428 (cell phone)  
LindaOwen77@aol.com

**VETERANS' INFORMATION**

**"Aid and Attendance"** is an underutilized special monthly pension benefit offered by the VA for veterans and surviving spouses who require in-home care or live in nursing homes.

To qualify, a veteran (includes surviving spouse) must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which is during a period of war, and must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

**For more information, contact your local VA office, or call 1-800-827-1000**



## Rainbow Division Looks Eastward in 2009

By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg

42d Infantry Division Public Affairs Officer

**TROY, N.Y.** – Recent missions and training with the New York Army National Guard's 42d Infantry Division Headquarters has taken a turn to the far east as Soldiers with the Rainbow shoulder insignia take the pride and achievement of the 42d Infantry to Pacific Command (PACOM) and the U.S. Army Pacific.

The training is a marked contrast to what Rainbow veterans and their descendants normally think of when the Rainbow Division comes to mind.

Veterans of the Rainbow Division know all too well the path the 42d Infantry traveled through Europe in 1944-45. From Haguenau to Nuremburg, Dachau to Munich, the division combat actions in World War II took many GIs through southern France and into Germany and Austria.

The Greatest Generation followed in the steps of Rainbow veterans of the Great War, whose battle lore covers the fields of France in places like Champagne, the Argonne Forest, or the Ourcq and Meuse Rivers.

In the nation's latest War on Terror, Rainbow Soldiers deployed to the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Central Asia, taking the fight to our enemies in places like Iraq or Afghanistan or training alongside the Egyptian military forces during the 2007 Bright Star joint multinational exercise.

This year the men and women of the Rainbow took a decidedly different route and headed to the Far East.

Coordinating with Pacific Command, the operations office of the division headquarters arranged for numerous overseas deployment training exercises; for a variety, a large number of Rainbow Soldiers and the division's associated brigade combat teams.

Early in 2009, Soldiers from the New York National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry partnered with the Thai Royal Army for bilateral training as part of Cobra Gold in February. More than 250 infantrymen learned jungle survival and hand-to-hand combat techniques from their Thai partners while joining them for a combined live fire exercise to hone their combat skills. The troops are part of the division's 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the modern-day heirs of the legendary New York Division of WWI and WWII fame.



**Photo: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry train alongside their Japanese Ground Self Defense Force partners during the bilateral training exercise Orient Shield Oct. 14. The 42d Division Headquarters will also deploy to Japan in December for the Yama Sakura battle simulation exercise.**

The Rainbow Division Headquarters continued its focus in the east when it deployed elements of its tactical command post to partner with the Australian army for the Talisman Saber joint multinational training exercise this past July. Some three dozen Soldiers helped provide the command and control for the exercise opposing force near Shoalwater Bay, Australia.

Division Soldiers continued their training with foreign troops this fall when some 200 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry and the division headquarters deployed to Japan for the Orient Shield bilateral training exercises in October.

The 69th, another combat battalion from the 27th Brigade, conducted squad and platoon lane training with their counterparts from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces, sharing tactics, techniques and procedures for close quarter combat and infantry operations.

The yearlong focus on the Pacific culminates in December when the Rainbow patch returns to Japan's Camp Chitose on the northern island of Hokkaido. There, approximately 125 Rainbow Soldiers from the division headquarters and tactical command posts will lead a battlefield simulation exercise for a notional divisional fight alongside the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces' 7th Armored Division.

The deployments and training provide new and exciting training environments for Rainbow Division Soldiers more accustomed to the sands of Central Command. Deployments in recent years have taken the division headquarters and base units to Iraq, the 27th Infantry Brigade to Afghanistan and New Jersey's 50th Infantry Brigade to Iraq. In 2010, the 86th Infantry Brigade from Vermont expects to deploy to Afghanistan and later in 2010 and 2011 the division's 197th Fires Brigade and 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade will head to Iraq.

While the combat brigades associated with the division no longer wear the Rainbow shoulder insignia and are considered separate elements for mobilization or combat employment, the 42d Infantry continues to maintain training and resource oversight of the brigades, keeping the divisional leadership and staff focused on the readiness and training of more than 14,000 Soldiers across five northeastern states.

"The relationship of the division and the five states is the envy of the Army National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, the commanding general for the 42d Infantry Division during his change of command ceremony in May. Wickstrom replaced Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux after his selection as the deputy commander of the New York Army National Guard.

**Photo: PNP Harold G. Melinek congratulates the new 42d Infantry Division CO, Brig. Gen. Steven Wickstrom.**



The missions in the Far East this year give the Rainbow Division Headquarters and staff training in full-spectrum operations, stressing the ability of its senior leaders to command and control forces in heavy combat in addition to the benefits of developing better military relations with our Japanese ally.

Where the 42d Infantry Division may be called on for 2010 and beyond may not be certain, but the Soldiers and leaders of the Rainbow Division are making sure that Rainbow Soldiers are trained for all possible contingencies or any possible theater.

**Rainbow, Never Forget!**

### Thoughts from the Memorials Officer

The autumn weather is very cool, often wet, sometimes sunny, the holidays are coming soon with family get-togethers, but the Memorials Officer keeps slogging along with his many duties. The special news is that the publication, "In Search of Rainbow Memorials" by Lise Pommois and the late Charlie Fowler is in the early stages of being updated. New material will feature the current 42nd ID and the "Rainbow, Never Forget" plaque of veterans who made the supreme sacrifice when serving in Iraq. Rainbow is family, a fact so amply demonstrated at the recent Dayton reunion with attendance ranging from WWII Rainbow veterans, current 42nd ID personnel, the Ladies Auxiliary, the sons, daughters, cousins, nieces and more representing the widespread 42nd Rainbow Division and its elements.

**Jim Clemons**



## OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS

Congratulations to 2009 Rainbow Scholar **Tiffany McCoy**, Mt. Vernon, IN, **granddaughter of Henry Morgan, 232-K**, who has been granted a \$500 Rainbow scholarship. We sincerely apologize for failing to list her name in the September Reveille.

From **Nicole A. Petrie** (08/18/09) Kiel, WI: "Thank you for awarding me the \$500 scholarship to help aid in my educational expenses. I have included a picture of me with my **great grandparents Ray (542-Svc FA) and Audrey Connick**, who are still living and are an inspiration to me. Shortly I will be moving into school and starting my path on becoming a Radiological Technologist. I chose this career because I felt the opportunities for advancement are endless and it will be a job that I will like doing on a daily basis. Thank you once again for helping me to defray my cost of schooling."



From **Emily Murphy**, 2008 Rainbow Scholar (07/31/09) Highland Hts KY: "I want to thank you again for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. The money went a long way in helping me pay for the fees that I encountered in my first year at Northern Kentucky University and I really appreciate your generosity and your support of the relatives of those who served in the Rainbow Division. I hope that this letter finds your organization well. I know that my **grandparents, Martin (222-I) and Adrienne Bente**, have really enjoyed your friendship over the years. Your Foundation definitely has a special place in the hearts of our family members. I wish you all the best!"

From **Carly Pinzini** (08/24/09) San Diego CA: "Thank you for your help. The Memorial Foundation Scholarship I received this summer will tremendously help my college funds. I am putting most of the scholarship money toward my textbooks for this year. It means so much to me to be recognized by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division because it meant so much to my **grandpa, Jesus Montejano (222-L)**, who was tremendously dedicated to his service as a Rainbow Division member. It seems so hard to say this, especially since it is the first time I am telling someone through writing, but my grandfather passed away today. It was in his wishes that I stay dedicated to my studies and to make sure that I keep in contact with the Membership. So in memory of him I want to say how thankful and honored I am to be a Rainbow Scholar. I am very excited to start college at San Diego State University next week. Once again, thank you for all your help."



From **Glenn R. Gardner**, 2006 Rainbow Scholar, Long Beach, Miss. (09/20/09): "I am the proud **grandson of Glenn R. Gardner, Co. I, 232D Inf.** I have been very busy during the past three years of my college education. As I embark on my last year of college at the University of South Alabama, I find many exciting possibilities lie in front of me. Our fall semester began on August 17 and I am off and running. The election by my peers to the position of president of our Student Government Association will be my biggest challenge. I also spent six weeks this summer with the U.S. Army Leadership Development Camp (LDAC), Ft. Lewis, WA. I am now working to obtain my chosen branch of service in aviation and become career Army. I will forever be grateful to all the military that have gone before me and the sacrifices that have been made to afford me the opportunity I enjoy in a free country. I will do my best to carry on that tradition and sacrifice. Thank you for your support as I work to achieve my goals after graduation in May 2010."



From **Jacob R. Twomey** (09/15/09) Dartmouth, MA: "My sincere thank you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division Veterans Memorial Foundation for awarding me with the \$500 scholarship this summer. It is very much appreciated, not only by me, but my parents also. I am currently a student at the U of MA in Dartmouth, MA and this Fall I was able to afford to buy the many books and other necessities for this college semester with the help of this scholarship. I am starting my sophomore year and also hold down a part-time job at a food and beverage emporium; however, this summer I was employed full-time for the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation at Horseneck State Beach Reservation in Westport, MA. This is one of the largest state parks in MA. It encompasses over 600 acres, has two miles of beaches and has a 100 site campground. I worked in maintenance, parking and over in the stables where they keep the horses who patrol the beaches with the state troopers. On a typical Saturday in July, we get over 30,000 people who come to the reservation. The waves are huge on windy or stormy days and we have surfers who also consider it challenging for the Northeast. It's a tough job, but interesting; never a dull moment. My **grandfather, Anthony H. Thomas**, who is very proud to be a WWII veteran and a 42 "Rainbow" Division Veteran, has recently turned 83 and still shares his memories with family and myself. He is as active as he can be and I frequently visit with him and my grandmother at their house in New Bedford, Mass. He was extremely pleased that like my two older brothers I qualified for the scholarship and made it through. Again, on behalf of my family and myself I offer my sincere thanks to the Veterans of the 42D Rainbow Division for making this scholarship possible."

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FROM TED SIMONSON

The information needed to apply for Rainbow Scholarships will be distributed during March 2010. **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 2010 scholarships. **All applications must be accompanied by a recommendation letter from a current member of the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2010 and no later than April 1, 2010**, send the information listed below to:

Ted Simonson, 220 Highland Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95030  
or e-mail <[tigerted@mail.com](mailto:tigerted@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 thru 4 above) of **Rainbow Veterans Memorial Foundation member** nominating the applicant.

**NOTES:** Once the materials are mailed to the applicant, all further correspondence will be conducted between the student applicant and Ted Simonson.

Requests for applications made at any time other than between January 1 and April 1 will not be processed.



## A VETERAN'S RESPONSE TO "THE STORY OF THE 222D INFANTRY REGIMENT" AVAILABLE ON CD:



**From Captain Tillman L. "Buck" Wheat, Jr., 222-M&L:** "Thanks very much for the 222D CD. It brought back a lot of memories after these 64 years. I skimmed it the first time, read it in detail the second time and read portions of it the third and several other times. You did a very good job in accumulating, in such detail, and depicting the history of our

regiment. My younger son has the CD now and is going to download it on his computer. He was really excited when he viewed it on my computer (after he downloaded it for me).

I was weapons platoon leader in "L" Company during this phase of the war.

"On page 166 of your CD, it indicates that we existed entirely on K rations during our battle to capture the Hardt Mountains sector. I thought I remembered that before our attack started we were each issued three big chocolate candy bars and that each bar was to be our ration for one day. I was surprised that one bar satisfied my appetite all day. We got word that they thought the Germans would not use chemical warfare on us at this stage of the war. We then started discarding our gas masks. The gas mask seemed to get between you and the ground every time you were fired on and hit the ground. I was introduced to Germany's anti-personnel mine called "The Bouncing Betty" on about 3/16/1945. When a trip wire is tripped by someone, the inner cylinder of the mine rises 3 or 4 feet into the air and explodes shooting deadly metal fragments and small steel balls for about 200 yards in all directions. I don't know whether my messenger or I tripped the wire (the wire is so small that you can't see it unless you know exactly where it is). The force from the explosion knocked my messenger and me forward to the ground thus keeping us from being hit. One of my sergeants was about 25 yards behind us and was hit in the right arm between his elbow and shoulder. This resulted in a bad wound and he was still having a lot of trouble with it when I heard from him about two months later.

"During the day of January 24, 1945, it snowed the most of the day and the ground was covered with about one foot of snow. The temperature was somewhat below freezing. Some of the foxholes had water in them with a sheet of ice on top of the water. Thankfully, my C.P. (Command Post) was in a house. As you enter Neubourg, France from the west, it was the first house on the right. The road was just outside the yard fence surrounding the house. A barn was to the west of the house and a big deep hole was to the south of the house and barn. I think it was probably used as a silo. This hole was an ideal place for my two 81mm mortars. I put both of them in it. That evening, at 6:00 o'clock, the Germans hit us with intense artillery fire. They continued their bombardment for about an hour and a half. They fired 88mm's, (nicknamed "Screaming Meemies" by our soldiers in WWI; the name was appropriate because when the shells are in flight, they sound like someone who is terribly frightened and is screaming as loud as they can. When a shell is coming in your direction, you can hear it in time to hit the ground and put your hands over your ears.), 105mm's, 250mm's and rocket shells which cut low flaming trails through the ground fog on this moonless night. After the initial shelling, they slacked off. They launched their foot soldier attack at 8:00 o'clock PM. Their initial shelling knocked out all wire communications, except mine, between our battalion C.P. and our company's C.P.'s. Battalion personnel phoned me and asked me to go check with the company commanders and get a report on the progress of the battle in their sectors. They also briefed me on what they knew about the units fighting on our right and left flanks so I could pass that information on to our people. They also told me to tell the company commanders to hold their ground at all costs. When I began my trek to the front lines, I took one of my men with me and told him to stay about 20 yards behind me and to

step in my footprints so he wouldn't step on an anti-personnel mine. Two of us went so that if one were killed or wounded, the other one could complete our mission. We would relay the information from the companies to the battalion. After my second trip, I started answering my phone as "Wheat's Message Center". That name caught on with everyone."

### [from the "Battle of Ohlungen Forest" portion of the Story of the 222D Infantry Regiment on CD]

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL is awarded to TILLMAN L. WHEAT, JR 0 550 369, First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant), Infantry, Company M, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 24-25 January 1945, near Neubourg, France. When his company and Battalion Command Post communications were shattered by enemy mortar and artillery fire, Lieutenant Wheat volunteered to contact the front lines to secure valuable information needed by his battalion. Moving over an area studded with Schu mines and anti-personnel mines, he made four trips to and from the forward positions under intense German mortar, small arms and machine gun fire. His courageous and unflinching devotion to duty were directly responsible for the re-establishment of vital communications between his Battalion and Company Command Posts that resulted in repulsing a strong German attack. Entered military service from Eastland, Texas.

#### AVAILABLE TO BE ORDERED FROM THE MILLENNIUM CHAPTER:

"The Story of the 232D Infantry Regiment" - CD - 7.00

"The Story of the 222D Infantry Regiment" - CD - 7.00

"Trail of the Rainbow" documentary - DVD - 10.00

ALL COSTS LISTED INCLUDE POSTAGE

Soon to be available -

"The Story of the 242D Infantry Regiment"

Please send your check or money order payable to

RDV Millennium Chapter to Suellen McDaniel,

1400 Knolls Dr. Newton, NC 28658-9452.

Photos from WWII Rainbow Division History book



(L) Through the Maginot Line, doughs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 232d Infantry, head for Germany, only two kilometers past this town.



(Center) When Furth was reached the men of Company K, 222<sup>nd</sup>, fought their way over this blown bridge into the city and prisoners march back.



(Below) A leading squad of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 242d

Infantry, moves cautiously down a bomb-torn street on the western edge of the city.



# RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FILE

## REPORTED FROM JULY 2008 – SEPTEMBER 2009

AMSBURY, Elwood E.	HQCo. 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HANEY, James H.	HQ 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	POSEY, Marvin R.	A/T Co. 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BAKER, Laymon L.	Co. K 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HARPER, Wilson C.	Co. M 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	RAFFELD, George	HQCo. 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BATE, Clarence L.	1 <sup>st</sup> Ord, 7 <sup>th</sup> Army	HARRIS, Robert D.	Med. Det. Co. H 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	RANDALL, Weldon C.	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BENYAK, Cornelius	Co. CG 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HATFIELD, Paul	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	RASMUSSEN, Kenneth	A/T Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BOBOSKY, Joseph	HQ 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HATTON, Carleton	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	REDMOND, Louis	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BORVICK, Jacob	Co. C 122 Med Bn.	HAUGEN, Arlan E.	H1B 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	REID, George W. "Bill"	Co. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> inf.
BROWN, Herman	Svc. Co. 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HAWKINS, Charles F.	A/T Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	RICHARDSON, Doyle P.	Co. C 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BROWN, Oliver L.	A/T Co. 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HAZARD, William R.	132D Signal Co.	RIZZUTO, Frank E.	Co. B 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BRUNS, Leonard	H1B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HILL, Edgar C.	Co. A 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	ROSS, Paul E.	Co. M 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
BUSH, Charles T.	Co. C 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	HODGES, I.G.	Co. I 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SABBATELLI, Nicholas P.	HQ 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CAMPBELL, Thomas H.	Btry C 392 <sup>nd</sup> F.A.	HUMPHREYS, Billy	Co. G 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SAWYER, Stillman F.	H1B-232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CAMPO, Vincent O.	Co. B 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	IVES, Howard	1 <sup>st</sup> Ord 7 <sup>th</sup> Army	SCHOENIKE, Raymond C.	Cb. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CARR, John D. (PNP)	Co. B 122D Med Bn	JOHNSON, Carleton	Co. M 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SCHRANK, Martin H.	42D MP Platoon
CARTO, Robert J.	Co. D 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	JOHNSON, Wesley L.	Co. K 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SCHUMAN, Emanuel	Btry A 542D F.A.
CICCARELLI, Dominic J.	H3B 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	JOITEL, Kasper E.	HqCo. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SCHWEIGERT, Edward C.	Co. B 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CLARK, Charles M.	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	KELLEY, Charles R.	42D MP Platoon	SHAMBURG, Henry L.	Co. C 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CLARK, Leonard R.	Co. K 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	KILKER, Lloyd	Co. H 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SHEARER, Melvin	Co. A 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CLARKE, Richard M.	Btry A Hqs 402 F.A.	KING, Glen D.	Co. G 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SHILLINSBURG, Harry R.	Co. C 142 CE
CLEMENS, Robert B.	Co. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	KUNTZ, Marion	Co. L 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SKARE, Morris C.	Co. L 222 <sup>nd</sup> inf.
COGAR, Daniel H.	Co. G 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	LYSIK, John	Co. A 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SOUDERS, Cody C.	Cannon Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
COTTERALL, Grant	A/T Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	LUISSETTI, Eligio	Co. L 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SOUTHARD, Owen W.	Btry C 402 <sup>nd</sup> F.A.
CRAIG, Wayne M.	Co. L 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	MANGER, Harry C.	HQ 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SPENNER, William J.	Co. L 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
CULLUM, Harold M.	Btry B, 392 <sup>nd</sup> F.A.	MCCORMACK, John W.	Co. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	STARKING, Leland W.	Co. A 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
DASCOLI, Francis S.	Co. B 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	METZGER, Richard W.	Co. H 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	STEINLE, Wilbur	Btry B 542 F.A.
DEIKIN, Leon R.	Co. C 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	MONTEJANO, Jesus C.	Co. L 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	STEPHAN, Louis N.G.	HQBtry 42D Div Artillery
DODSON, Olin W.	Co. B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	MUDD, Kelley	Cannon Co. 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	STIDHAM, Donal E.	Btry A 232 <sup>nd</sup> F.A.
DUDLEY, Myron E.	Co. I 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	NAUMANN, Quentin F.	Co. H 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	SUDKAMP, Louis C.	Co. H 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
FEINGOLD, Solomon	A/T Co. 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	OBERRISER, Philip M.	Co. D 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	TOTERAM, Joseph	Co. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
FONTANA, Alfred A.	Svc Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	PEARCE, William	Co. F 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	WALKER, William H.	Co. G 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
FORDE, Norman P.	Co. I 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	PECK, Roger A.	Co. M 222 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	WEST, Armando T.	Co. I 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
GALLAGHER, Donald J.	Co. E 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	PEDERZANI, Paul P.	Co. G 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	WILKINS, Henry F.	Co. C 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.
GILLETTE, Donald O.	Co. F 242 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	PIERCE, Ivan W.	H1B 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.	WILLIAMS, W. Earl	A/T Co. 222 <sup>nd</sup> In
GLOOR, Wilbert W.	Co. D 232 <sup>nd</sup> Inf.				

**COMRADES TRUE, BORN ANEW, PEACE TO YOU. YOUR SOUL SHALL BE WHERE HEROES ARE ,  
AND YOUR MEMORY SHINE LIKE THE MORNING STAR –**  
**BRAVE AND DEAR, SHIELD US HERE, FAREWELL! ! Joyce Kilmer 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 42D Division World War I**  
 Your mission in following Rainbow to its glorious end had the noble purpose of bringing added glory to the flag of our country.  
 This you have done. We salute you. You have now answered the call of the Celestial Bugler.  
 With silent searching feet you have enrolled in that great Spirit Army.  
 We pray God that we too may find the way...some day...and assemble with you upon that eternal parade ground.

**MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AUGUST 1, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

**Foundation Operating Fund**

Rosemary McGovern, 50, In Memory of Weldon Randall; Roy & Glenna Bird, 50, In Memory of Weldon Randall; Pacific Northwest Chapter Auxiliary, 50, In Memory of Yvonne Uptmor & Margaret Muench; Rosemary Schweigert, 25, In Memory of Edward Schweigert; Karl H. Wagner, Jr., 200, Contribution

**Scholarship Operating Fund**

Jeanne Stites Newell & Linda Stites Woodfin, 75, In Memory of Jim & Christine Stites; Pacific Northwest Chapter, 50, In Memory of Yvonne Uptmor & Margaret Muench; Mrs. Shirly Gray, 100, In Memory of "CB" Thompson; CAD Group, 50, In Memory of Jesus "Jess" Cerda Montejano; Lee & Jan Louis, 50, In Memory of Jesus "Jess" Montejano; Richard & Esther Peirce, 50, In Memory of Henry Zickler.

**Scholarship Endowment Fund**

Anonymous, 25, In Memory of Bob Spearing; Anonymous, 50, In Memory of Paul P. Pederzani, Jr.; Morton Barrish, 100, In Memory of Renee Barrish.

**Send donations to: Jon Janosik 3389 Kingston Lane Youngstown, OH 44511-2031 Make check payable to RDVMF**

**SEARCH FOR INFORMATION**

I hope to contact a veteran who knew my cousin, **Bernhard "Bennie" Schkade**, or a veteran who knows the circumstances of Bennie's death in the combat near Sessenheim, France 17 - 18 January 1945. Bennie was a Private in 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Co A, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Before entering the Army 5 Jan 1943, he lived in Albany, Texas. He was trained at Camp Gruber, Okla. and at time of his death was an automatic rifleman. According to letters from the Army, Bennie was killed when a heavy artillery shell struck the building he was in. One of these letters stated, "to make further inquiries, it is believed these men may be able to assist you: Pfc Donald J. Wendler, El Paso, Texas; Pfc John Hinckley, Grand Forks, N. Dakota and T/Sgt Harry E. Smith, Stillwater, Maine." I would greatly appreciate help locating these three elderly veterans. I have read Hinckley's interesting account of the combat in the book *Hold At All Cost*.

Bennie was initially listed MIA and soon after changed to KIA; however, on the Tablets of the Missing at the Epinal American Cemetery in France he is remembered as MIA. Bennie's brothers and I wonder what happened to his remains since it is known when and where he was killed. His remains might possibly be among the unidentified buried in the Sessenheim Communal Cemetery or another local burial site. If so, and with forensic DNA testing of remains, his might eventually be identified. Bennie, as do many other veterans, deserves our best efforts to make a final determination.

**Bill Schkade 1001 CR 317 Georgetown, TX 78626-1509 [bschka@yahoo.com](mailto:bschka@yahoo.com) (817) 614-0883**

Address Service Requested

