



REVEILLE

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JUNE 2009

NO. 5

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Chairman's Message

May 1, 2009

When you read this missive we will be looking forward to our annual convention in Dayton, Ohio. Pete Pettus seems to have the preparations well in hand, and, consequently, except for unexpected and unpredictable occurrences like our worldwide preoccupation with swine flu we are looking good to go. It may well be known as swine foolishness as you read this. Presently we have a group of people headed up by Jim Clemons mounting a major effort to make a formal presentation of his Honored Membership Certificate to Ludwig Stoeckl. You will recall that Ludwig is the Dachau resident and master jeweler who created the Purple Heart Jewel which we presented to the Virginia Holocaust Museum. Now is the time to remember that on that occasion we committed our group to providing support to the 42nd Rainbow Division Family Readiness Group. It's a repeat, but here is the information necessary to get your continuing contributions in the right hands. **Send your contributions to 42nd ID, FRG, c/o Louise Carnesale, 4 Eckman Place, Rennselaer, NY 12144. Please help those who are giving their utmost to protect us. This is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) contribution.**

Jim's closest cohorts in getting the presentation scheduled into Munich on May 25, 2009, have been Fritz Krenkler, Pete Pettus (both of whom will join Jim in making the presentation), Dee Eberhart and Romeo Fagiolo. One hasn't experienced "Red Tape" and obfuscation until he enters into interchanges with the lower echelons of the U.S. and Germany's Departments of State and Air Forces. At this writing, Jim seems to have most of the myriad loose ends captured and under control. **Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jim!** By the way, if there's a chance you will be in Europe on May 25, give full consideration to becoming a part of this formal presentation that will be held in a hotel very close to the Munich Airport.

All of the work being done by Jim is, of course, incurring some expenses. Circumstances are such that there has been no way to get Trustee approval ahead of time to budget certain amounts needed. Consequently, I will relatively soon now be making contact with the trustees to beg their support for our international endeavors to bring the American and German peoples into a closer more personal relationship.

And, finally, our own focus at this time of year is the annual July reunion. We need to hone in on seeing that it is as good in every way as we can make it. Those of us who are flying need to get our transportation set well ahead of time. We can't get much closer to the "Heartland of America" than Dayton, Ohio, and the Air Force Museum all-day tour is available to everyone on Thursday, July 9. We should have a wonderful time mixing and matching together as well as enjoying a literal trip through Air Force history. Be sure to sign up and spend that day with me growing closer together. Shared experience is the very heart of friendship.

Ted Simonson, Chairman

CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse-Argonne.
World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardennes.
War on Terrorism: Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To: Ken Carpenter
 Editor, **Rainbow Reveille**

Your recent article *The Joy of Being an Editor* calls to mind the editorial policy of the **Pad and Pencil** — the weekly publication of Rainbow University at Zell am See, Austria, in 1945. It was four pages in length (9 inch by 12 inch). The same firm in Salzburg that printed the **RAINBOW REVEILLE** also printed the **Pad and Pencil**.

The staff consisted of:

Editor Cpl. Ray Frazer
 Associate Editor Pfc. Richard Cimpl
 Sports Editor Pfc. James Roman
 News Editor Pfc. Irwin Feder
 Faculty Advisor Prof. Carl Koch

The declared policy as it appeared in the first issue on Oct. 12, 1945, was:

"The policy of this paper will be to provide some degree of diversion, entertainment and perhaps enlightenment for the students of the University. Although the staff is composed of students it's impossible for three or four men to judge the tastes and appetites of three hundred. What you don't like, goes out, and what you want, goes in."

"As they say on the parade ground, sing out."

When the war ended in the Pacific, "... it was decided to open a university, a place where college subjects would be taught to 300 to 400 men selected from among the 8,000 high school graduates in the Division. Work was begun immediately in assembling a faculty from among the officers and men of the Division. On September 14, only 12 days after the formal surrender of Japan, the first class of 300 students reported to the school and began a two-month course which would give them the equivalent of one semester's study in college. The credits that they earned would be recognized by American universities and colleges." [42nd Rainbow Division, History of World War II]

Faculty staff consisted of: **Capt. Starr W. Jones**, Commandant; **Capt. George A. Carroll**, Asst. Commandant; **1st Lt. William J. Sandercock**, Exec. Officer; **1st Lt. John B. Leonard**, S-3; **Capt. Warren**

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"RAINBOW UNIVERSITY is located in five modern buildings in Zell am See, Austria, on the shores of a picturesque lake, set amongst majestic mountain peaks of the High Tauern Alps. It is the first university to be organized within a division in the European Theater." [RAINBOW UNIVERSITY HANDBOOK, Zell am See, Austria, 1945-46]



George Cramer, Crystal Lake, Illinois,
 April 25, 2009

Have You Read

"The Final Crisis"? "Nordwind"

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Chaplain Prayer

Let Us Pray —

Loving and Gracious God, as we once again celebrate Memorial Day, Independence Day and our annual Rainbow reunion, we pause to express our gratitude for this great country of ours. You have showered us with abundant blessings. You inspired our Founding Fathers to establish this land of the free and the home of the brave. You blessed us with vast resources and incredible beauty. Courageous men and women have given their lives to preserve the land we love. We honor them for their sacrifices and we ask your blessing on those serving their country throughout the world at this very time.

We ask your continued blessing on the men and women of Rainbow and those dear to us. We pray that peace and justice will one day prevail everywhere in our troubled world. Help us in our own lives to be instruments of your peace. Amen.



Dachau 29 April 1945

**The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs
Edited by Sam Dann**

**\$21.50, send check to Richard
Tisch with mailing instruction, name
and address.**

**Send check and order form to:
Richard J. Tisch, 502 Fairmount Ave.,
Chatham, NJ 07928-1328**

On the 29th day of April 1945, the forward battalions of Rainbow Division, 42nd Infantry, were moving swiftly toward Munich. Confident and optimistic, they had survived four months of costly and bitter combat and soon, it would all be over.

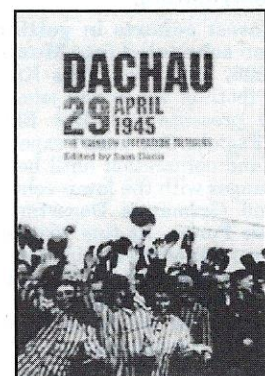
But then the road led to Dachau and the worst day of the war. In their collected memoirs, the Rainbow soldiers, almost half of whom were only 18, 19 or 20 years old, tell how they were confronted suddenly — without preparation, without warning — by horrors beyond human imagination.

This book is by and about the American liberators, who have since discovered that no one who was involved in any capacity can ever be truly free of the past that was Dachau. In the most complete eyewitness account ever available, editor Sam Dann, himself a Rainbow soldier, weaves their stories, official reports, other documents and the reminiscences of several survivors with whom the Division has maintained contract for more than half a century.

I have had the honor of meeting some of

the veterans of the Rainbow Division . . . Like so many of their generation, they simply say, "We had a job to do, and we did it." But in doing it so courageously and so well, they demonstrated that to be human was to be capable of great acts of courage and goodness, even in the face of unspeakable cowardice and evil.

— U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman



Sam Dann had a long career as a writer for radio, stage and television and taught visual and dramatic writing as an adjunct professor at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. He was also the author of two novels, *Goodbye, Karl* and *The Third Body*.

Memoir/Holocaust Studies

266 pages, 6x9, \$21.50, Dick Tisch

Check April Issue for Details or Rainbow Net

42nd Rainbow Foundation

July 8-11, 2009

Holiday Inn North, Dayton, Ohio

Changes in Reveille Procedure

(Keep This for Your Convenience)

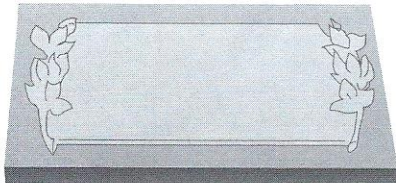
(1) All undelivered mail costs 75 cents for each letter. This will be reason to hold up your copy of the *Reveille*. If you request a copy of the *Reveille* you must give us your proper address for proper delivery.

(2) When you change your mailing address, you must send the information to: Missouriian Publishing Co., Box 336, Washington, MO 63090. Attn.: Angie Deaton, Phone 636-239-7701. Widows must request continuous delivery of the *Reveille* in writing.

(3) To be accepted, submissions for printing must be delivered before or on the regular deadline. They must be sent to the *Reveille* editor. (The deadline is plainly printed on Page 1.)

(4) We will no longer sell merchandise, books and literature other than the *Reveille*. This is because we are a small volunteer group and not able to handle the countless requests we get. Check the Rainbow net for information. Remember that we have served for 30 or more years. We do have illness and some at your beck and call. Check officers other than the *Reveille* people and perform your own research in the future.

*There are a few Division History books still available for \$35 a copy. Do not send material to the archivist. We do not have a person for that position as yet. You will be told when and where in the future.



New 800 Number for VA Grave Information

The Department of Veterans Affairs now has a toll-free number where you can inquire about headstones for veterans or other questions concerning the gravemarker program.

This new system will greatly enhance the ability to get answers to customers who need them quickly. By calling 1-800-697-6947 you are connected to VA's National Cemetery Systems, Office of Memorial Programs in Washington, D.C. This line operates from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Service representatives can now supply immediate information about the status of applications, headstones or marker delivery and general information about the Memorial programs.

Who Is Eligible for VA Burial Benefits

All veterans with discharges other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial in a VA National Cemetery. The National Cemetery System operates 114 cemeteries within the United States and Puerto Rico. Those eligible for a Government provided headstone or marker and Presidential Memorial Certificate, veterans and their dependents may apply for all VA benefits by dialing 1-800-827-1000.



Richard and Esther Peirce, Pete and Rose Pettus visit with the Krenklers in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, March 7-9, 2009.



Shirley Dorsey, Rose Pettus, Pete Pettus, Fritz Krenkler, Verna Krenkler and Joe Dorsey

Krenklers drove down from Lake Havasu City to Pete and Rose's winter home and then we joined the Dorseys at the Spaghetti Factory in Phoenix for lunch. Date was March 30, 2009.

Submitted by Assistant Editor, Suellen McDaniel

Dear Ken, This is an UPDATE on the 'UNIT HISTORIES PROJECTS begun by the RDVMF Millennium Chapter (for families and descendants of Rainbow Division Veterans) last year. The Story of the 232d Infantry Regiment has been completed, is being well received and is available on CD through the Millennium Chapter. In the same format, we are working on the 222d and 242d Infantry Regiments now and believe these will be completed and available by this fall. Here are illustrations from January through April 1945 of the hundreds of stories of the Infantry and the troops supporting the Infantry regiments, each history told through individual citations placed appropriately within the text of the official Narratives from the unit monthly reports of operations on file at the National Archives.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **JAMES I. MILLER**, 33 786 596, Staff Sergeant (then Private First Class), Infantry, Company F, 242d Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action, on 6 January 1945, at Gambesheim, France. When the clamping bolt on his mortar was shattered by an enemy artillery shell burst, rendering the weapon useless, Private Miller disassembled the mortar despite small arms and artillery fire and mounted the bare tube in an exposed position. He then opened fire on an enemy machine gun that was holding up his company. Despite the adverse firing conditions, Private Miller's accurate fire destroyed the machine gun and its crew and he continued firing until superior forces forced his company's withdrawal. Private Miller's heroic action kept the number of casualties down to a minimum. Entered military service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The **SILVER STAR** is awarded to **THOMAS B. O'NEILL**, 39 138 105, Sergeant, Infantry, Company G, 242d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 6 January 1945, at Gambesheim, France, Sergeant O'Neill and three other men were acting as machine gunners with elements of three companies which were attacking across an open field when they encountered strong enemy positions consisting of well prepared pillboxes, fortified houses, machine gun nests, mortars, and tanks. Caught in a terrific cross fire from machine guns and small arms and subjected to heavy bombardment from enemy artillery and mortars, with enemy forces attacking from the front and on both flanks, the troops were ordered to withdraw and form a new line. Disregarding the order to withdraw, Sergeant O'Neill and the other three men placed their two light machine guns into position, and, in the face of direct machine gun and 88mm fire from German tanks, delivered effective fire on the enemy, forcing them to stop and take cover, and successfully covering the withdrawal without the loss of a single man. Entered military service from San Francisco, California.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **GENE A. PRITCHARD**, 38 371 870, Private First Class, Infantry, Company A, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 6 January 1945 near Ingolsheim, France. Private Pritchard was serving as machine gunner of a Light Machine Gun Section at the outpost of Company A, 222nd Infantry, near Ingolsheim, France, when an enemy tank stopped about thirty yards from his position and opened fire with its machine gun and cannon upon the men in the foxholes. Exposing himself to the direct fire from the tank, Private Pritchard immediately brought his machine gun to bear upon the wheels and track of the tank, forcing it to button up and withdraw. His courageous act was responsible for stopping the penetration of our lines by the enemy and prevented numerous casualties among our troops. Entered military service from Eastland, Texas.



The **AIR MEDAL** is awarded to **JELKS H. CABANISS, JR.**, 026 558, 1st Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 232nd Field Artillery Battalion, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. During the period from 22 February 1945 through 19 March 1945, inclusive, Lt. Cabaniss distinguished himself by flying as air observer 35 combat sorties consisting of registration and adjustment missions and front line reconnaissance missions for targets of opportunity and intelligence information, as a result of which our artillery was able quickly and effectively to bring fire to bear upon enemy strongpoints and installations. Entered military service from Birmingham, Alabama.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **BILLY E. BENTSON**, 39 212 382, Staff Sergeant, (then Private First Class), Corps of Engineers, Company B, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 23 February 1945 near Lichtenberg, France. When the patrol of which Private Bentson was a member was reconnoitering an area for a mine field, they were fired upon by machine guns and small arms from a house to the front, wounding one officer. A withdrawal was ordered and Private Bentson and another soldier evacuated the officer under the enemy fire. Upon successful completion of the withdrawal, he returned to the site with two others and, while under the enemy's observation, laid a mine field which blocked the route enemy patrols were using to penetrate our lines. Private Bentson's courageous action and disregard for personal safety played a major role in the successful accomplishment of the mission. Entered military service from Bremerton, Washington.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **BILLY J. MCGRATH**, 37 641 235, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 222nd Infantry, for heroic achievement in action on 22 February 1945, near Wingen, France. While out with a Rainbow Ranger patrol detailed to reconnoiter a given area and bring back prisoners, Private McGrath, with others, moved close to a known German machine gun installation and hurled grenades into it. Three of the enemy, heavily armed, emerged and were shot by the patrol. When a fourth member of the machine gun crew refused to come out, Private McGrath leaped into the dugout and brought him out by force, after which the patrol returned to its own lines. Private McGrath's heroic actions resulted in the killing of three Germans, the capture of another, and the destruction of their gun emplacement. Entered military service from Columbia, Mississippi.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS)** is awarded to **WILLIAM A. FINCKE**, 0 527 153, First Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, Company C, 142nd Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 28 February 1945 at Frohmuhl, France. Lieutenant Fincke was accompanying his Company Commander on an inspection of a suspected mine area, when the latter stepped upon a Schu-mine, the explosion of which seriously wounded him. Disregarding the danger to himself, Lieutenant Fincke immediately went to the aid of his Commanding Officer and in so doing, tripped another mine, sustaining severe injuries from which he died three days later. Refusing to permit his driver to incur further risk, Lieutenant Fincke ordered him to leave and not to attempt to treat his wounds. The courageous self-sacrifice and outstanding devotion to duty exhibited by Lieutenant Fincke are worthy of the highest praise. Entered military service from Santa Fe, New Mexico.



The **SILVER STAR** is awarded to **JOHN G. DUKICK**, 12 202 220, Staff Sergeant, Infantry, Company A, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action, on 15 March 1945, in the Hardt Mountains, France. When his platoon was ordered to destroy an enemy machine gun, covering his company's route of advance, Sergeant Dukick led the attack with one squad, directing the remainder of his men to flank the position. Coming within close range of the gun, he personally destroyed the position with grenades. Observing other enemy emplacements in the area, he worked his way under heavy mortar and machine gun fire to a position from which he directed artillery fire, destroying the gun emplacements, and killing numerous enemy riflemen. Through his outstanding courage and aggressiveness, Sergeant Dukick played a major role in the successful assault. Entered military service from Newark, New Jersey.



The **SILVER STAR** is awarded to **MATHIAS J. HEUSER**, 32 996 690, Private First Class, Corps of Military Police, 42d Infantry Division, Military Police Platoon for gallantry in action on 6 April 1945 at Veitshoheim, Germany. Private Heuser volunteered to accompany an officer and three enlisted men across the Main River to attempt to induce the enemy garrison at Veitshoheim to surrender. After a three hour conversation, surrounded by an overwhelmingly superior armed enemy, the enemy commander was persuaded to capitulate. Although the return route was covered by fanatical SS troops with machine guns, Private Heuser assisted in rowing the captives across the river and later returned to demolish three loaded enemy flak guns. His outstanding heroism and aggressive determination resulted in the capture of the town and 129 armed enemy and the liberation of six American prisoners of war without casualties. Entered military service from New York, New York.



The **SOLDIER'S MEDAL** is awarded to **AUGUST APARO**, 36 655 712, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant), Infantry, Company L, 222nd Infantry, for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy on 12 April 1945, near Schweinfurt, Germany. When Sergeant Aparo saw a boat loaded with four Russians, one a young boy, capsize about 25 yards from the American side of the Main River, he hesitatingly went to the aid of the young boy who was struck on the head by the boat and was being carried downstream by the swift current. Fighting against the strong current, he succeeded in bringing the boy to the vicinity of the bank where, because of exhaustion, he held on to the brush at the water's edge until comrades could rescue them both from the river. Sergeant Aparo's heroic action in saving the drowning boy exemplify the highest traditions of the service. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.



The **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **VARNEY L. BENTON**, 38 588 779, Sergeant, Corps of Engineers, Company A, 142d Engineer Combat Battalion, for heroic achievement in action on 16 April 1945 near Gutenstetten, Germany. During the final phase of the pursuit of the enemy across Germany, Sergeant Benton volunteered to accompany a Ranger patrol in order to remove demolitions from an important bridge in our advance route. Having removed the detonating wires from the charges that had been placed on the bridge structure under fire from small arms he then advanced and made a reconnaissance of another bridge only fifty yards from the enemy positions. Returning to the safety of our lines, he assisted in evacuating two men wounded during the action. Sergeant Benton's outstanding courage and devotion to duty, materially expedited the advance of the Division. Entered military service from Okmulgee, Oklahoma.



The **FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER** to the **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** is awarded to **DOMENICK VENEZIO**, 33 699 226, Technician Fifth Grade, Cavalry, 42d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, for heroic achievement in action on 19 April 1945 near Ammerdorf, Germany. During the attack on Ammerdorf, Corporal Venezia drove his Commanding Officer through the enemy lines into the German-held town to negotiate its surrender. While the officer was conferring with the enemy, Corporal Venezia remained alone in his vehicle in total blackout on the edge of town and surrounded by the enemy forces. At the conclusion of the conference, he made contact with his Commanding Officer and drove him back to our lines. Corporal Venezia's coolness and courage under these perilous circumstances are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rainbow Division. Entered military service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The **SILVER STAR** is awarded to **MORRIS EISENSTEIN**, 36 709 953, Corporal, Infantry, Company H, 222nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 29 April 1945, near Dachau, Germany. When his Battalion's attacking column was pinned down during the drive against Dachau, Corporal Eisenstein, with utter disregard for the hail of enemy machine gun fire falling around him, mounted a jeep and attempted to put the vehicle's machine gun into action. After numerous attempts to fire the faulty weapon had failed, he made his way through the deadly enemy fire to the cab of an abandoned truck and opened fire on the enemy positions with the truck's antiaircraft machine gun. When the supply of ammunition at the gun was exhausted, he exposed himself to the direct fire and climbed over the cab to the rear of the truck for a resupply of ammunition. He then reloaded the machine gun and continued to lay down effective fire on the enemy emplacements. By his outstanding courage and aggressive actions, Corporal Eisenstein provided covering fire which enabled our troops to successfully flank the hostile positions, and capture 150 of the enemy, eliminating a strong obstacle from the Division's route of advance. Entered military service from Chicago, Illinois.

Ken, as you can see, we don't have photos for all of the men whose citations are included to make up this history and we are looking for all available citations that tell the story. We would like to request of all Rainbow veterans who have their full-text citations and photos circa 1944-45 if they will consider sending these to me for inclusion in these special Rainbow histories. Many thanks! Suellen R. McDaniel, RDVMF Millennium Chapter Secretary 1400 Knolls Drive Newton, NC 28658-9452 (828) 464-1466 JMAC1400@aol.com

Welcome Home!



WWI

WE SALUTE YOU!



Check September Issue for
New Officer Listings

Herrlisheim

Dick Engler F/222nd

Germans were all around. Herrlisheim was in flames. What "mission" other than surrender could possibly still be in order? In the accounts of both Alonzo Gates and Ed Murphy, the surrender alternative never became an issue. And at around 1 P.M., when Lt. Hampton reappeared and it was agreed that no more of G was likely to emerge from Herrlisheim, the only consideration was how to get through to friendly lines. In single file, moving southwest along a shallow ditch, the largest remaining segment of G/232nd sought a pathway to survival among friends.

A few hundred yards, and the column is swept by MG fire. No casualties, but bullet holes in the clothing of many. From the front of the column a report of a stream just ahead, a bridge and a German MG position. Set up a mortar (sans legs) and feed in the rounds while the enemy returns fire with small arms, rockets, and rifle grenades. A decision to back up 100 yards, but word from the rear: "We can't go back. There are 15 Germans in the ditch behind us." Lay low in the ditch while artillery shells rumble over and the dive-bombing around Gamsheim intensifies. The last hours of daylight pass.

At 6 P.M., Lt. Hampton orders that all mortars and mortar ammo be abandoned. His plan now is to cross over a levee to the right and approach and cross the river Zorn some 200 yards downstream of the bridge. Pitch dark now. Single-file to the river, wading across one at the time through waist-deep water. Form up in diamond formation, the lieutenant in the center, move toward the sound of a clock chiming quarter hours and tolling the hour. Lower trouser legs now sheathed in ice and making crackling noises that make stealth impossible. Gates recalled: "The night was dark, overcast with clouds through which filtered enough star-shine or moonglow, or both, to allow us to see faintly 20 or 30 yards . . . Squishing along in water-filled boots and ice-sheathed pants we encountered a patrol approaching. Standing, we froze our movement and about a dozen men passed us, within 10 yards, but apparently they did not see us. I think they were German . . . but not a word or sound was exchanged. On towards the clock. Soon we heard some people banging tools on metal. We avoided them, thinking they were working on a tank."

At about 10 P.M. Lt. Hampton's remnant of G moved through an orchard close to the clock town and spread prone in a diamond formation, taking whatever cover could be found. The lieutenant sent someone forward to feel out the hoped-for American perimeter. Soon the scout called out the "all clear," and the group moved up to a GI post and a tank parked on the road that led into

the clock town. This was Weyersheim.

Late that night of January 5 - 6, two other small groups of men from G/232nd struggled into friendly lines. A handful from 2nd Platoon, led after dark by Lt. Stonebreaker out of the bomb crater near Herrlisheim, found their way (as Clecy Hicks described) "to a blacktopped road and followed it until about 4 A.M. when we came upon a French Cafe and were given a drink, a pack of cigarettes and put up for the night." But before reaching that blacktopped road there had been clashes in the dark with an enemy so close that in one encounter the lieutenant had bashed a startled German in the face with his carbine when the man loomed up before him on the edge of a woods as the handful from 2nd Platoon doggedly persisted in their escape to fight another day. And the 3rd Platoon/1st Squad survivors of the ambushed attempt to rescue the men in Offendorf were "chased, harassed, and herded like game animals" as they fought skirmishes all across the wide open farm fields (as recalled by Edward Bumm), before they finally came during the night of January 5 - 6 to a town held by friendly troops.

Within a day or two, the 25 survivors of G were sent back out - until the final January 20 fallback - to suffer from the cold and short rations in a "line" of scattered, frozen foxholes behind the Landgraben Canal.

It would not be until the relief of Task Force Linden and the rest spell in Lorraine that G/232nd would begin to take shape again as a reconstituted fighting unit. And actually it wasn't until the second week of that thawing out and reception of replacements of February that the last of those who had survived the inundation beside the Rhine by Himmler's forces reappeared. One day, amid the influx of new replacements, Edward La Burda and Stanley Pampek showed up. They had hidden for 31 days in the haystack of a barn, foraging for food at night, until the day when elements of the 36th Division reoccupied Herrlisheim. La Burda recalled: "I was crying when I ran out to meet an American officer who came into town with his men."

Foolish optimism? Stubborn (but unreasonable) unwillingness to face the unknowns of capture by the Nazis? Whatever their motivations, those needles in a Herrlisheim haystack that January were further puncturing Hitler's arrogant belief that the soft, undisciplined and polyglot Americans would never withstand a great trial by fire. Faced with such stubborn courage - and that of the other men of G/232nd, who refused to surrender until nearly incinerated and persisted in a dogged, exhausting search for friendly lines when the enemy was all around - the Third Reich was doomed. For by the end of that winter crisis of 1994-45 it was clear to all who were not blind that Nazi Germany could not count on the weakness of free men to stave off its imminent defeat.

WWI Heroes Ed Geaney, Sr. and Dick O'Neill

Ed. Note:

As you know we have an ongoing project involving locating former Rainbowers. In this way, we are informed of the death, oftentimes of some Rainbower who may or may not have been a member of the Association. Then, from time to time we print their names under the listing of "Honored Dead". In the November issue we listed, under 242d Infantry the name of Edward J. Geaney, (Col.) Hqs. We are happy to report that Ed sent us a letter (Nov. 21, 1996), stating that he is in reasonably good health and enjoying retired life. He says it is possible that his name was confused with that of his father, First Sgt. Edward J. Geaney, Sr., who passed away in 1961. Ed's father and uncle, Richard W. O'Neill both served, during WWI in Co. D, 165th Inf., 42d Div. Their battalion was commanded by the legendary William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan. For their actions, during the Battle of the Ourcq River, July 27-30, 1918, Ed's father was awarded the DSC and Croix de Guerre, and Dick O'Neill received the CMH and Croix de Guerre. Ed's father and uncle were both severely wounded in this battle and sustained wounds in other WWI engagements. These medals were actually conferred on November 20, 1921 by Marshal Ferdinand Foch. A review, honoring the recipients, was held on the Fordham University campus, by the 165th Inf., NYNG.

We are sorry about the error, but happy to receive the above information. These men are truly "Honored Rainbow Dead".

Rev. Forde Interment

On May 5, 2009, Rainbowers accompanied by their wives, were honored to attend the memorial interment with full military honors of our beloved chaplain, Reverend Norman Peter Forde who passed over the Rainbow on January 20, 2009.

We all assembled at Fort Myer's Old Chapel in Virginia for the religious service. Shirley Forde, Chaplain Forde's wife of 58 years greeted us, and introduced her immediate family - J. Michael Forde, son, Linda Forde Crank, daughter, Charles Crank, son-in-law, and grandchildren: Caroline Crank, Alex Crank, Nora Forde, Michael Forde. The chapel appeared to be fully occupied by our Chaplain's relatives and friends.

Following the religious service, we were instructed to return to our vehicles and follow the casket, led by a large procession of marching soldiers, and horses to the Arlington National Cemetery for Chaplain Forde's interment.

I feel certain that everyone attending the interment will never forget the presentation of the folded American flag to Mrs. Forde, the lowering of the casket to our Chaplain's final resting place, the firing of rifles in the background, as well as the repeated sounds of taps.

We will miss Chaplain Forde's many opening greetings of "Let us Pray", at reunions and Rainbow gatherings, always followed by his interesting and meaningful words that expressed the important world events affecting and connected to the lives of all Rainbowers. Following the completion of the interment, the entire group of friends and relatives were invited to a reception in Norman's honor at the Fort Myer's Officer's Club.

Larry Rosen

The Saga of the Segel Twins

by Grace Stephens

Ronald Segel and his twin brother, Donald, were prisoners of Germany during the winter of 1945. Over the course of several interviews Ronald told of their experiences. Instead of a prison camp, the brothers were among fifteen to twenty prisoners who were marched from site to site working as forced labor. "We stayed in barns, schools, shacks; food was non-existent," Ron said, "and freezing cold. Our feet and hands were frost-bit. We didn't have any winter boots and it was the coldest winter since World War I." The civilians treated them with even more brutality than the guards. "As we marched by or worked in the street and fields they hit us with shovels, threw rocks."

The brothers' sojourn began years earlier when Ron heard the news of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. "I was eager to 'get the Japs.' I was very naive," he said, "I didn't know the strength of their army or their determination." In their hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, the boys had always tinkered with electrical and engineering devices so Ron thought he'd like to be a part of the Signal Corp. All through high school he knew he'd be joining the military. At eighteen, just after graduation, Ron enlisted in the voluntary army. Donald, younger by five minutes, followed his older brother. The Army recruiter told him he would be sent to engineering school at the Army Specialized Training Program at Fargo, North Dakota.

After basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, the brothers were sent to Army College, but instead of engineering school they found themselves in the infantry, assigned to the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. There, they learned house to house fighting and scouting.

Before the horror of war fell on them there were moments of fun. Also stationed at Camp Gruber was Allen Funt, best known as host of the "Candid Camera" TV show. One day as part of a minstrel show, Funt asked Ron to bring him their commanding colonel's hat whereupon he poured it full of chocolate pudding then told Ron to return it to the colonel.

By November of 1944 the entire Division had qualified for combat duty but only a task force was sent for over seas duty. The brothers were reassigned together and left aboard the troop transport, General Black, and arrived at Marseille, France. Just after arriving they met a Moroccan from the French Foreign Legion. "He asked if I'd like some bread and wine," Ron said, "he bought the bread and gave it to a friend to hold while he went for the wine. When the Moroccan came back the friend was gone with the bread. When the fellow caught up with the guy who'd taken the bread, he stabbed and killed him."

From Marseille, they joined forces moving north to Luxembourg where they fought the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. Their task force had been sent over with no artillery, no anti-tank weapons and no support troops. They weren't adequately prepared for the weather or country. "The European battles had depleted the Allied Army so much that the Army mainly wanted 'warm bodies' to fill the lines," Ron said. Returning South, their regiment was sent to Strasbourg to hold it 'at all costs.' General De Gaulle, concerned that

Germany would re-take the town causing the free-French forces to lose confidence and revolt against the Allied Command, needed American troops.

In the out-skirts of Strasbourg near the town of Hatten, the regiment held a five mile front. The German army was advancing over the Rhine River with tanks, flame throwers and heavy artillery. Against this onslaught Ron and Don's regiment had only M1 rifles and a few hand grenades and no support "We called for air support but the weather was so bad; most of the time it was overcast and they couldn't fly." The Allied task force held off the Germans for three to four days in the last major German offensive in the war. As Ron was moving from foxhole to foxhole he had the misfortune of standing directly in front of one of the barricades when it was struck by a shell and exploded. He was hit by shrapnel and buried under debris as it fell back to the ground injuring his back and legs. At the time he didn't realize how badly he'd been hurt. As the battle wore on, the Allied troops withdrew to the town where they fought house to house. Though the battalion had held off three divisions, they were eventually surrounded and captured. The Segel brothers were near the Command Post when a German flame thrower was aimed at it, so they jumped through a coal chute down to the bin in the basement. Don has since gone back to that house and saw the foundation, and looking at the dimensions, could not figure out how they could have fit through the small hole, especially while wearing field gear.

Because they were never in a regular prison camp they did not receive Red Cross or other care packages. The only clothes they had were the ones they were wearing the day they were captured. They had no washing. They had no food or water. They drank the water out of the trenches along the side of the street or if there was snow, scooped some of it up. "When we had to use the toilet we just did it right there in the street." The prisoners would march between work sties, up to a hundred miles. The guards would ride in vehicles. "But the worst were the and Don met soldiers from almost all the Allied forces. During the rare times when the prisoners could talk among themselves, they talked only about food. Ron doesn't remember writing it, but he has a notebook where he listed, in alphabetical order, all the foods that the men talked about. Written in the block letter style of an engineer and with a fountain pen, the foods are divided into categories: breakfast, meats, vegetables, juices and desserts.

That book was so important to Ron that even after escaping captivity he had to go back to get it. "It was toward the end of the war and the guards were starting to get a little lax," Ron said about their escape. After a couple of days they were crossing a bridge one night when they were stopped by some Germans. Pretending to be French, they recited fake French from the play "Of Thee I Sing" which they had learned in summer theater. It was after that that Ron realized he did not have his book. He told Don they'd have to go back. Returning to their prison, they walked in through the front gate expecting to be shot on sight. A few days later they found out through the grapevine that they were to be killed, so with the help of the British, they escaped again. This time they continued on until reaching a British work party who hid them until Americans arrived. Ron and Don, still

together eventually made it to Le Havre where they boarded the "Admiral Benson" bound for New York.

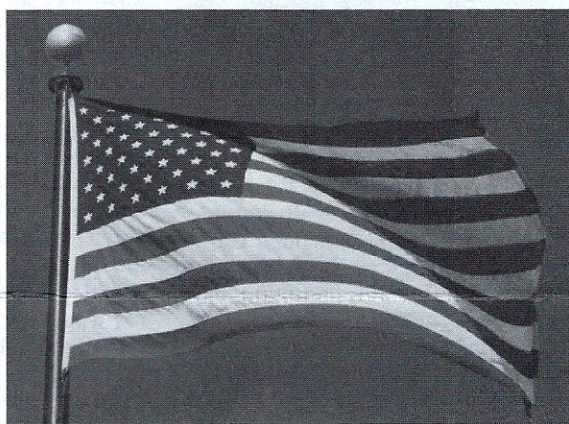
From New York Ron took the train to California where he recuperated in a Military Hospital in Santa Barbara. At the time he just wanted to get out and go home so he did not tell the doctors about his back pain or the injuries suffered when the embankment fell on him. For the next forty years Ron never told anyone he had been a prisoner of war. He never talked about his experiences. As a result Ron suffered from the classic effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): nightmares, depression, panic attacks, withdrawal, workaholic, anxiety, no social interaction and more. As the older brother Ron felt that by becoming a prisoner he had failed his brother and let down America. Don, on the other hand, talked about his experiences and has suffered the effects of the war experience and being a prisoner of war a little less profoundly.

Even though Don has had less dramatic effects of the war experience both he and Ron attend "Prisoner of War

Therapy and Support Program" at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center.

Although Ron recognized he was "different" from others he did not relate his problems to his war experiences. Even during visits to the DAY Hospital in 1972 when he was between jobs for four weeks, he did not mention the war. By 1985 he could no longer function in society and his doctor referred him to the Mental Health Clinic. He was given medication but it was his introduction to Elvera Hornung, counselor at the therapy group, who made a profound difference in his life. "She saw me and immediately recognized that I needed help. She took my hand and led the way into her office and comforted me," Ron said. At the Program he was finally able to talk about his experience with others who shared the same feelings. He attended the weekly sessions habitually with Elvera or Jim Dwyer, the other counselor. Although he still is a long way from full recovery, he does not hesitate to praise them for saving his life.

Ron has since passed.



How to Fly The United States Flag

Ten Guidelines

1. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
2. The flag is never allowed to touch the ground or the floor.
3. When hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building to a pole, the union stars are always away from the building.
4. When vertically hung over the center of the street, the flag always has the union stars to the north in an east/west street, and to the east in a north/south street.
5. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
6. The flag should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds but always allowed to fall free.
7. The flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day then raised to the top of the staff.
8. Never fly the flag upside down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
9. The flag is never flown in inclement weather except when using an all-weather flag.
10. The flag can be flown every day from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.

Flag Display Days

New Year's Day	January 1st	Independence Day	July 4th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	3rd Monday in January	Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Inauguration Day	January 20th	Patriot Day (half-staff)	September 11th
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12th	POW/MIA Recognition Day	3rd Friday in September
Washington's Birthday	3rd Monday in February	Constitution Day (Citizenship Day)	September 17th
(Presidents' Day)	3rd Monday in February	Columbus Day	2nd Monday in October
Easter Sunday	variable	Navy Day	October 27th
Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May	Veterans Day	November 11th
Peace Officers Memorial Day (half-staff)	May 15th	Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday in November
Armed Forces Day	3rd Saturday in May	National Pearl Harbor	
Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)	Last Monday in May	Remembrance Day (half-staff)	December 7th
Flag Day	June 14th	Christmas Day	December 25th
Father's Day	3rd Sunday in June		

and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of states (date of admission); and on state holidays.

Information outlined above is part of the Federal Flag Code or enacted by Federal legislation. Fly your POW/MIA flag with your United States flag on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

How I Got From the Bombing at Pearl Harbor to "The Rainbow"

By Don Carner C-232nd

I joined the California National Guard in 1938. On September 18, 1940, our unit along with the CA Nat'l Guard Light Tank unit and 48 National Guard units from throughout all the other states were inducted into active duty.

Our unit was the first to be shipped out of the States leaving in October and November 1940. We thought that we were headed for the Philippines Islands as we received our yellow fever shots. However, the Hawaiian Islands wanted us, so we got off ship in Honolulu.

After the Japanese attack, my Btry. "F" was located on Ford Island. My first gun position was close to where the Battleship Utah was sunk. After a month in that position, my squad moved over to Hangar #6, home of PBY Squadron #21 most of whom had shipped out to the South Pacific. Our gun position was located by the water. We also had a dugout nearby where we played

poker at night.

In May, our regiment shipped out to Fiji to protect the New Zealand air base near Nandi. Again our antiaircraft gun was located at water's edge. We had a good view of the planes coming in to land and going down in the ocean as they ran out of gas. One time I was thrown off a pier by four guys just horsing around. I landed on my back in the water which knocked the breath out of me as the four stood on the pier laughing at me. I had a heck of a time trying to swim out of breath back to the pier to keep from drowning.

After receiving two more 37mm AA guns, we moved to new positions, first to Guadalcanal and then to Bougainville. There was an earthquake around 6 a.m. on December 4 that had a ten-inch sway up and down with circular motion which lasted about 5 seconds that seemed much longer.

Finally, the Army decided to rotate us

home because of the time we had overseas. The first three groups were selected by drawing names out of a hat. I was in the third group. All of the next group were sent home. We landed at San Francisco, sent to Angel Island for three days and then to Plesidio of Monterey.

After a month's leave, we reported to a camp in Oregon. Two weeks later we were shipped to Santa Barbara. As most of my friends were being sent to Georgia to AA school, I decided that I wanted to go into the paratroops because I always wanted to jump out of a plane. I was advised that I first had to have infantry training. So I volunteered. Two of us, Lee Carter and I shipped out on the same traveling papers which I carried. I was first assigned to G Company 232nd Infantry Regiment and after a week assigned to "C" Co. Carter ended up in "G" Co.

So that is how I ended up in "The Rainbow."

Judy Vann, daughter of Audie Justine, A-232, "My father was a POW in Stalag 11BX1B. I am trying to find out who all was with him and if anyone has a photo of his company at that time. Thank you. Any information would be greatly appreciated." Judy Vann, 402 E. Lincoln Ave., Blackwell, OK 74631, (580) 363-0208, vanny@judy@yahoo.com (Editor's Note: the response to this request to rainbowvets.org has been (1) a picture of her father taken for the "Going Overseas" photo album was provided; (2) an information booklet about the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial

Foundation (RDVMF) that provides a background of the 42nd Division as well as other helpful information; (3) information concerning "Hold At All Costs" a Rainbow sponsored book of stories by Rainbow POW veterans, some imprisoned at Stalag XI-B same as her father; and (4) a listing of the names and addresses of 22 known living veterans of Company A-232nd.) Judy Vann's response was "Thank you so much. I just broke down and cried. All these years wanting information and not knowing how to obtain any. May God bless all of you for the help and work you continue to do."

Special thanks goes to **Barbara Eberhart**, PNP, and wife of Dee Eberhart, PNP-RDVA, I-242nd. She initiates the search when requested on the Rainbow internet website.

Suellen McDaniel, Secretary/Editor, RDVMF Millennium Chapter for families and descendants of Rainbow Division Veterans, daughter of Edwin Rusteberg, H1B-242nd, has acquired a wealth of Rainbow information and provides additional knowledge.



SOME MEMBERS OF CO. A-232ND AUSTRIA 1945

Left to right: Front row: Robertson, Beerie, Cooley, Allen, Hixson; middle row: Davis, Cunningham, Dobrenick, Thompson, Baldwin, Gonzales; back row: Higgs, Potter, Tippen and Martin.

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

March 1, 2009 — April 30, 2009

Foundation Operating Fund

MO-KAN Chapter, \$25, In Memory of Isla Radford; RDVMF Auxiliary, \$10, In Memory of Pearl Segel; William and Faye Keithan, \$50, In Memory of Pearl Segel; Richard and Esther Peirce, \$30, In Memory of Louis Stephan; Earl J. Horn, \$50, In Memory of Harold Cullum.

Scholarship Operating Fund

Piscataway Post 7504, VFW, \$2,500, (obtained by Harold Melenik); Thomas J. Lysik, \$1,000, In Memory of grandfather, John P. Lysik; Arthur Trevino, \$100; Wilbur and Ruby Miller, \$100, In Memory of all 142nd Engineers who have passed over the Rainbow; Tom and Betty Owen, \$100, In

Memory of Rev. Norman Forde and John Carr; Tom and Betty Owen, \$100, In Memory of Pearl Segel and Mary Brewer; 142nd Engineers, \$539.72, Chapter Deactivated; Gerald and Marjorie Eaton, \$50, In Memory of Bob Clemens; Rosemary McGovern, \$100, In Memory of husband, John McGovern; Shirley Forde, \$200, In Memory of husband, Rev. Norman Forde; Joyce A. Winter, \$100, In Memory of father, Earl W. Greb.

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Bernite H. Shelden, \$30, In Memory of husband, Richard S. Shelden.

Send donations to: Jon Janosik, 3389 Kingston Lane, Youngstown, OH 44511

- Make check out to RDMF or Millennium Chapter (RDMF)

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