



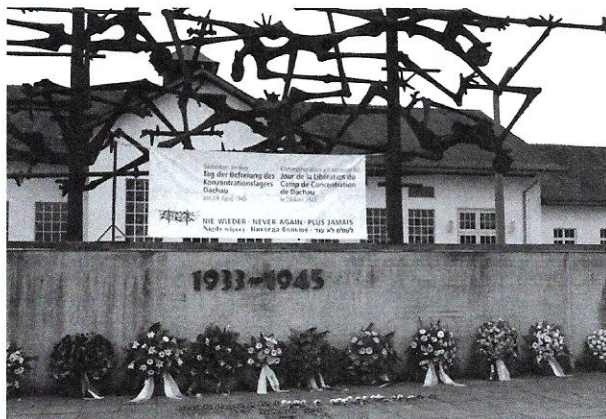
Rainbow,
Never Forget!

42 RAINBOW DIVISION
Veterans Memorial Foundation

KZ DACHAU

By Dee R. Eberhart

Co. I, 242nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Division WWII



Nazi dawn – Dachau's gate opened wide,
Swallowing prisoners for a dozen years,
Incubator for the Holocaust.

Long hard roads and a collision course:
For victims in their gray/blue stripes;
For gray SS; and American soldiers,
Rainbow 42nd; Thunderbird 45th,
All of their dead
Pointing the way.

Explosion for the world to see.

Skeletons, alive and dead.

Liberators' tears of rage.

SS sprawled, in the coal yard, in the moat.

Death head guards had slunk away,

Replaced by Waffen SS – Viking,

Who believed the lies and chose Valhalla,

Unmourned by those behind the wire.



Grill iron work gate
swung open.
Crematorium doors
clanged shut.
Nazi twilight at the
end of April.
One final plume
of oily smoke,
In an outer yard
of the Berlin bunker,
Pilot beacon
for the fires of hell.

Honored RDVMF member, Ludwig Stoeckl and his wife, Evelin, in procession to place the Rainbow Division wreath during the Liberation ceremonies – KZ Dachau 29 April 2012 . Photos from Ludwig Stoeckl Poem is from "Relics of War- World War II Poems" by Dee R. Eberhart, The Saurus Press, 2000

REVEILLE

VOL. XCI

JUNE 2012

NO. 5

Rainbow Online: www.rainbowvets.org

CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne

World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardennes.

War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle - Operation Iraqi Freedom -
Operation Enduring Freedom

Chairman's Message

Our annual reunion in Albany will be upon us as you receive this Reveille edition. I have talked with many WWII, millennium chapter and new era 42nd Division veterans in the past few months and we are all excited about this special reunion. I say special because it does mark the beginning of a new generation of leadership ready to move our Foundation forward. This new leadership has been and will continue to be guided by those WWII era veterans and their families. I am proud that many new officers and committee chairpersons have stepped up to take responsibility and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead. Since our mid-year we have been working on more than just the reunion. One just needs to look at our new website at rainbowvets.org I think we can all be proud of a very good job by the internet committee and our Treasurer Ben Pettus for their vision and effort in updating its capabilities. This website is our communication hub for current and future members.



Finally, I can't tell you how much help I have gotten from many of you, particularly our officers and trustees. I have received great advice and council on all matters Rainbow. What great camaraderie and support. Thank You!!
Joe Taluto, RDVMF Chairman

ALBANY REUNION UPDATE -

If you are registered, or wish to register through

<http://www.rainbowvets.org/forms/2012ReunionRegistrationForm.pdf>

you may still add activities to your Rainbow Division reunion experience by visiting the Event Registration pages at rainbowvets.org

: <http://www.rainbowvets.org/events?ee=1> <http://www.rainbowvets.org/events?> or simply mail in your activities registration per instructions on the form.

Listed below is some additional information about the events:

Military Museum Cocktail party does include food and drink. Bus transportation will be provided. The museum has WWII and modern era exhibits. A brief opening ceremony will be conducted

Task Force Liberty Reunion Reception is for the 42nd Soldiers who deployed to Iraq in 2005 BUT everyone is invited. There will be finger foods and drink plus videos and pictures from the deployment

The Aquaduck tour is an historic view of Albany by land and water. You will float down the historic Hudson River and see the sights including The USS Slater a WWII Battleship.

The Banquet will be fantastic. Price per person includes a full cocktail hour with hor'o'dourves, choice of meal, music and special ceremonies and video.

DUES ARE DUE FOR RAINBOW YEAR JULY 2012 – JULY 2013!

For the first time, you will be able to update your dues through rainbowvets.org if you wish! Both USPS and online RDVMF options are available. Your dues can still be paid directly to your Chapter secretary by USPS (see the **Chapter** page on our website for addresses or call our Nat'l Secretary). REVEILLE is mailed by USPS to RDVMF members five times/year. **We're working together to make your membership in the RDVMF an enjoyable experience.**

Cutoff date August 15, 2012 for September 2012 issue.

RAINBOW REVEILLE

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FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Joe Taluto

4937 Pacifico CT Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-8995

(561)429-6493 <talutoag@gmail.com>

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Martin R. Allard

26 Short Walk Drive Riva, MD 21140-1207

(808) 382-4402 <mrallard@verizon.net>

FOUNDATION VICE-PRESIDENT

Esther Peirce

708 Parc Forest Trail Saint Charles, MO 63303-3688

<epeirce@sbcglobal.net>

MEMORIALS OFFICER

Paul Fanning

150 Thimbleberry Rd Malta, NY 12020-4377

<paul.a.fanning@us.army.mil> (518)899-8194

FOUNDATION SECRETARY

Melanie K. Remple

500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1485

(320) 587-1123 <tremple@hutchtel.net>

FOUNDATION TREASURER

Benjamin Pettus

801 NE Jamestown Ct Blue Springs, MO 64014-1847

<ben@bpettus.com> (816) 228-3891

HISTORIAN

Donald L. Segel

650 Jacon Way Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-2827

<donpearlsegel@earthlink.net> (310) 454-7015

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Paul Sausville

202 Middle Line Road Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3304

(518)885-7145 (home) (518)786-4528 (Work)

<psausville@nycap.rr.com>

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Paul Genereux

31 Hunt Club Dr. Bloomsburg PA 17815-8385

(973) 579-9798

NOMINATIONS OFFICER

George T. Garrett

21 Carleton Dr Freehold NJ 07728-9273

<cg42id@aol.com> (732)431-4692

REUNIONS OFFICER

John Willsey

48 McDaonald Dr Cohoes, NY 12047-1119

<john.j.willsey@us.army.mil> (518)237-1378

CHAPLAIN

Earnest E. Owen

1201 S. 30th St. Broken Arrow, OK 74014-5030

(918)258-1394 redjackk@aol.com

LIAISON OFFICER

Richard J. Tisch

502 Fairmont Avenue Chatham, NJ 07928-1328

(973) 635-2559 <RJ77@comcast.net>

PHOTOGRAPHER

James Schaefer 3525 Marquette St Apt 213

Davenport, IA 52806-5547 (563) 391-4018

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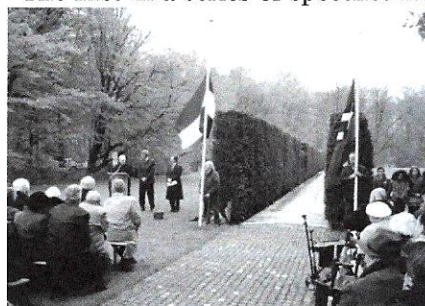
Melanie K. Remple SECRETARY (Address above)

Gracious and loving God, we come to You with thankful hearts. Recalling how Your favor and love has been shed abroad in our country, gives us reason to seek You once again. Please give our military Your protection during this time of war as these soldiers risk their mortality to preserve our freedom and way of life. We would all love to have peace, but as history has taught us, it comes with the price of sacrifice. Only You know the beginning from the end, and all that is between. So with that awareness, help us live and serve knowing we are in Your hands. Go before us and prepare the way. We will be careful to do the best we can in seeking to bring justice to a world needing it so desperately. We are eternally in Your debt and seek Your will. Amen

Earnest E. Owen, RDVMF Chaplain

DAN BAKER'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU –

The first in a series of speeches from 42nd Division WWII veterans requested by the



“Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners” and presented at the National Dachau Monument near Amsterdam at the annual commemoration on 28 April 2012. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact Frank Burns for further information: (206) 527-0987

photo of ceremony is from Jaap van Mesdag

“It was late in April, 1945. My army unit, Co. H, Heavy Weapons, 2nd Bn, 242nd Regt., 42nd Rainbow Infantry Div., had just occupied an abandoned German airfield near Munich. I

was a heavy machine gun platoon leader who had received a battlefield commission during the heavy snows of the Battle of the Bulge. We had been through battles in Schweinfurt (where I got a Bronze Star “for valor”), Furth and Nuremburg, and now were wondering “what next?” **On Apr 29** an order came to our battalion headquarters direct from General Eisenhower’s SHAEF Hq. In effect, it said that our G.I.s had liberated the infamous Dachau concentration camp and any of our soldiers who could be spared should report to Dachau to witness the despicable conditions. **Our Rainbow ‘s General Linden was there with a task force to accept the surrender of the camp commander.** I immediately was granted permission to head my jeep for Dachau. It was now April 30, the day after our first on scene had killed all camp resistors. Once inside the entrance I could see several German SS officers lying dead, under water, in moats that divided parts of the camp. I was allowed to enter a barracks where I saw pathetic, starved prisoners, still in their crude wooden bunks, four-high. I was not to touch their bodies or give them anything to eat, drink or smoke. A terrible stench led me to a RR siding where dozens of open coal cars were spilling over with arms and legs of corpses, waiting to be cremated. The sound of buzzing flies was so loud I can still recall it. Ike had urged witnesses to take photos. I had no camera, but luckily other witnesses did. When I realize now that there were many more camps like this, I am overwhelmed with the realization that Germany, the country where my father’s people came from, would use brutal force to subdue, humiliate, and put to death several million human beings they just did not happen to like. Up to this point I thought war itself was hell. Now I saw senseless horror that topped front lines fighting. **I was a witness. I must always remember and somehow help others to believe it really happened.** My first opportunity came as a university professor. I was in the film/TV Production area. A professor of philosophy (wouldn’t you know!) wrote an article refuting the holocaust. He had never been over there to witness it, yet he knew it did not happen. I wrote a scathing rebuttal that was published locally, in Long Beach, CA. My second opportunity came recently when the National Army Museum in New Orleans asked me to relate my Dachau witness in a DVD interview that is now in their archives. I was invited to attend a holocaust commemoration in Washington, D.C., held at the National Holocaust Museum. What would I tell young people who may never learn of this misuse of force? I would urge them to see the movie that best shows an example of this misuse of fatal force. It is “SCHINDLER’S LIST,” directed by a man who was a student in my Educational TV Production course at California State University, Long Beach, in 1967. **His name is Steven Spielberg.”**

Dan’s speech is under copywrite to the Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future. **Photo of ceremony: The monument consists of a path of stone slabs with the names of the nazicamps in them with taxus trees on both sides, symbolizing the Lagerstrasse in Dachau camp. The former prisoners first, and after them the attending public walk the long path until the end and back again. Somewhere along the walk they put their flowers in the taxus trees. The stone slabs are laid unevenly to symbolize the difficulties the prisoners had walking on their clogs.**

2012 MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA Re-Dedication of Alabama Rainbow Memorial set for May 28

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE RE-DEDICATION
OF
THE RAINBOW VIADUCT

HONORING A SPAN OF HEROES
THE 167TH ALABAMA INFANTRY
1917-2012

THIS EVENT WILL HONOR THE HISTORY OF
ALABAMA'S 167TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
WITH THE PLACING OF NEW BRONZE EAGLES AT THE RAINBOW VIADUCT,
AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT REGIMENT AS THEY PREPARE FOR
DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN.

MONDAY, THE 28TH OF MAY 2012

THE EVENT COMMENCES AT 12:30 PM • 23RD STREET SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL



THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE
CONGRESSMAN SPENCER BACHUS
GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY
MAJOR GENERAL PERRY G. SMITH,
ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD
AND
LT. COLONEL LARRY NORRED, JR.
BATTALION COMMANDER, 1ST BATTALION, 167TH INFANTRY

"Great War."

The 167th is an original Rainbow unit in 1917 when the Division was first formed. The Rainbow Viaduct in Birmingham is a tribute to the unit and to the Rainbow Division and is being restored with new bronze eagles. The commemoration is a fitting salute as the unit is being mobilized in June for a deployment to Afghanistan.

Program participants include Governor Robert Bentley, Congressman Spencer Bachus and Adjutant General and commander of the Alabama Army National Guard Major General Perry Smith. The program will include music from the 313th Army Band, World War I re-enactors and of course members of the historic 167th with its roots as the Alabama 7th Regiment and Civil War heritage.

Paul A. Fanning Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
former State Public Affairs Officer NY National Guard
RDVMF Memorials Officer

POSTSCRIPT - The Rainbow Viaduct has new eagles !

It was about 11:30 a.m. on November 10, 2010, that the symbolic American Eagle, flying above the City of Birmingham, Alabama in honor of the annual Veterans' Day celebration there, noted a group of RDVMF Rainbow veterans, a unit of the Alabama National Guard, and other folks assembled on the Rainbow Viaduct in that historic city. They were there to honor the fallen of the Alabama 167th of WWI whose fellow troops had marched across that bridge on their return from France. The American Eagle noted that the eagle statues on the viaduct were broken and needed replacement. So he sent a message to the assembled throng, among them the RDVMF Memorials Officer Jim Clemons, Chairman Earnie Owen, other RDVMF veterans, the Alabama National Guard unit, Congressman Spencer Bachus and staff members attending the wreath laying ceremony, and others, to 'get with it' and repair the monument eagles. And so they did and it was done with an outstanding 2012 Memorial Day rededication of the Rainbow Viaduct. Some of those involved in making this significant event happen are Susan Todt, James Baker, Linda Nelson and many more dedicated folks in Birmingham. The RDVMF will, on occasion of Birmingham's National Veterans' Day celebration, hold a brief ceremony on November 10, as usual, at the Rainbow Viaduct.

It is a 42nd Rainbow event to be proud of.

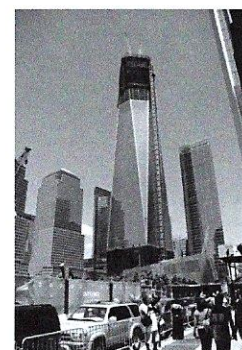
Jim Clemons – Past RDVMF Memorials Officer 05/11/2012

RAINBOW 'GROUND ZERO' RESPONSE HONORED BY TRIBUTE WTC VISITOR CENTER

FROM LT. COL. RICHARD GOLDENBERG, 42ND INF. PAO

PAUL A. FANNING, LTC (RET) ALSO CONTRIBUTED

MANHATTAN – The Tribute World Trade Center Visitor Center in Manhattan honored the 42nd Infantry Division and other troops of the NY Army National Guard during a special ceremony at its galleries in lower Manhattan on Friday May 18 followed by guided tours of the National 9-11 Memorial. "The Guard's response to 9/11 demonstrated the dedication, strength and courage of the men and women who serve our state -- service that was continued in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq," said New York State Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy who was on hand to salute the soldiers. More than 50 Soldiers and family members, including Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, commander of the Rainbow Division, participated. Tribute, an outreach program of the 9-11 Families Association, saluted the troops for service on 9/11 and since. It also wanted to introduce and host them in its world famous galleries, which daily hosts thousands of visitors from around the globe. Lee Ielpi, Board President of the Tribute Center is a retired fireman of the FDNY who lost his son, Jonathan Ielpi, also an FDNY firefighter and Vietnam veteran and oversaw Ground Zero recovery efforts even though he had retired from the force. "In honor of Armed Forces Day we are delighted to recognize the New York National Guard for their continuous service and immediate response after 9/11 to protect and serve New York State," Ielpi said. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 triggered an unprecedented mobilization of New York National Guard forces that continues to this date, he added. "When I arrived at the Trade Center, you know what I saw? You. It was you, the National Guard," Ielpi said. Working side by side with first responders, the Guard helped in rescue and recovery and brought a calming presence to New York and the nation, he said.



Wickstrom accepted a plaque that included a steel remnant of the World Trade Center from Ielpi and Jennifer Adams, Chief Executive of the Tribute Center. He leads a force of more than 3,500 New York National Guard Soldiers and oversees a wider 14,000

Soldier force for training including troops in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Within hours of the September 11th attacks, 1,500 New York National Guard troops reported for duty in New York City. They secured ground zero and lower Manhattan, rushed in supplies and assisted with the rescue and recovery. Following the initial response of division troops and elements of the New York National Guard's 53rd Troop Command, the Rainbow Division headquarters then led the response and recovery efforts in lower Manhattan as Joint Task Force 42, providing security, logistics, transportation and additional support to the wider New York City Office of Emergency Management coordinated response. "Never in our nation's history has a National Guard force done as much for so long for homeland and national defense," Adams said. September 11th was just the beginning. The total of New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen called up for federal duty, for either Iraq or Afghanistan, since then has passed 10,000 in 2012.

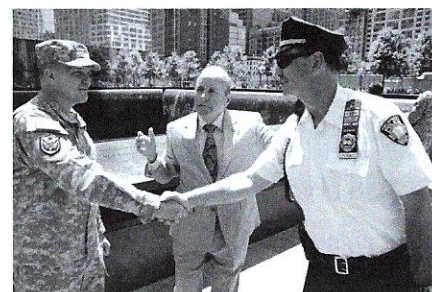


Photo: At Reflecting Pool memorial, Lee Ielpi introduces General Wickstrom to Lt. John Ryan, Port Authority Police Department, who was injured when the towers came down.

MARCH OF THE LIVING – KRAKOW, POLAND

APRIL 2012

by Hilbert Margol: 392nd F.A. Battery B, 42nd Division



I received a letter in February 2012 inviting members of the 42nd Rainbow Division to join the International March of the Living to be held on April 19, 2012 in Krakow, Poland. As a member of the 42nd Rainbow Division at the Dachau concentration camp, on April 29, 1945, the day the camp was liberated, myself and a companion were invited to fly to Krakow, Poland to participate in the 2012 March from Auschwitz to the sub camp of Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built during World War II.

photo – Hilbert Margol and James Schaefer, Co. I, 232nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Division

After reading the brochure explaining the history of the March of the Living, I realized that this year's event, the 25th year, would include for the first time, liberators who would walk along side the survivors of the various concentration camps located across Europe. This year the liberators would be honored in this very special event. I quickly responded that my wife and I would gladly accept the invitation.

Being aware that the Russian army had liberated Auschwitz on January 26, 1945, I was eager to learn what had transpired there during its existence after the German military took over Poland. I contacted my twin brother, Howard, and learned that he had also received an invitation but would be unable to attend, due to a medical condition. Howard and I had walked into the Dachau concentration camp the morning of April 29, 1945.

April 16, my wife, Betty Ann, and I, together with our son, Jerry, and our daughter-in-law Laurie, joined a group of liberators, totaling sixteen, and their companions along with the directors and staff members of the International March of the Living, plus a few special guests, for the flight from New York to Krakow, Poland. We enjoyed meeting them all, especially James Schaefer and his lovely wife Evelyn, from Davenport Iowa. Jim was a member of Rainbow, Company I, 232nd infantry. Jim fought in the battle of the Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the liberation of some labor camps before encountering and witnessing the atrocities of Dachau.

Our trip began on April 17, 2012 when we arrived at a five-star hotel in Krakow. After lunch, we visited the Main Market Square and other nearby places of interest. After dinner, exhausted from the flight, we were ready for a good night's sleep.

On April 18 we toured the former Jewish quarter known as Kazimierz, three different old synagogues, and were able to meet and briefly speak with travelers from around the world. After lunch, the sixteen liberators each met with small groups of students from different countries to explain the horrors they witnessed at the liberated camps.



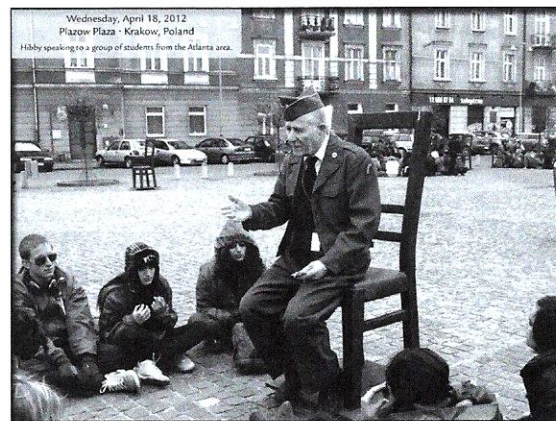
Opera House photo - My wife & I are on the left. Jim Schaefer & wife are on the right. Bernard Storch & wife are in the center. He was in a Polish Infantry unit that became attached to the Russian Army.

His unit suffered 80% casualties.

After dinner, the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, we arrived at the Krakow Opera House. The place was packed, standing room only. As the band played, the audience, as an expression of their appreciation, stood, cheered and applauded as each of the sixteen veterans from the USA, plus one Canadian, all in military uniform (most were supplied by the March of the Living), walked onto the stage one by one. What an

emotional experience!! I had never received such adoration and doubt that the others had either. A wonderful program ensued – music, speeches, singers, were highlighted as each veteran was awarded a special certificate and commemorative medal.

Photo - Hilbert Margol at Plazow Plaza, a memorial to those who died in the Plazow labor camp. Jim Schaefer spoke to a group of students at the same time but at Krakow main square.



April 19, after breakfast, our bus transported our group to Auschwitz, about an hour's drive from the center of town. Auschwitz is now a museum and the curator honored our group by narrating a wonderful private guided tour throughout the camp. To hear details and see the evidence preserved at Auschwitz, of the Nazi regimes "Final Solution" program and the SS Corps brutality in carrying it out, made a lasting impression on our entire group.

Auschwitz photo---Jim Schaefer is behind me. The civilian is Irving Roth, an Auschwitz survivor. He was with us the entire trip and showed us the building he was a prisoner in at age 14-15 at Auschwitz as slave labor. As the Russian army approached, he was moved to Buchenwald camp where he was liberated by U.S. Army soldiers on 4/10/45.



After lunch, along with over 10,000 others, we participated in the International March of the Living from Auschwitz to Birkenau, a distance of 1.8 miles. The annual program brings thousands of young people from around the world each year, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, to Auschwitz-Birkenau to honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and to pledge to build a better world for all humanity. Upon arrival at Birkenau, our group of Liberators was seated on the grandstand. Amid pomp and ceremony fitting the occasion, we were again treated with honor and thunderous applause. The program closed with renditions of the national anthems of both the USA and Israel.

April 20, we visited Oskar Schindler's factory, which now houses a museum depicting life in Krakow during the German occupation. We proceeded to visit other historical sites and met with more groups of students. An enjoyable farewell dinner, during which the entire group of Liberators and companions expressed worthy praise for the Directors and staff of the International Walk of the Living for all of their efforts in arranging such an incredible event. This was truly a marvelous and memorable experience for all.

April 21, we had a routine return flight back to the USA.

The Directors are already planning the April 2013 event. Rainbow Division veterans who witnessed one of the concentration camp atrocities in 1945 and who desire to participate in next year's event, should contact: David Widawsky, Associate Director, International March of the Living, 2 West 45th Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY, 10036, phone: 917-294-9791 or email: <davidw@motlmail.org>

Hilbert Margol: Ph. 770-457-4409 <pappa79@aol.com> (available to respond to any questions).

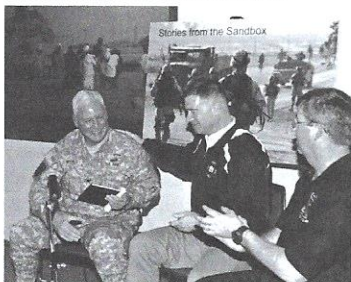
STORIES FROM THE SANDBOX

An appreciative audience of nearly 70 turned out for the "Stories from the Sandbox" program at the Military Museum on Saturday March 24. Seven members of the New York Army National Guard who served in Iraq during deployments from 2003 to 2010 shared some of their experiences during individual interviews. Representatives of units that appear in the Museum's Iraq gallery were included. Congressman Chris Gibson (R) from Kinderhook and representing NY's 20th District served as a special co-host with "Friends" board member, Lt. Col. (retired) Paul Fanning. Gibson is a retired Army colonel with four tours to Iraq beginning with Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and three other tours during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the last one in 2007. The program was developed by Fanning who retired last year as the Guard's state public affairs officer. He identified and contacted program participants and developed supporting audio visual presentations drawing on material that he generated during his service period and which now is in the museum archives. Participants spoke in chronological order of their service and when specific NY units were deployed. Like previous wars, conditions in Iraq evolved over time. This was reflected in the stories that were told. Topics covered included the rise of the insurgency, the first use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and the enemy's evolving tactics, surviving ambushes and the experience of combat patrols, humanitarian support to Iraqi civilians, and the development of the new Iraqi military and security forces. Future renditions of "Sandbox" are likely and will include other Guard vets and especially women. Roughly 12 percent of the Guard and military in general are comprised of female service members. The program is designed to provide a forum for in-person oral histories as a public service and as a way to link the public with serving military members and the Post 9-11 veteran population.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL VINCENT HEINTZ from Mount Vernon, NY talks about what his unit did in Iraq in 2004 with Congressman Chris Gibson (R) from NY's 20th District. Heintz spoke about his role as an infantry company commander at the World Trade Center on 9-11, 2001 and in Iraq in 2004. In addition to conducting the full

spectrum of combat operations in Iraq, he and his men built trust with the Iraqi people in his area. He gained detailed information from local sheiks and witness testimony from civilians that would be used to prosecute Saddam Hussein for Crimes against Humanity. Later Heintz would lead a police mentoring team in Afghanistan in 2008 and is preparing for another deployment there in the near future. At the time of 9-11 and his Iraq service, Heintz was a deputy prosecutor in the federal attorney's office pursuing organized crime figures. Today he works for a Wall Street Watchdog organization tracking white collar crimes and securities fraud.



COLONEL MARK HEFFNER from Averill Park has served in the Guard for more than 40 years through many natural disasters as well as overseeing military support to New York City following the 9-11 attacks. In Iraq and later in Afghanistan he worked closely with military leaders in both nations and spoke of his role in 2005 as the senior U.S. mentor training leaders

for the new Iraqi 4th Infantry Division. He was instrumental in the hand off of responsibility from U.S. forces to Iraqi control in his area of responsibility. As a Guard lieutenant he once mentored and developed a young Chris Gibson, a Guard recruit and a Siena College ROTC cadet. Gibson would serve a full military career on Active Duty with four war time deployments to Iraq and command of a brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division and is now a U.S. congressman in NY's 20th district.

FIRST SERGEANT JOE MARTEL, a local deputy sheriff from Colonie, has served two deployments to Iraq – 2003 and 2009 with Guard military police companies. His unit, the 105th MP Company was among the very first NY units mobilized. Martel talked about his team's role to protect military convoys over a dangerous 74-mile stretch in the face of the rising insurgency and the first use of Improvised Explosive Devices. The New York National Guard's first two combat deaths came from his unit due to IEDs.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMIE GREEN, a dentist from Saratoga Springs commanded the Guard's 466th Area Support Medical Company in 2006. The 466th operated from three different locations in Iraq and treated the full spectrum of patients – U.S. and coalition, insurgents and Iraqi civilians. He spoke about the extraordinary and often creative efforts his team put forth, especially when treating civilians who desperately needed care. Insurgents were usually shocked that they were getting medical treatment alongside U.S. forces in his treatment rooms, said Green. Because we were just trying to do the right thing, insurgents often started providing helpful information as a result.



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MELCHIORRE "LUKE"

CHIARENZA from Clifton Park has served 20 years now in the Guard, including security duty at the pile at the World Trade Center following the 9-11 attacks. Though trained initially as a tanker, he would deploy with NY's "Fighting 69th" Infantry in 2005 to Iraq where his unit would suffer the loss of 19 soldiers killed

and more than 80 wounded. Chiarenza spoke about how the 69th tamed the most dangerous road in the world – "Route Irish" otherwise known as the Baghdad Airport Road and what it was like to host CBS 60 Minutes and reporter Lara Logan during that period.

STAFF SERGEANT DONALD LEINFELDER from Wynantskill,

conducted numerous mounted combat patrols and route clearance missions as a member of the 69th and often participated in dismounted raids on suspected Insurgent hide outs and bomb making sites. He spoke about his narrow escape after a Rocket Propelled Grenade flashed past his head in the turret of an M1114 Up armored Humvee and took a portion of his left ear. Leinfelder

spoke about his own brush with death and the loss of friends including NY firefighter Christian Engledrum who was pictured by the New York Daily News at the World Trade Center on 9-11, 2001 helping another

fireman place an American Flag.

STAFF SERGEANT JAMES "JAKE"

MONTESANO from Berne also deployed to Iraq with the 69th but was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion 101st Cavalry. Another tanker turned infantryman, he conducted numerous combat patrols and spoke about what it was like inside the "kill zone" of an insurgent ambush, feeling the impact of small arms fire on his truck and watching RPG rounds coming at him. He also spoke about the loss of his friend the late Sgt. David Fisher and what he and others do in his memory, including community outreach and fund raising for wounded warriors efforts. Now a Guard recruiter with 17 years of service, he twice deployed to Iraq and was able to contrast the conditions in Iraq between assignments.



WARTIME MEMORIES (Part Four)

by JAMES I. MILLER Co. F, 242nd Inf. Regt., 42D Division



[RITTERSHOFFEN] I thought that they were taking us back to bring up replacements or something like that because we had been hit very hard and had lost many men. We went into this building and went up to the second floor and here was a potbellied stove and it was really warm. And lo and behold, here was mail. It was great when mail comes in because there's nothing to raise a soldier's morale more than mail from home. We

read our mail and most of all, warmed ourselves for the first time in about 10 days. The mess hall was in the bottom of a building across the street. We were told to go there as warm chow was waiting. Of course that was good news. They had enough food for 182 men because that's how many we had when we went into combat about 10 days prior. We were having pork chops that night. With 182 men, that meant there were 364 pork chops and there were only about 30 guys! **We had all the pork chops we could eat, with plenty left over.** Of course the mess personnel, the cook and the assistant cook, had a lot of friends in the infantry platoons and they wanted to know what happened to so-and-so, what happened to so-and-so, and of course there were all sorts of war stories going back and forth. "Yeah, man, I saw the tank and the tank shot me." "I did this and I did that." It was just like a bunch of kids after a football game. We were really telling our stories and finally, things calmed down. We went back to our warm room. We slept that night with our clothes on. I did take my boots off. Our boots in those days were leather boots and they were wet and my socks were wet. It felt so good to get those boots off. **The next morning we woke up rather early and I couldn't get my boots back on my feet!** My feet had swollen so much that I couldn't get them on. So I pulled the shoestrings out of my shoes and I was finally able to get my boots on and hobble around. I said, "God, I can't fight this way!" I was told a battalion supply was a couple of streets over and they've got a supply of shoe packs. A shoe pack is a high-top boot - it comes up almost to your knee. It's got a rubber bottom and a leather top and the shoelaces go all the way up to the top. When you wear a shoe pack, there's a big felt inner sole inside and you wear big, thick, wool socks, also. Of course they're not really too good for infantry marching because they have no arch support, but in my case, I needed a bigger pair of shoes. I went over to the battalion supply and picked up my shoe packs. Although the fit was rather loose, I was in much better condition than when I wore leather boots. My feet were also warm. Just as I got back to my company area, there was great excitement. We were being attacked across an open field by at least



one tank. **Sergeant Fastner, our platoon sergeant, asked if anyone had experience firing the 2.36 bazooka.** Harold Morgan, the 60mm mortar gunner in my squad, admitted that he had fired one round when we were at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. It takes two men to fire a bazooka, the firer and the loader. Sergeant Fastner knew that Morgan and I were buddies, so he told me to go out with Morgan and be the loader. I had no idea how to load a bazooka. My

sergeant told me Morgan would show me how. As we were walking out to the edge of town, I attempted to load the bazooka. There are two wires coming out of the tail of the round. You are supposed to attach each wire to an electrical post. In my haste, inexperience, and cold hands, I twisted one wire completely off the round, making it useless. We threw it in a ditch and tried again. Success! **All this time the tank was slowly advancing across the open field.** We were near a barn and I suggested to Sergeant Jackson (our squad leader who went with us) that we hide in the barn and ambush the tank as he drives by the door. Jackson told us we were going to advance on the tank through a small apple orchard. As it turned out, he was wrong and I was right. As we exposed ourselves in the orchard, German troops in nearby woods began firing mortars at us. Now we were in a tough spot! If we get up to run, the mortar fragments will cut us down. If we stay put, the tank will roll right over us. We had some good luck that day. Back down the road were some tank destroyers that we didn't know about that fired two rounds and set the tank on fire. I can still see those German tankers bailing out of that burning tank. Now that

our reason for lying in a snow-covered orchard was eliminated, we made our way back to the barn. Inside we found farm animals in their pens. I can remember pigs, sheep, and cows. All seemed to be distressed and probably hadn't been fed or watered for several days because of the heavy fighting in the area. Somehow, seeing those defenseless animals made me feel better about the situation I was in. The three of us returned to our company area in Rittershoffen and the rest of the men were happy that we had survived our mission. Looking back on it, it was a suicide mission. Our lives were saved only because some tank destroyers happened to be in position at the right place and the right time. **Late in the afternoon, our company was assembled and we were told we were going to move forward to another village named HATTEN.** Our purpose was to either relieve the 1st Battalion or reinforce them. As we approached the town, several houses were on fire. Some troops could be seen running in the streets, but we couldn't tell whether they were U.S. or Germans. German soldiers also wore long overcoats, as we did, so it was difficult to tell friend from enemy, especially as it was almost dark. We stopped just outside of town and took off our overcoats. We were told to shoot anyone wearing an overcoat. **We continued on into the village with half of our company on one side of the street and half on the other side.** I was with the group on the right side. We probably advanced about half a block. There was a house burning brightly on our side of the street. It was like being in a spotlight, so my group decided to cross over to the left side. No sooner had we gone across that road and got up against the buildings, when, WHAM! A tank fired into the building just across the street where we had been. There were some troops from the 1st Battalion there. We decided the safest place to be would be in the basement of a house on our side of the street. Our company leaders were across the street. We were stranded on our side, not really knowing what to do. Nobody was going to run across that street because that tank had perfect coverage, not only with his gun, but also with a machine gun. **We decided we'd stay in the basement all night long.** We began to discuss our predicament. Sergeant Jackson and Morgan came up with the idea of making a Molotov Cocktail. They thought we could sneak down the backyards to get close to the tank. All we had to do then was throw a bottle of fluid that would burn, like gasoline or kerosene, and throw a white phosphorus grenade to set it on fire. I didn't think their plan was a very good idea. I had read accounts of Russian soldiers who used this type of weapon against the Nazis in Russia. Some tanks were killed, but the Russians suffered severe casualties. Someone found an empty wine bottle in the basement. There was also a small tin of kerosene. We used a rag for a cork. One of the soldiers in the basement had a white phosphorus grenade. **Now, all we had to do was get close enough to the tank to throw the wine bottle with kerosene and then set it on fire with the grenade.** Since I was Morgan's buddy, I was expected to accompany this raiding party. I was not the most enthusiastic member of the group. So the three of us start off. We went out the back door of this house and started moving through the backyards. Every backyard had a fence, a regular old farm fence. Whenever we came to one, we had to crawl over it and if you've ever crawled over a fence, you know how much noise it makes! We were very visible because we were wearing dark uniforms and the snow is on the ground and there's a little bit of a moon. We probably went about half a block when suddenly, we heard the tank's motor running. **Now we have a good idea of where the tank is even though we can't see him.** We know he's just about two or three houses from us. We can also hear the crew talking. I guess there's nothing more frightening when you're in combat than to hear your enemy talk and you can't speak their language. We knew these Germans were alert and sitting up on their tank, manning machine guns and a big gun. At that time, we came to the conclusion that we weren't going to get close enough to throw the Molotov Cocktail and the white phosphorus grenade. We went into a farmyard of the building we were behind and here sits a jeep. Morgan was a little rat-faced guy from Indianapolis and he could steal you blind and you wouldn't even know you'd been stolen from. He looked in the jeep and here is an officer's bedroll. The officers had different sleeping gear than we did. They had to buy them, of course, but, oh, this was a beautiful thing! It had a big canvas cover on it, and when you unrolled it, it had satin on the inside and about two or three blankets. **Morgan decided he was going to sleep in comfort that night, so he took the bed roll.** He carried the sleeping bag back to our basement. When he opened the bed roll, not only was there a sleeping bag in there, lined with satin, but two woolen blankets.

Morgan was good enough to give me one of those stolen blankets. Jackson got the other one. So we went to sleep on a pile of sand. There were some other troops in there. I didn't know who they were, but they were from another company and we were all trying to keep quiet because we didn't know where the Germans were. **Suddenly, we heard someone walking around on the floor above us. We knew it was Germans because they had hob-nailed boots on.** The Germans wore what looked like Lil'Abner shoes with nails in the bottom so they wouldn't wear out. It sounded like a bunch of horses when they walked down the street. There were about three of them up there. Somebody gave me a rifle and told me to shoot if the door to the basement was opened. I whispered to this 'brave' soul that if I shoot, we will probably get some hand grenades in return. I told him the only way I was going to shoot was if they started to come down the stairs. We waited and nothing happened, luckily. They didn't hear us and they didn't come down into the basement. **We passed the night uneventfully. The Germans finally left the building.** In the morning we yelled across the street to the guys over there and one of our sergeants told us to cross the street to their side since this was where our main force was. All of us knew that crossing the street could be a problem since we knew the tank was still covering it. One guy went. Nothing happened. It was my turn next. There was a hallway that ran through the house. It ended at a door so that I could get a running start through the house. When I hit that door I was going full blast. I ran across that street like Jesse Owens. I got across without a shot being fired. **We assembled in the building and we find that this is what remained of the 1st Battalion.** Sergeant Bertoldo was in A Company. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor in that building the night before. He manned a machine gun that was wired down to a table in one of the rooms and as the Germans came through the window, he kept shooting them. His action prevented the 1st Battalion from being overrun and captured. I went down into the basement and there are four or five wounded guys down there. Nobody had anything to eat. I had a couple of K-rations so I gave them to the medic who divided them up for the wounded. **Some of us went up into the attic and knocked the tiles off the roof so we could see out. We could see Germans running across the fields not far from us.** Sergeant Hill, who was one of the mortar squad's sergeants, started firing at them with an M-1 rifle. There was an artillery forward observer up there too and he started shooting some artillery. He didn't get as many rounds as he wanted because there was an artillery shell shortage. They wouldn't shoot unless there were more than 15 or 20 Germans or they were attacking your positions right now. So, we didn't get to shoot much artillery at them. **About three o'clock in the afternoon the battalion commander from the 1st Battalion gave the orders they were going to withdraw.** Our battalion commander, (2nd Battalion) whose name was Major Reynolds, told us to form into groups of two or three and work our way out of town and go back to RITTERSHOFFEN. **To be continued**



A Memorial Day Tribute

The **SILVER STAR** is awarded to

MICHAEL C. FASTNER, 6 933 149, Technical Sergeant, Infantry, Company F, 242d Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action. On 15 January 1945, near Haguenau, France, while acting as assistant patrol leader of a combat patrol, in order to determine the disposition of enemy personnel and weapons and with utter disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Fastner advanced directly upon a known enemy position, drawing fire upon himself as a result of which an enemy outpost was located. This information proved of great value in the formulation of future operations in the sector. Sergeant Fastner failed to return from his mission and was reported missing in action. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

He was taken prisoner by the Germans and interned at Stalag 12F until the end of the war.

M/Sgt. Fastner served in Korea. The 9th Regimental Combat Team was among the first combat elements of 2nd Infantry Division to arrive in Korea, landing at Pusan on July 31, 1950. M/Sgt. Fastner's unit was in action on August 6th. Less than a month later, M/Sgt. Fastner was seriously wounded while defending his position on the Naktong River on September 2, 1950, and he was not returned to duty until October 17, 1950. **He was taken Prisoner of War while delaying the Chinese forces near Kunu-ri, North Korea, on November 30, 1950, and he died at Prison Camp 5 on the south bank of the Yalu River on February 28, 1951 from exposure and malnutrition.** For his leadership and valor in the Korean War, M/Sgt. Fastner was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge (second award). Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner's name was inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. His remains were turned over by the North Koreans in 1993 and positively identified in 2010. On Friday 22 July 2011, he was laid to rest at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, MN. **He is one of the few to have been awarded two Prisoner of War medals.**



His son, Michael Fastner-Belles, wrote: "A day doesn't pass when I do not think of my father." For anyone who would like to leave a message to his family, his Memorial GuestBook will be kept online until 16 July 2012. Michael would like to hear from anyone who remembers his father - Michael Belles, P.O Box 3241, Lihue, HI 96766 - (808)246-6961 - <MJB@KAUAILAW.com> <http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/twincities/guestbook.aspx?n=michael-fastner&pid=152562931&page=2>

GREETINGS FROM LONG BEACH WASHINGTON!

From Frank Burns, President of the RDVMF Pacific Northwest Chapter

These photos are of the Long Beach Super 8 Motel where five of we Rainbow vets and our families are enjoying our April Reunion, Disappointment Light House, and the beautiful area around Long Beach, Washington. We have been very lucky with this location. For over 20 years the motel has given us special low room rates, allowed us to use their conference room free (normally about \$40/hr) for three days twice a year, helped us arrange our banquets & other events and in general they have just been super hosts. The wives of the Pacific Northwest Chapter Auxiliary consider the Long Beach, Washington Super 8 Motel, a home away from home. The hospitality room complete with bar, kitchen with sink, stove, oven, refrigerator and freezer, and generous access to kitchen utensils, enabled them to offer Friday night dinner buffets. The Auxiliary provided table cloths, decorations, and settings. The menus were chosen six months ahead. Volunteers contributed items for the dinners. This was a time for comradeship and fun. The Auxiliary ladies are grateful for the many years of accommodation and friendship by the Long Beach Super 8 staff.



[Group photo, left to right, are Dorothy Burns, Frank Burns, Barbara Eberhart, Dee Eberhart, Lloyd Soule, Betty Soule, Wilbur Miller, Ruby Miller, Walt Brophy and Esther Brophy]

**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION,
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION March 15, 2012 – May 15, 2012**

FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND Barbara Chereskin, for Edward Sinks – 100.00;

FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND LuDene Kommers, for Robert Kommers – 100.00; Fidel Mendoza, for 'Over The Rainbow' Friends – 100.00; Hewitt Brown, Jr., for Hewitt Brown, Sr. – 100.00; John Hamilton, for Norman Monath – 50.00; Brenda Tengelin, for Fred Bowers – 50.00; Irwin Connelly, for Capt. Edmond Connelly – 25.00

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND Katherine Williams, for Vincent Campo – 40.00

SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND John Harrison, for several deceased Rainbow Friends – 150.00; Anonymous, for Joseph Jones – 50.00; Tom Owen, for Betty Owen – 1,000.00; Tom Owen, in honor of Margie Quintal – 100.00; Pacific NW Chapter, for Geraldine Fredericks – 25.00; Pacific NW Chapter, for Earl Horn – 25.00

If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the RDVMF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVMF and mailed to Benjamin Pettus 801 NE Jamestown CT Blue Springs, MO 64014-1847. Memorial gifts will be acknowledged personally and also in the next issue of REVEILLE. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift to be sent to the family of the person whom you are honoring, please include their name and address when you send your contribution. All are gratefully received and acknowledged. You may also support Rainbow online through <rainbowvets.org>.

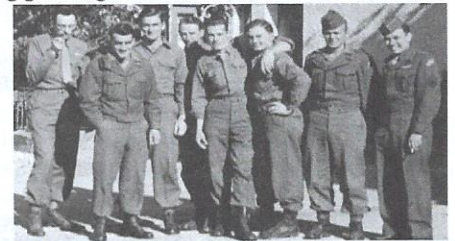


PNP Carlton T. "Ted" Simonson I-242; RDVMF Chairman from 2003-2009; Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for many years; and Secretary/Treasurer of the 242nd Chapter, passed "Over The Rainbow" in Los Gatos, CA on 27 May 2012. A Memorial Service for Ted will be held on 10 June at the home of Patti Hughes, Co-Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

With Ted's passing, Rainbow lost a dedicated leader and worker, and the few of us left from I Co. 242nd Inf. lost a close wartime and post-war buddy. He continued his many Rainbow duties while debilitating illnesses took their toll. Ted made the long trips to Reunions until he was finally grounded by his doctors. High spirits, good heart, intelligence, sense of humor, and loyalty characterized Ted. He has been described as a renaissance man, a musician, athlete, skilled worker, educator, extraordinary BAR man, speed reader, builder and all around good companion, a man with insatiable curiosity about everything, and an unstinting willingness to help others, and, oh yes, he was also a patriot and a guy you wanted next to you when the going got tough. God bless and Godspeed, Ted.

REQUEST FROM A WWII RAINBOW SON –

"My Mom passed away about a year ago, and we found some pictures of Dad from WWII that she had saved. One of them, a picture of the Rainbow Division Regiment Baseball Team was especially interesting. **My Dad, Del Fisher (232nd HQ Company)** is the 3rd person from the right, and I know that the picture was taken in Switzerland." Jim is asking if anyone recognizes the other members of the team in this picture or can tell him more about the Regimental Baseball Team. **Jim Fisher 2676 Alliston Ct Columbus, OH 43220-4214 <jim.t.fisher@gmail.com>**



Address Service Requested



Washington, MO 63090
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RAINBOW DIVISION
Veterans Memorial Foundation

