



KEEPING THE FAITH

7 JUNE 2023

**Bert Caloud, Superintendent,
Oise-Aisne American Cemetery
Serignes-et-Nesles, FRANCE**

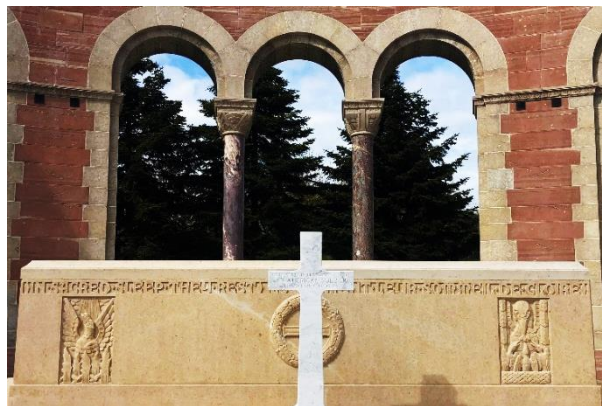


Photo taken at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery; Unknown Cross

Last February 2022 Mr. Feval a friend, French veteran of their war in Algeria and owner of a local funeral home was digging a new grave in the village cemetery of Villers-sur-Fère. He uncovered human remains and American equipment and ammunition. As it was American, they contacted me but DPAA doesn't process WWI remains and mortuary affairs in Germany could provide no services, so I had ONAC the French equivalent of our VA and a renowned French archeologist finish the extraction and moved the remains to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission facility up in the Somme. Over the next several months conducted research and then submitted a package to the Secretary of the Army for permission to bury him here.

In 1918 the village cemetery was much smaller and had a low wall where soldiers of the 42nd including Father Duffy took shelter and later buried remains. It has a short vignette in his book describing both and we also found a 1919 AGRS engineer sketch showing the burials.

Apparently, what was recovered was missed during repatriation. All indications are that this is an American soldier killed and buried in 1918, most likely a member of the Rainbow as almost all combat in this region was conducted by the 42nd but that is not definitive.

Permission was granted by the Secretary of the Army, and we plan to have a burial ceremony for him at 13:00 on Wednesday, 7 June attended by the Chiefs of Staff of the US and French Armies along with other VVIP's.

In 1978, then-RDVMF President, Theodore A. "Ted" Johnson wrote:

"When I visited the American Cemetery in Flanders Field in Belgium, a young couple who were with us asked if I could recite the poem, and it was the thrill of a lifetime to do so. While Rainbow wasn't active in that area, the famous words were written for us all, especially these lines:

REVEILLE

CAMPAIGNS

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

World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne

War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle – Operation Iraqi Freedom –
Operation Enduring Freedom – Operation Spartan Shield

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



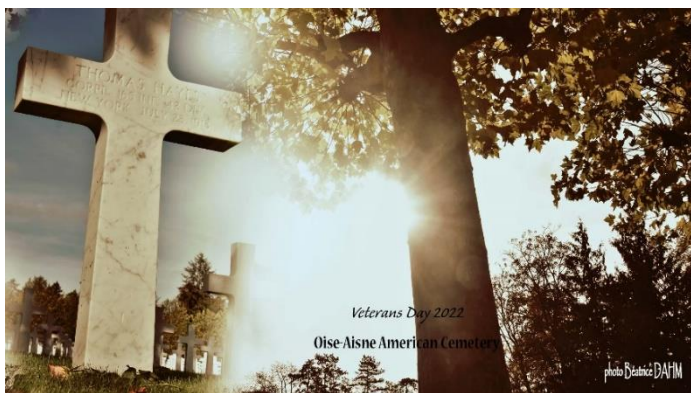
Happy spring everyone! Yes, winter has thankfully passed and spring has finally sprung! It was a very busy quarter and we've accomplished so many tasks in just these few short months. In my message I'll cover a hidden addition in the last edition of the Reveille; a new Chair is named to the Scholarship Committee; the digital preservation of WWII era Reveilles; a fight fought and won with the IRS; progress towards obtaining a new and comprehensive RDVF website; work towards the repair and restoration of one of our largest memorials; and a century of service. It's been an exciting

quarter to say the least and I hope to share it with you in this issue of the Reveille

First-off, please join me in congratulating MG (ret) Joseph Taluto. I failed to mention, but some may have noticed that in the last Reveille there was an addition to the Permanent Honorary Presidents listing. Yes, you guessed it, the Board of Directors voted on December 3rd to install MG Taluto into this esteemed listing of Rainbow honorees. Congratulations, Sir! This organization owes a debt of gratitude to you for your untiring leadership and vision. Listing you among these great leaders is but a small tribute and gesture for what you did for the RDVF. Thank you!

Tammy Moss-Hicks is the new RDVF Scholarship Program Chair. She graciously accepted the nomination in February, and the Board of Directors unanimously approved. Tammy served in the 42nd Infantry Division retiring at the rank of Colonel. Beyond her leadership and military background, she brings decades of dedicated teaching experience at the South Glens Falls School District in upstate New York, earning the distinction of Master Teacher. During my tenure as Scholarship Chair, Tammy served as a faithful member of the committee bringing thoughtful insight to the scholarship selection process. I know she will do an amazing job growing and expanding upon the opportunities and benefits of this exceptional program. To learn more about it please go to the link (<http://www.rainbowvets.org/rdvf-scholarships>) and download the scholarship application and instructions. [CONTINUED on page 2]

*...to you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, tho poppies grow in Flanders Fields.*
[from John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*, written in 1915]



Ted continued,
"Sleep Rainbow
soldiers. Your buddies
have once more held
the torch high. Our
donations are needed
for the work ahead."



Ted Johnson H/232 WWII; Photo presentation by Beatrice Dahm

Deadline for JULY 2023 REVEILLE IS 10 JULY 2023

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PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Patrick Macklin, contact info above

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)

and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

(\$25/annually; \$50.LIFE for WWII veterans;

Under the category of preserving our past, Pat Chaisson and Suellen McDaniel are hard at work making this happen. Pat Chaisson and I have had several discussions on what it will take to digitally capture the 42d ID and RDVMF historical documents at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), University of Nebraska and in Suellen's possession. We decided to start with Suellen and the 68 WWII era Rainbow Reveille's she has. They cover a period of August 1943-December 1944 while the Division was at Camp Gruber. The magazine collection is currently being professionally digitized and will soon be available for all to read and research. The first few are already completed and I must say the quality of the work is very impressive. Next stop... the National Archives!

Well folks, hell must have frozen over because we received an apology from the Internal Revenue Service! I never thought I would see that in my lifetime. Right around the beginning of 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic, the IRS erroneously suspended the RDVF's non-profit status. As you can imagine, learning this caused some significant stress to the Finance Committee as no one could understand why this would be. I'll spare you all the details, but in the end and after much letter writing and persistence, and a little congressional persuasion, Ben Pettus and Paul Genereux prevailed. Our non-profit status was fully reinstated and just this week a letter of apology was received from Uncle Sam!

As stated in the last Reveille, we are driving towards the selection of a new website management company and a full redesign of our current website. The intent is to have a more engaging and interactive site that provides better access to our services, programs and research archives. Myles Beecham is leading the charge and has obtained quotes from three highly qualified firms. This is getting very exciting. I've reviewed many of their offerings and sample websites and I must say they are impressive. Much of the technical aspects of this initiative are beyond my comprehension, but I am confident that we are headed down the right path under Myles' leadership. More to follow in my next update.

Sadly, we recently learned that the 42d ID Amphitheater in Muskogee, OK was defaced with spray paint and is in general disrepair. Millennium Legacy RDVF members, John Bobb and Earnie Owen are assisting RDVF Memorials Officer Paul Fanning on the mission to get this important memorial to our 42d ID veterans back in shape. Working together, we are progressing in the effort to bring the Amphitheater back to an honorable state fitting of the service she commemorates.

One of our own is about to turn 100 years old! 42ID WWII Veteran John Janosik, WWII Editor of both the Rainbow Reveille and 132nd Signal Company news and past foundation treasurer is crossing the century mark on May 30th and is still heavily engaged in keeping up with the affairs of the foundation. Suellen sent him several past editions of the Reveille for his reading enjoyment and a 42d Division coin was recently sent to him as well. His niece Laurie is looking to acquire a big Division Flag, the white one with the 1/4 Rainbow arch and 42d Infantry Division embossed, so she can hang it in his room. If anyone has an idea on where to acquire one, please let us know. Please join me in wishing him a very happy birthday and many more to follow. Birthday wishes and 42d trinkets may be sent to:

John Janosik 757 Canterbury Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44512-1722

FEBRUARY, 1962



To be sure, I only touched on a handful of RDVF topics and accomplishments covered this quarter. I'm truly impressed by the great work that's being done each day to advance our mission and charter. Thanks to all of the great work by our members, board and committees in keeping the RDVF a meaningful and viable organization.

I will close with wishing everyone a happy Memorial Day as we take time in remembrance of those who selflessly served our nation and perished so that we may enjoy the freedoms we so cherish. Following this theme, Korea War Veteran, Silver Star recipient and author Nimrod Frazier recently passed. You may remember him for his work on several memorials in tribute to the 42d ID to include Croix Rouge Farm, and he was the author of *The Best World War I Story I Know*. I also just learned today that on June 7th there will be a ceremony at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France where they will bury and honor an Unknown Soldier of the 42ID. As I learn more, I will provide details. May they rest in peace...

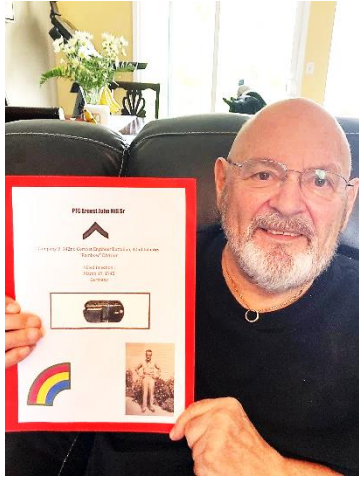
Until the next Reveille –Rainbow, Never Forget!

Gary Yaple, RDVF Chairman

LOSS OF A RAINBOW SOLDIER, HUSBAND AND FATHER IN WAR LONG-AWAITED ANSWERS, FULFILLED

Erin Faith Allen, Damien Bauer
and Purple Hearts Reunited

Ernest Hill, Jr was absolutely shocked to hear from us. You see, he was six months old when his father, Ernest Hill Sr, was killed in action on March 19th, 1945. His mother had been overcome with grief at his death and had made the decision so many war widows



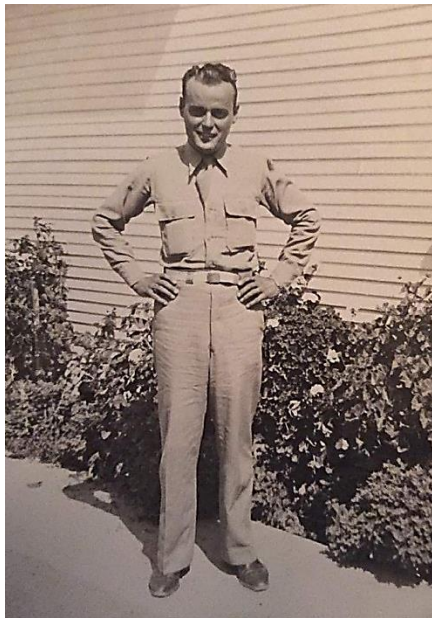
were forced to make at the time: bury the sorrow and the memories, and move on. As a result, Ernie knew absolutely nothing about his father, including who he had served with or how he was killed. He had seen one photo of his father, and never one of him in uniform.

When we told him that a dog tag had been found in France with his father's name on it, and we wanted to return it to him, he declared "I have been hungry my whole life for information and

now this dog tag shows up when I am 80!"

We decided to take this story one step further and, in addition to returning his father's dog tag to Ernie, research his story so that we could provide answers and perhaps even a little closure. Ernest Hill, Sr. served with the 142nd Combat Engineers and was killed on 19 March 1945 between 0400-1000 hours along the Sarrbach River north of the town of Ludwigswinkel, Germany during the assault on the Siegfried Line. His engineer platoon was tasked to the 232nd Regiment to clear and secure two bridges in the town below. Based on available information, it would seem he was killed by small arms fire during the initial assault, or the enemy counterattack later that morning.

We were able to send all of this information and photographs to Ernie along with his father's dog tag. The joy of this one son, from one fallen soldier, reminded us of how the memory of all of these men must never be forgotten.



The following was drawn directly from the Division reports and illuminate the events surrounding Hill's death, and the assault for which he gave his blood. Seeking to take advantage of any confusion among the enemy caused by the swiftness of the 42nd Division's advance, an attack was launched at 0400 on March 19th to seize two bridges across the Sarrbach River north of the town of Ludwigswinkel, Germany. These two bridges, both commanded by fire from huge Siegfried fortifications, led to the only good road northward

through the Division's zone. Selected for the task of assaulting the bridges were F and G companies of the 232nd Infantry Regiment, supported by a platoon of the 142nd Engineers. Advancing under

intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from positions in the Siegfried Line, the 1st and 2nd Platoons of G Company crossed the east bridge shortly after 0400 and took up positions on the north side. Two platoons of F Company seized the west bridge. At 0930, the enemy counterattacked G Company with a superior force and the two platoons, after suffering serious casualties, withdrew to positions south of the bridge. The bridge was then blown away by the enemy. Despite intense fire and an enemy counterattack, F Company maintained its bridgehead throughout the day. At 0430 on March 20th, a superior enemy force counterattacked the company, inflicted heavy casualties, and drove it back across the river.

Photos contributed by Erin Faith Allen

The Truth of War

Larry Farmer

Few indeed are a hero to their country who can be a hero to their family. The country demands too much and leaves too little. Men young and strong, return as a shell, empty and spent, if they return at all.

Monuments rise, accounts are told and recorded, crosses here and abroad stretch beyond the horizon, and we grieve with a pain that never goes away.

Places, dates and battles are not the story of war. The story is told in the experience of each soldier in the trench, running behind an advancing tank, struggling ashore with a heavy pack from a landing craft under murderous fire, fighting door to door in a burned-out village, stalking and being stalked in deep forest cover. "Tell us about the war Daddy! Tell us about the war!"

The words won't come ... the unrelenting deafening *noise*, hour after hour, day after day ... exploding enemy shells, big guns working, shattering grenades, fire from your own weapon and those around you, and the sizzle of bullets streaking by your head; the *smell* of dense smoke mingled with rotting flesh, blinding *flashes* of light, the *screams* of buddies dying around you.

And the *fear* – the sweating visceral fear in this man-made hell, hour after hour, day after day ... who could bear to rehearse it, to give life to this death?

Our flag still waves, our country stands, and we worship our God in Heaven. This is their legacy. It is our part, we the living, to seek to understand, to honor their sacrifice, and to assist the survivors.

It is our part to guard and cherish that which was purchased at so terrible a price.

A DOG-TAG TALE

The History of U.S. Army Identification Tags

By Patrick J. Chaisson
RDVF Historian

Identification tags, more commonly known as "dog tags," are an important part of every Rainbow Division soldier's uniform. Originally designed to ensure all servicemembers were accurately accounted for on the field of battle, these stainless-steel rectangles are still issued today despite technological advances such as DNA analysis having replaced them as a means of identifying the fallen.

Once issued, dog tags remain with a soldier throughout his or her military career. Many 42nd Infantry Division veterans (this author included) hold onto their ID tags as important symbols of service long after their time in uniform is over.

Families of deceased veterans often treasure their loved one's dog tags, but might not know the whole story behind these keepsakes. We will examine this history here, and also dispel some common misunderstandings about military identification tags.



In December of 1906, the U.S. Army directed all soldiers to wear an aluminum disc-shaped ID tag. Measuring about the size of a half-dollar, each disc was stamped with the soldier's name, rank, company, and regiment or corps. Attached to a cord or chain that went around the neck, this disc was worn under the field uniform.

Just prior to the United States' entry into World War I (1917-1918), a second ID disc was required to be suspended from the first by a short string or chain. If a soldier was killed, one tag remained with the body while burial service troops kept the second. Discs were issued to enlisted troops, but officers had to buy them.

By World War II (1941-1945), military ID tags had evolved into the size and shape they are today — a rounded rectangle initially made of nickel-copper alloy called "Monel". After 1944, these tags were produced using stainless steel.

Each M1940 identification tag was mechanically stamped with the soldier's name, rank, Army Service Number, blood type and religion, if desired. An emergency notification name and address were initially included, but sometime in 1943 these were removed as a security measure. Tags included a "T" for those troops who had received a tetanus vaccination, but by the 1950s that was also eliminated.



Many believe the term "dog tag" was a nickname that World War II military draftees called these devices because the recruits joked that they were treated like dogs. Another rumor is that they resembled tags on a dog's collar.

Several members of the Rainbow Division in World War II have said they used

tape, black silicone, or part of a gas mask hose to silence the "clinking" sound their dog tags made. Today, tags come issued with rubber covers to reduce noise.

There is a grim myth about the notch found on World War II-era ID tags. Some people think it served as a "tooth notch" — in other words, if a soldier was killed his comrades would take one of his dog tags and insert it into the mouth with the notched end between the two front teeth. Then, with a kick or nudge to the jaw, the tag would become lodged between the teeth and stay secured for future identification.

The truth is far less gruesome. In reality, this notch kept the blank tag secure while it was being stamped out in a Model 70 Addressograph embossing machine. Notched ID tags were standard issue until December 1964 when the Department of Defense officially switched to smooth-sided tags. However,

military bases with older notched-style tags in inventory still issued them for several years after the switch.

Another legend claims that "official" dog tags are attached to a 365-bead chain for the first tag and a 52-bead chain for the second one. These numbers represent the days and weeks in a year. Supposedly, a prisoner of war would be able to utilize his or her tag chains as a means of keeping track of the days held in captivity.

(Actually, the large chain contains approximately 200 beads and the small one around 40.)

In 1956, religion codes (i.e., C, P, H) were eliminated and the soldier's faith fully spelled out (i.e., Catholic, Protestant, Jewish). By 1969, the Army began to transition from serial numbers to Social Security numbers. That lasted about 45 years until 2015, when Social Security numbers were replaced by each soldier's Defense Department ID number. The move safeguarded soldiers' personally identifiable information and protected against identity theft.

Identification tags continue to help bring our troops home should they fall on the battlefield. Dog tags are traditionally part of unit memorial services held for those killed in action. The casualty's rifle with bayonet affixed is stood vertically atop their empty boots, with a combat helmet placed over the rifle's buttstock. A set of dog tags hangs from the rifle's trigger guard.

Often, a fallen soldier's comrades will present the fallen soldier's family with his or her dog tags at the burial ceremony. This especially moving military tradition helps recognize and honor those left behind.

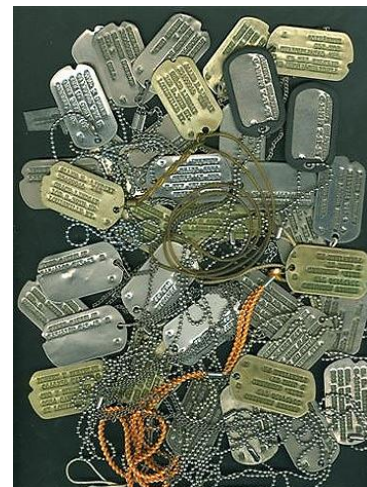
Today considered part of the uniform worn by every Rainbow Division soldier, ID tags serve both as a positive means of identification as well as an important symbol of service.

PHOTO ONE: A set of World War I U.S. Army dog tags indicating name, rank, and unit. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)

PHOTO TWO: This World War II illustration shows how soldiers wore "Dog Tags" to enable positive identification of a casualty or remains. (Photo: WW2 US Medical Research Center)

PHOTO THREE: A grouping of ID tags that illustrates different metal tags, necklaces, cords, and holders. (Photo: WW2 US Medical Research Center)

PHOTO FOUR: An example of a 13-year old military dependent's ID and dog tag, issued in September 1957 by MAAG BELUX, American Embassy, Brussels, Belgium. (Contributed by Suellen Rusteberg McDaniel.)



RDVF Scholarship Instructions (2023)

The RDVF Scholarship Program has grown significantly over the years. Today's foundation is dedicated to its continued growth and has extended the program to include eligibility to all Soldiers assigned to "Aligned for Training" Brigades of the 42nd Infantry Division. Each year the RDVF scholarship committee reviews applications from eligible college-age students and selects winners and scholarship amounts. (Only undergraduate students are being considered at this time)

Through the generosity of families and organizations and/or the significant efforts of members who have managed the

scholarship program over the years the following endowed scholarships exist:

RDVF Diamond Awards: (in perpetuity)

The Stillman F. Sawyer Award
The Walter and Virginia Duhacsek Award
The Edward and Lillian Kaiser Award
The News Corp – Sgt Robert T. Kennedy Award
The Major General Joseph J. Taluto Award

RDVF Platinum Awards: (six years)

42d Infantry Division Association Award
242 Infantry Regiment Award
222 Infantry Regiment Award
The Lon and Colleen Peck Award

RDVF Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be listed in the Annual Program Honorary Awards:

Ted Simonson Award
Ted Johnson Award

Additional awards may be given at the recommendation of the scholarship committee.

Eligibility: Previous RDVF Scholarship award recipients are not eligible to apply. A Scholarship Applicant must be either a graduating high school senior who is accepted to a college, enrolled in college, and/or eligible to attend college in the fall and who is also one of the following:

A current Soldier, in good standing, assigned to the following 42nd Infantry Division units:
42nd Infantry Division (NY ARNG)
27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (27th IBCT) (NY ARNG)
44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (44th IBCT) (NJ ARNG)
86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (86th IBCT) (VT ARNG)
42nd Combat Aviation Brigade (42nd CAB) (NY ARNG)
197th Field Artillery Brigade (197th FAB) (NH ARNG)
26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (26th MEB) (MA ARNG)
369th Sustainment Brigade (NY ARNG)

A descendant of a current RDVF Veteran or Legacy Member.
A descendant is defined as: All spouses, children, spouses of children, descendants and spouses, and all blood and adopted relatives and their spouses, or...

An immediate Gold Star Family Member of an OIF/OEF Soldier (or a more recent Named-Operation) who died in service under the command of a 42nd Infantry Division unit. (Mother, Father, Sibling, Spouse, or Child)

Sponsorship Requirement: All applicants must be sponsored by a current RDVF Veteran or Legacy Member who is a paid-up Lifetime Member prior to the date of application.

Applicant: The applicant is responsible to obtain a sponsor and to coordinate that portion of the application process with them. Assistance with securing sponsorship may be requested by contacting the Scholarship Chairman.

Sponsor: The Scholarship Sponsor must be a valid RDVF Lifetime member and can only sponsor one applicant per scholarship year. The RDVF Lifetime member start date must be included on the application. Life Membership information can be found under the Member Center Tab at www.Rainbowvets.org.

The sponsor must vouch for the applicant's eligibility in writing. Veteran and Legacy RDVF Members can sponsor their own descendants as long as they meet the Lifetime membership criteria.

Application Process:

To be considered for a scholarship, an applicant must provide a completed application packet which includes the following:

A completed scholarship application form (included with these instructions).

A letter of nomination from the scholarship sponsor which clearly delineates the applicant's eligibility to apply and the sponsor's review certifying the application is complete.

Official high school transcripts and/or official college transcripts as appropriate. Please note any Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors (H) Courses.

SAT and/or ACT scores must be submitted separately if they are not already recorded on the official transcript.

Two letters of recommendation: One letter must be from a school representative (teacher, professor, coach, counselor, principal etc.) The second letter can be a general character reference.

Essay consisting of at least 750 words, but no more than 1500 words that covers the following topics:

Briefly describe your educational career to date, discussing why you selected the college/university and course of study that you did.

Briefly describe your interests, hobbies, sports, extracurricular activities and why they are important to you.

Discuss your relationship to the person who sponsored you for this scholarship or, if a Gold Star Family applicant, you may discuss your relationship to the deceased Soldier. Illustrate how that individual's service in the 42nd Infantry Division lent itself to the creation of an enduring commitment to worldwide understanding, permanent peace and respect for the rights of individuals in all nations.

Finally, discuss what that person's service means to you. How can their experiences or the lessons he or she learned as a member of the 42nd Infantry Division be applied to your own personal growth, selected educational path and potential career field.

When preparing your essay, please review our website www.rainbowvets.org for history and information related to the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division and the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation.

The application period is from March 1st through July 15th of each year. Inquiries and completed applications with supporting material must be mailed or electronically submitted to:

Tammy E. Moss-Hicks, Scholarship Chair
18 Columbine Ave., South Glens Falls, NY 12803
Tel: 518-409-0610 or Email: 42IDScholars@gmail.com

The postmark or email deadline for completed applications is July 15, 2022. Accuracy and completeness is the responsibility of the applicant. When mailing the application packet please use a minimum 9×12 size envelope so that no pages are folded. When emailing the application, send all available documents together in a single portable document file (pdf) format. The Scholarship Committee expects all official transcripts to arrive separately from the responsible institution.

The scholarship committee will evaluate each applicant utilizing a merit evaluation process, examining academics, extracurricular activities, committee member assessment and applicant essay. Individual scholarships have ranged from \$500 to \$5,000 in past years; however, available funds dictate scholarship amounts and numbers each year.

To download the RDVF Scholarship Application Form, please go to: <http://www.rainbowvets.org/rdvf-scholarships>

New York's 69th Infantry Regiment Leads St. Patrick's Day Parade



03.18.2023 Story by Sgt. Andrew Valenza, New York National Guard
Photo by New York National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew Gunther

New York Army National Guard Soldiers on opposite sides of the world celebrated St. Patrick's Day together, continuing a unit tradition dating back to 1851.

Every year, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the "Fighting 69th," march up 5th Avenue in Manhattan as the lead of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade. This year though, the battalion is deployed to the Horn of Africa for security missions as Task force *Wolfhound*.

According to Lt. Col. Padraic Lilly, the Officer-in-Charge of the battalion's rear detachment, this year's parade consisted of about 150 Soldiers, joined by veterans and family members.

Lt. Col. Shawn Tabankin, the commander of the 69th, mirrored the New York City traditions of the rear detachment with the rest of the task force from their operating base in the Horn of Africa.

When the 69th Infantry Regiment began marching the parade in 1951, it was to protect the Irish immigrants that faced harsh persecution in the city during the parade. This year's activities, according to Lilly, the parade is about maintaining unity with the deployed unit.

"We'll be separated by geography, but united by performing in the parade," Lilly said.

Every year, the battalion marches in their dress uniforms. To foster the sense of uniformity the Army always strives for, the rear detachment joined their forward-deployed partners in the standard combat uniform, who are unable to wear formal attire.

The morning began with the traditional commander's toast to the 69th Regiment at 6 a.m. from the Lexington Avenue Armory, the battalion's headquarters.

The rear detachment was joined by guests such as Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, the director of the Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. Raymond Shields, the adjutant general for New York, as well as other general officers and sergeants major from across the New York National Guard along with the battalion's forward-deployed unit via a Zoom call.

After the toast, the detachment marched to St. Patrick's Cathedral to attend mass. The service was live-streamed so that the deployed soldiers could watch and be a part of it too.

When the parade began, they were joined by the 42nd Infantry Division Band, the Veterans Corps Regimental Headquarters representatives, and the families of the Soldiers.

The parade was led by a bagpiper and two Irish Wolfhounds, the mascot of the 69th Infantry whose mascot and motto is "gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked."

As the rear detachment marched up 5th Avenue, the deployed Soldiers marched around their camp in Djibouti.

At the end of the day, even with oceans and thousands of miles between them, the 69th conducted another St. Patrick's Day parade as unified as ever, Tabankin said.

"It's a privilege to be associated with the 69th," Lilly said. "I'm honored to be the OIC for the rear detachment and march in the parade."

Even though the 69th was able to carry on its traditions while being separated by an ocean, Lt. Col. Lilly said he was looking forward to the 69th being whole again.

Fighting 69th Marks St. Patrick's Day in Two Places - 7,000 Miles Apart



Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti

03.17.2023 Story by Eric Durr, Staff Sgt. Alexander Rector and Sgt. Andrew Valenza, New York National Guard; Photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Rector, New York National Guard

The Soldiers of the New York National Guard's "Fighting 69th" marked St. Patrick's Day 2023, 7,000 miles apart from each other, with the bulk of the regiment in the Horn of Africa, and a rear detachment in New York.

In Manhattan, 150 members of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment's rear detachment and the 42nd Infantry Division Band, led the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, in a tradition that dates to 1851.

In Djibouti, Soldiers assigned to Task Force *Wolfhound*, which is built around the 69th Infantry, marked the day by parading through Camp Lemonnier, the American Base that houses the headquarters of Combined Joint Task Force-*Horn of Africa*.

The guidons of each of the Task Force *Wolfhound* companies, including those deployed to out stations in Kenya and Somalia, were carried in the procession.

"I believe it's even more important to adhere to our traditions and lineage while deployed than when we're back state-side," explained Lt. Col. Shawn Tabankin, the commander of the 69th Infantry.

The 69th infantry was organized as a New York militia regiment in 1849 by Irish immigrants to New York City. The regiment began leading the city's St. Patrick's day parade in 1851 to prevent anti-Catholic and anti-Irish mobs from attacking the marchers.

A host of traditions have grown up around the 69th's march since then, and both Tabankin in Djibouti and Lt. Col. Padraic Lilly, the rear detachment officer-in-charge did their best to ensure they were honored.

At the end of the day, even with oceans and thousands of miles between them, the 69th conducted another St. Patrick's Day parade as unified as ever, Tabankin said.

In both New York and Djibouti, the day began with a toast of Irish whiskey by battalion leaders.

In New York, Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general for New York; and Lt. General Jon Jensen, the director of the Army National Guard joined Lilly and leaders of the 69th rear detachment in a toast at the Lexington Avenue Armory.

In Djibouti, Gen. Jami Shawley, the commander of Combined Joint Task Force-*Horn of Africa*, joined Tabankin and his leaders in the toast. In her remarks, she praised the history of the 69th Infantry and the role its Soldiers are playing today.

Prior to the parade up 5th Avenue, the 69th Infantry Soldiers attended a special Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, presided over by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, with a video feed for the Soldiers in Djibouti.

In Djibouti, a special service was held at the Camp Lemonnier chapel presided over by Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Brian Reedy, who was assisted by Chaplain (Capt.) Garth Olsen, the chaplain of the 69th Infantry.

In both places the Soldiers place springs of boxwood in their uniforms in commemoration of the 69th role in the Civil War.

During the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, the Soldiers of the Irish Brigade placed green boxwood sprigs on their blue uniforms to show that they were Irish before assaulting the Confederate positions.

It was at Fredericksburg that Confederate General Robert E. Lee reportedly gave the 69th its nickname by referring to it as “that fighting 69th regiment.”

And in both places the officers of the 69th carried blackthorn sticks imported from Ireland because they are considered the mark of an Irish gentleman and leader.

In Manhattan, the battalion was accompanied by an Irish Wolfhound, the official mascot of the 69th infantry.

In Djibouti, there were no Irish Wolfhounds, but two Navy working dogs accompanied the marchers.

The Kilmer cross, a crucifix belonging to poet Joyce Kilmer, a member of the 69th Infantry who was killed in combat during World War I, was carried by Tabankin during the parade in Djibouti.

And while the reviewing stand of the New York parade was crowded with New York City officials, in Djibouti the battalion was reviewed by Shawley and her deputy, Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Valerie Jackson.

In both locations, though, the Soldiers were applauded by their officers at end of the parade, and recognized with awards and promotions.

Events like this one are important for the unit and its Soldiers, Tabankin said.

“It keeps us rooted to our legacy, sends a message about overcoming adversity by accomplishing something that others might think couldn’t or shouldn’t be accomplished, and quite simply, it’s good for the morale and esprit de corps of our deployed Soldiers in arduous conditions,” he said.

TF LIBERTY North: (L to R): Robert Epp, Paul Conte, Floyd Goska, Al Thiem, Eric Durr, Paul Mulligan, Mike Tagliaferro, Pat Clare, Vince Memole, Corey Shoemaker, Michael Burdick, Tom Fancher, Pat Chaisson, Kelly Fancher, Jeff Proctor, and Barb Chaffee.



TF LIBERTY South: (L to R): Paul & Ro Genereux, Jim & Karen Lettko, and Rich Siracusanio; Photos courtesy of Al Thiem



78th Anniversary Commemoration of the Liberation Of Dachau Concentration Camp – 29 April 1945

On April 30, 2023, in addition to officials and dignitaries gathered to observe this solemn event, there are expected to be survivors, liberators and their families arriving from Denmark, Norway, Holland, France, the UK and California, U.S.A. Bud Gahs, Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd “Rainbow” Infantry Division WWII will return to Dachau accompanied by Erin Faith Allen and Zachariah Fike, historians and researchers who are creating a documentary film and a book about the men and history of Bud’s WWII unit. Ludwig Stoeckl is facilitating the order and the laying of the beautiful RDVMF/Rainbow Division wreath.

There will be much more to report in our July 2023 issue.

In Honor of Six Men of Company I, 242nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd “Rainbow” Division by Mayland Crosson

My husband Tom was a 242nd Co “G” man in Rainbow so when I say Co G or Co “I” I am always making reference to the 242nd Infantry.

We first learned of July National Reunions in 1981 when an unknown man (from the Rainbow Membership Committee) sent us a letter informing us of the yearly National Reunion being held in nearby Reading, PA. Tom was excited to think he might see some Co “G” men he had not seen since 1945. At that time, he was only in contact with one man. We did not make it to Reading, but with information given to us, we decided to plan on going the following July for the ‘82 reunion.

That year in Tulsa, OK, Tom and Bill Walker were the only Co “G” men present out of 1800 attendees, but the spark had been lit. We decided to attempt to locate some of the “G” Co men and urge them to come to Dallas, TX in 1983 for the next reunion. Most had not been together since 1945 so fifteen agreed and they had a great experience!

Now it became a challenge to find more men. During the next seven years – out of a total of 330 some men (both Gruber originals and European replacements) – we contacted or accounted for all but nine. The largest reunion group we had was at Oklahoma City, when 68 Co “G” men were in attendance.

At the banquet, our men were asked to stand up (you could hear the gasp from the others) and we were told it was the largest group from one company to ever be present at a National Reunion!

Our men spent most of the time getting reacquainted with each other but as time went on, we started meeting other 242nd men.

I had (by default) become responsible for running the 242nd hospitality room and that was how I became aware of a tight-knit group of men who met at Gruber, went through the war together, and constantly stayed in touch. They were very active in 242nd gatherings and in National (2 were National Presidents). They would often come to the hospitality room after dinner and gather to “catch up and talk”. These sessions frequently lasted till 12:00 or 1:00am.

I thought of them as the “I” Co Six as I heard them talk about Gruber and the war. I thought how lucky they were to have stayed so close all these years. They kept in contact and remained buddies for the rest of their lives. They attended national reunions as they became aware of them; all six were from different states. They visited each other, some camped together with their families, and some made trips together back to Europe several times to visit the towns where they fought.

They were fun to be with. They were pranksters, always teasing each other or anyone else who struck their fancy.

This friendship lasted from 1943 to 2004 when the first of the six passed away but for the following 18 years, the ties stayed strong! The last two died in 2022.

They loved each other and never stopped till they were all gone. These are the men who are together again in death as they were in life -

*Wilford (Bill) Shurtleff – originally Chicago, died Feb 2004 in Garland, TX
Carlton (Ted) Simonson – died 5-27-12 in Los Gatos, CA
Joe Dorsey – died Mar 2015 in Brookfield, WI
Jack Parry – died 7-31-15 in Idaho Falls, ID
Dee Eberhart – died 5-23-22 in Ellensburg, WA
Tom Dillingham – died 12-15-22 in Alexandria, VA*

WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST
Deaths Reported Since January 2023

HAEFNER , John F.	H2B/222 Infantry
MCMAHON , John Edward	142 Combat Engineers
NEEF , Walter G.	K/232 Infantry
PERSONS , Benjamin	HQ/142 Combat Engineers
SANDERS , Wilmer	Anti-Tank Co./242 Infantry



To download this book: www.rainbowvets.org/in-search-of-rainbow-memorials
photo: www.muskogeevets.org/facilities_rentals/honorheights_amphitheater.php

All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged. If you would like to make a contribution by U.S. mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, check payable to RDVF and mailed to:

Peter P. Riley 22 Almond Tree Lane Warwick, NY 10990 – 2442.

We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org>.

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS' FOUNDATION, INC.

Contributions 10 January 2023 – 10 April 2023

Scholarship Endowment Fund

- 100. Dr. (Rev.) Patricia Cockrell Wood, *in memory of her father, Alvin J.W. Cockrell, 150th FA Btry C*
- 100. Barbara Dillingham, *in memory of her husband, Tom Dillingham, I/242*
- 50. Charles Podhaizer
- 50. Barbara Miller, *in memory of her father, C. Steuart Hihn, HQ/222*
- 50. John J. Bobb, *in memory of his father, John A. Bobb, Medic/242*
- 600. Mayland Crosson *in honor of six men of I/242 – Bill Shurtleff, Ted Simonson, Joe Dorsey, Jack Parry, Dee Eberhart and Tom Dillingham*
- 100. MG Michel A. Natali, *in memory of SGT Taylor Parker*

From *In Search of Rainbow Memorials* by Lise M. Pommois with Charles Fowler (2003) –

MUSKOGEE MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER

“A bronze plaque, attached to a concrete pillar, was dedicated on July 13, 1976. It reads,

This open-air theater is dedicated as a living Memorial to our comrades of World War I and World War II who gave their lives in the service of their beloved country. It looks across to the Cookson Hills, the site of Camp Gruber, where the Division trained from its reactivation at the Division's 25th reunion on July 14, 1943 until it left for combat in Europe in 1944.”