



## Why I Am - And Must BE... AN ACTIVE RAINBOWER

Originally printed in the February 1962 issue of  
"The Rainbow Reveille" -

To be in the company of those who don't speak English leaves me at a loss. To be in the company of veterans whose conversation ranged from a training camp in the States, a ship in the North Atlantic, an SOS post in southern France or of persons unrelated to the 42nd Division leaves one in a strange land. Hence, it is out of all the veterans' organizations (in which I am eligible to membership) whether of combat origin or non-combat clientele, there is only one in which I am interested, in which I feel at home and find real pleasure. **That is the Rainbow Division Veterans Association.**

**In that group I am content.** I know if I mention Baccarat no one will think I make reference to a gambling game. If I mention Champagne no one says, "I'll have one." And no Gracie Allen will get the idea that Sedan is an automobile model. Or in WWII that the area of Nancy was a women's dimension, that Shu-mines produced shoes or that the Siegfried Line was for hanging clothes, neither was Dachau an abbreviation of dachshund. I emphasize the fact that 'men of Rainbow' all speak the same language.

**The 42nd Division was the "parent"** organization of a family of shareholders which operated in 1917-1918 and 1943-1945 and thereby determined a definite bonded relationship. Related to the extent that in either era each man, in the outfit, was willing to exert heroic effort and even sacrifice his life for a buddy as well as the success of OUR great division.

**Discharge from service never discharged us from our memories.** Neither were we discharged from our obligations to each other. When we meet in chapters or reunions we do not greet each other with a recitation of the preamble, but we do fulfill that preamble. By our gatherings we perpetuate the spirit of comradeship - we are continuing unbroken that fine friendship, and without ostentation, perpetuate the sacred memory of our valiant dead. We do not pronounce these things in words, but by our gatherings, the slap on the back, and the swapping of stories, true and otherwise. On these great occasions, we are all an indivisible WHOLE. I find no substitute for our fellowship. It is not the all embracing "Comrade", either.

**It is RAINBOWER.** I hope that God will permit me to hear that title for many years - yes, until we shall have taken on the characteristic of "the last man's organization". And to that end, I shall continue to attend Rainbow gatherings.

**This heartfelt statement is unsigned - the editor of The Rainbow Reveille at that time was Sharon C. Cover, HQ 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry (4<sup>th</sup> Ohio)**

# REVEILLE

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## CAMPAIGNS

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

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

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



**Happy New Year!** Hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season. The RDVF made great strides in 2013 and we look forward to many more in 2014. The EXCOM met in Kansas City in November to implement a new investment policy for our funds and to discuss updates and improvements to our website. In addition we hosted a cocktail party at the WWI museum in KC for the Hq 42<sup>nd</sup> Div and their guests. The Division

is undergoing a rigorous training program over the next year at Fort Leavenworth. We were very happy to support the Division and show their guests our support and commitment to keeping the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legacy front and center. Some other very important pieces of information: **Many new members have created an account on the RDVF website.** This is very important to managing our membership database. For those who have not, there are instructions in the middle section of this Reveille on how to create one. It's easy!

**Please note the insert requesting the mailing address** of those who wish to have delivery of the Reveille by mail continued. The Reveille is now posted to the website in the Press Room with other articles and items of interest.

**In another cost saving move,** we will no longer send membership cards to annual renewing members. It is very time consuming and expensive to send cards on a yearly basis. Life members will receive an RDVF member card denoting Life membership and a Life membership pin. All membership history, annual and Life, are recorded and maintained in our database.

**Heads-up** We are tentatively planning on memorial ceremonies at Fort Drum and Fort Dix in early June. These ceremonies will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 42<sup>nd</sup>'s mobilization for the Iraq war in 2004. We plan on a social the night before the ceremony and refreshments after the ceremony the following day. More to follow!

**Rainbow Never Forget! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman**

**Last winter the board of directors approved the design and purchase of lapel pins to identify Life Members of the RDVF.** The pins were based on the original logo of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association. **These pins are available for all Life Members of the RDVF.** To date over 200 were mailed to Life Members with additional pins hand delivered at the September 2013 Reunion in Albany, New York. If you are a Life Member and have not received your pin please contact Paul Genereux at [pgener1788@aol.com](mailto:pgener1788@aol.com) or by mail at 31 Hunt Club Drive, Bloomsburg PA 17815-8385.

**Paul Genereux, RDVF Vice Chairman and Membership Officer**



**KUWAIT- New York Army National Guard Private 1st Class Tessa Marino from Clifton Park N.Y. and the youngest soldier in the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade cuts the Army National Guard's 377th birthday cake with the brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Vasquez from Queens N.Y. in Camp Buehring Kuwait on Dec. 13 2013. The 42nd CAB composed of New York Army National Guardsmen from across the state and augmented by units from Montana and Texas are in Kuwait to conduct aviation operations in the region. Photo By SPC Harley Jelis**

**Deadline for the April 2014 issue is 15 March 2014**

## RAINBOW REVEILLE

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### THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

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**OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**, as we face the challenges of this unsettled World, we pray that Thou reveal to our leaders your will and grant to them wisdom in their deliberations. We pray that their findings will be made in accord with Thy teachings and that mutual goodwill and peace will prevail throughout the world. **AMEN**

W.C. Mead, Chaplain William C. Mead, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., Co. F., 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWI  
Reprinted from the March 1963 issue of The Rainbow Reveille

**WILLIAM "TEX" RITTENBERRY'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU** The ninth in a series of speeches from 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWII veterans requested by the "Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners" (FFDP), The Netherlands and coordinated by FFDP representative, Mr. Jaap Mesdag and Frank Burns, President, Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVF. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact **Frank Burns** for further information: (206) 527-0987 <frankdorothyburns@gmail.com> This speech is under copyright to the FFDP and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future. **Photos below have been sent by Bill Rittenberry**



**I am Sgt. William "Tex" Rittenberry and I participated in the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp during World War Two.**

I was born in a farmhouse near Duncanville, Texas on December 12, 1925 and grew up in that farming community. As a boy, I did various part time jobs, mostly farm-related, and was finally a foreman on a bridge construction crew for Dallas County when I was drafted into the Army.

**I, along with Sgt. Ed Riebeling and Sgt. Jerry Smalley, was a part of the Engineering Reconnaissance Section in the 142<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Combat Battalion in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.** On the morning of April 29, 1945 the three of us were ordered to take our jeep and accompany Brigadier General Henning Linden's armored task force and be available to

assist in keeping the roads passable for this forward operation. I was in for the greatest shock of my life when we came upon the Dachau Concentration Camp. As we entered the area we encountered a parked freight train with cars littered with human bodies that had been murdered by gunfire. We then witnessed inmates roaming around, some outside and many more inside the large compound. Two of the striped uniform inmates were outside the compound and were beating a one-legged man, also in striped uniform, with the crippled man's crutch. We were about to stop this assault when one of them explained that the crippled man was an SS Guard dressed in a prisoner's uniform and trying to avoid being captured or killed. We left the aggressors so they could continue to administer their own justice. Our troops then corralled most of the roaming inmates back into the compound and attempted to convince them that additional help and food would soon be arriving and further actions would be taken to help them. Meanwhile, Sgt. Riebeling, Sgt. Smalley and I were busy unloading our meager supply of K-Rations that were eagerly accepted by inmates who were so starved that they were just skin and bone. They were truly delighted to get any kind of food and friendship.



**As the three of us continued to explore the Camp**, we noticed a sign above a large gate. The sign, when translated to English said DELOUSER. Upon entering this gate, it was obvious that this was a large gas chamber for the murdering of humans. Adjacent to this chamber was another large room with human bodies piled waist high and awaiting the firing of the crematory ovens, three of which were nearby. The three of us left Dachau late in the afternoon and continued our road reconnaissance, and arrived in Munich, driving Blackout after dark.

**After WW2 and my return to civilian life**, I was at loose ends for several months, working for minimum wages (\$0.75/hour) in oil exploration and without much purpose. In the fall of 1947 I enrolled in college and started trying to get my life together. I married Dorothy French in November of 1949 and became serious about our future life together. Most of my working career was oil field related and involved living in various locations, including 25 years in South America (Venezuela and Ecuador).

**It is my hope that those who read this accounting will realize that this world had some demonic people who actually committed such inhuman crimes; and yet, I am proud to be a part of others who were intolerant of such despicable behavior.**

**A LETTER TO RAINBOW LIBERATORS OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP 29 April 1945** From Timothy Weiss, son of two Dachau survivors who were liberated on that day – "My family story is not different from many offspring of Holocaust survivors. My parents chose not to talk about the horror they encountered in their lives. Both of my parents were Hungarian Jews that had been moved from concentration camp to concentration camp, in some cases my mother was actually working at various factories in between her assigned internment camp(s). My mother was a City Girl from





European continent.

It was only a few years ago I was in Quebec, touring the famous Hotel Frontenac that served as the meeting point for Winston Churchill and our dear President Roosevelt in August of 1943. It was during that week - at that point in time that the fate of my parents' lives, and ultimately, my life, my children's future, and their children (my grandchildren) and the future of their children all stood at the crossroads.

It was there in Quebec, during that fateful week in August of 1943, that your lives as members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division would be changed forever. That historic meeting set in motion events which would eventually lead you to Dachau on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1945, the day you liberated the prisoners of that infamous Nazi death camp.

What you did, how you fought to get there on that memorable day can never be forgotten. Your ability to react with your leadership team and open those gates, look after those that were able to survive those many years of captivity will never be forgotten. You gave so much of yourselves in fighting for the freedom of others. In a literal way, you are ALL responsible for my freedom. Because of your heroism I have the freedom to be able to look back and thank you all for what you have done to allow me to be able to enjoy my life with my family and the life I have with my children and their children.

I have my life today because of what you did for my parents, and for that I can be eternally grateful to you and your families.



Sent by Timothy, these photos, are, (from top) Elvira Weiss and Timothy in 1963; David Weiss and Timothy in 1961; David Weiss and grandson Ben (1987; the Weiss family, Timothy and his wife Rebecca, son Ben and his wife Brittany, and their two children, Hayden and Sarah; (right)); three generations - Ben, Hayden and Timothy. David and Elvira Weiss arrived in the USA in June 1949.

**DEPARTMENT OF IOWA RAINBOW DIVISION FLAG REDEDICATED VETERANS DAY 2013** This was the Rainbow Division Veterans Association Iowa Chapter flag at one time representing 14 Chapters within the Rainbow Division Veterans Association of IOWA.



## OUR RAINBOW SCHOLARS

### From Cassidy McCartney – 2011 Rainbow Scholar

"I was blessed to spend my 2012-2013 school year studying abroad in Salzburg, Austria and it was the best experience of my life. I didn't quite know what to expect upon arriving, but was soon immersed in a whole new world of amazing history and rich culture. Between the time I spent studying I was able to travel to new places on the weekends and by the end of the year, I had left my footsteps in ten different countries.

**All of my trips were amazing, but visiting Dachau was something I will never forget.** It was a very personal trip since my Grandfather had been a prisoner there. I visited for the first time over Christmas with my family and was fortunate to return again in the Spring for the **Namen Statt Nummern** (Names Instead of Numbers) project ceremony. This was a ceremony where biographies were written and presented about former Dachau prisoners. I felt so honored to be able to attend the event and meet a few of the people involved in it. The ceremony did a wonderful job of remembering the people affected by Dachau and reminded me how important it is that we never forget that sad, but important part of our history. I am so grateful to the Rainbow Division for the scholarship I received because it really did impact my studying abroad experience. I feel so incredibly lucky and blessed to have had the opportunity. I not only got to meet people and see monuments from all over the world, but I gained a broader perspective on life. The impacts from those eight months will truly never leave me. I hope that someday I can return to see all the progress of the Namen Statt Nummern Project and maybe even write a biography for my Grandpa." **Cassidy is the granddaughter of Walter Brophy, 222-E. Walt Brophy's Dachau story was printed in the January 2013 issue of REVEILLE; see online issue. Photo is of Cassidy (C) and her sisters Chloe (L) and Caitlyn (R) standing in front of the Rainbow Plaque at Dachau.**



### From Kelsey Fisher – 2013 Rainbow Scholar

"I am a freshman at the Ohio State University. I wanted to sincerely thank you for awarding me the \$2,000 Ted Johnson Award to place toward my college education. I am truly grateful to you for choosing me to be the recipient of this award. It is such a blessing to my family and me. **My grandpa, Delbert Fisher [H3B-232]**, proudly served as a staff sergeant of the 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division during World War II. He had no idea that one day, many years later, his service to our country would benefit the college education of one of his granddaughters. I am certain that he is smiling down from heaven, very proud. This is a very special award and it is enabling me to get one step closer toward my graduation and the achievement of my goals. May God continue to bless the past, present and future members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division. Thank you very much, again."

### From Camille Couch – 2013 Rainbow Scholar

"It is an honor to receive such a generous scholarship from the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation. I am very proud to be the **great granddaughter of John P. "Jack" Parry [242-I]**. I have been blessed to live near Grandpa my entire life. He has struggled over the years talking about his experience in World War II. However, in more recent years he has wanted to let people, especially young people like me, learn and appreciate what really happened during that time in history. The American flag flies every day at his home. Because of Grandpa, my entire family is very patriotic. We fly the flag proudly at our home.

Thank you for helping keep history alive through the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation. I am grateful to receive this award in honor of my grandpa. He is a wonderful man and I love him a lot. My family was able to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. about five years ago. We had to get a picture of the Rainbow Division flag. My brother is on his tip toes holding it for the picture.



The updated website has been mentioned several times in past issues of the Reveille. We really want to encourage everyone to visit the site frequently, as it becomes more and more the central hub of the organization.

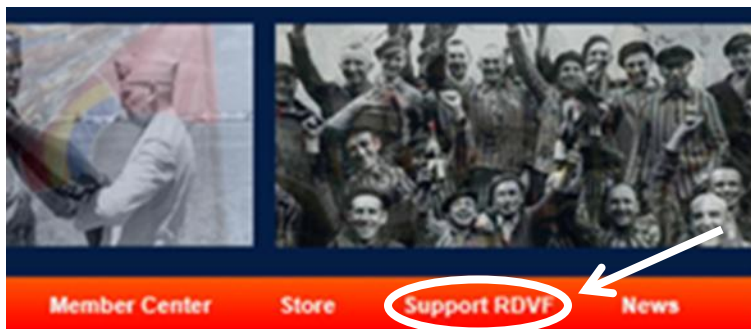
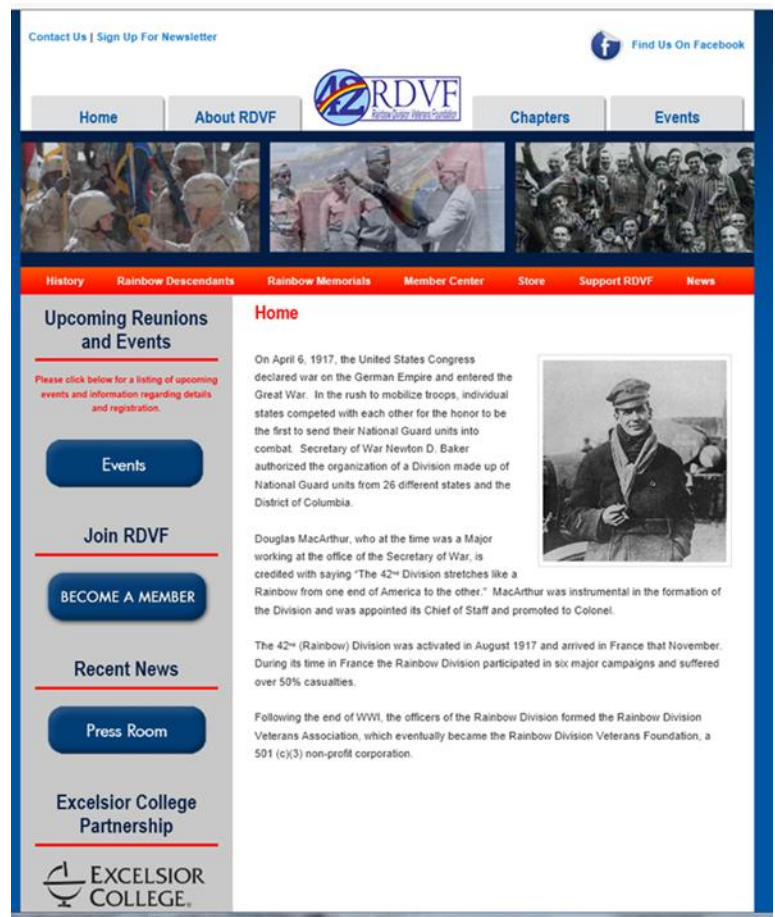
The addition of a Membership Management System (the “Neon system”) to our website has allowed us to do the following via the Internet:

- Track Membership data.
- Allow members to join or renew online.
- Allow members to register for our annual conference online.
- Sell Rainbow items through an “Online Store”.
- Accept donations to the Foundation online.
- Easily update News and current event postings to the website.

The Neon system actually tracks two levels of names in our database.

1. Members of the Foundation.
2. Other people that donate or purchase items.

There might be some confusion among our members as a result of having two different types of accounts in our system. This article will hopefully help people understand the new system.



**Donation Information:**

Please enter information below related to your contribution.

\* Donation Amount:

☒ This is a one time donation

☐ Make this a recurring donation deducted

Prefix:

\* First Name:

\* Last Name:

Suffix:

\* Address:

\* City:

\* State:

Province (Foreign)

\* Zip Code:  -

\* Email:

\* Phone:

Officially, our new Neon system is called a “Constituent Management System”. The Neon database is made up of “Accounts” – some of which are members and some of which are not. The other significant component of the system is the ability to create a Login Name and Password by our users so they can see their individual account information, regardless of whether or not they are a member.

Here’s an example of how Neon works:

Someone wants to donate to the Foundation so they click on “Support RDVF” on the red menu bar.

They are instructed that if they already have a Login Name on the system, they should go to our “Member Center” and login in first to simplify the donation process.

If they don’t have a Login Name, they have two options:

1. Create a Login Name & Password, or
2. Just complete the Donation Information.

Either way an Account will be created for this individual. The difference is that if they create an Login Name, they then have continuing access to their account to donate again, purchase items, etc. and also to view their past activity.

Conversely, if someone chooses not to create a Login Name the Neon system will create a duplicate account if they come back at some future point and donate again. These duplicate accounts must then be managed by us on the back end of the system. In this case, they would not see their past activity.

We encourage everyone to create a Login Name and Password so they have access to their own information on the Neon system.



**Member Center** As previously mentioned, our database is made up of Accounts which include the names, addresses and other information related to an individual's membership, donations, etc.

When we changed over to the new Neon system, we uploaded our member data from our old mailing list system. The old system had been in use for many years and did not provide detailed membership records. In other words, we didn't have the yearly records of Dues payments for each member. The old system tracked 2 dates - the original date that Dues were paid, and the most recent date that Dues were paid through. As a result, the Dues paid between the original date joined and the current date don't show up in the new Neon system.

**Here's the important part** – Each person that had paid Dues within the last few years at the time we uploaded the database now has an Account on the new Neon system. However, not everyone has a current membership and many have not created a Login Name and Password.

**Why is that important?** People from all over the country are involved in this Foundation and the website gives us the most efficient means for managing our member database and communicating with everyone. For example, with the Neon system we can easily create "Campaign Emails" allowing us to type one message and send it to everyone with the push of a button. At the present time however, we have about 1,100 names in our database, and only about 200 email addresses.

**How do I create a Login Name and Password?** There are a couple ways:

1. Send Ben Pettus an email ([ben@a2mg.com](mailto:ben@a2mg.com)) with the Login Name and Password that you want to use and he will set up for you and let you know when he is done.
2. Click on Member Center and "Create an account", then complete the form. Please be aware that this method will create a duplicate account and Ben will need to merge with your current account after you sign up.

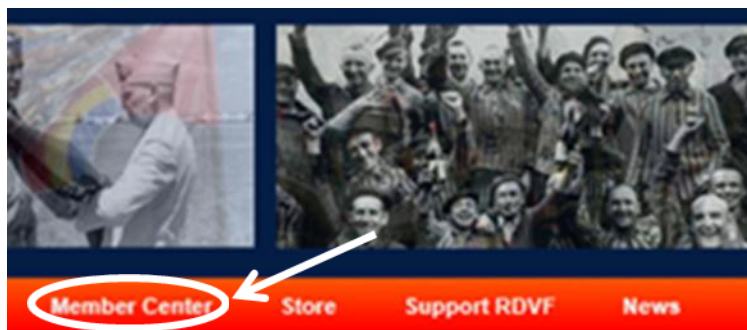
**What happens next?** When you login into the Neon System you will see the "Welcome" screen. From there you can change your contact information, Join/Renew, Donate, Purchase items, Register for Events, or view your past history for any of those items.

Here's an example of the Membership History screen:

View	Membership	Fee	Start Date	End Date
<a href="#">view</a>	Legacy Member	<b>SUCCEED</b> \$200.00	07/01/2013	
<a href="#">view</a>	Legacy Member	<b>SUCCEED</b> \$10.00	09/13/1999	09/13/2000

The Foundation Board of Directors is making every effort to focus on our website and make sure that information is current and informative. We are already posting copies of the Reveille to the "Press Room" area of the website. In addition, we are making arrangements for more current news items to be posted there as well. The goal is to be more interactive, on a more current basis, with the Foundation membership.

Hopefully this article will prompt more people to visit our website [www.rainbowvets.org](http://www.rainbowvets.org) and create their Login Name and Password. (Donations are always welcome too!)



## RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR 2014

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation has grown significantly over the years. Today's Foundation is dedicated to its continued growth. In recent years the RDVF has approved nearly 20 thousand dollars in college scholarship money to the descendants of RDVF members. Each year the Scholarship Committee reviews applications from eligible college age students and selects award winners and scholarship amounts.

**Eligibility.** Applicant must be either a graduating high school senior, enrolled in college, and/or eligible to attend college in the fall and is also a descendant (child, grandchild, ward, or relative) of a current RDVF member in good standing for at least the last 3 consecutive years or a Lifetime Member.

**Request for Applications.** Requests may be made beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> and should contain the full name of the student applicant, address where the application is to be sent, phone number and email address.

In addition the name and contact information of the RDVF member should be included.

**Completed applications must include the following:** letter of nomination from their supporting active RDVF member, official high school transcripts and/or college transcripts as appropriate including SAT/ACT scores, two letters of recommendation - one must be from a school representative, the second letter can be a general character reference - personal essay describing how past experience and proposed college program of study will contribute to the accomplishment of "Creating an enduring commitment to world-wide understanding, permanent peace, and respect for the rights of individuals in all nations."

**The postmark deadline for completed applications is June 1<sup>st</sup>.** All completed applications with supporting material must be mailed or electronically sent to Michael Kelly, Scholarship Chairman, 143 Milner Avenue Albany, NY 12208-1421, Tel: 518-489-4580, email at [mkelly5993@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mkelly5993@nycap.rr.com). If mailing material, please use a letter size envelope so that no pages are folded. Previous award winners are not eligible to apply.

**The Scholarship Committee will evaluate each applicant utilizing a merit evaluation process, examining academics, extracurricular activities, committee member assessment and applicant essay. Annual scholarships may range from one thousand to five thousand dollars; however, available funds will dictate amounts and number of awards to be given. Award winners will be notified by late summer by the Foundation.**

## Rebirth of the Rainbow

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

### *"Case the colors!"*

With these words the flag of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, which had flown proudly during 114 days of combat in World War II and more than a year of occupation duty in Germany and Austria, came down. The "Rainbow" Division was being deactivated.

**Those present at the Rainbow's inactivation ceremony, held June 29 1946,** likely were more concerned with their own futures than that of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Veterans whose lives were interrupted by war were about to return home and start families, earn an education or renew their civilian careers. Many would put away their G.I. uniforms, complete with Rainbow patch and "Ruptured Duck" insignia indicating Honorable Discharge, never to be worn again. Yet, even as the last Rainbowmen left Europe in the summer of 1946, back in the States plans were rapidly proceeding to reactivate the 42<sup>nd</sup> as a National Guard outfit.

**On October 15 1945, the US War Department issued policies authorizing, among other things, a re-established National Guard.** During World War II, of course, the National Guard was mobilized for combat duty as part of the US Army. Left behind were State-organized security forces - in New York State this organized militia was called the New York Guard.

While most New York State Guard members were ineligible for active military service (mostly due to age or disqualifying physical conditions), they ably performed such important duties as guard duty and disaster response. In 1945, 18,136 citizens served in the New York Guard.

Meanwhile, Army leaders decided the National Guard would continue on after World War II as both a trained reserve force and in its state role to protect life and property and to preserve peace, order, and public safety.

**The Army Staff allocated 27 divisions (25 infantry and two armored) to the postwar National Guard.** One of these was the 42<sup>nd</sup>, which claimed its origins back to World War I as a collection of National Guard regiments from 26 states and the District of Columbia. But which state would claim the Rainbow Division for the National Guard?

**New York had a strong claim.** After all, the original 42<sup>nd</sup> Division was organized at Camp Mills, near Hempstead, Long Island, in 1917. Further, the state's population could support both a reconstituted 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division upstate and this newly-activated 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in the New York City area.

In March 1946 Brig. Gen. Ames T. Brown, Adjutant General for New York's military forces, successfully petitioned the War Department to station the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division in New York. It would be primarily a "Downstate" outfit, based in state armories across New York City's five boroughs and Long Island. Some Rainbow units would for a time be stationed in Pennsylvania.

**The New York National Guard was re-established on December 1 1946.** Lieutenant General Hugh Drum, for whom Fort Drum in northern New York State would be eventually named, became the NYNG's first commander. One of LTG Drum's first actions was to publish General Orders Number 16, which redesignated the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the New York State Guard as Headquarters, 42d Infantry Division.



**The Rainbow Division's first postwar commander was Brigadier General Cornelius W. Wickersham,** a Manhattan lawyer who during World War II commanded the School of Military Government in Virginia before assuming duties with the European Allied Contact Section of Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force HQ in Europe. Assistant Division Commander was BG Brendan A. Burns and Division Artillery Commander BG Hugh J. Cox.

**Photo: US Army - Brig. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham, a Manhattan lawyer in civilian life, became the first commanding general of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division following its reactivation after World War II.**

Rainbow Division Headquarters was located at the New York State Armory at 104 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. (This structure has since been torn down).

**Other units formed under the National Guard's 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in 1946** included the 71<sup>st</sup>, 106<sup>th</sup> and 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments, the 104<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, 226<sup>th</sup> and 258<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalions, 102<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Recon Troop, 42<sup>nd</sup> MP Company, Division HQ troops and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band. Signal, ordnance and quartermaster companies would be authorized later.

**All these forces were to be based in metro New York City or on Long Island.** First to transfer in were eligible New York State Guard members, along with returning veterans. A nationwide National Guard recruiting program, called "Operation 88,888", brought new blood into the ranks as well. The Adjutant General's Annual Report shows 4,202 personnel assigned to the 42d Infantry Division as of December 31, 1947. From this start the Rainbow would grow and change over the next several decades. **On March 31, 1947 the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division received Federal Recognition as a National Guard organization from Headquarters, United States Army.** Several years later the division reorganized again, losing its Pennsylvania-based units to the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In the 1950s the Army experimented with a "Pentomic" force structure, causing significant modifications in equipment and organization.

Change has been a constant part of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division's National Guard service. Proud units redesignate or disappear. Weapons and equipment come and go. New threats appear constantly. Yet amidst all this transformation some traditions still hold true. **Once solely a New York outfit, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division again "stretches like a Rainbow" across the United States. National Guard soldiers from 14 states now proudly wear the Division patch on their uniforms, much as things were in 1917.**



## A WWII "Rainbow" STORY from

James R. "Pete" Pettus, K-232

Company K, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment moved up to Neunhoffen, France and dug fox holes on the bank of the Moder River. The 79<sup>th</sup> Division arrived the next morning and we moved back to Neunhoffen. **We were standing on the street and Dave Zillmer, our Company Commander, announced that there was a truck coming in soon and could take a truckload of men to our next position.** Dave asked Platoon Leader Norman Usher to pick out the men carrying heavy weapons, etc. to ride in the truck. Norman picked about twelve of us and I



was one of them. Then Zillmer and the rest of the company marched off. **We waited for the trucks for several hours and none came.** We then started flagging any Army trucks down and asked for a ride. One of my buddies and I saw a jeep coming with a trailer behind and we flagged him down. My buddy threw his rifle on the trailer and climbed on. **I threw my KA-BAR on and the jeep took off before I could climb on. I grabbed a chain hanging on the back of the jeep and fell to the road.** Luckily it was ice covered so I was sliding on my belly hoping that my buddy would yell to the driver to stop. He tried but had laryngitis and they could not hear him. After sliding for a hundred feet or so I decided that I had better let go of the chain. I slid a few more feet and got up. **There I stood on the road with no weapon, not knowing where I was and what to do.** Several minutes later an Army truck came by and I flagged him down and asked for a ride. He asked me where I was going and I said I have no idea. I told him I was in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division and he knew nothing about it. A few minutes later I saw Tommy Howell standing on the road and I told the driver to let me off to be with Tommy. There was not room for both of us in the truck. After an hour or so another truck came by with room for both of us. **He asked us where we were going and we said we were with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division but had no idea where they were.** A few miles later we came upon Company A of the 232<sup>nd</sup> and we stopped there. There I found my best Army buddy Stu Larratt and told him about our situation. He took us to the Company Commander and he told us that there was no place for us to sleep but there was another unit close by that might have a place for us. We found the Kitchen Company and told them our problem and they took us in and put us on beds with thick covers and we slept like logs. **The next morning when we woke up we saw that all the Rainbow men were gone.** When we asked them why they did not tell us to get up and go with our Rainbow, they said, "we wanted you to get a good night's sleep." They said a Rainbow man stuck his head in the door and asked if any Rainbow men were there and they said none here. I said to Tommy, "this looks like a better place to me than the Infantry, maybe we can just stay here." **We then stepped out of the door and were standing on the porch when a Rainbow jeep came along. In it was our First Sergeant. He saw us and said, "Where in the hell did you guys come from? We thought you were killed."** They were on their way to billets in Gremecy, France. We climbed in the back of the jeep and rode for hours before we got to Gremecy and it was a very cold trip for us. **The Sergeant told us that the rest of the Rainbow would be coming in late that night and we needed to clean up the filthy billets before they got there.** Tommy and I picked two houses and started cleaning them up. I found a cast iron stove and drug it up the steps to the top floor which was in better shape than the bottom one. The chimney on the top floor did not have an opening so I found a sledge hammer and pounded a hole big enough to stick the stove pipe in and I had a good fire going when our platoon got there. **Norman Usher, our Platoon Leader said, "There is not enough room for all of us in one room so we will draw straws to see who sleeps where." He did and I was on the wrong one.** Norm said since I did all the work I could stay there also. **Photo: Pete Pettus is awarded the Bronze Star Medal in Bischofshofen, Austria January 27, 1945**

**Mr. Robert M. Zwick** has been named a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor by the French government. This award was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit. He served in WWII in Btry A, 542<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division.

## RAINBOW GATHERINGS

"Across the United States like a Rainbow"

MISSOURI - Kansas City Meeting November 2013

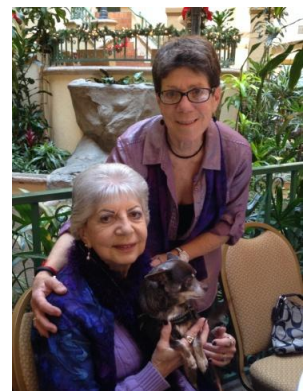


left to right – MG Tom Kinley (ret.), WWII veteran Richard Peirce, MG Harry Miller, WWII veteran, James R. "Pete" Pettus, former RDVF Vice-President, Esther Peirce, MG Joe Taluto (ret.) and RDVF Secretary, Melanie Remple. (Photo by MSG Peter K.Towse)

**CALIFORNIA** – RDVF California Rainbow Brunch, December 1, 2013 at the Embassy Suites at Downey, CA



**Left** – David Rubin, presiding;  
**Right** - Mrs. Lois (Sanford) Leberman, seated, with their daughter, Ronni Sanlo (photos from Ronni)



**WASHINGTON STATE** – RDVF Pacific NW Chapter gathering October 25-27, 2013 at the TownePlace Suites Marriott/Seattle-Southcenter (photo from Frank Burns)



Those attending the chapter meeting are from lower left around the table clockwise: Will Miller, Lloyd Soule, Bob Martinson, Dee Eberhart, Frank Burns, Gail LaVassar, Katie Eberhart, Betty Soule, Lois Leberman and Fern Martinson.

**TEXAS** – November 2013 – Standing L-R - J.D. Gresham B-232 F.A., Andy Singer, son of Melvin Singer G-222 Seated L-R Thomas J. Ryan Svc-242<sup>nd</sup>, William L. Beale HQ42DIV, Carl D McKeever H3B-232 (photo from Andy)



**ALABAMA** - National Veterans Day was celebrated in Birmingham November 11, 2013. A full account written by Past RDVF Chairman, Earnie Owen, is on page 8.

**NEW YORK** –The Foundation supported the 42nd Division HQ Christmas party with a \$500 donation. The party was held at the Glenmore Road Armory in Troy NY on December 8.

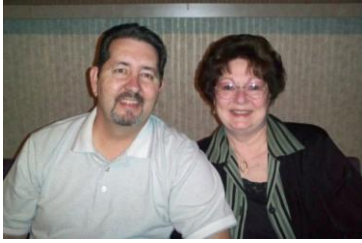




## NATIONAL VETERANS DAY 2013 – A “RAINBOW” Experience

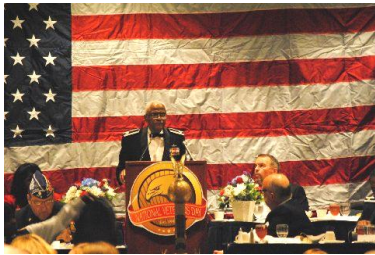
### From Earnie Owen, Past Chairman, RDVF

The annual National Veterans Day celebration in Birmingham, AL



2013 was a great time. Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> was our date of arrival. After everyone got to the hotel and settled in, it was time, as always, to go out for Bar-B-Que at “Jim & Nick’s”. Lots to eat and lots of fun. On Sunday we loaded up and went to Oak Grove Baptist Church, just outside Birmingham, for a moving service honoring veterans. There were many military artifacts on display at the front of the auditorium for us to view before the service started. One prominent display was arranged by the granddaughter of Leon Praytor, a WWII Rainbow veteran, who was a long time supporter of the Birmingham celebration each year. Leon passed ‘over the Rainbow’ since last year’s gathering.

**photo from Earnie – Earnie Owen, past Chairman of RDVF; Linda Owen, past National President of the RDVF National Auxiliary**



during WWII. Accepting the award for the unit was LTC James H. Harvey, III (USAF retired), a member of the WWII 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, who was also the military’s first “Top Gun”.

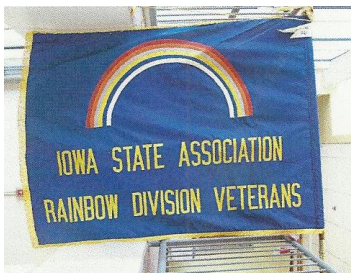
**Photo/caption - Lieutenant Colonel James H. Harvey, III speaks at the 2013 award dinner. (Sarah A. [McCarty/smccarty@al.com](mailto:McCarty/smccarty@al.com)) Tuskegee Airmen honored at National Veterans Award Dinner in Birmingham .**

Monday November 11, we attended the World Peace Luncheon. Always inspiring to meet and see so many of our Nation’s uniformed heroes, both past and present. This of course was followed by the Veterans Day Parade. And what a day for a parade! Beautiful weather for all of those watching as everyone passed by. Pete Pettus and Marty Allard carried the Rainbow Banner, followed closely by a Deuce And A Half with our folks riding in the back. There were lots of vintage and restored military vehicles in the parade.

I guess the best thing to say is, good people, good time, and good fun had by all. Start planning now to be in Birmingham next year. You’ll be glad you were there carrying on this Great Rainbow Tradition. If you have any questions, be sure and contact me.

**FOR RAINBOW, NEVER FORGET ! Earnie Owen**  
[redjackk@aol.com](mailto:redjackk@aol.com) 918-258-1394 home and 918-812-5681 mobile

### Rainbow Division Veterans Flag Rededicated Veterans Day 2013 Des Moines, IOWA



Auditorium since 1955. Three years ago, Vets received a major renovation and the flags had been in storage since. This renovation included the addition of a new “Veterans Memorial Hall” which showcases Iowa’s involvement in our Nation’s Conflicts from the Mexican-American War through the present. **The flags are now displayed above the entrance to the Memorial Hall.** The flags, in order,

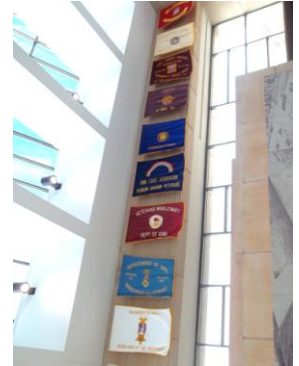
On Veterans Day 2013, the Department of Iowa, Rainbow Division Veterans flag was rededicated at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines, Iowa. During the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, the Rainbow flag along with eight others were unveiled at their new location. These flags had been located in the Chapel at Vets

are: Department of Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic; Department of Iowa, United Spanish War Veterans; Veterans World War 1, Department of Iowa; Iowa State Association, Rainbow Division Veterans; American Legion; AMVETS Des Moines, Iowa; Polk County Council, Department of Iowa, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America; Department of Iowa, Disabled American Veterans and the Des Moines Detachment, Marine Corps League.

**A brief tribute to each of the organizations represented was given by Danny Krock, JVC, Department of Iowa, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.** Members of each order present

were asked to stand and be recognized as their history was given. Those in attendance were the Honorable Terry Branstad, Governor of Iowa; Colonel Robert King, retired, Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Lt. Colonel Joni Ernst, Iowa Army National Guard and Iowa State Senator; members of the Legion, VFW, AmVets, DAV, Marine Corps League and Company A, 37<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, SVR.

**“The nine flags we rededicate here today represent nine different organizations, but all represent the same “esprit de corps”.** Though sewn by different seamstresses, at different times in our nation’s history, all are sewn with the same fabric and held together with the same thread.



That Fabric, common to each of these flags is:

1. To Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States
2. To unite fraternally with veteran members of the United States Military who served in these various conflicts
3. To assist former comrades in need of help and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen
4. and To honor the memory of our fallen comrades and keep our history alive

We, in this room are that thread.

By our devotion, our duty and our honor, this fabric is held together.

We are gathered here on this Veterans Day 2013, to rededicate these nine flags. A flag by definition is a piece of cloth used as a symbol, standard or emblem for identification; a symbol, standard or emblem by which those men are remembered. It is those veterans we dedicate here today, and it is for us, gathered in this room and gathered throughout this nation; who are to be rededicated; rededicated to the memory of all who serve our Country, past or present. It is our obligation, our duty, and our honor as Veterans and as Citizens of the United States, to remember those who have gone before us and their sacrifices. No matter the conflict, or passage of time, it is our sacred bond, as brothers and sisters, to come together, and honor all who have worn the uniform of these United States of America.”

**The day’s events can best be summarized by the following, submitted by the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation:**

*“Discharge from service never discharged us from our memories.*

*Neither were we discharged from our obligations to each other. When we meet in chapters or reunions we do not greet each other with a recitation of the preamble, but we do fulfill that preamble. By our gatherings we perpetuate the spirit of comradeship - we are continuing unbroken that fine friendship, and without ostentation, perpetuate the sacred memory of our valiant dead. We do not pronounce these things in words, but by our gatherings, the slap on the back, and the swapping of stories, true and otherwise. On these great occasions, we are all an indivisible WHOLE”.*

**submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty**  
**Danny Krock, JVC, Dept. of Iowa, SUVCW**





## RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOUNDATION OCTOBER 16, 2013 – DECEMBER 15, 2013

**FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND** Mike and Susan Braun, 50.00; Shiraz Choudhury, 30.00; Trudy Bender, 50.00; Denise Miller, 10.00 – for Irvin Miller; William Roberge, 100.00 – for Ted Ruhling; Rick and Terri Schuck, 50.00 – for Jean McNicol

**SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND** Jamie and Sharon Ulbright, 50.00 – for Jean McNicol; Terry McIntosh, 100.00 – for Jean McNicol; Jim McNicol, 500.00 – for Jean McNicol; Jean McNicol's nieces and nephews, 600.00 – for Jean McNicol; Dennis and Barbara Neptune, 50.00 – for Jean McNicol; Patti Lucas, 25.00 – for Jean McNicol; Dale McNicol, 50.00 – for Jean McNicol; Melanie Remple, 100.00 – for Bill Bender

#### WWII RAINBOW DEATHS REPORTED SINCE 15 OCTOBER 2013

**BRIGGS**, Stair William, Austria Occupation, unit unreported

**CURLIS**, Meric A. Co. E-232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**DOLLINS**, Loyd Co. A-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**HITCHCOCK**, Walter L., Co. I-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**KIRK**, David K. Co. I-222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**KUZMA**, Anthony H. 42DivHqCo

**LILLQUIST**, Arthur T. Co. B-232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**LIVINGSTON**, Charles Co. E-222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**MACKENZIE**, John A. Co. H-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**MAPLE**, Gerald F. Svc Btry-392<sup>nd</sup> Artillery

**MARTIN**, Thomas Ocie, Jr. Co. I-222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**MEYER**, Leonard G. 742 Ordnance

**ROCHE**, Clifford F. Jr., H3B-222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**SHEEHAN**, Howard P. Co. C-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**SIMMONS**, Vernon E. Co. B-222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**SMITH**, Armond W. Co. F-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**WESTER**, Buford E. Co. B-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**YELICK**, Karl T. "Ted" Camp Gruber 1943

**ZIMMER**, Henry G. Co. H-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**CORRECTIONS** to the Memorial List published in The November 2013 issue of **REVEILLE** –

With our apologies for these four incorrect listings for men who are still living –

Glenn E. SCHMIDT 242-A;

Richard D. SCHMITZ, H1B-232;

Morton M. BARRISH, 122 Med Bn-D

Louis H. FREEMAN, 142 Combat Eng. Co. C

**UNIT UNREPORTED** for Daniel A. BUZZEO

has been corrected to Co. G-242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

With our **THANKS** to all who have noticed and reported these errors

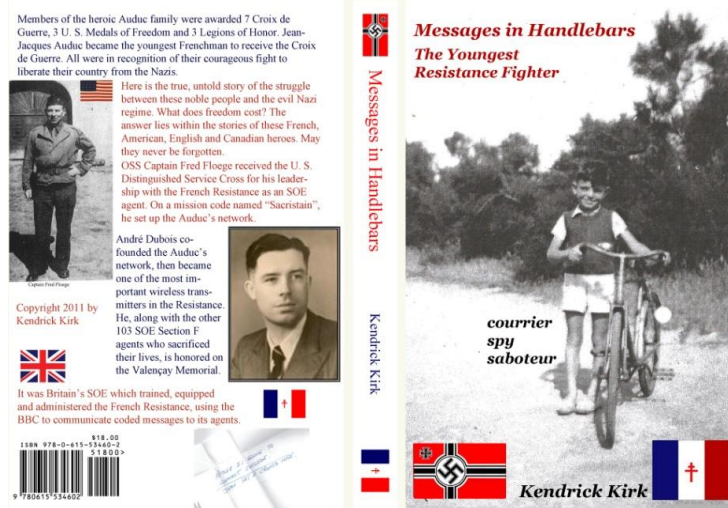
#### A MESSAGE OF THANKS and best wishes To the Rainbow Division WWII

**From Arnold Jochmaring, Saskatoon, Sask. CANADA**

I found your website on the computer and would like to thank the Rainbow Division for looking after me at the end of WWII. I was a 15 year-old boy and a child soldier in the German Army in Berchtesgarden. A flare gun exploded in my right hand and your medics came with a Jeep and put me on a stretcher, just like in the Mash show. I was taken to a Mash-like tent in Gross Germain in Austria and the Doctors fixed my badly damaged right hand. They already had Penicillin and saved my hand and did not have to amputate it. Lucky me. I've lived in Canada for the last 60 years and tried to get in touch and thank some of the Soldiers that treated me so well. I was the "pet" in the tent Lazaret. My only wish is that I could have met some of the lovely men in my many trips to your country.

**Merry Christmas and the best for 2014.**

#### BOOK LIST "Messages In Handlebars" by Kendrick Kirk



#### FROM A REVEILLE READER

**Mr. T. Fazzini** read Dr. Morton Brooks' story in the November 2013 issue of *Reveille* and has sent us the following update:

DEAR EDITOR,

"In regard to page 6, apparently the U.S. POW "Goldman" killed at Berga by Erwin Metz on March 14/15, 1945 was Pvt. Morton Goldstein of Battery "C" 590 Field Artillery 106<sup>th</sup> Division.

A link to a survivor of Berga in 2008 can be found here:

<http://forum.axishistory.com/viewtopic.php?f=38&p=1324938>

**Jean-Jacques Auduc** is the youngest Frenchman to receive the Croix de Guerre, awarded for his resistance activities as a twelve year old. **His father, Alfred Auduc, was among those liberated from Dachau by the Rainbow Division. His mother, Renee Auduc, was imprisoned at Ravensbruck. All three received the U. S. Medal of Freedom and France's Legion of Honor.** The Auduc's assisted four U. S. airmen from two B-17's downed on July 4, 1943, near Le Mans, France, to repatriate to England.

The Auduc's resistance network was formed by American OSS officer Fred Floege and French SOE agent Andres Dubois. Each action, each message was wrought with danger as the Gestapo hunted their network incessantly.

This book was recently endorsed by Sir Peter F. Ricketts, the British Ambassador to France. It is available for \$23, which covers shipping, by contacting Ken Kirk via Email: [wkenkirk@gmail.com](mailto:wkenkirk@gmail.com) Proceeds benefit the now 82 year-old Jean-Jacques Auduc, who lives a modest life, but has a heart of gold.