



Faithful Rainbowers Attend Time-Honored Commemoration at Birmingham, Alabama on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014



Report from WWII Rainbow son and past RDVF Chairman, Earnie Owen

National Veterans Day in Birmingham takes pride in being the home to the largest and longest-running commemoration of Veterans Day in the U.S.. The parade after the Peace Luncheon on November 11 is the culmination of a great week of celebrating America's Veterans. We again had a nice group present to represent the 42nd Rainbow Division. There was beautiful weather for the days leading up to, and through Veterans Day. Rainbow's time in Birmingham began on November 9th when all who had already arrived, gathered at Jim & Nick's BBQ for a great night of food and comradery. The next day brought a trip to Talladega Super Speedway. All those who made the trip were treated to a ride around the 2.66 mile track. Television does not do this place justice. We saw a great number of cars that had formally raced there. There is so much to see, it would be difficult to go everywhere and see everything in one day, but it was a good 2 to 3 hours well spent.



When Monday evening arrived, we got ready for the Annual Awards Dinner at the beautiful Sheraton Hotel. It's amazing to see all the veterans present from WWII, to our current men and women of the armed forces in America. Of course the Rainbow had our own table. Just before our meal, we were addressed by the, then current, United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, via satellite. At the end of the meal we were able to view a prerecorded ceremony, when the 2014 National Veterans Award was presented to former U.S. Senator Bob Dole. The National Veterans Award specifically recognizes his unwavering support of our troops in the field and his commitment to ensuring quality medical care

REVEILLE

VOL. XCIV JANUARY 2015 NO. 2
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY – OCTOBER, JANUARY, APRIL, JULY
PUBLISHED ONLINE <RAINBOWVETS.ORG>

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2015

Happy New Year's to all our RDVF members and their families! As I mentioned in the October edition of the Reveille, the Foundation got quite a bit accomplished during 2014. Two new memorials for the Iraq Veterans were established. Our finances were reinvested and are doing great. 20K dollars in scholarship money was granted to descendants of RDVF members. We had the Chief of the National Guard Bureau at our Annual Reunion and we expanded our membership by over 150.

This year we have already scheduled our Annual Reunion date for Aug 13-16 at West Point, New York. We plan to make our annual gathering more social by having a golf tournament, a tour of the Military Academy and a day trip to the 911 Museum in NYC. Our reunion and awards banquet is scheduled for Sat night Aug 15th and will be less formal than years past. I hope you can attend some or all of our activities. Keep checking the website and REVEILLE for the details. It will be great to see you!

We continue to look for ways to improve our current programs and seek new ways to use social media so we can have more interaction between our members and their families.

The Foundation board will hold its mid-year meeting February 7th at the Division Hq's in Troy and discuss these issues along with setting our agenda for the Annual Reunion. A free cocktail party will be held that same evening at the Lansingburgh VFW. Check the events tab on the website for details.

Finally, for those RDVF members that have graduating HS students it's time to start thinking about submitting an application for a possible scholarship award! The information is included in this edition of the Reveille and can be found on line at www.rainbowvets.org under the scholarship tab. We will present the awards at the Annual Banquet.

RAINBOW NEVER FORGET!
Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman



The 167th Infantry Alabama National Guard places a traditional wreath at the Rainbow Viaduct in Birmingham, AL
Photo by Major John C. Craft, USARMY NG ALARNG



BOOK RECOMMENDATION - **America and World War I: A Traveler's Guide** Paperback – by Mark D. Van Ells, Interlink Pub. Group, November 2014, 432 pages. "Follows the Doughboy from the Home Front to the Western Front, mapping the many memorials built in his honor."

for veterans during his time in the Senate. This Award was presented by Congressman Spencer Bachus of Alabama. After the Peace Luncheon came the nation's oldest Veterans Day Parade. Thanks to all who have served and continue to have a lifelong commitment. All things considered, it was another successful trip to Birmingham. All Rainbowers who attended enjoyed three days of festivities and fellowship. Rainbow families in attendance during the BIRMINGHAM festivities were Jackie Praytor, Charlotte Ray, Linda Fiveash, Earnie and Linda Owen, John Wallace, Robert Wallace, Noni Wallace, Madeline Wallace, John Robert Wallace, Parker Wallace and Amy Cauble; photos on left are from Earnie Owen

Deadline for the April 2015 issue is 10 April 2015

RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the
Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation
Published Since 1920

Founder & Permanent Honorary President

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (Dec)

Permanent Honorary Presidents

Major General Harry J. Collins (Dec)

General Henri Gouraud (Dec)

Brigadier General Henning Linden (Dec)

FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Joe Taluto

4937 Pacifico CT Palm Beach Gardens FL 33418-8995

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

FOUNDATION VICE CHAIRMAN

Paul Genereux

392 NE Abaca Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957-4603

<pgener1788@aol.com>

MEMORIALS OFFICER

Paul Fanning

150 Thimbleberry Rd Malta, NY 12020-4377

<pfanning@nycap.rr.com> (518)899-8194

FOUNDATION SECRETARY

Melanie K. Remple

500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1485

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

FOUNDATION TREASURER

Peter P. Riley

22 Almond Tree Lane Warwick, NY 10990 - 2442

HISTORIAN

Patrick Chaisson

508 Glen Avenue Scotia, NY 12302-1412

<patchais@aol.com> 518-374-1473

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Paul Sausville

202 Middle Line Road Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3304

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

<paol.j.sausville.mil@mail.mil>

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Paul Genereux

392 NE Abaca Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957-4603

<pgener1788@aol.com>

REUNIONS OFFICER

John J. Willsey

48 McDonald Dr Cohoes, NY 12047-1119

<john.j.willsey.civ@mail.mil> (518)237-1378

CHAPLAIN

Eric W. Olsen

304 Glenwood Dr Saranac Lake, NY 129832389

<Eric.w.olsen2.mil@mail.mil> (518)354-9999

LIAISON OFFICER

Richard J. Tisch

502 Fairmont Avenue Chatham, NJ 07928-1328

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

REVEILLE EDITOR

Suellen R. McDaniel

1400 Knolls Drive Newton, NC 28658-9452

(828) 464-1466 <jmac1400@aol.com>

PHOTOGRAPHER

Peter K. Towse

6499 Fremont Rd East Syracuse, NY 13057-9456

(315) 706-1094 <pktowse@gmail.com>

Vol. XCIV JANUARY 2015 No. 2

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Published October, January, April, July

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS TO: REVEILLE

Editor: Suellen R. McDaniel (address above)

REPORTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Missourian Publishing Company

P.O. Box 336 Washington, MO 63090

c/o Angie C. Deaton <deatona@missourian.com>

PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Melanie K. Remple

500 Campbell Lane NW Hutchinson, MN 55350-1485

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

DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25/annually)

may be sent directly to National Secretary,

Melanie K. Remple, address above

Almighty God, as we pursue the war on terrorism, we commend this nation to thy merciful care, that being guided by thy Providence we may dwell secure in thy favor. Grant to our President, to Congress, to the Judiciary, and to all in positions of authority, the wisdom and the strength to know what is right for us. Make them ever mindful of their calling to serve their people honorably and to promote peace among all the nations of the world. **AMEN.**

Norman P. Forde, RDVA Chaplain, (COL, U.S. Army, ret.)

Co. I, 222nd Infantry, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, WWII

First published in the January 2006 Rainbow REVEILLE

SID SHAFNER'S MEMORY OF THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU, the twelfth in a series of speeches from 42nd 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 also be published on their website in the near future. The Photos below have been sent by Sid Shafner, HQ Co./222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division.

AT LEAST SOMETHING GOOD HAS ARISEN FROM THE ASHES OF DACHAU

By Sid Shafner, I & R Platoon, HQ Co, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division



I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. on September 14, 1921. I was educated at Temple University. When I entered the service, I was sent to study engineering at Regis College in Denver. In that city I met my future wife, Esther. In 1944, I was transferred to the Rainbow Division at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Home again in 1946, I married, and we celebrated our golden anniversary in 1996. We have three children; a daughter who teaches school, a son in real estate and a second son who is a lawyer. I was in real estate and also in the furniture business. I was twenty four at Dachau. **My Dachau experience is more in the nature of a human interest story that continues to this day.** Our I & R Platoon, consisting of seven jeeps and

twenty eight men were patrolling the road to Munich. It was a narrow, rural roadway, and the village of Dachau was just another "Dorf" (town), and on the map it appeared just like any other German "Dorf". We didn't think too much of it, but when the tall church steeple in the center of town came into view, we had our jeep-mounted .30 Caliber machine guns at the ready. On previous occasions we had discovered that the Germans would place snipers in those steeples.

As we approached the outskirts of the town late that morning, we encountered a couple of fifteen year old kids, two boys who flagged us down. They wore black and white striped clothes, and quite frankly, at first glance we were quite startled and surprised. They asked if anyone could speak Greek or Spanish or German. I had learned Yiddish from my Grandparents, which is similar to German. I became the Interpreter. **They told us we must come quickly because there was a trainload of dead Concentration Camp prisoners on a railroad siding, just outside of the town.** I told those kids, since they wore strange looking clothes, not to play games with us. We were American soldiers; and if they were with a Circus or Carnival, we had no time for pranks! But they kept insisting that they were serious and were telling us the truth. I got on my SCR 300 Radio and notified Lt. Short in the Headquarters jeep, two jeeps behind us, and told him what we had just heard. Lt. Short then radioed the information to Regimental Headquarters – and the rest is history.

Now, for the human-interest part of my story. We took the two kids with us. They told us they were part of a Greek-Jewish family in Salonika, Greece. The Germans came to the city, killed their families and shipped the able-bodied to work in the Concentration Camps. The inmates of Dachau, after the Liberation, were put into D.P. (displaced persons) Camps. But I & R Platoon kept those two kids with us. Up till now, we had hired German civilians to do our K.P. work. But from here on, we had the boys do it. They were happy to work for their food. We gave them some old O.D. (olive drab) uniforms, without insignia, and decent shoes. They did a good job and everyone liked them. They rode with us when we took Munich that next day; and on into Salzburg, where we were told of the German surrender. The boys remained with us when we went to Linz, and on to Vienna. They look care of all the kitchen work, and were considered almost like a part of the outfit.

When April, 1946 arrived it was time for me to go home and be discharged, but the boys, who were now 16, had never been registered at any D.P. Camp. I took them to the Allied Joint Distribution Office in Vienna, which had set up shop there a few months earlier. The kids explained their story, and I recounted how our outfit had picked them up. One of them, Joe Salas, had met a young Viennese girl, and decided to remain there. The other lad, Marcel Levy, said he had an uncle in Israel. which at the time was Palestine. The Joint Distribution Committee arranged for him to go there and, at least, be united with a part of his family.

We have been in touch with each other over all these years. Marcel met and married a Greek-Jewish girl in Israel. They have two daughters and are now proud grandparents. As a result of Marcel's kitchen work with us, he became a cook in the Israeli Army and served in the various wars that Israel has fought.

In 1970, my wife and I were invited by an organization in Holland to participate in the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of that group's liberation from Dachau.

I remember that veterans from the 45th Division were also invited. We were wined and dined and appeared on TV and in the newspapers. These people had resisted the German Occupation Forces,



and hid Dutch Jews, in a manner similar to the Anne Frank Story. Afterward, my wife and I decided to go to Israel to visit Marcel Levy and his family. We met in Tel Aviv, in the lobby of our hotel. They had been waiting for us all day. Marcel and I recognized each other; we embraced and burst into tears. We introduced the wives and then we just talked and talked and talked for hours and hours and hours. We are very close.

Whenever any of my family or friends visit Israel, they always look up Marcel and his wife. And all of us, here and in Israel, are extremely pleased that my granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah was held in Israel in June 1995. **I'm sure that many of my Rainbow Buddies have adequately and accurately described the horrors of Dachau. But I feel that this human-interest story - this closeness between Shafners and the Levys will continue long after Marcel and I are gone. At least, something good had arisen from the ashes of Dachau.**

The liberation of Dachau is important to next generations because in my experience the kids of today are taking a "ho-hum" attitude. **I have tried to correct that by accepting invitations to describe my experiences at various high schools and universities.** I think the abuse of power in the case of the Nazis stems from the power-hungry people that were in their government. As an example, the people in the village of Dachau told me they were ordered by their government to do certain abuses. I had no problem building up a normal civilian life after the war. I went back to the same work. I don't think I'm qualified to advise returning veterans. **After the war I put my experiences behind me except for the fact that I did what I could to let people know that the concentration camps really did exist and the abuses really did happen.** Unfortunately, the Holocaust deniers are still around and I offer to debate them whenever I can. My daughter taught American and European history for many years at Fridley High School in Minneapolis and she has some of my memorabilia. When she gets to concentration camps she lets them know in no uncertain terms that they really did happen. Her name is Elayne Feldman and she has attended most of the reunions with me.



On Sunday, December 21, 2014 Sid Shafner was awarded an honorary diploma by President of Regis University, Denver, CO, Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J., completing the studies for which Sid had been sent to Regis University by the U.S. Army and cut short when he was transferred to the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division in training at Camp Gruber, OK in 1944. Graduation Photo from Elayne Feldman, Sid's daughter

A NOTE TO DACHAU LIBERATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND DESCENDANTS From **Mr. Jaap Mesdag** – We're looking for WWII personal objects that relate to the liberation of Dachau that could be loaned to us for a display at the exhibition in the Verzetsmuseum (Museum of the National Resistance Against the Nazis). If such an item will lead to a "speech" from a proud relative, 2nd or 3rd generation, this may begin a new series in our project of collecting Dachau Speeches! The format might be: the object for exhibition, to which veteran it belonged, how this veteran was involved in the liberation of Dachau, how did he fare after the war and why does the relative who brings in the object on loan think it is important that the liberation of Dachau and the stories of the prisoners and their liberators should be remembered. This could lead to another exhibition with the stories of the former prisoners from the Namen statt Nummern (names instead of numbers) project since their biographies are written by high school students.

Jaap Mesdag, representative of Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners, The Netherlands

To learn more, please contact Frank Burns, info above, or the REVEILLE editor.

Our first response is from Richard Shold, son of WWII Rainbow Soldier, Gordon I. Shold, H3B/222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division.

All photos are from Richard Shold.

When my grandfather got off the boat from Norway at the Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, in 1915, they asked him: "What's your last name?" In broken English he replied, "Aaerskjold," the immigration

official wrote down "Shold" and that is how, like many other immigrants, our family would be known in America. He eventually settled in Madison, WI, had four children, a son and three daughters, and worked as a construction laborer and later a construction supervisor which spanned forty years. His eldest child, Gordon, was my father, born in 1922. He died in 1983 at the age of 60 from heart disease. **As a child of the depression my father knew that whatever he would obtain in life he would have to earn.** He was an outstanding football player and speed skater, playing on numerous championship teams and winning many individual medals and awards in high school and college. Little did he realize that his work ethic and upper body strength developed from working construction with/for his father and coupled with his natural speed and endurance, enhanced by a love of speed skating, would serve him well as a member of the Ammunition and Pioneer (A&P) Platoon in the 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division, in World War II. **As a young person trying to find my own way, I didn't ask many questions about his World War II experiences.** I was always intrigued, though. His responses to my questions, other than humorous stories, were primarily brief and vague. Having worked as a police officer, I now understand how difficult it is to explain unusual life and death situations to those who have not been there. It was after watching the movie "Saving Private Ryan" that my interest piqued to do some research on his unit hoping to find mention of his name. I was amazed at all the information, books, cd's, magazine articles and the vast network of people who are organized into honoring and remembering the 42nd Division.



My father had been in the Wisconsin National Guard in high school and while in his second year of college, in 1943, he volunteered for the Army Air Corps. The Air Corps initially stationed him at Camp Roberts in California. In June 1944 the Allies invaded Normandy. Based on the invasion and subsequent battles on the continent, the U.S. lost many infantrymen. To replenish these losses the Army scoured the ranks for replacements. Much to my father's and many other members of the Air Corps chagrin, his air group was disbanded and shipped to various infantry training camps. My father was sent to Camp Gruber in Muskogee, Oklahoma to serve in the 42nd Infantry Division. Can you imagine migrating from west coast living to the dust bowl – from living as flyers who sleep in beds at night to ground pounding grunts who sleep in foxholes the size of graves, eventually living in those foxholes in what resulted in 1944-45 as one of the coldest, bitterest winters in European history? **While at Camp Gruber my father's combat assignment was determined in an unusual and amusing way.** They were on training maneuvers and the officer in charge told the men to run, with packs and rifles, until they couldn't run anymore. An artillery barrage would be sent over their heads when they had ceased running. My father, being a natural athlete, and with basic PT conditioning, just kept running while everyone else stopped. As the forward observer was watching the artillery rounds land, supposedly in front of the infantry, he commenced a "CEASE FIRE!" Unbelievably, there was someone in the barrage area. It was my father. He immediately was jeeped back to the Colonel for an a--chewing. His defense to the Colonel was "they told us to run until we got tired. I never got tired." **The Colonel must have seen potential in this soldier as my father was immediately assigned to the Ammunition and Pioneer (A&P) platoon.** A "Pioneer" sounds like a benign assignment, such as someone who is discovering new land in the old west; however, it was the Army's job title for someone who would go before an advance to clear land mines/boobytraps, or diffuse/disarm any found enemy land mines/boobytraps, or set charges of TNT to blow up enemy bridges and pillboxes, or to set land mines/booby traps on a withdrawal." Needless to say one is always in or very near no man's land. He began smoking in the service which probably helped with this type of assignment. **After Camp Gruber, the 42nd Division's 3 infantry regiments, the 222nd, 232nd and 242nd, were organized into Task Force Linden and sent to the ETO without their own supporting troops, including their field artillery and special troops which arrived later in mid-January 1945.** Task Force Linden traveled by train to New York Harbor, where ironically his father entered the U.S. in 1915, and shipped to Marseilles, France, arriving in early December 1944. The 42nd then traveled in 40 & 8 boxcars and trucks to the Alsace area around the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944. With

the Bulge deteriorating, General Patton took many troops North to close the Bulge. The 42nd, along with other infantry units were left in what was thought to be a relatively quiet area.

The Germans, having lost the Bulge, then attacked just under it, in the Alsace area in what was called Operation Northwind. My father told me that based on information of atrocities at the Bulge, especially Malmedy, U.S. troops took little mercy on hardcore Nazi SS troops. My father said they were just impossible to reason with. They were so tough and indoctrinated in thinking they were super human that they would break ice on frozen water in outdoor sinks, with their elbows, just to wash up. When the news spread about Malmedy and other atrocities, few SS were taken prisoners by the 42nd. If they took prisoners, especially SS around this time, a Sergeant would assign one man to take captured prisoners back from the front line for interrogation. When soldiers would return earlier than expected his standard line of reply was "they were shot while trying to escape." Years later, I am sure many men of the 42nd who may have been tasked with this suffered in silence in what is now PTSD. The recently released movie, "Fury," starring Brad Pitt, has a somewhat similar scene that depicts this war-conditioned behavior that many people do not want to accept as having been done by U.S. military personnel. It is ironic that I have read in certain publications that the 42nd was described by the Germans as Roosevelt's SS. **For action during Operation Northwind my father was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.** The citation, signed by Harry J. Collins, Major General, USA, Commanding, reads: "Gordon I. Shold, 16 115 446, Private First Class, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 222nd Infantry, for meritorious achievement in action on January 24, 1945, near Neubourg, France. During the fighting around Neubourg, France, Private Shold, although aware of the imminence of enemy action, advanced beyond our lines to lay an anti-tank mine road block. Despite the sub-zero weather, he waded a small stream, crossed 100 yards of open ground, and completely disregarding his own safety, completed the land mine road block before being forced to return to the safety of our lines by enemy small arms and mortar fire. Private Shold's courageous action contributed materially to halting an enemy attack which developed later that night. Entered service from Madison, WI." [The 222nd Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for action in the Ohlungen Forest and the vicinity of Schweighausen and Neubourg, France on 24 and 25 January 1945] The Colonel at Camp Gruber who chewed him out was spot-on for "Pioneer" potential in my father.

After Operation Northwind his detachment was taken off the line and refitted. Later, they fought their way in many hard battles across the middle of Germany and south into Bavaria. The 222nd was one of the first units, if not the first, to liberate Dachau. My father did not speak much about Dachau other than he always questioned why God would let this happen. I don't think he ever made peace with God over Dachau. My sister and I were raised in a traditional Christian fashion. Our father, being a community leader as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent of a high school would attend church, being a good role model for us and the community. But he had seen and done things he felt no one should have had to do. He kept many of those vivid memories to himself. How would anyone who wasn't there ever understand? One of the few times he ever said anything about Dachau was when he retired, for health reasons on disability from heart disease at the age of 52. The local newspaper did an article about him and his career. **In the article he was quoted, "The most searing event of my life, even more than heart surgery, was being a part of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. From that experience we must never allow the abuse of power upon anyone."** That was the only time I had heard him talk about Dachau. My Dad would occasionally go into detail, after watching a WWII movie together. After the movie, "The Young Lions," starring Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift and Dean Martin, I remember asking him if he had ever shot anyone in the war. He replied, they were so far away he could not tell. At my current age of 64 I now realize he could not answer honestly because as a child, I would look at him differently and he knew that. **During that same discussion he did relay a rather sad event that happened to his best buddy Sandy Berkwitz.** The war was over on May 8, 1945 and many GI's had numerous souvenirs as the Germans had armed just about everyone. Sandy had a captured .32 caliber pistol, with pearl handles, and on May 25, 1945 a new replacement with no combat experience asked Sandy if he could see the pistol. Sandy said, "sure," and handed the replacement the pistol butt end first, barrel toward Sandy. Either the replacement grabbed the pistol too quickly, or got his finger too far

inside the trigger guard, or the pistol had a hair trigger. **The pistol discharged and hit Sandy in the chest. He died of his wound the next day.** He said Sandy was his best buddy and they had even shared the same toothbrush when they were on the front in foxholes. Can you imagine the horror for anyone there who had known Sandy, especially my Dad who had just watched his best buddy die in a freak accident, after they had seen and done so much and survived the war? I'm sure my Dad thought of that day often, but kept it to himself. That was the only time he ever mentioned it. Sandy is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France. *[photo right, taken in Regensburg, Germany only minutes before the accident. PFC Shold on the right with PFC Sanford B. "Sandy" Berkwitz on the left. Inset photo above is of Sandy Berkwitz].*

Another sad event my Dad never talked about was exactly how he got shot in the left arm. As he was left handed this wound prevented him from being able to turn his hand over from a prone to supine position. Basically, if his hand was lying palm down he could turn it only 90 degrees and couldn't do a full 180 degrees to turn it over. This kept him out of dental school; however, he received a 30% disability pay for life. We always had new cars. **A couple of years ago I decided to try to find out what had happened, as he never had a Purple Heart Medal, but had been shot.** It was another accident with another captured pistol. The medical report stated that, after the war, on June 2, 1945 in a barracks, someone on the floor below him either didn't know or didn't check whether or not the 9mm Luger he was handling was loaded. It discharged and hit my Dad in the left wrist creating a compound fracture, traveled up the arm, embedding watch parts from the watch he was wearing and coming to rest at the inside of his elbow. It was quite a scar. One foot to his midline and he might not have come home, which would have also kept me from writing this memoir. Funny how random and lucky life can be – Sandy is accidentally shot by a fellow soldier after the war and dies. My Dad is shot by a fellow soldier after the war and lives till 1983. I am sure my Dad also quietly suffered survivor's guilt when thinking of Sandy and probably many other instances where he lived while others died. **One aspect of military life not discussed much is the cynicism of front line troops for troops in the rear.** My Dad used to call them the "mess kit" division – anyway, he told me that during/after the war he had a Luger, a Walther P-38, a .32 caliber pistol and a couple of SS ceremonial daggers and swords to bring home. While he was laying in the hospital sleeping and recovering, someone in the "mess kit" division stole all his souvenirs except for a flag with a swastika on it. It's probably a good thing they were stolen as I would have been, as a child, very curious to look and handle the souvenirs. **Through my childhood to my 32nd year, when my Dad died, I will always remember that he was not afraid of anything or anyone, ever...**I'm sure having been through everything he experienced in WWII made civilian life pretty tame and non-threatening. I miss him and think of him often. I wish now that he was still alive; he would be about 92. I would have many questions for him that I did not have the maturity or prying curiosity to ask when he was still here. A lot of guys, like him, died with these tremendous memories and experiences that we could all learn from now.



Softcover reprints of 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division A Combat History of World War II edited by LT Hugh C. Daly and originally published in 1946 are still available for purchase from Cindy Kirkpatrick. **Please be in touch with Cindy at this email address for further information - <gmacindyk@gmail.com>**

In Honor of All Who Served in the 42nd "Rainbow" Division 70 Years Ago – and in Memory of those Rainbow Soldiers of Company A, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division who died or were taken prisoner at Sessenheim, France on January 18-19, 1945.

SESSENHEIM, FRANCE

January 18-19, 1945

SAM POLIS, a machine gunner with Weapons Platoon, A/232, in a letter responding to WWII Rainbow veteran and author, Richard “Dick” Engler, wrote, “About Sessenheim...A lot of people don’t know how people “get captured,” and it’s not an easy story to tell. But I have relived it, so I guess my memory of the story will be fairly accurate. I also feel that someone should write the story of Sessenheim. We’re all getting older now and the story will die with us. So perhaps one small view of what happened should survive us.”

From materials collected by **Don Williams, H1B/232 and editor of The First News** –

In September 1945, two members of A/232 who had been taken prisoner in Sessenheim, FR on 18 January 1945 were summoned by the War

Department, Office of the Judge Advocate General, to be interviewed by the War Crimes Office, “In the matter of the shooting of American prisoners of war after surrender, on march from Sessenheim, NW of Strausberg [sic], to Fort Louis [about 1 hr march from Sessenheim], France, January 18, 1945”.

FROM TESTIMONY OF S/SGT JAMES F. NICHOLS, A/232

Q. Were you ever taken as a prisoner of war; if so, will you please state the circumstances under which you were captured?

A. On January 18, 1945 I was with a group, a part of Company A of the 232nd Infantry. We made an attack on the town of Sessenheim northwest of Strausberg [sic]. The attack was made on the 17th. We had taken a certain portion of the town and were scheduled to attack at 4 P.M. on the 17th. The attack was called off due to insufficient equipment, and our orders were to stand by. We moved into a building on the outskirts of the town, set up general outposts and made ourselves as comfortable as possible for the evening. Around 8 o’clock the following morning we lost communication with our higher headquarters. At approximately 6 o’clock the Germans started their attack and infiltrated up to our quarters and started throwing hand grenades. Most of these men were knocked off. Then a messenger came through just at dawn with orders from Colonel Custer, our Battalion Commander, to hold out at all costs. Then the messenger left and by that time every man was on the alert. We had two tanks and two tank destroyers that were blown up, so that left us with nothing but small arms to fire. Then the Germans commenced to move in from all sides. We held them off until around noon. At approximately 11:30 I gave the order to surrender. I waved a white flag out of the window, which was immediately shot from my hands. Then we shoved a white sheet out of the window, destroyed all of our equipment, personal belongings and any other items that might have given our organization away. Then leading the column, I marched out of the house, hands over my head. The Germans immediately put us in a column of twos and marched us about twenty yards from the house.

FROM TESTIMONY OF SGT GERALD O’BRIEN, A/232 –

Q. State the circumstances under which you were captured by the Germans.

A. We had taken the town of Sessenheim on the 17th of January 1945, and in the afternoon we were to go in and take the next town, which was about 1000 yards or more away—just a little settlement. We were to move out at 4:00 P.M. Until that time we were deployed in a wooded area. We were to have an artillery barrage to soften our advance before we moved in, which was to start at 3:50 P.M. In view of the fact that we didn’t get artillery support, Colonel Custer gave up the idea of taking the town. Then we were broken down into small groups and assigned to various houses on the outskirts—strong points as they were called. We were told to hold these at all costs, which we did. About midnight we heard that reinforcements were on the way—armored and infantry—and we were to sit tight until they arrived. About 5:00 A.M. the Germans started to try and get us out. We held them off until about 3:00 in the afternoon. At that time the Germans gave up trying to get

us out with infantry and brought up two tanks and some bazooka men and proceeded to pull the place down. Shortly after this we left the house and were taken captive by the Germans, who had completely surrounded the house I was in.

Q. How many men were with you in this house?

A. Off hand I’d say 18 or 20 men.

Q. State what you saw after leaving the house.

A. I saw the group of Americans lined up, and I saw a German officer making a lot of threatening gestures and heard him yelling about the shooting of a German medic by Americans. He took 4 men and sent them up the street with a German soldier. These men came back in a few minutes carrying a dead German, and they put him in a pile with the rest of the dead Germans. Then the German officer pulled 7 more men out of the group and sent them up the street in charge of a German soldier; I don’t know whether he was a private or a non-commissioned officer. They went up the street and that is the last I saw of them. The rest of the Americans who had been captured stayed in this same area still in formation for a good twenty minutes, and the group of 7 men never returned.

SAM POLIS’ story continued later in his narrative, “We were always ready for a final assault. We expected grenades first, but some of us would have still been alive to fire in the direction of the stairs. But just sitting and lying in the basement waiting for the tank to finish us off didn’t seem right. It didn’t seem fair.

It was about this time that our acting sergeant suggested surrendering. Our latest hope had been to hold out until dark and then try to get back somehow. But it was now 3 p.m. and we’d all be dead by nightfall. The acting sergeant knew we had heard of American prisoners being shot after capture “up north” where we had heard the Germans had broken through, but he explained that if we were shot after we surrendered, we wouldn’t be any more dead than if we had stayed in the basement. **So we had nothing to lose.** In spite of this reasoning, some of us didn’t want to surrender. He explained that if anyone stayed back and continued to fight, it would be certain death for those that surrendered. There wasn’t much discussion on this. We didn’t take a vote. A few minutes later, he ordered all of us to surrender. I wanted to get rid of my dog tags first. They had my religion on them (“H” for Hebrew) and if we survived capture, I didn’t want to handicap myself. In the basement, there was a dead German, who we hid by covering him with rutabagas. I removed some of the rutabagas as the others trudged slowly up the stairs and threw my dog tags on the dead German soldier and hastily covered him back up with rutabagas. I then joined the line, carrying my loaded carbine with me. I placed it behind the door to the kitchen. If the Germans started mistakenly shooting as our first men went out the door, I wanted to have a weapon to come back to. We marched out, hands above our heads, about 15 of us left. No helmets, just wool knit hats. Some hollered “Kamarad,” which I guess was the proper thing to say. We were all covered with plaster and debris and must have looked like very “sad sacks” since we were shell-shocked and frightened and at their mercy. As I looked up, it seemed as though the second floor of every building all around us was swarming with white-clothed Germans waiting for us to try to break out. They lined us up in three rows of about five men each. The one in charge, probably a lieutenant, asked us, in German, if any of us could speak German. No one answered, and then I think he said, in German, that they were going to take us all down by the church and shoot us. None of us showed any emotion. He then arbitrarily picked out about six or seven of our group, including the man in front of me and the man on my left and separated them from us. We were then marched away. I had assumed that the ones they picked out were going to be used to help gather the German dead from yesterday and today. Perhaps the American dead, too. But we never saw them again. As we moved back through the Black Forest and other collecting points, we met other Rainbows from our own company who were captured in other towns on different days. But we never saw the men from our own platoon who were separated from us shortly after our capture. After the war I learned that one of the separated group was home also. His letter follows:

A LETTER FROM GEORGE SOTAK, A/232 FEBRUARY 12, 1946

Hi Sam [Polis], Received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. Thanks a lot for getting those three addresses for me. I’m getting nowhere here and the doc said I should be getting out in three weeks. I’ll be getting out on points, no CDD [combat disability discharge]. To get a CDD, one has to be half-dead. My back and chest are hurting, but can’t convince the doctors.



Here's what happened to us when we were separated from you guys: the only guys that I saw in our group were from the first squad and that is why I wanted their addresses. One of these days when I get the nerve, I'll write to their parents and let them know just what did happen. Do you think I should?

When they picked us out we marched up the road a couple of yards, went through a barn and stopped before a couple of barbed wire fences. I could sense what was going to happen, but couldn't make a run for it. We were lined up with our backs toward the krauts. The first guy turned around and said "kaput" to the kraut and he said "nix." Then there was a burst and I found myself flat on the ground. I knew I was hit but wasn't hurting. The other boys were hollering from the pain and got more slugs until all was quiet. Then they came over and kicked us on the soles of our feet to make sure we were dead. I had no feeling in my right arm and didn't know whether it was on or off. A little time passed and a couple of krauts in back thought they saw me move or breathe and came over and picked me up by the neck and shoulder and turned me face upwards. Blood was coming out of my mouth and they were satisfied that I was dead and threw me down again. My heart was in my throat that time!

Some more time passed by and two krauts passed by in front of me and spied my class ring on my left hand and did their best to get it off, but couldn't. Someone in back called them away just when it felt like the kraut was going for a knife to cut off my finger. I was really scared!

It was just getting dark when a kraut whispered, "hey boy, hey boy, hey boy," to us guys lying there. I wouldn't move for anything or anybody! I lay there a long time afterwards and figured I'd better try and get away or else die lying there. I'd swear all those guys were dead when I left that night. I picked myself up and started walking and crawling back to the town we started from – Soufflenheim. I just got outside of Soufflenheim and bumped into one of our tanks and they took me back to their outfit. I never did see the company. I played dead about twelve hours that day and can thank God I'm alive today. It was a "burp" gun that they shot us with. I got two scars on my back, one on my left shoulder and two on my right arm. The slugs in the back also got me in the left lung and I almost lost my right arm. A funny and lucky thing was that I felt no pain when I got hit.

Well, Sam, that's it. Sounds unbelievable but true and sounds like one of Ripley's "believe it or not." I was sent to a hospital in England and stayed there a couple of months and then was sent back to France on limited duty.

Personal accounts of combat in Sessenheim and more appear in these two books and are highly recommended reading –

Hold At All Cost/42nd Rainbow Division Prisoners of War, RDVMEF, 2004, 498 pages

The Final Crisis/ Combat in Northern Alsace January 1945, Richard Engler, Aegis, 1999, 362 pages.

Good As Gold – The Rainbow's Cavalry

By Patrick Chaisson, RDVF Historian

The United States Army Institute of Heraldry describes the 42nd Infantry Division shoulder patch as *"the fourth quadrant of a rainbow of three bands red, yellow and blue."* The significance of this patch and its three colors, however, can mean different things to different groups. Red, yellow and blue might just represent the colors seen whenever a rainbow appears in the sky. They could also stand for something more meaningful. The 42nd Infantry Division prayer, for instance, says they represent the blue of its valor, the gold of its love, and the red of its sacrifice.

A third explanation may involve the branch colors of Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery, the Army's three combat arms in World War One. Some historians suggest Rainbow Division leaders emphasized teamwork among all its fighting men when they approved a shoulder patch combining Infantry blue, Cavalry yellow and Artillery red.

During the Second World War, Rainbow infantrymen of Task Force Linden were rushed to the front ahead of their supporting artillery and service support troops. There they learned at great cost that Americans fight best as a combined arms team. Without the heavy guns of Division Artillery to back them up, the rifle companies of TF Linden suffered heavy losses in the Hatten-Rittershoffen region of France during January 1945.

Later, after TF Linden's infantry outfits received badly-needed replacements, the 42nd Infantry Division entered combat as a whole division. The unit fought well once it had on hand all artillery,

engineer, signal and support echelons operating as they were trained to do.

Photo of Cav Recon Trp in training at Camp Gruber 1944



A little-known but vital organization within the World War II-era Rainbow Division was the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop (Mechanized). This 145-man unit served as the division commander's cavalry. Equipped with six M8 light armored cars, 12 gun jeeps and a truck-mounted headquarters section, the 42nd Recon Troop's mission was to gather information, provide security and conduct other combat missions as assigned.

The Rainbow's advance across Germany during the spring of 1945 required prompt, accurate reconnaissance on routes of movement, enemy locations and obstacles. The 42nd Recon Troop, working with infantry I&R (intelligence and reconnaissance) platoons and artillery spotter planes, performed these duties admirably.

Fast-moving but lightly-armed, the Rainbow's cavalrymen were not equipped for heavy combat. But they soon learned the enemy hadn't all surrendered yet, so the 42nd Recon Troop often had to fight for information.

Sergeant Frank J. Gradisek, a cavalryman assigned to the 42nd Recon Troop, won the Silver Star for combat action on 23 April 1945 near Heiligen, Germany. His citation reads:

"While on a route reconnaissance, Sergeant Gradisek's platoon was fired on by enemy troops in well dug in positions along the edge of a wooded area. During a brief lull in the ensuing fire fight two officers, apparently unaware of the battle, drove by and continued ahead about 300 yards before they were forced to abandon their vehicle and take cover from renewed enemy fire. Rapidly sizing up the situation and seeing that the officers were hopelessly pinned down and faced with capture or injury, Sergeant Gradisek and another enlisted man seized a machine gun and proceeded up the road into the enemy fire, set up their weapon in an exposed spot and sprayed the enemy positions, covering the safe retreat of the officers, after which they withdrew and rejoined their platoon. The gallantry displayed by Sergeant Gradisek saved two officers from death or capture and is exemplary of the finest traditions of the Rainbow Division."

On 13 March 1945, the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) was attached to the 42nd Infantry Division. The addition of this 755-man force greatly increased the Rainbow's ability to scout ahead of advancing infantry formations. Fully motorized, the 117th brought with it the firepower of light tanks and assault guns as well as three additional recon troops.

The 42nd Reconnaissance Troop and the 117th Cavalry worked together for the rest of the war. After Victory in Europe Day, Rainbow Division Commander Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins spoke highly of his cavalrymen, calling them "unsung heroes – never failing in any assigned mission." Years later, the 42nd Infantry Division would renew its association with the 117th Cav when in 1993 the recently-reactivated 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry (New Jersey Army National Guard) became the Rainbow's divisional cavalry squadron. It held this assignment until 2008, when the 117th consolidated with the 102nd Cavalry Regiment and cased its colors.

Today, cavalry remains a key element of the Rainbow Division. Each of the 42nd's three attached Brigade Combat Teams contains a full Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition squadron in its force structure. Drones and electronic sensors may



have replaced gun jeeps in the cavalry's arsenal, but not forgotten is the fighting spirit displayed by those who ride steel steeds into battle.

WWII RAINBOW DEATHS REPORTED SINCE OCTOBER 2014

BARRISH, Mort	Medic, Co. D/122 nd Medical Bn
BELL, David P.	HQ CO/222 nd Infantry
BOYD, William Y.	AntiTank Co./242 nd Infantry
BROOKS, Edward S.	unit unreported
BROYLES, Carter D.	H3B/232 nd Infantry
BRYSON, Glen Allen	Co. G/232 nd Infantry
CAPUTO, Charles J.	Co. A/232 nd Infantry
DANKO, Edward	Co. I/222 nd Infantry
DUNBAR, Archie	Co. L/232 nd Infantry
DYAS, Robert W.	Co. K/242 nd Infantry
FOERTSCH, Edward J.	H3B/232 nd Infantry
FRAME, Henry C.	Svc. Co./222 nd Infantry
GLASER, Joseph N.	Co. G/232 nd Infantry
GOSS, Arnold S.	Co. I/242 nd Infantry
HANCOCK, Oren Eugene	Co. B/222 nd Infantry
*HENNING, Richard A.	A/T Platoon, H1B/222 nd Infantry
HINSHAW, John B.	AntiTank Co./222 nd Infantry
JOHNSON, James E.	Cos. B&C/232 nd Infantry
KING, Vern A.	Co. K/232 nd Infantry
KINSKEY, Edward	Co. D/232 nd Infantry
KOSMERL, Anthony "Tony"	Co. M/242 nd Infantry
LANUIT, Wallace J.	Co. E/222 nd Infantry
LANKFORD, Vincent C.	Co. C/122 nd Medical Bn
LAWLESS, Joseph R.	H1B/242 nd Infantry
LOMBARDO, Augustino	HQ Btry/402 nd Artillery
MATAS, Bruno F.	HQ/222 nd Infantry
PRICE, Paul T.	Co. E/232 nd Infantry
SIMMS, Russell Dale	Co. K/242 nd Infantry
SMITH, Fred W.	42DIV QM Co. & SVC Co./222 nd Infantry
STANLEY, Duffy B.	Rainbow Ranger, H1B/232 nd Infantry
UNRUH, Laverne J. "Gov"	122 nd Medical Bn
WALL, Henry S.	H2B/232 nd Infantry
WARNER, Mont M.	Btry C/402 nd Artillery
WRIGHT, Maurice E.	66 th Division & 42 nd Division
ZWILGMEYER, Lorentz "Larry"	Co. L/222 nd Infantry

*With thanks to Jim McNicol, H1B/222, for reporting the unit of **Richard A. Henning** whose unit was listed in the October issue as "unreported". Jim wrote, "In the early days of the activated Rainbow at Camp Gruber, he was one of 36 men in the anti-tank Platoon of HQ CO 1st BN-222nd Infantry, serving from September 4, 1943 – April 29, 1944; combat unit: Co. B/137th Infantry, 5th Inf. Division."

Ed. We appreciate your help in accurate reporting!

WWII NATIONAL AUXILIARY DEATHS

Marilyn Johnson

wife of Charles R. Johnson, C/232

Mary Segraves

wife of Carl E. Segraves, I/222

Lois Ellen Parry

wife of John "Jack" Parry, I/242

A Letter from Jim Clemons, K/242, and former RDVF Memorials Officer, October 7, 2014, having received his Recognition Award from the Foundation. "What a wonderful surprise! A medal recognizing many years of Rainbow and being its RDVF Memorials Officer. That position was, for me, a really fun job and always a learning experience about many things, including of course, little known or remembered Rainbow incidents or situations.

In remembrance of the many years with the Rainbow, and years before and after, here is a short poem I recently penned for a Writer's Group project here in Sun City Hilton Head:

A year has 365 days divided into twelve months and four Seasons, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We in our own Daily lives should make each day like the best, most beautiful day in Each of those twelve months be it hot, cold, windy, rain or Snow. and with a smile.

RAINBOW DIVISION SOLDIERS SERVE IN JOINT TASK FORCE EMPIRE SHIELD (JTF-ES)

By JTF-ES Commander, LTC Peter Riley



Rainbow Division Soldiers continue to "make history" as an integral part of Joint Task Force Empire Shield (JTF-ES). National Guard Service Members (including many Rainbow Division Soldiers) have been on full-time duty in New York City since the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks. JTF-ES conducts armed presence patrols in major transportation hubs within the NYC Metropolitan Area. It is joint New York Military Forces, full-time continuous anti-terrorism Task Force in New York City.

In response to the increased worldwide terrorist threat, JTF-ES recently doubled in size to 500 Soldiers, Airmen and New York Naval Militia Personnel, over 175 of whom are 42nd Rainbow Soldiers. Its Commander, LTC Peter Riley, is also the RDVF Treasurer. He served as the Deputy G1 with the 42nd Infantry Division in Tikrit, Iraq 2004-2005. As a Captain, he served with the 42nd ID in NYC at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He also served in both the 210th Armor and the 101 Cavalry in the Rainbow Division as a Lieutenant.

The Task Force is responsible for Security and deterring terrorism in Grand Central Station, Penn Station, Port Authority, JFK Airport and other transit hubs in New York City. JTF-ES conducts armed presence patrols and works very closely with NYPD Counter Terrorism, Port Authority, Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies in a joint effort to defeat terrorism.

If you travel through these travel hubs, do not be surprised if you see some Rainbow patches.



U.S. Air National Guard Photos by S/Sgt Christopher S. Muncy, 106th Rescue Wing, of those members of JTF-ES Training and on duty at Pennsylvania Station, NY, December 23, 2014

[ed. LTC Riley holds a BA from St. Lawrence University and an MBA in Finance from Fordham University. He resides in Warwick, Orange County, NY with his wife Maryanne, a Special Education Teacher and his son Conor (18) and daughter, Quinn (15).

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE DOCUMENTARY

"Courageous Learning" – produced by Excelsior College, follows the lives of three adult students: Shawn, Joe, and Angeline – a veteran, a single dad, and a nurse – as they face obstacles in the pursuit of higher education. Experts, including leaders from academia, think tanks, government, and nonprofits, provide a guide to the landscape of post-secondary education in the 21st century – and reveal it as terrain that too few travel.

<http://news.wp.excelsior.edu/watch-courageous-learning/>

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOUNDATION October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS Foundation Operating Fund Jim Clemons, for Reveille Expenses, 100; RDV Millennium Chapter, for The Center for Family and Member Support, 100. **SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND** RDV Millennium Chapter – 100.

IN MEMORY/HONOR CONTRIBUTIONS Scholarship Endowment Fund Jack Parry, in memory of Lois Ellen Parry – 250; Mary Kenny, in memory of Tom O'Neill- 100; Mayland Crosson, in memory of Lloyd B. Oczkewicz -25; Mayland Crosson, for Donald L. Dart – 25; Mayland Crosson, in honor of Dee R. Eberhart – 1000. **If you would like to make a contribution by US 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>.**

Memorial gifts will be acknowledged personally and also in the next issue of REVEILLE. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift to be sent to the family of the person whom you are honoring, please include their name and address when you send your contribution. All are gratefully received and acknowledged.

2015 RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE - go to <http://www.rainbowvets.org/rdvf-scholarships>

The application period is from March 1st through July 1st of each year. Inquiries and completed applications with supporting material must be mailed or electronically submitted to: Michael Kelly, Scholarship Chairman 143 Milner Avenue Albany, NY 12208-1421 Tel: 518-489-4580 Email: mkelly5993@nycap.rr.com The postmark deadline for completed applications is July 15 - August 1st. If mailing the materials please use a minimum 9x12 size envelope so that no pages are folded. Previous award winners are not eligible to apply.

The RDVF Scholarship Program has grown significantly over the years. Today's Foundation is dedicated to its continued growth. In recent years the RDVF has approved nearly \$20,000 per year in college scholarship money to the descendants of RDVF Members. 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)

Eligibility – 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: 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, A current soldier of the 42nd Infantry Division, in good standing. In addition, all applicants must be sponsored by a current RDVF Veteran or Legacy member who has been a member for at least the last three consecutive years, or is a "Lifetime Member".

The applicant is responsible to find their own Sponsor and to coordinate that portion of the application process with them. **The Scholarship Sponsor:** Can only sponsor one applicant per scholarship year. 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 consecutive year or Lifetime Membership criteria.

Applicants must complete the Scholarship Application form included with these instructions and provide the following:

1. **A letter of nomination from the Scholarship Sponsor** which clearly delineates the Applicant's eligibility.
2. **Official high school transcripts and/or official college transcripts as appropriate.** SAT and/or ACT scores must be submitted separately if they are not recorded on the official transcript. Please note any Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors (H) Courses.
3. **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.
4. **Essay –** please articulate your interests and hobbies, intended major/and or interest in college. In your essay describe the manner in which past experience and/or 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." You may include courses taken, books read, relevant experiences, activities, service or volunteer work that have reinforced your desire to influence society in keeping with the tradition and goals of the Foundation.

Please include all leadership activities/awards that you may have held or have received.

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 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 \$1,000 to \$5,000 in past years; however, available funds dictate scholarship amounts and numbers each year. 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: Stillman Sawyer Award; Ted Simonson Award; Duhaseck Family Award; Dee and Barbara Eberhart Family Award; 22nd Infantry Award; Ted Johnson Award; Kaiser Family Award. Additional awards may be given at the recommendation of the scholarship committee.



The RDVF California Chapter Annual Brunch was held December 7, 2014 at the Embassy Suites at Downey, CA. Twenty Rainbowers attended. Those present for this photo are, right to left, Rita Cohen, David Cohen, Rita Kurts, William Zelenka, Natalie Zelenka, (two unidentified attendees), Lois (Mrs. Sandy) Lebman and Rainbow Dog Coco, Hildegard Kurtz, Donald and (seated) Mary Copes, Lee Gillespie and Daniel Gillespie.

Photo by Ronni Sanlo