

CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne
World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne
War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle – Operation Iraqi Freedom –
Operation Enduring Freedom – Operation Spartan Shield

Chairman's Message

Greetings to the Rainbow Division family and I hope everyone had an enjoyable and memorable holiday season. As a kid growing up my parents always instilled in us that “family is everything” and I sincerely hope that 2026 brings health and happiness to all of you and your families.



As we kick off the new year I would like to recognize and thank BG (Ret.) Gary Yapple for his outstanding service as the RDVF Chairman over the past 3-years. As many of you know, Gary and I served in the Division together and I always sought and valued his advice. Under Gary's leadership the Foundation prospered and like Generals' Taluto and Genereux before him he raised the bar for the Foundation. Membership has grown, the new website is greatly improved and we are in a very good position financially. I am both honored and humbled to be taking the reins from Gary as he continues to mentor and guide us into the future.

Last month's Board meeting saw a “changing of the guard” as we welcomed in Steve Wickstrom as Vice Chair and Tom Spencer taking over Steve's financial/investment responsibilities. Additionally, we welcomed in four new Board members in John Andonie, Frank McGinn, Al Thiem and Joe Fisher. I greatly appreciate their stepping up and becoming part of the team.

My vision for the next 3-years can best be summed up in one word- **GROWTH**. Growth along three lines of effort; membership, fundraising and expanding our network. More on all this in future issues. Since our 20th reunion in September we've continued our philanthropic efforts in donating an additional \$5,000 to the GWOT Memorial Foundation as well as \$10,000 to the Friends of New York State Military Museum. For more information and individual contributions go to <https://gwotmemorialfoundation.org> and <https://friendsnysmm.com>.



IN HONOR and MEMORY
November/December 2025



The photos on this page were taken at the Saratoga National Cemetery, NY; Garden City, NY; Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, FR and Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis IN; full captions on page 7.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE RAINBOW REVEILLE ARE DUE BY 10 APRIL 2026

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The RDVF WWII Rainbow Division battlefield tour that was canceled due to COVID is back on and scheduled for 16-27 September 2026. The tour will follow the "Rainbow Trail" with stops in France, Germany and Austria visiting battlefields and other historical sites. Space is limited so sign up soon. For more information go to Lil@fitnesstravelfrance-.com or call 1-888-53920.

In closing I want to extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to MG Jack James and CSM Arnie Reyes for including the RDVF into all the Division's pre and post deployment activities. As they wind down their Spartan Shield deployment we look forward to welcoming them home and wish them continued success as they finish "Rainbow Strong."

Enough for now. Again, I wish all of you a happy 2026 and until the next Reveille-

"Rainbow-Never Forget!"

Harry Miller, RDVF Chair

Farewell Message from Past Foundation Chairman



Dear RDVF Board and Members,

As I pass on the reins of the Foundation Chairmanship, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your support during my tenure. Together, we achieved remarkable milestones, including the launch of our new website (Rainbowvets.org), honoring the 80th anniversaries of Normandy and Dachau, celebrating the multiple deployment anniversaries in support of the Global War on Terrorism and created lasting memories along the way.

Special thanks to Suellen McDaniel and John Willsey, whose tireless work has been the engine of our success. We simply could not do this without your incredible dedication.

Congratulations to MG (R) Harry Miller on your new role as Chairman. Your dedication and vision will surely guide the Foundation to new heights. I look forward to serving and supporting you and the team as we continue this great endeavor together.

Let's all continue to honor the mission of the 42d Infantry Division and the RDVF.

Rainbow! Never Forget!!

Gary

Harry E. Miller, Jr.

Major General (Ret) Harry Miller was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA and his 38-year "hybrid" career began in 1980 when he was commissioned through the ROTC programs while attending Valley Forge Military Jr. College and Washington & Jefferson College. After completing the Officer Basic Course, he completed Basic Airborne and Ranger training before serving with the 1st Armored Division, Federal Republic of Germany. He then attended the Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning, GA, and served with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC before attending and completing the Special Forces Qualification Course. He was then assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, WA, where he commanded Operational Detachment Alpha-196 and Operational Detachment Bravo-190 in the 3rd Battalion. After separating from Active Duty, he served in the New Hampshire National Guard where he commanded the 54th Troop Command and later served as the state Joint Operations Officer (J3). He served two combat tours in Iraq. The first was with the Iraq Assistance Group as a Team Chief and advisor/senior mentor to Iraqi forces along the Iranian border. His second tour was with the 5th Special Forces Group and the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula where he was the senior liaison/advisor to the Commander, Multinational Corp-Iraq. His General Officer assignments include Director of Doctrine, Training and Force Development at the National Guard Bureau, Arlington, VA, Acting Senior Commander, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, New York National Guard and Commanding General 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow). He retired in 2018 after serving as the Deputy Director of Strategic Integration, as well as the Director Reserve Integration Office at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Saint Martin's College and a master's in strategic studies from the Army War College. He also attended the Joint General Officer CAPSTONE Course and Senior Executive National and International Security programs at Harvard University and Syracuse University. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Iraq Campaign Medal with

Campaign Star, the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Thai Parachutist Badge. When not serving on Active duty, Harry worked as a pharmaceutical consultant with Pfizer Inc. and Astellas Inc. He is married to Melissa Kay Cook formerly of Fayetteville, NC. They have three daughters-Courtney, Emily and Abbey. The Millers currently reside in Bedford, NH.

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

November 1991 issue of REVEILLE

Rev. Norman P. Forde

222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division WWII



Lord, our God, we pray this day for a blessing on the United States of America, the country we in Rainbow fought for in two world wars. Make her strong in her devotion to truth. Make her great in her desire for honor. Make her wise in these critical days of negotiations with many nations. Make her ready to sacrifice all else, but never righteousness or virtue. Strengthen our leaders that they may walk

with Thee as they carry the burdens of responsibility. Strengthen our people that in honorable service we may bring peace by doing Thy will. May we and all the world finally know a season of true peace. In Thy Name we pray, AMEN.

A Rainbow Christmas: A Tale of Two Holidays in 1944

Jon Molik, RDVF Historian

As the holiday season envelops us in its familiar warmth, a time of festive cheer and family gatherings, it is important to reflect on the profound sacrifices made by those in uniform. For the soldiers of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division, the Christmas of 1944 was not a celebration of peace, but a testament to its price. Their story reveals a holiday split into two starkly different realities, neither of which involved the comforts of home.

For the division's advance infantry regiments, known as Task Force Linden (222nd, 232nd, and 242nd), Christmas was a baptism by ice and fire. Arriving near the city of Strasbourg just two days before the holiday, they were immediately thrust onto the front lines of a brutal winter war. Their mission was critical: to hold a 19-mile defensive line along the Rhine River against a desperate enemy. As families back home sang carols on Christmas Eve, the men of the 42nd were moving into their positions, their world defined by the bitter cold and the looming threat across the river.

Billeted in the damp confines of old French forts and schoolhouses, the simple luxury of being indoors with running water "was more important to them at the moment than the fact that Christmas was only a few hours away." (i) This stark detail illustrates the brutal reality of their existence, where the necessities for survival eclipsed the traditions of the season. They were cold, weary, and their focus was narrowed to the essentials: staying warm, staying alert, and staying alive.

The Christmas air on their sector was tense and eerily quiet. Across the river, the German forces were also on the defensive. The silence, however, was a fragile thing, periodically shattered by "an occasional burst of automatic weapons fire into our positions." (i) When the Rainbowmen returned fire, the enemy would fall silent again. It was a grim, sporadic, and uniquely hostile holiday exchange, a world away from the joyful sounds of

home. For these soldiers, Christmas was just another day to hold the line, their unwavering dedication to their mission and the future peace of Europe their only thought.

Meanwhile, a different kind of holiday drama was unfolding thousands of miles away. The remainder of the 42nd Division was on a long, slow train journey across the United States, bound for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey—the final gateway to the European theater of war. The mood on the train was "serious and a little sad." (i) These men were suspended between two worlds: the homes and families they had just left, and the unknown horrors of the war they were about to enter.

In a touching attempt to pierce the gloom on Christmas Eve, members of the division band walked through the train cars, and soon "officers and men joined in singing Christmas carols." (i) It was a fleeting moment of nostalgic warmth, a shared connection to a life of peace, even as the train's wheels clicked relentlessly toward conflict. Their Christmas Day offered no rest, consisting of either the monotonous journey or the impersonal military processing at the staging area. Still, small gestures of humanity shone through. The day before Christmas, men of the 132d Signal Company were served a special steak dinner—a small but powerful acknowledgment of the holiday and the immense sacrifice that lay before them.

Whether huddling for warmth in a French fort or singing carols on a crowded American train, the men of the 42nd Infantry Division were united by their shared duty. This holiday season, as we enjoy the peace and comfort they fought so hard to secure, let their story resonate. Let us be deeply thankful for their service, their quiet grit, and their unwavering commitment to a cause greater than themselves. They, and all soldiers who have served in harm's way during the holidays, have given us a gift far greater than any that can be wrapped and placed under a tree: the enduring gift of freedom.

(i) Daly, Hugh C. and United States Army, "42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division: a combat history of World War II" (1946). *World War Regimental Histories*. 64.
http://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/www_reg_his/64

PRESERVING SACRED GROUND The Hatten-Rittershofen Battleground

On Veterans' Day 2025, RDVF Memorials Officer Robert Giordano sent out this email to our membership, inviting us to join the citizens of the Community of Hatten-Rittershofen France in their honorable endeavor:

As we speak, the French government from the community of Hatten-Rittershoffen, France are seeking to plow under sacred ground where more than 2,500 Soldiers (both American and German) lost their lives and a 42nd Division Medal of Honor winner earned our highest award.

Please email the French government today and ask them to stop the development. Your voice can make a difference.

Please send a strong appeal to the following person to preserve the sacred ground where so many lost their lives.

Madame Valérie Trommetter , Commissaire Enquêtrice
Email: parcdexcellenceindustriellehatten@democratie-active.fr

Pointing out how exceptional the site is, both historically and as a place of remembrance also stresses the importance of protecting it and even suggests that, for the 100th anniversary of World War II, the Maginot Line could be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Here is an example of an email appeal:

To the Esteemed Leaders of the French Republic:

There are places in this world where the soil is not dirt, but memory. Where every blade of grass is a witness. Where the wind still seems to carry the echoes of shouted commands, the rumble of armor, and the final breaths of the young who never grew old.

Hatten-Rittershoffen is such a place.

What is being considered is not the construction of an industrial zone. It is the burial of the last open-air chapter of World War II in Alsace. Once that land is plowed under, the story of sacrifice told by its untouched terrain will be replaced with steel roofs and concrete floors or worse. The scars of battle, the defensive positions, the fragile traces of courage and terror that make history tangible will be erased forever.

This ground holds the remains of missing American soldiers who fell defending French freedom in January 1945. Their graves were never found, because their resting place is the battlefield itself. To dig, develop the ground, and build warehouses over it is not development. It is desecration.

This site remains the only fully readable World War II battlefield in Alsace. A living archive. A place where students learn not by textbook but by standing where history stood. A place where France honors the Americans who crossed an ocean for a country they had never seen, for people they did not know, so tyranny could not reign here.

The plan to industrialize this sacred terrain threatens to silence its lessons forever. Glass and metal will interrupt the clean line of sight that allows historians, soldiers, children, and visitors to interpret the tactics and the bravery that unfolded there. Once disrupted, that clarity can never be restored.

France has always understood the value of remembrance. Verdun, Omaha Beach, Oradour-sur-Glane—these sites remain protected not because they are convenient, but because they carry the soul of a nation. Hatten-Rittershoffen belongs in this company. It honors both French citizens who huddled in their cellars as war swallowed their homes, and the Americans who shielded them with their lives.

The proposal offered is not an obstruction. It is stewardship. A museum. A memory trail. A place where future generations can learn that freedom carries a cost measured in blood and shattered futures.

Development can happen anywhere. History only happened here.

NOW those who care and have contributed their best efforts to keep this memory alive as only such preservation can achieve are waiting after the official time for submission of reasoned approaches has passed and now the French government will make their decision.

Official situation as of January 6, 2026:

- The public inquiry into public utility has been completed. The public has given its opinion. The commissioner must submit her report and conclusions by the end of this month.

Given the large number of contributions and the size of the file, she will likely request additional time. Depending on her conclusions, the Prefect, who represents the State, will make the final decision. However, he is not obliged to follow her recommendations.

- Archaeological excavations will begin shortly and are expected to last three months. The expropriation of farmers should follow.
- Site development work (roundabout, earthworks) is scheduled to begin around June.

Our actions:

- Our lawyer contributed to the public inquiry and demonstrated that, if necessary, we will not hesitate to pursue all available legal remedies should the final decision not meet our expectations.
- We visited the American Cemetery in Dinozé, where we were welcomed by Ms. Jocelyne PAPELARD-BRESCIA and members of the US MEMORY GRAND-EST Association. We attended the Christmas Wreath Ceremony and a grave sponsorship.
- This association has decided to actively support us by providing biographies and photographs of soldiers who were killed or went missing at Hatten-Rittershoffen and who are buried in Dinozé or listed on the Wall of the Missing.
- Ms. PAPELARD and other members of the association have written emails and letters to French and American politicians and influential figures who may be able to intervene in this matter.
- On her advice, we wrote to President TRUMP, Vice President VANCE, Messrs. RUBIO, HEGSETH, COLLINS, Mr. KUSHNER, Ambassador of the United States to France, and the President of the Consistoire Israélite de France (the Jewish cemetery in Hatten will literally be surrounded by the future industrial zone).
- As our elected officials apparently are not planning any commemoration for the 81st anniversary of the battle (currently taking place), we will pay tribute to your soldiers on our Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/HattenDemail/->
- So that the 1,200 dead and 150 to 200 missing are not reduced to mere numbers, we will publish every day the biographies of the soldiers who fell on that date, along with their photos, to bring them out of anonymity. The public will thus be able to see how young these boys were, their courage, and the terrible conditions of their deaths. Several American families have shared documents with us, allowing us also to address the fate of the wounded and prisoners. We hope in this way to raise public awareness of the importance of your soldiers' sacrifice and the absolute necessity of preserving this place of remembrance.

Things do seem to be moving, as Ms. NEAU-DUFOUR, Project Manager for Memorial Policy at the Directorate of Culture, Heritage and Memory of the Grand Est Region, has contacted us. She is scheduled to visit the battlefield on January 16 to better “understand the issues.”

In addition, the Cultural Services have informed us that our application for protection and official listing will be reviewed by a commission in 2026.

It therefore appears that historical and memorial services are closely following our case.

We have always been honest with you. Faced with local political, financial, and economic pressures, public opinion plays a major role. The media as well (they are becoming increasingly interested in us). But in our personal opinion, what will truly tip the balance is the voice of American veterans, your political leaders, or other influential figures.

From:

COLLECTIF HATTEN DEMAIN<hattendemain2024@gmail.com>

In the meantime, to refresh our understanding of the battles that took place and an excellent description of them and the men and units who fought there, please visit

<https://military-historian.squarespace.com/blog/2020/10/20/an-alsatian-hellscape-the-battle-of-hatten-rittershoffen>

Also, <https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/RDVA-History-of-the-Battles-of-Hatten-and-Hagenau-January-1945.pdf>

Colonel Theodore “Ted” R. MacKechnie

by Erin Faith Allen



There is no doubt Colonel Theodore “Ted” Ross MacKechnie occupies a distinctive, one-of-a-kind place in the history of the 42nd Rainbow Division.

His military record is solid. He stands close to General Harry J. Collins throughout WWII, serving as his junior aide, present at the nerve center of the division’s movement and decisions. But

there is something else about Ted that sets him apart: he is an artist *and* a soldier.

Before the division leaves for Europe, while still stateside, Collins commissions a painting from then Lieutenant MacKechnie. The request is simple: capture the spirit of the Rainbow Division. MacKechnie begins the work and completes it before deployment. As the Rainbow prepares to face the Germans, the painting is sent to a local Oklahoma museum for safekeeping.

Ted carries on beside the General. They go to war - and Ted goes to war with a sketchbook. He draws what he sees. Among those drawings are scenes connected to the liberation of Dachau. They later appear in Sam Dann’s book *Dachau, 29 April 1945: The Rainbow Liberation Memoirs* and are considered in the Seventh Army’s official investigations into the camp itself. The drawings are stark, and as horrifying as the subject matter. How could they be anything different?



Junction of the Hatten - Rittershoffen road -
Sign reads: "Hatten Road 58 American
Soldiers"

precise, humorous, and at the same time utterly serious in its purpose. It documents and encapsulates the division’s movement across Europe in a succinct way official reports cannot.

The map is completed and dispersed through the division, and mailed home to loved ones. Eighty years later, families still

return to Ted’s map again and again, tracing routes, locating towns, and every time they do, it places their father or grandfather in a specific place and a specific time, and it no doubt swells the chest with pride.

It is impossible to research the 42nd without encountering Ted’s map. It is *the* iconographic visual heartbeat of the Rainbow Division and their war.

Decades after the war, veterans begin to ask what became of the painting General Collins had commissioned in 1944. The paper trail is pieced together slowly and steadily. From Ted’s own hands, the painting goes into museum storage, then finds its way into a veteran’s home, then to a local VFW where members understand what they are holding and care for it accordingly. Then, the painting again goes underground for decades.

Last month, I had the tremendous heart-swelling honor to view Colonel Ted MacKechnie’s painting, *The Spirit of the Rainbow*, at the VFW Post 577 in Tulsa, OK. This glorious masterpiece measures 8 feet tall by 4 feet wide. It is clear that the scale of this piece is deliberate - the Rainbow Division is not small, not in spirit, not in legacy, and not in the sheer power of its contributions to ending WWII.



After the war, Ted remains in uniform and becomes a career officer, retiring in 1969. His decorations include the Army Commendation Medal and the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster. Upon retiring from the Army, he devotes himself fully to painting. Colonel Ted MacKechnie passes in 2012, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

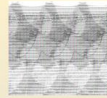
He leaves behind a beautiful family and a legacy for the Rainbow: his loyalty to his General, his loyalty to his fellow soldiers, and a body of visual documentation that continues to orient families, inform historians, and keep the true spirit of the Rainbow Division alive, intact, and tangible.



photos in this article are sent by Erin with the exception of the January 1945 sketch by then-Lt Ted MacKechnie, who many years ago gave his permission to this editor to use at her discretion.



**Rainbow Division Veterans
Foundation
80th Anniversary
Commemoration
“The Trail of the Rainbow”
European Tour 2026**



- Join the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation on a 12-day journey that follows the 42nd “Rainbow” Infantry Division’s trail to victory in Europe during World War II.
- Our tour will visit Strasbourg, France; Nuremberg and Munich, Germany; and Salzburg, Austria: all places the Rainbow Division helped liberate in 1945!
- This tour is open to friends, family and former members of the Rainbow Division.
- For more information, contact John Andonie at john.andonie@gmail.com

While in Europe, you will:

- Walk the ground where 81 years ago the Rainbow Division fought for freedom against Nazi Germany.
- Participate in remembrance ceremonies and commemorative celebrations.
- Take guided tours of important historical sites and museums at Hatten, Nuremberg, the “Eagle’s Nest”, and Dachau.
- Visit the American Military Cemetery at Epinal, where hundreds of fallen Rainbow Division soldiers now rest for eternity.
- There’s free time every day for you to go sightseeing on your own, as well as a day off in Nuremberg and another in Munich so you can enjoy some Bavarian hospitality!



Epinal American Military Cemetery and Memorial, France



The Eagle's Nest:
Obersalzberg, Germany



Salzburg, Austria: a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Our trip is being organized through **Fitness Travel France, Inc.**, a veteran-owned agency with years of experience providing European military history tours.

A professional guide will lead you on an unforgettable journey of discovery – follow the trail of the famous Rainbow Division during World War II.

You'll enjoy comfortable lodging in scenic, historic European cities, with travel by modern motor coach (bus), and some meals included.

Tour dates are 16 to 27 September, 2026, with space limited to the first 48 paying travelers. Approximate cost is \$2,700 to \$3,200 per person, double occupancy, (excluding air travel) depending on the number of travelers and the Euro exchange rate.

For reservations contact: Lil Pfluke – email:
lil@fitnesstravelfrance.com
Or 1-888-539-5520 (rings in Europe)

PROPOSED ITINERARY

**Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation
2026 Europe WWII Trip as of 17 November 2025**

Wednesday 16 September: DAY ONE – Depart for Europe. Spend overnight traveling to Zurich, Switzerland.

Thursday, 17 September: DAY TWO – Arrive Zurich, meet at Rally Point (conference room at hotel near airport, to be determined), board bus, drive to Strasbourg, France hotel. Remain overnight (RON) in Strasbourg. (No meals provided today. Light snack at the Rally Point.)

Friday, 18 September: DAY THREE – Visit Strasbourg area battlefield sites: Visit WWII casement, museum and receive battle brief in Hatten. We may also visit the Vito Bertoldo MOH site, if confirmed. Conduct a ceremony remembering our executed 42ID Soldiers at the cemetery. Receive a battle brief in Sessenheim, and visit the WWII casement in Kilstedt, along with a battle brief. Have a dinner party at the La Coronne Hotel along with the Hermann family. RON in Strasbourg. (Breakfast, bag lunch and group dinner provided. Museum entries paid.)

Saturday, 19 September: DAY FOUR – Bus trip to the Épinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Dinozé, France. Lay a wreath and place RDVF flags on 42ID graves. Have lunch on your own in the town of Épinal and then tour shops and sites. RON in Strasbourg. (Breakfast provided, lunch and dinner out of pocket)

Sunday, 20 September: DAY FIVE – Depart Strasbourg and bus ride to either Ludwigswinkel or Dahn for battle overview along with time to explore. Bag lunch on route to Wurzburg. Key task: arrive in Wurzburg NLT 3:00 PM in order to allow for maximum sightseeing in the city. RON in Wurzburg. (Breakfast and bag lunch provided; dinner in Wurzburg out of pocket.)

Monday, 21 September: DAY SIX – Visit Main River crossing sites in the morning and then depart Wurzburg via bus to Furth to visit key points (42ID bridge crossing & former City Hall). Lunch on your own. Take the bus to Nuremberg, and visit either the Nuremberg Trial Courts, Nazi Document Center, or Party Rally Grounds. RON in Nuremberg. (Breakfast and museum admission provided; lunch and dinner out of pocket.)

Tuesday, 22 September: DAY SEVEN – Free day in Nuremberg; breakfast included.

Wednesday, 23 September: DAY EIGHT – Nuremberg, drive to Berchtesgaden (Eagles Nest en route) to Salzburg, Austria. RON in Salzburg. (Breakfast and Eagles Nest admission included; lunch in Berchtesgaden and Salzburg out of pocket.)

Thursday, 24 September: DAY NINE – Visit Salzburg sites to include Maj. Gen. Collins' grave. RON in Salzburg. (Breakfast provided; lunch and dinner out of pocket.)

Friday, 25 September: DAY TEN – Drive to Munich (Visit Dachau and conduct ceremony en route). Bag lunch. RON in Munich. (Breakfast, bag lunch and Dachau admission provided. Dinner in Munich out of pocket.)

Saturday, 26 September: DAY ELEVEN – Free day in Munich. (Breakfast provided.)

Sunday, 27 September: DAY TWELVE – Depart. (Ground transportation to the airport is not included.)

Note: What's included are ten hotel nights, all breakfasts, 3 bag lunches, 1 group dinner, museum entries, luxury bus transport, expert historian. Chase car will accompany from 17 to 25 September 2026

RAINBOW BIRTHDAY MILESTONES

With our forever gratitude and respect,
we wish a Happy Birthday to:



Raymond Deming

Cannon Company,
232nd Infantry Regiment
101 years, December 7, 2025
Photo left.

Hilbert Margol

Btry B, 392nd
Field Artillery Bn
102 years,
February 22, 2026

And from Hilbert Margol, his best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year 2026! He wrote: "I have been rather busy this year. Went to Normandy, France again and spent the first week in June there, enjoying another terrific trip.



Upon my return, exactly two weeks later, I was invited to go on a trip to Germany, two nights in Munich, then visiting Dachau Concentration Camp, Nuremberg, then going on a 6-day boat ride on different rivers, stopping at a different German city each day, which included a choice of land tours.

"A really marvelous experience and all I had to do was give one presentation about my Dachau experience and myself and my son were given the entire trip entirely free, all first class, including round trip on Delta airlines, 2-room suites on a luxury boat, etc.

"In addition to many presentations at different schools and organizations, a few months ago, I went to Charlotte, N.C., met with a group of WW2 Vets for one night and next morning we flew to New Orleans and enjoyed three days at the WW2 Museum being treated like Rock stars. All expenses paid by American Airlines and the Gary Sinise Foundation.



"In November I enjoyed a marvelous trip to Berlin, Germany, sponsored by the Best Defense Foundation and Delta Airlines. Together with four other WW2 Vets, my son Jerry, and about 20 other people, we spent the week meeting with the President of Germany at his private residence, the head of the Bundestag, the Commissioner of the NFL, being treated royally by the Indianapolis Colts football team and seeing them play the

Atlanta Falcons in the 1936 Olympic Stadium. Truly a fantastic trip. Last week I spoke to a Boy Scout meeting. Next week I am flying to FT. Lauderdale, FL. to speak to a Jewish Congregation and upon my return, I will speak to two classes at an Atlanta school. I could provide some details of any of these events, if requested.

"Tomorrow at 6:30pm, I have a ZOOM program with a group of young Jewish men, in Manhattan, that take care of a group of Holocaust Survivors there. As I was advised, they have done this with other Survivors, but I will be the first Liberator that they have interviewed. Keeps me busy.

"By the way, on Jan. 20th, at 12:30pm, a ZOOM program is being set up, by the Dachau Concentration camp. mainly for their guides to ask me questions about my experience at the camp in 1945, so they can relate some details to future visitors."

Photos 1 and 2: Headquarters of Axel Springer, Berlin, Germany; Hilbert is greeted by Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner. Their host is the largest media company in Europe. A glimpse of this special evening is recorded on UTube -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbdIDa7kmlM>

Photo 3: "6-26-25 at the Dachau Concentration Camp. When we departed the bus, in the very large parking lot, there were a series of exhibits about the camp. At each one, there was a guide with a small audience, explaining the exhibit. Several guides were advised that my son, Jerry, was pushing me in a wheelchair and that I was present at the Camp on April 29, 1945, in the morning before it was surrendered about 2:30pm that same day. This is one of the two groups that I answered a few questions for."

CAPTIONS for photos on Page one

Photo 1: Schuylerville, N.Y. - 12.13.2025 U.S. Army Sgt. Anthony Re (left), a combat medic from Naugatuck, Conn., and Staff Sgt. Corey Ruddock, an air defense artillery operations noncommissioned officer from Attica, N.Y., both with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard, stand next to the Army's wreath following a wreath laying ceremony at the B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Dec. 13, 2025. The ceremony was part of this year's Wreaths Across America remembrance, during which service members from multiple branches placed a wreath in front of each service's emblem at the cemetery's flagpole to pay tribute to those who served, past and present. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Warren W. Wright, Jr., 42nd Inf. Div. public affairs); caption taken from the DVID story -

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/9445628/solemn-tribute-ny-national-guards-rainbow-division-lays-wreaths-saratoga-national-cemetery>

Photos 2 and 5: November 11, 2025 at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, FR; superimposed on the photo by Béatrice Dahm of Superintendent Charles Diaz is a view of the Wall of the Missing in the OA Chapel where 241 names are listed, none of these 42nd Division; this WWI cemetery holds 598 "known but to God."

Photos 3 and 4: The New York Army National Guard held its annual wreath-laying memorial service on November 8, 2025 at the 42nd Infantry Division WWI memorial in Garden City, N.Y. the site of Camp Mills where the newly created Division was trained in 1917.

Members of the NYARNG 69th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association, 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division Association, 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division Foundation, Nassau County American Legion Post, firefighters from the Garden City Fire Department, and local officials attended this year's Veterans Memorial event. Photos by Mark Getman, 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division Veterans' Association. For more photos with captions please visit

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nyng/albums/72177720330272883/>

Photo 6: Memorial wreath at **Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN;** War Memorial, "In memory of the Soldiers of the 42nd Division U.S. Army in World Wars I and II...."; facilitated by Ken Marshall, son of WWII Rainbow Veteran, Charles F. Marshall, C/122 Med Bn (RDVA Past National President) and Frances L. Marshall (RDVA Past National Auxiliary President). Ken wrote: "It was snowy and cold. Could not rake the leaves away as we have done before. The hill side was pretty slippery." Ed. Ken, that is a wonderful photo and memorial in the snow and cold; your determination reminiscent of both winters, 1918 and 1944-45 when the WWI and WWII Rainbow Division Soldiers persevered and marched through it all. Thank you for your great dedication to honor them!!

RDVF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2026

<https://rainbowvets.org/scholarships/>

Application submissions March 1, 2026 – July 15, 2026
Tammy Moss-Hicks, RDVF Scholarship Chair

Over the years, we have had numerous requests to support not only undergraduate studies but also vocational schools. Education is the cornerstone of a soldier's employment within the ranks and often hinges on their civilian education and / or occupation. The RDVF strongly encourages education and proudly partners with students to achieve their goals. It is in this spirit that the RDVF Scholarship committee continues to offer Undergraduate Scholarships annually. These are one-time scholarships offered to legacy family members, current Soldier's family members, and Soldiers. If a student is a Gold family member, they are eligible to apply each year of their undergraduate college program. These scholarships are for anyone who has served with a 42nd ID unit or an aligned unit. All applications are due by July 15th.

In addition to undergraduate college funds, the RDVF Scholarship Committee is excited to offer a new initiative dedicated to serving soldiers. This new program is the Rainbow Assistance for Vocational Education (RAVE). The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation will award up to \$2,000 to currently- serving soldiers assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division units (to include "Division Aligned Units"). The applications will be accepted twice a year; December 15th and July 15th each year.

This scholarship is only available to enlisted soldiers and warrant officers in the grade of WO1 or CW2 who are pursuing a vocational program degree or certification. It is a one-time award; soldiers may only receive one RAVE scholarship. Courses or classes should be directly related to acquiring necessary skills to advance your civilian career in the related industry. These courses could include mechanics, welding, bookkeeping, CDL driver school, HVAC, or crane operator certification, for example.

If you know a soldier or warrant officer who is trying to become certified in a vocation, reach out to the RDVF Scholarship committee chair, Tammy Moss-Hicks at 42idscholars@gmail.com Don't wait! Contact us today with any questions and let RDVF help you achieve your educational goals!

FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS
AND TO DOWNLOAD A **2026** SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION PLEASE GO TO

<https://rainbowvets.org/scholarships/>

WWII MEMORIAL FILE Deaths Reported Since October 2025

EZELL, William Brown "Blossom"
Company K, 222nd Infantry Regiment

SCHMITZ, Richard D.
Headquarters Co/1st Bn,
232nd Infantry Regiment
Rainbow Rangers

SANDEL, Leo
Company F, 222nd Infantry Regiment

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC. Contributions Received October 2025 -January 2026

- 25. Judy Kay Brookover, in memory of
William S. Butts WWI ,
117th Engineers, Medic
William L. Butts WWII
42nd Division Reconnaissance Troop
- 100. John J. Bobb, in memory of
John A. Bobb, Medic, 242nd Inf. Regt. WWII
- 50. SGT Greg Wilk, in memory of
SFC Robert Gibson
- 258. Rose Carter Pettus, in memory of
James R. "Pete" Pettus, K/232
- 206. Michele (Ty) Lawson and Matt (Ash) Lewis,
"in loving memory of our *Uncle Blossom Ezell*,
K/222, age 101. He had the most infectious smile
and lived to make everyone around here share it!"

Note: each contribution is received with our thanks and has been divided as each contributor requested among these categories: Foundation (Operating and/or Endowment); Scholarship (Operating and/or Endowment).

November 2025
Garden City, NY
WWI Rainbow
Monument
photo from
Bill Vorliceck

