



# REVEILLE

## RAINBOW REMEMBRANCES MEMORIAL DAY 2020

The MISSION of The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation is dedicated to commemorating the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Rainbow) Division through memorials, education and preserving the Legacy of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division.



The Foundation membership will continue to build upon the legacy of the gallant men and women who have served, recognizing their valor, heroism and patriotism, and the sacrifices made by them and their families.



VOL. XCIX JULY 2020 NO. 4  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY – OCTOBER, JANUARY, APRIL, JULY  
PUBLISHED ONLINE AT <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 JULY 2020 REVEILLE

We hope all are well as our nation recovers from this COVID-19 pandemic. It certainly has affected all aspects of our society.

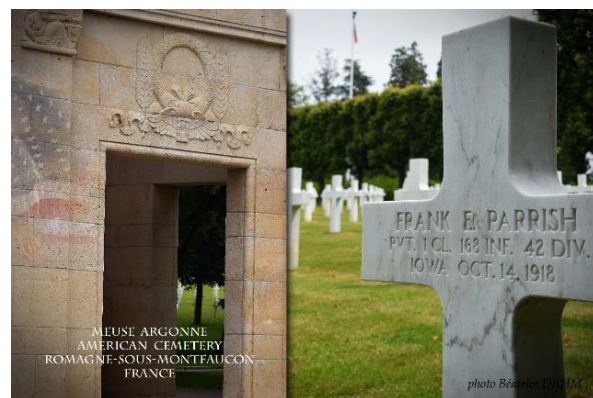
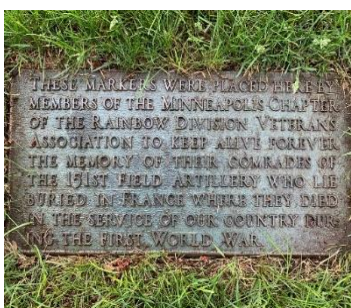
The RDVF Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY. There will also be a no host cocktail party on Friday evening September 11<sup>th</sup>. See flyer in this issue.

The WWII Tour of the Rainbow Division battlefields has been rescheduled for 2021. As you may know, travel to Europe is still shut down but we anticipate countries will be open for tourism next year. The new dates are July 6 through July 17, 2021. While the majority of participants agreed to stay with the new dates for next year, there are a few seats available.

The COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial of the Liberation of Dachau. However, RDVF Memorials Officer, LTC(ret) Paul Fanning and the New York National Guard Public Affairs team were able to organize a teleconference between 8 WWII veterans and MG Steven Ferrari, Commanding General 42d Division from his headquarters in Kuwait. Our vets shared their still vivid memories of the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Their stories resonate with Rainbow soldiers today. The 42d Division has hit the halfway mark on their deployment in the Middle East. The mission is going well and we look forward to their return in late Fall of this year.

**Rainbow! Never Forget! Paul Genereux, RDVF Chairman**

Captions to these photos are on page 2



SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE ARE DUE BY 10 OCTOBER 2020



## 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

Paul Genereux

392 NE Abaca Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957-4603

<pgener1788@aol.com>

### FOUNDATION VICE CHAIRMAN

Phil Pugliese

27 Estate Drive Castleton, NY 12033

<phillip.t.pugliese.nfg@mail.mil> (518)703-0465

### MEMORIALS OFFICER

Paul Fanning

150 Thimbleberry Rd Malta, NY 12020-4377

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

### FOUNDATION SECRETARY

Kelly Fancher

51 June Lane Valatie, NY 12184-4908

<kelly.fancher.mil@mail.mil> (518)527-7011

### FOUNDATION TREASURER

Peter P. Riley

22 Almond Tree Lane Warwick, NY 10990-2442

<peteririley22@icloud.com>

### HISTORIAN

Patrick Chaisson

508 Glen Avenue Scotia, NY 12302-1412

<patchais@aol.com> 518-641-2731

### SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

Gary Yaple

P.O. Box 531 West Stockbridge MA 01266-0531

<gyaple1@gmail.com> (585)507-8363

### EVENT COORDINATOR

John J. Willsey

48 McDonald Dr Cohoes, NY 12047-1119

<john.j.willsey.civ@mail.mil> (518)496-2669

### REVEILLE EDITOR

Suellen R. McDaniel

1400 Knolls Drive Newton, NC 28658-9452

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

Vol. XCIX July 2020 No. 4

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. Windsor <windsora@emissourian.com>

### PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Kelly Fancher, contact info above

With copy to REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)  
and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

\$25./annually;\$50.LIFE for WWII veterans;  
\$200.LIFE for all others) may be sent directly to

RDVF Treasurer, Peter P. Riley

(USPS above); or online at <rainbowvets.org>

## A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

We thank thee, Father, for our memories of home, of loved ones whom we cherish there. We thank thee for our country and the men who made it possible for us to live as sons of freedom. There is gratitude within our hearts for battles won and for the men who sacrificed their all that we might gain the time to train and carry on until the joys of peace again have come. Our Father, give us courage for the days of trial which may lie before us. Give us faith that whatsoever may befall, whatever sacrifice we make, the world may be the better for our having lived.

With Thee we trust our destinies. **AMEN**



PFC Arnold L. Gladwin, in training as a member of HQ Btry,  
402<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, 1944

First printed in the Thursday February 10, 1944 edition of  
The Rainbow REVEILLE at Camp Gruber, OK

## HOME COMING

In the January 2020 issue of REVEILLE as part of our commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we described the service of SGT Raymond Carlyle Blanton, who trained in B/232, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, at Camp Gruber, OK from its reactivation in July 1943 until sent to the ETO in the spring of 1944 as a reinforcement serving in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division.

He was killed in action in the Huertgen Forest in October 1944 and missing in action until this spring when his family was notified that his remains had been repatriated and identified.

Later this year, 76 years after his death, he will be laid to rest at his home in Virginia with his surviving family in attendance.

Photo is from the Tablets of the Missing at The American War Cemetery and Memorial at Margraten, The Netherlands <https://9thinfantrydivision.net/raymond-c-blanton/>



## Captions from photos on page 1 (Bottom Right)

"Today, we honor and remember. Soldiers from the 578th conducted a wreath ceremony in Exposition Park at the 42 ID (Rainbow) Division Monument. Our engineers can trace their heritage back to this storied unit, when Californians of the 117th Engineers joined the Rainbow Division in World War I. Upon their return, they erected this monument in honor of their fellow Soldiers who did not make it home. This Memorial Day, let us remember our fallen service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice."

(Top Left) "This afternoon, a Wreath-Laying Ceremony took place at the 42d Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Monument in Garden City New York. The wreath was provided by the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation and the Ceremony was conducted by members of the 42d Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Association and the 69th Veterans Association. The wreath was placed by Brigadier General (Retired) Pat Alesia who also gave a few words. 69th Veterans Association Regimental Historian Bert Cunningham concluded the ceremony with a short reading of Father Duffy. The honor guard consisted of Bill Vorliceck, (Downstate Chapter Chairman of the 42d Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Association), Henry Zalak (Downstate Chapter Treasurer of the 42d Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Association) and Joe Borelli of the Downstate Chapter of the 42d Infantry 'Rainbow' Division Association. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, the number of participants was limited and all participants wore face coverings and observed social distancing. RAINBOW – Never Forget!"



**(CENTER two photos)** Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis MN – This plaque reads, “These markers were placed here by members of the Minneapolis Chapter of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association to keep alive forever the memory of their comrades of the 151<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery who lie buried in France where they died in the service of our country during the First World War.” Photo taken by Adam Kelly, SFC US ARMY NG MNARNG (USA). From Bill Junco: “Thank you for allowing Lindskoog Florist to participate in honoring the Rainbow Division.”

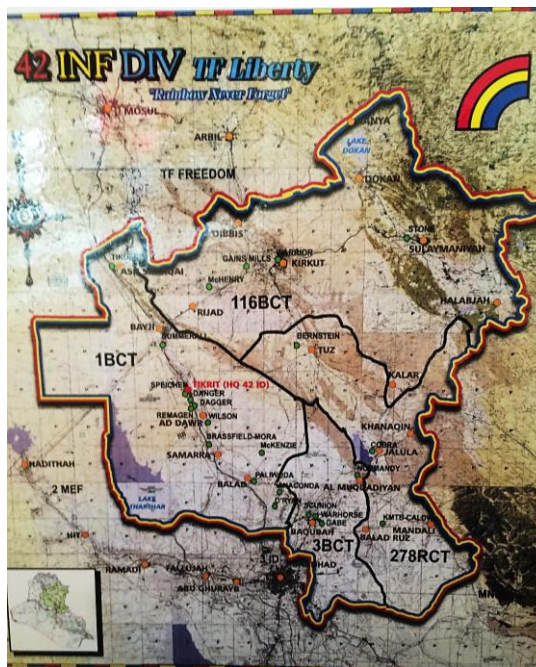
**Photo presentations** of the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery at Seringes-et-Nesles, FR; and the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sur-Montfaucon, FR are by French photographer Béatrice Dahm. Recommended – “In Search of Rainbow Memorials” by Lise Pommois which can be downloaded from the “Rainbow Memorials” link on the RDVF home page, <rainbowvets.org>; the author has included a listing of Rainbow Soldiers in each cemetery by name and unit.

## 15 YEARS AGO – (PART III) THE RAINBOW DEPLOYS TO IRAQ By MG(R) Joseph Taluto

With the mobilization process behind us, units of TF Liberty began deploying to the Theater of Operations. Kuwait was our staging area where units could continue to man, train and equip prior to moving into position in Iraq. While in Kuwait, equipping issues regarding Up Armored Wheeled Vehicles became a huge topic of concern. With the advent of our enemies using Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's) against Coalition forces, conventional wheeled vehicles left our troops exposed to injuries and fatalities. The media as well as families were clamoring for better armor protection on vehicles and for the soldiers themselves. The US DOD was working as fast as possible to field new vehicles and better armor protection for its forces but as Secretary Rumsfeld stated while in Kuwait and addressing TF Liberty units, “You go to war with the Army you’ve got, not the Army you want.” This statement would lead to great controversy back home but indeed what TF Liberty had for armor protection is what we had to use for the immediate future.

TF Liberty was scheduled to relieve the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division on a phased timeline during the months of November through February. The process of relief in place (RIP) is a phased process where units replace other units on a timeline that takes place over a couple months. Once the majority of the units have been changed over, Command and Control is assumed by the incoming HQ. By late December the majority of TF Liberty were in Theater with some units already in place in Iraq. It was at this time that our RIP timeline was changed. Iraqi elections were to take place in December but had to be pushed to January. General Casey, the Commander of Forces in Iraq, did not want to be replacing a Division HQ during this critical time. Therefore, our assumption of command, scheduled for Mid-January, was pushed to mid-February after elections.

With the elections complete in January of 2005 and the majority of TF Liberty in place, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ assumed command of all forces in the Area of Operations known as North Central Iraq. The change of command ceremony was Feb 14, 2005, one year to the day I received the phone call informing me of our pending deployment. The change of command took place at our new HQ location in Tikrit, Iraq within the walls of Saddam Hussein's family compound. The Palace complex consisted of 246 Buildings. The Palace was captured by the 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in 2003 during the invasion of Iraq. The 1st Inf Div replaced the 4<sup>th</sup> in early 2004 and named the compound Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danger. Our HQ's along with civilian foreign and domestic agencies in support of the operation occupied the majority of the FOB. All in all, over 2,000 Americans resided at FOB Danger in 2005. We would be the last HQ to occupy the Palace complex which meant we were responsible for turning it back over to the Iraqi Government in late 2005.



Our Area of Operations (AO) in North Central (NC) Iraq was the size of West Virginia with a population of 6.5 million Iraqi people. (See the map insert). It included both Sunni and Shiite religious sects as well as Arab and Kurdish ethnicities. It included the infamous Sunni Triangle, the Tigris river valley, vast desert areas as well as the mountain region in the Kurdish lands.

There were four provinces (these roughly equate to US States). To say the Area of Operations (AO) was vast and diverse is an understatement! In addition to its diversity, NC Iraq produced and refined 40% of Iraq's oil which required major security considerations for oil fields, refineries and the pipeline infrastructure that moved the oil to foreign lands as well as to Bagdad.

Our mission (as it was for all Divisions in-Country during 2005) was to stabilize their area by providing Security while reforming local Government, growing the Economy and rebuilding the Military. Over 23,000 TF Liberty soldiers were positioned on 29 Forward Operating Bases (FOB's) throughout NC Iraq working stability operations through these four lines of operation. Each Headquarters, Division through Battalion was responsible for working within their sphere of influence, meaning that they matched up with a similar level of control within the Iraqi military and governmental structure. For example, the Division HQ worked closely with two Iraqi Division HQ's and Provincial Governors while US Brigades worked with Iraqi Bde's and Provincial Leaders and so on for Battalions.

**The Security line of operations:** The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division provided



guidance to its subordinate units through plans and provided the resources and intelligence to support those plans. With no Iraqi law enforcement or military support yet established, the main requirement was to gain the confidence of the Iraqi population by demonstrating that coalition forces could protect the population and deter insurgents. This was mainly accomplished by ground patrol on a near continuous



basis by TF Liberty units Patrolling within Iraqi cities and villages



made us visible to the Iraqi people but exposed troops to attacks by insurgents who wanted to disrupt the peace. Insurgents also attacked and killed Iraqi citizens to diminish their freedoms and security.

**The Government line of operations:** The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ worked closely with the four Provincial Governors in our AO. We met frequently with The Governors and Provincial Council members as well as Department Heads, such as Police, Water and Sanitation etc. We held quarterly



Provincial Governor's Conferences. The meetings were held on a rotating basis at each Province. The Governors would express their concerns with the process of building Government in Iraq as well as economic and security needs. These concerns became the basis for helping them develop strategies to improve operations in their province as well as serving their constituents.

**The Military line of operations:** TF Liberty units were responsible for the training and equipping of two Iraqi Divisions. Since the regular Iraqi military was dismantled it would take years to rebuild the Iraqi



military. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ had responsibility to begin the training and equipping of the newly formed Iraqi 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Division leadership and staff while each subordinate Brigade headquarters had



responsibility to train the Iraqi brigades and so on. Leadership academies were established to train Senior and Junior Non-Commissioned officers. The main military academy was established at FOB Danger. Training and equipping local police was also a requirement. We needed to establish police presence in Iraqi towns

and villages. This was a monumental challenge as corruption within police was rampant in Iraq. Finding honest law enforcement officers with the integrity to serve the public was a major task. TF Liberty forces were augmented by makeshift (provisional) Iraqi police training units provided by Hq Multi-National Forces Iraq. Maintaining the rule of law, a basic democratic principle, would serve to be one of the biggest challenges for Coalition forces throughout Iraq.



**The Economic line of operations:** The economy of Iraq prior to regime change was state based. Iraqi citizens did not operate and in many cases did not understand what a free market economy was within the confines of a democratic society. One of our major initiatives was infrastructure improvement and development. Iraqi infrastructure was outdated and in great need of rehabilitation. We encouraged Iraqi citizens to build and repair in every manner possible. TF Liberty accounted for \$3.09B dollars in projects completed, underway or planned at the end of our tour. The Iraq military was one of the biggest employers in Iraq before it was dissolved. Many Iraqi men were unemployed and this led to discontent and fodder for the insurgency. As we rebuilt the military and police forces, we developed strict screening processes to facilitate the hire of honest Iraqi soldiers and police officers. As stated, we provided money to start-up businesses. One such endeavor was the establishment of a local TV and radio station! It was a major initiative since all broadcasting prior was State run. We supported gaining proper licensing and for the first time that we knew of, Tikrit, Iraq had a TV broadcast determined by its owner! Since TF Liberty had many National Guard soldiers assigned, we had great expertise in all types of civilian career fields: law enforcement, financial management, small business ownership, craft trade, agriculture and government. We put these soldiers to work with counterparts in the Iraqi economy to help educate and establish a base line to succeed in a free market economy.

In the end, TF Liberty made great strides on all these lines of operations. Frankly, the accomplishments are too vast to list. In general, TF Liberty can be credited with turning over governmental operations to Iraqi elected officials, standing up Iraqi units capable of independent military operations, numerous economic successes like the TV station, numerous other start-up businesses, improved agricultural markets and vast infrastructure improvements. During our tour, the Iraqi people, despite insurgent threats of violence, voted and approved a Constitution. Coalition Hq's directives set goals to reduce US Forces footprints in each AO by the end of 2005. We reduced the coalition footprint in NC Iraq by over 35%, the most by any Division. *(I have enclosed my Transfer of Authority remarks made as we relinquished command in November 2005 for those interested in reading them).*

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation, a prestigious unit award! It was a deserving recognition to the Hq and Hq Company 42<sup>nd</sup> Division soldiers who worked so hard for mission success. I was truly honored to be their commander.

So there you have it! The final article of three that give a short overall synopsis of our historic alert, mobilization and deployment 15 years ago. I encourage anyone to write an article of remembrances of the deployment and submit them to Suellen McDaniel our Reveille editor.  
**Rainbow! Never Forget!**

**Photo one** - Map of TF Liberty Area of Operations from MG(R) Taluto

**Photos 2 – 8** are from COL Richard Goldenberg USARMY NG

NYARNG (USA)

**Photo 2** - Sgt. 1st Class Todd Kuchelmeister, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, goes over a mission plan with Iraqi army soldiers, shortly before going on a May 14 patrol.

**Photo 3** - Staff Sgt. Robert Young, 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry, from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, shows members of the Provincial High Crimes unit on the proper stance and how to hold their weapon while looking for wanted people during tactical training for Iraqi law enforcement August 24, 2005.

**Photo 4** - Members of Task Force Liberty oversee the transfer of a training compound from American to Iraqi control in Dibil, Iraq, April 29.

**Photo 5** - An Iraqi displays proof of his participation in the historic constitutional referendum vote October 15, 2005. After 10 days of counting votes, the country's electoral commission announced that the constitution had been approved by a wide margin nationwide.

**Photo 6** - A Soldier with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, part of Task Force Liberty, provides overwatch at a checkpoint in north central Iraq March 16, 2005.

**Photo 7** - Sgt. Beau Saucier, a 5/7 Cav. team leader in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, part of Task Force Liberty, kicks in the door on a suspected insurgent's house during a raid in north central Iraq May 3.

**Photo 8** - A Soldier from the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters provides security during a visit to the Baiji oil refinery in Kikruk Province May 5.

## TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY REMARKS

*"In World Wars I and II, the Rainbow Division fought until victory was won. Modern wars are different. Units now deploy to the combat zone for set periods of time. At the end of that time, a formal Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony is held passing responsibility for the operational zone from one unit commander to another. The following remarks, read by 42ID Commanding General MG Joseph Taluto, on November 1, 2005, commemorate the accomplishments of all personnel assigned to Task Force Liberty, which included many Rainbow Division soldiers."*

*Patrick J. Chaisson, MAJ(R), RDVF Historian*

Acknowledgements: Gen. Casey, Gen. Vines, Gen. Dempsey.  
Gen. Babikar, Gen. Abadi, Gen. Qadr,  
Governors, Hamood, Raad, Mustafa and Dana,  
Fellow General Officers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bringing TF LIBERTY together has been a challenging but extremely rewarding experience. I wish to acknowledge up front the tremendous support the 42<sup>nd</sup> received from every aspect of our Army and indeed our government in preparing us for this deployment. There was nothing less than a 100% effort on the part of all associated with our preparation for this mission...and there was nothing less than a 100% commitment by TF LIBERTY elements to the success of the mission.

We accomplished what we were directed to do, we met our objectives and most importantly we have advanced the cause of freedom here in Iraq. The collective effort of each TF LIBERTY Soldier has added up to measurable achievement in all lines of operations. While I am proud of our accomplishments and with our support to the Iraqi people, I am equally as proud of the way the members of this TF came together to make it happen. I have often stated that TF LIBERTY's strength was its diverse makeup. With its mix of NG, Reserve and AC Soldiers we were able to best organize and serve the Iraqi people by leveraging the strengths and experience of these components.

As a person that cherishes team accomplishments, I could not be more fulfilled. Starting with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division staff and our incredible Chief Gordy Mereness to the magnificent leadership of our brigade and BN CDRS and their CSM. It could not have been better. To my faithful deputies, BG's Paul Genereux and Tom Sullivan and my Command Partner CSM Dick Fearnside, thank you for your loyalty and outstanding performance. And, of course to all TF LIBERTY Soldiers whose courage and dedicated service made all things possible. It has been and is always the Soldier who at the end of the day carries out the orders of its leadership. What I saw them do day in and day out is incredible. I wish I could share it with every American. Their actions were inspirational and a thing of beauty.

To our Iraqi partners and friends. Today's ceremony has additional symbolic meaning. It marks the last time coalition forces will host an event on these palace grounds. Soon this place that once was for only an elite few, will be a place for the Iraqi people. Instead of

representing how one man used Iraq's wealth, it now represents how Iraq's wealth can serve its people.

I am grateful for your friendship and respect and admire the progress you have made. I know you understand our honorable intentions here in your country...to help you realize the most precious gift a people can have, freedom. I pray for your continued progress.

Gen. Casey, Gen. Vines, Fellow Gen. Officers, I am privileged and honored to have served for, with and among the best leaders in the US Army. Thank you all for your guidance and support. It has been an incredible personal experience.

As for the Rainbow Division, the significance of being in a line-up with such legendary Army Divisions, as the Big Red One, the Marne Men and The Screaming Eagles is not lost upon us. It has forever added to the esteem of the 42<sup>nd</sup>'s own history. I wish to extend our most heartfelt best wishes to Gen. Tom Turner and his tremendous team as you begin to further advance the cause of freedom here in Iraq. There is no doubt that you will be successful in all your endeavors.

Finally, as we say goodbye to our many Iraqi friends and wish our comrades-in-arms God Speed, we look forward to being reunited with our families who have endured the anxieties associated with a long separation. Their love and support have been constant and a source of strength for us all. We will be with you soon.

May God bless the Iraqi people with peace and prosperity and may God bless the USA.

This is LIBERTY 6 OUT.

## Heroism Knows No Color

By Patrick J. Chaisson MAJ(R) RDVF Historian



The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation is committed to remembering our history, which includes events not necessarily well-known to the public. In this short piece, we will hopefully shed light on an astonishing incident from World War II that involved members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and a supporting Tank Destroyer battalion comprised mostly of African-American soldiers.

(NOTE: the oral histories and official reports quoted in this article employ terms no longer considered acceptable to describe people of color. Their use here does not represent endorsement by this author, the *Rainbow Reveille*, or the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation.)

The date was Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Hatten, a strategic village in France's Alsace region, was defended by some 775 inexperienced G.I.s belonging to First Battalion, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (nicknamed the "Rainbow" Division for its colorful shoulder patch). Those soldiers badly needed help in order to withstand a fierce enemy assault that threatened to overrun their positions.

While Hatten's defenders succeeded in beating back a series of dismounted infantry attacks, their puny anti-tank (AT) weapons proved no match for the estimated 22 Panzers (German word for "tanks") arrayed against them. Mostly, "Bazooka" rockets and AT grenades just bounced off the Panzers' thick hides. The Americans'



underpowered 57mm anti-tank cannons and 105mm howitzers managed to get off a few rounds before they were obliterated by enemy tank or artillery fire.

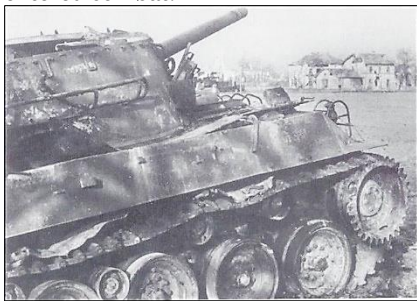
The call went out for Tank Destroyer (TD) support. During World War II, tank destroyers were a specialized branch of the service whose job it was (as the name says) to kill enemy Panzers. The TDs' high mobility and powerful main guns were supposed to compensate for their poor armor protection. In combat, however, it didn't always work out that way.

One mile to the west, in another village known as Rittershoffen, assembled a platoon of four M-18 *Hellcat* TDs belonging to Company B, 827<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion. This was a so-called "Negro" outfit, which meant the unit's enlisted men and some officers were of African descent. Other officers, like the platoon leader, 2LT Robert F. Jones, were white.

The US Army in World War II was racially segregated by policy and practice. The 42nd Division was no exception. In WWII there were no African-American soldiers serving in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division. Racial prejudice persisted despite the viewpoint of Third US Army Commander LTG George S. Patton, Jr., who famously told some of his African-American tankers, "I don't care what color you are as long as you go up there and kill those Kraut sons of \*\*\*s."

No fighting unit suffered more under the Army's segregationist policies than the 827<sup>th</sup> TD. Organized at Camp Forrest, Tennessee (a base named for the Confederate general who had black POWs murdered before he became a postwar leader of the Ku Klux Klan), the unit trained for almost two turbulent years Stateside. During that time, it received eight commanding officers, underwent four major reorganizations, and failed five Army certification tests.

The outfit's hard luck followed it to Europe. On New Year's Day 1945, the 827<sup>th</sup> accepted another new battalion commander (who had never worked with tank destroyers), as well as a full set of factory-fresh M-18 *Hellcats* – which no one knew how to use. Four days later, they entered combat.



It was a system seemingly destined to fail.

Nevertheless, 2LT Jones took his four M-18s into battle on January 10<sup>th</sup> as part of a two-battalion counterattack. The enemy, though, met the advancing G.I.s with a strike force of his own. An estimated 200 Nazi infantry

accompanied by six Panzers crashed into the Americans just west of Hatten. A U.S. lieutenant remembers the encounter:

"[W]hen we started to try to clean up the town...four tank destroyers came in. Several of those colored boys really were wonderful, standing right there swapping punch for punch with *Tiger* [sic] tanks. Their platoon leader, 2d Lt. Robert F. Jones, of Casper, Wyo., deserves the Silver Star. They found an abandoned M-10 tank destroyer there in good condition and decided to use it instead of one of their own."

"Jones took a machine-gun for signaling," the narrative continues, "and laid it on the steps of the forward house, with a tank destroyer farther back and zeroed on the bend. Jones was supposed to trip the machine-gun trigger with a string, but when the first [tank] poked its snout around the bend he just didn't have any sense. He got right out on the steps and held the trigger down, spraying the [tank]. The tank opened fire and blew the steps right out from under Jones, but he wasn't hurt. His gunner, S/Sgt Harry Johnson, of Philadelphia, opened fire and drove the [tank] back."

Another combat journal picks up the story: "Three tanks of the German force swept close around the west end of the south main street of Hatten. One of Jones' tank destroyers, commanded by Sergeant Spencer Irving, was hidden by houses in the 'spur' at the southwestern corner; and Irving could see the unsuspecting Panzers coming. They crossed the Hatten-Rittershoffen road and Sergeant Irving brought his tank destroyer out of hiding and lined up his targets before the Panzers could swing about into firing position."

The infantrymen "swore that Irving, standing up in his turret, turned and called to them, 'How do you want them? One, two, three, or three, two, one?' He then picked off the three Panzers 'one, two, three'."

Many who survived the Battle of Hatten wrote about Lt. Jones' hard-fighting TD platoon. During the period January 9-17, 1945, his soldiers received credit for destroying nine German tanks and three more "probably" killed. Jones eventually received the Silver Star for his leadership under fire.

Their victory came at the cost of three TD crewmen killed in action and one seriously wounded. Staff Sergeant George S. Brimm was one of the fallen, and his remains now rest in the Lorraine American Military Cemetery near St. Avold, France.

Brimm is one of 10,489 American war dead (including 181 members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division) who slumber for eternity at Lorraine American Military Cemetery. Black and white soldiers are buried side-by-side there, no longer segregated by racist policy. Their shared sacrifice serves as a very real reminder that heroism knows no color.



**PHOTO ONE:** The M-18 *Hellcat* was an American tank destroyer of World War II. Weighing 20 tons and equipped with a 76mm main gun, the M-18 could travel at speeds exceeding 45 mph – making it the fastest tank destroyer in general use by Allied forces throughout the war. Five soldiers crewed this vehicle. (Photo courtesy <https://www.worldwarphotos.info>)

**PHOTO TWO:** This image of a wrecked 827<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion was taken by a German soldier at Hatten, France, during the fighting that took place there in January, 1945. (Photo from "History of the 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Division")

**PHOTO THREE:** Staff Sergeant George S. Brimm of Company B, 827<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion, was an African-American soldier killed in action at Hatten, France, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945. His remains rest together with members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division who fought there alongside his unit 75 years ago. (Photo courtesy <http://www.findagrave.com>)

## The Rainbow Division's 'Man in Munich' comes through again – Pandemic impact led to a personal 75<sup>th</sup> Dachau Commemoration

By Paul Fanning, Lt. Col. (retired), RDVF Memorials Officer

MUNICH, GERMANY – Every year since I became the RDVF Memorials Officer in 2012 I knew I could count on Ludwig Stöckl to obtain a wreath on behalf of our foundation and place it for us during the annual commemoration ceremony at the Dachau Memorial site. It is located near Munich, Germany.

But this year, the impact of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic led to the German government's decision to cancel all public gatherings which could lead to even greater numbers of infections. This meant a change of plans all around. Our "Man in Munich" – a local businessman who owns and operates a jewelry store there, despite all, came through for us yet again.

As before, Ludwig sent me an email well in advance and as always, I placed our order with him. He worked with our favorite florist. This year was supposed to be special. It was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and several WWII Rainbow Division veterans had been invited by the Memorial site Education Department. They planned to come. Ludwig was set to welcome them and help them place the wreath together as a group. He was our local contact there and would work the details on our behalf.

But when COVID-19 started to spread and Dachau officials issued warnings about plan changes, we braced for what that might mean. Then the word came that the official public program was cancelled and, in its place would be a virtual ceremony presented online. Only Dachau officials would be allowed on site. Only wreaths from one authorized vendor would be used and placed by Dachau staff. These proceedings would be recorded. If an organization wanted to be included "virtually" it had to order a floral arrangement through the authorized vendor. This vendor was not the one we were used to.

After consulting with our director, Brig. Gen. Paul Genereux we came up with a plan to cooperate with the Dachau officials, but show some loyalty to our friend as well. We asked Ludwig to order a second wreath through the authorized vendor - modeled after the one we had already ordered. And, with our order for the first wreath already placed, I asked Ludwig if he would honor us by placing that wreath on display in his jewelry shop.

In the end, he did much more. His store front became a week-long memorial to the role of the 42<sup>nd</sup> in the camp's liberation. It included a computer-generated video display, in German – so that local people could see it and learn. I asked him to send us some photos and to make sure he was in them. I told him about the conference call opportunity we had arranged. I told him that at least two of the participating veterans remember him. And he told me, "I remember them too. I will be thinking of them always."



*Photo of Ludwig and Evelin Stöckl is sent by Ludwig Stöckl.*

## Conference call marks 75th Anniversary of Dachau Liberation - WWII Rainbow vets hosted by division commander from Kuwait

By Paul Fanning, Lt. Col. (R) RDVF Memorials Officer

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – The service of eight World War II Rainbow Division veterans was honored on April 29<sup>th</sup> during a special phone call connecting them from their homes in the US with the modern command serving on federal Active Duty in Kuwait.

The conference call was arranged by the RDVF to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most significant moments in Rainbow Division history – the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, Germany on that date in 1945.

The Dachau Memorial site has held public anniversary ceremonies for decades and members of the RDVF have often attended in person. The Rainbow Division's role is described on a plaque that was created by the RDVF and placed there on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary back in 1995. Each year, the RDVF sponsors a memorial wreath, our friend Ludwig Stöckl ensures it is presented even when a Rainbow Division veteran has been unable to attend.

To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, last year the education department at the Dachau Memorial reached out to the RDVF to help identify WWII Rainbow veterans who would be able to come to Germany for the ceremony and at the expense of the memorial site. It was felt that given the age of these men, this would likely be the last anniversary when a member of this generation could be present.

Through our newsletter and website, several veterans and family members responded. There was growing enthusiasm. Sadly, the event was cancelled following the COVID-19 pandemic. The German government determined the risk for further spread was too great and veterans of World War II are among the most at risk for serious consequences should they become infected.

And that is when Brig. Gen. (retired) Paul Genereux, the RDVF director communicated by email with Maj. Gen. Steven Ferrari, the commander of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division 10 time zones away in Kuwait. About 650 members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division are deployed there as the leading element of Task Force Spartan, operating in the US Central Command area of responsibility.

From this exchange, a decision was made to conduct a conference call so that Rainbow Division veterans, past and present could come together virtually to remember their shared history.

Eight Rainbow Division veterans ranging in age from 93 to 99 years spoke with and heard the commanding general while other members of the division listened in by speaker phone. The call originated at the public affairs office at the NY National Guard headquarters in Latham, NY. Colonel Richard Goldenberg, the state

public affairs officer and Rainbow Division veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 hosted it.

Following opening remarks by Maj. Gen. Ferrari and Brig. Gen. Genereux the author of this article then had the privilege to narrate the program and introduce each veteran in turn.

**Dee Eberhart** was born on July 10, 1924 in Los Angeles, CA and is age 96. On April 29, 1945 he was a PFC assigned as a scout in Company I, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. Following the war, he became a college teacher and is the Emeritus Professor of Geography at Central Washington University. He was also the Chair of the Rainbow Division Veterans Association and lives in Ellensburg, WA.

**Frank Burns** was born on July 16, 1923 in Kauai, a territory of Hawaii. On April 29, 1945 he was a PFC assigned to Company I, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. After the war he became an engineer with the Boeing Aircraft Company and lives in Seattle, WA

**Hilbert Margol** was born on February 22, 1924 in Jacksonville, FL. On April 29, 1945 he was a PFC assigned to Battery B, 392<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. After the war he operated a successful chain of furniture stores and retired on his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday as a Chief Executive Officer. On the following May 21, his story as a member of the Rainbow Division appeared in a National Geographic broadcast special.

**Elbert Dobbs** was born on October 1, 1920 in Walton County, GA and is now 99 years old. On April 29, 1945 he was a Sergeant assigned to Company E, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. After the war he owned and operated a trucking company that supported another business for 50 years. Elbert lives in a care facility in Peachtree City, GA and has trouble speaking for extended periods. At his request, a transcript of his story was read.

"On April 28th we were traveling towards Dachau and we were ambushed. I jumped off the truck I was riding in, down a bank into a ditch. Just seconds behind me was my buddy, Kenneth. We had been through basic training together; he rolled down behind me; he had been hit 3 times and was dead.

"We took care of the machine gunners that were firing on us. We could see the camp and they started throwing mortars on us. We went into a sort of beer garden with a basement for cover. We stayed the night there. During the night, myself and one other soldier stood guard upstairs while the rest were in the basement.

"Three German soldiers came in on us. I fired my rifle into the ceiling, and we started hollering at them and they surrendered to us. The next day our company liberated Dachau. Fortunately, I did not go into the camp itself, as it was a terrible sight.

"While part of the company went inside and took out the guards, others found and tended to the prisoners. I was sent, along with 5 other soldiers, towards Munich to see if we would get any resistance. About a mile or two out we came up on a half-track that had been all shot up, so we turned and went back.

"Then the company went towards Munich together. We were in Austria when the war ended, and we had to guard about 200 German soldiers that had surrendered to us. There is a lot that I don't really remember, and that's probably a good thing. It was rough over there."

**Gerald Eaton** was born on February 5, 1926 in Ontario, Canada and is 94 years old. On April 29, 1945 he was a Tech Sergeant assigned to Company F, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. After the war, he became an excavator, logger, cement and gravel foremen. He lives in Castorland, NY.

**Chester Pettey** was born on June 17, 1925 in North West Port, MA. He is age 95. On April 29, 1945 he was a PFC assigned to HQ Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was the battalion commander's driver and radio operator. Chet stayed in the Army and became an officer. He went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, retired in 1969 with more than 26 years of service. Today he lives in Abita Springs, LA which is near New Orleans.

**Russel Fielding** was born on February 23, 1921 in Central NY. He is age 99. On April 29, 1945 he was a platoon leader in the anti-tank company of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. After the war he became the manager of the daily newspaper in Rome, NY. He recently relocated from New Hartford, NY to Pittsburgh, PA to be closer to family members.

**Fidel Mendoza** was born on November 9, 1925 in San Antonio, TX. He is age 94. On April 29, 1945 he was a sergeant assigned to the third platoon of Company G, 222<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. After the war he became a printer. He lives in his hometown of San Antonio and his daughter Annette and grandson Justin are with him today. *Annette Mendoza reported her father passed away on Saturday July 18, 2020 as a result of complications connected with the Covid-19 virus. In her*



message dated July 19, she thanked everyone involved with the conference call of April 29.

The conference call audio was recorded by the NY National Guard public affairs office. In the days which followed, Maj. Gen. Ferrari wrote separate letters to each of the veterans who participated.

Less than two weeks later, James Gilmore, the archivist with the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation in Washington, DC had learned about the call and sent an email to me seeking a copy of the recording and supporting information. The digital audio file was made available to him.

I was also able to share a video recording I made back in March 2016 at a Rainbow Division Association luncheon in NY's Hudson Valley. World War II veteran Seymour Caplan, a friend of a chapter member was invited to speak. He served in a tank destroyer battalion assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> and was present the day Dachau was liberated. He presented an oral history to a live audience and it was recorded. The video was uploaded on request.

Finally, my late father was also with the Rainbow Division that day in 1945. He was a member of an Army Air Corps detachment that operated alongside ground units. He took his own pictures of the camp and I was able to digitally share these with his story too.

This proved to be a special commemoration for many, and despite the pandemic, the Rainbow kept its promise. "Never forget!"

## WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST Deaths Reported Since April 2020

<b>BARKER</b> , Verne Ray	H1B/222 Infantry
<b>BRACKETT</b> , John W.	H2B/222 Infantry
<b>CRAMER</b> , George	K/232 Infantry
<b>KOENIG</b> , Warren W.	HQ/222 Infantry
<b>LAHMANN</b> , William J.	HQ&A Batteries, 542 <sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery
<b>MENDOZA</b> , Fidel M.	G/222 Infantry
<b>PACZKOWSKI</b> , John Paul	E/232 Infantry
<b>PHILLIPS</b> , Francis E.	unit unreported
<b>PONTIERE</b> , Santo F.	42DIV HQ
<b>SMITH</b> , Robert Harvey	K/232 Infantry
<b>STANBERRY</b> , John A.	D/222 Infantry
<b>THOMAS</b> , Anthony H.	A-T/242 Infantry

### RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC Contributions 10 April 2020 – 10 July 2020 Scholarship and Foundation Endowment and Operating Funds

**RDVF ENDOWMENT** – Rose Anne Fowler – 40. *In memory of Richard J. Tisch, Btry A/392<sup>nd</sup> FA*

**RDVF SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT** – Sean Campbell – 100. *In memory of Ben Viola, F/242; LTC(R) Chester Pettey – 75. In honor and memory of Members of H2B/232 Infantry; Michel Natali – 100. for Peter Farrow; Charles Podhaizer – 50. ; CPT Otto H. Schultz Memorial Fund – 300. In honor and memory of CPT Otto H. Schultz; Paul Leonard Terzulli – 10. ; Debra R. Cyphert – 50. In honor and memory of Andrew Jackson Frum, F/232, KIA 14 January 1945; Alex Friend – 50. In honor and memory of Raymond Arthur Friend, G/222; Honored in our April 2020 issue by his daughter, Rev. Patricia Cockrell Wood – 100. we gratefully correct her father's name, Alvin J.W. Cockrell, Btry C/150<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWI.*

*All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged!*

### RECOMMENDED READING – *Kaltenhouse Remembered* by Norman A. Thompson (2020)

"A gripping story of combat in WWII in France as seen through the eyes of Norm Thompson, an ordinary foot soldier. We are drawn into a view of the war that extends only to the range of Thompson's weapon. Cold and exhausted with no hot chow and the constant fear of the dreaded German artillery, he and others of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Infantry Division valiantly defend their positions and ultimately defeat Hitler's last great offensive, Operation Nordwind. I highly recommend this book."

**Brigadier General Paul Genereux (retired), Chairman, 42nd Rainbow Division Veteran's Foundation**



137 Glenmore Road Troy, New York 12180

### 2020 Annual Meeting and Scholarship/Awards Banquet 11 Sep 2020 through 13 Sep 2020

Hilton Garden Inn 235 Hoosick St Troy, NY 12180

**Room Block** under **42d Infantry US Army** 11 Sep 20 – 13 Sep 20 - \$111.00 per night. It is more efficient to call the Troy Hilton (518-272 -1700) Directly than using the national website. Must book by 12 Aug 2020 to receive rate.

Cost for the event is **\$60.00 per person**. Scholarship winners will have dinner fees waived.

#### 11 Sep 20 Cocktail Party SAGE 1 Room Hilton Garden Inn

1730-2200 this event is Free with a Cash Bar (Artisan Cheese Platter)

#### 12 Sep 20 Chairman's Meeting with the Board Fitzroy Conference Room

0900-1300 (Lunch on Economy)

#### 12 Sep 20 Scholarship/Awards Dinner Sage Ballroom

Cocktails 1700, Dinner/Program 1800-2200

**Please go to [Rainbowvets.org](http://Rainbowvets.org) to register for the event and meal choices. Call John J. Willsey, at 518 496-2669 or email him at [jwillsfc@aol.com](mailto:jwillsfc@aol.com) for other payment options and meal choices.** Meal will consist of:

Green Garden Salad

CHICKEN BRUSCHETTA.....Grilled chicken breast, fresh tomato and onion bruschetta drizzled with balsamic glaze

PRIME RIB..... Slow roasted prime rib of beef, served in its natural jus and horseradish aioli

STUFFED FILLET OF SOLE.....Shrimp and crab stuffed sole topped with lobster cream sauce

VEGAN MEAL ..... Chef's Choice

DESERT.....Warm Apple Crisp

*If you cannot register online, please call, mail (48 McDonald Drive Cohoes, NY 12047) or email John Willsey, with your number of attendees, meal choice.*

*Your mailings should include Checks made out to RDVF.*