



**RAINBOW MEMORIALS AND
REMEMBRANCES
APRIL AND MAY 2021**



The Rainbow Wreath

*at DACHAU MEMORIAL SITE 29 April 2021
created by Frank Naujok at flower shop Diehm*

*A letter of appreciation to Juwelier Ludwig Stoeckl,
Dachau, Germany*

from Paul Fanning, RDVF Memorials Officer:

It was a pleasure to review these photos and consider the craftsmanship and care that went into the wreath you arranged for us. Generating a Rainbow-shaped wreath may sound simple, but we know it's not. In addition to the shape, the colors of the flowers leap to the eye. And as you said, the ribbon and the lettering are easy to read.

Our wreath stands out. It is beautiful and a fitting tribute to our veterans and to all the victims who suffered and died there. As I looked over the pictures, I thought of the symbolism of a rainbow – appearing after the storm and when the sun has begun to shine again. I also think of the Rainbow Division veterans of that era that I came to know and so many have passed now.

And I also think of my late father, who was also there on this day 76 years ago.

And that is why we do this - seek a wreath, the best we can get and have it placed at this historic site. We want to remember. We want to be reminded and to remind each other. We never want to forget.

On behalf of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, please extend our gratitude for this piece of art, created and presented for us, by Frank at Diehm's Flowers.

Photo and presentation by Frank Naujok



***National Dachau Monument in
The Netherlands***

REVEILLE

VOL. CI JULY 2021 NO. 1

**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 – Operation Spartan Shield**

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE Rainbow Family – we hope you are enjoying a safe and enjoyable summer as our nation returns to normal. The Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner is back on track for the weekend of September 10-12, 2021 in Troy NY. Please see the flyer in this issue of the Rainbow Reveille for details. The kickoff event is the Cocktail Party Friday evening 1730-2200. This is free to all RDVF members and Rainbow veterans. Please use this opportunity to reconnect with your Rainbow buddies. Pass the word. The Annual Meeting will begin on Saturday 0900 with a short memorial in honor of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The highlight of the weekend is the Annual Awards Dinner, cocktails at 1700 and dinner program at 1800. All are invited to attend.

Recently, The Foundation was contacted by M. Henri Gouraud, the great nephew of General Henri Gouraud, Commander of the IV French Army at the Battle of Champagne in July 1918. M. The Rainbow Division fought under GEN Gouraud in this battle and played a key role in the Allied victory. Please read the nearby article by MAJ (ret) Pat Chaisson about the history of the RDVF and the connection with GEN Gouraud and the IV French Army. We anticipate future interaction with M. Gouraud as part of our mission "...preserving the Legacy of the 42d Division."

Rainbow! Never Forget. Paul Genereux, RDVF Chairman

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 2021



Photo Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, FRANCE taken by French photographer, Beatrice Dahm

*(Photo left) From Jaap Mesdag 28 April 2021 The Netherlands
This year 17th of April we had a small ceremony at the National Dachau monument in the Netherlands. Due to Covid restrictions only a few visitors were allowed. There were 2 speeches from 2nd and 3rd generation speakers, and 2 children from the school that adopted the monument read a poem. The mayors (burgemeesters) of Amsterdam and Amstelveen and a representative of the ministry were present. No delegates from embassies this year. And the Military Music Chapel due to the restrictions was represented by their leader who gave musical support with a trumpet. Tomorrow we will visit the monument again, to remember the liberation of Dachau.
photo is from Amstelveenweb.com*

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)

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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>

1919 Memorial Day Address at LAKEWOOD CEMETERY, Minneapolis MN by William J. Harrington, Chaplain of the 151st Field Artillery, 42nd "Rainbow" Division WWI.



The first and last paragraphs of his Address read:

"They gave their all. Not a jot, not a tittle of all Life's charms did they reserve to themselves, those men who died. All that a man hath will he give for his friend, and they gave their all for their country. Greater love than this hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friend; and they proved that greater love by ennobling many an alien strand with crimson flood that surged from hearts pulsing with love..."

To those who died. May we who remain as living testimony to the worth of their blood ever cherish our duty towards God and country. May we never shame by our deeds the holocaust they offered. When the shadows of Death gather around us, too, may we be found worthy to join the ranks of our heroic dead, to answer to the Requiem of the drums as we go forth to meet."

Memorial Day photo is from the Lakewood Cemetery Events page



This 3-D postcard was sent by French battlefield guide and re-enactor, Damien Bauer, with this message: *I am sending you this postcard of Normandy where I currently find it for the celebration of the 77th anniversary of D-Day. Despite the Covid-19 crisis, I still wanted to honor the men who fell for our freedom, as I do every year. We have a debt to them. Damien Bauer*

The Secret of the Statue

General Henri Gouraud's Bronze Rainbow Connection

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian



Part One: 1923

It has been said that nothing except a battle lost is worse than a battle won. In the years following their victory in World War One, the French people endured incredible hardships. A full 1,927,000 of them – soldiers and civilians alike – perished in that conflict, and countless more were maimed for life. Nearly every household in France lost someone they loved.

Vast swaths of countryside remained uninhabitable, contaminated by poison gas or ripped into treeless, shell-pocked wasteland. For years, farmers risked injury or death from unexploded ordnance every time they tried to plow their fields. Even cosmopolitan Paris felt the war's awful cost, as legions of disabled veterans filled its parks and sidewalks begging for spare change.

During these difficult times, Gen. Henri Gouraud, former commander of the French Fourth Army, began work to commemorate the sacrifices of his soldiers during World War One. Known as “The Lion of the Argonne”, Gouraud led a combined French-American force that soundly defeated German attackers in a decisive battle now known as the Fourth Battle of Champagne. It took place from July 15-18, 1918, and resulted in thousands of casualties – many of whom could never be identified.



To acknowledge his troops' valor, Gen. Gouraud wanted to erect a monument on the battlefield over which they fought. This memorial would take the form of an ossuary, or necropolis, in which the nameless bones of those killed in battle would be collected and preserved. Land was set aside, an architectural design drawn up, and the French sculptor Maxime Real del Sarte commissioned to create a statue of three

Poilus (literally, “hairy ones”, a French slang term for soldiers) to top the structure.



It all took money, of course, and the people of postwar France had very little of that to spare. Gouraud's wartime command did include several American divisions, though, and in 1923 he set out for the States on a fund-raising trip. As gestures of goodwill, he brought with him four small bronze versions of the Real del Sarte sculpture – with one subtle difference.



The statue's original design called for three French infantrymen, but to commemorate America's contribution the figure of one soldier was changed to represent a U.S. “Doughboy”. With his family's permission, the face of Lt. Quentin Roosevelt (son of former president Theodore Roosevelt) was sculpted onto that figure. (Roosevelt, an aviator, died in battle not far from the ossuary site.)

General Gouraud was greeted with great enthusiasm as he traveled the United States that hot summer of 1923. Many civic groups across the nation asked him to visit, and he made a special effort to present his bronze mini-statues to the veterans of those U.S. divisions that fought under his command in the Great War. Organizations representing the 2nd “Indianhead”, 36th “Texas”, and 42nd “Rainbow” Divisions each received one of these mementos, with a fourth sculpture going to Gen. John J. Pershing (commander of the American Expeditionary Force in France).

Gouraud also attended the groundbreaking ceremonies of a World War One memorial in Kansas City, Kansas, known as the Rosedale Arch. Significantly, this monument was among the first erected by the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, a parent organization of the RDVF. During his visit to Montgomery, Ala., Gouraud awarded the French Legion of

Honor to Col. William P. Screws, wartime commander of the 167th Infantry Regiment, 42nd "Rainbow" Division, in a well-attended ceremony.

This tour worked brilliantly, as American donors helped raise the funds necessary to complete Gouraud's monument. On November 4th, 1923, the first stone was laid. Less than a year later, on September 28th, 1924, the pyramid-shaped Ossuary at Navarin was formally dedicated. Inside rest the human remains of some 10,000 French *Poilus* whose identity is known but to God.

(General Henri Gouraud was later named a Permanent Honorary President of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, one of only three individuals to receive this distinction.)

Part Two: 2021

As the 100th anniversary of Navarin Ossuary's dedication draws near, the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation became aware of a French organization whose director has a familiar name. This society, the Association du Souvenir aux Morts des Armées de Champagne (Association to the Memory of the Dead from the Armies of Champagne, or ASMAC) is headed by Mr. Henri Gouraud, namesake of and grand-nephew to "The Lion of the Argonne". The younger Gouraud recently sent an email to several U.S.-based veterans' organizations (including the RDVF) with an unusual request. "Whatever happened," he asked, "to the miniature statue that my great-uncle presented to the 42nd Division?"

Gouraud also wondered if anyone could tell him where the other three bronze sculptures wound up. Answering his query would require a formidable effort, but fortunately we know some formidable historians and researchers who were willing to help uncover this lost history.

One such person is Dr. Monique Brouillet Seefried, a Commissioner with the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, who has been a wonderful friend to the RDVF for many years. Monique, as many of us remember, was instrumental in the creation of a new interpretive memorial commemorating the 42nd Division's First World War battle on the Côte de Châtillon in 2018.

Upon receiving Mr. Gouraud's request, Dr. Seefried jumped into action. In no time at all, she discovered the 2nd "Indianhead" Division's statuette now belongs to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and is on display in the Marine Corps Commandant's office at the Pentagon. The 36th "Texas" Division's sculpture resides at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin.



provided us with several images of this bronze item that we have included here.

At press time, the statuette presented to Gen. Pershing has not yet been located. The National Museum of the U.S. Army likely has it in its enormous collection; we are hopeful this item will turn up soon.

Only a few weeks after his initial inquiry, Mr. Henri Gouraud learned that three of the four small bronze sculptures his great-uncle presented to American veterans of the 1918

Champagne campaign are still proudly on display here in the United States.



The general (who, after his death in 1946, was interred at Navarin among his soldiers) would be pleased to know that people today can view his mini-statues, reflect on their meaning, and

learn more about these tokens of friendship. Gouraud, speaking to a Texas audience in 1923, said the bronzes represented a "testimonial" to the sacrifices of those French and American soldiers "born upon the field of battle and in a fight for a common cause."

There are plans to commemorate Navarin Ossuary's 100th anniversary in 2024, and RDVF leaders have asked Henri Gouraud of the ASMAC to keep us informed of this event. If sufficient interest exists, perhaps a contingent of Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation members can attend this ceremony and honor their forefathers who fought for freedom on French soil over one century ago.

Photo 01: A modern (2017) photo of the Navarin Memorial, also known as the Navarin Ossuary (Ossuaire de Navarin). Located in the Marne region of northeastern France, it was dedicated in 1924 by Gen. Henri Gouraud, wartime commander of the 4th French Army.

Photo 02: This 2017 image shows in greater detail the Maxime Real del Sarte sculpture of three Allied soldiers that rests atop Navarin Ossuary. The figure on the right is meant to represent Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, son of the former president, who was killed in action during World War One.

Photo 03: Taken in 1930, this photo depicts Gen. Henri Gouraud (center) at the Navarin Memorial alongside Father Francis P. Duffy of the 165th Inf. Rgt., 42nd "Rainbow" Division, and a man identified as General Tinley.

Photos 04 thru 06: The Gouraud Statue, presented to veterans of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division by Gen. Henri Gouraud in 1923, and now on display in Kansas City's National WWI Museum and Memorial.

Credits – Photos 01 and 02: Pat Chaisson. Photo 03: Rainbow Reveille archives. Photos 04 thru 06: Doran Cart, Senior Curator at the National WWI Museum and Memorial.

RAINBOW DIVISION WWII VETERAN JOINS CANADIAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

WWII Rainbow Division veteran, Hilbert Margol, who served in Btry B, 392nd Field Artillery Bn, 42nd Division, writes,

"On April 7, I did two Zoom presentations. Morning program was with Scott Masters, Social Studies Teacher/Department Head Director – Crestwood Oral History Project Crestwood Preparatory College, Toronto, ON. Scott has created and continues to develop a professional archive containing over 400 video interviews with Canadian WW2 veterans and Holocaust survivors. I was the first US Army WWII veteran interviewed and added to his archive. www.crestwood.on.ca/ohp/

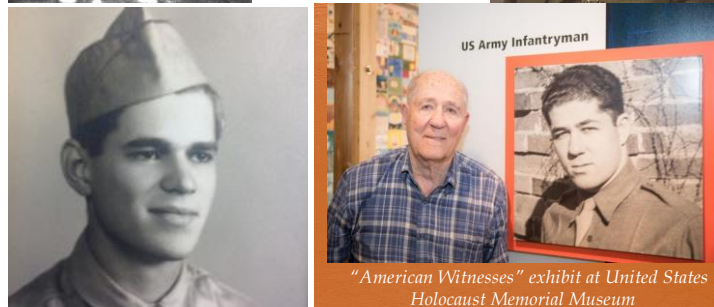
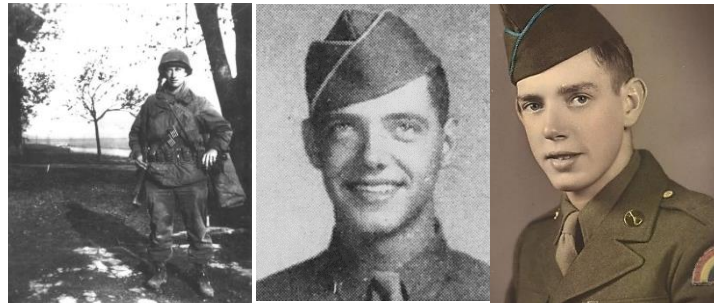
"The afternoon Zoom presentation was with students from two Hebrew speaking classes at Weber HS here in the Atlanta area. When I joined the program, I was surprised to learn that the female teacher was speaking from Israel. I certainly enjoyed speaking and answering questions to all involved, in both programs."

REVEILLE ECHOES, first printed in the June 1963 issue of The Rainbow Reveille –

In the yet cold days of March in Fargo, N.D., a contingent of ex-infantry men attended a military ball at North Dakota Agricultural College where they were serving in an ASTP battalion. Just before intermission, the Colonel took the mike and read a telegram directing our return to the Army Ground Forces. Most of us were going to the 42nd Division. Later that night at a local pub we met a soldier with a Rainbow Patch. He told us about the outfit and then pulled out a copy of the Rainbow Reveille, embossed across the top with a full-colored Rainbow. Then and there we were Rainbowers. The desire to be Infantry again was almost eclipsed by the knowledge we were going to join the Rainbow Division, a name that represented all that was glory and honor in battle. And we got the first feel for being a part of it from a Rainbow Reveille in Fargo, N.D.

RAINBOW MILESTONES OBSERVED 2021 BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED WITH OUR GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES

(left to right) **Dee R. Eberhart (I/242)** 97 years 10 July
Thomas Dillingham (I/242) 96 years April 4
Thomas Houdek (B/232) 95 years 6 March
Frank Burns (I/242) 98 years 16 July
Hilbert Margol (Btry B/392nd FA) 97 years 22 February



The photo below is contributed by Tom and Barbara Dillingham and their daughter, Anne Devens. L-R Dee Eberhart, Tom Dillingham, Joe Dorsey (I/242); **Rainbow Division reunion 13 July 2012 Albany NY at Jack's Oyster House**



Schweinfurt on the Rainbow Trail (April 1945)

By Robert B Munson

April 6, 1945: The Rainbow has captured Würzburg after some intense urban fighting. Now the US Army orders the division to march to the north, roughly following the Main River, towards the industrial city of Schweinfurt.

Taking advantage of my time in Germany working as a civilian for US Africa Command in Stuttgart, I have been following my dad's route along the Rainbow Trail. He arrived in northeastern France in February 1945 as an 18-year-old draftee before the Rainbow's offensive into Germany. He remained with "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 232nd Infantry Regiment until his service ended after 6 months occupation duty in Austria. I have been traveling with Group Captain Steve, a Royal Air Force colleague also at Africa Command.

During the war, Schweinfurt was the center of German ball bearing manufacturing and thus became the frequent target of Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force bombing raids. Beginning in August 1943, Allied air forces struck Schweinfurt a total of 21 times. The bombing raids significantly damaged the city, but the German industry still produced important war material, something that could only be stopped by taking the city. The last air attack on April 10th, 1945 helped to prepare the way for the 42nd.



As the 42nd advanced north from Würzburg, they encountered some resistance in small towns, although none of it significantly slowed the American advance. On April 8th, about half-way to Schweinfurt, my dad's 2nd Battalion faced significant resistance in the small town of Arnstein, but the arrival of the 1st Battalion helped them to take the town. As Steve and I drove along the route, we descended the side of a hill and immediately saw Arnstein across a field, behind the rail line and a small stream. We understood how both of these could provide cover for stubborn defenders, giving them an effective field of fire as the Americans approached the town (see photo).

From Arnstein, the 232nd continued north, clearing patches of resistance as it moved into position to the west of Schweinfurt. The division's assault plan called for the 222nd and 242nd Regiments (red and blue lines on map) to advance directly into the city from the west while the 232nd Regiment (yellow lines on map) would make a wide enveloping operation around the city from the west, through the northwest to the northeast. In this movement, the 232nd was to prevent German forces from escaping east along the Main River on the road to Bamberg.

During the night from April 9th to the 10th, the 232nd undertook a dramatic 10-mile march in darkness over rugged terrain. The regiment circled around the northwest side of Schweinfurt, turned to the southeast and seized the high, rough ground north of the city. The 2nd Battalion (big blue arrows on map) advanced on the left (now eastern) flank of the regiment further to the east, coming into a firefight with German defenders near Zell, and continuing to Üchtelhausen, in the hills north of the Main River/Bamberg Road. Here south of town the 2nd battalion took its position to block the route out of Schweinfurt.

Steve and I followed this enveloping route of the 232nd the best we could. The first part on flatter ground to the northwest of Schweinfurt tended to be easy movement but to the north of the city we encountered many ridges. The Germans build good roads, but the ridges force the main roads to generally run north-south, at a 90-degree angle to the 232nd's direction of march. The regiment crossed a series of ridges north of the city, ridge-top to ridge-top, as it moved east. We drove up the ridges, but then had to turn towards Schweinfurt to get to the road running parallel to the next ridge line. A closer trace of the 232nd's route would have been easier on a bike or foot.

Just north of Schweinfurt near the small town of Hambach we saw a sign (in German) pointing towards the "former American military training area." Later I learned that this had been the Brönnhof training area, a large military facility beginning in 1936. Following the 42nd's occupation of Schweinfurt and the end of the war, the US Army created the US Garrison Schweinfurt and this former German military area provided space for US ground force training until the garrison closed in 2014. The land was then returned to Germany and in 2016 about half of it became a dedicated nature preserve, taking advantage of the lack of development over the period of military use.

From Hambach we drove down into Schweinfurt and then back up to Zell and, had we followed the signs, we would have had to go back down to Schweinfurt for the road up to Üchtelhausen. However, we found a small road which went across the ridge via a sport field and emerged near Üchtelhausen. Here in the center of town we stopped at a tourist map illustrating all the bike/hiking trails which one could take to the south to overlook the Main River. We couldn't easily (legally?) drive down a trail to follow the 2nd Battalion; a road then is a bike path now.

Steve and I made the trip on a nice afternoon, but the 232nd had a 10-mile, nighttime march through unknown territory to outflank the German military and block a retreat out of Schweinfurt. I could imagine the tired soldiers marching with their packs and equipment across hilly terrain, through forests, on small roads, but alert and wary for what might come. They continued on. This was their mission and fellow soldiers depended on them.

From our dead-end in Üchtelhausen, we headed down the ridge back towards Schweinfurt and then east along the Main to the small town of Mainberg. This small town sits snug in a cut along the hills facing the Main River, with vineyards covering the steep hills on either side of the town. Between the hills and the river runs a small strip of land, providing just enough space for the road and railroad (now as well as then).

With the 2nd battalion of the 232nd sitting on the top of the hills above Mainberg (see photo), we understood how artillery or mortars could easily restrict movement out of Schweinfurt along the road. I have not seen any reports as to whether they fired at retreating German troops, but the 42nd successfully captured the city, ending German industry and freeing slave laborers in the city during the fateful month of April 1945.

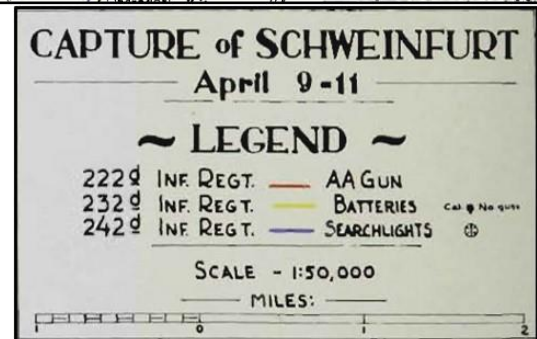
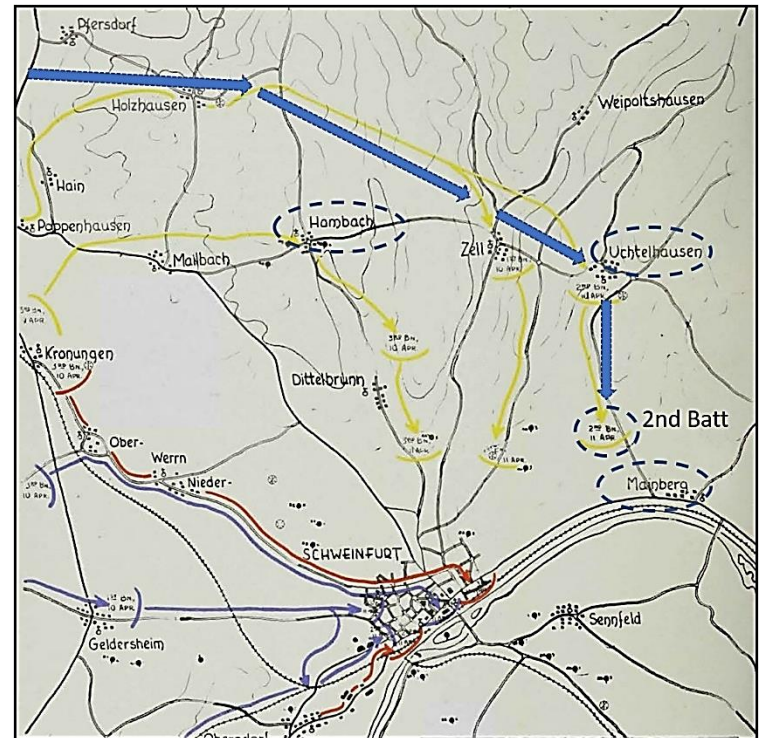


In 2021, though, Steve and I completed another segment of the Rainbow's Trail. We followed the historical path of the men of the 232nd Infantry Regiment through the quiet German countryside – better understanding what my father and his buddies experienced in their march from France to Austria.

Photo one – Looking across field to Arnstein

Photo two – In Mainberg, looking up to the 2 Battalion's Position

Map is Adapted from Hugh C. Daly, 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division History WWII (1946), Capture of Schweinfurt map 72ff.





137 Glenmore Road
Troy, New York 12180

2021 Annual Meeting and Scholarship/Awards Banquet 10 Sep 2021 through 11 Sep 2021

Hilton Garden Inn 235 Hoosick St Troy, NY 12180

Room Block under **Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation** 10 Sep 21 – 12 Sep 21 - \$111.00 per night. Online www.troy.hgi.com or by calling (877) Stay HGI. If you experience difficulty, call the Troy Hilton (518-272-1700) directly. Must book by 10 Aug 2021 to receive rate.

Cost for the event is **\$65.00 per person**. Scholarship winners will have dinner fees waived.

10 Sep 21 Cocktail Roebling Library Room Hilton Garden Inn

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

11 Sep 21 Chairman's Meeting Roebling Library Room

0900-1400 (Lunch on Economy)

11 Sep 21 Scholarship/Awards Dinner Hilton Garden Dining Room

Cocktails (cash bar) 1700, Dinner/Program 1800-2200

Please go to 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 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

VEGETARIAN MEAL Chef's Choice

DESSERT.....Warm Apple Crisp

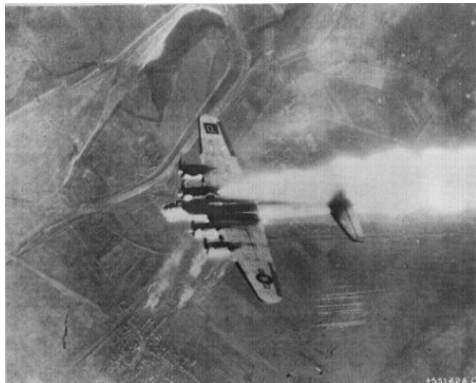
If you cannot register online, please call, mail (48 McDonald Drive Cohoes, NY 12047) or email John Willsey with your number of attendees, meal choice (no charge for Scholarship winner).

Your mailings should include Checks made out to RDVF.

Honor and Memory recalled through **A RAINBOW REUNION STORY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN**

In a 7 July 2021 letter from Dee R. Eberhart, he recalled his personal “Incredible Encounter – 54 Years Later!” This title headed the story told by Jim Hyland, a WWII USAF veteran and Navigator of a downed Boeing B-17 “Flying Fortress”, one of two survivors, taken prisoner by the Germans. This account is reprinted from the RAINBOW TRAIL History newsletter, August 2012.

“Recently my wife and I were on a vacation trip out west. Near the end of our driving trip through the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, we made a decision to go to the coast. The weather in November there is usually rainy, cold and dreary, but Thursday, November 5 seemed to hold some promise with large patches of sunshine between showers. By evening we found ourselves on a small peninsula along the coast and at the little village of Long Beach. Alive with tourists in Summer, the area was pretty deserted in November. After some debate over a location right on the beach or in town, we selected a motel a block off the beach, in town.



“As we checked in, we commented to the clerk that the outdoor sign indicated a reunion of the 42nd Rainbow Division on the weekend. He replied that some had already arrived and had gathered in a meeting room adjacent. My wife, Marian, suggested that I drop in to say hello to this famous WWI and WWII group that fought on the ground in WWII through France and southern Germany, to end up liberating Dachau. Since I was an 8th Air Force navigator, not a foot soldier, I was somewhat reluctant to interfere with their conversations. However, I did enter the room and strangely, approached one table of men, looking particularly at one man as I announced that I was an 8th Air Force man just dropping in.

“The gentleman arose and came over to greet me. He then proceeded to tell me that he had a cousin in the 8th. The two of them grew up together and felt as close as two brothers. Then he said that his cousin was shot down and killed in an air raid on the oil refinery at Merseburg. He added that all the men on the plane were reported

killed except one who suffered a broken leg. Since Merseburg was deep penetration for the 8th Air Force in WWII, there were few raids to that town and my interest immediately heightened, since I had participated in one of the raids.

I asked, “What day was the raid?” To which he replied, “November 30, 1944.” I then asked the man’s name and the response was “Duke Eberhart.” In complete shock, I replied, “That was the name of our radio man and I was shot down on that day. I was the one who had the broken leg.”

From the National Archives –

photo of the 30 November 1944 loss of the 487th Bomb Group B-24D 43-37877 on which T/Sgt. John D. “Duke” Eberhart, was Radio Navigator.

<http://www.486th.org/Photos/AC2/SquareP.htm>

In his letter, Dee Eberhart continued, “...Their plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire over Merseburg, Germany, the German center for synthetic fuel (coal to oil conversion). I last saw him in the Spring of 1944 when I was at Buckley Field, Colorado (processing for Air Corps Cadet training). He was enroute to be assigned a plane and crew headed for U.S. air base (8th Air Force) in England. Their plane, when it was hit was at about 36,000 feet altitude; oxygen lost; Jim Hyland and the Bombardier were forward from the pilot and co-pilot; everyone lost consciousness, Jim and the Bombardier tumbled out of a forward escape hatch; had long free falls until they “came to” and pulled their rip cords; both landed safely, but Jim broke a leg. The rest of the crew were killed. Jim told me that he was able to visit the next of kin of all the crew members who had been killed, including my Aunt Elta, Duke’s mother. I always thought that Gold Star Mothers suffered the greatest losses during and long after the war.”

WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST

HODOWANEC , Gregory	G/222 nd Infantry
JACKSON , Wolf	unit unreported
LAWLESS , Earl	66 th Division; 42 nd Division
POLLIN , Jack Murph	Btry C/ 232 nd Artillery
	Intelligence (Austria) ; 42 nd Division
PRINZ , Cleburn R.	K/222 nd Infantry
WALKER , John R.	G/222 nd Infantry

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Contributions 10 April 2021 – 10 July 2021

Rainbow Scholarship Fund

Endowment Michael J. Kelly – 200. John J. Bobb – 50. In honor and memory of John A. Bobb, Med. Det. A/242; Mayland D. Crosson 25. – In honor and memory of Leon J. Sadler, G/242; Mayland D. Crosson 25. – In honor and memory of Charles Grover Southard, G/242

Operating John J. Bobb – 50. In honor and memory of Lloyd Soule, Med. Det. 232nd Infantry Regiment; James J. Jones – 100. In honor and memory of Joseph J. Jones, HQ Co. 165 IR, 42nd Division WWI; Andrew K. Walker – 250. In honor and memory of Bill J. Walker, F/222; Thomas and Barbara Dillingham – 30.

The following gifts are made in honor and memory of Sergeant Codi T. Patenaude, Headquarters Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division - David A. Bloomfield, Jr. – 40. Margaret Gerighty – 50.

Mrs. Janice Bradley – 60. Ruth and Kevin Forcinella – 200.

Susan and Brian Dunson – 20. Descente Distributing Company, Inc. – 100. Arthur and Regina Defilippis – 20.



Memorial Day 2021

The California Honor Guard and the Battalion Commander, LTC Orlando Cobos, of the 578th Brigade Engineer Battalion conducted a wreath ceremony in Exposition Park (Los Angeles, CA) in honor of the fallen 42ID Soldiers. The 578th is the proud legacy of the Californians of the 117th Engineers that joined the Rainbow Division in WWI.

From Major Ammon Van Orden, 578 Brigade Engineer Battalion S3